



Annual Report 2022



Children's
Relief
Bethlehem



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Every child has the
right to health.

Editorial

In 2022, after two years marked by the pandemic, life in Bethlehem began returning to normal. The most visible sign were the pilgrims who once again flocked to the ancient site. Visitors in Bethlehem's streets always bring welcome income to the local population: to hotels and restaurants, souvenir shops, even to transportation companies. And although the economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains difficult, there is reason for optimism.

Looking back, we can say the developments at Caritas Baby Hospital mirrored this general situation, with the number of treatments trending towards pre-pandemic figures. Indeed, medical care is in high demand, both general pediatric services and our consultations for pediatric subspecialties. In 2022, we had the privilege of looking back on 69 successful years at Caritas Baby Hospital. What began as a single room with two or three beds has now grown into a modern children's hospital. A success story!

Now the 70th anniversary of the hospital is at hand. You, our generous benefactors, have played a major part in reaching this milestone. For your support, for donations large and small: I thank you on behalf of Bethlehem's children. Your help has been indispensable in making the children's hospital what it is today: a high-quality holistic pediatric medical center. Children's Relief Bethlehem and Caritas Baby Hospital are now ready to write the next chapter in this success story. And so, I quote the wise words of Dag Hammarskjöld: "For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes." I would be honored to count on your support in the years to come; it is our only way to continue doing good in Palestine.

Sibylle Hardegger, Chair

Children's Hospital with Strong Local Significance

In 2022, more children were treated at the hospital than in previous years, the efforts to expand the services in pediatric subspecialties have borne fruit, and the hospital plays a key role in developing pediatric medicine in Occupied Palestinian Territory. Sybille Oetliker, Managing Director

What makes a hospital a good hospital? What are the key traits? And: how does Caritas Baby Hospital measure up? To find out, Children's Relief Bethlehem commissioned a wide-ranging study. An international team of specialists carefully examined the processes and services at the children's hospital and compared them with branch-specific benchmarks. The results were very pleasing: the strategic guidelines set out for 2018 to 2023 proved effective, and the hospital's goals were met. In addition, several factors key to sustainably improving the quality of medical care in Palestine were identified.



- **Building and expanding pediatric specializations:** In the areas of intensive care, neurology, and pulmonology, the children's hospital is a leader in the West Bank. Specialized physicians have been trained and are now in charge of these departments at the hospital, where demand for care is high. In June 2022, the hospital organized a second international conference on pediatric neurology; specialists from several European countries as well as interested medical staff from the West Bank were in attendance.
- **Continuous quality control measures:** The children's hospital in Bethlehem aims to deliver outstanding services. Internal guidelines and controls have been put in place to secure high standards in hygiene, medical examinations, and communications with patients and their families. This ensures that sick children receive holistic medical care. Of particular note is the hospital's in-house lab with modern equipment, where trained staff can run tests and assess the results quickly and efficiently. In addition, the "Patient Journey" is improved continually and administrative procedures are simplified.
- **Cultivating local ties:** The focus on working with staff from the region has proven very successful. With the exception of four Indian nuns, the entire medical staff at the children's hospital is from Palestine. Thanks to a targeted Human Resources policy, a sense of local identity ("ownership") has been strengthened.

Another key factor in the hospital's significance is the close collaboration with regional institutions such as the Ministry of Health of the Palestinian Authority, the UN agency to support Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), and Bethlehem University. Regular contact with local economic stakeholders is also cultivated.

- **Socially just tariff system:** The local population accepted the higher deductible fee for patient treatments. The increase strengthened the hospital's self-financing capacity and cultivated a sense of personal responsibility in patients. Moreover, the new rates triggered a shift in public perception of the hospital: away from a purely philanthropic institution and towards a modern hospital for all children. In return, the hospital's social services guarantee that parents who are unable to afford treatment for their child will receive help.

The hospital's success is also mirrored in the most recent statistics. In 2022, 47,356 children were treated, with 3,770 being admitted to the hospital and 43,586 receiving out-patient care. These figures are significantly higher than in previous years. Treatments in the pediatric subspecialties and the intensive care unit were in particularly high demand. More information on the hospital's work in 2022 is found on pages 20 and 21.

