

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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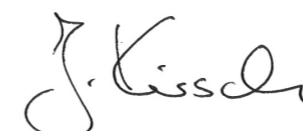
Dear Reader,

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”, as a saying in West Africa goes. As the Community of Cooperation (KoGe), we have done both. In 2019 and 2020, we developed with maximum participation a joint strategy and individual management mechanisms for all nine of our member organisations across three continents. Beginning in 2021, we were then able to implement a joint programme with significant impact and sustainability in over 40 countries with more than 150 partner organisations. Our programme, “Delivering SDG 16+: Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,” seeks to benefit especially those groups in society who are most vulnerable and marginalised, who have the fewest possibilities to make their voices heard and to assert their rights. For us, “leaving no one behind” is not merely a popular claim; it is part of our DNA and our aspirations as faith- and human rights-based organisations.

The urgent need for this approach, as well as our capacity to respond to this demand through KoGe’s programme framework, were especially visible during Covid-19. In the course of the pandemic and in the wake of its consequences, it became clear how the unequal distribution of the impacts of Covid-19 entrenched existing patterns of exclusion, and how many state actors struggled - and often failed - to maintain health and educational facilities, to curb unemployment, poverty and economic decline and to reverse rising levels of violence and conflict in society. It was impressive to observe how KoGe’s local partner organisations, delivering their work in mostly fragile and conflict-affected situations, were able to serve, strengthen and protect particularly marginalised and vulnerable people during the critical period of the pandemic. Reaching out to more than 700,000 people in over 40 countries, our partners successfully strengthened access to basic health and social services, improved school attendance (especially for girls), food security and the economic inclusion of marginalised people. They effectively reduced gender-based, inter-ethnic or inter-religious forms of violence. And through their efforts in following an integrated programme approach, they successfully created a nexus between emergency relief, rehabilitation and peacebuilding, for example in the conflict-ridden contexts of Nigeria, Cameroon and South Sudan.

In the coming years, KoGe will continue its efforts and its international journey of learning towards building peaceful, just and inclusive societies with a focus on “leaving no one behind”. I hope this very first Annual Report of KoGe may serve as an enticing taste of what is yet to come, and I wish you thought-provoking and inspiring reading.

Warm regards,



Rev. Jochen Kirsch, President
 Community of Cooperation (KoGe)

WHO WE ARE

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY OF COOPERATION

The Community of Cooperation (KoGe) is a Swiss association comprising nine member organisations sharing a Protestant background: cfd, Connexio develop, Horyzon, International Blue Cross (IBC), Mission 21, Mission Evangélique Braille (MEB), Salvation Army Switzerland, Service de Missions et d'Entraide (SME) and TearFund Switzerland.

KoGe was founded in 2012 as a network of like-minded faith- and human-rights-based Swiss organisations with the overall goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its

members' cooperation programmes in the global South. To this end, KoGe built a vibrant community of practice, providing an important platform for learning and exchange to the staff of its member organisations and their local partners.

In recent years, the network reached a new level of professionalism that allowed it to establish an independent structure in 2019. KoGe is now the umbrella organisation of its members and an association under Swiss law. Its operations as an independent organisation started on 1 January 2021.



Our organisation

Board

- Jochen Kirsch, Mission 21, President
- Ulrich Bachmann, Connexio develop, Vice President
- Anne Babb, IBC
- Sarah Makanjera, Salvation Army
- Andrea Rüegg, Horyzon
- Thomas Stahl, TearFund

Staff of the KoGe secretariat

- Madeleine Bolliger
- Mirjam Moser
- Sabrina Beeler Stücklin
- Sandro Schmidlin (until March 2021)

Focal points

- Mathias Waldmeyer
- Flavia Ganarin
- Luise Ammerschuber (until June 2021)

Local partner organisations

KoGe's partner organisations in the global South are very diverse. Based on an online survey in March 2021, over half of the 150 local partners self-identified as secular NGOs, many of whom are human or women's rights organisations. Forty-eight percent considered themselves to be faith-based, including churches, educational institutions and local organisations.

