

Climate justice – now!

Annual Report 2021



Online Annual Report
fastenaktion.ch/JB2021

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Mr. Khamsawad, Laos

Dear reader

‘Ending hunger together’ – this is the message we take to the public, together with our new name ‘Fastenaktion’. You can rely on us to continue to improve access to food in our project countries with successful projects in the field of agroecology, and by working together with many small farming families.

The pandemic with its worldwide lockdowns did not make our work in 2021 any easier. Our first priority is always the health of our teams and of the people in the projects, so it was not always easy to achieve our goals.

Despite all the restrictions, we were able to contribute to food security in our project countries in 2021. Even in places where the supply chains broke down, the projects continued. We also fulfilled our mandate of providing information to the Swiss public. During the Lenten period, we thought it important to draw attention to the global consequences of overconsumption of meat. While this led to lively debates, it also made many people aware of our work and persuaded them to make a donation for the first time.

In the last two years, significantly more people had to go hungry than before, and climate change is causing more extreme weather events that threaten life and limb. Consequently, Fastenaktion provided an unusually large amount of emergency relief in 2021. For example, the south of Madagascar is suffering from an unprecedented drought which has resulted in widespread hunger. In addition, the country was hit by destructive cyclone storms. The Philippines was hit by typhoon Rai in December, and Haiti was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August. All these events affected Fastenaktion projects. Thanks to the good cooperation with our strong partner organisations, we were able to provide assistance in all cases.

And thanks to your great support, we are able to carry out our important work. Many thanks!



Warmest greetings

Bernd Nilles, Director Fastenaktion

Impact worldwide in 2021

In these challenging times, Fastenaktion and its partner organisations are committed to improving the living conditions of the people in the global South. The projects are designed for sustainability and aim to enable people to live a good life in the long term. But in the context of natural disasters and coronavirus, we also had to provide emergency relief at short notice. At the same time we were able, with the International Programmes, to initiate important processes in the political sphere, the energy sector, in food justice as well as in the field of human rights.

In 2021, Fastenaktion reached approximately 560,000 people directly with its work in the 12 country programmes and the three international programmes (IP). 57 per cent are women. Emergency aid was provided for 81,000 people who had lost their livelihood in extreme weather events in the Philippines and Madagascar. Around 550,000 people were able to gain better access to sufficient and healthy food. Since family members and communities are also included in the projects, the total is around 2.4 million people whose living conditions have changed positively.

Approximately 3 million people were aware of the campaigning and awareness-raising work in Switzerland. According to a survey, almost half of the Swiss population knows about the Ecumenical Campaign of Fastenopfer (now Fastenaktion).

We implemented 355 projects working with small farmers' networks, solidarity groups, church and civil-society organisations. The focus is always on people and on fair access to sufficient and healthy food. An example of the success of this work are the figures from a project survey of the Kenyan country programme. While four years ago, only 6 per cent of those questioned said they had food throughout the year, in 2021 this had already increased to 22 per cent*. Another success was achieved by the partner organisation Pastoral Social Garzón in Colombia, which supported the village communities in establishing 34 community gardens so that during the pandemic, as many people as possible have enough to eat. In many countries where Fastenaktion is active, the lockdowns and the strict restrictions have led to many earning opportunities being lost. However, residents are now benefitting from the fact that in recent years, the focus was placed consistently on agriculture for self-sufficiency.

Compliance and Safeguarding (prevention of misuse of power and corruption) were also on the agenda in most of the country programmes. Various workshops, webinars and discussions took place on this topic in order to make employees of partner organisations aware of these issues.

*Midterm Study in Kenya, comparison 2017 and 2021, at partner organisations Caritas Nyahururu and Diocese Machakos.



GUATEMALA

The country programme cooperates with 51 networks. In 2021, 1,486 families cultivated their land according to agroecological methods, 1,173 families were able to generate additional income. Almost 15,000 people have improved their food situation. We were able to support around 2,000 people with emergency relief after severe storms.

