

# Annual Report

2023

Partnerships for Health

SOLIDAR  
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## Competent networks rather than a North versus South mentality



**Prof.  
Niklaus Labhardt**  
President

If you've been following SolidarMed for some time, you'll know that luckily the organisation has changed a great deal since its foundation 98 years ago. It started off as a small association with a missionary focus, mainly comprising Swiss doctors, who undertook medical missions lasting several years on their own in African partner hospitals. Today, we are an internationally networked organisation with a large and diverse team, most of whom are based in the project countries and who attach great importance to partnerships of equals.

But that's not the end of the discussion on how modern international cooperation in the field of health should look. Further reducing the inequalities and dependencies between the Swiss team and the partner teams in Africa remains a challenge for various reasons. One is the fact that the majority of funding comes from the Global North. Moreover, the African project staff often face a team from the Global North that presents itself as more self-confident, eloquent, and internationally connected. This also means that when planning projects, the perspective of staff in the Global North often prevails – particularly if decisions need to be made under time pressure.

As an organisation, we wholeheartedly support the principle of international cooperation based on partnership. But implementing it is a daily challenge. The path to 'decolonisation of development' should be primarily dictated by the partner countries in the Global South, and not by the Global North. To do so, they need the right resources. Within SolidarMed, the team in

Switzerland shouldn't lead this process, but they should give it the necessary attention. In order for the teams in partner countries to take the lead in prioritisation, project development and planning, there need to be enough people with the relevant skills and expertise. This is not gained through qualifications and courses, but through active and equitable participation in international networks with interaction on an equal footing. We can create these competent networks within our projects. When this really works, the origin of participants is irrelevant; every member brings their skills and expertise to the table, and the prioritisation and planning of projects is guided by the principles of need, feasibility and effectiveness. These processes don't happen overnight, but they are already in full swing here at SolidarMed and will continue.

I now invite you to take a look at our Annual Report and find out more about the impact SolidarMed is having on healthcare in our partner countries.

Thank you for being part of our journey. ■

► Thanks to Team Health, the survival chances of preterm and newborn babies have been improved at Mahenge District Hospital. Hadija Sahehe Tuma (pictured) has given birth to a healthy baby. *ob*



**“All staff members – regardless of their field, origin, place of work or position – together form a team that is committed to improving healthcare.”**

Jochen Ehmer, Managing director

## Working together for global health



**Jochen Ehmer, MD**  
Managing director

Health requires teamwork. This is our deeply-held belief and the philosophy on which SolidarMed's programmes are built. But what does 'teamwork' really mean? And who are the members of our 'Team Health'?

Internally, we have set out the 'OneSolidarMed' approach. This means that all staff – regardless of their field, origin, place of work or position – make up a team that is committed to improving healthcare. A unilateral team would never live up to the complexity of the challenges in healthcare.

Partners on the ground are also part of the team: from government and church structures to training facilities, civil society organisations and private sector actors. Without this local presence, we would develop parallel structures that are not sustainable. The team members include ministries of health in our partner countries, church-run hospitals, training centres, professional associations for nurses and locally-managed partner organisations.

Many research institutions are also members of the team. We work with them to evaluate our approaches and to pinpoint which strategies work best and why. This allows us to gather experience and to improve our projects. Over the last year, these included, for example, research projects on better diagnosis of tuberculosis, on diabetes treatment, and on Covid screening.

And, crucially, our donors are also part of 'Team Health'. Through their donations, they make a real difference alongside our professionals on the ground, helping make the team strong and resilient. They include institutions such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and the Liechtenstein Development Service, many small and medium-sized organisations and companies, and more than 10,000 individuals.

We would like to say thank you to the whole team for their dedication and commitment. Together we will keep fighting for global health. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Ehmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SolidarMed improves healthcare for more than 3 million people in rural Africa and in Hyderabad, India. Our projects are realised in close collaboration with local partners, assisted by our healthcare professionals on the ground.



### Combating disease

SolidarMed supports the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. These include HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.



### Improving medical infrastructure

SolidarMed builds and renovates infrastructure in hospitals and health centres and procures medical equipment and supplies. This allows operations to be performed and babies to be delivered safely, and prevents the spread of infections and resistance.



### Training and continuing education for health workers

By providing training and continuing education for doctors, nurses and midwives, SolidarMed is tackling the alarming shortage of medical professionals in project regions. Existing training centres are also being extended and upgraded.



### Strengthening healthcare in communities

Remote communities often have limited access to medical care. SolidarMed operates mobile clinics that regularly visit these communities, and facilitates transport to sometimes distant health centres.



### Promoting sexual and reproductive health

Child and maternal mortality is high in most project regions. SolidarMed trains local community health workers who can then carry out prenatal check-ups, for example. Adolescent peer educators raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health among their peers.



**Switzerland**

Administrative office  
in Lucerne

**Kenya**

Partner organisation  
in Butere

**Telangana  
(India)**

Partner organisation  
in Hyderabad

**Tanzania**

Main office  
in Ifakara

**Zambia**

Main office  
in Lusaka

**Zimbabwe**

Main office  
in Masvingo

**South Africa**

Partner organisations  
in Johannesburg  
and East London

**Lesotho**

Main office  
in Maseru

**Mozambique**

Main office  
in Pemba

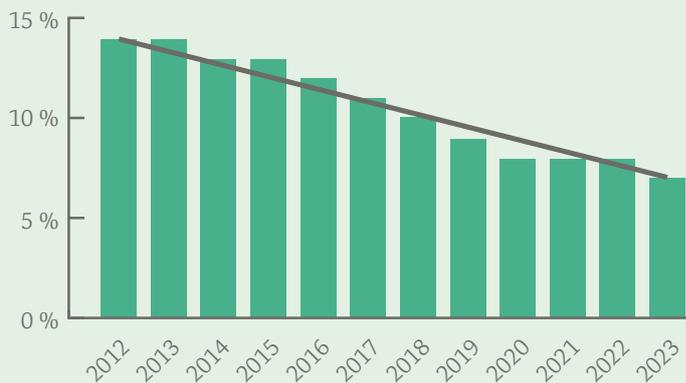
## How SolidarMed's projects make an impact

SolidarMed is a learning organisation that continuously documents and reviews the impact of its projects. The aim is to gain insights on how the available resources can be used as efficiently and effectively as possible. SolidarMed also makes this knowledge available to local authorities, health organisations, and the international research community, in order to contribute to better healthcare well beyond the project regions.

Once again last year, SolidarMed's projects delivered positive results and contributed to improved access to medical care for the population in project countries.

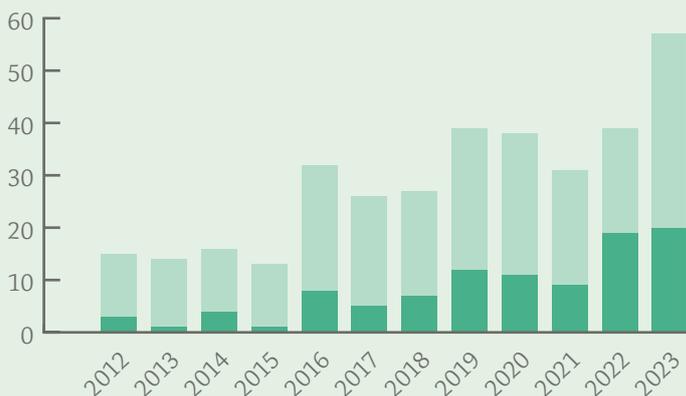
## Positive developments can be highlighted across all projects thanks to scientific backing:

Mortality rate among HIV-positive people



The mortality rate has been halved since 2012, thanks to improved access to vital medicines for patients with HIV and better-qualified healthcare professionals.