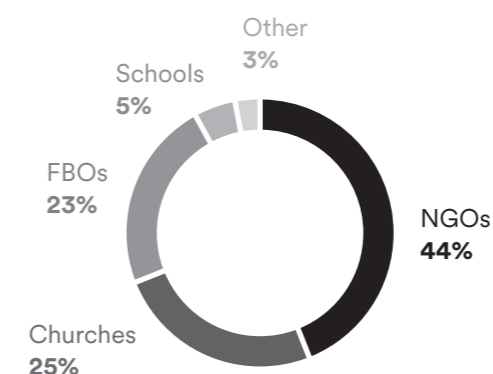


Figure: Local partner organisations

A good proportion of partnerships among the faith-based organisations (FBOs) are linked to a long history of social service amongst Swiss Protestant churches and date back more than a century. In contrast, many of the NGO relationships were established more recently. Continuing today, churches and faith communities have broad constituencies and are often deeply rooted in their local civil societies and communities. This makes the KoGe network unique in both its scope and its local anchoring, especially in poor and marginalised communities in some of the hardest to reach places in the world.

In South Sudan for example, the Presbyterian Church promotes reconciliation based on fairness, equality and non-discrimination. This is done through leadership training for women and young people. Churches in South Sudan are uniquely placed to mitigate conflict and strengthen the rule of law given their continued legitimacy in this highly polarised society.

In Bangladesh, the local Salvation Army fights to destigmatise leprosy and encourages people living with this illness to assert their rights, for instance by attending the national Leprosy Congress and making themselves heard at policy level.



Sport for peace in a child care centre in South Sudan.

WHAT WE DO

OUR WORK TOWARDS PEACE, JUSTICE AND INCLUSION

The KoGe programme, “Delivering SDG 16+: Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,”¹ builds on a concept of the “Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,” a movement co-founded by the Swiss government. SDG 16+ states that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, focusing on peaceful and inclusive so-

cieties, must not be considered in isolation from the other SDGs. The “plus” therefore emphasises the link between SDG 16 and other SDGs. The SDG 16+ approach is in line with the DNA of KoGe as a network of faith- and human rights-based organisations.



Graph: Theory of change of KoGe’s SDG 16+ programme

In order to promote peaceful societies, a focus of KoGe’s partner organisations is their work to reduce all forms of violence, for instance by supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and children who experience domestic violence. In addition, KoGe and its members actively promote peaceful conflict resolution, for instance by bringing conflicting parties together in spaces of dialogue and mutual coexistence. In the field of just societies, equal access to quality primary health care and education for marginalised and vulnerable people stands at the core of the joint programme. Finally, KoGe’s goal regarding inclusive societies is a reference to the “leaving no one behind” pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. KoGe promotes the social, economic and political inclusion and empowerment of the marginalised, discriminated against and vulnerable segments of the population – those most left behind.

KoGe’s SDG 16+ framework proved especially relevant during the Covid-19 pandemic, when fragility and inequality increased, as did various forms of violence and instability all over the world. It is monitored by the KoGe Secretariat together with its External Quality Commission (EQC), composed of senior researchers from the NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation of ETH Zürich and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute Geneva.



Peace activists Elizabeth Deng, Dinka, and Elizabeth Nyayuk Kiir, Nuer, from the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) engage in reconciliation work among the two groups.

¹ Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2017), “The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: A Call to Action to Change Our World,” New York: Center on International Cooperation. www.sdg16.plus/

HOW WE LEARN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

KoGe's learning structure provides an important platform to our members and their local partners. A regular exchange of experiences in two learning groups is complemented by the development of adapted tools and knowledge products. Our learning journeys typically combine a series of virtual learning moments with pilot projects that are implemented in the global South. Innovative approaches related to KoGe's learning topics are tested in collaboration with local partners. Implementation knowledge flows back into the learning groups.

In 2021, three learning moments in English, French and Spanish brought together more than 300 people from 34 countries around the theme of peace, justice and inclusion. The workshop series was organised according to the Open Space method. This is a self-organised format, which gives responsibility but also power to the participants. It reflects KoGe's commitment to engage with its worldwide partners as actors on an equal footing. In the words of one workshop participant, "it's encouraging to listen to others' stories and struggles, by that we are empow-

ered as well. It's a good opportunity to un-learn and re-learn."

The combination of learning moments with pilot projects on the ground fosters a South-South training and learning approach. As part of KoGe's learning journey on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), various local partner organisations met to discuss subjects such as the fight against sexual harassment, the setting up of complaint mechanisms and the promotion of positive masculinities. In August 2021, local partners of Mission 21, Horyzon and TearFund organised a PSEAH training in Juba, South Sudan. The workshop was particularly successful in bringing together a broad spectrum of diverse people, including project staff, clergy representatives and young female activists, some of them having a central teaching role. By talking openly about sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment, church dignitaries showed their willingness to break a taboo. The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, which co-hosted this training, had adopted a code of conduct against sexual violence earlier in the year.