HAITI

The security situation has deteriorated sharply, human rights are regularly and severely violated. Despite this, the solidarity funds function and offer a certain security. In addition, more people are using soil conservation and agroecological methods.

COLOMBIA

In 2021, 558 men and 561 women attended training sessions in which they learned how people can be mobilised and how to negotiate with public authorities. 196 organisations, committees, municipalities and NGOs in Colombia are now in a position to develop independent political work and demand their rights.



For more information about our country programmes, go to www.fastenaktion.ch/laender

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES (IP)

With the IP, Fastenopfer provides a voice for the people affected at the international level and thus strengthens the work of the country programmes.

Energy and climate justice
In the debate about renewable energies, Fastenaktion co-organised a well-attended side event at the World Climate Summit. Partner organisations clearly highlighted the perspectives of indigenous people and women on good and bad solutions to energy production.

Food justice
The implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants UNDROP remains a top priority. Through participation in specialist bodies, lobbying, information work and targeted action, we are driving the implementation of the Peasants Rights declaration for the right to seeds for the benefit of farmers in the global South forward.

Mining and Human Rights
Fastenaktion is co-chair of the 'Transnational Corporations and Human Rights' working group, set up in 2021, of the Swiss NGO Platform for Human Rights. Its aim is the active participation of Switzerland in elaborating an internationally binding UN Agreement on Companies and Human Rights.

BURKINA FASO

We have initiated various training sessions in order to develop opportunities for new income sources with the people in Burkina Faso. These training sessions are helpful in the quest to secure the daily food, especially during the lean months when food stocks run low. But the farmers are very dependent on climatic conditions. The 'Sufosec' alliance, co-founded by us in 2020, generates synergies that open up new possibilities in the area of food security.

SWITZERLAND

Various events and climate talks were held in Switzerland. They focused on awareness-raising on climate justice, and how the individual carbon footprint can be reduced. In addition, an ethical, climate-friendly CO₂ residual budget was developed for Switzerland and discussed in public. The result: In March 2022, the CO₂ budget for Switzerland would be used up.

NEPAL

We reached nearly 14,000 people directly with the projects in 2021. They were able to press ahead with afforestation and further improve cultivation with agroecological methods and the sustainable use of natural resources.

LAOS

In addition to food security and the protection of forest resources, gender is a central issue in Laos. Several partner organisations received training from another, experienced partner organisation, CAMKID, in the GALS method (Gender Action Learning System). In addition, all partners have developed codes of conduct on PSEAH (Protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment).

PHILIPPINES

With the activities on the right to food, the partner organisations reached around 17,600 people in 2021. 13,000 are newly part of the direct target group. In total, 96,000 people benefited from the programme's activities. 20,800 people received emergency food aid from us during the lockdowns, another 15,000 people after the damage caused by Typhoon Rai in December.

INDIA

7,165 families have newly gained access to land. They were either able to take possession of it, secure it legally or register their claims. This is significantly more than expected. This legal status gives them protection from the police and the forestry authority and their harassment.

KENYA

18 per cent of the people in the projects can now live from the sale of vegetables as their main source of income. The Maasai, who traditionally live from livestock farming but are increasingly deprived of land to graze their livestock are planting more vegetables.

MADAGASCAR

On average, 61 per cent of households suffered from food insecurity. In order to improve their living conditions, training in agroecological methods was promoted. 33,673 households have adopted at least one of these methods. This corresponds to around 57 per cent of the people in the projects. The figures were collected as part of a household survey on food security conducted by the Sufosec Alliance.

DR CONGO

Fastenaktion has initiated training and awareness-raising activities that focus specifically on strengthening the position of women. Women's discussion groups were introduced, and events were held on the rights of women as well as on the transversal support for the health of mother and child. The work is bearing fruit. Women are already aspiring to leadership positions in Congolese communities.

SENEGAL

The solidarity groups are securing the livelihood of a broad population. They are increasingly active in local development and politics. The villages get access to water, electricity cables, roads, land and school materials. They exert influence on the public authorities via the partner organisations. Numerous members of the calabash groups were candidates in the local elections in 2021, approx. 50 of them were elected.