Scientific contributions and publications



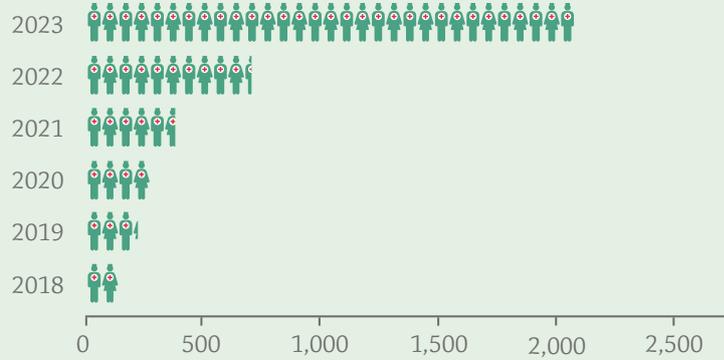
SolidarMed analyses its own programmes on an ongoing basis and also works with national and international universities on various studies. The findings and insights are also disseminated at scientific conferences and in specialist journals.

■ Scientific contributions (e.g. posters, presentations)  
■ Scientific publications and journals

Healthcare professionals are the cornerstone of the health system. The scaling-up of the decentralised training programme for nurses in Zambia has resulted in a rapid rise in the number of newly-qualified healthcare professionals.



### Newly trained and qualified professionals



Thanks to more and better-qualified healthcare professionals, a million more people in rural areas were able to access professional diagnoses and treatment in 2023 than the year before.



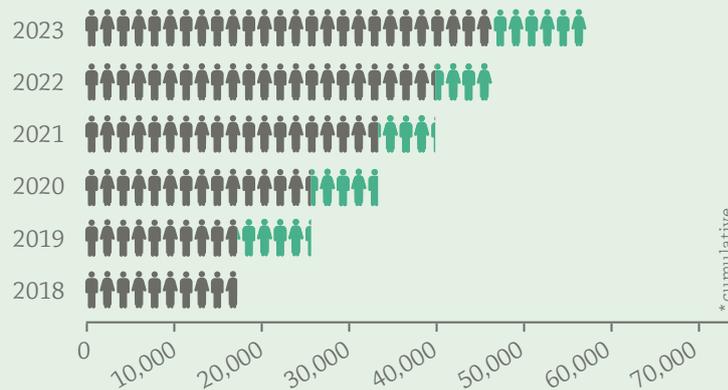
### Access to medical care



Surgery saves lives. SolidarMed has continuously improved access to surgical treatments in recent years. The number of patients undergoing surgery has therefore increased.



### Patients undergoing surgery \*



\* cumulative

# Lesotho

The sectors of construction, mining, manufacturing, services, and administration are growing, and agriculture benefitted from subsidies and sufficient rainfall in 2023. Yet the unemployment and poverty rates remain high, at 18 % and 32 % respectively.

- ▶ Population: 2,305,825
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 32.4 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 53 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 10
- ▶ Number of staff: 98

**Project regions**

- Butha-Buthe
- Mokhotlong

📍 Main office: Maseru

Programme manager: Pauline Grimm

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## Three examples of how SolidarMed made a difference in Lesotho in 2023

ComBaCaL	Mobile clinic	Adolescent wellbeing
<p><b>Project duration</b> running since 2021</p> <p><b>Region</b> Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong</p> <p><b>Background</b> Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure are rising sharply. But equipment is largely lacking, as are qualified staff to diagnose, prevent and treat these conditions.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed trains community health workers in diagnosis and primary care. An accompanying study is examining the effectiveness of this model. Standardised guidelines also ensure better treatment of such diseases in healthcare facilities.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Completion of training of all 113 community health workers</li> <li>▶ Diabetes screening for over 5,000 people</li> <li>▶ Training in all 23 healthcare facilities on application of the new treatment guidelines</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> running since 2020</p> <p><b>Region</b> Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong</p> <p><b>Background</b> People in the remote and cut-off communities of Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong have no or only sporadic access to medical care.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed travels regularly to communities in two converted vehicles to provide local populations with vital health services. This includes HIV testing, pre-natal check-ups, vaccinations and monitoring of blood glucose and blood pressure.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Basic primary healthcare for 40% more people now that the project has been scaled up with the deployment of a second vehicle</li> <li>▶ Comprehensive servicing and repair of the vehicle in Butha-Buthe, which has been in operation since 2020</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Mokhotlong</p> <p><b>Background</b> A lack of sex education and contraception as well as child marriage lead to teenage pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Through sex education campaigns and youth-friendly health services, SolidarMed improves adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and provides psycho-social support.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening of the adolescent and youth hall at the Mapholaneng Health Centre offering youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.</li> <li>▶ Training of 15 peer educators on delivering sex education to other adolescents on sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and contraception.</li> <li>▶ Strengthening cooperation and introducing new measures to include previously unreachable groups such as young shepherds in remote mountain regions.</li> </ul>



▲ Adolescents in the Mokhotlong district kick off their meeting with some dancing, before making their way to one of the two adolescent and youth halls to talk about HIV, contraception and pregnancy. *mh*

## A much anticipated day



On the 9th of October 2023, the day finally came for the opening of the new adolescent and youth hall at the Mapholaneng Health Centre. Over 600 adolescents from all over the district assembled to march there together. They cheered and sang songs to express their gratitude for the age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services that are finally

available. From now on, they can come to the facility to get tested for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, and start treatment if necessary. They can also get vaccinated against cervical cancer and seek advice on contraception and family planning.

The group was led by the 15 newly-trained peer educators, proudly carrying a banner emblazoned with the words 'I'm a young person who is able and empowered to make good decisions about my

health'. They are aware of the problems and inhibitions of their peers and can educate them on an equal footing about the risks of teenage pregnancies, child marriage, and sexually transmitted diseases. This approach has proven very effective at the existing adolescent health facility in Mokhotlong. ■

### *Mamello Letsie, Operations director*

2023 was a good year for SolidarMed in Lesotho. Our projects achieved their objectives despite challenges, such as the difficult terrain in this small and mountainous country. We now have over 100 community health workers from the ComBaCaL project visiting communities and we plan to include other diseases besides high blood pressure and diabetes. Another success last year was the opening of an adolescent and youth hall for better adolescent health. It's already the second such facility, and another one is due to open next year. We're also proud of our two mobile clinics, which further support access to healthcare for people in remote regions.

Our projects therefore specifically bolster the efforts of the Ministry of Health to deliver cost-efficient and integrated care at the level of communities and healthcare institutions. This has allowed us to develop important partnerships and gather valuable insights through studies. To make all this possible, our teams on the ground work incredibly hard. As operations director, I recognise and pay tribute to them and thank everyone for their immense commitment. I'm looking forward to an even better 2024 when we'll be launching a new project on early childhood development.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 169,286 to support the Lesotho country programme.*

# Mozambique

More than a million people in the north of the country are reliant on humanitarian aid and the health system is hopelessly overwhelmed. On top of that came two cholera outbreaks, unrest linked to local elections, and a rise in the poverty rate to 74 %.

**Project regions**

- Nampula province: Erati, Nacarôa
- Cabo Delgado province: Pemba, Ancuabe, Chiúre, Namuno

Main office: Pemba

- ▶ Population: 32,969,518
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 74.5 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 59 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 5
- ▶ Number of staff: 53

Programme manager: Thomas Vandamme

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## Three examples of how SolidarMed made a difference in Mozambique in 2023

Emergency aid for cholera	Survive and thrive: colour-coded triage for paediatric emergency	Infection prevention and control
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Ancuabe, Chiúre, Metuge, Montepuez, Namuno</p> <p><b>Background</b> There were two cholera outbreaks in Mozambique in 2023. As the disease is highly contagious and can be fatal if left untreated, SolidarMed worked to contain the spread of the disease through this emergency aid project.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> During the first outbreak, SolidarMed mainly provided personal protective equipment, set up handwashing stations for decontamination and raised public awareness. Since the second flare-up, SolidarMed has increasingly taken on the role of coordinating the various actors and carrying out quality assurance.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Implementing successful emergency care and measures in the first half of 2023 in close consultation with healthcare facilities and authorities</li> <li>▶ Preparing a follow-up project until February 2024 in collaboration with local foundation Wiwanana</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2021 bis 2023</p> <p><b>Region</b> Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces</p> <p><b>Background</b> In packed hospital emergency departments, patients are usually seen in the order they arrive, regardless of their state of health. For very sick children in particular, treatment often comes too late.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed supports the introduction of coloured cards that indicate the urgency of treatment. This allows children in life-threatening situations to be treated more quickly than less urgent cases, thereby increasing their chances of survival.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Completion of the first project phase (2021 to 2023) with a significant reduction in the mortality rate at the six emergency departments</li> <li>▶ Full digitalisation of the triage system at Pemba Provincial Hospital</li> <li>▶ Successful talks with the authorities on scaling the project up to three other health facilities from 2024</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2021 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Chiúre, Ancuabe, Namuno</p> <p><b>Background</b> Cleanliness and proper waste disposal are crucial to prevent the spread of infections and resistance in hospital settings. But in resource-poor settings, there is a lack of equipment, trained staff and awareness.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed supports the implementation of proven practices such as hand hygiene, sterilisation of medical equipment, and the use of PPE. To this end, SolidarMed provides equipment, runs training and awareness campaigns, and supports the development of hygiene and waste disposal policies.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Assisting the existing hygiene committees with quality assurance and impact assessment</li> <li>▶ Launching the scale-up of the project from three to six health facilities by 2026, with the first training sessions, a new incineration plant, and the establishment of new hygiene committees</li> </ul>



