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1 Management

1.1 President's Report

“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do”

Walter Isaacson

This year's annual report focuses on psychosocial support programmes for refugees in Switzerland and the UK that have been or are currently supported by our foundation. Government support for refugees is predominantly targeted to providing accommodation and minimal financial assistance. The invisible psychological damage inflicted on many people who have experienced forced migration usually remains untreated – despite the fact that up to two thirds of refugees coming to Switzerland suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. This is where private initiatives and charitable organisations providing accessible, low-level services come into play. Among them is *Psy4Asyl* in Aarau, which was founded by psychotherapist Sara Michalik-Imfeld and her colleagues. This organisation specifically cares for young, unaccompanied refugees in precarious situations, who are grieving the loss of family and friends. The positive outcomes of these projects show how important such places and services are. All the refugees who attended therapy sessions at *Psy4Asyl* are now undertaking an apprenticeship or have found employment.

Therapeutic approaches involving cultural activities are particularly suitable, because they don't depend on language skills. In his article, music therapist Harmin Sijercic gives an insight into his work for the organisation Freedom from Torture in London. Music therapy helps his clients to overcome their traumas and change their lives. One man told him that music helped “transport him to a safe place”. Another said that music was like “putting a dressing on his wounds”.

It often takes several years for therapy to take effect and for social obstacles to be overcome. Sandra Rumpel, a psychotherapist and managing director of the association Family Help, tells the story of a young Afghan woman, a client of the organisation who attended group therapy for

girls and young women who fled alone, as well as individual therapy sessions. A stay with a foster family also helped her to stabilize. She has now completed an apprenticeship as a health specialist and provides online teaching for Afghan girls in her home country who can only learn in hiding.

In our project 2nd Chance for a 1st Education, eight adults were also able to complete their basic qualifications in 2023. Seven of them have already found employment, for example in logistics and nursing. Their path was not always easy, with the stresses of child care and language proving especially challenging – but their persistence was definitely worth it.

I thank the trustees and all our staff at the management office and in the commissions for their strong commitment and look forward to the work we will do together in the coming year.

Dr. Mirjam Eglin

“The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation supports projects in the fields of culture, education, humanitarian aid and medical research. We aim to improve people’s quality of life and promote mutual cultural understanding.”

1.2 Organisation 1 January to 31 December 2023

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Ivana Reiss
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Michaela Told

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Gian Heim
Martin Roth (since November 2023)

Properties Commission

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Daniel Kramer (since November 2023)
Jan Lauper (since November 2023)
Herbert Mössinger (external advisor)
Michael Högger (Property Developers' Representative)

Immobilien AG Schwanengasse 8 Bern

Governing board:
Walter Rumpf, President
Herbert Mössinger
Management: Guido Münzel

Auditors

T+R AG, Gümliigen

Accountancy and Trustees

Treuhand Brand AG, Bern

1.3 Financial Indicators

Fixed assets in CHF

2023	2022	2021
178 450 330	174 059 019	204 219 837

Investment categories

Obligations	Shares	Real Estate Switzerland
18%	40%	40%

Investment net performance

2023	2022	2021
3.55%	-9%	7.69%

Grants awarded by the board in CHF

2023	2022	2021
3 774 482	4 181 084	4 267 004

Operating costs, project costs and quality management in CHF

2023	2022	2021
919 807	877 287	738 405

1.3 Sustainable Investment Strategy

Since 2016, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation's Board of Trustees has aligned the foundation's securities and property investments with the principle of sustainability in general and the foundation's purpose in particular.

1. General principles of investment

As a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation (STJF) supports projects in the following areas: performing and visual arts, support for people affected by conflicts or violence, and scientific research, particularly in the areas of health and welfare. It also provides access to education and vocational training in the Canton of Bern.

The securities and property investments are based on the principles of liquidity, profitability and security within the framework of the foundation's risk capacity. The goal is to maintain the purchasing power of the foundation's assets in the long term and to ensure that the returns generated allow the board to award the highest and most constant grants possible, in line with the charitable purpose of the foundation. At the same time, securities and property investments should not contradict the purpose of the foundation and indeed promote it wherever possible.

2. Principles of sustainable investment

In order to invest sustainably in accordance with the purpose of the foundation, securities are primarily based on exclusion criteria and the "best-in-class" approach (which refers to the most sustainable investments per investment category or sector). Topical investments and unlisted, purpose-oriented investments (e.g. loans, impact investing, or venture philanthropy) are optional, provided they are linked to a direct purpose. The foundation works with institutional investment funds, which also exercise shareholder voting rights and maintain a dialogue with the investment companies (engagement). This is usually done via a specialised "engagement pool". With regard to real estate, the foundation is guided by existing sustainability standards (e.g. Minergie in Switzerland), particularly for new buildings.

In order to ensure cost-efficient implementation, STJF primarily uses existing standard products for securities and generally dispenses with individual sustainability criteria. Mandates with individual criteria are only issued if they are associated with substantial advantages in terms of the pursuit of the foundation's purpose. Asset management mandates and other mandates are put out to tender in a structured selection process under competitive conditions. Sustainability criteria are contractually stipulated and asset managers are obliged to report on their sustainability criteria.

3. Exclusion criteria

With regard to sustainability, the following exclusion criteria apply to the mandate and to the funds used in it:

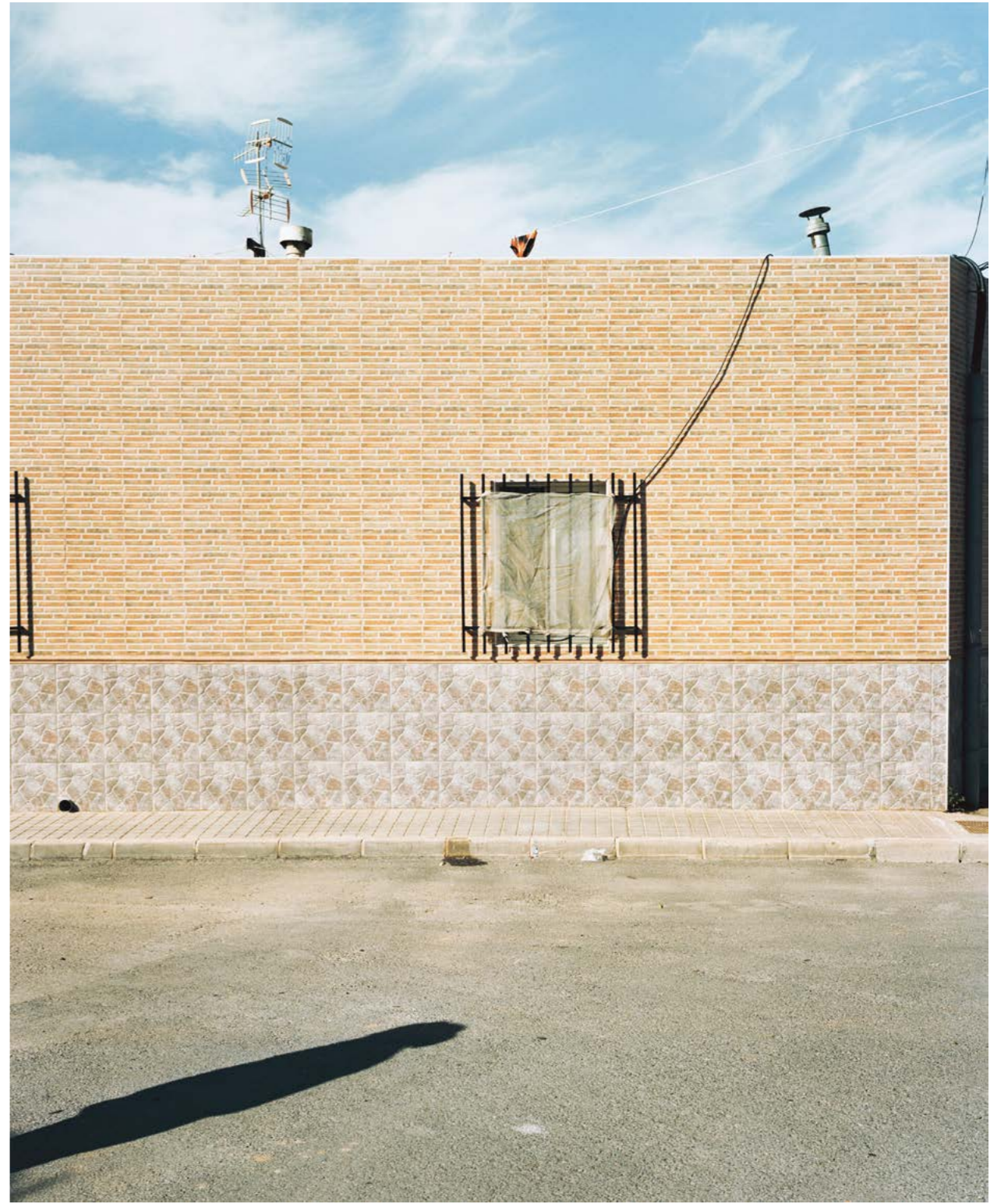
Issue	Exclusion Criteria
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraction of fossil fuels (crude oil, coal, natural gas) and coal reserves • Operation of fossil fuel power plants (>5% turnover) • Production of aeroplanes and cars* • Airline and cruise companies
Declining biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of persistent organic pollutants • Non-sustainable forestry (without FCS certification or similar) • Fishing without MCS label • Non-certified palm oil (RSPO<50%)
Nuclear energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear power plants, nuclear reprocessing plants and nuclear repositories • Production of nuclear reactors • Mining of uranium
Genetic engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of genetically modified organisms • Therapeutic cloning
Further exclusion criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacture of weapons, military vehicles, aircraft and ships • Manufacture of tobacco and smoking products • Manufacture of war technology • UN Global Compact violations • Exploitative child labour • Production of pornography • Production of alcohol (>5% turnover) • Gambling (>5% turnover) • Factory farming

* Conventional car manufacturers without a comprehensive transition strategy for the use of alternative, more climate-friendly engines.

Further sustainability criteria are applied to those remaining companies that are not excluded from the investment pool by the previous criteria. As a result of the entire sustainability process, the STJF portfolio does not, for example, contain any shares or bonds of arms or car manufacturers, or any US government bonds (due to the death penalty, among other reasons). Instead, it contains listed shares of various small and medium-sized companies that particularly promote sustainable development.

4. Properties

The STJF owns several properties, particularly in the Bern area. Some of these properties are older and have already been renovated or will require renovation in the next few years. In addition to structural and economic criteria, ecological criteria are also taken into account for refurbishments and new buildings. Established concepts in Swiss regulation such as "Minergie" or "MinergieP" are applied. Wherever possible, the foundation favours the use of renewable materials for renovations.



2 Focus Topic: Psychosocial Support Programmes for Refugees

2.1 A Review of Psychosocial Support Programmes for Refugees in Switzerland

Against conflict and violence

The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation (STJF) has been supporting campaigns to assist victims of war and conflict for many years. Its contributions benefit the population in conflict areas in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and the Central African Republic. Many of these people are forced to flee their home countries. The STJF therefore also supports projects for victims of war based in Switzerland and the UK. In total, around 800 000 to 900 000 Swiss francs are spent annually on “psychosocial assistance, rehabilitation and counselling for war victims and people affected by conflict” in the listed conflict areas or in these two European countries. The STJF directly approaches Swiss or British organisations that best fulfil the funding strategy defined by the foundation board. The evaluation process considers not just the individual organisations and their specific projects, but also their coordination with existing government provision or other non-governmental organisations on the ground. The STJF aims to award funds to fill specific gaps in existing services, thereby ensuring that its contributions make a sustainable difference. To this end the foundation has developed criteria in collaboration with experts, according to which it invites suitable organisations to submit projects. The following explores the foundation’s funding activity in context, by looking in-depth at the example of domestic projects by Swiss organisations.

Asylum, welfare and integration

Forced migration of refugees to Switzerland has increased in recent years. 30 000 asylum applications were submitted in 2023 and the number of asylum seekers is expected to remain high in 2024. Based on the Refugee Convention and Swiss asylum law, Switzerland has either granted full asylum to around two thirds of asylum seekers since 2018 or taken them in because they cannot reasonably be expected to return to a conflict area. This means that around 10 000 people stay in Switzerland for the long term every

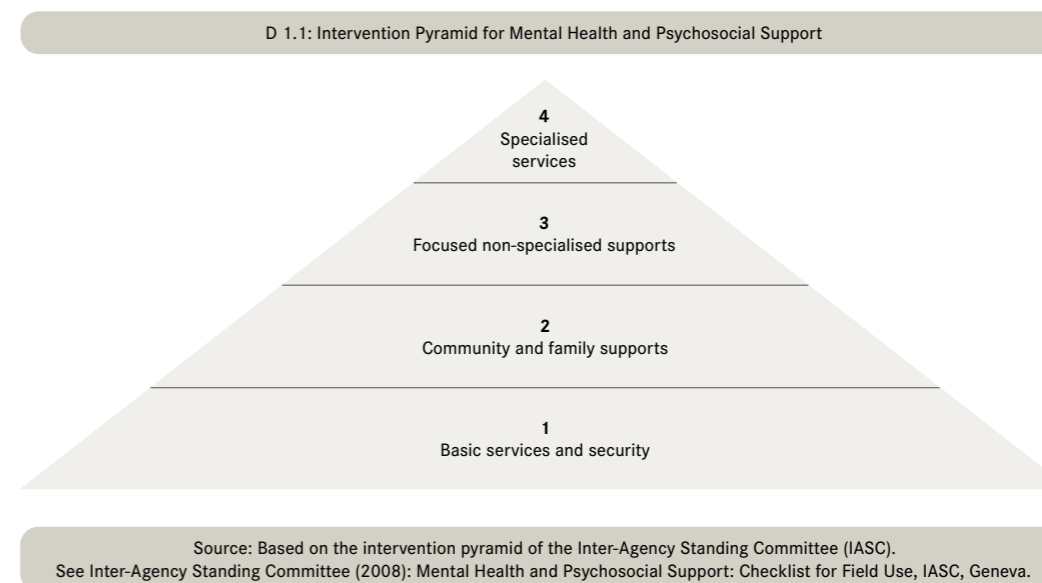
year and start to build a new life here. In addition, there are around 70 000 people in need of protection who have fled to Switzerland from Ukraine. As an end to Russian aggression is not in sight, most of them are also staying in Switzerland, at least in the medium term.

All of these people should be able to lead their everyday lives in Switzerland as independently as possible, integrate professionally and socially and thus participate actively in social and economic life.¹ The government of the canton they end up in initially provides them with accommodation in shared facilities. After a period of at least several months, they will usually be moved into their own apartment. Because these people had to leave their belongings behind when fleeing their homes, they are dependent on social welfare and supported by integration agencies. A case management office helps them organise everyday life, assesses their potential and assigns support measures such as language courses, vocational courses, pre-apprenticeships or social integration programmes.

Meeting challenges with needs-based services

All refugees face major challenges finding their feet in a new environment. Learning the language and professional (re-)orientation takes a lot of energy and patience, a will to persevere and not lose heart. It is even more difficult for those who are struggling with their mental health or other health issues. Based on interviews with experts, a 2019 study suggests that – depending on the definition and the severity of stress – up to two thirds of refugees are affected by post-traumatic stress disorder or other illnesses caused by traumatic experiences.²

Not all of these people need access to therapy provided by psychiatrically or psychologically trained and qualified specialists – in Switzerland, such services are primarily provided by the five outpatient centres for war and torture victims that have joined forces in their own association.³



For some affected persons, a regular routine and structure, participating in leisure activities and maintaining interpersonal relationships already makes a difference. However, this is often not enough. So-called “focused, non-specialised interventions” or “low-level” interventions have therefore proven impactful as an intermediate stage in the intervention pyramid (see illustration). The range of these low-level interventions is broad. They include, for example, so-called “psychoeducation” programmes and courses. These aim to increase awareness of mental stress among those affected, helping them to acknowledge their situation and manage it better in everyday life. Low-level interventions also include structured counselling by suitable staff who have received basic training and entry-level qualifications. These are often stable and well-integrated people from the same country of origin, so-called peers.⁴ The aim of such low-level interventions is to reduce post-migration stress, promote resilience, strengthen people’s ability to integrate and, if necessary, prepare them to engage with other services in the intervention pyramid.⁵

Closing the gap

A number of low-level programmes already exist in Switzerland. However, a study commissioned by the Federal Office of Public Health found that there is a significant need

for additional services.⁶ It cited the lack of funding as the main reason for this gap in services. For many of those affected, access to support is currently not guaranteed and there are long waiting lists. When refugees end up abandoning a promising apprenticeship, when they struggle to concentrate or to learn a language, and find it difficult to enter the workforce, this is often due to post-traumatic stress. Addressing these issues matters first and foremost to avoid chronic mental health trajectories and alleviate personal suffering for those affected. However, from a social point of view, it is also important to reduce prolonged dependence on support services and social welfare and to avert high healthcare costs.