Participant of the KoGe PSEAH training in Juba.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED A SPOTLIGHT ON RESULTS



Peace demonstration of young activists during the national strike in Colombia.

The following pages highlight facts, figures and results from the first year of implementation of KoGe's SDG 16+ programme. Short stories, voices from participants and examples of interventions complement the picture of what we have achieved in relation to our four outcomes:

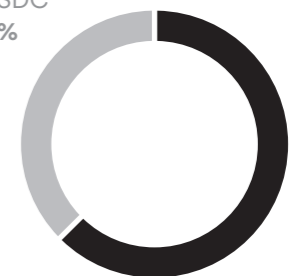
1. Reduce all forms of violence
2. Rights to economic resources and basic services
3. Knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development
4. Social, economic and political inclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated existing forms of exclusion. Our achievements in 2021 have shown that KoGe has the unique potential to reach very marginalised and vulnerable groups effectively, despite restrictions on mobility and public gatherings. An important factor was the local embeddedness of our partners and their extensive presence at the grassroots level.

With its mix of secular and faith-based partner organisations, KoGe's network is exceptional in its scope and reach.

KoGe's programme 2021-2024 is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

Contribution
of SDC
37%



KoGe total programme costs 2021:
CHF 17,841,233

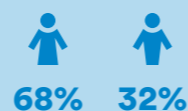
REDUCE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

OUTCOME 1

KoGe has placed a focus on combatting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and protecting children from violence.

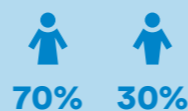
In 2021:

36,000 people participated in prevention activities in the field of **SGBV**.

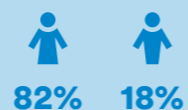


More than **8,000 survivors of SGBV** received counselling as well as medical and legal support.

27,000 people participated in **peacebuilding** projects, with 86% stating afterwards that they perceived their environment as more peaceful.



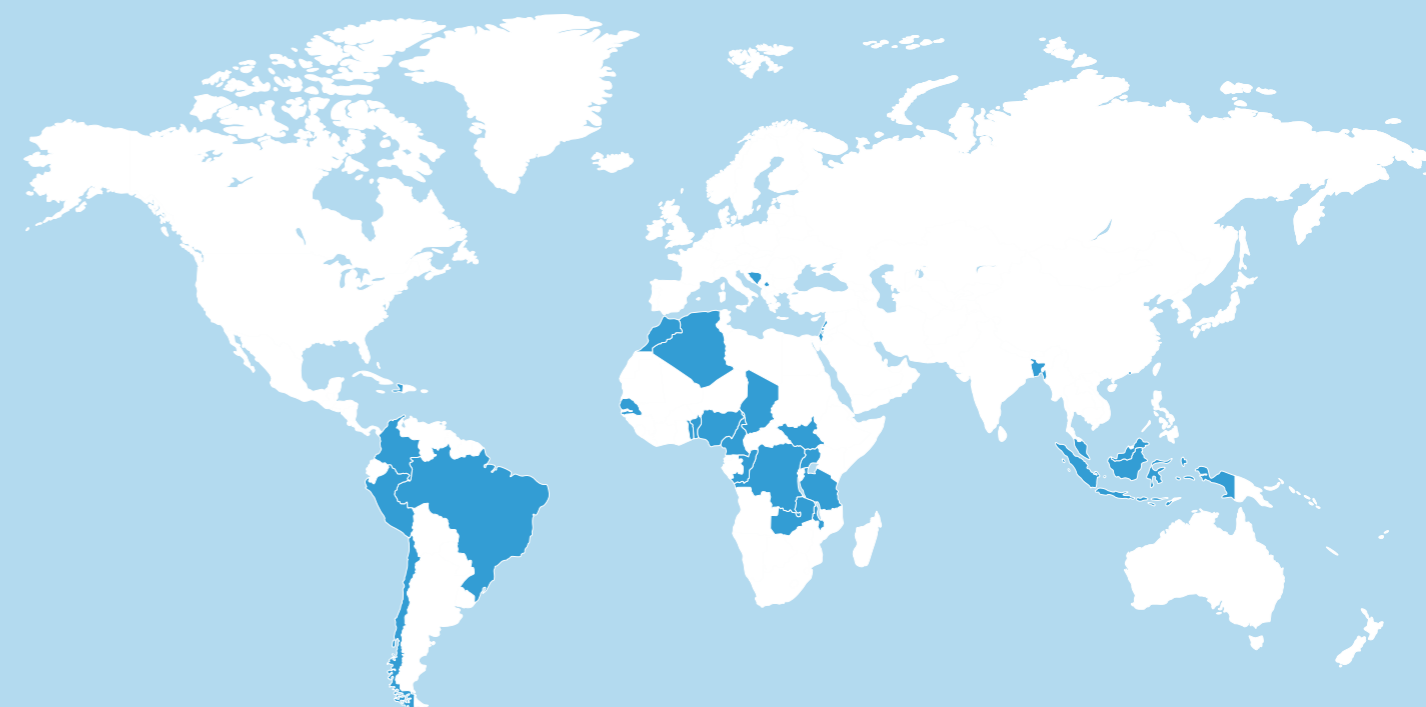
3,300 caregivers were trained in methods to detect and **prevent sexual abuse of children**.



