

solidarity

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Together against the pandemic



Foreword

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis, which affects all of us. For more than a year, fighting the virus and its impact have been at the centre of our daily lives. Thanks to the tireless efforts of many people, Liechtenstein has largely been able to cope with the consequences of the pandemic for public health, society and the economy.

Conversely, the situation for people in developing countries is much different. The already precarious humanitarian situation in many regions of the Global South has continued to worsen since the start of last year. Shortages of food and medicine, and school closures have serious implications on poverty-stricken populations. Development in many countries is being severely slowed down by the crisis, or even set back years.

It is precisely at such extraordinary times of crisis that Liechtenstein demonstrates solidarity with people in need. Given the increased need for support, in September 2020, Parliament approved additional

funding totalling one million Swiss francs for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development. With the help of the additional funding, contributions have been made to various partner organisations at home and abroad, so that urgently needed aid projects can be implemented in developing countries.

The fact that this additional funding goes back to a petition submitted by different civil society stakeholders, highlights the deep societal entrenchment of global solidarity! I thank all the people involved for their immeasurably important commitment, which characterises Liechtenstein's humanitarian tradition. The present booklet is dedicated in particular to the multifarious societal commitment of Liechtenstein in times of pandemics. Apart from projects in the public health sector, Liechtenstein is also providing important support in the area of emergency food supplies, ensuring shelter and access to education, and upholding human rights. Our numerous charitable

foundations and associations assume an important on-site role in terms of emergency relief.

Cooperation is the main focus in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We can only master this global challenge jointly as an international community. And only together we can continue to provide effective help to people, who are particularly affected by the pandemic. At the same time, however, long-term projects are needed in order to strengthen the resilience of all countries vis-à-vis future crises. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as a compass for this purpose, and we should all contribute jointly to its implementation. I am convinced that we are setting more than ever an important example of solidarity in action thereby.



Dominique Hasler
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Education and Sport

Voices from Bolivia and Zimbabwe

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LED's vision is for fairness, human rights and much more – for more than 50 years the Liechtenstein Development Service (Liechtensteiner Entwicklungsdienst, LED) has been involved in a wide variety of countries in the Global South. These key countries have been particularly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Zimbabwe, the LED is supporting food security. In Bolivia, the focus

is on education. Our colleagues in Zimbabwe and Bolivia sent these reports...

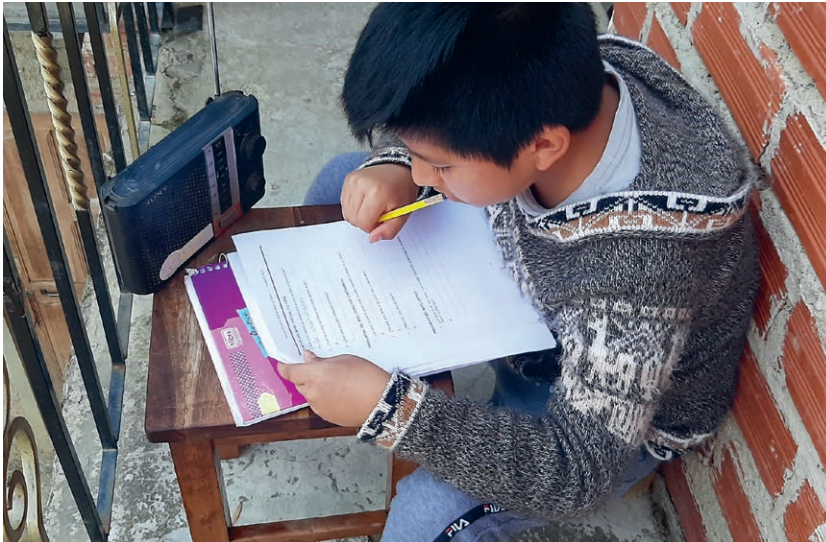
Zimbabwe has been hit hard

The COVID-19 pandemic surprised Zimbabwe. Not just the first wave, but also the second one hit the country so hard that it was brought to a standstill. Only essential services remained in operation, which is why many people lost

their jobs – some only temporarily, but others permanently. As a result, the number of poverty-stricken people is again rising significantly. The lives of children and young people are not being spared either. Schools and universities have had to close their doors. With many parents unemployed and children out of school, domestic violence is increasing. The strict lockdowns scare the people and trigger a lot of stress. Smallholder farmers have suffered post-harvest losses, since selling at local and cross-border farmers' markets has practically failed to materialise. As a consequence, the LED projects in the agricultural sector are also disrupted. Delivery delays and limited communication hamper the work. Within the framework of the projects, smallholder farmers are taught how they can protect themselves. The view that COVID-19 is just "the rich man's disease" is strongly opposed. It can affect anyone. The pandemic is having catastrophic consequences for Zimbabwe. At the same time, the crisis is also driving progress in digitalisation. The people increasingly use digital media. Online marketing is also a topic. At long last,



Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe speak about their gardens at a meeting. Participation is however restricted due to COVID-19 rules.



