

# Annual Report

2024

Partnerships for Health

SOLIDAR  
MED



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## Local roots and trust are our strengths



**Prof.  
Niklaus Labhardt**  
President

2024 was a challenging year for SolidarMed. The geopolitical situation, the impact of climate change, and economic uncertainty are increasingly influencing our working environment. In the countries in which SolidarMed operates, these developments are resulting in a higher cost of living, rising food prices and political instability. Meanwhile, the willingness of wealthier countries to finance humanitarian aid and international cooperation is waning. Less than half of the UN's humanitarian programmes were fully funded at the end of 2024. And in Switzerland, too, there have been significant cuts in the international cooperation budget – changes that will influence our work in the years ahead.

Several of our partner countries were affected by crises in 2024. In northern Mozambique, political unrest, an ongoing armed conflict and a cyclone claimed hundreds of lives, forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes and destroyed the already fragile infrastructure. In Lesotho, El Niño caused devastating droughts and crop failures, while in Zimbabwe the healthcare crisis continued to worsen, with shortages of medicines, staff and medical equipment.

What can a relatively small organisation like SolidarMed do in a situation like this? Our strength lies in our long-standing local roots and the trust that we enjoy with the public and authorities. We're familiar with the 'last mile' – remote communities away from main roads and healthcare facilities, a far cry from the air


conditioned offices in the capitals. We make sure that established and new healthcare interventions reach people who are often forgotten: rural, economically-disadvantaged populations.

Despite all the challenges, there were some successes in global health in 2024, with the rollout of the first effective malaria vaccine in 30 African countries. Another milestone is a new HIV/AIDS drug that is injected every six months and provides almost complete protection from infection. These achievements must be made available as widely as possible – a task that we at SolidarMed can also play a part in.

My heartfelt thanks go to our committed teams and partner organisations in the project countries and in Switzerland for their tireless dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank you, our supporters, for your trust and solidarity over the past year.

With my very best wishes





◀ Eighteen-month-old Siyabonga weighed just over six kilos when he was admitted to the early childhood development project in Lesotho. His delayed development was the result of severe poverty and could have far-reaching consequences for life. This is because the first 1,000 days of a child's life are absolutely critical. *th*

**“It is also our job as SolidarMed to plausibly demonstrate that we carry out smart international cooperation, that our approaches are effective, and that we make a difference to people's lives.”**

Eliane Kiener, Managing Director

# SolidarMed in the age of polycrises



**Eliane Kiener**  
Managing Director

The current geopolitical situation is shaped by multiple crises that are mutually reinforcing and that pose complex challenges to us as an international cooperation actor. The geopolitical situation and uncertainty lead to many conflicting goals, while pressure on resource allocation is very high, as was reflected in the fierce debate in the Swiss parliament in December 2024 on the international cooperation budget for 2025–28.

Various decisions and actions taken by the new US Administration will also have radical consequences for global health and for Switzerland.

In this changing context, we not only took on challenges in 2024, but also took the opportunity to take a hard and honest look inwards, to scrutinise our strategies and approaches, and to ask ourselves whether we're doing the right things, and whether we're doing things right. This self-reflection is key in our day-to-day work and allows us as an organisation to learn from experience and to constantly improve.

Although the current budget cuts are painful, they're a wake-up call for us all. It is also our job as SolidarMed to plausibly demonstrate that we carry out smart international cooperation, that our approaches are effective, and that we make a difference to people's lives.

A key factor in SolidarMed's success is its geographic and thematic focus. As an organisation, by concentrating on certain regions and needs in rural Africa,

we can act in a very targeted way, which enables us to maintain close ties to communities and promotes the long-term impact of our programmes. This is a recipe for success that we will continue to pursue going forward.

In recent years SolidarMed has also recognised that traditional methods are not always sufficient to tackle the complex problems of today. For us it will be even more important in the future to explore new and innovative paths. Particularly in the area of healthcare, we want to promote technologies and interdisciplinary cooperation even more strongly in order to bolster both our reach and the effectiveness of our initiatives. The fact that we are celebrating our centenary in 2026 is thanks to this adaptability, as SolidarMed has always faced challenges. And particularly thanks to you, our loyal donors, SolidarMed is able to play an important role in improving healthcare in rural Africa, now and in the future.

I personally am looking forward to visiting our programme countries later this year after starting at SolidarMed in 2024. This is because building bridges between the North and South is something I care deeply about.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Kiener'.



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.



### Community-based prevention and healthcare

Access to medical services and prevention programmes is often limited in remote communities. SolidarMed runs mobile clinics that regularly visit the villages and provides transport to health centres, which are sometimes a long way away.



### Preparedness for acute health risks and emergency relief

SolidarMed's project countries sometimes experience outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and measles. And natural disasters, like the cyclone that hit Mozambique in December 2024, are detrimental to human health. These challenges need to be tackled swiftly and efficiently.



### 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.



### Climate-friendly infrastructure and modern medical equipment

SolidarMed builds and renovates sustainable infrastructure in hospitals and health centres and procures modern medical equipment and consumables. This allows operations and births to be conducted safely and prevents the spread of infection.



### Digital, data-driven health solutions

Digitalising survey results and treatment reports allows SolidarMed to analyse its measures efficiently. The results and findings are not only used for effective implementation of projects, but also shared with the research community.