In total, more than 80,000 people were reached.



KoGe direct programme costs (without overhead):
CHF 17,469,492
Expenditures for outcome 1:
CHF 2,771,028



In 2021, we collaborated in **29 countries**:

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Peru; Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo; Israel, Lebanon, Palestine; Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia

Spotlight on interreligious collaboration

KoGe has special expertise in helping to build peaceful and equal relationships across religious boundaries. When Covid-19 widened social divides, ignited rumours and stirred up old fears, interfaith networks were quick to provide support and express their solidarity with marginalised minorities and were able to counter unsubstantiated information.

In Indonesia for example, radical groups are increasing their influence, and tolerance among different faiths is decreasing. Mission 21's interfaith peace programme brings together Muslims and Christians through inter-religious studies, shared training courses and joint peace sensitisation campaigns. The following testimony from a young woman named Isti'anah illustrates the power of the live-in experience, which allows participants of different faiths to spend time in another faith community: "We were thirty participants, half

Muslims, half Christians. We stayed together for ten days in various sessions and lectures. Afterwards, we had the possibility to join the live-in programme. My initial worries were blown away by the richness of the experience. I realized how much I missed the togetherness and actual friendship of our childhood when there was no great wall to border different religions yet. After this programme, I hope to help tear down again the great wall to foster tolerance and togetherness among Christians and Muslims in Indonesia."

Alongside ethnicity, religious affiliation is one of the most important identifying factors in Indonesia. Amid heightened tensions during the pandemic, interfaith networks of Mission 21 strengthened peaceful relationships and prevented the outbreak of violent conflicts in the project regions.

RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND BASIC SERVICES

OUTCOME 2

KoGe focuses on sustainable livelihoods (access to land and seed, agroecological practices, microfinance), primary health care and prevention measures, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as basic education and vocational training for marginalised and vulnerable people.

In 2021:

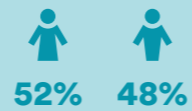
20,000 people participated in activities to improve **sustainable livelihoods**.



More than **485,000 people** had access to **primary health care** services, including prevention measures, treatment, psychosocial support and mother and child health.



Nearly **30,000 people** were enrolled and almost 26,000 successfully completed their **basic education**.