Praise and recognition for the hospital

In addition to the families of sick children in Bethlehem and the neighboring region, local leaders have also voiced their appreciation for the work at the children's hospital. At a meeting with the Steering Committee of Children's Relief Bethlehem in November 2022, Palestinian health minister Mai al-Kaila expressed her sincere thanks for the good rapport and spoke highly of the value the children's hospital has in the development of pediatric medicine in the West Bank. And Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem, paid tribute to Caritas Baby Hospital as a pillar of the local healthcare system – one that sets standards.

Writing a new chapter

In 2023, the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem is celebrating its 60th anniversary, while the children's hospital in Bethlehem is already looking



Financial Markets Crisis Impacts on Annual Financial Statement

The operating result for 2022 is positive at CHF 1,075,246. However, the good result was unfortunately diminished by the historic slump on the financial markets. The Association's capital investments closed with a clear deficit, with the 2022 statement showing an annual result of CHF -1,077,883. Thanks to prudent financial planning and stable finances at the Association, it was possible to cushion the losses fully by releasing reserves (funds for currency fluctuations).

On a positive note, benefactors once again demonstrated their solidarity with Caritas Baby Hospital. Nevertheless, income from donations and bequests decreased in 2022 compared to the previous year. Several factors are responsible for this outcome: the annual Christmas collection at Catholic churches in Switzerland has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, and the unfavorable euro-Swiss franc exchange rate had a negative impact on eurozone donations. By contrast, locally generated income at the hospital developed in a positive direction.

Because income in 2022 was overall higher than expenses, CHF 1,248,655 was paid into the fund for currency fluctuations after CHF 2,198,655 were withdrawn to cover losses on securities in 2022. This ensures that future turbulence on the financial markets can be offset without putting the hospital at risk. (soe)

back on 70 years of service (cf. pages 11–15). To mark the double anniversary, the Association is setting new, ambitious goals. The cornerstone for the further development of the children's hospital was already laid in 2022. "Better health for all children in Palestine" is the motto for the coming years, chosen to reflect a vision that places the well-being of children front and center.

Other plans include expanding on the type of specialized medical care offered. One aim is to set up a department for pediatric surgery so that on-site operations are possible. A new building is being planned for this unit. Preliminary steps have already been completed, and the work will continue in 2023. •



What Makes a Successful Children's Hospital?

The past 30 years have seen a tenfold increase in the number of treatments at the children's hospital in Bethlehem. At the same time, the hospital's self-financing capacities rose by a third. Issa Bandak, CEO of Caritas Baby Hospital, cites the main reasons for this highly satisfactory development.

- "We have medical expertise: our Palestinian staff is highly qualified, and they continue their training according to the latest standards. We also cultivate regular contact with hospitals in Europe."
- "We have strong local ties: as Palestinians, we understand the needs of families in the region, and we know what challenges local stakeholders face. We take a pragmatic approach to achieving realistic aims."
- "We work continually to improve on our achievements: all key figures are entered into our hospital information system, giving us a valuable tool for planning and financial controlling. And: we are a strong, motivated team."
- "We receive support from Europe: mutual respect and trust are the hallmarks of our collaboration with the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem. We listen to and learn from one another, and are united in achieving a common goal: healing sick children and strengthening pediatric medical care in Occupied Palestinian Territory." •



Issa Bandak, Chief Executive Director (CEO) of Caritas Baby Hospital

How It All Began: A Look Back on 70 Years of Hospital History

The origins of Caritas Baby Hospital lie in the Middle East conflict, and the hospital has surmounted the many political crises of the past 70 years. The founding generation laid a solid basis and ever since, countless benefactors have ensured the hospital's continued growth.