Distribution worldwide

	Projects	Expenditure in CHF
Africa	114	4 824 056
Asia	71	2 893 060
Latin America	59	2 803 660
International	19	374 759
International Programmes	48	1 509 826
Programme Development	13	602 740
Switzerland (incl. share of dioceses)	27	767 579
Directorate	4	168 569
Awareness-raising		3 234 106
Total project expenditure		17 178 355

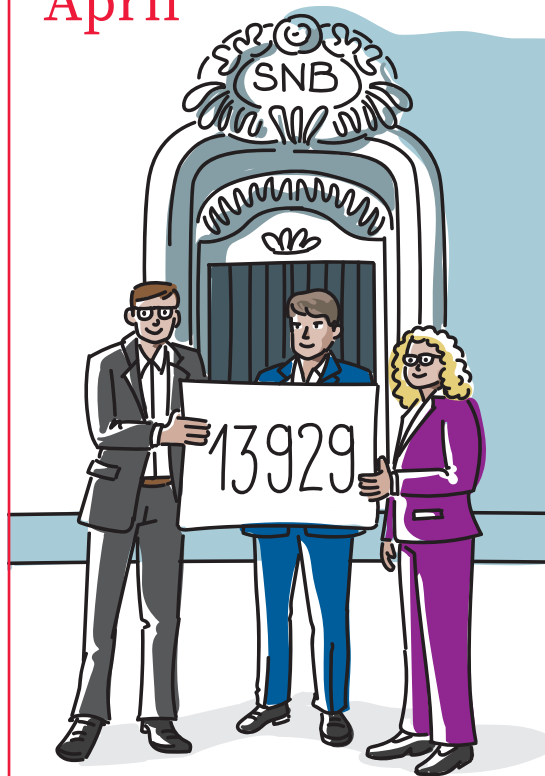
Poster creates a big stir

Many volunteers make a great commitment and work tirelessly for Fastenaktion. This support has continued uninterrupted in year two of the pandemic.

More than 250,000 volunteer hours were given last year in support of Fastenaktion. Most of the volunteer support came from the parishes. In the second year of the pandemic, the Ecumenical Campaign 'Climate Justice – Now' reached a broad public and attracted an increased media presence. A contributory factor was the partly polarising poster on the topic of meat consumption, which shows graphically that excessive consumption of meat leads to the disappearance of the rain forest and thus further stokes the climate crisis. The subject showed clearly what consequences decisions made in the industrialised North have for people in the global South. Feedback on this came from parishes and congregations, but also from butchers and farmers. As part of the Ecumenical Campaign, we also addressed an appeal to the Swiss National Bank to be climate-aware in its investments. With the campaign 'Climate Justice – Now!', we highlighted the fact that the disadvantaged sections of the populations in the countries of the global South suffer most from the consequences of global warming – precisely those people who contribute hardly anything to global warming. The most deprived 50 per cent of the world's population are only responsible for 10 per cent of consumption-related greenhouse gas emissions, while the richest 10 per cent bear responsibility for almost 50 per cent.

Even though church services were limited to 50 persons and most of the events had to take place outdoors, hundreds of parishes and congregations ensured a creative implementation of the campaign theme. Thus, there were climate learning trails for the whole family, or sponsored bicycle runs. On the soup days that bring people together in the time before Easter, soups were offered in many places as take-aways or home delivery service. In Sursee, the Foundation Council President of Fastenaktion, Bishop Felix Gmür, got on his bike and helped with the soup distribution.

30
April



Exit from fossil fuels

With a petition signed by 13,929 people and launched during the Ecumenical Campaign, Fastenaktion and HEKS (formerly 'Bread for all') called on the Swiss National Bank (SNB) to end all investments in fossil fuels. The petition was handed over to a representative of the National Bank in the Bern Bundesplatz. As one of the world's biggest investors, the SNB is an important contributor to the climate crisis. At the end of 2019, it held shares worth almost 6 million US dollars in companies involved in emission-intensive activities and thus finances emissions of 43 million tons of CO₂-equivalent per annum. These emissions are almost equal to the domestic emissions of Switzerland as a whole.