**Switzerland**

Administrative office

Lucerne

**Kenya**

Partner organisation

in Butere

**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

**Telangana  
(India)**

Partner organisation

in Hyderabad

**Mozambique**

Main office

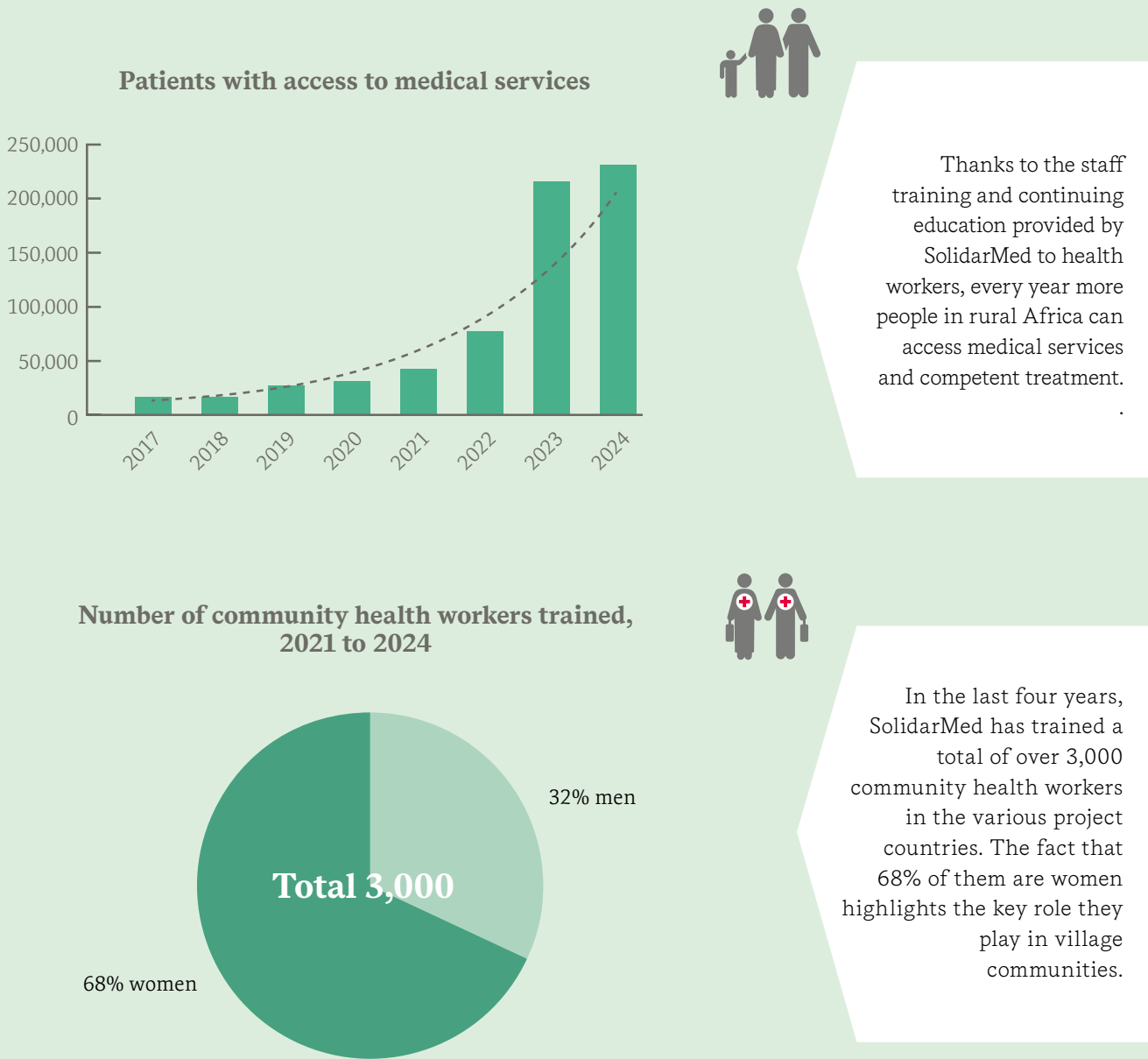
in Pemba

# How SolidarMed’s projects make an impact

Documenting and reviewing projects is key as it allows SolidarMed to highlight their impact. The main objectives here are to understand how the available resources can be used as efficiently and effectively as possible. These insights not only benefit SolidarMed, but also local health authorities and the international research community, with whom the findings are shared. In this way, SolidarMed contributes to better healthcare well beyond the project regions.

Once again last year, SolidarMed’s projects were continuously refined, improving access to medical care for people in rural Africa.

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

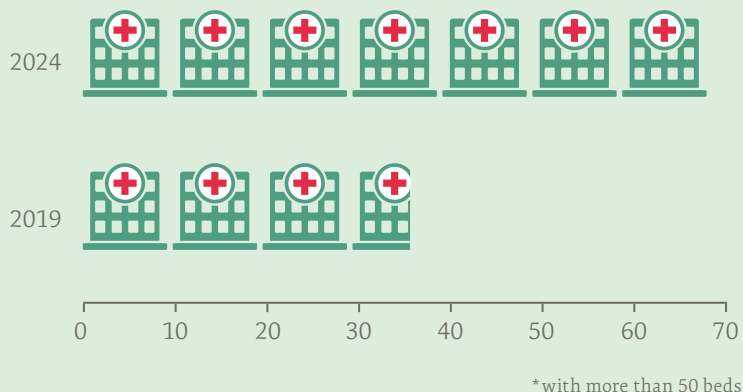




SolidarMed strengthens the health systems of project countries. One part of the puzzle is the healthcare facilities themselves. Thanks to SolidarMed, a growing number of patients have access to high-quality medical care.



### Number of hospitals\* with improved services



The number of patients in Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe who have been receiving HIV treatment for at least two years is rising steadily. Continuity is key to the success of treatment and control of the epidemic.



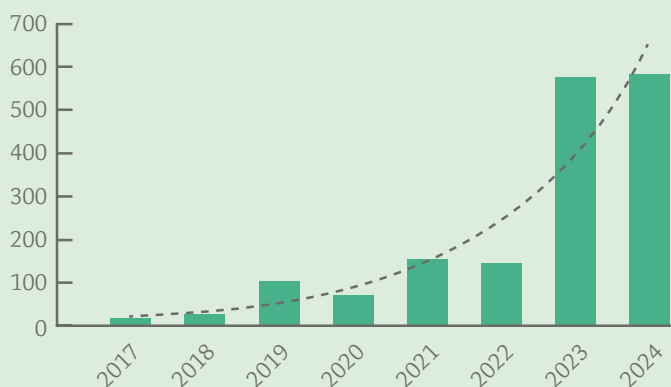
### Patients in HIV treatment for at least two years



SolidarMed is involved in an increasing number of projects aimed at improving sexual and reproductive health. Adolescents are a neglected group in this respect and a focus of SolidarMed's initiatives that aim, for example, to prevent teenage pregnancies.



### Sexual and reproductive health initiatives



# Lesotho

The Government of Lesotho has extended its strategic development plan to 2028. With a high poverty rate, the world's second-highest rate of HIV/AIDS, subdued economic growth, high unemployment, and food insecurity, Lesotho faces many challenges, although the rate of inflation fell slightly.



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

ComBaCaL	TB Triage +	Leap Start
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2021 to 2025 (Phase I)</p> <p><b>Region</b> Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong</p> <p><b>Background</b> Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure place a heavy burden on the resource-poor health system. Poverty, a lack of awareness, and the remoteness of the terrain impede access to healthcare.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed's approach is based on four pillars: best clinical practice, shifting tasks to the community, digitally-driven clinical decision-making, and differentiated service provision. This is underpinned by research, local impacts, cooperation, capacity building and sustainability.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► 14,391 people registered in the main cohort of the study</li> <li>► 113 trained community health workers actively treating patients with diabetes and high blood pressure</li> <li>► 23 facilities and an extended training programme and capacities for diabetes and high blood pressure care</li> <li>► 18 published articles, guidelines and reviews, and more in the pipeline</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2020 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Butha-Buthe</p> <p><b>Background</b> Lesotho has the world's second-highest tuberculosis incidence rate, which is made worse by the high HIV prevalence as sufferers have weakened immune systems.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> The screening strategy involves conducting an initial cheap, rapid test. If the result is positive, this is followed by a more expensive, more time-consuming confirmatory test. This approach can accelerate access to diagnosis, reduce diagnostic costs, and improve outcomes.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► 13,473 participants were successfully admitted to the study</li> <li>► Computer-assisted analysis of digital chest x-rays combined with the CRP inflammation score has proved a reliable triage test.</li> <li>► The screening looks promising for integration in non-communicable diseases and tuberculosis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2024 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Butha-Buthe, Mokhotlong</p> <p><b>Background</b> Early childhood development (ECD) is crucial to a child's future health. Factors such as a lack of awareness about breastfeeding, poverty, and climate change lead to developmental disorders in children due to long-term malnutrition and insufficient psychosocial stimulation.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed promotes early childhood development, from conception to the age of four. To this end, it bolsters ECD activities in healthcare facilities, involves communities, and promotes cooperation within the health system, in order to provide an environment that is conducive to children's healthy development.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Completion of a baseline study to determine the gaps</li> <li>► Training of 23 educators on early childhood development</li> <li>► Continuing education in early childhood development for 237 healthcare workers</li> </ul>



▲ Over 14,000 people are part of the ComBaCal project. They benefit from screening for chronic, non-communicable diseases and treatment locally if they need it. *mh*

## A garden to promote a varied diet



Mathato Tsunyane is shaping the future of the village of Matsoaing in more than one way. The

former primary school teacher is now teaching shepherd boys from the local area and attending to the community garden.

Thanks to training provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, the garden

produces a wide range of vegetables – turnips, carrots, spinach and pumpkins – and was awarded a national prize.

Through partnerships with Touching Tiny Lives (TTL) and funding from SolidarMed, the garden now plays a key role in ensuring a varied diet for children under five, helps prevent chronic malnutrition, and supports early childhood development. Fresh produce from the garden is also handed out to primary school children

in the surrounding area. This improves both diets and development.