In 1948, unimaginable suffering abounded in Bethlehem. After the State of Israel was founded, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their homes. The Nakba ("disaster" in Arabic) forced many families into a life of extreme precarity, with children dying during typhoid, smallpox, and measles outbreaks. In 1949, Hedwig Vetter traveled from Switzerland to Bethlehem, where she worked with Palestinian physician Antoine Dabdoub to set up an outpatient clinic for babies (aid mission). Three years later, Father Ernst Schnydrig from Switzerland joined them. He later established the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem, thus laying the basis for financing and building the children's hospital. •





1948

Nakba

The term Nakba describes the flight and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their households and homeland after the foundation of the State of Israel. •

1949

Aid mission

Hedwig Vetter travels to Palestine on behalf of Caritas Switzerland. She works with Palestinian physician Antoine Dabdoub to set up an urgent care service for mothers. •

1953

Establishing the hospital

An inpatient room with a few borrowed beds in a local hospital marks the official establishment of Caritas Baby Hospital. •

1963

Establishing the Association

The Association Children's Relief Bethlehem is established following a motion put forward by Father Ernst Schnydrig, thus securing long-term financing for the hospital. •



1967

Six-Day War

After the Six-Day War, Israel occupies the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Construction of the children's hospital experiences delays. •

1978

New building

The eagerly awaited new building is opened, boosting pediatric care services in Palestine. •

2010

Expansion of outpatient clinic

Due to sharply rising demand, the outpatient clinic is expanded. More specialized consultations and outpatient advisory services for parents are offered. •

2013

Intensive care unit opens

With the new intensive care unit, the children's hospital augments the pediatric subspecialties offered. Units for neurology and pulmonology are opened later. •

Women United against Domestic Abuse

In 2022, Children's Relief Bethlehem awarded approximately CHF 250,000 to projects in occupied Palestinian territory, Israel, and Lebanon with the aim of promoting the well-being of mothers and children. This work includes music lessons for disadvantaged children as well as activities organized by women's groups to stop domestic abuse.

Northeast of Jerusalem, some 100,000 Palestinians live in towns that are almost completely surrounded by Israeli settlements. This farmland has been confiscated largely for the purpose of building settlements. Freedom of movement, employment opportunities, and access to education for the Palestinian population are restricted. Poverty, despair, and domestic abuse are prevalent. In collaboration with the German Caritas Association, Children's Relief Bethlehem supported TRUST, a local organization that encourages women to join self-help groups in the interest of stopping domestic abuse and discrimination against children with disabilities (Association's donation: CHF 51,855).

Children's Relief Bethlehem also helped finance the following projects:

- Sounds of Palestine (CHF 30,000): children in refugee camps receive lessons in playing classical music instruments.
- Lifegate (CHF 50,000): this institution in Beit Jala offers care services for children with disabilities.
- Olive Shelter (CHF 51,855): the institution in Beirut offers housing and protection to women with a migration background who are victims of violence and poverty.
- Various smaller amounts were in particular donated to a school in Lebanon, a kindergarten in East Jerusalem, and a women's clinic in Beit Sahour near Bethlehem (total CHF 71,722). •

2022 Dominated by Violence and a Swing to the Right

In the Middle East conflict, no side is only victim or villain. Nothing is black and white. But one thing is clear: 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the Intifada. And that was even before Israel's ultra-right wing enabled Netanyahu to make a comeback. Inge Günther, Middle East Reporter, Jerusalem

No event caused more distress to the people of Palestine this past year than the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who reported from the Occupied Territory for Al Jazeera. Her death stands out among the roughly 150 Palestinian fatalities sustained at the hands of the Israeli military or during settler attacks in the Occupied Territory (not counting Gaza) over the course of 2022.

Abu Akleh, a 51-year-old Arab Christian with a US passport, was wearing a bullet-proof vest marked "Press" in the outskirts of Jenin refugee camp



when, on the morning of May 11, 2022, she was hit in the back of the head by a bullet – fired with near certainty from the weapon of an Israeli soldier. Independent investigations disproved Israel’s initial claim that Palestinian militants could just as easily have been responsible for the fatal shot. In the end, army officials retracted the allegation, but they ruled out a deliberate act and declined to pursue a criminal investigation.

A mural of Abu Akleh featured prominently on the wall surrounding Bethlehem when, in mid-July, US president Joe Biden made a brief stop at the birthplace of Jesus during his Middle East tour. It was a visit intended to repair the massive loss of trust incurred during Donald Trump’s presidency, but other than a vague commitment to the two-state solution, little was gained.