This Bolivian pupil attends school via radio.

© Yerco Huanca Soliz

the healthcare system that collapsed under Mugabe is finally raising more awareness again.

Bolivia – double crisis

Bolivia was in the midst of a political crisis when the COVID-19 pandemic rocked the country. The unstable situation made dealing with the pandemic difficult. The political uncertainty and the pandemic have dealt such a severe blow to the economy that experts predict that extreme poverty in Bolivia will almost triple by the end of 2021. Things have changed for the young generation. Lessons have been given online, via television or radio, the

latter specifically for the many families without internet access. The negative consequences of the digital divide, which already existed before, have intensified as a result. However, schools do not only mean learning and social contact for the children, but also a full stomach. Pupils are given a free breakfast and lunch in school – something which had ceased due to the closures. The COVID-19 pandemic has weakened the nation, but strengthened solidarity. Neighbours pass on copies of teaching materials to other children, computers are shared, and in towns and cities, some companies make their internet, television or radios

available to children. Neighbourhood assistance is now of fundamental importance.

LED colleagues on the question of whether the pandemic has also opened up opportunities.

“The possibilities for educational innovation are a positive side-effect of the pandemic and are what is needed in the educational system in order to reinforce, change and, above all, develop learning.”

Ingrid Tapia,
LED Bolivia Peru

“For countries like Zimbabwe there are more crises than opportunities. Nevertheless, the healthcare system has been taken into account again, and families have come closer together again, as they had more time for one another.”

Elizabeth Atzinger,
LED Zimbabwe

New challenges for global solidarity

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Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 Pandemic has also impacted on emergency and reconstruction assistance. In the first place, one might think of medical relief aid or the provision of medical devices or protective materials for health personnel. Liechtenstein has participated in several large-scale projects to fight the pandemic. COVID-19 has nevertheless also demonstrated that a pandemic may bring completely new und

partly unexpected challenges in terms of emergency response operations. The following two examples should illustrate this.

Protective measures hamper emergency response operations after earthquake in Indonesia

A 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck the West Sulawesi Province in Indonesia on 15 January 2021. Tens of thousands of people needed to be provided with drinking water and

emergency shelters within the shortest possible time. Liechtenstein supported this through a Solidar Suisse emergency assistance project. However, during a pandemic, in which water is urgently required for hygiene promotion and crowding of people should be avoided, response operations proved to be all the more difficult. Moreover, the on-site team members struggled with the fact that the affected population often implemented the protection protocols poorly – partly in the belief that COVID-19 was a city problem, but partly also simply because of a lack of space and protective material. Unfortunately, many helpers became infected with the virus, including team members of the local partner organisation of Solidar Suisse. Apart from the necessary building work, the team spent as much time raising awareness of the risks of COVID-19 among the affected population. At times, work even had to be stopped in order to protect the health of the team members and beneficiaries. Solidar Suisse were fortunately able to utilise this time elsewhere, and the emergency assistance project ended well.



A Solidar Suisse project team member raises awareness of protective measures operations after a strong earthquake on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

© Solidar Suisse

School attendance with social distancing in Moldova

The aid organisation Hilfswerk Liechtenstein has already been supporting children and families in need in Moldova for years. Now, however, COVID-19 and/or the protective measures taken in Moldovan schools, pose a completely new problem: observing social distancing of a minimum of 1.5 metres was impossible on the two-seater school furniture – from the Soviet era –

and so the children were not able to attend school, or only to some extent. With the financial support of the Liechtenstein Government, the Hilfswerk Liechtenstein provided a straightforward remedy by purchasing 378 individual school desks, and in this way facilitated the safest possible school attendance for the children, even in times of COVID-19.

"It is challenging as we want to support the affected people, but at the same time we have to take care of our own health."

Darlis Nasution,
Darlis Nasution, Solidar Suisse
Humanitarian Programme
Manager in Indonesia on the
response operations after an
earthquake in West Sulawesi.



Schoolchildren in Moldova are pleased with their new one-seater school furniture from the Liechtenstein aid organisation, which enables school attendance with social distancing.

UNICEF in action for a global vaccination initiative

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UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund – a long-standing partner organisation of Liechtenstein – is playing a key role in the implementation of the global vaccination initiative COVAX (Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access). Ms. Bettina Junker, CEO of the committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein, talks in conversation about the importance of COVAX and provides insight into the challenges involved.

Ms. Junker, children have been severely affected by the pandemic especially in developing countries. Can you briefly describe the impact?