For Mathato Tsunyane and the other participants, the garden is more than a project – it is a lifeline that gives them a sense of purpose and solidarity. By nurturing young lives and supporting the wellbeing of the community, they are creating a healthier and brighter future for Matsoaing. ■

## Mamello Letsie, Operations Director

2024 was a great year for implementation of all SolidarMed's projects in Lesotho. The milestones achieved in the ComBaCal project include 99% screening coverage for high blood pressure and diabetes mellitus in 103 of the main cohort communities. A review of the integration of HIV prevention also got under way. In addition, 113 community health workers were trained in the 'Start Your Business' model as part of the 'microenterprise' component and 41 businesses that had been granted a loan started operating. A further 59 applications will be reviewed over the course of the year to decide whether they are to be awarded a loan.

To improve outcomes in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), 4,403 adolescent girls and boys were reached with SRHR messaging, the third 'adolescent health corner' was established, and a number of building projects got under way. We successfully launched the project on early childhood development. We also concluded a number of research projects. In 2025 we are planning a national research symposium to share and disseminate the findings from the majority of our research studies.

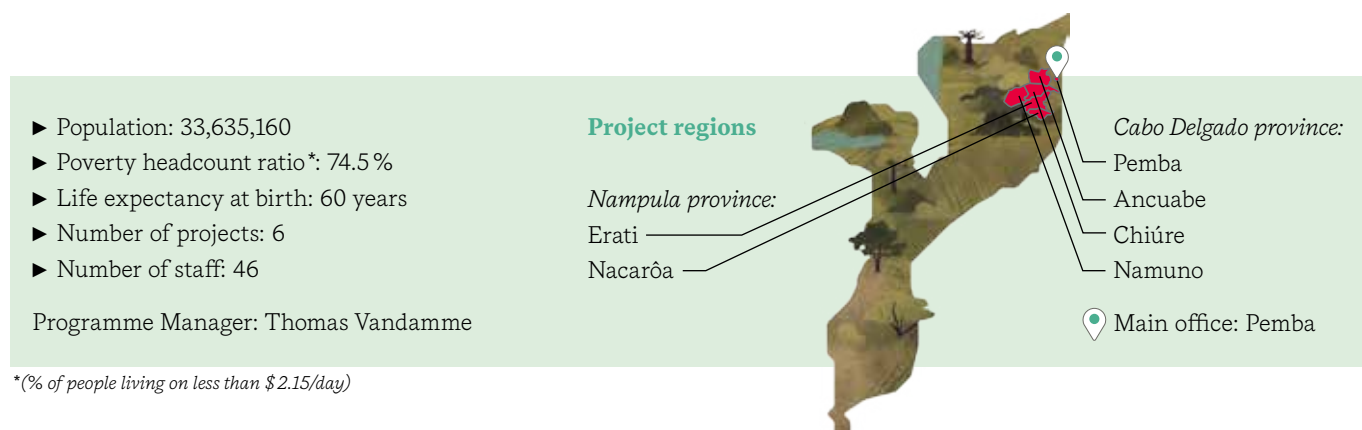


*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 425,955 to support the Lesotho country programme.*



# Mozambique

Poverty, political unrest and the ongoing armed conflict in Cabo Delgado, driven by the extraction of liquefied natural gas, are making life very difficult for the people of Mozambique. On top of that, Cyclone Chido, which hit the country in late 2024, has made the situation even worse.



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

Survive & Thrive	Uvona Wawihu	Infection prevention and control (IPC)
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2021 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces</p> <p><b>Background</b> There is a preventable burden of disease and death among children in Cabo Delgado and Nampula because they lack access to timely and high-quality paediatric emergency care.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Child mortality has been reduced by introducing a triage system in receptions of healthcare facilities and training medical staff in emergency admissions.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Rollout of a fully functional, proprietary paediatric emergency triage system at Pemba Provincial Hospital</li> <li>► Integration of five emergency triage indicators in the national health information system</li> <li>► The new basic training on emergency care that meets international standards was launched in healthcare facilities in 2024.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2024 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Cabo Delgado province</p> <p><b>Background</b> A lack of information and prevention services lead to preventable sexually transmitted infections in young people, including HIV. A lack of high-quality screening programmes for cervical cancer means the mortality rate among women remains high.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed rolls out youth-friendly health services in healthcare facilities and schools, which reduce risk behaviour and sexually transmitted diseases. By providing access to quality cervical cancer screenings, SolidarMed is reducing the risk of cervical cancer.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Reactivation of youth corners on sexual and reproductive health in secondary schools</li> <li>► Digitalisation of cervical cancer screening results is under way to speed up patient referrals</li> <li>► Women with pre-cancerous conditions can benefit from cryotherapy locally</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2021 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Cabo Delgado province</p> <p><b>Background</b> In regional healthcare facilities, hygiene standards are not adequately met for various reasons. This results in a preventable burden of hospital-acquired infection among patients and health workers.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed reduces the burden of hospital-acquired infection through various hygiene and infection control measures (waste disposal, cleaning, sterile care techniques and medical procedures, sterilisation).</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► As a result of a great deal of lobbying, the health authorities have pushed the issue of IPC back up the policy agenda</li> <li>► Hygiene committees meet regularly in healthcare facilities</li> <li>► More precise and systematic methods for sterilising medical equipment have been introduced in healthcare facilities</li> </ul>



▲ Trained volunteer André Paia shows villagers how to disinfect water to prevent the spread of cholera in the Metora region. rf

## Rapid intervention saves the lives of malaria sufferers



Momade Gito, a three-year-old boy from Salawe, had a very high temperature and was lethargic for two days. A

community health worker carried out a rapid malaria test in his village, and it came back positive. Because of the severity of his symptoms, the health worker referred Momade to the health centre in Metoro, accompanied by his mother. There, a

medical team delivered the emergency care, including reducing his body temperature and administering serum. Within about two hours Momade was doing better and was able to eat again.

The success of his treatment was down to the rapidity of the intervention, the accurate diagnosis of malaria, which was made worse by low blood sugar and severe anaemia, and appropriate treatment with injectable malaria drugs and blood

transfusions. After six days in hospital, Momade was showing a clear improvement and was allowed to go home.

Momade has now made a full recovery and lives with his parents in Salawe. His mother is grateful to the community health worker for referring her son and to the Metoro Health Centre for the treatment he received. ■

### *Barbara Kruspan, Country Director*

2024 saw cholera and measles outbreaks and a devastating cyclone in our programme area, as well as serious unrest throughout the country, triggered by the disputed results of the parliamentary and presidential elections.

The team cares passionately about implementing the programme for better health outcomes. They continued to rise fearlessly to the mounting challenges and combined emergency measures with longer-term capacity building.

Among other things we invested in sustainable solutions such as solar-powered oxygen concentrators for paediatric accident and emergency departments, worked to

ensure effective cross-cutting coordination and cooperation, brought the health and education sectors closer together, and promoted thorough training for healthcare service providers.

We consolidated our ongoing projects and developed an inter-provincial cholera project that is set to launch later this year. The new country strategy will also kick off, focusing on communicable diseases, and maternal, child and adolescent health, in a way that is development-oriented and humanitarian and that meets Mozambique's needs.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 677,155 to support the Mozambique country programme.*

# Zambia

Political stability in Zambia is contributing to modest increases in health-care investment. At the same time, economic growth slowed, the currency remained volatile, and a severe drought exacerbated food shortages.