The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation is a central and reliable player in this area, helping to close these gaps with its targeted funding. Building on its contributions in previous years, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation supported selected multi-year programmes in Switzerland in 2021 and 2023. Over the next few years, it will support projects in conflict areas and in the UK on an alternating basis. Family Help is an association founded in Zurich in 2017 that provides professional therapeutic and socio-educational services for children and young people and their families and also promotes the training of future specialists.

Family Help's "aacho" ("arrival") projects offer various counselling services and also a daily structure for those affected. The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation's contribution enables Family Help to provide supplementary social work, training and interpreting that are not covered by government social services.⁷

Through the organisation Psy4Asyl, more than 30 specialists from the Psychologists' Association of the Canton of Aargau have been offering therapy for traumatised and distressed refugees on a largely voluntary basis since 2016. The foundation's contribution has made it possible to further consolidate this service and, for example, to expand group therapies for unaccompanied minors and other affected persons. Psy4Asyl is also involved in further education and awareness-raising.⁸

Femmes-Tische/Männer-Tische is an established programme of moderated discussion groups in all regions of Switzerland. Access to these discussions is usually by word of mouth and via the personal network of the trained moderators. The dialogue on mental health issues takes place in the native language and in the familiar setting of a small number of participants. The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation's contribution has particularly enabled Femmes-Tische/Männer-Tische to develop and expand the training of moderators in the areas of mental health and stress regulation.⁹

Future prospects

When a large number of refugees from Ukraine reached Switzerland in 2022, it became apparent that the need for psychosocial support and treatment would increase. In spring 2022, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) launched a programme to support the establishment and further development of relevant services and to expand the availability of placements for refugees. In this process, the SEM also benefited from the expertise of the projects supported by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation. The federal programme "Stabilisation and resource activation of persons with special needs" is currently running for a limited period from 2022 to 2024. The duration of the programme is expected to be extended, but not the scope of funding.¹⁰ The need for support within Switzerland

therefore clearly remains high. The commitment of the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation will remain important in the future, to alleviate the suffering of people affected by conflict and violence – and to open up new prospects for them.

Adrian Gerber

Adrian Gerber studied history and political science. In 2001, he completed his doctorate at the University of Bern on the question of the state-building process in pre-modern Japan. Since October 2010 he has headed the Integration Division at the State Secretariat for Migration. This department implements the federal government's integration support programme and distributes funding to the cantonal integration programmes and other projects and programmes of national importance.

- ¹ Recognised refugees are granted asylum and a residence permit if they must fear for life and limb in their country of origin for individual reasons. People who are fleeing a general war situation are admitted on a temporary basis (F permit). Around 90% of all persons admitted on a temporary basis remain in Switzerland for a longer period of time than the term "temporary" would suggest. See the report "Vorläufige Aufnahme und Schutzbedürftigkeit: Analyse und Handlungsoptionen" by the Federal Council dated 14 October 2016. Persons in need of protection (permit or status S) are people who have fled Ukraine and have been admitted collectively.
Link: <https://integration-info.ch/shortinfo>
- ² "Psychische Gesundheit von traumatisierten Asylsuchenden. Situationsanalyse und Empfehlungen." Report for the attention of the Federal Office of Public Health, 2018.
- ³ See the Website of the association Torture Victims:
<https://www.torturevictims.ch/verbund/>
In some cantons, other psychiatric services or providers are also available, although access is often not guaranteed due to a lack of professional interpreting services and intercultural expertise.
<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/strategie-und-politik/nationale-gesundheitsstrategien/gesundheitsliche-chancengleichheit/interkulturelles-dolmetschen.html>
- ⁴ One such service is «Scaling-up Psychological Intervention in Refugees in Switzerland», kurz: SPIRIT.
<https://www.spirit-network.ch/kontakt/>
- ⁵ Input by Matthis Schick, Deputy Director for Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics, Universitätsspital Zürich at the Workshop Umsetzung Integrationssagenda, 29.11.2019.
- ⁶ Update "Niederschwellige Kurzinterventionen für psychisch belastete Asylsuchende und Flüchtlinge. Aktuelle Beschreibung der Angebote zuhanden des BAG", Interface: Luzern, December 2021.
- ⁷ <https://www.family-help.ch/>
see the article on pages 26-31 of this report.
- ⁸ <https://psy4asyl.ch/>
see the article on pages 16-19 of this report.
- ⁹ <https://www.femmestische.ch/de/home-1.html>
- ¹⁰ Programme «Stabilisierung und Ressourcenaktivierung von Personen mit besonderen Bedürfnissen» (short: Programm R). On 29 November 2023 a national exchange of experience and knowledge sharing of the projects participating in project R took place at PROGR in Bern.

2.2 “This issue concerns our entire community.” An Insight into the Work of Psy4Asyl¹

At least half of the refugees in Switzerland have mental health problems. For years, the authorities did little to address this. The fact that the situation is improving is partly due to the commitment of volunteers like Sara Michalik-Imfeld.

In late 2015 Sara Michalik-Imfeld saw images that upset her: small boats overcrowded with people battling the waves of the Mediterranean sea. The 48-year-old psychotherapist already had an established practice in a cosy attic in the old town of Aarau. She mainly worked with local children and young people and previously had little contact with the topic of forced migration, except for the stories told by her husband, who had fled the Czech Republic many years before.

The images of the boats and of people on the Balkan route stayed with her. A short time later, Michalik-Imfeld visited a centre for unaccompanied minors in Aarau: “There were over a hundred young people, all without parents. They couldn’t go to school and hardly had anything to do because these support structures didn’t exist back then. There were also not enough carers. As a mother of three children, it troubled me to see young people in these circumstances. I was worried and shaken, and outraged by our society, which allows this parallel world to exist.”

She asked the carer at the accommodation what they needed. He replied: psychotherapy. Michalik-Imfeld began to gather information and quickly realised that there were hardly any services and structures available in Switzerland to improve the mental health of refugees. This lack of services was also criticised by more than half of the asylum coordinators and cantonal doctors in a 2016 survey. There was clearly an overwhelming need.

At least half of the people who come to Switzerland as a result of forced migration suffer from mental health problems. Experts estimate that the figure is around three quarters for young people. Post-traumatic stress disorder and depression are the most common diagnoses. People have flashbacks, recurring memories of the war and subsequent flight. They have trouble falling asleep, difficulty

concentrating, are nervous or easily irritated. For some people, the psychological stress manifests somatically, for example as chronic headaches or back pain. Some drink too much alcohol to forget their stress and worries. And in Switzerland, one of the safest places in the world, the situation often deteriorates. If psychological problems are not treated, they can become more severe and eventually chronic: the cost of treatment increases and the chances of recovery dwindle.

Sara Michalik-Imfeld, who felt appalled and helpless after her first visit to the shelter, did what she advises her clients to do: get active, come into self-efficacy. In 2016, together with colleagues, she founded Psy4Asyl, a network of experts that was joined by other psychotherapists, body therapists, art therapists and counsellors who also wanted to volunteer: “I knew nothing about refugees, the asylum system or how young people grow up in Syria and Afghanistan. I had never worked with war trauma and wondered if I could do it. But I knew that I had to do something, so I got involved.”

A shortage of therapy

She began additional training in trauma therapy. This puts her in a small group in Switzerland. There is a shortage of thousands of therapy places in this country – for everyone, regardless of their residence status. Up to a third of the population is affected by mental illness. There is a particular lack of trauma therapists for refugees, partly because their treatment requires additional knowledge, for example about the experience of forced migration or cultural differences. In 2018, a study commissioned by the Federal Office of Public Health found that in German-speaking Switzerland, it is estimated that less than 10 per cent of asylum seekers in need of specific treatment are receiving it.

As there were only very few existing services to learn from, in the beginning Michalik-Imfeld and her colleagues had to experiment and learn a lot by doing. What works, what doesn’t? Not all of the tried-and-tested approaches to treating young people in Switzerland, for example, can be directly transferred to young men and women from Afghanistan. There are many reasons for this: The conditions in the accommodation centres with shared facilities



Sara Michalik, managing director, Psy4Asyl, courtesy of author

are unsuitable for people with depression, anxiety or sleep disorders who need privacy to rest. Unaccompanied young people lack family support. And there is never enough money to ensure these problems are properly addressed, says Michalik-Imfeld. Cultural differences also play a role, such as different concepts of health and limited knowledge about mental illness. Depending on the culture, people also label their feelings differently, which can lead to misunderstandings. This is why therapists need to develop culturally sensitive approaches and acknowledge the need to learn from each other.

Michalik-Imfeld and her team tested several approaches and quickly realised that it is often seemingly trivial things that help refugees to feel better at first: “We can achieve so much with so little: An important part is psychoeducation. We explain how people react to traumatic stress, why they have bad memories and are often unable to calm down. This gives our clients a better understanding of their own reactions. It’s about making them realise that their feelings are a normal reaction to what they experienced on their journey or in their home country. And we talk about strategies to reduce stress and anxiety, for example thinking about something nice, going for a walk or taking a deep breath. We also give advice on how to sleep better. Taken together, this helps the people we work with to regain a sense of self-efficacy.”

When Michalik-Imfeld explains the help offered by Psy4Asyl, she often draws a pyramid. The area at the bottom, where the pyramid is wide, represents low-level services that should reach as many people as possible. For example, this can involve a specialist going to a refugee centre to talk to a larger group about dealing with stress and anxiety. It also includes creative expression or trauma-sensitive yoga lessons. Michalik-Imfeld remembers how a beaming Syrian boy once showed her a jumper that he had made in a sewing course. “This activation of resources has a similar impact to twenty hours of therapy,” she says with conviction.

Specialists like Michalik-Imfeld have been repeating for years that such programmes need to be expanded throughout Switzerland. After all, not all traumatised people need access to service at the top of the pyramid: individual therapy with a psychotherapist. Some refugees don’t want to deal with their traumas in such depth. And many are impressively resilient, says Michalik-Imfeld. If they are helped to deal with stress and intense feelings such as helplessness, people can often cope well with life despite traumatic experiences.

An issue that concerns society as a whole

In the early years, Michalik-Imfeld and her colleagues at Psy4Asyl were repeatedly criticised. They were often told: “You cannot volunteer to do this for free! Just wait, treatment will eventually be organised by government agencies.”

Although she also thinks that the state does too little, Michalik-Imfeld is annoyed by such criticism. She finds it too simplistic: “It is often said that government departments do too little, the canton should offer more services, or the municipality should.” But, she argues, you can’t simply shift the blame to the canton, the municipality or the local carer: “This issue concerns our entire community. I am convinced that if refugees felt more welcome here and their living conditions were better, they would also feel better psychologically, which in turn would allow them to learn and integrate more quickly. This would be better for society as a whole.”

The unaccompanied young people who attended free therapy sessions with Michalik-Imfeld in 2016 are now all completing an apprenticeship or have already gained a foothold in the working world. “I invest time in the mental health of refugees because I see that they become more stable and can work and learn better,” she says. “The risk of addiction and criminalisation decreases. There are no follow-up costs for society and there is less individual suffering for those affected – which is often passed on to future generations if no help is given.”

With regard to government involvement the situation has changed since 2015, when Michalik-Imfeld launched Psy4Asyl. Although the Federal Offices for Migration and Health had been aware of the problem for some time, the situation only began to improve when tens of thousands suddenly fled from Ukraine to Switzerland in the spring of 2022, says Michalik-Imfeld, agreeing with other experts. Since then, services have been expanded and the authorities are increasingly cooperating with specialist organisations such as Psy4Asyl.

Despite this positive development, the gaps remain large and the need acute. The Federal Office for Migration still does not systematically record how many refugees have mental health problems. The measures taken in Switzerland in the area of mental health support for asylum seekers are therefore based on estimates. Another problem is that funding partners such as health insurance companies, hospitals and cantons have been in disagreement for years about who pays for interpreters, even though studies show that the systematic employment of intercultural interpreters in particular reduces unnecessary visits to the doctor and incorrect diagnoses. Doctors can only

correctly recognise complex clinical presentations such as trauma-related disorders if they understand precisely what their patients are telling them.

Perseverance has paid off

Eight years after founding Psy4Asyl, Sara Michalik-Imfeld has achieved one of her main goals: in 2024 the organisation will be integrated into the official provision of the canton as the point of contact for various government offices in the field of refugee mental health. Every week, for example, a Psy4Asyl specialist visits a refugee centre to talk to the inhabitants. They also train the carers at these centres, as well as the night watch and security staff. In concrete terms, the service mandate from the canton also means that Psy4Asyl is moving into its own office in Aarau, branded the Mental Health and Migration Competence Centre.

The network now includes 50 specialists who are involved in the various services offered by Psy4Asyl. Nevertheless, the number of enquiries far exceeds the services provided. A central task for Psy4Asyl is to find a suitable solution for those affected: Sometimes they can refer mentally distressed refugees to a service offered by regular government agencies, sometimes a therapist from the network takes over.

Michalik-Imfeld has respect for the new task: almost 9 000 refugees currently live in the canton of Aargau. This means that “we will have to clarify what we can actually manage with our resources. How many requests can we coordinate?” Although Psy4Asyl has become a large network and it is important to Michalik-Imfeld to remunerate the work of specialists, only two other people are currently permanently employed by the organisation, both part-time. Nevertheless, she is very proud of what they have achieved so far: “Aargau has become a model canton in German-speaking Switzerland. We offer a wide range of mental health services for refugees and have gained a lot of experience that we are happy to pass on to other cantons.”

She attributes her success to the fact that Psy4Asyl has experience of and insight into many different facets of the issue and is therefore able to grasp a wide range of realities: their therapists are frequently on site in the cantonal accommodation facilities, they treat both children and adults, they are familiar with the challenges faced by carers, they know the stresses and strains placed on social workers and the pitfalls of official structures. “We get a lot of trust from all sides,” says Michalik-Imfeld. “I believe this is due to our solution-orientated approach: we address existing problems, but always with an eye to how we could do better.”

Karin A. Wenger

Karin A. Wenger has been reporting from the Arab world as a freelance journalist for several years. In 2021, she published an extensive research piece on the mental health of refugees in Switzerland in the online magazine Republik.

¹ The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation supports Psy4Asyl with a project contribution of CHF 235 000 for the period 2021 – 2024.



Sara Michalik, managing director, Psy4Asyl, courtesy of author

2.3 Freedom from Torture: Healing Wounds with Music Therapy

The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation has supported Freedom From Torture's music and art-based therapy programme several times since April 2016 with a total of CHF 217 000. The music therapist Harmin Sijercic gives an insight into his personal background and work for the institution.

Freedom from Torture (FFT) was founded in 1985, with the aim of protecting survivors of torture in the UK. FFT is the only national charity in the UK solely dedicated to the care, protection and rehabilitation of torture survivors. We provide a holistic programme of support for our clients encompassing trauma-focused therapies and legal and welfare advice.

Torture survivors are one of the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society, struggling to cope with myriad mental and physical health challenges, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress and bone, joint and muscle pain. Survivors also face a hostile environment upon arrival in the UK and an asylum system that views them with suspicion, as well as a lack of access to healthcare and safe accommodation.

On average, we directly support around 700 clients – adults, children, young people and families – every year through psychological therapy and care coordination across our five treatment centres in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow. For more than 35 years, we have supported thousands of torture survivors to process and recover from their trauma. Our clients are primarily refugees and asylum seekers from states affected by conflict and where human rights abuses are prevalent. They come from countries across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. They were tortured for various reasons, including their religious and political beliefs, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

FFT offers additional therapies to our clients, such as horticultural therapy, bread baking and art and music therapy. Alongside our therapeutic services, we also undertake research, policy, advocacy and survivor activism work to

protect and promote the rights of torture survivors in the UK. We engage in public campaigning to galvanise support in making the UK a place of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers and deliver training and capacity building to ensure that statutory and voluntary organisations understand how to support survivors of torture.

Music as a safe place

My love of music came from my father, who was a keen amateur musician. I learned to play the piano when I was 14, taking lessons at a music school in Sarajevo. In April 1992, war broke out in Bosnia, which meant I never got to finish my studies and had no choice but to flee for my life leaving my parents and brother behind. This was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Eventually, I made my way to the United Kingdom via Ljubljana ending up in Darlington, in the north of England. Living in the UK was a culture shock for me initially, but the support I received from volunteers helped me form a new life for myself. I was touched by their care and support.

After completing my studies, I was able to find a job at the Bosnian Association in Birmingham as a volunteer coordinator, before deciding to apply for a music therapy course at the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre in London. I began working at Freedom from Torture as a music therapist at their London Centre in Finsbury Park. This was 15 years ago, and I am still here today. The reason I wanted to become a music therapist was so that I could help heal others of their trauma through the medium of music. Our clients often find it difficult to talk about their experience of torture, and music helps them to open up and communicate more easily, freeing themselves in the process.

Music therapy has a long history at Freedom from Torture and has been offered as an additional treatment for our clients for nearly thirty years. In therapy sessions, music is used to establish and develop a therapeutic relationship between myself and my clients. It primarily involves improvised music, but pre-composed songs can also be used, as well as voice. A wide range of musical instruments are used in sessions, such as drums, xylophone, guitar and piano.