8
May

Women are doing better

In Kenya, Fastenaktion works with the rural population, and that means mostly women because in recent years, many men increasingly worked in the cities. The women create kitchen gardens, work with agroecological methods and sell the surplus on the market. However, the land is owned by the men. They decide what happens with it. During the pandemic, many men who had moved to the city lost their jobs. They were no longer able to send money and had to return home. After their return they became aware of how much their wives were achieving. The result was that many of the men gave their wives more land. Because they realised that the vegetables they grew were not only enough to meet their own needs but that the sale of any surplus would earn them money.



**Less meat consumption,
more rain forest.**

Climate justice – now!

10
September



Anniversary and new name

With the celebration of the 60th anniversary at the Lucerne Verkehrshaus, 'Fastenopfer' became 'Fastenaktion', and also adopted a new logo. The organisation has remained faithful to its principles in the 60 years: with its focus on the Lenten period which combines renunciation, solidarity and reflection, as well as with the call for a moderate lifestyle, the commitment to increase Switzerland's responsibility with regard to development policy, as well as the project work between equal partners in the global South.

Or as Toni Bernet Strahm, a former member of the Fastenaktion management board, said in his keynote address: 'The men and women in the projects, competent, proactive, courageous, with much knowledge and experience in their countries, represent the main work and impact of Fastenaktion.'

9
November

Good cooperation

The partnership established in 2019, approved by the SDC, between Fastenaktion and Aqua Alimentaria, SKAT Foundation, Swissaid, VSF-Suisse and Vivamos Mejor to form the 'Sufosec' Alliance has conducted a first successful evaluation day. The evaluation showed that in terms of gaining synergies in the project countries, some work still needs to be done. The communication strategy has to be developed, learning groups must be better coordinated. Moreover, additional cost savings must be achieved in Switzerland.



8
December



No to the privatisation of seeds

With a protest action in Geneva, Fastenaktion and eight other organisations demanded the abolition of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). They were opposing the monopolisation of seeds and the threat to food sovereignty driven by UPOV. Almost 300 organisations and networks worldwide supported the call. Dressed up as crop plants, employees of the protesting organisations put themselves in chains – symbolising the situation of the farmers who can no longer use the seeds freely, due to UPOV's Plant Variety Protection Laws.

