

Annual Report 2023



**Women's Hope
International**

Review 2023

Increased vulnerability due to multiple crises

Political tensions, natural disasters, and the economic situation took a toll on the populations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Chad in 2023. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our partner organizations, we were nonetheless able to support the people and make an impact.

In the fall of 2023, our organization celebrated its 20th anniversary. However, the anniversary year was particularly challenging for our partner countries: In Sudan, the war between the two main factions of the military regime forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee – including to our partner countries Ethiopia and Chad. The sheer number of displaced people increased pressure to healthcare systems; additionally, food and fuel prices rose. National political events, such as the elections in Bangladesh, accompanied by violence, further exacerbated uncertainties. Natural disasters also struck our partner countries: In Afghanistan, for example, several earthquakes shook parts of the country in October 2023, resulting in thousands of deaths. Parts of Ethiopia suffered from the worst drought in forty years. In September 2023, the long-awaited rain finally arrived, but it caused massive flooding.

Due to these multiple crises, the populations in our partner countries are confronted with political instability, rising prices, and increased poverty.

All these factors heighten the vulnerability of girls and women. Despite these challenges, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our partner organizations and budget and project adjustments, we were able to continue all projects in 2023 and further advance our efforts to strengthen the health and rights of girls and women – with encouraging results: The number of births in the health centres supported by us increased to almost 5700 (previous year: 3383). 90 aspiring midwives were able to complete their training thanks to our scholarships (previous year: 72), and 225 midwives received further training (previous year: 34). Additionally, we expanded our efforts against gender-based violence to the Somali region in Ethiopia and saw initial improvements there. For us, it is clear that we are doing our utmost to support the girls and women in our partner countries. Our vision remains a world where all people can live healthy and self-determined lives.



Empowered against child marriage: In 2023, 3600 adolescents participated in relevant awareness-raising sessions in Bangladesh.

Thank you!

Women's Hope would like to express its utmost gratitude to everyone who has supported our projects and thereby helped to give more girls and women the chance of a healthy and self-determined life. We would like to give particular thanks to:

- Our donors and members for their commitment
- Foundations, parishes, and companies for their generous support
- Cantons and municipalities for their project contributions
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Our volunteers for all their hard work

Key data 2023

Strengthening health systems



Access to and use of health services

- **5,680 births** were assisted professionally in health facilities supported by Women's Hope.
- **7,925 women** received at least one **prenatal examination** during their pregnancy, and **10,677 women** received **postnatal care** [at least one visit].
- **1,267 community health workers** participated in **events or trainings on maternal and child health**.



Strengthening health systems

- **34 health centres and posts**, as well as **3 hospitals and rehabilitation centres**, were supported [with medical equipment and supplies, minor repairs, staff training, etc.].
- **90 midwifery students** received support for their education, while **225 midwives** received further training.

Treatment and prevention of obstetric injuries



Treatment of birth injuries and rehabilitation measures

- **969 fistula and other childbirth injury surgeries** were performed.
- **480 patients** underwent various **rehabilitation measures**, while **301** participated in **vocational training courses**.
- **335 women** were examined for obstetric fistulas in **diagnosis camps**, **65** were diagnosed with fistulas.

Raising people's awareness of fistulas



- **1,360 health workers** were informed about and **trained** on obstetric fistulas.
- Additionally, **830 traditional birth attendants** and **6,907 mothers, adolescents, teachers, and community leaders** were reached.

Eliminating gender-based violence

Activities to eliminate child marriages



- **6,160 individuals**, including men and boys, teachers, and imams, were **sensitized and/or trained** on children's rights, child marriages, and gender-based violence.
- **18,444 girls** visited one of the 30 «Safe Spaces» established by Women's Hope.

Activities to eliminate Female Genital Cutting (FGC)



- **750 women and 460 men** engaged in **discussions** within a **safe environment** regarding the elimination of FGC.
- **5,400 persons** attended theatre performances tackling the topic of FGC.
- **120 female circumcisers** critically evaluated their practice, while **83 religious leaders** were engaged in **discussions** on the topic.



Emergency interventions

Medical support for Afghan returnees at the Pakistan border

- Support for **3 temporary health centres** with medical supplied and solar panels.
- **Establishment** and equipping of **3 delivery rooms**.

Balance sheet

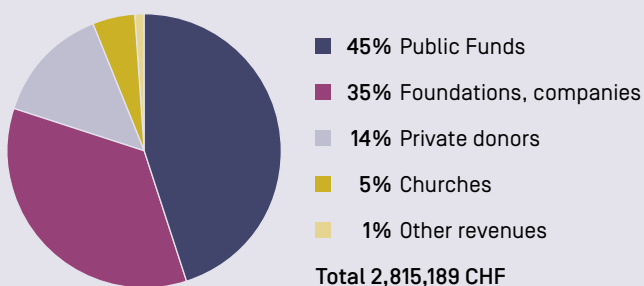
	31.12.2023	
	CHF	%
ASSETS		
Accounts CHF	1,410,072	94.1
Account EUR	53,708	3.6
Account USD	11,734	0.8
Receivables	773	0.1
Accrued income	2,046	0.1
Current assets	1,478,333	98.7
Financial assets	12,547	0.8
Intangible assets	7,048	0.5
Fixed assets	19,595	1.3
TOTAL ASSETS	1,497,928	100.0
LIABILITIES		
Trade payables	2,722	0.2
Liabilities from social insurance	831	0.1
Deferred income	84,057	5.6
Current liabilities	87,610	5.8
Country funds	473,418	31.6
Thematic funds	0	0.0
SDC fund	17,000	1.1
Ring-fenced fund capital	490,418	32.7
Total organisational capital	919,900	61.4
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,497,928	100.0

The financial report has been audited by Von Graffenried AG Treuhand. The full annual financial statements can be ordered from our secretariat or viewed at under: womenshope.ch/en/news-and-information/annual-report.