▲ At the health centre in Chiúre, a trained member of staff is sterilising medical equipment to prevent infections. rf

## Training leads to better hygiene



Before the launch of the infection prevention and control project (IPC), the issues of waste management, hygiene, and hospital cleaning were not taken seriously by many. All that has changed now. On a scale of zero to 20, head nurse Aurora António would rate

the current state of IPC at 16. “It’s worth continuing the SolidarMed project and even stepping it up as it makes a major contribution to environmental safety, organisation and cleanliness in health facilities,” she says.

As the project has progressed, the way that waste is managed has changed, she explains. The subsidised training in

health centres, the delivery of medical and surgical equipment, and the flexible monitoring of activities have improved the quality of sterilisation. She says that a lack of hygiene and cleaning products remains a challenge, however. ■

### *Barbara Kruspan, Country director*



Sadly, 2023 started and ended with a cholera outbreak. These outbreaks placed an additional burden on the health system, which was already weakened by drastic budget cuts. However, thanks to our adaptability and flexible donors, we managed to rapidly put in place an emergency relief programme for both outbreaks. The epidemic also made our existing project on infection prevention and control even more relevant. Thanks to the project, health workers are better equipped to contain the spread of infectious diseases and to create a more hygienic environment across the board in healthcare settings.

Another project that aimed to improved healthcare despite difficult circumstances was our ‘Survive and thrive’ triage project, which improves emergency care for children through training as well as practical and technical support. Thanks to close collaboration with the health authorities at provincial and national level, we will be scaling the project up to other health facilities by 2026.

Through this and other projects, our programme has helped significantly improve the health of people in northern Mozambique.

*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 699,966 to support the Mozambique country programme.*

# Zambia

Zambia enjoys continued political stability. The government is focusing on economic growth and tackling inflation, but levels of poverty and inequality unfortunately remain stubbornly high. The country also faces growing environmental challenges caused by climate change.

- ▶ Population: 20,017,675
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 64.3 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 61 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 3
- ▶ Number of staff: 17

Programme manager: Patrick Thomas

**Project regions**

- Decentralised training of nurses
- Housing for health
- ACEZ Promoting clinical training
- Mental health

📍 Main office: Lusaka

*\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)*

## Three examples of how SolidarMed made a difference in Zambia in 2023

Housing for health	Decentralised training of nurses	Promotion of clinical training
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2019 to 2023</p> <p><b>Region</b> Lusaka province</p> <p><b>Background</b> There is an acute shortage of healthcare workers in rural Zambia. A lack of accommodation is a key reason as no adequate and attractive accommodation means no staff.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> The building of housing for healthcare workers and students makes working and training in remote locations more appealing. This improves quality of care for patients and leads to growth in student numbers.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Construction of 122 residential blocks for newly qualified nurses</li> <li>▶ Construction of three hostels for nursing students</li> <li>▶ Implementation of the planned spin-off of social enterprise Ubuntu Homes from SolidarMed so the residential properties can continue to be let and maintained</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> All provinces</p> <p><b>Background</b> Nurses and midwives are the backbone of healthcare, but there aren't enough to meet demand. More health workers need to be trained and the quality of training needs to be improved.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Thanks to SolidarMed, nursing students rotate between different hospitals, exposing them to more clinical cases. In addition, several training classes can be run in parallel, which greatly increases the number of graduates.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Scaling up of the training model from three to ten schools in all of the country's provinces</li> <li>▶ Intensive support for the seven new colleges in rolling out the model</li> <li>▶ Preparatory work on a new eLearning tool for the training of nurses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Training facilities throughout the country; the main partner is the medical university in Lusaka</p> <p><b>Background</b> Medicine is teamwork, so interprofessional collaboration needs to be practised early on. Students also need to acquire a great deal of practical knowledge and skills before they work with patients.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> In multi-disciplinary training centres, students acquire practical clinical knowledge and practice working in interdisciplinary teams. This improves the quality of training and helps tackle the skills shortage.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Completion and inauguration of the training centre in Kafue with 20 practice stations</li> <li>▶ Major progress made in the construction of the centres in Kabwe and Solwezi; preliminary work for the centre in Chipata</li> <li>▶ Developing new and standardised operating processes for the new centres</li> </ul>



▲ Two students learn how to handle a newborn using a training manikin at the hospital in Kafue. *lm*

## Tackling the skills shortage



Sarah Chimfwembe says herself that without Solidar-Med’s decentralised nursing model, she wouldn’t be the nurse she is today. The 31-year-old got to know the model twice: the first time between 2014 and 2016 when was studying for a certificate in nursing at St. Luke’s College. At the time, St. Luke’s

College was the only training facility using the decentralised model. Sarah still recalls how placements in two of the three participating hospitals ideally equipped her for her day-to-day work as a nurse. After completing that course, she then worked for several years in a clinic at the district hospital in Mpulungu, before she came into contact with the nursing model for the second time in 2022. Until the end of 2023 she was

completing a diploma in nursing as a continuing education course by distance learning at the Chilonga College of Nursing, which by then was also part of the project. Thanks to these two positive experiences, she firmly believes that the decentralised model is an ideal way of tackling Zambia’s serious skills shortage in healthcare. ■

### *John Tierney, Country director*



2023 was the first year in which the Zambia country programme was present in all ten districts of the country. This growth was made possible by the scaling up of our training programme for nurses and midwives at seven new partner colleges. Also, as part of the programme to promote clinical training, the first training centre was opened, and two more will be completed in 2024.

The centres consist of multidisciplinary practice stations (‘skills labs’) where students can hone their medical skills in a hands-on way before they work with patients.

We also ensured that students can access accommodation. This is an extension of our longstanding programme to deliver sufficient and attractive housing in rural regions to attract and retain health workers. In addition to this focus on tackling the skills shortage in healthcare, we launched two new projects on mental health and well-being. They will form the basis of an expansion of our country programme to this crucial yet neglected area of healthcare.

*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 186,598 to support the Zambia country programme.*

# Zimbabwe

President Mnangagwa was re-elected in 2023 amid political tension and violence. The unchecked exodus of health workers from rural areas, high inflation, unemployment, and a cholera outbreak were also major challenges for the country.