Chasing crises: Israel’s eight-party coalition

Indeed, there was nothing to negotiate. In Israel, a transition government was in power after the experiment with Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid’s eight-party coalition met with failure after failure – and ultimately threw in the towel. It had lost its Parliamentary majority already in the spring, when defectors – tempted by big promises – switched to Netanyahu’s opposition camp.

Afterwards, everything pointed to new elections, which gave defense Minister Benny Gantz – a key figure in the Cabinet of Bennett and Lapid – all the more reason for a tough crackdown in the West Bank, known in army slang as “keeping the grass short”. The aim was to prevent another wave of terror like in March, when Palestinian assassins killed several police officers and civilians in Israel. However, the Israeli army raids in the Occupied Territory seemed rather to fuel a greater radicalization.

The arrest of an Islamic Jihad leader set off a violent chain reaction that, in August, culminated in a three-day war with Gaza’s jihadis. Bombs and rockets once again resulted in injury and death.

Weakened Palestinian Authority

In the northern West Bank, the past year saw the rise of a new generation of militants who are neither affiliated with Fatah nor Hamas. Calling themselves the Lions’ Den of Nablus (after a fallen fighter nicknamed “the Lion”) or the Jenin Brigades, they rode a wave of popularity after sharing Tiktok videos of their attacks on settlers and soldiers; in particular, young Palestinians viewed them as heroes in the fight against the occupation. President



Mahmoud Abbas, for his part, seemed increasingly like a has-been, and not simply due to his age. The 86-year-old also squandered credibility when – in Berlin of all places – he accused Israel of having inflicted “50 Holocausts” on his people

Growing concerns about Israel’s democracy

The Palestinian Authority could hardly have made a weaker impression than with the unpopular Abbas, who lacks democratic legitimacy and has no clear successor. Meanwhile, after Benjamin Netanyahu’s election victory in early November, Israel formed a “settler” government in which ultra-nationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties set the tone. In the coalition agreement, the first guiding principle is “the Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all areas of the land of Israel” – a clear “no” to any idea of a two-state solution. The agreement also declares in plain writing the government’s intent to annex Judea and Samaria, areas that make up 60 percent of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The agreement provides yet one more reason for liberal Israelis to be concerned about the future of their democracy. And yet one more cause for Palestinians to revisit an old trauma: that of displacement, another Nakba. ●

Increase in Demand for Hospital Services

In 2022, nearly 50,000 children were treated at Caritas Baby Hospital. Demand for the hospital’s specialized medical services continued to rise after the pandemic ended. Both the number of outpatient treatments and the number of hospitalizations increased compared to the previous year.

Treatments at Caritas Baby Hospital	2022	2021
Outpatient treatment	43,586	40,054
Hospitalizations	3,770	3,202
<i>of which in the intensive care unit</i>	341	244
Total number of patients treated	47,356	43,256

The number of children treated in the outpatient clinic rose by 8.8 percent, while hospitalizations increased by a total of 17.7 percent over the previous year. The striking rise is largely due to the fact that many children suffered from bad cases of the seasonal flu and infections after the pandemic years. Other frequent complaints included serious respiratory illnesses and diarrhea, which can be fatal if not treated correctly.

Occupancy of hospital beds in the intensive care unit was higher than average, with 39.8 percent more children than the previous year. This development highlights the critical importance of the intensive care unit at the children’s hospital; public hospitals that lack the necessary medical expertise have increasingly begun referring their young patients to Caritas Baby Hospital. Operating the intensive care unit is expensive: in addition to needing a relatively large number of particularly well-qualified medical staff, high-priced drugs must often be prescribed and costly lab tests run.

Specialized consultations	2022	2021
Consultations with medical specialists	9,533	10,417
<i>of which in pediatric neurology</i>	2,128	2,040
<i>of which in pediatric pulmonology</i>	1,691	1,496

In total, there were fewer consultations with pediatricians than in the previous year. This is due to a reduction in medical care services (such as ophthalmology) that are outside the hospital’s main areas of specialization. Instead, Caritas Baby Hospital is working to expand its services in the subspecialities where it is the leading healthcare provider in the West Bank. The primary importance of these services is seen in the demand for treatments in neurology and pulmonology, which made up 40 percent of all consultations.