Client at music therapy, Freedom of Torture, courtesy of author

To participate in music therapy clients do not need to have pre-existing musical skills or any experience as everyone has the ability to respond to music and engage in a musical interaction as a means of expressing themselves. Music has an innate link to our emotional lives and the advantage of having direct access to our emotions.

One of my clients told me that playing music in our sessions made him forget about all his problems and helped transport him to a safe place. He mentioned that he wanted it to be like this all the time. Another client of mine, an Iranian, who had been tortured and punished for playing the guitar in his home country, avoided playing the guitar in therapy sessions as it was a

source of trauma for him. Working closely with him, I supported him to build up trust and he eventually began to play the guitar again. By doing this he was able to process his trauma and overcome his depression, revealing to me that he felt lighter and happier. He has since enrolled on a music course at college and has ambitions to start a career in music.

On a personal level, I find it incredibly rewarding being able to support my clients and witness how music therapy helps them deal with their trauma and transform their lives. I have also used music to alleviate my own stress and worries stemming from the time of the war in Bosnia.



Therapy space, Freedom of Torture, courtesy of author

Building trustful relationships

In a music therapy session, I encourage my clients to use an instrument of their choice or their voice to explore sounds and make their own music. Sometimes I may suggest what instrument to use. The emphasis is on playing music freely and engaging together in the process of making music. Over time, a trusting relationship is established between us through which complex emotions can be expressed and explored within a safe environment. Clients may also use the session to express their feelings and experiences in words, without the need for music. Sessions can sometimes bring up some intense and difficult feelings and emotional expressions that are accepted and acknowledged by me.

One of the clients I have recently been working closely with is a young man from the Ivory Coast who was 17 years old when he witnessed both his parents being killed by rebels because of their ethnicity and support for the ex-president. He and his sister were detained for three months where they were regularly beaten and tortured. His sister later died of her injuries on their journey to the UK. He described thinking about past traumas, having intense flashbacks and disturbed sleep with frequent nightmares. Initially he was reluctant to engage in music therapy sessions, as he had not played any instruments before. After a tentative beginning, however, he slowly started to use a variety of instruments in our sessions, building confidence to engage in a therapeutic musical relationship. He gradually started taking risks, tolerating the uncertainty and managing chaos in our musical improvisations, thus enabling him to build resilience. He commented that the music was like putting a dressing on his wounds that helped to heal them.

Over the last 15 years, I have had the opportunity to support many torture survivors to work through and recover from their trauma by playing music together in our therapy sessions. This experience has been of immense value both to myself and all of the survivors I have worked with. I continue to believe in the power of music as a healing tool that should be available to all those who are struggling with trauma.

I look forward to continuing this journey for many more years.

Harmin Sijercic

Harmin Sijercic is a music therapist at Freedom from Torture



2.4 A Relationship Centred Approach to Trauma: The Project “aacho” by Family Help¹

A relationship centred developmental-psychology perspective improves the mental health outcomes of refugee children and adolescents affected by trauma.

Anyone who remembers their own childhood or adolescence will be aware how formative certain events experienced at a young age can be. Especially if they take place during a critical phase of development, they continue to impact our behaviour and perception of the world well into adulthood or even old age.

Let’s imagine that we were greeted in first grade by a joyful and caring teacher who introduced us to the world of numbers and letters through colourful pictures and stories. During the first three years of school, our brains were able to interconnect a billion sensory and relational experiences and process them into fundamental patterns that last a lifetime. If we follow this example further, it becomes clear that these basic structures – joy of learning, trust in ourselves and others, an empowerment to explore all things new – still determine our feelings, our attitude and our behaviour today. They contribute to an internalized, completely unconscious foundation that supports us when we learn, when new things are demanded of us, when we create, and whenever we affect the world around us or exert influence.

A girl from Kabul

Let’s take another example from among the cases we encounter on a daily basis in our project, and which illustrates the same mechanisms: A 13-year-old girl from Kabul blossoms when learning, she admires her committed and politically active teacher. The older girls who are preparing for university are her role models, she harbours fantasies of one day campaigning for everyone to have the same educational opportunities. In her youthful exuberance, she is convinced that her generation will make a difference. One morning at school, she learns that her teacher has been kidnapped by the Taliban. She later finds out that this teacher and others have been murdered. The girl’s family, whose father was also a teacher, is threatened. The teenage girl and her 11-year-old brother are subsequently sent to flee to Europe by their parents, in the hope that they may survive and lead a better life. The parents plan to join them with their two younger siblings. During the extremely stressful escape, during which they endure further experiences of violence, the siblings learn that the family they left behind has been caught and abducted.

There is still no trace of them today.

These multiple experiences of horror and loss have not “only” left their mark on the mind of the young woman and her little brother as terrible biographical memories. Although the innate human ability to regulate grief is helpful for these siblings to process what happened to them, there is a high risk that these deeply damaging experiences of interpersonal violence will characterise the personality and experiences of the two surviving children for the rest of their lives. If they are unable to build new relationships with caregivers and receive adequate treatment, the “whiff of the past” is likely to have a negative impact on their adult lives. These ruptures in childhood and adolescence will contribute to shaping their identities, their emotional life, their confidence in the self and the world.

After arriving in Switzerland, the young woman developed various psychosomatic complaints, including strong feelings of guilt and inferiority and a profound mistrust. She no longer believed in people’s ability to stand up for their values, to show solidarity or to effect change. She experienced life as meaningless and had a latent suicidal tendency. The multiple dissociative experiences in her emotional life and her body overshadowed the resources she had built up, making her behaviour, her intelligence and all other abilities seem unpredictable. She was no longer able to rely on herself and the vicious circle of inner devaluation took its disastrous course. For a long time, she no longer had access to the transformative empowerment that had characterised her personality in Kabul. Specialists call this reaction “developmental trauma disorder”. The term refers to the complex process and the resulting illness often caused by traumatic experiences during critical (or formative) developmental phases.

A formative impact

The essential traits of the psyche and personality of every child emerge in the first three years of life in interaction with the environmental conditions they encounter. The development of a stable personality involves a person learning to perceive their ego as a unit with different aspects, building up the ability to trust themselves and others and to sufficiently regulate their impulses and feelings. This process requires protection and reliable support

from caring adults (Hopkins, 2008). Particularly during critical phases of development, windows of opportunity open up during which certain new tasks and behaviours must be acquired, embedded in secure relationships. These critical phases build on each other and are therefore difficult or impossible to catch up on later. The experiences that children have during these phases shape them and their mental constitution for the rest of their lives and form the basis of mental health and resilience (Schoore, 2009; Rass, 2011).

These critical phases include the first three years of life, pre-kindergarten age, school entry age between five and seven, the teenage years between eleven and thirteen and the adolescent phase (which, depending on the developmental process, can extend from the age of 14 to around 25). If an earlier developmental crisis cannot be adequately dealt with because there is too much threat and instability in the environment or there is insufficient support to cope with emotional regulation, all further developmental phases that build on it will also suffer. As a result, the maturing young person permanently perceives themselves as insufficiently coherent and unstable. They tend not to trust their feelings, their body and their perceived experience of the world. They are much less able to deal with stress and life challenges. Their opportunities for exploration and learning are fundamentally more limited. It is often very difficult or even impossible for them to access their abilities and resources, and their susceptibility to mental and physical illness is significantly higher than that of children and adolescents who grow up in a secure environment with stable relationships (van der Kolk, 2009 and 2019).

The effects of traumatic experiences in a developmentally sensitive period are devastating because – to put it simply – affected persons are not only psychologically and physically burdened by the traumatic memory for the rest of their life, but also because they had no capacity for set developmental tasks in the face of traumatic experiences at the time. The personality of children and adolescents suffering from early and complex trauma develops around these traumas and their defence reactions: traumatic experiences are, so to speak, burned into the personality.

Intensive internal processes are necessary to disentangle the young person’s self and consciousness from the grip of the horror they experienced (Rumpel et al. 2022).

Conditions of healing

Thanks to the findings of trauma and developmental psychology and the diverse trauma therapy approaches of recent decades, recovery processes and the prospect of successful, sustainable treatment are, however, entirely realistic if the following key conditions are met:

- The young person is *outwardly safe* (secure asylum status, no further threat of deportation, torture, war and arbitrary abandonment, as well as sufficient privacy and intimacy). This external security creates the basis for rebuilding internal security.
- The child or adolescent *experiences new, stable relationships over a period of years*. The affection, empathy and understanding of one or more reliable attachment figures can reactivate the biographical, time-based experience of the self as well as unblock developmental processes. This triggers intermediary processes between what is being dealt with in the past and the physical and psychological present, contributing to a sense of direction, the possibility of change and thus a perspective on the future.
- The grieving processes and trauma management of young people require *professional therapeutic and pedagogical support*. The aim is to create orientation, calm the nervous system, develop regulatory skills, reorganise memories and overcome dissociative splits, to restore a sense of time and biographical narrative and enable self-efficacy and successful learning.
- The affected children *are able to catch up on key developmental steps*, provided they are given space to play in which they can (once again) be children and/or adolescents (gaining new sensory and physical experiences, playing, exploring, experiencing and satisfying age-specific needs, making mistakes, getting to know themselves, tackling things and being self-effective, etc.). Such processes form the basis for the development of a stable identity and are vital for all children; in the case of refugee children they are often literally life-saving.



Participants of the aacho programme, courtesy of author

Obstacles to integration

However, the political and institutional obstacles to the integration of young refugees in Switzerland cannot be overlooked. The asylum procedure for unaccompanied minors and families with children follows federalist and administrative guidelines, which often result in multiple changes (e.g. of location and accommodation) and relationship breakdowns in the lives of young people. Many administrative processes are based on a collective and centralised logic that obscures the interpersonal and developmental needs of children and young people. Specialisation according to age or subject is also widespread in educational and therapeutic contexts. There is still a lack of low-threshold, integrative and long-term services centred on consistent relationship-building even beyond the age of 18, with holistic approaches to developmental processes and needs. It is difficult to finance interdisciplinary and long-term programmes if public funds are only allocated to a certain age group or a specific area (social, education, integration or health). Integrative programmes for children and young people can currently only be implemented thanks to the support of private donors.

The story of the young Afghan woman described above shows that the relationship and development perspective is also beneficial for our society as a whole. For four and a half years, she attended weekly group therapy programmes for girls and young women who have fled alone, and for the last two years she received individual therapy. She used the daily structure provided by the “aacho” (“arrival”) project for body-focused therapy, and counselling services to support her with job applications, moving house, finances, as well as for advocacy with other services, doctors, etc. Her path was anything but straightforward and led her through several crises in which her grief, despair and the associated severe symptoms, including suicidal tendencies, reached a dangerous extent. However, increasingly strong relationships, both with the staff of the “aacho” programmes and in a foster family, ultimately provided her with sufficient support and orientation. The grief therapy interventions began to take effect and her confidence and ability to access her own inner resources improved over time. Thanks to continuous support over several years, the injured young woman was able to find

her way back to her original values and goals, steadily restoring her mental health and completing an apprenticeship as a healthcare specialist. She is no longer dependent on social welfare. Together with other women trained in medical fields, she offers online lessons for Afghan girls in her home country who can only learn in hiding.

Sandra Rumpel

Sandra Rumpel is a psychotherapist and managing director of Family Help.

¹ The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation supports the project “aacho” by the association Family Help with a project contribution of CHF 300 000, initially for a three-year period from April 2023 – February 2026.

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*“There is a dark place in my heart that I locked.
I only share it with my therapist. Sometimes people don’t
believe you. But my therapist does. She listens and hears.”*

Quote from the Baobab Community

2.5 “Building trust takes a long time”: The Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile

In her article, journalist Clea Kahn gives a touching insight into the activities of the Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile¹ which offers important activities to young migrants in a hostile political environment.

Spread across two buildings in London’s East end, the Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile is a warren of cozy rooms dedicated to a wide range of activities, including individual and group therapy, art, music and social gatherings. It is a welcoming place, with soft, comfortable furniture and walls covered with pictures and posters. On a quiet afternoon in late December I am greeted with wide smiles and the offer of tea and biscuits as I wait to meet with Sheila Melzak, Clinical Director of Baobab. This space is a vital hub for young people under the age of 18 who have fled conflict and persecution and who now battle a political and legal environment that is deliberately and explicitly hostile to forced migrants.

Experiences of violence and abuse

Like adult refugees, the young people that access Baobab’s services struggle with trauma, grief and disorientation from experiences in their countries of origin and from their journeys. This is compounded by the stress of navigating a complex asylum system and, if their case is successful, financial hardship resulting from the abrupt withdrawal of the financial and in-kind support provided to people during the asylum process. Sheila points out that unlike adults, young people often face these challenges handicapped by the developmental impact of exposure to severe adverse experiences in early life, particularly in adolescence, with significant impacts at the physical, cognitive and behavioural levels. She notes that many young people have experienced both the generalised violence of war, including the terror associated with witnessing death, and awareness of the risk to their own lives from bombs, gunfire, and “violence against their bodies” – beatings and other physical violations, including sexual violence. Some even have been forced to perpetrate such abuses themselves after being forcibly recruited into armed groups.

Such experiences have an impact on the whole person: mind, spirit and body. Young people may suffer from complex

post-traumatic stress disorder after separation and loss of family and friends alongside loss of culture, place and way of life. They need support in managing symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares and reliving of terrifying experiences, or may “dissociate” – a protective mechanism that involves the mind “stepping outside” of the body or the present moment. Such reactions are natural and normal responses to trauma, but can be profoundly distressing, disorienting and even dangerous. Such symptoms can be addressed through individual therapy and group therapy and community life. This can be challenging, not least because young people who have survived these experiences struggle to develop trusting relationships, particularly with adults and people in positions of authority. Recognising that recovery takes time and patience, Baobab, unlike many organisations, does not place a time limit on how long a young person can remain within the Baobab community. Sheila says that the average involvement is between four and five years, but that some stay much longer, a few up to fifteen years, the duration of their asylum process. Building trust takes a long time.

Recognising this and the many other complex issues young people struggle with, the Baobab Centre aims to be a “one-stop-shop”, bringing together a range of services under a single roof. This avoids service users traipsing from one office or support worker to another, forced to repeat multiple times stories that may be traumatic or disturbing to them. In addition to individual therapy, Baobab provides group therapy and a range of psychosocial activities, as well as access to social workers, lawyers and other needed services.

A place to celebrate diversity

Group work helps build young people’s confidence and sense of belonging. Groups provide them with an opportunity to develop trusting relationships and to have the experience – perhaps for the first time – of being in an environment where it is safe for them to express themselves freely, disagree with others and respect others’ points of view. It supports them in their rehabilitation through the development of interpersonal skills, sense of self and coping strategies. Psychosocial activities, meanwhile, provide opportunities for young people to have new experiences,

“I like being with people who are in a similar situation. It gives me strength, happiness and encouragement. It’s important to know I’m not alone.”

Quote from the Baobab Community

to express themselves creatively, and to connect with others in a less formal and more social environment.

Activities include music, storytelling, drama and visual arts as well as outings for cultural and sporting activities, such as the theatre, art exhibitions, horseback riding and kayaking. Longer therapeutic retreats involve young people and staff living together for several days in rural environments, engaging in daily therapeutic group work and fun. Monthly community meetings allow young people to gather over a meal to discuss current affairs or issues in the Baobab community, or just to socialise. These gatherings represent and reinforce a celebration of the diversity of the Centre, which currently provides services to an average of 70 young people from 29 different countries each week.

Importantly, young people are also integrated into the running of the centre, ensuring that its work is guided by their first-hand knowledge, and providing the young people with invaluable learning and experience. Experienced service users are involved in accompanying newer arrivals and acting as mentors, and there is now a dedicated place on the board of trustees for a young expert-by-experience. Expertise-by-experience also helps inform the Baobab Centre’s advocacy at political levels, which is particularly important as political and public narratives around migration, including forced migration, have become increasingly harsh in recent years.

A hostile legal and policy environment

In the United Kingdom this rhetoric has been accompanied in recent years by a slate of new policies and legislation designed to make an already deliberately hostile environment even more harsh. The Illegal Migration Act, for example, effectively bars anyone arriving by an “irregular” route from claiming asylum in the United Kingdom, despite the

country’s commitments under the international refugee convention. It also places a legal duty on the Home Secretary to remove anyone arriving in such a way either to their home country or to a safe, third country. The government’s considerable efforts to remove asylum seekers to Rwanda has encountered a number of hurdles since it was conceived, from the cancellation of the first flight in 2022 following a legal challenge,² to a judgement in November 2022 by the Supreme Court that Rwanda was not a safe third country for people seeking asylum.³ Despite this judgement, the new legislation introduced by government to make deportations to Rwanda a reality continues to proceed through the courts in early 2024.