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

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

Mental health	Decentralised training of nurses	Promoting clinical training
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Lusaka province</p> <p><b>Background</b> Low educational attainment, high unemployment and a lack of gender equality are some of the issues facing adolescents and young adults in Zambia. Many use alcohol and other drugs to cope with the stress, which has an adverse effect on their health.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> In partnership with the University of Basel and a local vocational training centre, SolidarMed is conducting a research project on integrating peer interventions on alcohol and drug use in vocational training programmes in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and on promoting gender equality.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Establishment of three youth advisory committees</li> <li>► Training of 16 employees in vocational skills development</li> <li>► Partnership with the local vocational training institute 'Build it'</li> <li>► Presentation of the project at the 2024 IMPACT Conference in Geneva</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2028</p> <p><b>Region</b> All provinces</p> <p><b>Background</b> Nurses and midwives are the backbone of the health system, but there aren't enough to meet demand. More graduates and a higher standard of training are needed.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Nursing students rotate between hospitals, allowing them to gain experience in a wide range of medical cases and settings. Thanks to SolidarMed, this allows several training classes to be run in parallel, which significantly increases the number of graduates. SolidarMed continues to support the Ministry of Health in improving the digital teaching system for healthcare professions.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Strong partnerships between ten colleges in ten provinces</li> <li>► Development of a national eLearning framework for the training of nurses, to subsequently provide all students with a digitalised eLearning and eTeaching platform through the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> training facilities throughout the country</p> <p><b>Background</b> Clinical training centres and coordinated vocational training systems are essential to ensure that students acquire practical clinical skills before they work with patients.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Setting up labs for advanced skills training and digital learning in rural areas allows students and medical professionals to acquire clinical skills and to practice working in interdisciplinary teams. This improves the quality of training and helps to counter the skills shortage.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Inauguration of the second vocational centre of excellence (VCE) in Kabwe in June, together with the Liechtenstein Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Zambian Justice Minister</li> <li>► Over 3,000 students now have access to improved clinical training</li> <li>► The building of two additional VCEs is under way</li> </ul>





▲ In the recently opened vocational training centre in Kabwe, students practice resuscitating a manikin. *ta*

## Grants to improve clinical training



Wisdom Banda is a doctor specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology with over seven years' clinical experience

at Kabwe Central Hospital. He is passionate about improving medical training. Despite he has a lack of formal qualifications in medical education, Wisdom has always taken

the time, since he joined the public healthcare facility in 2017, to teach medical, clinical and nursing students while they carry out their clinical rotations.

Everything changed for Wisdom in 2024, when he was accepted at Swansea University Medical School to obtain a postgraduate certificate of medical education – a fully funded

scholarship from SolidarMed that is aimed to improve clinical training in Zambia. Every year, he is responsible for training over 250 students from different medical faculties who are deployed in the obstetrics and gynaecology department at Kabwe Central Hospital. ■

### *John Tierney, Country Director*



SolidarMed continues to focus on its core strategy of improving the systems for training healthcare professionals and encouraging them to stay in rural areas where demand is greatest. Our programme now has a strong national presence. Through our two most established programmes, we reach around 40% of the country's primary care hospitals, as well as referral hospitals and training centres at provincial level.

Meanwhile, our work supporting Ubuntu Homes, a former housing project, continues. Our new project area – mental health and well-being – is still in its infancy.

Gradually, however, we are consolidating our experience.

Strategic development was the theme of 2024, as worldwide SolidarMed is trying to focus even more on its strengths and goals. In the case of Zambia, our strategy stems from the clear realisation that the country with one of the world's youngest and fastest-growing populations needs a strong health system that also works for its young people.

*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 254,981 to support the Zambia country programme. The Liechtenstein Development Service LED donated CHF 1,238,650 to support the Zambia programme.*

# Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is afflicted with very high inflation and high unemployment. Half of the population is affected by drought-induced food insecurity, while insufficient sanitation leads to outbreaks of cholera and polio. The uncertainty in the wake of the 2023 elections has eroded public confidence.



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

PEGISUS	New buildings mean better care	Promoting early childhood development
<p><b>Project duration</b> May 2023 to April 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Masvingo</p> <p><b>Background</b> Challenges such as low educational attainment, high unemployment and a lack of gender equality increase the risk for adolescents and young adults. Many resort to alcohol and other drugs to cope with the stress, but at this critical life stage, this can have long-term health risks.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> This project develops and tests an innovative behavioural intervention to reduce alcohol and drug use and to promote gender equality among adolescents and young adults. SolidarMed is also running this project in Zambia.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 15 young people with experience in alcohol and drugs sit on the youth advisory committee</li> <li>▶ 24 young people have been selected to participate in the PEGISUS pilot study</li> <li>▶ SolidarMed provided a comprehensive insight into the findings of the study at four international presentations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> September 2023 to 2024</p> <p><b>Region</b> Zaka district, Masvingo province</p> <p><b>Background</b> The Chiredzana Rural Health Centre provides care to over 12,600 people in the rural Zaka district. The poor state of the mothers' waiting home meant that there was no safe place for pregnant women to go before giving birth. The sub-standard staff accommodation also had a demotivating effect, which in turn impacted the quality of care provided.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed is closing a critical gap at the Chiredzana Rural Health Centre with a mother's waiting home. A semi-detached house for staff has also been built to improve the living conditions of health workers.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Completion of the semi-detached staff house at Chiredzana Health Centre</li> <li>▶ New mother's waiting home for at least 72 pregnant women a year</li> <li>▶ Over 100,000 bricks were hand made by the village community for the buildings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2024 to 2026</p> <p><b>Region</b> Masvingo, Zaka, Bikita and Chiredzi districts; Masvingo province</p> <p><b>Background</b> Rising poverty, economic instability and limited access to resources hinder children's development in rural Zimbabwe. The health care seeking behaviour of parents is making these problems even worse.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed is improving access to quality services for early childhood development, building the capacity of caregivers and healthcare professionals, and promoting cooperation with key stakeholders</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up a play centre with rehabilitation opportunities at Silveira Mission Hospital</li> <li>▶ Providing baby food for 90 at-risk infants, supplemented by home visits by nurses to deliver bespoke care</li> <li>▶ Construction of a vegetable garden to support adolescent mothers and their children by providing fresh produce</li> </ul>



▲ In Bota, young people make reusable sanitary towels using cloth and sewing machines supplied by SolidarMed, thereby boosting their independence. *lr*

## Reading, writing and walking without fear



Seventy-one-year-old mother Muhlava Chauke and her two daughters all suffer from diabetes.

Their lives were full of challenges, but SolidarMed brought them hope.

The eldest daughter, who was diagnosed with the disease in 2004, had to do without adequate care for years, until

SolidarMed opened the clinic for non-communicable diseases at Chikomedzi Hospital. At the time, she had already lost her left leg due to complications from her diabetes. Since then, she has received vital support, such as a cataract operation in 2024. "I can read, write and walk around without a fear of falling," she says, with a smile. Her younger sister, who was diagnosed with the disease in 2020, also suffered from vision

loss and underwent a successful operation this year. The mother, who was diagnosed with diabetes in 2022 through the project, compared her own experiences with those of her daughters: "The difference is huge," she says, underscoring the improved access to drugs, education and blood glucose monitoring. ■

### *Kudakwashe Madzeke, Country Director*



We reached some key milestones in 2024, and laid the foundation for future successes. A highlight was the development of the 2025–28 country strategy, which was compiled in a participatory process with employees, government agencies, NGOs and development experts. The plan is aligned with national priorities and promotes individual responsibility and sustainability.

Stakeholders were involved, particularly through our partnership with UNICEF, Child Blind Mission, and the local organisation Takunda. We also presented our work at 11 conferences. Our efforts to control non-communicable diseases gained momentum when the Ministry of Health

and Child Care approved the PEN Plus Plan. We secured the funding for the three-year continuation of this plan, to improve healthcare and training all over the country.

From December we are planning to scale up the work in non-communicable diseases to new facilities in Masvingo province. These strategic steps and partnerships strengthen access to high quality healthcare for 2025 and beyond.

*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 794,492 to support the Zimbabwe country programme*



# Tanzania

Tanzania continues to work to make strategic improvements in the areas of education, the economy and health. In 2024, the government invested a great deal in infrastructure for additional healthcare facilities. However, the number of healthcare professionals trained does not meet the demands of the growing population.