12
December

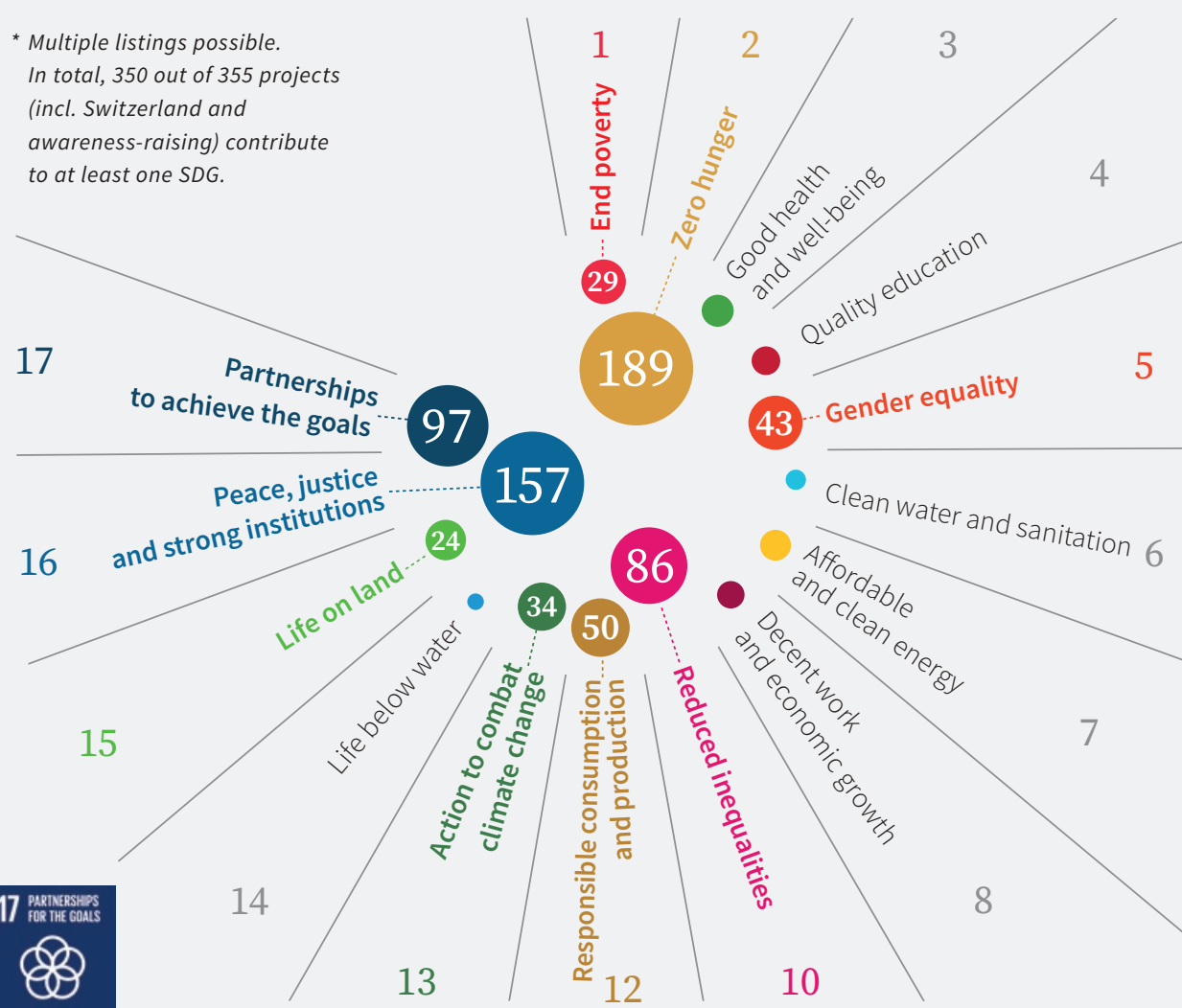
Waiting for rain

For months, the people in the south of Madagascar have been waiting for rain. Some years ago, they joined together in solidarity groups in the Tsinjo Aina Taratra project to support each other. They established a communal savings fund from which they can borrow money they need for food, medical care or schooling for their children and repay it without interest. Communal work on the land is also part of it. In case of a famine such as the current one, mutual support and the saved funds are the basis for surviving the crisis together.



Number of projects in line with SDGs*

* Multiple listings possible.
In total, 350 out of 355 projects (incl. Switzerland and awareness-raising) contribute to at least one SDG.



Many thanks for your help and support.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 goals for sustainable development was drafted after the expiry of the development process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and came into effect on 1 January 2016, for a period of 10 years (until 2030). They apply to all countries.



The detailed figures and the full annual report can be found at www.fastenaktion.ch/Jahresbericht

Profit and Loss Statement as at 31 December 2021

Revenue	2021 (CHF)	%	2020 (CHF)	%
General donations	8 660 488	39.7	8 084 457	37.4
Earmarked donations	4 716 196	21.6	4 836 188	22.4
Contribution from public funds	1 200 697	5.5	1 893 080	8.8
Federal contributions, SDC	6 361 710	29.1	6 118 192	28.3
Legacies	369 622	1.7	281 686	1.3
Additional third-party contributions for projects	280 880	1.3	263 600	1.2
Total donations and contributions	21 589 593	98.8	21 477 203	99.4
Trading profit	150 031	0.7	78 650	0.4
Income from services	101 820	0.5	47 771	0.2
Other income	251 851	1.2	126 421	0.6
Total revenue	21 841 444	100.0	21 603 624	100.0

