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Directory of Global Health Actors

Swiss Church Aid | HEKS EPER

http://jahresbericht.heks.ch/2018/en/organization_principles/portrait.html

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

HEKS was founded in 1946 by the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (FSPC). As the aid organization of the Swiss Protestant Churches, HEKS/EPER focuses on rural community development, humanitarian aid and church cooperation. In Switzerland, HEKS/EPER champions the rights and the integration of refugees and socially disadvantaged people. HEKS/EPER works in accordance with the principle of help for self-help. It gears its support towards the resources and needs of the people concerned and implements projects jointly with them. HEKS/EPER became a foundation in 2004.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Refugee's health and rights
- Water access, sanitation and hygiene
- Food safety and nutrition
- Humanitarian aid

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In 2018 HEKS/EPER helped 61,000 peasant farmers and members of indigenous or other deprived communities in 14 countries gain better access to land. 70,000 people in 6 countries obtained better access to water. And 48,000 members of excluded minorities gained access to public services such as schooling or healthcare. Besides, in 11 countries HEKS/EPER was instrumental in stabilizing the situation of some 500,000 people living in conflict-ridden environments. A total of 205,000 people benefited from emergency supplies in the form of food, drinking water, items for everyday use, financial assistance or cash-for-work schemes. 81,000 people were supported in repairing public infrastructure such as streets and schools or water supply systems. Another priority of programmes in Switzerland is that of integrating older migrants who arrived in Switzerland many years ago but are still isolated or confronting health and financial problems. The «AltuM» programme provides them with useful information on matters such as health and retirement planning.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Its supreme body is the Board of Trustees (current president is Walter Schmid), which delegates the management of the organization's affairs to the Executive Board. The Board is supported by the heads of department and of regional offices. HEKS/EPER employs over 400 permanent staff members. Over 600 other people earn an hourly wage, and about 360 people do volunteer work. The HEKS/EPER Executive Board comprises the Director (Peter

Merz) as well as the Heads of the National, International, Communications and Services Divisions and of the Siège romand.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Operating income was CHF 66.2 million, while expenditure remained at CHF 75.0 million. HEKS/EPER allocated CHF 64.3 million for 289 projects abroad and in Switzerland. CHF 19.5 million went towards development cooperation projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. A further CHF 2.6 million went to church cooperation in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. HEKS/EPER also provided CHF 7.0 million worth of humanitarian aid in the aftermath of droughts and natural disasters, as well as in conflict zones. HEKS/EPER spent CHF 25.7 million in Switzerland as follows: CHF 19.4 million for projects to promote inclusion for socially underprivileged people and CHF 6.0 million for legal advice to asylum seekers, recognized refugees and other target groups. The share of administrative costs in total expenditure was CHF 10.8 million (Zewo rate, 14.5 per cent). This places HEKS/EPER below the average for Zewo-certified non-profit organizations (21 per cent).

PUBLICATIONS

Publications are available at: <http://jahresbericht.heks.ch/2018/en/overview.html>

For financial information, refer to:

http://jahresbericht.heks.ch/2018/en/financial_report/notes.html

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