In-house social services	2022	2021
Patients benefiting from aid	3,067	3,133

The hospital’s in-house social services support families who are unable to pay the modest deductible charged for treatment in the children’s hospital, or who are unable to afford medications for their child. In 2022, the number of families requiring assistance was slightly lower than in the previous year. However, expenses increased by 11.7percent to a total of CHF 447,170. This is mainly because more chronically ill children needed assistance and the cost of medical care rose.

Stays in the Mothers’ Residency Department	2022	2021
Mothers benefiting from the service	3,006	2,860
Overnight stays	13,321	13,040

More than 3,000 women took advantage of the offer to stay overnight in the hospital’s in-house Mothers’ Residency Department while their children were hospitalized. The women also received individualized advice and had the opportunity to attend one of the daily courses on offer.

Finances – Introduction

The children's hospital in Bethlehem keeps its own books, which are audited by a local office. For the annual financial statement, these figures are consolidated with those of the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem.

The balance sheet and annual financial statement provide a record of the financial health of the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem and Caritas Baby Hospital. The Association is funded exclusively through donations, which are primarily used to finance the services at the children's hospital in Bethlehem. Unrestricted income – from bequests, for instance – can be used to finance additional projects in the region (cf. page 16). Expenses are primarily incurred in Bethlehem, with wages and benefits for the 250 employees as well as funds for medications accounting for most of the costs.

Pension fund assets of employees held in trust

The financial statement also reports a substantial sum for the provisions that are allocated to the pension plans of hospital employees. These funds are held in trust by Children's Relief Bethlehem in Lucerne and become due when an employee leaves the hospital or retires.

To ensure that running costs are covered in difficult times, the Association maintains reserves. A part of the reserve assets is kept to finance the further development of the hospital, to fund unexpected repairs and investments, and to hedge against currency fluctuations on the money and financial markets.

Detailed statement online

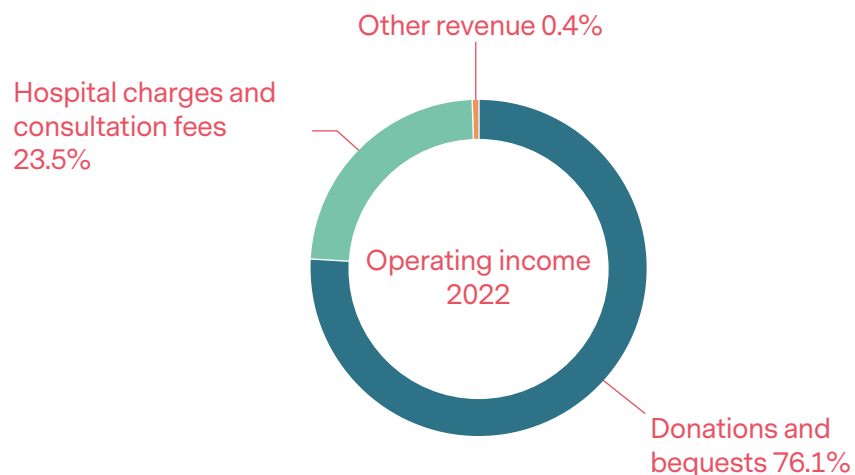
The financial figures are depicted in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 criteria, which ensure the informative value and comparability of reporting by non-profit organizations. The detailed balance sheet and financial statement can be accessed on the Association's website, in the Auditor's Report: www.kinderhilfe-bethlehem.ch/en. •



CRB Income

Operating income (in CHF)	2022	2021
Donations and bequests	10,397,937	11,217,447
Hospital charges and consultation fees	3,214,767	3,032,176
Other revenue	45,876	36,192
Total operating income	13,658,580	14,285,815

The annual statements of the children's hospital and Children's Relief Bethlehem (CRB) are consolidated at the end of the year. Income at the Association therefore stems from three different sources: donations and bequests, locally generated income (hospital charges and consultation fees) and other revenue (e.g. Association membership or the sale of meal vouchers at the hospital).