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

Ensuring newborn survival	A focus on youth	Decentralised primary care
<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2027</p> <p><b>Region</b> Ulanga, Kilombero/Morogoro districts</p> <p><b>Background</b> Tanzania still has a very high neonatal mortality rate, and the highest perinatal mortality rate in East Africa. Many of these deaths would be preventable, but availability of health services for newborns with the highest mortality risk is limited.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> To improve the survival chances of pre-term and low birth weight newborns, SolidarMed has set up neonatal wards with functioning medical equipment and qualified staff at three healthcare facilities.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Construction and opening of the neonatal ward at Kibaoni Health Centre</li> <li>▶ 242 health workers took advantage of clinical training and 145 days of mentoring</li> <li>▶ Development of a second project phase in collaboration with partners with extension to eight facilities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2022 to 2028</p> <p><b>Region</b> Ulanga</p> <p><b>Background</b> Although the number of healthcare facilities in Tanzania is growing, the range of youth-friendly health services available is still limited. These challenges particularly affect young people in rural areas.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Together with the organisation Enfants du Monde, and with the active participation of adolescents and young people, we are implementing a package of measures in communities, schools and healthcare facilities. In this way we are improving access to health information and services for young people, which ultimately will improve their health.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up four new youth-friendly treatment rooms</li> <li>▶ Conducting survey on awareness, attitudes and practice, and presenting findings at the conference of Medicus Mundi Switzerland</li> <li>▶ 12,553 adolescents used health services in the supported facilities, and 7,441 were reached in communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project duration</b> 2023 to 2025</p> <p><b>Region</b> Malinyi</p> <p><b>Background</b> Malinyi is a particularly remote region with limited infrastructure and unmade roads. The population is very poor and can barely afford transport, meaning access to health services is very limited.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Through the mobile health unit, the project improves the public's access to healthcare. In addition, the hospital costs are covered for very poor patients, and the quality of care is guaranteed through training of medical professionals and the procurement of equipment for the hospital.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The mobile health unit travelled to remote communities 146 times, reaching 28,662 people</li> <li>▶ 175 men were reached through special consultations (July to October)</li> <li>▶ Procurement of a mobile ultrasound unit; examination of 119 pregnant women (July to December)</li> </ul>



▲ The mobile health unit benefits people living in remote communities in the Malinyi district. *bj*

## A ventilator and Kangaroo Mother Care saved Lucy



Fatuma, a 24-year-old mother from Kihonda Airport, had a heartbreaking experience when she lost one of her twins during childbirth. Despite the devastating loss, she still had hope for her surviving daughter Lucy Siniele, who was born prematurely at seven

months' gestation weighing just 1.5kg, and suffering breathing problems.

Lucy was referred to Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, where she was treated as part of SolidarMed's 'A Good Start' project and put on a ventilator. A week later, Lucy was moved to the Kangaroo Mother Care ward, where Fatuma was taught about the import-

ance of skin-to-skin contact. Fatuma diligently practised Kangaroo Mother Care and exclusively breastfed Lucy, which aided her recovery.

At a follow-up examination after a month, Lucy weighed 2.5kg and continued to thrive. Now, at 16 months, Lucy weighs 11kg, is talking, and is developing remarkably well. ■

### *Benatus Sambili, Country Director*

The project phases for 'A Good Start' and 'Adolescents' Health in Adolescents' Hands – AHA!' were successfully concluded in 2024, and the insights gained were incorporated in the design of the subsequent phases. Peer-to-peer training of health workers was successfully rolled out at Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, paving the way for broader implementation in 2025. Some of the pilot projects and innovations included an impact assessment of training on clinical patient care, and the integration of hands-on approaches to sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents as part of the AHA! project.

As part of our climate initiatives, we built a three-kilometre-long garden along the Lumeno River in Morogoro. Through the collaboration with NADEL students at ETH Zurich, we pressed ahead with discussions on climate-sensitive building. A memorandum of understanding which strengthens the research partnership was signed with Saint Francis College of Health and Allied Sciences in Ifakara. From the beginning of 2025, the new 2025–28 country strategy will promote innovative, gender-sensitive and climate-aware programmes.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 54,218 to support the Tanzania country programme.*

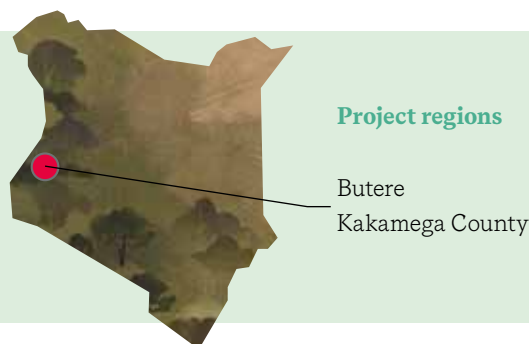


# Kenya (partner project)

Life is not easy for people in Kenya. Poverty, inequality, youth unemployment, high cost of living and corruption are all detrimental to people's health. On top of that, the government has drastically increased taxes and the country faces food shortages due to drought and flooding.

- Population: 55,339,003
- Poverty headcount ratio\*: 36.1%
- Life expectancy at birth: 62 years
- Number of projects: 1
- Local partner organisation: Don Amolo Memorial Kids Ark (DAMKA)

Programme Manager: Patrick Thomas



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

## How SolidarMed made a difference in Kenya

### Nafasi

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

**Region** Butere, Kakamega County

**Background** Due to stigma and poverty, there is barely any medical and psychological support available to children and adolescents with HIV and sickle cell anaemia. This often results in major stress, children taking the wrong medication, illness and dropping out of school.

**Approach** DAMKA, SolidarMed's local partner, looks after children and adolescents with HIV and sickle cell anaemia. The support is delivered through monthly meetings, HIV counselling, medical assistance and home visits. Vocational training programmes and contributions to school fees and medical expenses reduce poverty.

#### 2024 milestones

- Supporting more than 500 children with HIV through treatment adherence, safe spaces, lifestyle and leadership counselling
- Supporting 123 children with sickle cell anaemia by providing drugs, counselling, and referring them for treatment
- School supplies for 160 pupils

## Post-operative hope



Johannes\* was born on the 18th of September 2014. Through mother-child transmission, he was infected with HIV during birth. At the age of 18 months, however, his life took a difficult turn when he contracted cerebral malaria, which damaged his spinal cord, and therefore affected his ability to walk normally. Johannes started walking on tiptoes, with knock knees – a visible sign of the difficulties he was facing.

In 2022, DAMKA – an organisation dedicated to helping children like Johannes – gave the eight-year-old renewed hope. Following regular physiotherapy sessions, he underwent an operation on his legs in early 2024. After a lengthy recovery, he was given an artificial shoe that supports his legs and helps him stretch them. His progress is reassessed at regular hospital check-ups. The now ten-year-old Johannes is a symbol of hope and resilience, and a reminder of the strength of perseverance in the face of adversity. ■

\*Name changed to protect identity.





▲ SolidarMed enables children affected by poverty, HIV and sickle cell anaemia to attend school by providing supplies, contributions to school fees and help with homework. *ob*

## *Carolyn Mabunde, Director of partner organisation DAMKA*

DAMKA extended its reach in 2024 – a result of the strong partnership with SolidarMed. Milestones were the establishment of the Sickle Cell Revolving Fund Pharmacy, which provides life-saving drugs to people with sickle cell disease in Butere Sub-County and beyond, and the celebration of World Sickle Cell Day with the support of SolidarMed.

In collaboration with MSD we improved data collection and prepared neonatal screening for sickle cell disease. These efforts position DAMKA as a strategic partner of the

Kakamega County Health Management Team and as a model centre for sickle cell anaemia in the region.

At the 25th international AIDS conference in Munich, I had the opportunity to present the successes of DAMKA on a global stage and to share experiences with figures from the health sector. Going forward, we will consolidate our impact by introducing differentiated care services in our resource centre and poultry farming to sustain ongoing operations.