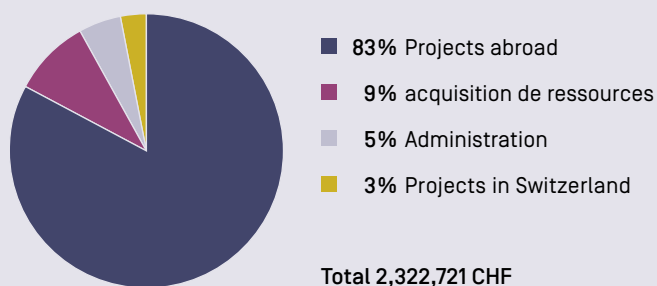
Operating statement

	1.1.–31.12.2023	
	CHF	%
INCOME		
Donations from natural persons	409,357	14.6
Donations from legal entities	978,917	34.8
Church contributions	136,092	4.8
Public funds	1,273,260	45.2
Total donations and contributions	2,797,626	99.4
of which earmarked	-2,138,925	
Other revenue	17,563	0.6
TOTAL INCOME	2,815,189	100.0
EXPENDITURE		
Projects abroad	1,929,538	83.1
Projects Switzerland	63,686	2.7
Fundraising	216,758	9.3
Administration	112,739	4.9
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,322,721	100.0
Interim result 1	492,468	
Financial income	0	
Financial expenses	-5,754	
Annual result before fund result	486,715	
Allocation of earmarked funds	-2,138,925	
Withdrawal from earmarked funds	1,913,439	
Fund result	-225,487	
Annual result before changes in organisational capital	261,228	
Increase/withdrawal from organisational capital	-261,228	
TOTAL CHANGE IN ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	-261,228	
	0	

Revenue by origin



Expenditure by purpose



Who we are

Every woman should have the chance to give birth to her child safely. Yet globally 800 women die every day due to complications during pregnancy or childbirth. 95% of these deaths occur in low and middle-income countries. Over 90% of these deaths are avoidable. This is where the work of Women's Hope International comes in.

Our work

We are committed to ensuring that all women can exercise their right to a healthy and self-determined life. Together with local organizations, institutions and communities, we promote structures that strengthen the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women.

- We strengthen local sexual and reproductive healthcare systems to enable employees to deliver high-quality services.
- We are committed to the elimination of gender-based violence, particularly forced marriage, child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- We provide girls and women with obstetric injuries and other medical conditions related to the birth of a child with access to specialised gynaecological treatment, preventive care and social integration measures.

Our approach

Societies can only be stable and peaceful when everyone participates equally in political, economic and social life. No country in the world has yet achieved genuine equality – even though it is a human right. Through our work, we aim at equal rights and equal access to resources – especially medical resources – for everyone. In order to achieve

this objective, women must be empowered as knowledge-bearers and decision-makers. We actively involve them and their social environment in project planning, implementation and evaluation. Women in particular and all members of the population in our partner countries know what is needed and how sustainable solutions look like. Working closely with local partners, we promote knowledge-sharing and joint learning, strengthening interaction between local people and health services. Our work aims at enabling local communities to implement measures independently in the long term.

Our work contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health and well-being) and 5 (gender equality).

Memberships

Women's Hope International is a member of the following networks and alliances:

- Medicus Mundi Suisse
- Campaign to End Fistula, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- International Obstetric Fistula Working Group (IOFWG)
- Girls Not Brides
- Alliance Gender Equality & Health, together with IAMANEH Switzerland and Médecins du Monde Suisse

Cover image Expertise and passion combined: Midwife Zara Daoud welcomes a pregnant woman at the birth centre in Rimélé, Chad.

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Women's Hope
International

Organisation

Our team



As of the end of 2023, the Women's Hope International head office had seven permanent employees and two interns. With the country offices in Ethiopia and Chad, a total of 13 people were working for Women's Hope at the end of 2023, equivalent to 8.65 full-time positions.

Board of directors

From left to right: Christian Zysset, Madeleine Bolliger, Rebecca Zachariah, Manuela Bracale, Matthias Lüscher.



Headoffice and country offices

Back row, from left to right: Lora Slovak, Selina Leu, Noemi Grossen; front row: Maxence Couche-Franquet, Corinne Bächtold, Emma Maingot, Judith Auer, Maria Bongard, Sephra Ayele, Rahel Gebremariam; not pictured: Daniela Bandi, Juste Bationon, Tsegey Getachew, Betseit Sisay, Muriel Weyermann.

Where and with whom we work

Country	Partner organisation	Projects	Focus*
Ethiopia	Attat Catholic Hospital	Safe births despite high-risk pregnancy	S . .
	Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia	Empowering women with childbirth injuries through life-skill and vocational training	. . T
	St. Luke Catholic Hospital	A midwife for every mother – promoting the quality of training at St. Luke Hospital	S . .
	Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)	Community Action for Reproductive Health - CARE	S . .
	OWDA	Say No! – Fighting Female Genital Cutting Together	. E .
Chad	Bureau d'Appui Santé et Environnement (BASE)	Enhanced mother-and-child healthcare through the involvement of village communities	S . .
Afghanistan	Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Access to obstetric care for rural women in Laghman Province	S . .
	Women's Hope Social Association (WHSA)	Women empower women in Kabul and Scheberghan	. E .
Bangladesh	Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB)	Ending Child Marriage	. E .
	LAMB	End Fistula – identifying, healing and reintegrating women with fistulas	. . T
	LAMB	Midwives for Parbatipur	S . .

*S: Strengthening health systems, E: Eliminating gender-based violence, T: Treatment of obstetric injuries

New Project

Resumption