Donations and bequests represent the largest source of income at the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem. Locally generated income from hospital charges and consultation fees is also significant. In 2022, this amount increased compared to the previous year and made up 23.5 percent of the overall income (21.2 percent in 2021). The rise in local income can be explained by the high occupancy rates in the intensive care unit as well as the fact that more children were treated at the hospital. •

Three Sources of Income to Fund Caritas Baby Hospital

In 2022, the operating costs at the children's hospital in Bethlehem amounted to CHF 10,612,079, of which 36.9 percent was covered by self-funding. Donations from Europe made up the remaining 63.1 percent.

Since its foundation, Caritas Baby Hospital has been financed largely through donations. Yet as much as the solidarity of donors in Europe is needed and appreciated, the reliance on a single source of funding remains highly problematic. To secure long-term operations at the hospital and to further advance its standing in the region, hospital management must also seek ways to generate local income for the hospital's running costs.

The strategic guidelines issued by Children's Relief Bethlehem identify three sources of local income that are instrumental in further strengthening the hospital's self-funding capacities.

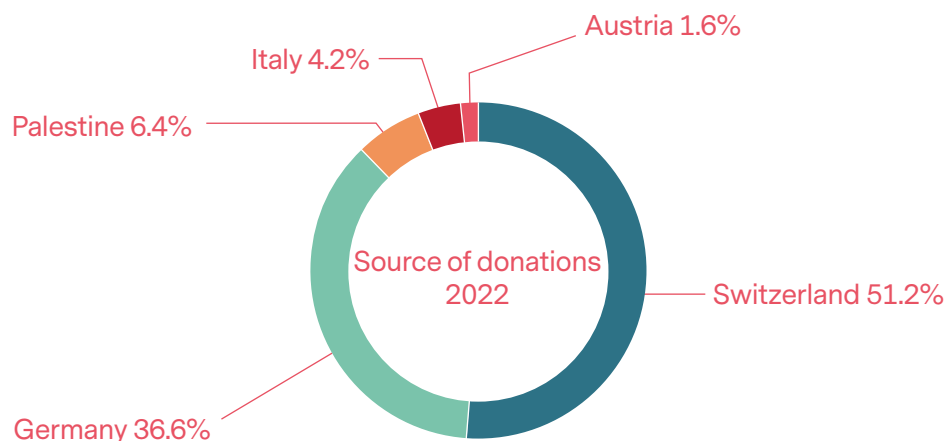
1. Performance contracts with the Ministry of Health ensure that the Palestinian Authority contributes to the cost of treatment when patients from public hospitals are referred to Caritas Baby Hospital. In addition, an agreement concluded with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) sets out a cost contribution arrangement for treating children from refugee camps.
2. A socially just tariff system has been introduced at the hospital, and families of patients now pay a modest fee for treatments and hospital stays. These fees do not cover costs, and the hospital's inhouse social services also assume costs for families that are unable to pay the medical fee (page 21).
3. Locally generated donations – from Palestinian businesses, for example, or from individuals – are the third source of local income.

However, due to the widespread poverty in the West Bank and weak governmental structures, the children's hospital will also remain reliant on donations in the future. The Board is endeavoring to achieve a self-funding rate of 40 percent. •

Source of Donations

Income from donations and bequests (CHF)	2022	2021
Switzerland	5,325,677	5,602,880
Germany	3,802,446	4,216,342
Italy	435,596	555,761
Austria	168,404	173,998
Palestine	665,814	668,466
Income from donations and bequests	10,397,937	11,217,447

Overall, income from donations and bequests decreased by 7.3 percent compared to the previous year. This development was partly caused by an actual reduction in donations but also by the unfavorable euro-Swiss franc exchange rate that resulted in a capital loss. In 2022, the offices in Germany and Austria transferred EUR 3,440,906 and EUR 162,000 respectively to the Association Children's Relief Bethlehem. The office in Italy sent donations worth EUR 444,306 directly to Bethlehem.