*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 68,140 to support the Kenya country programme.*

# India (partner project)

Although Hyderabad shows continued economic growth and poverty has declined, levels of need remain very high and the patriarchal society continues to put pressure on young women to find work.

- Population (Hyderabad): approx. 10.5 million
- Poverty headcount ratio\*: 12.9 %
- Life expectancy at birth (India): 68 years
- Number of projects: 1
- Local partner organisation: John Foundation

Programme Manager: Patrick Thomas



Project region

Hyderabad/Secunderabad  
Telangana State

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

## How SolidarMed made a difference in India

### 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 affected by HIV are often stigmatised, receive inadequate medical care, or have to drop out of school due to financial difficulties. This significantly limits their chances of leading a dignified life.

**Approach** SolidarMed supports a local partner in providing accommodation, safe spaces, and academic support for children and adolescents affected by HIV and poverty.

#### 2024 milestones

- Ten needy children whose caregivers are HIV positive received accommodation and schooling
- 30 young people a year receive school fees, resources and support when they return to school
- 25 children receive weekly tutoring



### From tutoring to top grade

Reshma was only a little girl when she lost her father to an illness several years ago. Her mother struggled to continue to pay the school fees, so Reshma eventually dropped out of school. The family heard about ASHA Window of Hope from a village elder.

Thanks to the 'Back to School' project, Reshma was able to return to school, but she had trouble keeping up as she had missed many months of lessons. "I struggled to regain my confidence, particularly in maths, but my tutor helped me catch up," she says. Today, not only has she caught up on the missed material, but she achieved a top grade A in her maths exams. This year, Reshma is preparing for her 10th grade exams and graduating from secondary school. ■

### Handover of the project

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

*The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 10,000 to support the India country programme.*

# South Africa (partner project)

Following peaceful elections, the population of South Africa is optimistic that the new government can tackle corruption and improve services. Healthcare is in a difficult phase as a national health insurance system has just been introduced.

- ▶ Population: 63,212,384
- ▶ Poverty headcount ratio\*: 20.5 %
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 61 years
- ▶ Number of projects: 2
- ▶ Local partner organisation: 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

*Patrick Thomas,  
Head of Programmes*


Window of Hope	Ilitha
<p><b>Local partner</b> Sophiatown Community Psychological Services (SCPS)</p> <p><b>Project duration</b> Running since 2008 (supported by SolidarMed since 2020)</p> <p><b>Region</b> Johannesburg</p> <p><b>Background</b> People in Sophiatown are subject to violence, neglect, marginalisation, and the effects of HIV/AIDS, leading to trauma, which they often have to navigate without psychological help.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> SolidarMed's partner organisation provides support to children and their caregivers in dealing with trauma and therapy. This allows them to take back control of their lives.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ 13 children were enrolled at school and three in tertiary education</li><li>▶ 96 children, 67 women and carers received psychosocial support and follow-up sessions to overcome stress and trauma and to move on with their lives</li></ul>	<p><b>Local partner</b> Jika Uluntu</p> <p><b>Project duration</b> Running since 2017 (supported by SolidarMed since 2020)</p> <p><b>Region</b> East London</p> <p><b>Background</b> In the informal settlement Gonubie Farmers Hall, children are lacking medical and psychosocial care, academic support and leisure activities, which could make the transition to adulthood easier.</p> <p><b>Approach</b> Children affected by HIV and poverty are provided with assistance at home to ensure comprehensive and lasting support. This is delivered through a number of initiatives, e.g. a safe space at the community centre, academic support, and better access to healthcare.</p> <p><b>2024 milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ 150 school age adolescents receive regular meals at the community centre</li><li>▶ 34 young children (0 to 5 years) are looked after at the nursery</li></ul>

Our cooperation model with local partner organisations continues to be successful, and allows us to deliver key services directly to communities. The organisations that are established in the communities have close ties to local providers, government agencies and other NGOs, ensuring the delivery of targeted and relevant services.

Due to ongoing challenges, such as a weak school system, poverty, and rising unemployment, our work remains crucial. On the positive side, the elections this year were peaceful, and the new government of national unity has received positive reviews and appears to be able to improve services and combat corruption.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs donated CHF 116,510 to support the South Africa country programme.



A male laboratory technician with short dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a patterned shirt, white gloves, and a brown watch, is focused on using a blue pipette. He is holding the pipette with his right hand and a small vial with his left. In the foreground, a rack holds several test tubes with red caps, some containing yellow liquid. The background shows laboratory equipment, including a rack of test tubes and a whiteboard.

◀ Laboratory staff like this skilled employee working at Morogoro Hospital in Tanzania also receive training and continuing education thanks to support from SolidarMed. *ob*

**“Peer-to-peer training of health workers was successfully rolled out at Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, paving the way for broader implementation in 2025.”**

Benatus Sambili, Country Director, Tanzania

# SolidarMed is breaking new ground

## Zimbabwe: Sexual health awareness for young people

**Issue:** In rural Zimbabwe it is difficult for young people to access reliable information on sexual and reproductive health and rights due to stigma and limited resources. This increases the risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in adolescents.

**Solution:** In a participatory approach, SolidarMed developed the digital 'HealthHub' platform in collaboration with young people and health experts from Bota Rural Health Center. The platform provides age-appropriate content on topics such as sexual, reproductive and mental health, nutrition and prevention, and enables live interaction with trained nurses who can answer specific questions. It is available both online and offline on all devices. Using a feedback tool, it records the insights of users on the care delivered in facilities. In 2024, the platform was developed and underwent a pilot test to assess its effectiveness in practice.

The use of digital technologies makes it easier for the centre to provide access to information that allows young people to make sound decisions about their health and to promote general wellbeing in their communities. The young people are actively involved, and a culture of health awareness and proactive self-care is promoted. ■



▲ The 'HealthHub' was developed in collaboration with youngsters. This ensures that the platform features content that is relevant to young adults. *lr*

## Zambia: Simulation training adapted to the local context

**Issue:** To improve access to healthcare for rural populations in remote areas, it is key that healthcare professionals receive practical training and continuing education locally. Training that is tailored to local conditions significantly increases the benefits.

**Solution:** To automate and enhance medical simulation training, Breathe Medical from ETH Zurich developed the comprehensive digital application UpLeap. This uses artificial intelligence (AI) to adapt the training to local needs. SolidarMed works with Breathe Medical to train healthcare professionals in workshops using this app. UpLeap generates dynamic training content based on real factors, such as the equipment available locally, regional guidelines, identified gaps in training and the burden of disease in certain regions. This ensures not only that the training is relevant, but also that it can immediately be put into day-to-day practice. While developing an individual training scenario used to take up to three hours, this new tool completes this process in just two minutes. UpLeap also works offline and on different devices. In 2025, SolidarMed will start the consolidation phase and ensure that UpLeap is used at our project locations. ■



▲ Workshop participants had the opportunity to generate practice cases using AI, and to test UpLeap with tablets or mobile phones in self-directed simulation exercises. *lk*

## 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 2024 was 18.5 full-time equivalents (2023: 17.9).



# Halving emissions by 2030

While people in SolidarMed's programme countries are currently being hit hard by the impact of climate change, the whole organisation is concerned with the issue of sustainability and how, for example, we can reduce our carbon emissions.