Children are the hidden victims of this pandemic. Although they fall ill less, they suffer more from the secondary effects, which will in part shape these children's whole lives. Due to the impact of COVID-19, it is estimated that a further 142 million children in developing countries could slip into poverty. Almost two-thirds of a total of 725 million poverty-stricken children live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. At least one-out-of-three school-children in the world – 463 million children worldwide – could not be



Bettina Junker

reached through digital learning opportunities. Health care is also severely compromised. During lockdown, 80 million children under one year old have been deprived of life-saving vaccines in at least 68 countries. Due to overburdened health care systems, 200 000 additional stillbirths could occur in the next 12 months, a further 124 000 children could be infected with HIV, and an estimated two million additional deaths can be expected in children under five years old due to malnutrition and the removal of routine health care services. Around 10 million more children could be forced into child marriages.

The ending of the pandemic is therefore especially important for children. The necessary vaccine, however, is scarce. What is the situation in developing countries?

A global pandemic can only be contained effectively if vaccinating is on a global scale. Through the COVAX facility, the international community aims to provide a total of two billion vaccine doses to people in 92 low-to-middle-income countries. By mid-April, COVAX had shipped over 40.5 million COVID-19 vaccines. Adults, not children, are being vaccinated so that educational and health care systems can function again. Problems obtaining supplies is one of the challenges, but UNICEF is working with all the vaccines approved for use by WHO. The longer the COVID-19 crisis persists, the more serious is its impact on the education, health, nutrition and well-being of children worldwide.

What is UNICEF's role in COVAX and what does the aid agency do here?

UNICEF is the only organisation, which already has the infrastructure, networks, expertise and almost three decades of experience in immunisation required to manage



The vaccine shipment is distributed to transport vehicles upon arrival in Rwanda.

this unprecedented global vaccination initiative. That is why UNICEF has a lead role to play: UNICEF can guarantee the rollout of an estimated 850 tons of COVID-19 vaccines per month in 2021 – if the availability of the vaccines allows this. By the end of the year, almost two billion vaccine doses, syringes and safety boxes will have been shipped to 92 countries, vaccine fridges will have been procured to

ensure an unbroken cold chain, logistics and health workers will have been trained in the correct handling of instruments and dispensing of vaccines, and raising awareness on the topic of vaccination will have been carried out.

What in your opinion are the biggest challenges facing COVAX?

Such a complex global operation is demanding on all levels; the avail-

ability of vaccines is a prerequisite for the functioning of COVAX. At the moment there are delays in supplies from India to deal with. Cold chain compliance is an additional cost in contexts with a weak infrastructure, and in some places, logistics know-how and capacities must first be built up so that the doses received can be shipped to remote areas. Vaccination scepticism due to disinformation is also a



A tractor pulls a COVAX shipment at Juba Airport in South Sudan.

continuing cause for concern. And last but not least, the financing of the global vaccination operation is a Herculean task; UNICEF estimates that two billion dollars are needed to support the poorest 92 countries in terms of the financing of refrigeration systems, the education of medical personnel, the cost of vaccinators and the fuel for refrigerated vehicles. UNICEF is calling on donors to provide 510 million dollars of this immediately within the context of a humanitarian appeal to cover the urgent need.

Where do you see potential for improvement in the global fight against the pandemic?

Together we are stronger – this probably applies more particularly to the fight against the pandemic. Increased global cooperation, the removal of export restrictions on vaccines and on all utensils necessary for vaccination, and the expansion of vaccine production on a global scale are important, so that poorer countries are less dependent on supplies from wealthier countries. And it is certainly helpful when countries suddenly finding themselves with a spare supply of vaccines pass on their surplus vaccine

doses. And finally, disinformation must be counteracted more quickly, as it has the potential to detrimentally affect COVAX to a massive degree.

What can civic society, businesses and philanthropy contribute?

UNICEF could never manage this task alone. It needs strong partners that support it. Every single one of us can do something – individuals, businesses, institutions and also philanthropy. The following applies: Every franc counts. It is up to all of us to ensure that access to the vaccine does not become the global inequality barometer. Every financial donation helps enable rapid access to vaccination worldwide, so that the pandemic can be stamped out. No one is safe until everyone is safe.

Thank you very much for giving us this important insight into your valuable work.

The COVAX facility is an initiative for guaranteeing the global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. It is responsible for procuring vaccines from the manufacturers and then allocating them to the participating countries – whereby industrialised nations heavily subsidise, or even completely take over, the costs of delivery to the poorer countries. This global vaccination initiative will also be financially supported by Liechtenstein.

Foundations and associations provide on-site emergency aid

12 Based on a petition by the Netzwerk für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Liechtenstein (NEZA), the Liechtenstein Parliament approved a supplementary credit of one million Swiss francs for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development in September 2020. Among other initiatives, these funds also supported the aid projects of various Liechtenstein associations and foundations in developing countries. A total of 20 organisations received a financial con-

tribution for emergency assistance in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Europe and South Asia. Three supported aid projects in Nicaragua, Kenya and Sri Lanka are presented on the following pages.