For refugees and asylum seekers already in the UK, life is very difficult and, for young people in particular, precarious. In January 2023 the immigration minister admitted that nearly 10% of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children had gone missing from hotels where asylum seekers were being housed – 440 of about 4 600 young people – and of these around 200 had not returned.⁴ This may be only the tip of the iceberg. Contrary to government claims that very high numbers of people pose as children at the border, there is substantial evidence that young people have routinely had their age wrongly assessed at the border and been sent to fend for themselves in unsupervised accommodation or even immigration detention. The UK’s Refugee Council revealed that in 2021 of 233 young people they had worked with who had initially been assessed as adults, 94% of cases were overturned.⁵ A 2023 report released by three other leading refugee charities revealed that that in 2022 more than 1 300 such young people were referred to local authority children’s services departments as a result of government age assessments based on only a short visual check.⁶ In discussing the challenges faced by the young people accessing services through Baobab,

Sheila particularly highlights the dehumanising and invasive nature of policies like those proposed by the government in 2022 to address disagreements about age using X-Rays, MRIs and CT scans.⁷

Hope for a new life

I meet Abdul (not his real name), outside Sheila’s office before his therapy session. He seems cheerful and at ease, which belies the difficult experiences he has had. He has been in the UK for more than two years following a harrowing journey from Afghanistan. First placed in foster care, he left to fend for himself on the streets when he was told he would be transferred away from the Greater London Area where he had friends and was settled in college. It is unfortunately very common both for young people and adults to be moved from one part of the country to another, with little or no notice. This can be very stressful and challenging, often separating people from the tenuous connections they have managed to make and isolating them in communities where no one speaks their language, and where there are very few other refugees or migrants.

Abdul was disoriented and lost, with decreasing hope for his future, until he met someone who recommended he contact Baobab. The Baobab multi-disciplinary team challenged the Social Services Department who organised Abdul’s foster care with neglect of their duties, as they should have found him a legal representative to represent his asylum case, but had not. They responded by challenging Abdul’s age, claiming that he must be an adult to be so articulate, but fortunately one of the independent social workers attending his age assessment meetings realised he was well under eighteen years of age. Abdul tells me that the help has been invaluable, supporting him to get off the streets and into housing, with both legal support and therapy.

“Being with other young people you see how other people deal with problems and stand up for themselves. It can help you feel you have a right to speak up.”

Quote from the Baobab Community



Art exhibition at the Baobab Center, 2022, courtesy of institution

He tells me with real pleasure about swimming and eating kebabs as part of an outing organised by Baobab last summer. At Baobab, he says, “you feel like you are important to someone. Belong somewhere. They see you as a human being and treat you as you deserve.”

Clea Kahn

Clea Kahn has more than 25 years’ experience in the humanitarian field, specialising in protection of civilians in armed conflict and gender-based violence. She is completing a doctorate in psychology and is active in mental health with refugees in the United Kingdom.

¹ The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation has been supporting the Baobab Center for young Survivors in Exile since May 2017 until June 2024 with several project contributions totaling around CHF 395 400.

² Diane Taylor, Rajeev Syal, Emine Sinmaz, *Rwanda asylum flight cancelled after 11th-hour ECHR intervention*, The Guardian, 14 June 2022.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/14/european-court-human-right-makes-11th-hour-intervention-in-rwanda-asylum-seeker-plan>

³ The judgement of the Supreme Court, handed down on 15 November 2023, can be read in full at <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2023-0093-etc-judgment.pdf>

⁴ BBC, *About 200 asylum-seeking children have gone missing, says minister*, 24 January 2023.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64389249>

⁵ Refugee Council, *Identity Crisis: How the age dispute process puts refugee children at risk*, September 2022.

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⁶ Kamena Darling (Maddie Harris), *Disbelieved and Denied: Children seeking asylum wrongly treated as adults by the Home Office*, Humans for Rights Network, Helen Bamber Foundation, Asylum Aid. April 2023.

⁷ *Home Office to introduce scientific methods for assessing the age of asylum seekers*, UK Home Office, 5 January 2022.

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3 Photo series

Postcards from Europe¹

Eva Leitolf

The project *Postcards from Europe* was launched in 2006 and is conceived as an ongoing, open-ended archive. In the photo series, the German artist Eva Leitolf examines the way in which Europe deals with its external borders and associated internal conflicts. Her images do not correspond to the typical postcard idyll, but indirectly tell a story of demarcation, violence and suffering.

Leitolf achieves this by combining photos of specific places linked to histories of migration with carefully researched texts about these places. Media reports, police files and press releases formed the starting point for Eva Leitolf's research. She kept a diary while travelling and spoke to people on the ground who were involved in these events, including migrants, activists, local politicians and border guards. The postcard texts are the result of these collected facts and voices.

Eva Leitolf is an artist, professor and head of the studio
Image at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

¹ Archival pigment print on archival mount board,
68.6 × 83.5 cm, console, postcards

Selected works from *Postcards from Europe* have been shown at the following venues, among others: Minshar College in Tel Aviv (2016), Pinakothek der Moderne Munich (2017), Kunstraum Niederösterreich in Vienna (2017), DePaul Art Museum, University of Chicago (2020), A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, University of Michigan Museum of Art and The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida (2020). In 2022 the series was exhibited as part of the *Sala Viaggiatori* project in the former customs pavilion at the Swiss border in Castasegna, supported by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation.















4 News from the Support Sectors

4.1 Culture

June Johnson Newcomer Prize

Since 2013, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation has awarded the June Johnson Dance Prize every 2 years in partnership with the Federal Office of Culture. The prize is dedicated to the memory of June Johnson, the wife of Stanley Thomas Johnson. Since 2021, the prize of CHF 25 000 has been awarded annually and is now no longer restricted to dance but open to all performing arts. The aim of the June Johnson Newcomer Prize is to promote outstanding achievements by dance and theatre professionals at the beginning of their careers. The financial support contributes to the realisation of planned projects. In addition, public recognition raises the profile of the prize-winners and facilitates their professional networking. The laureates benefit from the fact that the Newcomer Prize is awarded in the context of the Swiss Performing Arts Awards.

Laureate 2023

In October 2023, the June Johnson Newcomer Prize was awarded to Marc Oosterhoff at the Federal Office of Culture's Swiss Performing Arts Awards. In 2017, he founded Cie Moost, which moves between acrobatics and contemporary dance and theatre. See ciemooost.com

An excerpt from the laudatory speech by STJF trustee Ursula Frauchiger:

Marc Oosterhoff mesmerises his audience as an explorer of last things. He stands on one side of the seesaw and throws sandbags over to the opposite side until he and the sand are evenly balanced. That takes time. He has time. And so does his audience. He rocks on a chair, and knives jut out from underneath. The rocking must not go wrong under any circumstances. He staggers and sways across the stage, completely absorbed by his dance partner, the banana peel on the floor. His audience is too. "First the body. No. First the Place. No. First both", writes Samuel Beckett. In Marc Oosterhoff's work, body, stage and time are one. First all three. A clown, a poet and explorer of the last analogue things, somewhere between disaster and magic. Marvellous.



Award ceremony for Marc Oosterhoff at LAC Lugano in October 2023, ©Adrian Moser

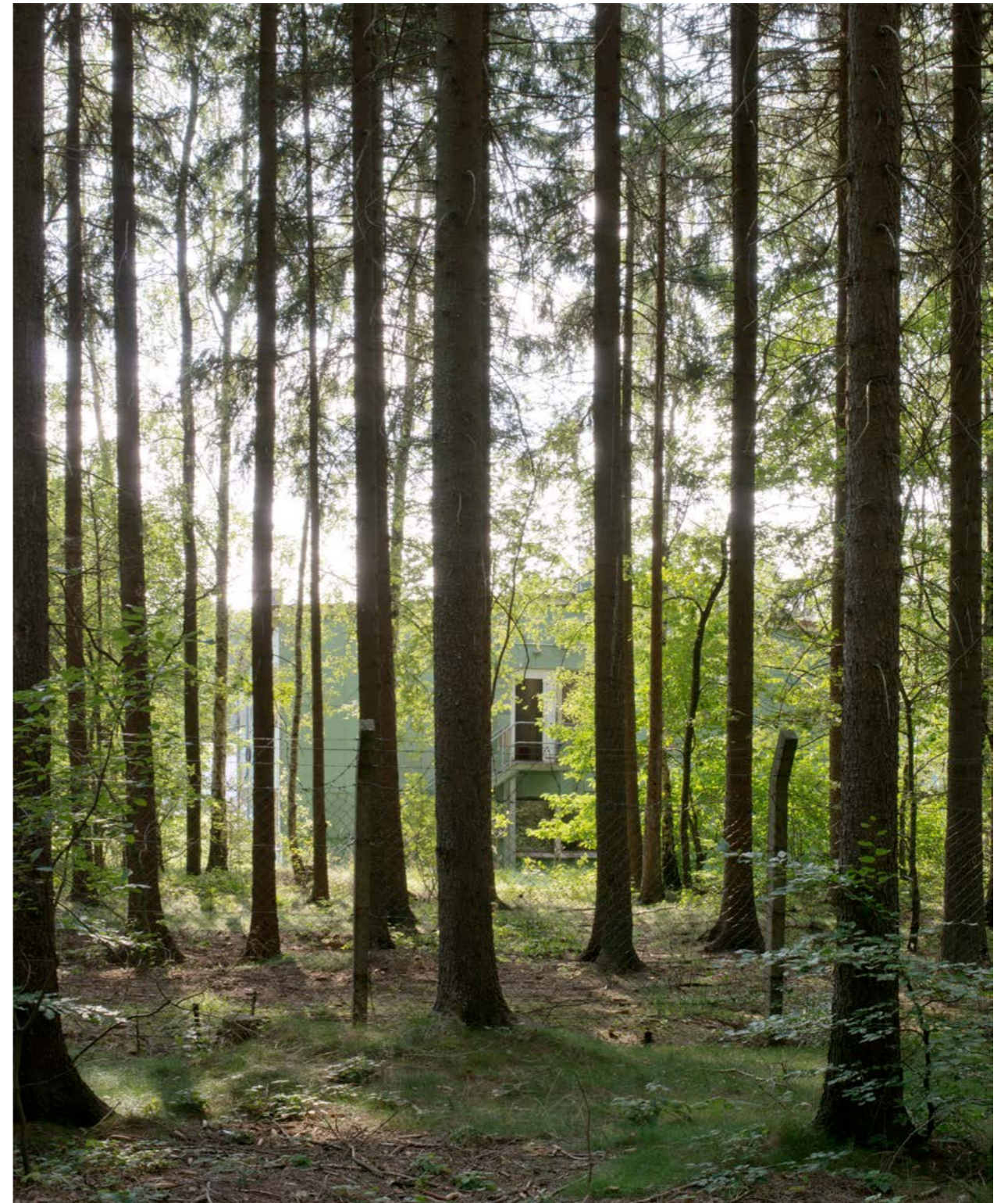
4.1 Thank You Beat Wismer! New Experts Join the Culture Commission

Beat Wismer, who served as a trustee for many years, retired from the board in November 2023. His extraordinary commitment and lasting influence were honoured with a farewell party at Villa Bernau. The event included food and drink as well as jazz music from Peter Schärli and his band.

Beat Wismer was responsible for the areas of visual arts and jazz in the Culture Commission. He will be succeeded by Rachel Mader (lecturer in art and design at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts) and Wolfgang Zwiauer (lecturer in jazz at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts). Dance expert and educator Agata Lawniczak was newly elected to the commission for the area of dance.



Beat Wismer at Villa Bernau, 6.11.2024



4.1 Culture–Partnership Projects: Theatre and Dance

Partnership projects are selected among institutions and groups with high potential from across all cultural sectors and contribute to the artistic and/or operational development of the beneficiaries in areas such as production, booking, management, accounting, public relations or infrastructure.

Heitere Fahne, 2021–2024

The operation of the inclusive cultural venue Heitere Fahne in Wabern is secured and developed in the long term through professionally monitored organisational development. See the interview on p. 58



Heitere Fahne, on tour with PUFF! Theaterspektakel in Zurich 2023, ©Julia Schöni

4.1 “How much structure does it take to function well?” Beate Engel in conversation with Rahel Bucher and May Drewes about the foundation’s partnership project Heitere Fahne

An interview by Beate Engel with Rahel Bucher and May Drewes about the organisational development of the inclusive cultural venue Heitere Fahne, which was made possible by a partnership with the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation from 2019 – 2024.

Rahel, you started the process of organisational development for the cultural venue Heitere Fahne in 2019 with the financial support of our foundation. Why was that necessary?

RB: In the pioneering phase after we launched in 2013, we were constantly overwhelmed. Success took us by surprise and we were overstretched for years. The organisation – a collective of around 25 people – grew organically, many processes were informal and not clearly defined for everyone involved, which led to conflicts over time. We wanted to establish more calm and clarity and develop a new financial and organisational structure together.

With the support of our foundation, you hired an organisational consultant to monitor the initial phase of the process. What were the most important results of this consultation?

RB: The guidance of professional expert was certainly important, but also intense. One major innovation is the “Cheerful Planet System”, which has structured the way we operate for almost three years. Each “planet” has people in charge, a schedule of meetings and clear decision-making and communication channels. The inclusive “heart planet”, for example, consists of around ten people and takes care of the day-to-day running of the place. The “culture planet” manages the cultural events. It is also inclusive and consists of four people. Our board is also inclusive and from summer 2024 there will no longer be any overlap of roles among the board of directors and the management. We also have an improved work-life balance.

Were there any conflicts during the development of the new organisational structure?

RB: We all agreed on our mission statement, our shared values. When it came to determining how we wanted to live out these values and visions, there were different attitudes and some conflicts. We had to find a balance between institutionalisation and freedom, between hierarchy and co-determination. We are a collective, but that doesn’t

automatically mean that everything is decided democratically at grassroots level. Our company does not function that way. “Ground control”, our management, is now responsible for taking the final decisions.

There have been staff changes, some employees have left the team and others have joined. New positions have also been created. May Drewes, you have been responsible for fundraising and communication for culture at Heitere Fahne since September 2023. What do you think of the current organisational structure?

MD: I find the work exciting and feel very comfortable here. I think the clear structure is important, but there is still room for me to get involved in other areas at times, such as the festival decorations. I also really like the fact that the organisation is inclusive. This applies to the entire cultural programme and also gives rise to special formats such as the Säbeli Bum Festival that celebrates inclusivity.

Rahel, your inclusive theatre group has now also worked with established institutions. The play La Strada was created in collaboration with Bühnen Bern. How did the collaboration go?

RB: We are still learning. On the level of personal interactions, the collaboration with Bühnen Bern was lovely. The differences in terms of processes and structures raised important questions on both sides. The operational structures at the municipal theatre are less flexible than ours and the production’s resources were too limited to conceptualise *La Strada* together from the outset. The rehearsal processes for an inclusive theatre project like ours are different to those in a professional theatre. We have to take the special needs of the performers into account: it takes a lot more time to settle in and you can only plan short, concentrated rehearsal times. So we decided to split the play up and include a prologue with the actors from our Heitere Theatre Studio, which we were able to develop separately and at our own pace.

How much say does the inclusive community have in the planning of your cultural programme?

RB: In the run-up to the play *Metamorphoses*, we chose the theme together. The inclusive booking group suggests bands to book and raises issues that matter to them,



Heitere Fahne, on tour with PUFF! Theaterspektakel in Zurich 2023, ©Julia Schöni

such as critical aspects of the IV pension for people with disabilities. An actor from Heitere Theatre Studio also attends our cultural meetings once a month to review and question the programme with us.

What is the general situation now with regard to your social security and wages?

RB: We have certainly made progress in this area. We now have a retirement provision, a transparent salary model and 10 weeks paid holiday. Nevertheless, we still do a lot of voluntary work and we are still nowhere near our desired salary of CHF 5 000 for a full time position.

Is the company as a whole currently more financially secure than it was at the start of the organisational development process?

RB: We can’t say that in general terms. We have certainly been able to negotiate better funding conditions, such as

multi-year support agreements with some donors. Since the beginning of 2024, we have also had a tripartite service agreement with the municipalities of Köniz and Bern, which is a welcome recognition of our work, but does not translate to more public funding than before. The Heitere Fahne still relies heavily on volunteers. One issue we are working on is to get some financial support for the social services that the Heitere Fahne has largely provided free of charge in the past – such as low-threshold counselling for people with special needs, which does not fit into any existing funding framework.

RB: We went on tour through Switzerland last year, which was a very enriching experience. We always put a lot of effort into our productions and it is more sustainable and satisfying to show them elsewhere. We would like to expand on this and hope to receive even more financial support at a national level in the future.



Heitere Fahne, theatre project La Strada 2023, courtesy of author

What topics are you engaging with in your current programme?

MD: Our motto this year is “What time do you actually live in?” It’s about creating a new awareness of how we deal with time. It also took time for the new processes in our community to consolidate and bear fruit, and it will continue to take time.

RB: I think it’s important to talk openly about institutional challenges and to learn from each other. The Heitere Fahne is a pioneering project that can serve as a model for others, and we are happy to exchange ideas with other institutions.

The partnership with our foundation ends in June 2024. Are the new organisational structures now in place and are you happy with them?