Myclimate determined SolidarMed's carbon footprint in 2023 using the data from 2022. Across the organisation as a whole, fuel, flights and paper consumption are the main drivers of SolidarMed's carbon emissions. The Myclimate calculations help SolidarMed strive for effective change to halve the organisation's carbon emissions by 2030. In

addition to training courses, various measures will be put in place to achieve this. For example, if possible we will opt for plant-based meal options, purchase more climate-friendly vehicles, use environmentally-friendly building techniques, and are reducing dependence on air conditioning. ■

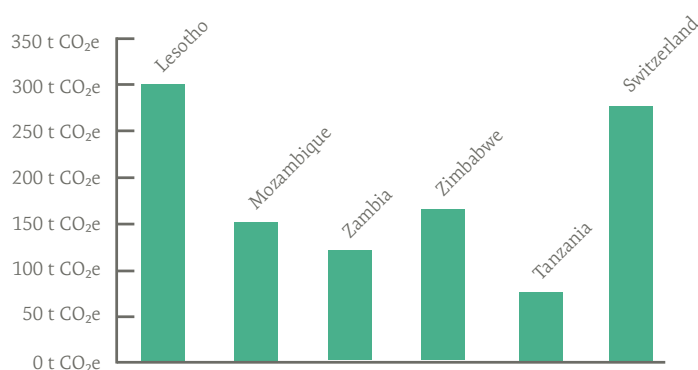


Emissions per employee:

**4,476 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e**

In 2022, SolidarMed generated a total of 1,099 tonnes of emissions with 242 employees: this equates to the annual emissions of 81 people in Switzerland, or 220 round the world flights.

## Greenhouse gas emissions per country in 2022



Comparing the emissions of countries is tricky as the carbon footprint depends on various criteria. For example, in Lesotho SolidarMed has a lot more staff and three offices. The climatic conditions dictate whether heating or air conditioning are needed. The very remote and isolated communities that are served by the mobile health unit mean an off-road vehicle is necessary. In Switzerland, on the other hand, we generate a great deal of carbon emissions from the printing of publications, fundraising letters, and similar. In each project country, the specific challenges therefore need to be addressed.



▲ Solar panels were installed in the offices in Zimbabwe. This not only makes sense from an environmental point of view, but also ensures a stable power supply. *jm*

### In 2025, SolidarMed aims to implement the following measures:

- ▶ More efficient use of transport
- ▶ Identifying and implementing recycling and composting activities
- ▶ Reducing the use of local, non-renewable energy sources (electricity, water, paper, etc.)
- ▶ Training all staff on avoiding food and consumer waste.



\*MT: Management Team

Total SolidarMed headcount: 242



Get to know the current SolidarMed team at:

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

## Members of the Board of Directors 2024

- **President: 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
- **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 2022; affiliations: staff member at Fondation Botnar
- **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 683 hours of voluntary work in 2024.

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





**Team Lesotho**



**Team Mozambique**



**Team Zambia**



**Team Switzerland**

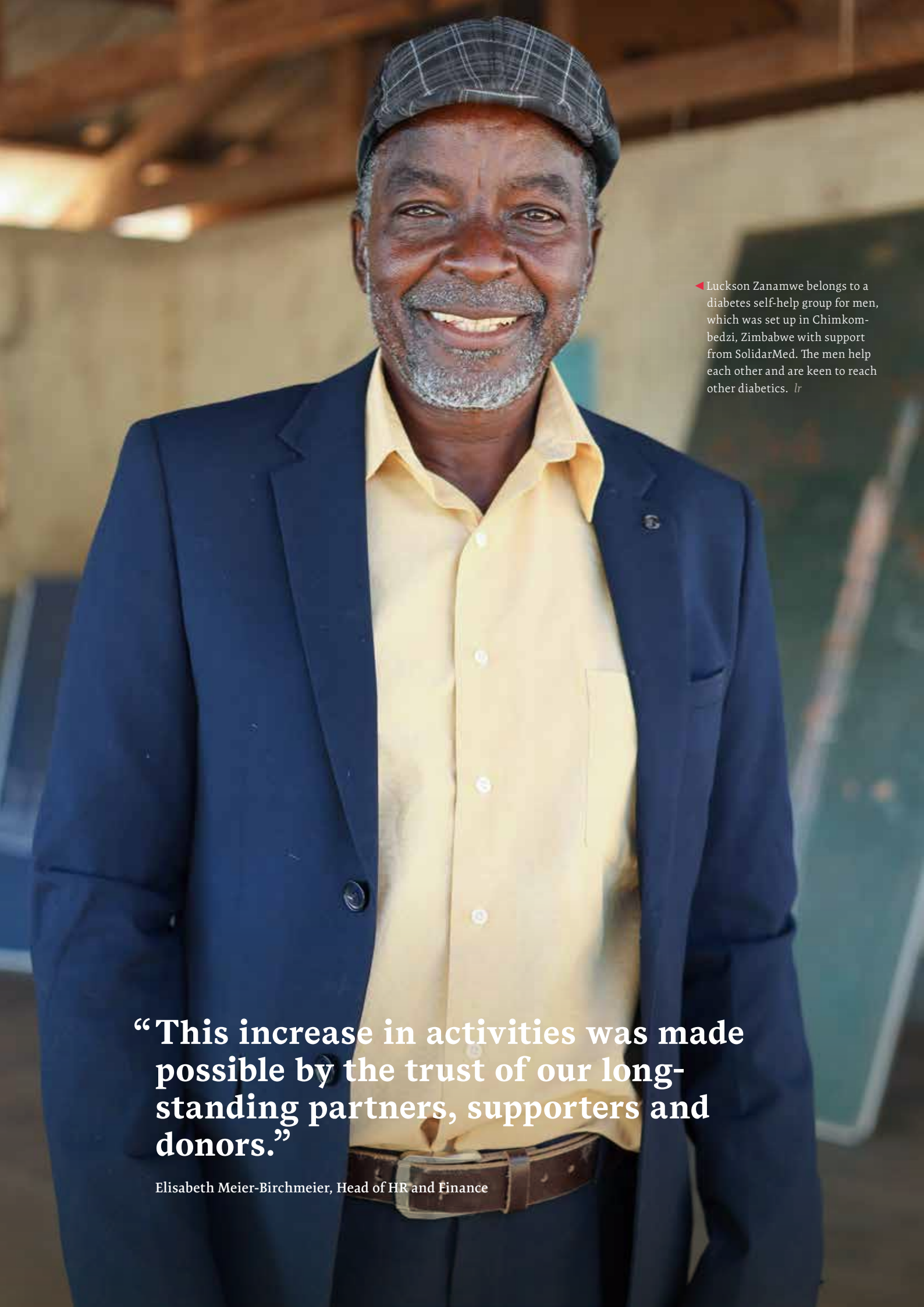


**Team Zimbabwe**



**Team Tanzania**



A portrait of an elderly Black man, Luckson Zanamwe, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light yellow button-down shirt, a brown leather belt, and a grey and white checkered flat cap. The background is a blurred indoor setting with wooden beams and a green chalkboard.

◀ Luckson Zanamwe belongs to a diabetes self-help group for men, which was set up in Chimkombedzi, Zimbabwe with support from SolidarMed. The men help each other and are keen to reach other diabetics. *lr*

**“This increase in activities was made possible by the trust of our long-standing partners, supporters and donors.”**

Elisabeth Meier-Birchmeier, Head of HR and Finance

## Reliable support and successful programme work

In the year under review, expenses in project countries rose again, this time by around CHF 893,700 year-on-year, to CHF 11.3 million. SolidarMed was able to reach a particularly large number of people in need of medical care in the project regions.

The percentage of expenses spent on fundraising (14.8%) and administration (4.5%) is well below the limits set by the Zewo foundation and reflects the efficient way we use the funds entrusted to us: for every CHF 100 donated in 2024, CHF 80.70 flowed into our programmes.



**Elisabeth Meier-Birchmeier**  
Head of Human  
Resources & Finance

This increase in activities was made possible by the trust of our long-standing partners, supporters and donors. Thanks to some extraordinarily generous support from a church organisation, unrestricted donations and bequests grew to just over CHF 1 million. The earmarked income (including contributions from the public sector and the SDC) amounted to CHF 11.6 million. Total income for 2024 stood at CHF 14.4 million, around CHF 1.4 higher than the previous year. We are delighted with this, and it will support us in our work.