The inhabitants of the lagoon town of Haulover in Nicaragua, which was completely destroyed by the hurricane, are grateful for all the help they can get.

Nicaragua: A crisis rarely comes alone

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Central America and is ruled by an autocratic government. The economic and political situation has deteriorated more and more over the past years. Puerto Cabezas (Bilwi) is the capital of the autonomous region of the North Caribbean Coast. The region is multicultural and multilingual. There are different ethnic groups: Miskito, Creole, Mestizo und Mayagna. As half the population live in extreme poverty, there are often no prospects and also no access to education. This is where the non-profit association Lichtblick has been operating since 2002, providing remedial education for children and youth with special needs in Nicaragua.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the two very powerful hurricanes (Eta and Iota) in November 2020, the situation has been further exacerbated. The two cyclones destroyed buildings, such as schools and hospitals, and important infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and water pipelines. Villages and fields were extremely affected. The lagoon town of Haulover (which can only be reached by boat) was



Parents of children with special needs are guided by therapists from Los Pipitos.

© Carmen Howard

completely destroyed. According to the press of Nicaragua, around 9000 people were made homeless.

Thanks to the generous support from Liechtenstein and working directly in collaboration with the religious sisters of the Carmelites of the house of Niño de Praga, the association was able to react quickly to the acute crisis situation in Nicaragua. For example, mosquito nets and relief supplies (food, clothing, medicine, sanitary products

and school material) were able to be distributed to the poor population. Emergency packages reached remote areas by boat. Help arrives where it is most needed. The premises of the partner organization, Los Pipitos, were also able to be repaired. This means that children with special needs can once again be accommodated for early intervention therapies. The greatest hardship was therefore quickly alleviated, but the aid is ongoing.

Kenya: Fighting hunger together



Volunteer helps deliver coronavirus emergency aid to the poorest in Nairobi.

© Pamoja for Transformation

Even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 80 per cent of the population in Kenya was living from hand to mouth. Every fourth person suffered from malnutrition. Due to the pandemic, poverty, unemployment and hunger have continued to rise steeply since last year. In the current third wave in the country, the virus is spreading rapidly. Intensive care units are overburdened and the announced international vaccine supplies have failed to materialise. Many are still unable to go to work and incomes continue to fall. Supply chains of food are restricted as a

result of lockdown measures and lead to supply shortages. The price of basic foodstuffs is rising rapidly. Foods are too expensive or inaccessible for many people.

Support for 230 small businesses and farming operations

In order to cushion the impact of the economic consequences of the crisis and to create prospects, Pamoja for Transformation is offering 400 women entrepreneurs and young adults tailor-made business coaching, market-oriented further training, networks, start-up capital and access to markets. With this,

they can expand their business or small-scale farming operations. The businesses supported by Pamoja operate predominantly along agricultural value-added chains in the arid semi-desert region of Turkana in Northern Kenya and in poverty-stricken communities on Lake Victoria. Their varied organic products bring healthy food to under-served regions.

Focus on sustainable agriculture

Pamoja's agricultural adviser trains smallholder farmers threatened by hunger in organic farming methods to increase crop yields and

protect natural resources. Agroforestry, i.e. the inclusion of trees and shrubs in agriculture, plays a crucial role here. This year, for example, farming operations supported by Pamoja have already planted two thousand trees and shrubs, providing food for families, generating income, ensuring more resilient pastures and promoting an intact ecosystem.

Achieving more together

How can a small organisation like Pamoja trigger sustainable social impetus? Pamoja's Kenyan experts teach specialist knowledge in the areas of entrepreneurship, vocational training, sustainable agriculture, prevention of violence and civic participation. They reinforce the ability of managers, organisations and authorities to act and net-

work decision-makers from all sectors of the society. This can anchor successful initiatives to fight hunger and violence in society and politics. A small organisation can also achieve great things in the role of bridge builder and through co-operating with strong partners.



Pamoja supports dressmakers during mask production in the shantytown of Mathare (Nairobi).

Sri Lanka: Support for the marginalised rural population

In Sri Lanka, too, the COVID-19 pandemic has determined the everyday life of the population for over a year. As a reaction to the spread of the virus, the government has repeatedly adopted drastic measures, often alternating them with the first easing of these measures. As a result of the curfews and loss of jobs, the rural population can barely provide food and medicine for itself. The Tamils of Indian origin, who work under precarious conditions as day

labourers on rubber or tea plantations, are especially affected by the current crisis.