RB: I think we now have enough structure. I’m looking forward to finally being able to focus more on creative content again. Now that a certain calm has settled in, we can push the boundaries again, create some explosions.

Rahel Bucher is a co-founder of Frei_Raum collective and Heitere Fahne, cultural manager, theatre practitioner and part of the “Groundcontrol” management team at the Heitere Fahne.

May Drewes studied journalism and communication as well as postcolonial studies in Berlin and Melbourne, works primarily in PR, communication and production and has been employed at Heitere Fahne since autumn 2023 for fundraising and communication.

4.1 Special Project “Cultural Participation”

In autumn 2023, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation launched the special project “Cultural Participation”. This pilot project promotes cross-disciplinary participatory cultural projects by associations, institutions and professional artists in collaboration with various communities and amateur groups. The foundation board has allocated a special fund of CHF 350 000 for this purpose.

The special project “Cultural Participation” is intended to foster the cultural activities of individuals and groups, encouraging their self-expression and participation in shaping cultural life. In addition to artistic quality, the project emphasises the active authorship of participants, (co-)creation and process quality. Shared creative processes strengthen equal opportunities and contribute to cultural diversity.

Recent years have seen an increasing number of applications for projects in the areas of education, integration, participation or inclusion that were implemented professionally and to a high quality standard. The foundation therefore launches this special call for applications in the area of “cultural participation” to emphasise the importance of the topic and recognise the achievements of existing and planned initiatives in the field, which the existing funding structures were not able to consider adequately. The foundation thereby actively contributes to structurally and sustainably embedding participation in the cultural sector.

“Cultural participation” was already the focus of the 2021 annual report, which provided an insight into the current discourse and presented individual institutions funded by the foundation whose practice is dedicated cultural participation. These include partnership projects such as the Heitere Fahne, the Stanser Musiktage, the dance ensemble BewegGrund and the Tabula Musica orchestra.

In the run-up to the call for proposals, three workshops were held with external experts to develop and refine the underlying values, intended impacts, criteria and formats of the funding programme.

The response to the project was overwhelming: a total of around 100 applications were submitted in the fields of theatre, dance, music and visual arts. The projects will be selected in 2024.



Kulturkosmonauten, Muse des Friedens, ©Pamela Dürr

4.2 Victims of Conflict and Violence

The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation supports people affected by war and armed conflict by focusing funding in the area of “Victims of armed conflict and violence”. The foundation works to protect the lives, safety, dignity and physical and mental wellbeing of these people.

The foundation supports local organisations that are active in the UK or Switzerland and those that are based in Switzerland or the UK and carry out projects in certain predefined countries (see the country list on the STJS website).

Since 2020, the foundation has directly approached organisations based in Switzerland or the UK that it believes best fulfil the funding strategy and criteria defined by the foundation board and are in a position to plan and implement relevant projects.

Particularly in the area of local projects in the UK, the range of organisations known to us was limited. The board of trustees therefore decided to carry out an analysis in the UK and commissioned a British specialist to support the foundation to select suitable charitable organisations in the UK.

The portfolio contained around fifteen organisations each of which submitted a project outline. Seven organisations were invited to submit a short project proposal, while the five most convincing project proposals were given the opportunity to submit a full application. The foundation board will decide which of these organisations will be supported by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation in March 2024.

In March 2023, contributions were made to the following organisations:

Organisations in Switzerland:

family-help, Zürich

Project title: aacho

Refugee children and young people are provided with long-term psychotherapeutic and socio-pedagogical support. In the case of severe trauma-related symptoms and during crises, they also receive individual therapy or attend an integrative, structured day centre.

Project duration: 01.04.2023 – 28.02.2026

Project Contribution: CHF 300 000

www.family-help.ch

Organisations in the UK:

International Rescue Committee, London

Project title: Essential Assistance to Children and their Families Affected by Conflict in southern Yemen

The project aims to promote the protection and wellbeing of children affected by conflict and their families in southern Yemen. The proposed measure will mitigate the negative effects of stress and hardship on children, promote their social and emotional learning, strengthen their resilience and create a safe and protective environment in which children can fulfil their potential.

Project duration: 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2025

Project Contribution: CHF 300 000

www.rescue-uk.org

War Child, London

Project title: Engaging Children and Young People as Promoters of Peace and Reconciliation in Central African Republic

For more than four years, the War Child foundation has been supporting efforts to strengthen the resilience of children and young people affected by the conflict in Ndélé in the Central African Republic.

Project duration: 09.04.2023 – 13.04.2026

Project Contribution: CHF 258 367

www.warchild.org.uk

Street Child UK, London

Project title: Safe, in School, and Learning: Keeping Hope Alive for Afghan Children

Community-based education programme that provides security and protection for 4 900 conflict-affected children in Afghanistan.

Project duration: 01.03.2023 – 01.04.2024

Project Contribution: CHF 58 548

www.street-child.org

4.3 Medical Research

Launch of a new support programme for refugees and displaced persons

Last year, the Foundation launched a new funding programme to support projects for the protection and improvement of the health of refugees and vulnerable people in conflict regions. The programme is funded by the sectors “Medical research” and “Victims of conflict and violence”. An internal evaluation of two projects at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), which were funded from 2019 to 2023, revealed that supporting such large and complex international projects requires external expertise and guidance. For this reason, the foundation appointed an independent panel of experts and commissioned it to develop the new funding programme and assess the applications. As a review panel, the committee will also advise the foundation during the realisation of these projects. The panel consists of the following people:

Denise Efiyayi-Mäder – University of Neuchâtel, Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies

Laurent Goetschel – University of Basel, Professor for Political Science; Director of Swisspeace

Martin Leschhorn – Managing Director of Medicus Mundi Schweiz

Nicole Rähle – Swiss Red Cross, International Cooperation, Senior Health Advisor

Peter Steinmann – University of Basel, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Swiss Center for International Health

Myriam Tapernoux – Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, Head Department Science

Michaela Told – Director HI5 Governance; Lecturer at the University of Geneva, Global Studies Institute

The foundation commissioned Thomas Gass, Consultant for Development and Cooperation, to coordinate the review panel and manage the call for proposals.

In response to the call, 25 project applications were submitted and assessed by the review panel. At the request of the panel, the foundation board approved the funding of the following four projects totalling CHF 2.6 million in November 2023:

- *Swiss Red Cross*: Removing barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services in centres for displaced people from Rakhine State in Bangladesh
- *Swisspeace*: Supporting the psychosocial and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrian women struggling with complex loss in Syria, Lebanon and Germany
- *FAIRMED*: War, displacement, economic and food crises, and disease – overcoming multiple stresses on the way to better health and wellbeing by improving gender equality in Jaffna and Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka.
- *Swiss TPH*: Democratisation of measures against neglected tropical diseases through “citizen science” to improve women’s health in a precarious environment at Lake Chad, Chad

The funding programme will run from 2023 to 2025 and the review panel will meet twice a year to assess the progress of the projects. From the previous programme period, Swiss TPH’s “SysRef” project for a digital system to improve healthcare for refugees in Chad came to a successful conclusion in 2023. In collaboration with the local health authorities and the UN Refugee Agency, Swiss TPH developed a digital tool that facilitates the clinical diagnosis and treatment of diseases for local medical staff and improves the quality of therapy. The digital solution was tested and successfully introduced in three health centres in the Goré district in southern Chad on the border with the Central African Republic, particularly for the treatment of children and the care of pregnant women. The app was tested in 26 000 medical consultations for infants and will be introduced by the participating organisations in other health centres in the Central African region and beyond in the future.

4.4 Education and School Projects

Project 2nd Chance for a 1st Education A reason to celebrate! Eight Adults complete their first vocational qualifications

Since 2023, Switzerland has eight more skilled experts: several project participants in our flagship project “2nd Chance for a 1st Education” successfully completed their training as business administrators, nursing and care specialists, logistics specialists and road transport specialists. Even if their path to qualification in adulthood was not always easy, everyone agreed at the graduation party: it was worth it.

In mid-August, participants in the “2nd Chance for a 1st Education” project celebrated the completion of their initial training programmes at the Schöngrün restaurant in Biel. Together with the project managers from the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, counsellors from the career guidance centre (BIZ) and job coaches they enjoyed some Spanish tapas and paella. The graduates were delighted with their achievements, and rightly so, as they mastered the challenges of juggling family, job and school during the training period.

Multitasking every day

The path to gaining their qualifications was no walk in the park for the project participants: at the graduation party, they said that caring for children while putting in the hours and language barriers were particularly stressful in some cases. However, with good organisation and support from their families, employers and project managers, they were able to maintain their motivation to complete their qualifications and thus create better career prospects for themselves.

Diverse success stories

The participants’ life stories are as varied as their qualifications: One participant completed her training as a certified healthcare specialist, three are now certified commercial clerks, one works as a certified logistics specialist, one has completed his apprenticeship as a certified road transport specialist and two are now certified childcare specialists. At the graduation celebration, they emphasised the importance of their qualifications for their professional development and the positive impact this process

has had on their families. An excellent example is Karthiga Thiruselvam, who is so enthusiastic about her new profession that she has already decided to continue her training by studying for a higher nursing diploma beginning in September 2023.

Conclusion: Courage and determination are the keys to success

It is particularly inspiring that seven of the eight new specialists have already found jobs. This is not only proof of the skills they have acquired, but also demonstrates the demand for well-trained employees in the Swiss labour market. The stories of the project participants show that it is not only possible to catch up on basic qualifications in adulthood, but also extremely worthwhile. They show that courage and determination can lead to remarkable successes and that this investment in the future is worthwhile.

2024 – 2026: The project continues

In November 2023, the 4th round of “2nd Chance for a 1st Education” was announced. A new round is now launched annually. For this reason, the number of participants will now be limited to a total of 24 people per season. 12 people are funded by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation and 12 people are supported by local social services. By the deadline, 64 applicants had registered. The cantonal career guidance centres (BIZ) clarifies whether these candidates are suitable for vocational training by assessing their language skills, basic digital skills, cognitive abilities, personal aptitude, career goals etc. Participants for the 4th round will finally be selected in mid-June 2024. The preparatory phase for vocational training begins in August. Further rounds are planned for 2025 and 2026.

The sponsorship of the project continues in partnership with the Health, Social Affairs and Integration Department (GSI), the Secondary School and Vocational Training Office (MBA) and career guidance centres (BIZ) of the Canton of Bern.

4.4 School Projects Supported by the Foundation

GemüseAckerdemie

The GemüseAckerdemie educational programme is integrated into the regular curriculum. Children sow, tend and harvest vegetables in the school's own field. By growing over 30 vegetable crops, the children learn to recognise the importance of healthy soil and biodiversity as the basis of our lives and develop an appreciation for nature and food. The educational programme empowers the schools to cultivate the field largely independently after four years, enabling as many children as possible can grow their own vegetables at least once in their lives.

Youth Radio *Aare Funk*: The voice of the next generation!

From 3–17 2023, around 220 young people spent two

weeks making live-radio from a mobile studio trailer on Münsingen's village square. Beforehand, part of the core team of 24 adolescents met for a radio workshop at the local station RaBe in Bern. Inspired by the studio atmosphere, initial ideas for possible programmes quickly came together. Topics such as "Coffee with Senior Citizens", "How to Choose a Career", "Women's Strike" or "Swiss Rap" contributed to a varied and entertaining programme. The blue and yellow studio trailer and the HörBar became a popular meeting place for different people and generations during the project's two-week duration. The co-creators and interested public remained involved and enthusiastic until the last minute on air. An all-round successful project that all participants remember fondly.



GemüseAckerdemie, courtesy of author



Aare Funk, courtesy of author



Surprise macht Schule, courtesy of author

Surprise macht Schule

The project "Surprise macht Schule" is about the Surprise organisation for the homeless. The education programme was developed to sensitise schoolchildren to the causes and consequences of poverty, homelessness and social exclusion. The 2022 pilot project was evaluated and can now be booked by schools as a permanent programme.

The teacher is provided with a lesson plan and working material for an introductory lesson in advance, which introduces the pupils to the topic. The subsequent workshop, which focuses on the topics "Poverty and homelessness" and "Poverty and addiction", is organised by one or two workshop leaders and is designed to cover four lessons. The workshop leaders, who have personal experience of these issues, prepare the topics together with the students. They discuss their own eventful life stories in class and enter into dialogue with the young people. They talk about poverty risks, downward spirals and life on the street. They also reveal the obstacles, stigmatisation and emotional burdens they were confronted with. The students also learn about the factors that helped them find their way back to a better life, how they succeeded and where they are today.

All content is aligned with curriculum 21 and pursues and expands the goals and competences defined there.

Surprise provides close support, training and further education for the workshop leaders.

Through direct encounters and dialogue with those affected, the project enhances understanding for other ways of life and breaks down prejudices about structural poverty, homelessness and exclusion. The setting achieves active togetherness. The young people appreciate the trusting setting and the openness and ability of the workshop leaders to reflect on their own biographies. Teachers rate the workshop leader's didactic competence broad background knowledge.

Facts about Surprise

Around 720 000 people in Switzerland live below the poverty line. The topic is often taboo and prejudices against socially disadvantaged people are omnipresent. There is hardly any dialogue with people affected by poverty. This is precisely where Surprise has been active since 1998: The association offers people who have limited or no access to the labour market the opportunity to pursue an activity and earn money: by selling the street magazine, as a city guide on the social city tours, as a workshop leader for "Surprise macht Schule" or in an opportunity workplace.

4.4 Cultural Projects for Schools – Competition Tête-à-Tête

Since 2015 the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation has been a funding partner of the competition tête-à-tête, promoting innovative cultural education projects in co-operation with the Cultural Department of the Canton of Bern. The participatory projects run for several months and enable school classes from Bern to engage intensively with artistic creation and cultural history.

The competition is tendered every two years. In autumn 2022 artists were called to submit their new project ideas. The projects selected by the expert jury in this 8th round of the competition were announced in early summer 2023.

Four new projects were selected for implementation in 2023:

GLOBULO
by the association MUTUM
at Schwarzenburg Primary School

How do you imagine your future on this planet? The first step is for the pupils to explore various topics relating to the future. Building on this, they gradually create a theatre spectacle and products for the large “Market of Possibilities” on the topic of “a sustainable future for the environment and our fellow beings”. The children imagine and design the market products and invent, write and stage the theatre with the support of a team of artists. They work in mixed groups on arts and crafts, puppet theatre, stage design, props, costumes and dramaturgy. The pupils are also involved in the organisation, promotion and documentation of the public presentation that concludes the project.

Kraftzentrale. Mit Gorillas auf Reisen
by Team Kurt (Christian Pfütze, Marius Kob)
and Gina Gurtner at Hochfeld School in Bern

How can we be strong together? The theatre project *Kraftzentrale* (power centre) invites pupils to explore powers of movement with reference to their own bodies and gorillas – sometimes in the shape of a larger-than-life puppet figure that the children guide together. In the process, they discover natural and artistic, individual and collective forms of movement. On the one hand, participants experience how their individual capacities can unlock the potential of collaborative co-operation. On the other hand, the project explores issues such as the social and biological characteristics of humans and animals and the fragility of organisms and habitats. Together with the artists, the pupils develop stories, choreographies and a show. In the end, they travel with the gorillas through the classrooms, the schoolyard, and the streets and squares of the neighbourhood.

wowiewas
by Andreas Egli und Jürg Frey
Steigerhubel School in Bern

Where do you live? What does your house look like? Where do you like to go in your neighbourhood? Are there any funny or secret places? Which places and paths do you remember? The pupils explore their neighbourhood together. As research teams they look, draw and take pictures. They observe and take note, collect and sort, listen and record noises and sounds. This process provides the children with a wealth of information that strengthens their sensory awareness of their surroundings and feeds their imaginations. In a laboratory set up in the school, the children draw, model, visualise and create soundscapes to make subjective maps using the material they collected. The resulting (sound-)maps are distributed around the neighbourhood and in local cultural institutions and posted online. The project culminates in a presentation with music at the school festival.

Im Tanzlabor – Natur mit Tanz erforschen
by Susanne Mueller Nelson, Jenni Arne and Regula Mahler, Partnering School tbd

What are bodies made of and how do you move yours? How do you feel gravity, how do you dance water? It's time for creative research and experimentation! Together with dance teachers, all classes in the school investigate natural phenomena and experience sensually how scientific and artistic methods complement each other. Physical forces and material properties are explored and visualised through moving the body. Pupils engage with the natural and built environment through movement and experience their bodies as part of nature and nature as part of their bodies. The project concludes with an open day, where classes present their research results to the public in the form of live movement experiments and choreographies.