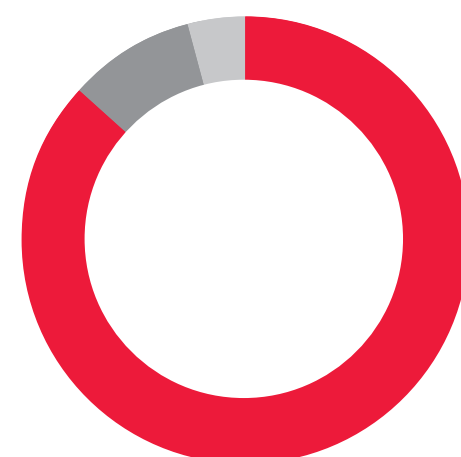
Expenditure	2021 (CHF)	%	2020 (CHF)	%
Country programmes	- 10 895 535	48.3	- 9 929 091	48.2
International programmes	- 1 509 826	6.7	- 1 125 038	5.5
Programme development	- 602 740	2.7	- 459 397	2.2
Projects in Switzerland (IMF FO-RKZ) Pastoral contribution Switzerland	- 767 579	3.4	- 441 340	2.1
Share of dioceses / Pastoral contribution dioceses	0	0.0	- 400 000	1.9
Directorate projects	- 168 569	0.7	- 157 479	0.8
Awareness-raising	- 3 234 106	14.4	- 3 099 300	15.1
Interim total	- 17 178 355	76.2	- 15 611 645	75.8
Project processing costs (esp. project planning, coordination and control)	- 2 387 529	10.6	- 2 309 863	11.2
Direct project expenditure	- 19 565 885	86.8	- 17 921 509	87.0
Administration	- 893 296	4.0	- 620 937	3.0
Fundraising	- 2 077 042	9.2	- 2 047 263	9.9
Administrative expenditure	- 2 970 338	13.2	- 2 668 200	13.0
Total operating expenses	- 22 536 223	100.0	- 20 589 709	100.0

Operating result	- 694 778	1 013 916
Return on real estate investment	475 205	488 917
Real estate expenditure	- 180 063	- 204 684
Real estate result	295 142	284 233
Ordinary result	- 399 635	1 298 149
Financial income	1 109 636	280 307
Financial expenses	- 85 359	- 96 213
Financial result before change in exchange rate fluctuation reserve	1 024 277	184 094
Extraordinary result	0	0
Tax payment	- 28 025	- 23 165
Interim result before change in fund capital	596 616	1 459 078
Change in fund capital	354 526	- 1 197 492
Interim result before change in organisation capital	951 142	261 587
Change in exchange rate fluctuation reserve	- 153 597	- 8 603
Change in social fund personnel	0	32 950
Change in internally generated free capital	0	13 076
Change in approved project funds	0	- 112 602
Change in free resources	- 797 545	- 186 409
Surplus/shortfall after allocations	0	0

Fastenaktion in numbers

22 536 223

Expenditure in 2021 in CHF





Mr. Khamswad looks after the child and the grandmother when his wife is working outside the home.

Gender equality is a way out of poverty



Mr. Khamswad shares the housework with his wife.

The life of Mr. Khamswad and his family has changed for the better thanks to the method of the ‘Gender Action Learning System’ (GALS).



Mr. Khamswad lives in the mountainous north of Laos. Together with his wife Mrs. Wi, their child and the grandmother they live in the village of HouayXay Noi in the province of Bokeo. HouayXay is a large village with different ethnic groups and a population of 3575 people.

Thanks to the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), the family’s life has changed fundamentally. The method used by the Fastenaktion partner organisation CAMKID is designed to support people in working together to plan the future. GALS is a method that makes people strong. It improves their income, food and nutrition security in a gender-equal way; women and men take their development into their own hands. First, the aim is for people to recognise the conditions that prevent them from initiating positive changes. Frequently, gender-specific inequalities that have existed for generations are the reason why a family lives in poverty. Once the inequality is recognised it leads to change, strengthens both women and men equally and promotes equal rights and mutual respect.

‘Since we share out our daily duties, we both have more time for work outside the house, which enables my wife to earn an additional income. She can take the vegetables to the markets in the surrounding area every day and sell them.’