The Lankahelp Foundation has campaigned for the marginalised minority group of Tamils of Indian origin for 30 years. As the day labourers cannot count either on financial reserves or public support, the distribution of aid packages is increasingly becoming the foundation's core activity. Since the start of the pandemic, Lankahelp has

distributed over 10 000 aid packages to families in need and supplied them with basic foodstuffs, medicines, sanitary products and masks. Projects in the field of school education, awarding of scholarships, financing of wages for teachers and two hostels for schoolchildren, the support of schools and promoting human rights and women's empowerment have also been continued during this time of crisis.



Because the Kandaloya area (Sri Lanka) is difficult to reach, larger aid packages, sufficient for two to three weeks, were provided.

Helping scholarship holders

Special attention was paid to ensuring the education of children and youth. Despite the temporary closure of schools and universities, various costs such as accommodation, food, transport and materials had to be paid for. Apart from the high costs, many parents also struggled with the fear of infection of their children. Lankahelp therefore decided to continue to facilitate the scholarships for all of the current 150 scholarship holders. Thanks to

this support, there were fortunately no school drop-outs.

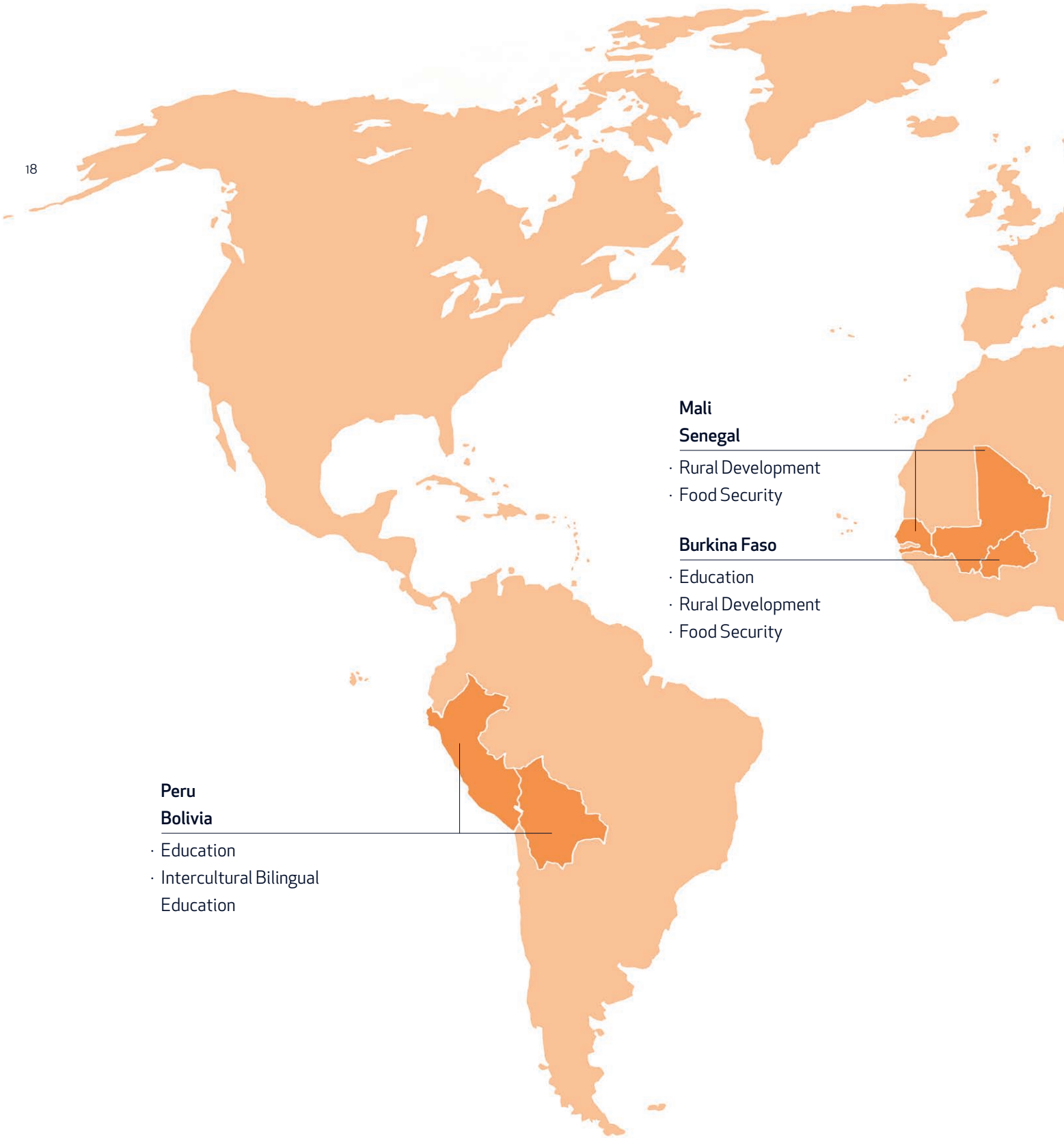
In these special circumstances, some of the scholarship holders supported by Lankahelp have already been able to put their knowledge into practice in order to help the children affected by school closures. Along the lines of “I was helped; now I help others”, over twenty of the scholarship holders – all prospective teachers – agreed to give tutoring to the children and

youth and prepare them for exams. As a result, the schoolchildren from rural areas did not lose the connection in terms of furthering their school careers, despite the state of emergency. Ultimately, education offers extremely important prospects for the low income population, precisely in these uncertain times.