5 Application Statistics 2023

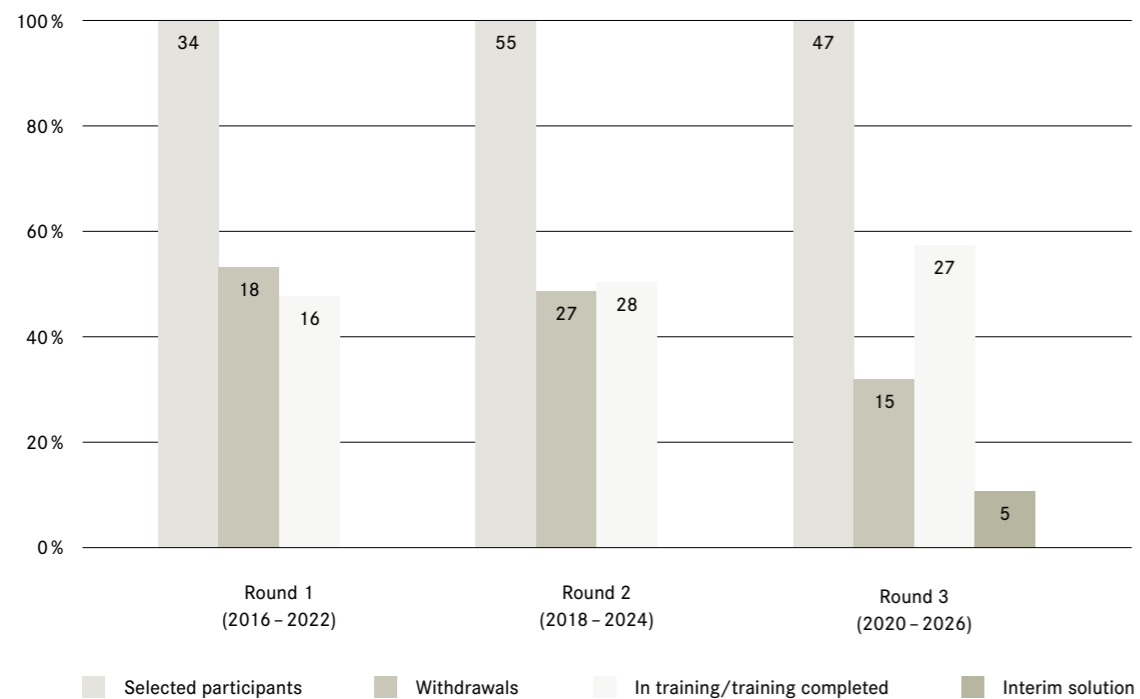
5.1 Project “2nd Chance for a 1st education”

Status: 31.12.2023

136 Participants in total

Of the 136 selected participants 76 (56%) remain in the project. 41 participants (30%) have successfully completed their qualifications, 30 (22%) are currently in training, 5 (4%) are in an interim solution and are searching for a training place for summer 2024.

Overview of all Project Rounds



5.2 Number of applications according to sectors

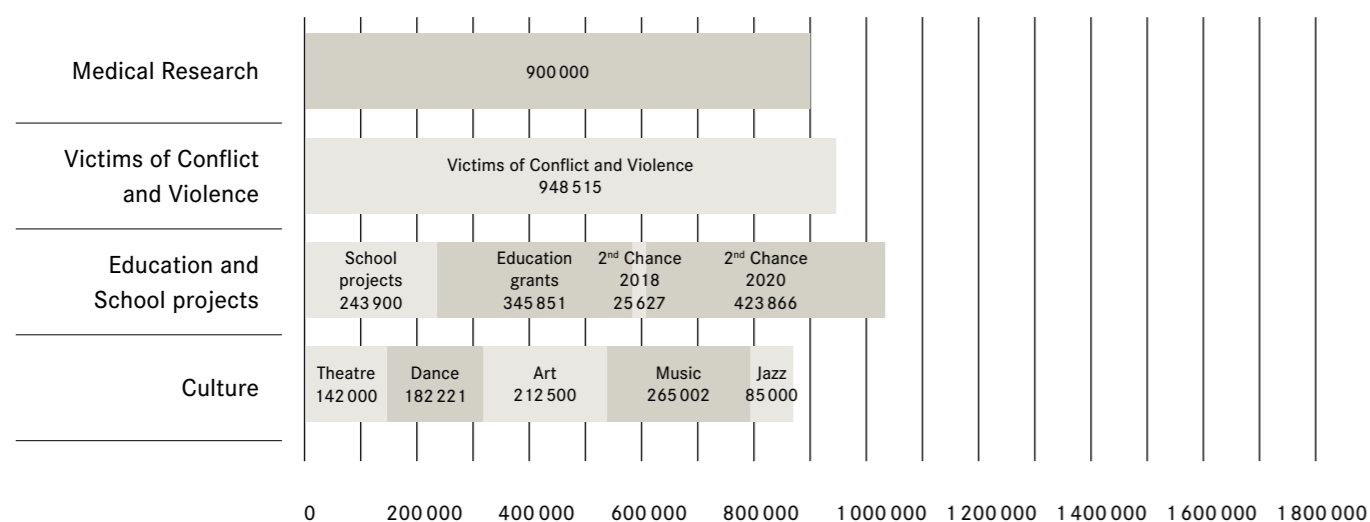
Sectors	Subsectors	Approvals	Rejections	Total
Medical Research	Medical Research	4	2	6
Victims of Conflict and Violence	Conflict and Violence	4	4	8
Education and School projects	Education grants	29	24	53
	School projects	19	17	36
Culture	Music	29	180	209
	Jazz	8	11	19
	Visual art	22	113	135
	Theatre	17	138	155
	Dance	21	76	97
Total		153	565	718

5.3 Applications approved by the board according to project host countries 2023

Land	Medical Research	Victims of Conflict and Violences	Education and School projects	2 nd Chance for a 1 st Education 2018	2 nd Chance for a 1 st Education 2020 ³⁾	Culture	Total in CHF
Switzerland		300 000	589 751	25 627	423 866	821 294	2 160 538
UK						65 429	65 429
Afghanistan		58 548					58 548
Myanmar	250 000						250 000
Sri Lanka	150 000						150 000
Syria	200 000						200 000
Chad	300 000						300 000
Yemen		300 000					300 000
Central African Republic		289 967					289 967
Total	900 000	948 515	589 751	25 627	423 866	886 723	3 774 482

³⁾ Share of direct participant contributions only

5.4 Applications approved by the board according to sectors in Swiss francs



6 Project Grants 2023

In the period covered by the report, the board met on the following dates:

- 06. March 2022
- 19. June 2022
- 06. November 2022

The management office took minutes of each meeting.

	CHF 3 774 482
Medical Research (4)	CHF 900 000
Supporting the psychosocial and mental wellbeing of displaced Syrian women dealing with ambiguous loss (SUPPSAL)	200 000
(Duration: 01.2024 – 12.2026; Total amount granted CHF 999 999) Swisspeace	CH Basel
Reducing barriers to sexual reproductive health services in the camps for displaced people from Rakhine state	250 000
(Duration: 01.2024 – 06.2026; Total amount granted CHF 515 360) Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz	CH Bern
Project Vaihara: War, displacement, economic and food crises & ill health – overcoming multiple burdens towards better health and well-being, through improving gender equity, in Jaffna and Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka	150 000
(Duration: 01.2024 – 12.2026; Total amount granted CHF 360 000) Fairmed	CH Bern
Democratizing neglected tropical disease interventions through citizen science for improving women's health in a fragile setting at lake Chad	300 000
(Duration: 01.2024 – 12.2026; Total amount granted CHF 760 000) Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute STPH	CH Allschwil

Victims of Conflict and Violence (4)	CHF 948 515
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1509-KC	Essential Assistance to Children and their Families Affected by Conflict in southern Yemen			300 000
	International Rescue Committee	UK	London	
1510-KC	«aacho» - Gruppen- und Einzeltherapien für (unbegleitete) Flüchtlingskinder und -jugendliche und Tagesstruktur «aacho-am Tag» für schwer traumatisierte Heranwachsende			300 000
	Verein family-help	CH	Zürich	
1512-KC	Engaging Children and Young People as Promoters of Peace and Reconciliation in Central African Republic			289 967
	War Child	UK	London	
1513-KC	Safe, in School, and Learning: Keeping Hope Alive for Afghan Children			58 548
	Street Child	UK	London	

Culture (97)	CHF 886 723
Music (29)	CHF 265 002

5481-KK	«Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot. Ein Kantaten-Projekt mit Geflüchteten»			5 000
	Seefelder Kammerchor SFK	CH	Zürich	
5502-KK	Serenadenkonzert im Schlosshof mit 4 Uraufführungen Schweizer Jungkomponist*innen Forum für junge Komponistinnen und Komponisten			5 000
	Festival Murten Classics	CH	Unterramsern	
5556-KK	La Via Lattea 19. La navigazione di San Brandano			5 000
	Amici del Teatro del Tempo	CH	Vacallo	
5423-KK	56. Schlosskonzerte Thun			7 000
	Schlosskonzerte Thun	CH	Thun	
5435-KK	Festival Bachwochen Thun 2023			8 000
	Verein Bachwochen Thun	CH	Thun	
5462-KK	20 Jahre Konus Quartett - eine Jubiläumswoche			7 000
	Konus Quartett	CH	Uetendorf	
5410-KK	Shift Ensemble «Le Noir de l'Etoile»			2 000
	Art Association	CH	Lausanne	
5351-KK	Playground - young audience mini-festival during festival Archipel			5 000
	Association festival Archipel	CH	Genève	
5770-KK	Erasmus klingt! – Festival Lab 2024			33 333
	Club der Freunde des Hochrhein Musikfestivals	CH	Basel	
5859-KK	Piano Trio Fest 2024			6 000
	Verein Freunde des Festivals «Piano Trio Fest»	CH	Bern	
5811-KK	Über das Verborgene: Eine Geschichte der Suche			3 000
	Prospero Consort	CH	Schaffhausen	
5834-KK	guerillaclassics 2024			10 000
	Verein #g-classics	CH	Bern	
5845-KK	Herbsttournee 2023 – Konzert in Huddersfield (19.11)			5 000
	Nikel	CH	Bern	
5891-KK	Passions Nouvelles / Italian Connection			8 000
	Les Passions de l'Âme	CH	Bern	

5841-KK	Places Ensemble Vide	CH	Genève	8 000
5713-KK	Festival Berner Seefestspiele 2023 Verein Berner Seefestspiele	CH	Bern	8 000
5548-KK	Kammermusik Konzertreihe 2023–2024 Klang-Galerie Bern	CH	Bern	6 000
5536-KK	Podium der Jungen Musikfestwoche Meiringen	CH	Meiringen	7 000
5324-KK	The Flying Dutchman Manchester Camerata	UK	Manchester	33 669
5389-KK	Weltersteinspielung und Schweizer Erstaufführung von Ruffs Oper SAMSON (1851) Joachim Raff-Gesellschaft, Label Schweizer Fonogramm, Bühnen Bern	CH	Lachen	20 000
5422-KK	Pilotphase Kultur am Bettrand Verein Kultur am Bettrand	CH	Bern	10 000
5451-KK	«Les Indes galantes» Die Freitagsakademie	CH	Bern	20 000
5325-KK	Composer in Residence 2023/24: Christian Mason Verein Musikdorf Ernen	CH	Ernen	10 000
5350-KK	Kon.Takte Judith Wegmann	CH	Biel	5 000
5383-KK	Spartenübergreifende Musiktheater-Performance «Zählen und Erzählen» nach einer Idee von Mauricio Kagel Cristina Teuscher	CH	Bern	5 000
5411-KK	Les Ondes Festival Association Monthey Classique	CH	Monthey	5 000
5438-KK	Kulturaustausch Visiting Choir Peterborough und Cantabury GB Vokalensemble NOVANTIQUA Bern	CH	Bern	10 000
5356-KK	REGER + TRIORARO	CH	Bern	3 000
5304-KK	KRAS Ensemble Dragma	CH	Bern	5 000

Jazz (8)				CHF 85 000
5335-KK	Schaffhauser Jazzfestival 2023 Schaffhauser Jazzfestival	CH	Schaffhausen	8 000
5347-KK	Taktlos Festival 2023 Taktlos	CH	Zürich	6 000
5874-KK	unerhört!-Festival 2023 unerhört!-Festival	CH	Zürich	20 000
5896-KK	Clemens Kuratle Ydivide – CH/DE - Tour Clemens Kuratle, Tobias Schuster	CH	Bern	15 000
5796-KK	New Jazz from London – UK – Switzerland offbeat Jazzfestival Basel	CH	Basel	9 000
5890-KK	350 Million Herring – Release Tour MoonMot	CH	Bern	8 000
5789-KK	Schärli & Zytynska «duoplus» 3. Staffel Schärli & Zytynska «duoplus»	CH	Aarau	9 000
5310-KK	SOFIA Music & Business Workshop 2023 SOFIA Support Of Female Improvising Artists	CH	Dübendorf	10 000

Visual art (22)			CHF 212 500
5673-KK	Etudes for Bones and Objects llm_rs_terns	CH Bern	3 000
5694-KK	Hannah Parr & Beat Zoderer – Model Behaviour Kunstraum Baden	CH Baden	10 000
5337-KK	Stanser Musiktage 2023 Verein Stanser Musiktage	CH Stans	10 000
5795-KK	AI:Rotten Deals For Space	CH Basel	6 000
5814-KK	MYCELIUM. Interconnessioni arte-vita-natura [MYCELIUM. Art-Life-Nature Interconnections - working title] Museo Villa dei Cedri	CH Bellinzona	10 000
5808-KK	Gerda Steiner & Jörg Lenzlinger PILGERORT Schönthal/ Ort der Unruhe – Ort der Ruhe Verein Kloster Schoenthal	CH Langenbruck	10 000
5822-KK	Bureau Bollito Robert Walser-Stiftung Bern	CH Bern	5 000
5895-KK	BIENNALE BREGAGLIA 2024 Verein Progetti d'arte in Val Bregaglia	CH Castasegna	10 000
5520-KK	HEDI MERTENS – RETROSPEKTIVE Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Stiftung für konstruktive, konkrete und konzeptuelle Kunst	CH Zürich	15 000
5565-KK	Video*kunst. Zeitgenössische Positionen aus der Schweiz Kunsthhaus Zofingen	CH Zofingen	15 000
5615-KK	Retrospektive des künstlerischen Direktors der Fundaziun Nairs Christof Rösch Fundaziun Nairs	CH Scuol	10 000
5611-KK	Fragmentin – Navigating into Uncertainty Kornhausforum Bern	CH Bern	6 000
5607-KK	Marianne Halter & Mario Marchisella -Bühnen, Brachen und zwei Plattenspieler Haus für Kunst Uri	CH Altdorf	10 000
5704-KK	Martin Parr: Parrathon & Olten (Arbeitstitel) IPFO Haus der Fotografie	CH Olten	10 000

5415-KK	Stranger in the Village. Rassismus im Spiegel von James Baldwin Aargauer Kunsthaus	CH Aarau	20 000
5287-KK	Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys. Das Motiv des Zirkus in der zeitgenössischen Kunst Kunstmuseum Thun	CH Thun	15 000
5417-KK	Three Year Support Last Tango	CH Zürich	10 000
5465-KK	POUBELLE MA BELLE KRONE COURONNE	CH Biel	6 000
5357-KK	Lang/Baumann – Kunst am Modell Zeughaus Teufen	CH Teufen	8 000
5344-KK	Türen, Tore, Pforten, Portale Massimiliano Madonna Konrad Tobler	CH Zürich	10 000
5362-KK	Thrill Me. Power & Magic of the Music in Video Art VIDEO WINDOW / Kunsthalle Luzern	CH Zürich	6 000
5458-KK	The secret place (lieu secret) The secret place (Lieu secret)	CH Biel	7 500

Theatre (17)				CHF 142 000
5371-KK	FIVE LINES FRAU TRAPP	CH	Bühl b. Aarberg	10 000
5311-KK	YES! YES! YES! Plan C Performances	CH	Basel	8 000
5803-KK	Unter dem Bett ist es ziemlich dunkel (AT) Mars Travel Agency	CH	Zürich	8 000
5816-KK	Guet Nacht, Chuchi Engel&Magorrian	CH	Bern	8 000
5819-KK	Wie die Wanze wÜTen kann Theater MAX	CH	Bern	8 000
5867-KK	I'm not a hero Associazione Fluctus Teatro	CH	Villa Luganese	7 000
5877-KK	PRINZ*IN luki*ju theater luzern	CH	Luzern	10 000
5722-KK	Die Bienen des Unsichtbaren Theaterprojekte Bodinek	CH	Oberrohrdorf	9 000
5689-KK	Mlima's Tale Kiln Theatre	UK	London	12 000
5537-KK	Treibstoff Theatertage Basel IG Plattform / Treibstoff Theatertage Basel	CH	Birsfelden	7 000
5561-KK	SOLO - Eine digitale Robinsonade (AT) theater salto & mortale	CH	Aarau	9 000
5563-KK	Urknall (AT) - für Menschen ab 5 Jahren Theater Sgaramusch	CH	Schaffhausen	8 000
5641-KK	Löwenherzen mangischproduktion	CH	Betten	8 000
5646-KK	«IT DEPENDS» weltalm theater	CH	Bern	8 000