- ▶ Population: 16,320,537
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 39.8 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 59 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 6
- ▶ Number of staff: 28

Programme manager: Laura Ruckstuhl

Project regions

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## Three examples of how SolidarMed made a difference in Zimbabwe in 2023

Tackling severe non-communicable diseases	Promoting adolescent health	Improved access to dental care
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Bikita, Zaka and Chiredzi districts</p> <p><b>Background</b> In rural Zimbabwe there is virtually no prevention, diagnosis or treatment of severe non-communicable diseases, such as type 1 diabetes, heart failure, epilepsy and sickle cell disease. As a result, the disease burden and mortality rates are high.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed establishes clinics for the early diagnosis and treatment of severe non-communicable diseases and provides training. SolidarMed also gathers evidence in order to improve care at national level in the medium term.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening of the second and third special clinics, which now provide care to 500 patients</li> <li>▶ Organising a three-day camp for 54 children and young adults living with type 1 diabetes</li> <li>▶ Various training sessions for healthcare professionals on diabetes, cardiology, epilepsy and respiratory diseases</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Zaka, Bikita and Chiredzi districts</p> <p><b>Background</b> Unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and mental disorders are widespread among adolescents in rural Zimbabwe. This jeopardises their health and stops them fulfilling their potential.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Through an approach targeted at young people, SolidarMed is creating centres for adolescents to provide access to medical services and information that are better tailored to their needs. A supportive environment improves their health and gives them hope and prospects for the future.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Completion of a baseline study involving 272 adolescents who shared their opinions and experiences in focus groups and interviews</li> <li>▶ Training of 30 peer educators for youth-friendly care</li> <li>▶ Participation of over 200 pregnant teenagers in recently-launched support groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Zaka, Bikita and Chiredzi districts</p> <p><b>Background</b> Dental care is virtually non-existent in the project regions. Oral health conditions are often left untreated, which severely impairs the quality of life of those affected. In addition, there is a widespread lack of awareness about oral health.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed provides primary care for high-risk groups, such as primary school children, pupils at a school for the blind, patients in hospital and psychiatric facilities, and prison inmates. To this end, SolidarMed operates four dental clinics and two mobile dental practices, trains staff, and runs awareness campaigns.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening of a new dental clinic at Silveira Hospital</li> <li>▶ Awareness campaign on oral health targeting more than 10,000 children and adults</li> <li>▶ Providing access to dental treatment for over 2,000 patients</li> </ul>



▲ At Chiremwaremwa Market in the Bikita district of Zimbabwe, people are tested for diabetes by healthcare professionals. *lr*

## Finally free of toothache



Rachel\* is a 12-year-old pupil at Copota School for the Blind in the Masvingo province. For a long time she

barely slept at night, hardly ate, and was under a great deal of stress. She was suffering from severe toothache. Luckily her school is one of the ten schools in Masvingo that is regularly

visited by SolidarMed dentist Dr Timothy Chifamba. In March 2023, he examined Rachel, gave her an anaesthetic injection and removed the painful tooth. The little girl was incredibly grateful. After the intervention she said: “It didn’t hurt at all and my toothache has finally gone!” It was the first time in her life that she had seen a dentist. In fact, there are only five dentists in Masvingo, a region with a

population of 1.5 million. The free dental care provided by SolidarMed therefore brings huge relief for people like Rachel who had suffered in silence for so long. ■

*\*Name changed to protect identity.*

## *Kudakwashe Madzeke, Country director*

Following the conclusion of the longstanding projects on HIV and maternal and neonatal health in 2022, SolidarMed launched three new projects last year. The first promotes adolescent health through tailored services with a focus on peer support. The second, ‘Hospital Horizons’, aims to improve the quality of hospital care and make it more affordable. The third is a nationwide research project focusing on mental health and vocational education and training for young people.

One of the ongoing projects is SolidarMed’s pioneering work in the area of non-communicable diseases. In 2023, 13 rural health facilities and six hospitals received support and three special clinics were opened. As always SolidarMed takes an integrated approach, comprising direct interventions, research, and awareness campaigns. In addition, the team in Zimbabwe stepped up collaboration with local and international NGOs to further increase the impact of its programmes.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 784,552 to support the Zimbabwe country programme.*

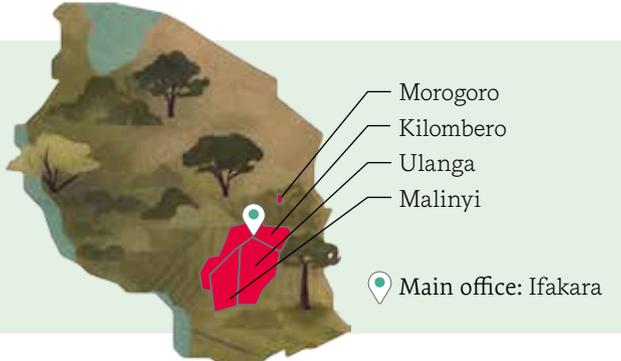
# Tanzania

Tanzania has made great progress in reducing maternal mortality, but neonatal mortality remains high. The government's commitment to hire more than 100,000 community health workers over the next five years is encouraging and is an important step towards better healthcare for the rapidly growing population.

- ▶ Population: 65,497,748
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 44.9 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 66 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 4
- ▶ Number of staff: 20

Programme manager: Karolin Pfeiffer

**Project regions**



\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## Three examples of how SolidarMed made a difference in Tanzania in 2023

Ensuring newborn survival	A focus on adolescent health	Decentralised basic primary healthcare
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Morogoro</p> <p><b>Background</b> The neonatal mortality rate in rural Tanzania is alarmingly high. Specialised neonatal wards and skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby are proven ways of remedying this.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed is building neonatal wards at three hospitals, promoting skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby (Kangaroo Mother Care), training health workers, raising public awareness of newborn care and documenting successes.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening of neonatal wards at Morogoro Regional Hospital and at Mahenge District Hospital; work on the one at the Kibaoni Health Centre is at an advanced stage</li> <li>▶ Presentation of initial results from the accompanying study on quality and cost efficiency in collaboration with the Ifakara Health Institute</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Ulanga</p> <p><b>Background</b> Many adolescents only rarely use sexual and reproductive health services. This is due to a lack of awareness and a shortage of youth-friendly offerings.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> In conjunction with the Swiss organisation Enfants du Monde, SolidarMed trains health workers, teachers, and peer educators, so that young people can access tailored sex education and health services.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Adaptation of the peer educator guidelines assisted by the Ministry of Health</li> <li>▶ Carrying out a study involving volunteers to analyse the quality of counselling at seven healthcare facilities</li> <li>▶ Training courses, improved infrastructure and equipment for youth-friendly services at eight healthcare facilities (total since start of project: 16)</li> <li>▶ Discussion groups in villages to include the whole community</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Malinyi</p> <p><b>Background</b> Around a third of the population in Malinyi has little or no access to healthcare. The region is particularly remote and many people live a semi-nomadic lifestyle, a long way from the nearest health centre.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Through cooperation with community health workers and the operation of a mobile clinic, SolidarMed improves healthcare for pregnant women, babies, young children and people with chronic diseases. The team also collects health data in order to deliver care that is optimally tailored to the population's needs.</p> <p><b>2023 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Successful approval of the project and recruitment of a highly qualified project team</li> <li>▶ Launch of the mobile clinic (funded by the Polarlys foundation) with extensive local media coverage</li> <li>▶ Financial support for 72 families in need to allow them to be treated at Lugala Hospital</li> </ul>



▲ People in the remote communities of the Malinyi district benefit from the mobile clinic. *sm*

## Healthcare directly in the community



Since September, Irene Deus Kuzenza has been regularly travelling around the Malinyi district with the mobile clinic. Together with her team members, the 21-year-old visits remote communities in the area around the dispensary in Madabadaba, where she works as a midwife. She provides local

populations with access to important prenatal care and vaccinations for infants. She makes sure that people are aware of the importance of regular health checks. Irene recalls: “Mothers used to only get their newborns vaccinated after three or four months as they were unaware of the risks.” Regular prenatal check-ups were not possible either due to the long distances and major obstacles to reach the

nearest health centre. “The mobile clinic has played a big part in providing healthcare to these hard-to-reach areas,” says Irene, proudly. Two similar mobile clinics have been doing the rounds for some time in the mountains of Lesotho, where they have proven very effective. ■

### *Benatus Sambili, Country director*

2023 was a successful year for SolidarMed. Several highly-qualified and motivated members of staff joined our team and we made great progress in our projects. Some milestones include the opening of two neonatal wards, making Morogoro one of the few regions in Tanzania where vulnerable newborns can receive professional care and treatment. Our concluded project ‘Our Girl’ dedicated to reducing teenage pregnancies, and our ongoing project on strengthening adolescent sexual and reproductive health in collaboration with Enfants du Monde both attracted a great deal of attention. In addition, the new mobile clinic gives

us hope that the semi-nomadic people of Malinyi will finally also be able to access basic primary healthcare.

SolidarMed also stepped up collaboration with local partners, for example by assuming leadership of the Ifakara Group, which brings together eight organisations with a link to Switzerland operating locally. Finally, our country office invited staff members from the SolidarMed country offices in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Mozambique to a first ever South-South exchange.