Mr. Cyril, the local project manager, distributes aid packages to day labourers in Badulla district.

IHCD Focus Regions



Peru
Bolivia

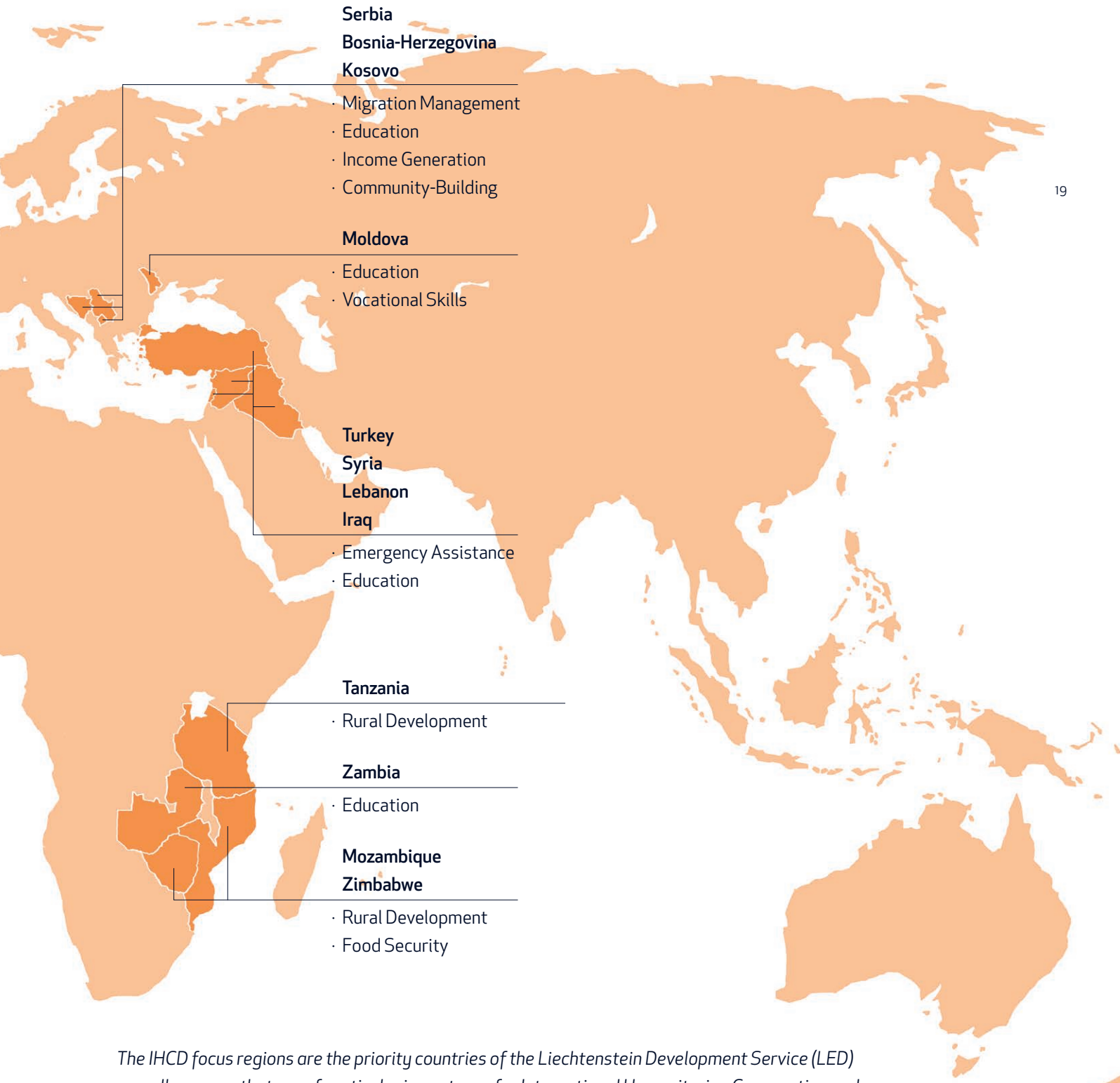
- Education
- Intercultural Bilingual Education

Mali
Senegal

- Rural Development
- Food Security

Burkina Faso

- Education
- Rural Development
- Food Security



The IHCD focus regions are the priority countries of the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) as well as areas that are of particular importance for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development due to the level of contributions.

