

Annual report 2009

Our projects, achievements and figures



Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk **SAH**
Œuvre suisse d'entraide ouvrière **OSEO**
Swiss Labour Assistance **SLA**

Effective change

SLA programmes are effective at various levels by improving participants' living conditions, professionalising partner organisations, or achieving shifts in the political arena. It is a challenge to accurately measure the scope of these effects because change tends to be influenced by a whole range of factors. It is evident, however, that our partnership approach to co-operation with labour unions, co-operatives, grassroots and women's organisations yields important impulses for positive change affecting thousands in the countries where the SLA is active.

Labour and trade unions

Billions were invested in the 2010 Soccer World Championship in South Africa. But the construction workers had to build the stadiums for famine wages. Supported by the international Fair Games – Fair Play

campaign co-initiated by the SLA, South African unions achieved a 12-percent increase of the minimum wage as well as investments in occupational health and safety. They also managed to recruit 20 000 new union members.



“Our tough negotiations resulted in increased wages and refunds of travel expenses to the construction site. Our living conditions have improved.”

Construction workers, South Africa



“At last we have a say in our future.”

Young women, Bolivia

Democracy and participation

Strengthening democracy is one of the key issues addressed by the SLA in Bolivia. We focus on youngsters and in 2009 launched the project “Promoting democratic culture and political participation of young people” to encourage youngsters to participate actively in their communities’ political and cultural life, and to bring new impulses into their immediate environment. With SLA support over three thousand young people held panel discussions, performed plays and created radio shows. Their enthusiastic participation bodes very well for Bolivia’s democratic development.

Special focus on bilingual education

In terms of education the SLA plays a key role in Burkina Faso – for example by initiating bilingual education. Since 2007 the government has been taking over bilingual primary schools created by the SLA, and has declared bilingual education the official model. The SLA will next focus on implementing it at secondary school level. In 2009 over 800 young people successfully completed bilingual secondary school.

Rural development

The left-wing government of El Salvador elected in 2009 has promoted the population's participation and involvement in the country's socially and economically fair development. For example, a network of rural associations supported by the SLA have met with the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss government proposals and table their own demands, including access to

land and water, attractive credits, promotion of organic farming and local seed varieties, as well as health programmes. The co-operatives, moreover, have agreed on strengthening their local marketing strategy: "Local, good and attractive" is the motto for a strategy that provides higher incomes to smallholders and food security for the people of El Salvador.



"Local maize varieties have reduced our dependence on international seed producers. Our income has increased. At last my children don't have to go hungry any more."

Smallholder, El Salvador



“We lost everything. But after the earthquake we were lucky to be given provisional shelter so we didn’t have to live in the mud during the rainy season.”

A family in West Sumatra, Indonesia

The SLA programme in Switzerland

In Switzerland, the SLA has been actively promoting awareness for the context of development policies as well as the causes of poverty and exploitation. The SLA campaign “No tax money for exploitation” addressed the issue of spending public money responsibly, and demanded that councils and public agencies only buy fairly-produced goods. Proposals for “fair acquisitions” were submitted to 100 municipal councils.

2009 was the last year in which the SLA held four camps for children. From 2010 onwards regional SLA associations will hold these camps; they also implement projects in the context of labour, education and integration, some of which have received SLA funding.



“The SLA campaign has been successful! Proposals for ‘fair acquisitions’ have been submitted to 100 municipal councils.”

Hans-Jürg Fehr, President, SLA
Christian Levrat, President, SP Schweiz
(Swiss Social-Democratic Party)

Humanitarian aid

The SLA responded promptly to the disastrous earthquake in Indonesia at the end of September 2009. Since November of that year, provisional shelters for six hundred families have been erected in four communities near Padang, West Sumatra. It has been a successful project, not least due to partner-based co-operation with the population and Indonesian authorities.



Balance sheet

| Assets | 31/12/2009 | 31/12/2008 |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| | CHF | CHF |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5,095,637 | 4,428,451 |
| Accounts receivable | 1,000,247 | 702,973 |
| Accrued income and pre-paid expenses | 1,733,289 | 783,458 |
| Total | 7,829,174 | 5,914,882 |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Financial assets | 146,232 | 146,217 |
| Tangible fixed assets (excl. real estate) | 18,737 | 23,866 |
| Real estate | 2,896,837 | 2,943,468 |
| Total | 3,061,806 | 3,113,552 |
| Total assets balance | 10,890,980 | 9,028,435 |