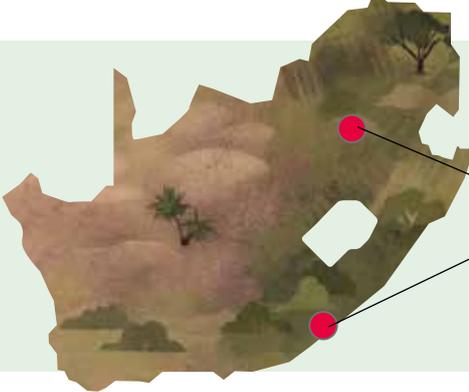
*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 108,884 to support the Tanzania country programme.*

# South Africa

South Africa continues to contend with electricity blackouts lasting hours, significant economic inequality, and high unemployment. Xenophobia and nationalist sentiment are also on the rise, fuelled by tensions in the run-up to the upcoming elections in 2024.

- ▶ Population: 59,893,885
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 20.5 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 62 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 2
- ▶ Partner organisations: Jika Uluntu, Sophiatown Community Psychological Services

Programme manager: Patrick Thomas



**Project regions**

- Johannesburg
- East London

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## How SolidarMed made a difference in South Africa in 2023

### Window of Hope

**Project duration** Since 2008 (supported by SolidarMed since 2020)

**Region** Johannesburg

**Background** Life in run-down parts of Johannesburg is hard. Inhabitants are traumatised by violence, neglect, exclusion, poverty and HIV/AIDS. Psychological support is virtually non-existent.

**Approach** SolidarMed's partner organisation SCPS provides trauma counselling and therapy for children, adolescents, and their caregivers. Individual and group therapy sessions help people overcome mental blocks, gain self-confidence and take back control of their lives.

**2023 milestones**

- ▶ Opening of a third site in Johannesburg in response to the great demand for psychological support
- ▶ Expansion of the homework help group to over 40 participants from difficult backgrounds

### Ilitha

**Project duration** Since 2017 (supported by SolidarMed since 2020)

**Region** East London

**Background** Poverty, violence and apathy are widespread in the informal settlement Gonubie Farmers Hall and the surrounding area. Children and adolescents in particular are lacking medical and psychosocial care, academic support and leisure facilities.

**Approach** Through local partner organisation Jika Uluntu, SolidarMed is improving the health and academic performance of children and adolescents living with HIV, and empowering their families. This is made possible through a community centre, home visits, and counselling on parenting and vocational education and training.

**2023 milestones**

- ▶ Nursery has reached capacity with 31 children, meaning extra space will soon be needed
- ▶ High demand for courses in financial literacy and growing proportion of women taking part
- ▶ More than 50 families received parenting counselling

## Integrated approach improves lives



Thirty-eight-year-old Sibongile\* used alcohol to cope with her violent boyfriend. A concerned neighbour advised

the mother of five to contact Jika Uluntu. Through home visits, psycho-educational measures, support from mentors, and assistance for her school-age children, Sibongile realised that she could lose custody of her children if she didn't tackle her alcohol dependency. As a first step she and her children moved out of her boyfriend's, which resulted in her drinking a lot less. She subsequently separated from him and also got help getting her finances in order. The mother now no longer misses work because of her drinking. The children are less likely to miss school and are clean. This also reflects their healthier home environment.

The integrated approach combines counselling, community engagement, and systematic monitoring to support



▲ Andiswa Mkhize and her mother Sindi in Soweto can laugh again thanks to SCPS, one of SolidarMed's local partner organisations. *mp*

further progress. The successes not only improve Sibongile's life and work, but also have a lasting impact on her children's

wellbeing and development potential. ■

*\*Name changed to protect identity.*

## *Patrick Thomas, South Africa programme manager*



In South Africa, SolidarMed implements projects through two local partner organisations rather than through its own offices and staff. This approach is very effective as the partners have an in-depth understanding of local people's needs and the possibilities on the ground, and work closely with other local actors.

The two projects in Johannesburg and East London support children, adolescents and caregivers, usually over a longer period. Given the serious economic inequality and limited access to social benefits and health services, short-term

support wouldn't be sufficient. On top of this, South Africa is having to contend with repeated electricity blackouts, growing xenophobia and political tensions in the run-up to the national elections in 2024, which is making it more difficult for people to live together peacefully and earn a steady income.

Under these difficult conditions, the two partner organisations are running fantastic projects to improve the education, health and economic situation of local communities.

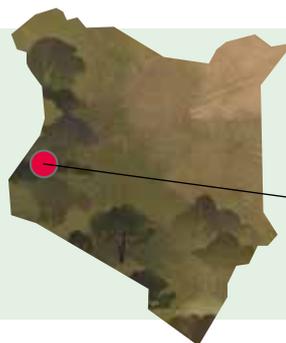
*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 90,920 to support the South Africa country programme.*

# Kenya

Kenya's population is growing rapidly, and already half the population is under 15 years of age. More and more people are moving to the cities where they often find accommodation in informal settlements. This trend—coupled with poverty, inequality, environmental hazards and corruption—is a major challenge for the country's health system.

- ▶ Population: 54,027,487
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 36.1%
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 61 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 1
- ▶ Partner organisation: Don Amolo Memorial Kids Ark (DAMKA)

Programme manager: Patrick Thomas



## Project regions

Butere  
Kakamega County

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)

## How SolidarMed made a difference in Kenya in 2023

### Nafasi

**Project duration** running since 2012 (supported by SolidarMed since 2020)

**Region** Butere and surrounding area, Kakamega County

**Background** Due to stigma and widespread poverty, there is almost no medical or psychological support for children and adolescents living with HIV. As a result, many suffer from stress, fail to take their medication correctly, get sick, and drop out of school.

**Approach** DAMKA provides intensive support to 450 HIV-positive children and adolescents through monthly club meetings, HIV counselling, and home visits. Contributions to school fees and healthcare costs, vocational education and training programmes, and goat breeding projects also help tackle poverty in the young people's families.

#### 2023 milestones

- ▶ Opening of a fourth location for the monthly club meetings, which reaches more than 100 additional children
- ▶ Closer cooperation with local health facilities and partners for improved supply of HIV testing kits and condoms
- ▶ Activities run for the first time to support 97 children and adolescents with sickle cell disease as this is also widespread and heavily stigmatised in the project region

## Hope for a normal life



Fifteen-year-old Clara\* has had a difficult childhood. Both of her parents died of AIDS when Clara was still very

young. She then moved to her grandmother's in Butere, but was often left alone while her grandmother went out to sell vegetables. She then started wandering the streets looking for food. Clara is also HIV positive, but didn't take her medication regularly and so her viral load was very high.

Fortunately, this was around the time when DAMKA was founded. Clara was one of the first children to be taken in to the programme as a nine-year-old girl. But the team quickly realised that the monthly club meetings were not enough because Clara is deaf and mute. DAMKA therefore made all the medical and administrative arrangements so that Clara could move to a special school and finally learn sign language. That was a turning point in her life: at boarding school she made



▲ Collins Omondi almost lost his eyesight due to the side effects of HIV medication. As a peer educator, he shares this and other experiences with children and adolescents living with HIV in Butere. *ob*

friends, was given healthy food, and received support with taking her medication.

She is now doing well and is a well-adjusted teenager. Thanks to support from SolidarMed, DAMKA is able to pay

Clara's school fees and visit her and her grandmother regularly. ■

*\*Name changed to protect identity.*

## Carolyn Mabunde, Director of partner organisation DAMKA

In 2023 we opened a fourth location and now support 450 children and adolescents living with HIV. That is huge growth compared with the period before SolidarMed came on board in 2020. Beforehand, there was only one location, which meant that many children and young people had to travel a long way or couldn't participate at all. We can now support them closer to home and more intensively than ever before. I'm incredibly grateful to SolidarMed for that.

The potential of our work is huge: every day, I see how young people's lives are transformed. We turn children who

are constantly sick and would probably have ended up on the streets into healthy young people who can hold their own in the labour market. To communicate the success of this integrated approach, I gave a talk in June at the South Africa AIDS Conference in Durban and in December presented a poster at the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Harare, Zimbabwe. DAMKA also became a member of the HENNET network (Health NGOs' Network), a federation of over 100 local and international NGOs working in the field of health in Kenya.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 14,754 to support the Kenya country programme.*

# India

Hyderabad is India's fourth-largest city. HIV/AIDS is relatively widespread, yet families affected by HIV are often excluded from society. Education is key to breaking the vicious circle of poverty and stigma.