The latest IHCD figures

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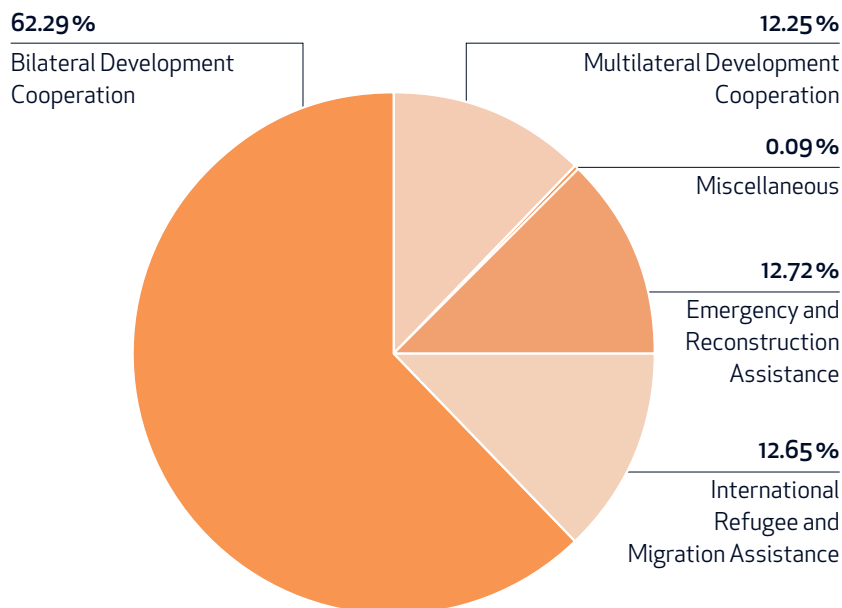
Expenditure on International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development (IHCD) amounted to CHF 22.6 million in 2020.

Bilateral Development Cooperation received about 65 per cent of these overall resources. About eleven percent of the total budget was distributed through each of the other IHCD categories.

Funding of 8.2 million Swiss francs was earmarked for Africa in 2020.

This corresponds to around 35% of the total IHCD budget and highlights a geographic focus of the IHCD. The biggest commitment focused on the priority countries of the Liechtenstein Development Services (LED), specifically, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Senegal and Zimbabwe. 18% of the resources was earmarked for development projects in Central and South America, in particular in Bolivia and Peru. 13% of the funds is earmarked for the commitment within Europe. The projects supported are in the Balkan region and in the poorest country in Europe – the Republic of Moldova – which is also a priority country of the LED. In the Balkan countries, chiefly in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Liechtenstein is engaged in interna-

Distribution of budget by category



tional refugee and migration aid. 3% of the IHCD funds is earmarked for the commitment in Asia. The share of projects in the Middle East is 6% of the total budget. 25% of the funds are not paid out on a project-specific basis or are fed into cross-national programmes. These contributions, which are referred to as "international", are essential for supporting cross-border activities or underfinanced programmes and for covering the basic costs intrinsic to development organisations.

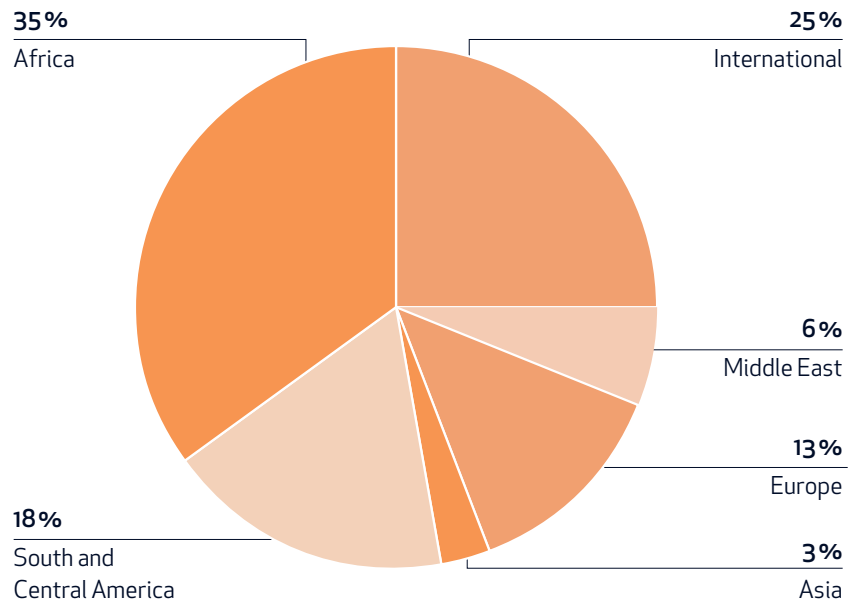
Funding of 1.5 million Swiss francs was earmarked for projects for addressing the consequences of the pandemic in developing countries. This supported, in particular, projects for food security, access to education, medical care and prevention of the spread of the coronavirus.