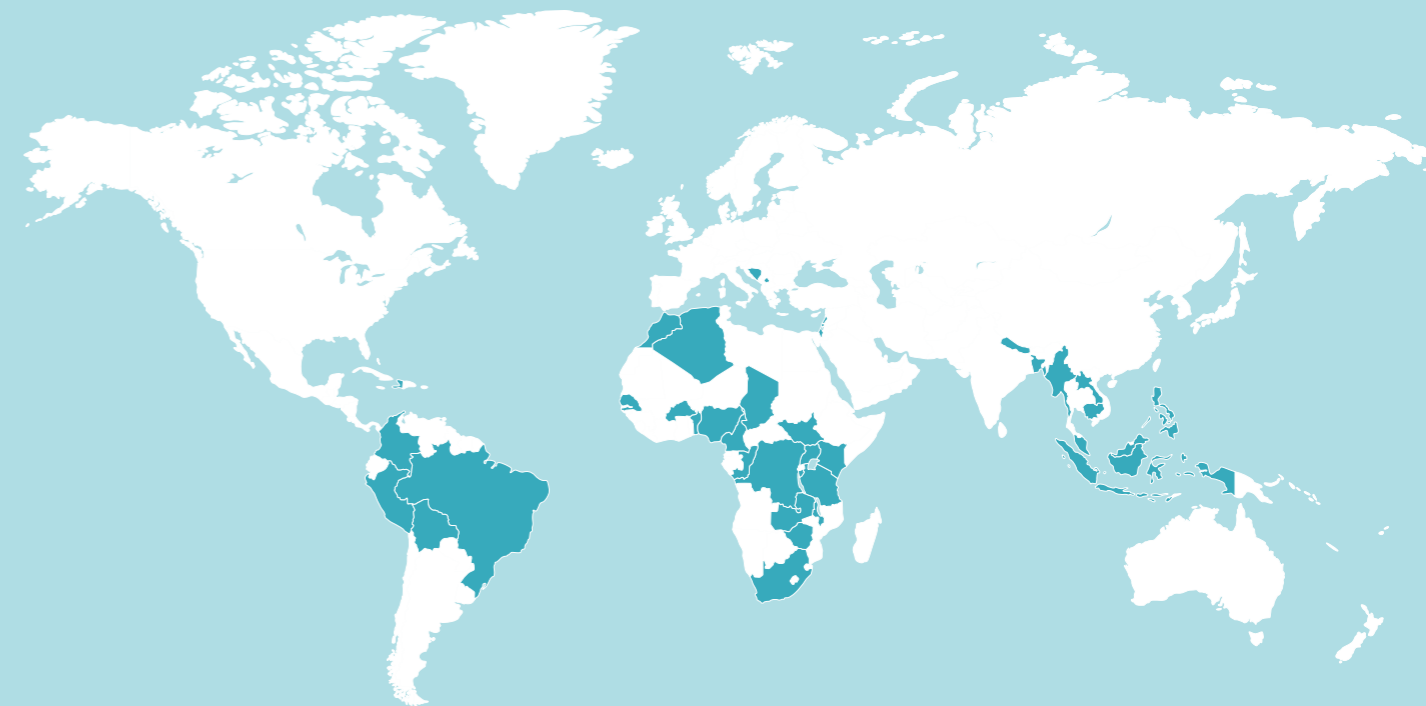
More than **7,000 people** had access to **vocational trainings** and experienced positive effects on empowerment, vocational skills, their economic situation and inclusion.



In total, 542,500 people were reached.



KoGe direct programme costs (without overhead): CHF 17,469,492
Expenditures for outcome 2: CHF 8,367,841



In 2021, we collaborated in **37 countries**:

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Peru; Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Morocco, Malawi, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo; Israel, Lebanon, Palestine; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines

Spotlight on mental health and psychological support services

A major part of KoGe’s health interventions in 2021 was related to mental health and psychosocial support services, especially for survivors of political violence or sexual and gender-based violence, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues, people from the LGBTQI² community or sex workers. KoGe’s analysis showed that the psychosocial support services generally helped people to enhance problem-solving and coping strategies as well as stress management.

In the Gaza strip, *Palestinian Working Women Society for Development*, a local partner organisation of cfd, supported nearly 400 families (including women, men, young people and children) with psychological support services while focusing on the resilience of the individuals and the community. The peer-to-peer support groups for women, focusing on anger management, talking about trauma, expressing feelings and providing mutual

support were particularly successful in overcoming different traumatic experiences. The women developed a joint plan of action and discovered effective strategies to build resilience. One of them is Jemina (name changed), 34 years old. Jemina is exposed to various types of violence in addition to the addiction problems of her husband. She tried to commit suicide twice. “I became very nervous at home. I hit my children hard, my problems increased with my husband and his family. The psychosocial support sessions were very useful to me and my family. I learned many skills, for instance self-control and how to dialogue with others. I will pass my experience to others, and I will focus on my social relationships. I will not lose hope.”

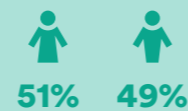
² Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 3

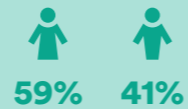
KoGe focuses on strengthening children and young people through life skills education, improving the quality of learner-centred education and the empowerment of citizens to advance their shared interests towards sustainable development.

In 2021:

11,000 children and young people participated in **life skills education sessions**. Ninety-two percent of the sampled participants reported an increased quality of life thanks to the application of the learned skills.