- ▶ Population (Hyderabad): approx. 10.5 million
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\* (India): 11.9%
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth (India): 67 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 1
- ▶ Partner organisation: John Foundation

Programme manager: Patrick Thomas



Project region

Hyderabad/Secunderabad  
Telangana State

\*(% of people living on less than \$2.15/day)



## ASHA Window of Hope

**Local partner** John Foundation

**Project duration** running since 2007  
(supported by SolidarMed since 2020)

**Region** Hyderabad in Telangana state, India

**Background** Children and adolescents living with HIV are often stigmatised, unable to access healthcare, or have to drop out of school for financial reasons. This significantly reduces their chances of leading a dignified life.

### 2023 milestones

- ▶ Successful transfer to the new school year for all ten boys living in a residence financed by SolidarMed
- ▶ Good academic performance by all 30 children who SolidarMed helped return to school after dropping out
- ▶ Organising tutoring for 25 children with parents living with HIV

## Back in school



Ahir's\* father died several years ago in a road accident. Ahir's mother is a housewife and so had difficulty providing for him and his sister. Thanks to a scholarship, his sister was able to stay in school but Ahir was too young to get a scholarship and had to drop out. After a time his mother found a job in a local company, but didn't earn enough to pay Ahir's school fees. Someone they knew referred the family to the John Foundation. This has allowed Ahir to return to school and catch up on what he missed. ■

\*Name changed to protect identity.

## Termination of the project

SolidarMed's local partner, John Foundation, is a large, successful and well-connected NGO. The organisation is currently expanding its activities thanks to various donors and in future will no longer be reliant on SolidarMed's support. SolidarMed will continue to support the children and adolescents who are already in the programme until they leave school in 2027, after which point we will be withdrawing from this project area.



Community health workers like Mats'oanelo Makaka carry out important work in remote communities such as Ha-Taelo in northeastern Lesotho, around 60 kilometres from the city of Mokhotlong. [my](http://my)

**“2023 was a good year for SolidarMed Lesotho. Our projects achieved their objectives despite challenges, such as the difficult terrain in this small and mountainous country. We now have over 100 community health workers from the ComBaCaL project visiting communities and we plan to include other diseases besides high blood pressure and diabetes.”**

Mamello Letsie, Operations director, Lesotho

## Our vision



Our vision is a world in which everyone can enjoy the best possible health and live dignified and empowered lives.

## Values



### Solidarity

Our commitment is founded on solidarity and partnership. The name SolidarMed reflects this.



### Social equity

We are committed to ensuring that everyone can exercise their right to physical and mental health without discrimination, regardless of age, circumstance, gender, religion, place of residence or income.



### Empowered development

Health empowers people and allows them to reach their potential. We respect and promote the right to empowered individual and social development.



### Integrity

Expertise, experience, trust and credibility form the basis and the capital of our work. SolidarMed behaves fairly, transparently and respectfully towards its employees, supporters, partners and local populations.



### Sustainability

We stand for reliable, binding and value-preserving development which balances social, ecological and economic concerns.

## Bodies

### Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting is the highest association body. It meets once a year. Its duties principally include enacting the articles of association, approving the annual report, the annual financial statement and the audit report and electing the members of the Board of Directors and the president and auditor.

### The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the highest executive body and as such reports to the annual general meeting. It is responsible for electing the managing director, supervising the administrative office and approving the agenda, financial plan and annual budget.

### Administrative office

The administrative office carries out all of SolidarMed's activities in Switzerland and abroad according to the resolutions and guidelines of the annual general meeting and the Board of Directors. In particular, the administrative office is in charge of the planning and execution of SolidarMed's projects, programmes and activities, hiring the staff in charge of the former, preparing the annual budget, fundraising and maintaining membership records and collecting membership fees. The programmes are implemented on the ground by the country offices together with our partners.

The headcount at the administrative office in Lucerne as of year-end 2023 was 17.9 full-time equivalents (2022: 16.7).

## SolidarMed Association Prof. Niklaus Labhardt, President

### Administrative office Lucerne:



### Project countries:



Total SolidarMed headcount: 239



Get to know the current SolidarMed team at:

 [solidarmed.ch/en/teams](https://solidarmed.ch/en/teams)

## Members of the Board of Directors 2023

- ▶ **President: Prof. Niklaus Labhardt ①**, head of Clinical Epidemiology Division at the Department of Clinical Research, Basel University Hospital and University of Basel, since 2016; affiliations: staff member at the University of Basel\*
- ▶ **Vice-President: Bernadette Peterhans ②**, Fislisbach, senior consultant and former head of Professional Postgraduate Training Unit Swiss TPH, since: 2020; affiliations: consultant at Swiss TPH
- ▶ **Laura Frick ③**, Schaan, economist, since: 2020
- ▶ **Prof. Guido Keel ④**, Winterthur, director of IAM Institute of Applied Media Studies ZHAW, since: 2016
- ▶ **Bettina Maeschli ⑤**, Zurich, director of Swiss Hepatitis, since: 2020
- ▶ **Alexander Schulze ⑥**, sociologist, Chief Program Officer Fondation Botnar, since 2023; affiliations: staff member at Fondation Botnar
- ▶ **Dr Robert van der Ploeg ⑦**, Dürnten, specialist in general internal medicine and tropical and travel medicine FMH, since: 2016
- ▶ **Hansjörg Widmer ⑧**, Baar, economist, since: 2013



The members of the Board of Directors performed a total of 714 hours of voluntary work in 2023.

\*According to the ZEW requirements and §29 of the NPO code, affiliations representing potential conflicts of interest relevant to SolidarMed's activities are listed.

**Lesotho team**



**Mozambique team**



**Switzerland team**



**Zimbabwe team**



### Zambia team



### Tanzania team



► Onai Mupedzanhuna, who was born deaf and mute, lives at Copota School for the Blind in Zimbabwe and can only communicate through touch, as shown here with Cordelia Kunzekwenyika (right), SolidarMed programme manager. *lr*

**“Once again, we were able to expand our activities for people in need in the project regions.”**

Elisabeth Meier-Birchmeier, Head of HR & finance

# Effective programme work and growing support

In the year under review, expenses in project countries rose by around CHF 170,000 year-on-year, to CHF 10.4 million. Once again, we were able to expand our activities for people in need of medical care in the project regions.

Thanks to our many partners, supporters and donors, the earmarked income (including contributions from the public sector and Confederation) increased by CHF 43,170 year-on-year. Non-designated income and bequests fell by just under CHF 1 million compared with the previous year. It should be noted, however, that the 2022 income included one extraordinarily large donation. Non-designated income and bequests are in line with previous years, although a slight increase can clearly be seen. Total income for 2023 therefore stood at CHF 13 million.

Following a volatile year in 2022, the stock markets recovered in 2023. This allowed us to make a deposit of CHF 268,000 into the currency fluctuation fund, which now contains CHF 357,600 to cover any losses from securities in a poor stock market year.

For an organisation with long-term activities, fundraising and administration are essential tasks. The Zewo Foundation recognises that this requires a certain amount of financial expenditure. At 15.7% for fundraising and 4.2% for administration, SolidarMed is well

below the defined limits. Of every CHF 100 donated, CHF 80.10 flow into our North and South programmes.

A total of CHF 429,000 net from donations for project activities was set aside in the earmarked fund capital for future use. Meanwhile, to cover the remaining project financing, a planned withdrawal of CHF 617,000 was carried out from the organisation capital. After the withdrawal from the currency fluctuation fund, the total organisation capital fell by CHF 403,000. However, at CHF 8.9 million at the end of 2023, the fund still constitutes an appropriate financial reserve to hedge against the most important risks.