5404-KK	Mira erklärt die Welt Bernetta Theaterproduktionen	CH	Zürich	8 000
5398-KK	Bilder deiner grossen Liebe imago mimikri	CH	Gränichen	7 000
5314-KK	Extra Time Plus Südpol Luzern	CH	Luzern	7 000

Dance (21)				CHF 182 221
5609-KK	Ciao	Verein Marcel Leemann Physical Dance Theater	CH Bern	5 000
5449-KK	Dritte Ausgabe 9. – 11. Juni 2023 Théâtre Delémont / Jura	kulturerbe, tanz!	CH Zürich	15 000
5361-KK	Festa Danzante Poschiavo 2023	riverbero	CH Poschiavo	5 000
5342-KK	Sacre	Le Lokart	CH Neuchâtel	2 000
5365-KK	Autsch	Team Tartar	CH Zürich	3 000
5807-KK	TANZhaus Bern - das Projekt 2024	Tanzhaus Bern / BETA Berner Tanzschaffende	CH Bern	11 000
5888-KK	There and Here	Protein Dance	UK London	12 395
5831-KK	Mama, schau mal!	DanceCollaboration Stalder/Rottier/Kieffer	CH Bern	8 000
5726-KK	Why don't you sleep at night?	Lia Schädler / Landholz Productions	CH Basel	5 000
5621-KK	Tanzplattform Bühnen Bern	Stiftung Bühnen Bern	CH Bern	10 000
5483-KK	Faking It	Tanzcompagnie Joshua Monten / Verein Tough Love	CH Bern	3 000
5634-KK	Tanz in Bern 2023	Dampfzentrale Bern	CH Bern	10 000
5630-KK	Comfortable Me (AT)	Niki Anjes Productions	CH Bern	3 000
5698-KK	EN ROUTE!	Cie. zeitSprung	CH Zürich	5 000
5390-KK	Residenzzentrum tanz+	Tanz und Kunst Königsfelden	CH Baden	20 000
5457-KK	BEING FRAMED	T42dance	CH Bern	6 000

5364-KK	Tanzmehr Bühne mit*ein*ander*es Tanzfestival 2023	Verein Tanzmehr	CH Zürich	6 000
5432-KK	Fire Raisers	Moonwalking Bear Productions	UK London	6 826
5317-KK	endlich	Karin Minger	CH Bern	3 000
3773-KK3	June Johnson Newcomer Preis 2023	Bundesamt für Kultur BAK	CH Bern	40 000
5372-KK	Last Things Remaining (Arbeitstitel)	Verein Accès à la danse	CH Zürich	3 000

Education (48)			CHF 1 039 244
School projects in the Canton of Berne (19)			CHF 243 900
1348-KS	Jugendradio Münsingen ökumenische Jugendarbeit echo	CH Münsingen	2 000
1346-KS	Musical «ES GEIT O ANGERS» Sekstufe 1 Wichtrach	CH Wichtrach	5 000
1328-KS	Gemeinsam sind wir stark! SingBach: Chorsingen als Kultur- und Gemeinschaftsförderung Schule Spiegel	CH Spiegel b. Bern	3 500
1331-KS	Zirkusprojekt «Manege frei» Schule Heimiswil Kaltacker	CH Heimiswil	5 000
1332-KS	Zirkuswoche Seftigen 2023 Schule Seftigen	CH Seftigen	6 000
1336-KS	ZORA und die Mädchenbande Oberaargauische Musikschule Langenthal	CH Langenthal	9 000
1340-KS	Musicalprojekt «Momo» 2023 Oberstufenschule Steffisburg	CH Steffisburg	5 000
1361-KS	Mentoring zur Potenzialentfaltung von Jugendlichen und jungen Erwachsenen Rock Your Life! Schweiz	CH Bern	19 500
1358-KS	Kulturanlass «Kultur - Hier - Warum?» BBZ CFP Biel-Bienne	CH Biel	3 000
1359-KS	Vielfältig. Ein Ausstellungsprojekt für Vielfalt und Respekt WKS KV Bildung Bern	CH Bern	6 900
1360-KS	Zirkuswoche Rüeggisberg Schule Rüeggisberg	CH Rüeggisberg	4 000
1362-KS	Zirkuswoche Bärswil Primarschule Bärswil	CH Bärswil	5 000
1363-KS	MITeinander – FÜReinander Volksschule Bethlehemacker Bern	CH Bern	5 000
1364-KS	Kinderkonzert «Advent mit Zipf, Zapf, Zepf und Zipfelwitz» Musikschule Herzogenbuchsee	CH Herzogenbuchsee	1 000
1353-KS	Berner Stadt-Land Zeitmaschine Verein Zeitmaschine.TV	CH Bern	15 000

1347-KS	Surprise macht Schule Verein Surprise	CH Basel	8 000
1330-KS	Zirkuswoche Täuffelen Primarschule Täuffelen	CH Täuffelen	6 000
1317-KS	Wettbewerb tête à tête 2023 Fachbereich Kulturvermittlung, Erziehungsdirektion Kanton Bern	CH Bern	130 000
1341-KS	Musical: Mamma Mia goes The Greatest Showman Musikschule Region Wohlen bei Bern	CH Hinterkappelen	5 000

Education grants in the Canton of Berne (29)		CHF 345 851
1595-KB	Teilzeitstudium soziale Arbeit an der FHNW	15 000
1614-KB	Bachelor Musik Klassik HKB	18 918
1607-KB	Bachelor Art History, Universität Bern	5 852
1617-KB	Sozialpädagogik HF	11 864
1619-KB	Intermediale Kunsttherapie HFP	16 222
1632-KB	Bachelor en informatique de gestion HES-SO	11 819
1618-KB	Biomedizinische Analytik HF	5 000
1625-KB	Komplementär Therapeut/in mit eidg. Diplom Methode Shiatsu	3 460
1629-KB	Fachfrau-/mann Betriebsunterhalt EFZ	10 000
1631-KB	Maturité en santé-social	5 140
1604-KB	Tierpfleger/in EFZ	21 384
1611-KB	Bachelor Musik Klassik HKB	18 918
1612-KB	Bachelor Musik Jazz BFH	14 142
1613-KB	Bachelor Musik Jazz BFH	18 918
1615-KB	Bachelor Musik Klassik HKB	18 918
1592-KB	Migrationsfachperson mit eidg. Fachausweis	5 542
1594-KB	Pflegefachfrau-/mann HF	9 000
1600-KB	«Dipl. Techniker/in HF Bauplanung» (Zweitausbildung)	9 000
1603-KB	Pflegefachfrau/-mann HF Fokus K	9 980
1606-KB	Handelsschule Kauffrau-/mann E-Profil EFZ	10 000
1608-KB	Kauffrau-/mann EFZ	4 290

1610-KB	Schreiner/in EFZ	10 000
1576-KB	Umweltingenieur/in FH (BSc)	35 000
1577-KB	Ecole Supérieure de Commerce	12 000
1586-KB	Bachelor Primarstufe FHNW	15 000
1574-KB	Bachelor Primarstufe FHNW	7 000
1579-KB	Rudolf Steiner Kindergärtner/in	9 500
1587-KB	Passerelle (Maturité professionnelle)	8 083
1588-KB	Detailhandelsassistent/in EBA Berufsabschluss für Erwachsene nach Art. 32 BBV	5 901
Project "2nd Chance for a 1st education"		CHF 449 493
Direct participant contributions:		
	Round 2018	CHF 25 627
	Round 2020	CHF 423 866

6.1 Unclaimed/Partially Claimed Project Grants

Unclaimed Project grants (11)

CHF -164 068

For some of the approved grants only a part of the funds were claimed or the project was cancelled. The following overview lists the unpaid or returned funds. The dates in the first column indicate the year in which the contributions were granted.

Education Grants (6)

CHF -79 987

1328-KB	Master Program für Public Management and Policy Nicht verwendeter Betrag.	2017	-233
1526-KB	Master in Zahnmedizin Erhält kantonale Stipendien.	2022	-34 984
1614-KB	Bachelor at HKB Wird die Ausbildung nicht antreten.	2023	-18 918
1594-KB	Pflegefachfrau/-mann HF Mitfinanzierung durch andere Institution.	2023	-5 000
1607-KB	Bachelor A in Art History, Universität Bern Wird die Ausbildung nicht antreten.	2023	-5 852
1595-KB	Teilzeitstudium soziale Arbeit an der FHNW Wird die Ausbildung nicht antreten.	2023	-15 000

School Projects (1)

CHF -9 000

1301-KS	MENS_Workshop ein Workshop zum Thema Menstruation mit Präsentation des Kurzfilms wert Der Workshop findet nicht statt.	2022	-9 000
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Medical Research (1)

CHF -66 666

1033-KF	SAMW Partnerschaft 2018 RV - Forschungsprogramm in Palliative Care Betrag wird nicht verwendet.	2017	-66 666
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Culture Extra (1)

CHF -2 250

4606-KK	Antikörper - Zoomtheater Aufwand kleiner als erwartet.	2021	-2 250
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Jazz (1)

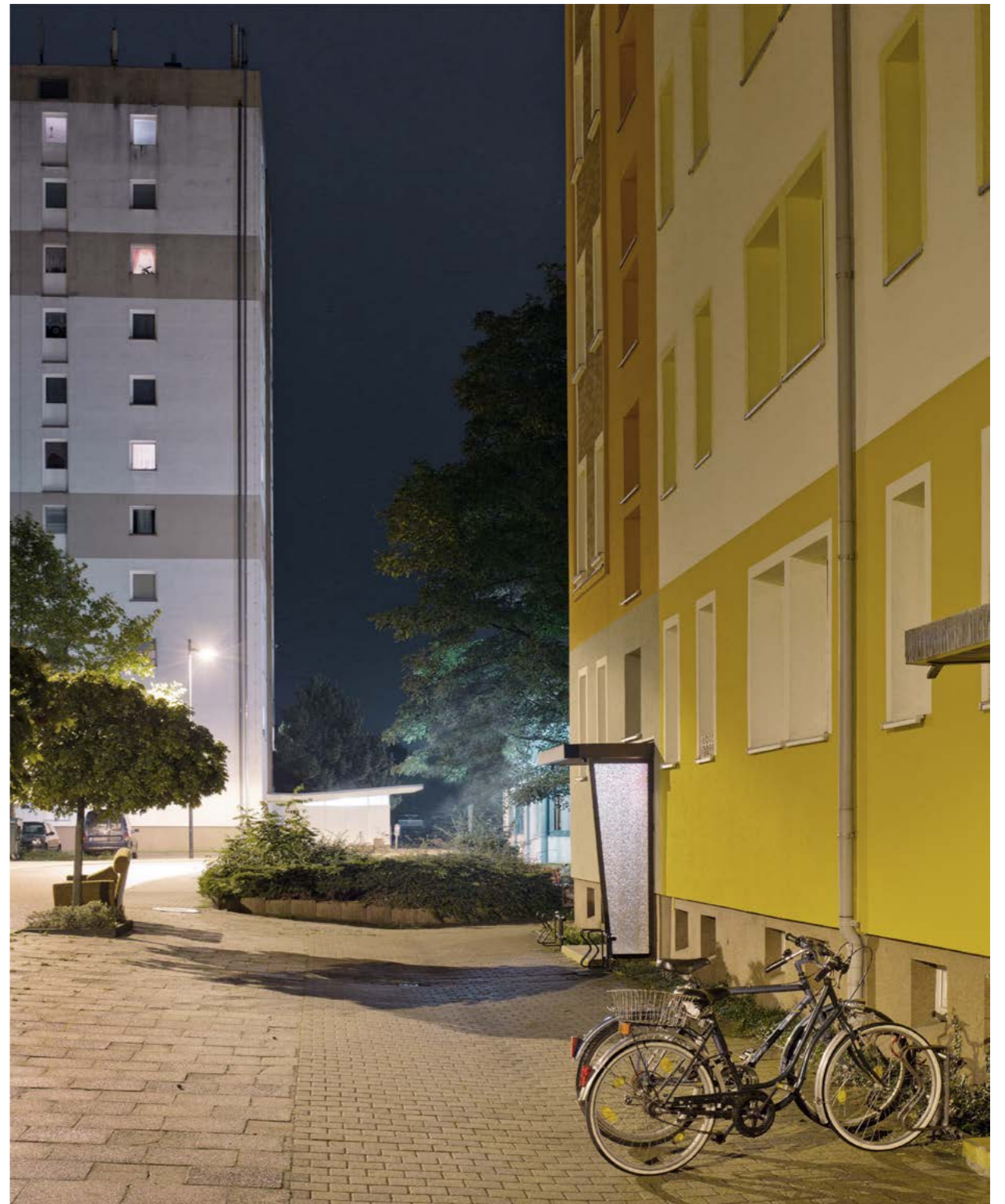
CHF -3 130

4151-KK	London & New York Today - New Afrobeat meets Jazz Projekt wurde in abgeänderter Form durchgeführt.	2021	-3 130
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Music (1)

CHF -3 035

3278-KK	Sons of Kemet-Konzert «London Avantgarde» Projekt hat nicht stattgefunden.	2019	-3 035
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p. 10 PFE0507-GR-160411

Border Exclusion Zone, Nea Vyssa, Greece 2011

The Frontex press officer for the Evros region suggested two possible motifs for the Greek-Turkish border: a panorama of the military exclusion zone from a hill in Nea Vyssa or a staged photograph of Frontex officials apparently on patrol. All photographs of Frontex operations are staged outside of the border zone, he said. *Interview, Orestiada Police Headquarters, 18 April 2011*

p. 11 PFE0210-ES-150109

Calle Virgen de Africa, Las Norias de Daza, Spain 2009

On 5 February 2000 a 26-year-old Spanish woman was stabbed to death in the village of Santa Maria del Águila in Andalusia. A mentally ill Moroccan agricultural labourer was arrested as a suspect. During the following five days local people chased immigrants through the streets and attacked their shops, cars and homes. Mosques and prayer rooms were vandalised, and intruders urinated on religious texts. On the third day the police and Guardia Civil were ordered to respond. In Las Norias tear gas and rubber bullets were used against about three hundred Spaniards armed with baseball bats, sticks and metal bars. In the course of the disturbances fifty-six people were injured and twenty-two arrested. The mayor of El Ejido called for all foreigners without papers to be deported as quickly as possible. Migrant groups called strikes demanding substantial improvements for the mostly illegally employed agricultural workers. *El País online, 7 February 2000; manuscript of SWR 2 radio feature, 22 July 2003, 10:05 a.m.*

p. 24 PFE0017-ES-030106

Ladders, Melilla 2006

In autumn 2005 the Spanish government announced plans to strengthen the border defences at its NorthAfrican enclave of Melilla. Every day during the following weeks hundreds of migrants attempted to scale the fence using makeshift ladders. According to eyewitnesses the Guardia Civil used stun guns, tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition. At least fourteen migrants lost their lives, fatally injured in the razor-wire of the fence or shot dead by border guards (according to the Spanish government from the Moroccan side). A spokesman for Fundación Prodein said he believed that the government had intentionally left the ladders on show to create the impression that there was an 'unstoppable avalanche of immigrants' and justify its use of force. Later the same year, the EU announced it would give Morocco forty million euros, largely for border policing and security. *Der Spiegel, 27 September 2005; interview with José Palazón of Fundación Prodein, Melilla, 6 January 2009*

p. 25 PFE0135-ES-080109

Rostrogordo Picnic Park, Spanish-Moroccan Border, Melilla 2009

The North African city of Melilla has been a Spanish possession since 1497. Morocco declared its claim to Melilla and the second Spanish enclave, Ceuta, as soon as it became independent from Spain in 1956. With the support of the European Union, the eleven kilometres of border defences have been repeatedly upgraded to

repel unauthorised immigration. Three parallel fences up to six metres high are topped with rolls of razor wire and monitored by movement sensors, infrared cameras and watchtowers. *tagesschau.de, 28 August 2000; Der Tagesspiegel, 24 June 2008*

p. 37 PFE0325-HU-031109

Hunting Hide, between Beregsurany and Tarpa, Hungary 2009

According to the commander of Beregsurany border post, cooperation with the population is superb: regular meetings are held with local mayors, and citizens are well-informed and keen to help the border police. As this is a hunting region, he said, certain areas are completely covered by hunters' night scopes during the hunting season. *Interview, Beregsurany border post, 3 November 2009*

p. 39 PFE2037-DE-240112

Danube Cycle Path, near Pfelling, Germany 2012

After running 956 kilometres through Germany 'against the cold' in 2008 to raise money for the homeless and swimming 890 kilometres along German rivers in 2009 in support of nature conservation, the singer-songwriter Heinz Ratz cycled 7,000 kilometres between 6 January and 4 April 2011, visiting refugee hostels throughout Germany and giving concerts with his band and various guests in seventy towns and cities. As stage three of his 'moral triathlon', the 'Tour of 1,000 Bridges' called for 'more humanity towards political refugees', with the takings supporting the work of various NGOs.