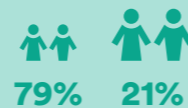


More than **12,000 teachers, trainers, parents, caregivers and children** attended trainings on **children's rights** or in improved pedagogy and educational methods.

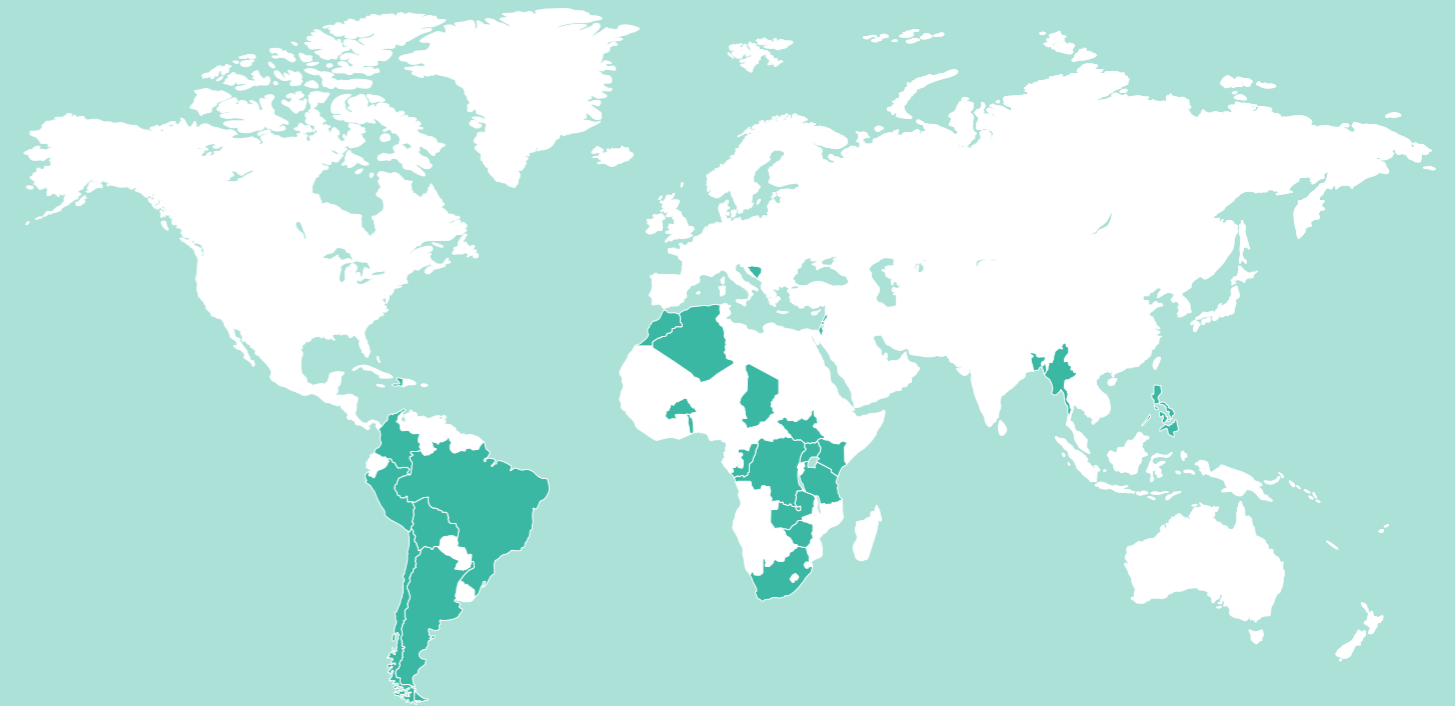


43,000 people participated in **awareness campaigns on children's rights**.

In total, more than 60,000 people were reached.



KoGe direct programme costs (without overhead): CHF 17,469,492
Expenditures for outcome 3: CHF 1,668,556



In 2021, we collaborated in **28 countries**:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Peru; Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Morocco, Republic of the Congo, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Israel, Lebanon, Palestine; Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines

Spotlight on life skills education

Enabling individuals to deal effectively with the demand and challenges of everyday life lies at the core of the life skills approach. Working with qualified trainers, participants learn and improve their problem-solving skills, communication, creative thinking and self-awareness, and develop mechanisms to deal effectively with stress. KoGe promotes life skills sessions for sustainable behaviour change mainly for vulnerable and marginalised children and young people, such as street children, orphans and teenage mothers.

In Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Togo, International Blue Cross (IBC) and its local partners implement a life skills programme in close collaboration with stakeholders of the public education systems with the goal of reducing violence, illness and alcohol- and other drug consumption. In 2021, more than 8,000 young people attended life skills sessions within this programme. The positive effects were manifold. Young people, parents and teachers reported a decrease in

violence and alcohol and other drug consumption on school premises. They also witnessed greater courage among project participants to stand up against injustices. A recent survey showed that the programme had also led to a growing awareness of gender equality among boys and girls. Girls stated that they learned to speak up in front of boys and their families and to discuss gender roles openly. Géraldine, a participant, tells her story: "My father was busy with work, my mother was an alcoholic. During my youth, I was shunted from household to household. From the age of 14 on, I experienced domestic violence. I suffered a lot, but I remained silent. A few years ago, I started taking part in the life skills meetings and that has helped me a lot to handle my experiences. As a team member of the life skills programme, I now help other young people to face their often difficult life situations. I am confident about myself and take care of my life and of others."

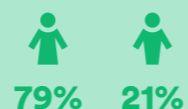
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION

OUTCOME 4

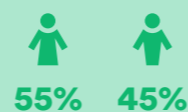
KoGe’s member organisations focus on the economic inclusion of all, the social and political empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups and increased awareness of and respect for rights.

In 2021:

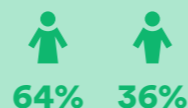
15,700 marginalised and vulnerable people participated in activities to promote **economic inclusion of all**. More than half (8,240) reported a self-perceived increase in income.



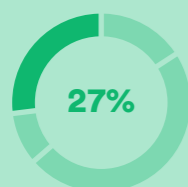
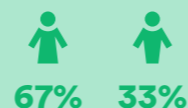
11,000 people took part in activities promoting **social and political empowerment**.



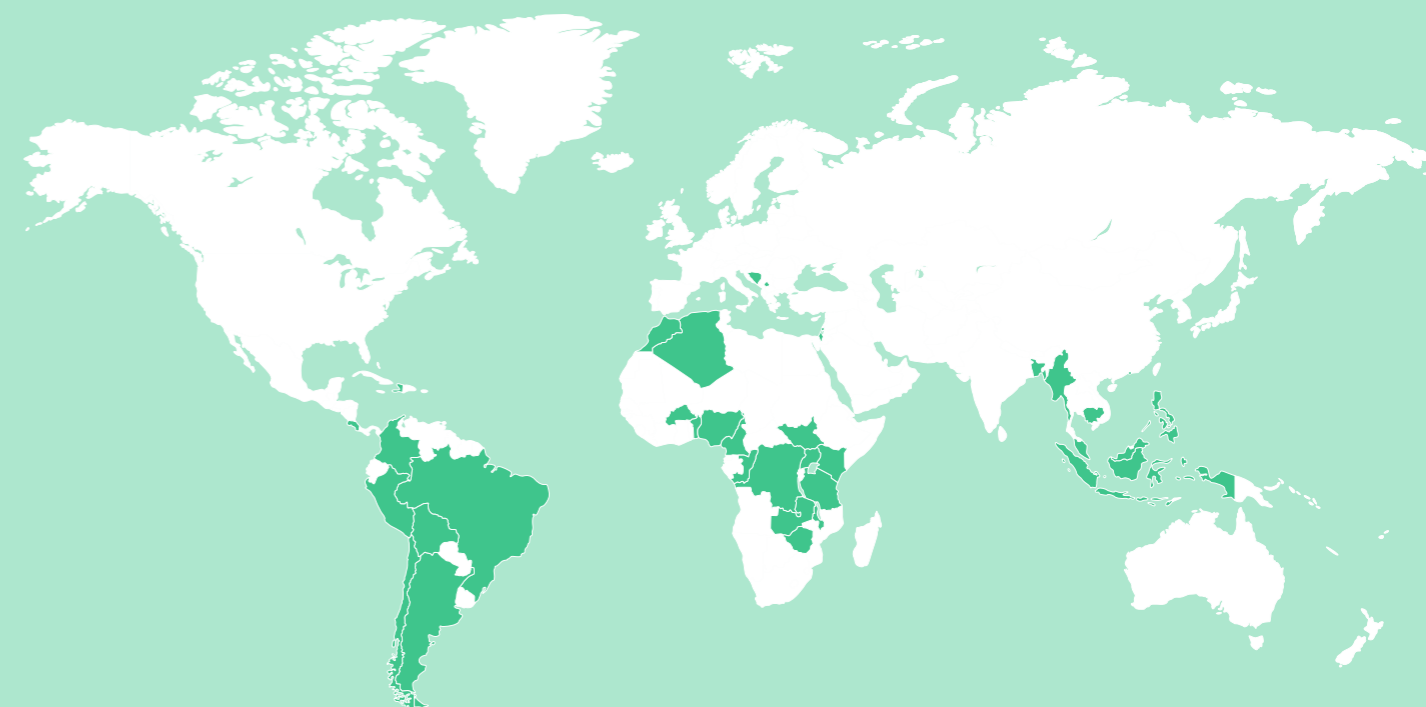
11,500 people participated in information campaigns and/or training on the **rights of marginalised and vulnerable people**.