Isolated changes have been made to the presentation of the annual financial statements. Some items are therefore shown differently compared to previous years and the prior-year figures have been amended accordingly. Our full annual financial statement which can be viewed on the website now contains explanatory notes on the balance sheet and income statement. Interested parties can therefore obtain more detailed information. ■

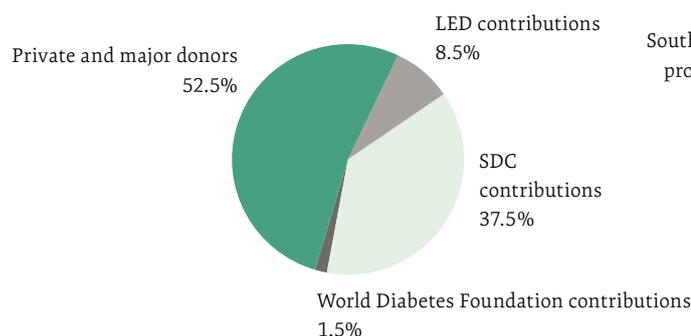


**Elisabeth Meier-Birchmeier**  
Head of human resources & finance

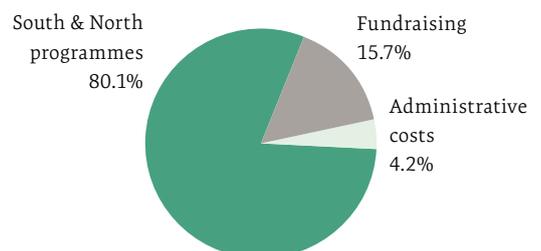
Please note: the annual financial statements and auditors' report and annex can be found on [solidarmed.ch](https://solidarmed.ch)



## Origin of funds 2023



## Use of funds 2023



## Balance sheet

### Balance sheet as of 31.12.2023

	2023		2022	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	5,968,743		9,303,735	
Assets held for trading at quoted market price	6,468,082		3,213,030	
Receivables from goods and services	221,071		27,919	
Other short-term receivables	25,755		12,989	
Accounts due from related parties (Project advances)	188,266		189,173	
Prepaid expenses	45,289		122,872	
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>12,917,206</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,869,718</b>	<b>100</b>
Plant and equipment	1		1	
Other investments	1		1	
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>12,917,208</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,869,720</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables from goods and services	86,980		132,937	
Short-term liabilities	12,396		4,800	
Other short-term liabilities	128,527		104,422	
Accrued expenses	262,264		231,262	
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>	<b>490,167</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>473,421</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Other long-term liabilities	34,800		30,000	
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>
SDC mandates/project contributions	250,065		9,395	
LED projects	630,784		497,401	
World Diabetes Foundation projects	40,140		22,486	
SolidarMed projects	2,476,458		2,439,138	
<b>Earmarked fund capital</b>	<b>3,397,447</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>2,968,420</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Share capital				
Paid-in capital and reserves	881,633		881,633	
Fixed capital				
Currency fluctuation fund	357,645		89,645	
Fund 3 (earmarked funds for Aids&Kind)	3,289,943		3,408,149	
Free capital				
Fund 1 - unrestricted funds	4,465,573		4,049,436	
Fund 2 - unrestricted funds	0		969,016	
<b>Organisation capital</b>	<b>8,994,794</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>9,397,879</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>12,917,208</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,869,720</b>	<b>100</b>

## Income statement 1.1.–31.12.2023

	2023		2022	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<b>Income</b>				
Unrestricted donations	1,646,865	12.7	2,667,545	19.1
Unrestricted bequests and legacies	100,249	0.7	79,100	0.6
Earmarked donations	5,090,703	39.1	5,563,580	39.8
Public sector contributions	1,295,352	10.0	1,405,492	10.1
Contributions from the Confederation (SDC)	4,878,299	37.5	4,252,114	30.4
Other income	4,785	0.0	8,394	0.0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>13,016,254</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,976,226</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Africa and India programmes	-8,035,428		-8,181,440	
Confederation (SDC) mandates/project contributions	-1,454,018		-1,187,359	
Personnel expenses (project management)	-816,823		-759,249	
Other operating and pro rata expenditure (project management)	-119,329		-126,748	
<b>South programme</b>	<b>-10,425,598</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>-10,254,796</b>	<b>80.1</b>
<b>North programme: Awareness-raising</b>	<b>-212,526</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-224,878</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Total expenditure South and North programmes</b>	<b>-10,638,124</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>-10,479,674</b>	<b>81.8</b>
Fundraising and general advertising expenses	-2,087,975	15.7	-1,914,144	14.9
Administration	-557,796	4.2	-414,322	3.2
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>-2,645,741</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>-2,328,466</b>	<b>18.1</b>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>-13,283,865</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-12,808,140</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>-267,611</b>		<b>1,168,086</b>	
Financial income	370,619		59,816	
Financial expense	-77,066		-720,867	
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>293,553</b>		<b>-661,051</b>	
<b>Extraordinary income</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Result before change in fund capital</b>	<b>25,941</b>		<b>507,033</b>	
Change in earmarked funds	-429,027		-588,531	
<b>Annual result (before changes to organisation capital)</b>	<b>-403,086</b>		<b>-81,498</b>	
Withdrawals from organisation capital	671,086		428,733	
Allocation to Fund 1 - unrestricted funds	0		-1,012,235	
Withdrawal/allocation currency fluctuation fund	-268,000		665,000	
<b>Total allocations/appropriations</b>	<b>403,086</b>		<b>81,498</b>	
<b>Result after allocation to organisation capital</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	

**“As an organisation, we wholeheartedly support the principle of international cooperation based on partnership. But implementing it is a daily challenge.”**

Niklaus Labhardt, President

♥ Project manager Dr Alvern Mutengerere gives a briefing at SolidarMed's summer event in Lucerne on the non-communicable diseases project in Zimbabwe. The event is a chance for interested parties and partners to meet and exchange with SolidarMed staff members. rs



# Thank you for your support!

Health requires teamwork. Thank you for being part of the team. By donating, you are working alongside the medical professionals on the ground and all SolidarMed staff members to make a difference. Unfortunately we don't have enough space to mention all our donors and supporters by name, which is why we only list institutions with an annual donation of CHF 1,000 or more. But our thanks nonetheless go out to everyone we could not mention or who did not wish to be named. Because every donation makes a difference.

**Public sector** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperations SDC; Liechtenstein Development Service LED; cantons of Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Basel-Stadt, Glarus, Graubünden, Obwalden, Schaffhausen, Thurgau, Zurich; municipalities of Frauenfeld, Lucerne; Opfikon, St. Gallen, Zurich; communes of Baar; Bettingen, Bottmingen, Küsnacht ZH, Maur, Oberägeri, Schaan, Vaduz, Wallisellen

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**Companies and associations** Beco Immobilien AG; Carglass Schweiz AG; Dorf-Drogerie Hafen; ERMED AG; Frauennetzwerk Meggen; Frauenverein Brockenstube Vaduz; Frickbau AG; Gemeinnütziger Frauenverein Rapperswil-Jona;

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**Protestant parishes** Belp; Hilterfingen; Lauterbrunnen; Rapperswil-Jona; Reinach BL; Schwarzenegg; ref. Kirche Kanton Zug

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**Patricia Casutt**  
Project partnerships