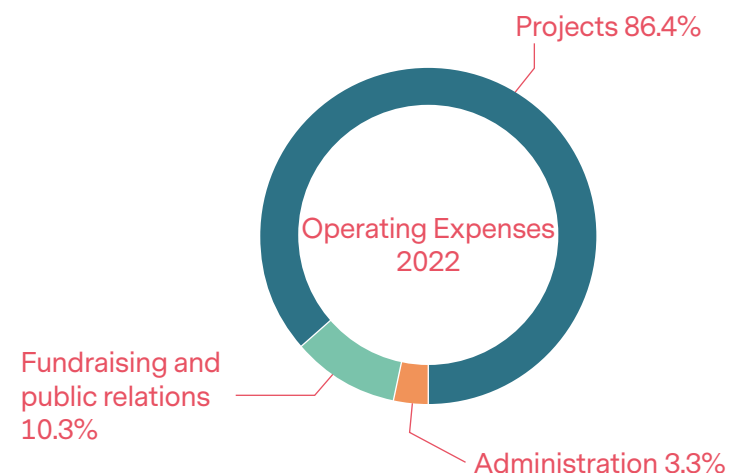


More than half of all income from donations and bequests stemmed from Switzerland. At just under 37 percent, donations from Germany also contributed significantly to funding the hospital. Donations from Palestine, Italy, and Austria made up the remaining amount (12.2 percent). •

Zewo-Compliant Use of Funds

Operating expenses (in CHF)	2022	2021
Project expenses		
Caritas Baby Hospital	10,612,079	10,177,907
Projects Bethlehem and region	255,432	293,712
Fundraising and public relations	1,297,839	1,620,511
Administrative expenses	417,984	354,259
Total operating expenses	12,583,334	12,446,389

Most of the expenditures went to financing Caritas Baby Hospital. Slightly more than CHF 255,000 was used to fund projects in the region (page 16). Fundraising and public relations are essential for making the work at the children's hospital in Bethlehem visible and for securing the hospital's financing. Administrative expenses represent the costs incurred at the Head Office.



86.4 centimes per Swiss franc donated benefit the projects directly, with Caritas Baby Hospital receiving 84.4 centimes per franc, and 2 centimes going to the regional projects (p. 16). Only unrestricted funds that have not been specifically donated to the hospital are used for the latter. The remainder (13.6 centimes) is within the range specified by Zewo. This amount decreased slightly compared to the previous year. •

Balance Sheet

Balance sheet as at 31. December in CHF	2022	2021
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents and money market investments	12,778,154	11,978,679
Current investments with a quoted market price	13,313,960	15,706,867
Receivables from goods and services	3,375,510	2,772,719
Other current receivables	1,831,281	2,021,769
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	100,226	94,268
Non-current assets	3	3
Total assets	31,399,134	32,574,305
Liabilities and equity		
Current liabilities	415,376	323,748
Non-current liabilities	5,982,000	6,199,000
Fund capital (restricted funds)	3,072,771	3,044,687
Organisation capital	21,928,987	23,006,870
Total liabilities and equity	31,399,134	32,574,305

Operating Statement

Operating statement in CHF	2022	2021
Operating income and expenses		
Donations / bequests (restricted use)	9,105,551	10,342,629
Donations / bequests (unrestricted use)	1,292,386	874,818
Total income from donations and bequests	10,397,937	11,217,447
Hospital charges, consultation fees	3,214,767	3,032,176
Other revenue	45,876	36,192
Total revenue from sales of goods and services	3,260,643	3,068,368
Total operating income	13,658,580	14,285,815
Project expenses Caritas Baby Hospital	10,612,079	10,177,907
Project expenses Bethlehem and region	255,432	293,712
Total project expenses	10,867,511	10,471,619
Fundraising and public relations	1,297,839	1,620,511
Administrative expenses	417,984	354,259
Total fundraising/public relations and administrative expenses	1,715,823	1,974,769
Total operating expenses	12,583,334	12,446,389
Operating result	1,075,246	1,839,427
Financial result and other result		
Total financial result (before change in currency fluctuation fund)	-2,128,518	728,428
Extraordinary, non-recurring or prior-period result	3,473	974
Annual result before fund and capital movements	-1,049,799	2,568,829
Change in restricted funds Increase (-) / decrease (+)	-28,084	-1,548,423
Annual result before capital movements	-1,077,883	1,020,406

Auditor's Report

The auditors have examined the annual report for the financial year ending 31 December 2022. The annual report gives a true and fair picture of the organization regarding capital, finances and revenues pursuant to Swiss GAAP FER 21, and is in compliance with Swiss law and the statutes of the organization.