In total, more than 38,000 people were reached.



KoGe direct programme costs (without overhead): CHF 17,469,492
Expenditures for outcome 4: CHF 4,662,067



In 2021, we collaborated in **34 countries**:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru; Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo; Israel, Palestine; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines

Spotlight on safeguarding civic space for young people

KoGe puts a special focus on the social and political empowerment of groups that are marginalised and discriminated against. KoGe’s member organisations work with both rights-holders and duty-bearers to increase community participation of people left behind. In 2021, these efforts faced challenges in the pandemic as previous successes, such as progress towards rights for people with disabilities, vanished. The global situation of shrinking political space makes KoGe’s work in this field all the more important.

In Colombia, young people from marginalised communities suffer stigmatisation and exclusion. In 2021, Colombians, many of them young and lacking a strong voice in society, participated in a national strike, to which the government reacted with excessive violence. Horyzon, together with YMCA Colombia, puts a strong emphasis on the safeguarding

of civic space for young people. In a leadership programme, young people from the poorest areas of the country learn to increase their assertiveness through art therapy. Participants experience safe spaces to establish meaningful social relationships, and they learn the fundamentals of social and political engagement. In 2021, 1,440 young people, a majority of whom were young women, graduated from the programme. Thirteen of the graduates were later elected municipal youth councillors in the first youth council elections in the history of Colombia. An external evaluation showed that the young participants continue to use the leadership skills acquired through the programme in order to contribute to building peace in their communities. This is important in a country divided by half a century of conflict and violence.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	246,509
Receivables	0
Accrued income	0
Total current assets	246,509
Total fixed assets	0
TOTAL ASSETS	246,509
LIABILITIES	
Third-party liabilities	6,856
Accrued expenses and deferred income	10,000
Total current liabilities	16,856
Long-term provisions	0
Other long-term liabilities	100,001
Total long-term liabilities	100,001
Total restricted fund capital	104,652
Total acquired unrestricted capital	25,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	246,509

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

INCOME	
Member contributions	25,000
Programme contribution SDC	7,044,000
Total contributions	7,069,000
Total other income	0
TOTAL INCOME	7,069,000
EXPENSES	
Programme contribution to cfd	826,000
Programme contribution to Connexio develop	275,000
Programme contribution to Horyzon	466,000
Programme contribution to International Blue Cross (IBC)	158,000
Programme contribution to Mission Evangélique Braille (MEB)	167,000
Programme contribution to Mission 21	2,448,000
Programme contribution to Salvation Army Switzerland	960,000
Programme contribution to Service de Missions et d'Entraide (SME)	339,000
Programme contribution to TearFund Switzerland	904,000
Total programme contributions to member organisations	6,543,000
Monitoring and evaluation	67,537
Quality management	46,684
Learning structure	104,355
KoGe project funding	24,605
Total support costs directly linked to the programme	243,181
Total administration and HR	152,953
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,939,134
OPERATING RESULT	129,866
Financial result	214
OPERATING RESULT BEFORE CHANGE IN FUND CAPITAL	129,652
Fund allocation	-7,044,000
Fund withdrawal	6,939,348
Change in fund capital	-104,652
ANNUAL RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATION TO ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	25,000
Allocation to organisational capital	-25,000
ANNUAL RESULT AFTER ALLOCATION TO ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	0



The Community of Cooperation (KoGe) is the umbrella organisation of nine Swiss member organisations with a Protestant background. We share knowledge, skills and resources and are committed to a common goal: a life in dignity for all people, regardless of gender, origin or religion.

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