Mr. Khamswad

The couple in HouayXay decided to share the housework. First, they drew up a work plan in which they can share out the daily duties so that both have more time for work outside the house, which enables them to earn an additional income. Money which they need to improve their living conditions. They now share the care of their small child and the 98-year-old grandmother living with them. At last, both Mr. Khamswad and Mrs. Wi have time to grow vegetables throughout the year. Moreover, Mrs. Wi can take the vegetables to the markets in the surrounding area every day and sell them. With the extra income, they were able to buy two cows and start raising chickens.

Mr. Khamswad prefers to consult his wife when he wants to make plans about how they can make their life even better. They talk to each other, listen and always let the other finish what they want to say. Mr. Khamswad is now responsible as a GALS trainer for young people in other villages and for neighbours in his own village. The family is happy with its life.



For more information about Laos go to www.fastenaktion.ch/laos



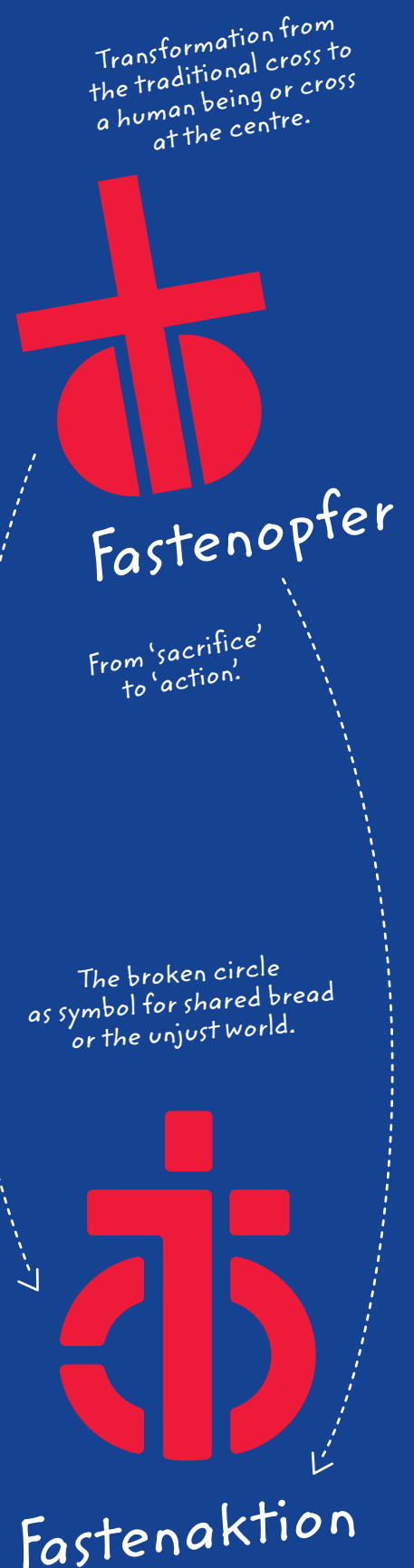
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Many thanks for your support and
your donation!

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IBAN CH16 0900 0000 6001 9191 7
PK 60-19191-7



Climate justice – now!

The Fastenaktion Foundation has the following purpose:

- support of the work and the projects of development organisations and churches in favour of economically and socially disadvantaged people worldwide, with the priority on Africa, Asia and Latin America (pastoral and development cooperation)
- Provision of resources in cooperation with the Bishops Conference and the state church organisations for the support of pastoral projects for the work of the church in Switzerland (national tasks)
- Participation in shaping opinions and decisions on development policy
- Promotion of the global solidarity of the Swiss people, through information and awareness-raising in ecumenical cooperation
- Contributing to the Time of Lent by putting forward suggestions and providing educational resources

Imprint

Publisher	Fastenaktion Switzerland, Lucerne
Editor	Colette Kalt
Design	SKISS GmbH, Lucerne
Printing	Kasimir Meyer AG, Wohlen
Paper	Profitop opak 1.1 matt
Pictures	Fastenaktion Image database