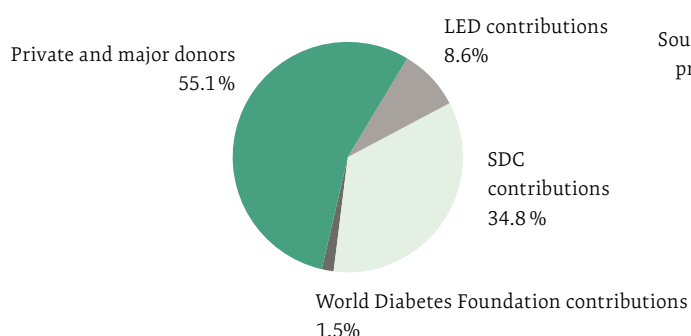
A total of CHF 129,000 net from donations for project activities was withdrawn from the earmarked fund capital. Meanwhile, to cover the remaining project financing, a planned withdrawal of CHF 454,000 was made from the organisation capital. Organisation capital funds 1 and 3 increased by CHF 341,500, standing at CHF 9.9 million at the end of 2024. The organisation capital is a prerequisite, which allows the South programmes to be continued effectively and sustainably in the event of fluctuating donations. ■

The encouraging stock market performance in 2024 allowed us to record financial income of CHF 723,000. Of this, CHF 635,000 was deposited in the currency fluctuation fund, which now contains CHF 992,000 to cover any losses from securities in a poor stock market year.

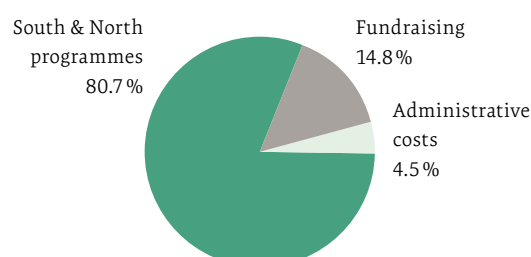
Please note: the annual financial statements and auditors' report and annex can be found on [solidarmed.ch](https://solidarmed.ch).



### Origin of funds 2024



### Use of funds 2024



## Balance sheet


### Balance sheet as at 31.12.2024

	2024		2023	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	6,812,528		5,968,743	
Assets held for trading at quoted market price	6,796,808		6,468,082	
Receivables from goods and services	175,803		221,071	
Other current receivables	54,092		25,755	
Accounts due from related parties (Project advances)	169,637		188,266	
Prepaid expenses	39,661		45,289	
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>14,048,529</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,917,206</b>	<b>100</b>
Property, 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>14,048,531</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,917,208</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables from goods and services	325,812		86,980	
Current liabilities	14,400		12,396	
Other current liabilities	82,841		128,527	
Accrued expenses	289,569		262,264	
<b>Short-term debt</b>	<b>712,622</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>490,167</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Other non-current liabilities	96,200		34,800	
<b>Long-term debt</b>	<b>96,200</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>0.3</b>
SDC mandates/project contributions	529,091		250,065	
LED projects	841,674		630,784	
World Diabetes Foundation projects	8,145		40,140	
SolidarMed projects	1,889,491		2,476,458	
<b>Earmarked fund capital</b>	<b>3,268,401</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>3,397,447</b>	<b>26.3</b>
<b>Organisation capital as at 1.1.</b>	<b>8,994,794</b>		<b>9,397,879</b>	
Annual result versus change to organisation capital	976,515		-403,086	
<b>Organisation capital as at 31.12.</b>	<b>9,971,309</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>8,994,794</b>	<b>69.6</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>14,048,531</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,917,208</b>	<b>100</b>



## Income statement 1.1.–31.12.2024

	2024		2023	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<b>Income</b>				
Unrestricted donations	2,614,558	18.1	1,646,865	12.7
Unrestricted bequests and legacies	166,284	1.2	100,249	0.7
Earmarked donations	5,151,343	35.7	5,090,703	39.1
Public sector contributions	1,459,542	10.1	1,295,352	10.0
Contributions from the Confederation (SDC)	5,012,955	34.8	4,878,299	37.5
Other operating income	9,247	0.1	4,785	0.0
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>14,413,929</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,016,254</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Africa and India programmes	-9,140,387		-8,035,428	
Confederation (SDC) mandates/project contributions	-1,147,062		-1,454,018	
Personnel expenses (project management)	-912,822		-816,823	
Other operating and pro rata expenditure	-119,062		-119,329	
<b>(Project management)</b>	<b>-11,319,333</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>-10,425,598</b>	<b>78.5</b>
<b>North programme: awareness-raising</b>	<b>-214,236</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-212,526</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Total expenditure South and North programmes</b>	<b>-11,533,569</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>-10,638,124</b>	<b>80.1</b>
Fundraising and general advertising expenses	-2,110,255	14.8	-2,087,945	15.7
Administration	-646,093	4.5	-557,796	4.2
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>-2,756,348</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>-2,645,741</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>-14,289,917</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-13,283,865</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>124,011</b>		<b>-267,611</b>	
Financial income	771,706		370,619	
Financial expense	-48,247		-77,066	
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>723,458</b>		<b>293,553</b>	
<b>Result before change in fund capital</b>	<b>847,469</b>		<b>25,941</b>	
Change in earmarked funds	129,046		-429,027	
<b>Annual result (before changes to organisation capital)</b>	<b>976,515</b>		<b>-403,086</b>	
Withdrawals from organisation capital	454,408		671,086	
Allocation to Fund 1 – unrestricted funds	-795,923		0	
Withdrawal/allocation currency fluctuation fund	-635,000		-268,000	
<b>Total allocations/appropriations</b>	<b>-976,515</b>		<b>403,086</b>	
<b>Result after allocation to organisation capital</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	



▼ Rosalinda Salimane in Mozambique benefits from trained volunteers who educate the public on cholera prevention. *rf*

**“My heartfelt thanks go to our committed teams and partner organisations in the project countries and in Switzerland for their tireless dedication and hard work.”**

Niklaus Labhardt, President



# Thank you for your support!

Health is a team effort. Thank you for being part of it. 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 Basel-Stadt, Glarus, Graubünden, Nidwalden, Schaffhausen, Thurgau, Zurich; municipalities of Baden, Lucerne; Opfikon, Rapperswil-Jona, St. Gallen; communes of Baar; Bettingen, Binningen, Goldach, Herrliberg, Küsnacht ZH, Maur, Meilen, Schaan, Vaduz.

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**Patricia Casutt**  
Project partnerships



**Gabriela Fuchs**  
Project partnerships



**Lucy Kormann**  
Private donations





► Dominique Hasler, Liechtenstein's foreign affairs minister and Hon. Princess Kasune planting a tree at the inauguration of the vocational training centre at Kabwe Central Hospital in Zambia. *ta*

**“A highlight was the development of the 2025–28 country strategy, which was compiled in a participatory process with employees, government agencies, NGOs and development experts.”**

Kudakwashe Madzeke, Zimbabwe Country Director



# Health is a team effort

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

## National partnerships

Pharmacists without borders, Switzerland  
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Zusammenarbeit  
Enfants du Monde  
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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 &  
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University of Zurich  
Swiss Malaria Group  
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and Climate Change Adaptation  
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Zambia  
Newlands Clinic Harare, Zimbabwe

Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia  
Seboche Mission Hospital, Lesotho  
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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

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### 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.

### Legal notice

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.

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and Cooperation SDC**





## On the front cover



◀ Little Gumba from rural Tanzania was treated at Lugala Hospital after she burned her hand. Thanks to SolidarMed, well trained medical professionals were available to treat the two-year-old's burns and she has now made a full recovery. *so*



◀ Gumba is now back home with her family. The injuries the little girl sustained from an accident involving boiling water have healed well and she can now play with her younger brother again. *bj*

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