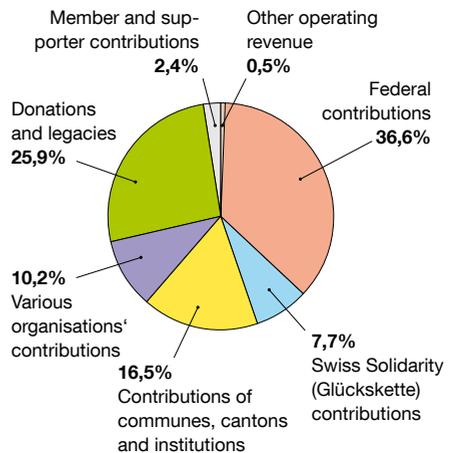
| Liabilities | 31/12/2009 | 31/12/2008 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | CHF | CHF |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Short-term liabilities | 641,772 | 422,440 |
| Pre-payments | 1,825,796 | 591,001 |
| Accrued expenses and deferred income | 91,569 | 117,810 |
| Mortgages | 3,250,000 | 3,250,000 |
| Liability reserves | 730,202 | 787,438 |
| Total | 6,539,338 | 5,168,689 |
| Earmarked fund capital | 2,935,226 | 2,528,668 |
| Net worth | | |
| Paid-up capital | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Foreign-exchange offset reserve | 127,942 | 127,942 |
| Collective agreement (GAV) reserve | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Accrued free capital | 1,128,473 | 1,043,135 |
| Total | 1,416,415 | 1,331,077 |
| Total liabilities balance | 10,890,980 | 9,028,435 |



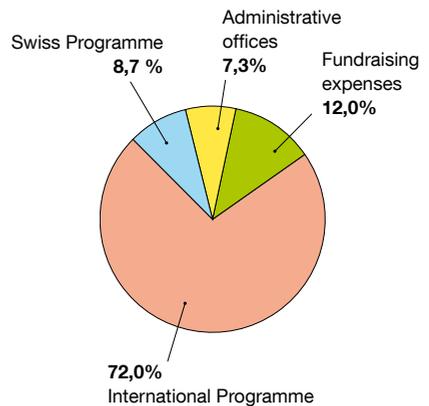
Profit and Loss Account

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | CHF | CHF |
| Income from fundraising | 6,444,123 | 5,551,074 |
| Income from services rendered | 7,842,831 | 7,962,582 |
| Other income | 78,160 | 88,452 |
| Total operational income | 14,365,113 | 13,602,108 |
| International Programme | 10,303,971 | 10,546,256 |
| Swiss Programme | 1,246,378 | 997,250 |
| Executive unit | 2,756,232 | 3,295,492 |
| Total operational expenditure | 14,306,580 | 14,838,998 |
| Operating profit/loss | 58,533 | -1,236,890 |
| Other profit/loss | 433,363 | 350,441 |
| Profit/loss before funds adjustment | 491,896 | -886,448 |
| Movement in funds | -308,066 | 963,038 |
| Annual profit/loss 1 before allocations | 183,830 | 76,590 |
| Allocations | | |
| to acquired free capital | -85,338 | -76,590 |
| to acquired fixed funds | -98,492 | 0 |
| Annual profit/loss 2 after allocations | 0 | 0 |

Origin of funds



Use of funds





The generous support of our donors enables us to implement our projects throughout the world.

We appreciate your donation. You are making a significant contribution to our struggle for a just and fair society.

Order the complete Annual Report (available in German and French only)

24 pages, texts on international involvement, impact assessment, SLA agencies and commissions, financial accounts according to SWISS GAAP FER 21, accounting principles including balance sheet, profit and loss account, cash flow statement, statement of change in net assets, and notes.

For a free copy of the complete annual report 2009, please contact:

Tel.: +41 44 444 19 19

Fax: +41 44 444 19 00

E-mail: info@sah.ch

Since 1947 the SLA has enjoyed the approval of the ZEW0 label.

The label stands for:

- appropriate, economic and effective use of your donation
- transparent information and meaningful accounting
- independent and appropriate control structures
- honest communication and fair fundraising



Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk **SAH**
Œuvre suisse d'entraide ouvrière **OSEO**
Swiss Labour Assistance **SLA**

Physical address:

Quellenstrasse 31, 8005 Zurich, Switzerland

Postal address: P.O. Box 2228, 8031 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel: +41 44 444 19 19, Fax: +41 44 444 19 00

E-mail: info@sah.ch, <http://www.sah.ch>

Post office account: 80-188-1