On 24 October 2012, the Federal Republic of Germany honoured Heinz Ratz's efforts by awarding him its integration medal. *Südkurier, 2 April 2011; 1000bruecken website, undated press information*

p. 40 PFE0238-ES-190109

Playa de los Lances, Tarifa, Spain 2009

A boat carrying twenty-three undocumented Moroccan immigrants went down off Tarifa during a severe storm on 1 November 1988. The bodies of ten who drowned were washed up on the beach at Los Lances. Nine were never found and there were four survivors. A vessel with more than thirty people on board sank near Tarifa on 15 September 1997. Six passengers survived, fourteen corpses were found on the Playa de los Lances and an unknown number were lost at sea. *El País, 2 November 1988 and 16 September 1997; Diario de León, 9 October 2002*

p. 41 PFE0271-HU-081009

Petrol Station, near Szeged, Hungary 2009

Four Afghans were detained at an abandoned petrol station between Szeged and Rösztke at 7.30 a.m. on 24 September 2009. They asked for asylum and stated that they had left Pakistan five months earlier, each having paid €7,800 to a smuggler who brought them to Serbia via Greece.

According to a member of the border police, traffickers send migrants to hide and wait in places like these knowing full well that the police are likely to find them there: Once they had received

their money they did not care what happened to the migrants. In 2008 1,092 migrants and 54 smugglers were detained by police in the county of Csongrád.

Csongrád county police records for 24 September 2009, Szeged; interview with the Csongrád county head of police, Szeged, 7 October 2009

PfE0955-GR-030511

Igoumenitsa Ferry Port, Greece 2011

As I waited for the Igoumenitsa to Ancona ferry, a crowd of several hundred angry residents blockaded the access road to the port, demanding 'a town worth living in' and an end to the 'siege of the illegals' living on the hillside overlooking the port.

Over a period of several hours while the demonstration was taking place the Greek police fired tear gas at the migrants and their makeshift shelters. At times the air was so thick with gas that travellers queuing for the ferry were unable to leave their vehicles.

Journal, 3 May 2011, Igoumenitsa

p. 42 PfE3456-IT-281012

Palazzo Selam, Rome, Italy 2012

In November 2012 there were 835 mostly recognised asylum-seekers from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan living in the former university building. The occupation, which began in 2006, was tolerated by the city council. Volunteer medics from Cittadini del Mondo, who cared for the refugees, regularly diagnosed complaints attributable to inadequate hygienic facilities. According to Fondazione Integra/Azione, six thousand refugees in Rome needed housing, but the city provided only 2,200 places (out of 3,150 nationally). In Germany a lawyer representing a Somali asylum-seeker argued in 2011 that the Italian authorities were pursuing a deliberate strategy of impoverishment in order to force refugees to move to other EU member-states. And on 2 July 2012 the Stuttgart Administrative Court ruled that a Palestinian family should be permitted to seek asylum in Germany rather than being returned to Italy, because systematic deficits in the Italian asylum process meant they would face inhumane treatment there.

While acknowledging problems, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees said it intended to abide by existing repatriation practices on the grounds that Italy possessed a functioning asylum process that satisfied the standards of the European Union. *Pro Asyl, The Living Conditions of Refugees in Italy, February 2011; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 May 2011; Verwaltungsgericht Stuttgart, press release, 12 July 2012 (A 7 K 1877/12); Spiegel Online, 13 July 2012; New York Times, 26 December 2012; Cittadini del Mondo, 31 December 2012*

p. 43 PfE4081-IT-161212

Guitgia, Lampedusa, Italy 2012

About two hundred refugees from Eritrea and Somalia were picked up by the Italian coastguard off the island of Lampedusa on 6 May 2009. They were immediately deported to Libya on the basis of a bilateral agreement, without receiving any opportunity to apply for asylum.

The Italian Refugee Council located twenty-four of them and took their cases to court. On 23 February 2012 the European Court of

Human Rights ruled that the deportations had violated the European Convention on Human Rights, and ordered the Italian state to pay €15,000 in compensation to each of the twenty-two surviving applicants on the grounds that they had been exposed to the risk of inhumane treatment and torture in Libya and their countries of origin. The Court noted that more than 471 refugees had been deported to Libya under similar circumstances between 6 and 10 May 2009.

According to Amnesty International the verdict represented a turning-point for the protection of migrants on the high seas.

European Court of Human Rights, press release ECHR 075, 23 February 2012; Spiegel Online, 23 February 2012; Tagesschau, 23 February 2012; Deutschlandradio, 24 February 2012

p. 44 PfE0340-HU-051109

Refugee Hostel, Debrecen, Hungary 2009

On 11 June 2008, five Afghan asylum-seekers climbed the thirty-metre radio mast beside the reception centre where they had been living for many months and threatened to jump off, while fifty others started a sit-in. They were protesting against the slowness of the Hungarian authorities in dealing with their cases.

The demonstrators had been granted the newly established 'subsidiary protection' status several months earlier. This gives legal residence to persons who fail to meet the official criteria for asylum but are considered to be at serious risk if deported.

Their demand was for official documentation of their status, which they needed to find work and get insurance. After negotiations with the authorities they agreed to come down, and two weeks later received the papers they had been asking for.

Report OBH 3339/2008 by the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights, 18 December 2008; Helsinki Committee, e-mail, 9 April 2010

p. 45 PfE0579-GR-260411

Campsite, Haramida, Lesbos, Greece 2011

In August 2009 about five hundred activists travelled to Lesbos to participate in workshops and discuss 'Facets of the European Border Regime' at the No Border camp in Haramida. One of the demonstrations organised from the camp was to the Pagani detention centre, a disused warehouse on the outskirts of Mytilene.

In summer 2009 this facility held up to one thousand migrants, including numerous children and adolescents, under conditions that the Greek Deputy Minister of Public Order later described as 'worse than Dante's Inferno'. Activists from Welcome to Europe managed to smuggle in a video camera which a group of young detainees used to make a film (later published online).

The detention centre was closed in November 2009 following repeated hunger strikes and protests.

Pro Asyl news, 2 November 2009; New York Times, 18 November 2009; Die Zeit, 5 February 2010; Radio Z, 13 August 2010

p. 46 PfE0238-ES-190109

Playa de los Lances, Tarifa, Spain 2009

A boat carrying twenty-three undocumented Moroccan immigrants went down off Tarifa during a severe storm on 1 November 1988. The bodies of ten who drowned were washed up on the beach at

Los Lances. Nine were never found and there were four survivors. A vessel with more than thirty people on board sank near Tarifa on 15 September 1997. Six passengers survived, fourteen corpses were found on the Playa de los Lances and an unknown number were lost at sea.

El País, 2 November 1988 and 16 September 1997; Diario de León, 9 October 2002

p. 47 PfE0448-IT-230110

Venicari Nature Reserve, Italy 2010

On 27 October 2007 two walkers came across several shoes washed up on a beach in the nature reserve of Venicari. During the following days seventeen corpses were found there. On their own initiative the couple obtained a list of the names of the dead from the authorities, contacted the relatives in Egypt and Palestine and arranged for a Muslim funeral to be held. About one hundred people attended the ceremony officiated by the imam of Catania on 1 November 2008, including relatives of the dead and local police. The events led to the founding of Borderline Sicilia.

RagusaNews.com, 24 October 2008; interview with journalist Roman Herzog, Noto, 23 January 2010

p. 48 PfE0297-HU-031109

Maize Field, near Záhony, Hungary 2009

On 25 June 2007 three smugglers and twenty-eight Moldovan citizens were detained in a maize field between Záhony and Zsurk. They had crossed the River Tisza in a line of rubber dinghies and passed the Ukrainian-Hungarian frontier between border stones 356 and 357. According to the police each of the detained persons had paid the smugglers between \$1,200 and \$1,500. Because they had entered Ukraine legally they were immediately deported back there.

Záhony border police records, 25 June 2007

p. 49 PfE6181-DE-191214

Reception Centre, Munich, Germany 2015

Up to 60 of the 132 unaccompanied child refugees housed at the Bayernkaserne Reception Centre in Munich went on hunger strike on 7 January 2012. They were protesting about inadequate access to schooling, shortages of social workers and legal guardians, and poor living conditions in the former barracks, and demanding clarification of their immigration status. In particular, they were calling for the clearing process to be speeded up, as clarification of legal status was a precondition for the often traumatised adolescents to move to accommodation run by the youth service and receive psycho-social care. Rather than the intended three months, the procedure had been taking up to eleven. After receiving written reassurances that some of their demands would be met, the adolescents ended their hunger strike on 17 January 2012.

On 8 March 2012 a seventeen-year-old refugee attempted to commit suicide. In November 2013 twenty-five young refugees again refused to eat for four days.

Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 January 2012 and 22 November 2013; joint press release by Karawane München für die Rechte der Flüchtlinge und MigrantInnen, Jugendliche ohne Grenzen Bayern, Münchner Flüchtlingsrat, Nako! Stop Deportation to Afghanistan

and the Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge e.V., 11 January 2012; Bayerischer Rundfunk, 12 January 2012; Regierung von Oberbayern, press release no. 597, 22 November 2013

p. 50 PfE0494-GR-160411

Past the Border, Kastanies, Greece 2011

The Greek border guard who checked my passport at the Kastanies crossing on 17 April 2011 wondered whether I was travelling round the world.

The River Evros marks the border between European Turkey and north-eastern Greece, but meanders into Turkish territory east of the village of Kastanies. Here two bridges allow migrants to cross the river unhindered. In order to prevent them from passing the subsequent land frontier, the Greek government is planning to build a 12.5-kilometre fence.

At the Greek government's request Frontex deployed a Rapid Border Intervention Team (RABIT) to boost security at the frontier from October 2010 to March 2011, bringing together border police from across the EU and Schengen-associated states. This mission was superseded by Joint Operation Poseidon Land.

Journal, 17 April 2011, Orestida; Washington Post, 4 November 2010; Frontex press release, 29 November 2010; Faz Net, 25 October 2011

p. 51 PfE0085-AT-131008

Railway Station, Traiskirchen, Austria 2008

Checks on trains and stations along the Vienna-Baden line were stepped up from mid-November 2004. According to the Austrian Civil Protection Organisation the measures were directed above all against drug offences, theft and human trafficking. In 2007 a surveillance desk was set up in Traiskirchen Control Centre, with CCTV cameras directed at the station's emergency help points.

In spring 2010 Baden district council reimposed 'protection zones' in the immediate vicinity of a reception centre for asylum-seekers. People suspected of intending to commit a crime may be excluded from these zones, which surround the railway station and several nearby schools.

In internet forums there was talk of the need for special protection for 'native children' while others criticised the 'military exclusion zone' at Traiskirchen.

SOS Mitmensch, 22 January 2008; Fallstudie Sektor Transportwesen/Personenbeförderung Wiener Lokalbahnen AG (WLB) der Firma Reininghaus, 1 May 2008; Politically Incorrect, 18 October 2010; Lower Austrian state government press office, e-mail, 11 August 2011

p. 55 PfE1150-DE-080911

Abandoned Anti-Aircraft Base, Seeligstädter Wald, Germany 2014

At an event organised by the Seeligstadt Local History and Nature Society on 11 May 2014, a former lieutenant colonel showed several hundred visitors around the abandoned East German military site in the forest of Seeligstädter Wald. As reported on the community's website, the event allowed plenty of time for 'fascinating anecdotes' and answers to questions like: 'Were there really

nuclear warheads on the base?’ and ‘Did local mushroom-pickers have to watch out for the Stasi?’ The task of the air defence unit had been to guard East German airspace and ‘detect and destroy’ intruders, the article reported.

From 1992 to March 2012 the buildings in Seeligstädter Wald were used to house asylum-seekers. In 2008 Amnesty International petitioned the local authority in Bautzen, demanding immediate closure on grounds of grave structural and sanitary deficits and the facility’s isolated position. The mayor of Großharthau and all the parties in the local council opposed the closure. The 140 refugees counted as local residents, for whom the community received transfers through the local government financing system. *Amnesty International, petition of 14 June 2008; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 2 July 2008; Gemeinde Großharthau website, 11 May 2014; Wochenkurier, 15 May 2014; Alles-Lausitz.de, 4 August 2014*

p. 92 PFE0519-GR-180411

Railway Halt, Marasia, Greece 2011

After crossing the Turkish-Greek border in the Evros region, undocumented migrants wait at nearby railway stations to get picked up by Frontex forces.

According to Human Rights Watch, the Greek border police structurally impede the submission of asylum applications, deport migrants straight back to Turkey or detain them in overcrowded reception centres.

According to Eurostat, at the end of October 2010 the Greek authorities were holding 54,145 unprocessed asylum applications. About 2 percent of processed applications are accepted.

HRW, Greece: Iraqi Asylum Seekers Denied Protection, 26 November 2008; Deutscher Bundestag, Drucksache 17/4356, 3 January 2011

p. 93 PFE6156-DE-190814

Platz des Friedens, Sandersdorf-Brehna, Germany 2014

Since the end of 2013 the municipality of Anhalt-Bitterfeld has been seeking to house most asylum-seekers decentrally rather than creating new hostels. The local official responsible for public order spoke in early June 2014 of great difficulties in finding suitable housing, despite the cooperation of certain housing associations. The Wolfen housing cooperative, which has about six thousand flats in Wolfen, Bitterfeld and Sandersdorf-Brehna, simply refused to participate, he said. Private individuals were cautious, and the smaller the community the less willing its members to provide homes for asylum-seekers. The Anhalt-Bitterfeld local authority expected to have to find homes for another 450 foreigners by the end of the year.

Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, 18 March and 2 July 2014; Landtag von Sachsen-Anhalt, Drucksache 6/3117, 19 May 2014

p. 94 PFE3926-IT-151212

Refugee Boats, Port of Lampedusa, Italy 2012

On 28 March 2011 residents of Lampedusa occupied the quayside for several hours and impeded coastguard vessels from docking at the port, to prevent the arrival of more migrants on the island.

At the same time some of the refugees who had arrived since the beginning of the year began a hunger strike to protest against deportations and draw attention to conditions in the overcrowded reception centre, which had been built to hold at most 850. Many of the new arrivals were sleeping in the open air outside of the camp. Between January and June 33,000 migrants arrived on the seven-mile-long island.

On 20 September 2011 four residents started a fire in the reception centre. Several hundred used the chaos to escape the camp and protested near the port against the conditions under which they were living. The police dispersed the protest with force. While islanders demonstrated in front of the town hall against the presence of the refugees, Lampedusa’s mayor said in an interview that the island was in a state of war. Within 48 hours all remaining asylum-seekers had been flown or shipped to the Italian mainland for deportation. On 23 September the local authorities declared that order had been restored to the island.

Spiegel Online, 15 and 29 March 2011; Die Zeit, 20 March and 9 July 2011; n-tv, 21 September 2011; Die Presse, 23 September 2011

p. 100 PFE2961-DE-061111

Schöllnstein, Germany 2014

On 22 July 2010, eighty-seven asylum-seekers refused to board a coach ordered to take them from their structurally unsound hostel in Landshut to a residential facility at Schöllnstein, about 100 kilometres away in Lower Bavaria. The vehicle departed empty, to the applause of the asylum-seekers and more than fifty supporters.

In February 2011 the local priest described the situation in Schöllnstein as “like on the island of Lampedusa”. At that point there were seventy-one locals and ninety refugees living in the village, which has no school, no doctor and no shops. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* quoted the mayor as saying: “The blacks are very enthusiastic about saying hello, but we don’t understand them.” And a refugee from Somalia: “We go crazy, there’s nothing here.”

A spokesman for the state government said that the situation in Schöllnstein was extreme but not unique, because Lower Bavaria was a very rural region. The state government had informed the mayor that integration was not necessary because most of the asylum-seekers were going to be deported.

Deutscher Depeschendienst, 22 July 2010; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 February 2011; Der Spiegel, 16 July 2012

Cover

PFE0482-IT-270110

Orange Grove, Rosarno, Italy, 2010

In January 2010 the price obtained by Calabrian citrus growers for their Moro and Nacel oranges was five euro cents per kilogram. They paid their mostly illegally employed and undocumented African and Eastern European seasonal workers between €20 and €25 for a day’s work. Depending on the variety and the state of the trees a worker can pick between four and seven hundred kilograms of oranges a day. The business was no longer profitable and many farmers left the fruit to rot.

During the 2009 – 2010 harvest there were between four and five thousand migrants living in and around Rosarno, most of them in abandoned buildings or plastic shelters, without running water or toilets.

On 7 January 2010 local youths fired an air-gun at African orange pickers returning from work and injured two of them. The ensuing demonstration by migrant workers ended in severe clashes with parts of the local population, during which cars were set on fire and shop windows broken. Accommodation used by seasonal workers was burned and hundreds fled, fearing the local citizens or deportation by the authorities.

On 9 January, under police protection from jeering onlookers, about eight hundred Africans were bussed out to emergency accommodation in Crotone and Bari.

A Season in Hell: MSF Report on the Conditions of Migrants Employed in the Agricultural Sector in Southern Italy, January 2008; tagesschau.de, 10 January 2010; interviews with orange farmers and seasonal labourers, Rosarno, 27 – 29 January 2010