Around 674 Swiss francs per inhabitant was earmarked in 2020 for Official Development Assistance (ODA). Per capita, this makes Liech-

tenstein one of the top government donors worldwide.

The ODA percentage stands currently at 0.37 (2018). According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) criteria, Official Development Assistance covers all expenditure that a nation spends on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. For the inter-governmental comparison of the ODA, a key figure has been established, which considers the ODA in relation to the Gross National Income (GNI) of a nation – the so-called “ODA percentage”. The international target value for the ODA percentage is 0.7. Total ODA expenditure, to which are added the corresponding community commitment, climate funds and the care costs for domestic asylum seekers, was around 26.3 million francs in 2020.

Distribution of budget by region



More sustainability for more resilience to crisis

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The COVID-19 pandemic shows us that the international community was not sufficiently prepared for a crisis such as this. Emergency assistance is essential for the management of the immediate consequences of the pandemic. Long term, however, all countries must be more resilient to crisis by achieving more sustainability. The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

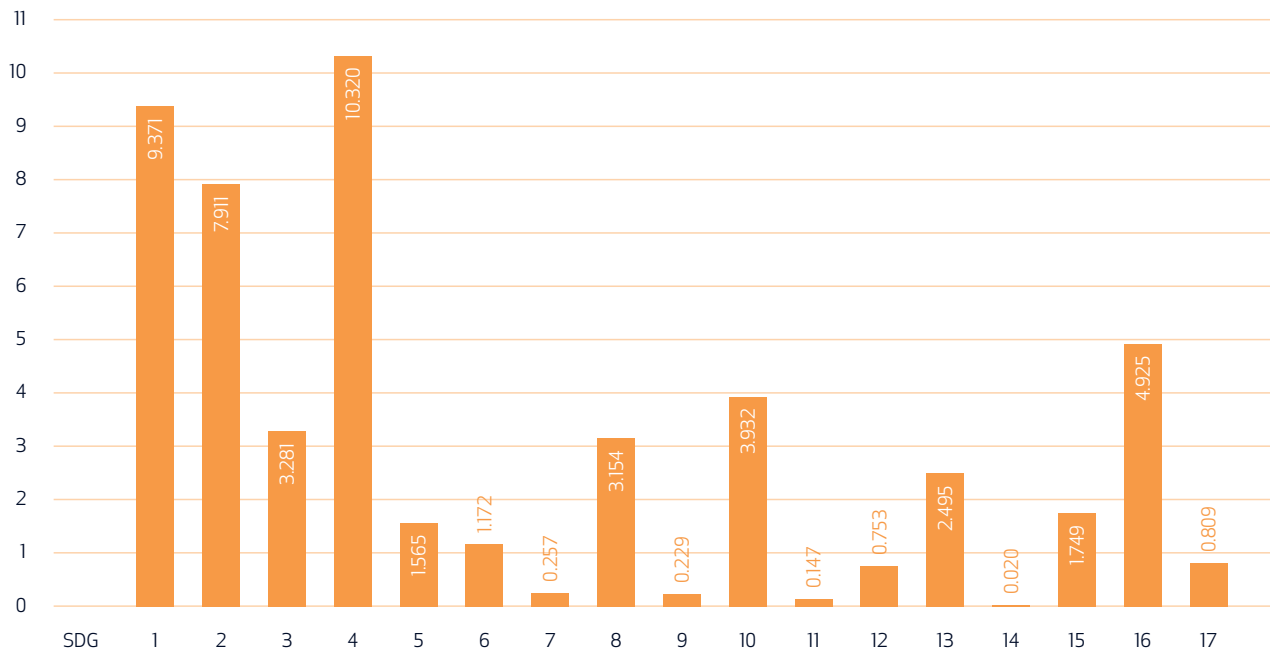
(SDGs) are crucial here. With its IHCD commitment, Liechtenstein is contributing to the reinforcement of global sustainable development. In terms of topics, the IHCD is addressing in particular the following key issues:

- Rural development and food security through sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)
- Health (SDG 3)

- Primary and vocational education (SDG 4)
- Fighting irregular migration (SDG 10)
- Climate and environment (SDG 13 and 15)
- Protection and promotion of human rights and rule of law (SDG 16)

The great majority of the Liechtenstein projects contribute directly

IHCD contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in millions of Swiss francs



or indirectly to the fight against poverty (SDG 1), which also corresponds to the overarching goal of international solidarity.

The pandemic has shown that more attention needs to be paid to ensuring food security, quality education, robust health and social care systems and strong institutions.

Furthermore there are transversal themes, which are an important project component in all development and aid projects:

- The projects are gender sensitive and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- The projects promote the inclusion of vulnerable groups and social minorities.

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals





GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
EDUCATION AND SPORT

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