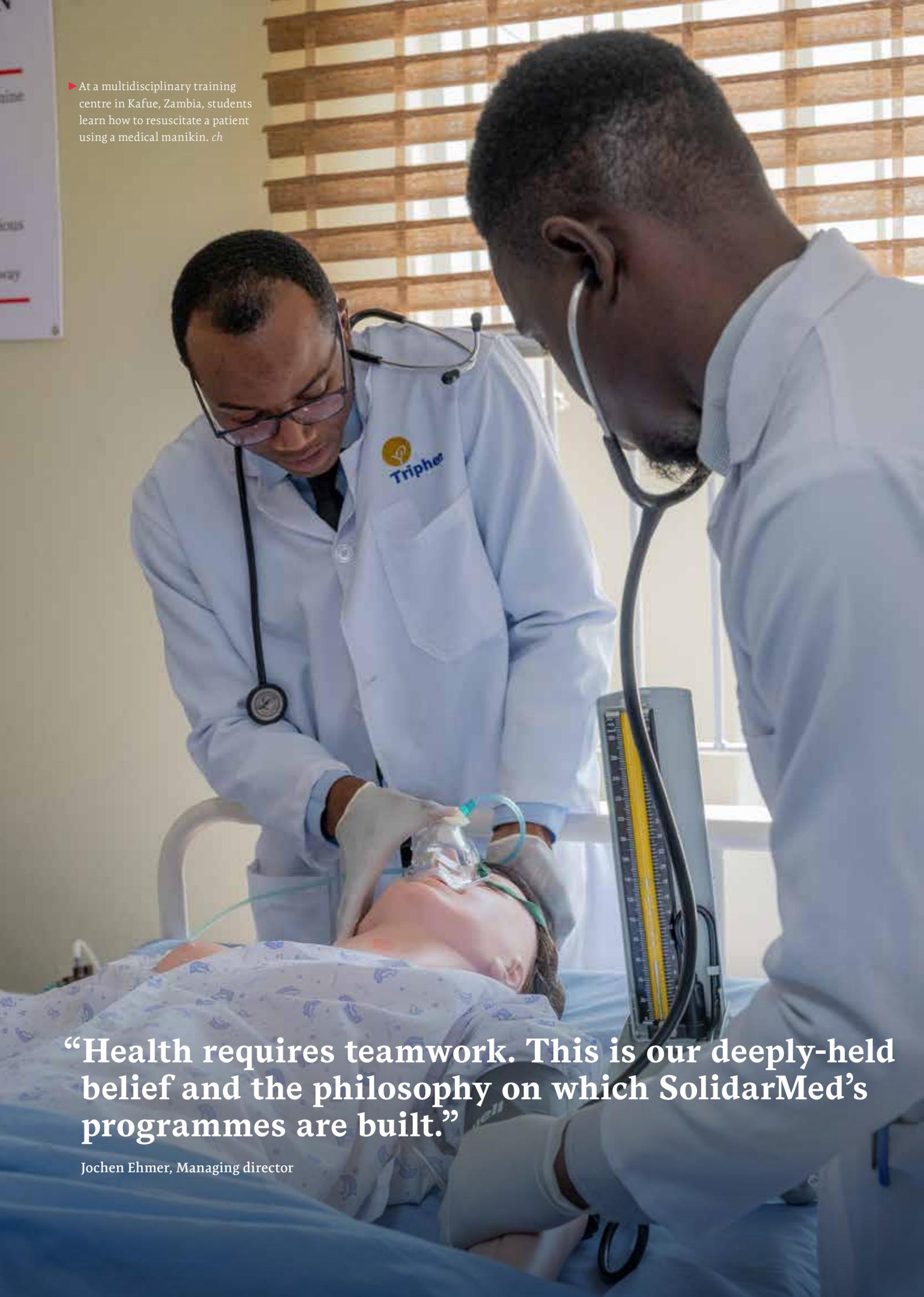


**Gabriela Fuchs**  
Project partnerships



**Lucy Kormann**  
Individual giving

► At a multidisciplinary training centre in Kafue, Zambia, students learn how to resuscitate a patient using a medical manikin. *ch*



**“Health requires teamwork. This is our deeply-held belief and the philosophy on which SolidarMed’s programmes are built.”**

Jochen Ehmer, Managing director

# Partnerships for health

SolidarMed also works with various institutions and organisations.  
This mutual support is very valuable too.

## National partnerships

Pharmacists without borders, Switzerland  
Basler Förderverein für medizinische  
Zusammenarbeit  
Enfants du Monde  
ETH Lausanne (EPFL)  
Helvetas  
Medicus Mundi Switzerland  
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute  
(Swiss TPH)  
University of Bern, Institute of Social and  
Preventive Medicine  
Basel University Hospital  
University of Lucerne, Health Sciences &  
Health Policy  
University of Zurich  
Swiss Malaria Group  
Swiss NGO Network  
Swiss Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
and Climate Change Adaptation  
Swiss Red Cross  
Tech4Impact NGO Impact Council

## International partnerships

Chilonga College of Nursing & Midwifery,  
Zambia  
Clinton Health Access Initiative, Harare,  
Zimbabwe  
Council of the Blind, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Don Amolo Memorial Kids Ark (DAMKA),  
Kenya  
Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR),  
Netherlands  
Fundação Wiwanana, Mozambique  
Great Zimbabwe University (GZU),  
Masvingo, Zimbabwe  
Heidelberg University, Institute of Global  
Health, Germany

IeDEA-SA Network  
Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania  
Instituto de Formação em Saúde de  
Pemba, Mozambique  
Jika Uluntu, East London, South Africa  
John Foundation, Hyderabad, India  
Lewy Mwanawasa University, Zambia  
Lugala Lutheran Hospital in Malinyi  
District – Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of Tanzania  
UniLúrio; University of northern  
Mozambique, Mozambique  
Midland State University, Gweru,  
Zimbabwe  
Ministry of Health, Lesotho  
Ministry of Health, Mozambique  
Ministry of Health, Tanzania  
President's Office Regional Administration  
and Local Government (PORALG),  
Tanzania  
Ministry of Health, Zambia  
Ministry of Health and Child Care,  
Zimbabwe  
National AIDS Council (NAC), Zimbabwe  
National University of Lesotho (NUL)  
Newlands Clinic Harare, Zimbabwe  
Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia  
School of Dentistry, Zimbabwe  
Seboche Mission Hospital, Lesotho  
Sophiatown Community Psychological  
Services (SCPS), Johannesburg, South  
Africa  
St-Luke's College of Nursing & Midwifery,  
Zambia  
St Paul's College of Nursing & Midwifery,  
Zambia  
Tanzania Training Centre for International  
Health (TTCIH), Tanzania  
Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital (GSCH),

Tanzania  
Universidade Eduardo Mondlane,  
Mozambique  
Zimbabwe Association of Church  
Hospitals (ZACH)  
Zimbabwe National Family Planning  
Council (ZNFPC)  
Child Blind Mission, Zimbabwe  
Diabetes Association of Zimbabwe,  
Masvingo, Zimbabwe,  
Leonard Cheshire Disability Organisation,  
Zimbabwe  
Midlands Diabetes Group, Gweru,  
Zimbabwe  
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## Corporate partnerships

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### Association membership

Annual membership fee for individuals: CHF 50, families: CHF 80 and institutions: CHF 100.

Your membership fee includes the annual print subscription (four issues) to the 'SolidarMed Focus' magazine and the Annual Report.

### Donations and annual membership fee

Postal account 60-1433-9, account holder: SolidarMed, CH-6005 Lucerne

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Donate online at [solidarmed.ch/spenden](http://solidarmed.ch/spenden) (Twint, Postcard, VISA or Mastercard)

Please make a note if this is an annual membership fee.

### SolidarMed

SolidarMed is a politically independent and non-denominational association which is supported by members and donors. The annual general meeting is the highest association body and meets once a year. It elects the members of the Board of Directors and determines the articles of association. The Board of Directors, as the highest management body, is responsible for the strategy and approves the annual budget. The administrative office is in charge, along with the country offices, for the planning and implementation of the programmes.

### Rechtliche Grundlagen

Name: SolidarMed – Swiss Organisation for Health in Africa

Legal form: Association

Articles of Association: approved by SolidarMed's ordinary annual general assembly on 16 May 2009 in Lucerne.

In keeping with the core philosophy and values stated in the mission statement, SolidarMed promotes basic primary healthcare in countries of the Global South and raises public awareness about topics concerned with international health and solidarity.

SolidarMed programmes are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



## Cover page



◀ Lwande Mdjaroa, who lives in a remote community in Tanzania's Malinyi district, was able to get her son wormed and vaccinated thanks to the mobile clinic. During the rainy season, people in these villages are completely cut off and have no access to medical care. *ob*

## Back page



◀ Mariam Ongala (not her real name) attending the weekly meeting in the neonatal ward at Morogoro Regional Hospital in Tanzania. Her daughter Zawadi was born when Mariam was six months pregnant, weighing just 600 grams. Thanks to Kangaroo Mother Care, she weighed 2.6 kilos by the time she was 12 weeks old. She is one of the faces of SolidarMed's campaign highlighting the importance of teamwork in health. The campaign has only been run in German. *ob*

[solidarmed.ch/team-gesundheit](https://solidarmed.ch/team-gesundheit)

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for Health