

# Mission Statement

Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)

## **Vision**

Our guiding vision is that of a just and peaceful world, where every individual's dignity, as well as the natural resources from which people earn their livelihoods, are respected.

## **Values**

Universal human rights and Christian values are central to our activities:

- **Respect:** We respect both people and the environment and we take responsibility for our actions, so that future generations can also live in dignity.
- **Love your neighbour:** We work closely with people and are committed to helping the needy, wherever they are from, whatever their religion or gender.
- **Inclusion:** We are committed to ensuring that people are aware of their rights, can assert them and can actively take part in decisions that affect them and how they are implemented.
- **Transparency:** We communicate sincerely, transparently, and clearly about our activities and how we use the funds made available to us.
- **Impact:** We help to improve individual living conditions and carefully monitor the impact of our work.

These values are both the basis and justification for our commitment.

## **Mission**

Driven by our vision and guided by our values:

- we help to improve individual living conditions in Switzerland and abroad;
- through our programmes, we assist people and population groups and support them in asserting their rights;
- through our campaigns, we raise awareness and we mobilise the political and economic communities as well as churches and society at large, in order to bring about change consistent with our commitment;

## **Areas of activity**

The Protestant Church in Switzerland (EERS), which founded our organisation, assigned us seven areas of activity: development cooperation, humanitarian aid, collaboration with the various churches, involvement in development and social policy, advocacy, integration and information and raising awareness. These areas of activity fall within our four priority action areas.

## **Bringing about change**

Our objective is to bring about systemic change in society, economics and politics. We help to improve people's living conditions in Switzerland and abroad and to assert their rights. To this end, we raise awareness and mobilise society, the political and economic communities and the various churches.

In order to achieve our objectives, we seek to bring about organisational change. This entails a systemic change in organisation in terms of mentality, culture, processes and structure. It is a continuous development process with the aim of increasing the impact and effectiveness of the work that HEKS/EPER does.

## Working principles

Human rights are the basis of our work.

We focus on thematic areas and specific geographical areas.

We make use of synergies generated through associating programmes and work on policy, between activities in Switzerland and abroad, using 2030 Agenda as our reference framework.

We focus in particular on the transversal approaches of 'gender and diversity' and 'digital inclusion'. Other transversal approaches specific to each area are also pursued or developed.

## Identity and self-perception

We view ourselves as a Swiss organisation that is active internationally, but which also has regional and local roots and activities.

## Partnerships

HEKS/EPER maintains dialogue with the various churches and their congregations. They support us and help make our vision a reality. HEKS/EPER is a manifestation of church solidarity across the world.

The support of the various churches, society, donors and institutional donors is an expression of HEKS/EPER's roots in civil society. Our professionalism is based on the standards and requirements of the sector.

We forge interdisciplinary alliances that are relevant for the entire organisation. First and foremost, we favour strategic alliances with the various churches, NGOs, policymakers, the private sector and higher education institutions.

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**HEKS**  
**EPER**  
Bread for all.

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