The detailed Auditor's Report with the complete and revised annual financial statement is available on our website:
www.kinderhilfe-bethlehem.ch/en

Auditors: PricewaterhouseCoopers AG (PwC), CH-6005 Lucerne

Children's Relief Bethlehem Pension Fund

Staff permanently employed by the Caritas Baby Hospital are insured against the economic impact of old age, disability and death by the Children's Relief Bethlehem Pension Fund, which is funded equally by both employees and the employer (Expenses 2022: CHF 186,281).

Children's Relief Bethlehem Reserve Foundation

The aim of the Reserve Foundation is to provide the employees of the Caritas Baby Hospital with benefits that supplement those provided by the main Pension Fund (Expenses 2022: CHF 0). •

Discover more
about our work at
www.kinderhilfe-bethlehem.ch/en



Association Children's Relief Bethlehem

The Head Office of the non-profit Association Children's Relief Bethlehem has been located in Lucerne for 60 years.

Children's Relief Bethlehem was established in 1963 as a non-profit association under Swiss law with the purpose of securing the work at Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem. Depending on the financial resources available, the Association also supports projects that promote the mental and physical health of children, women, and families in Bethlehem and region.

The General Assembly is the highest organ of Children's Relief Bethlehem. It is constituted by members of the Association and supports the Board. As of December 31, 2022, the Board consists of seven members.

Responsibility for operational management rests with the Managing Director of Children's Relief Bethlehem in Lucerne. The independent offices in Germany, Italy, and Austria support the Association through public relations work and fundraising. •

Board members (as of December 31, 2022)

- Sibylle Hardegger, Chair (Diocese of Basel)
- Fabian Freiseis, Vice Chair (Archdiocese of Freiburg im Breisgau)
- Michael Angehrn
- Jutta Biermayer
- Hugo Fasel (representative of Caritas Switzerland)
- Christoph Klitsch-Ott (representative of Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.)
- Carlo Mordasini

Duties of the Head Office of the Association

The Head Office of Children's Relief Bethlehem employs nine full- or part-time staff.

The team at the Head Office is responsible for operational management of the Association. Their duties include the following: acquiring donations, communicating about the work at Caritas Baby Hospital, and ensuring that all donations are used according to their purpose. Managing Director Sybille Oetliker reports directly to the Board and the Steering Committee. She leads the team at the Head Office and is the supervisor of the CEO at Caritas Baby Hospital. She and the CEO are in close communication and they work together to implement the hospital's strategic goals. In addition, she coordinates activities with the offices in Germany, Italy, and Austria. •



Standing (from left): Helen Keller (Head of Finance), Stefanie Bissig (Fundraising), Luca Christen (Finance), Eveline Aregger (Administration), Elisabeth Janssen (Administration).

Sitting (from left): Richard Asbeck (Head of Communication and Fundraising), Andrea Imgrüth (Administration), Sybille Oetliker (Managing Director), Kerstin Bieler (Fundraising).

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Thank You for Giving the Gift of Health to Children in Palestine!

We extend our sincere thanks to our many benefactors in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Bethlehem for promoting the well-being of children in Palestine. Your support ensures that young patients receive first-rate medical care at Caritas Baby Hospital. And still more: your generosity has created 250 skilled jobs in a region marked by unemployment and poverty.

Our thanks also go to countless parishes, church communities, religious communities, dioceses, local abbeys, foundations, cantons, cities and communes, and philanthropic institutions. Fortified by your trust and your goodwill, we can now begin writing the next chapter in the hospital's history – and continue to improve the lives of Palestinian children. A heart-felt “shukran” for your solidarity. •



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