



2024



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Johannes Schläpfer,
President Cheira

"Where an illusion dies, a new hope is always born."

From Spain

The past year began with a setback for CHEIRA. We held constructive talks with the management of Herona Hospital in Kisoga, Uganda, in an attempt to find a way to achieve transparency, but unfortunately the hospital management was not prepared to co-operate. As we no longer had confidence in the proper management of the hospital as an NGO, we felt compelled to end the cooperation that had worked smoothly for years. A look at the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023 shows that corruption is still very high in Uganda: The country has an index score of 26 points, placing it 141st out of 180 countries analysed. A score of "0" is considered to be very corrupt and a score of "100" is considered to be very honest, i.e. largely free of corruption.

Following the above quote, we set out in search of a new destination. We found this in the SAS Clinic in Kampala, Uganda. We are of the opinion that we should work with this institution for the following reasons:

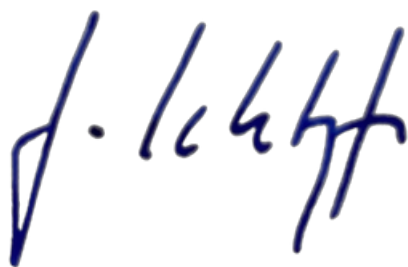
- As in most African countries, operations and complex treatments are not affordable for patients in Uganda without the necessary financial resources.
- Many patients are therefore dependent on humanitarian or medical aid. The planned mission team has already carried out successful missions in Uganda with a similar composition.

- As far as the hospital is concerned, this is a first mission. In this respect, this mission is also about evaluating the conditions on site and the cooperation. The aim is to establish long-term cooperation/planning with regard to potential follow-up missions.
- In principle, accompanying teaching of the medical and nursing staff is also planned, whereby the intensity will depend in particular on the workload of the mission team.

After reaching the limits of our capabilities with eight missions in 2023, we limited ourselves to a single mission last year. A motivated team of five carried out 62 operations during its one-week mission to the hospital in Maragua, Kenya. Benjamin Schmid wrote in the St. Galler Nachrichten of 27 November 2024 about CHEIRA's planned long-term commitment: "On the last day, all those involved met for an open debate and discussion about future projects. The Governor of Muranga was impressed and assured support for further missions to ensure stable healthcare for the region in the long term. Discussions focused on key areas of investment that were jointly identified, including the modernisation of operating theatres, staff training and a long-term plan to improve anaesthesia and promote modern standards. 'The mission made it clear that not only investments in technology, but also changes in the working culture are necessary in order to achieve a sustainable improvement in medical care,' summarises Bergundthal, adding: 'Despite all the challenges, we were impressed by the motivation and openness of the staff and hope achieve a sustainable improvement through the exchange that has begun. With the planned follow-up mission in the coming year and the continued close contact with Kijabe Hospital, a first, valuable foundation stone has been for successful collaboration."

Once again, CHEIRA received generous donations of materials and money last year, for which I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks. Donations are essential for our work because they are the only way we can help quickly. A donation to CHEIRA means concrete help for people in need. Every donation gives hope.

Our missions are guided by the four core principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. In keeping with these principles, the participants in our missions fulfil their tasks in accordance with the principles of voluntarism and volunteering. I would like to thank them all wholeheartedly for this.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Schläpfer', written in a cursive style.

Johannes Schläpfer
President



Heike Beesen

I was born and grew up in the 60-80s in Germany in the Rhine-Main area.

I raised two sons with my husband, and now that they are more or less grown up and no longer live at home, Astrid Bergundthal has given me the opportunity to fulfil a long-cherished dream and do my work not only in my home environment, but also in countries where medical care is still a rare commodity that is only accessible to a few. I hope that through my work with CHEIRA I can make a small contribution to improving the living conditions of some people, and I would be happy and grateful if I can fulfil the expectations placed in me.

Central professional stations:

After my studies, I came to Switzerland in 1989, where I completed my specialist training at various hospitals.



03 MISSIONS 2024

03.1 OVERVIEW MISSIONS

MISSION 36 | Anaesthesia, gynaecology, senology, plastic surgery

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION | Maragua Hospital, Kenya, Muranga County

DATE | 31.08. - 08.09.2024

COSTS OF THE MISSION | CHF 12'072

FINANCING | Free reserves




Astrid Bergunthal
Head of Missions

Three missions were planned for 2024, as we had to conserve our resources after a very intensive year in 2023 with eight missions. The administrative requirements have increased significantly, and obtaining professional licences in particular is proving to be an increasing challenge. The health ministries in the countries of assignment require documents that either do not exist or make no sense, such as a copy of the vehicle licence in Switzerland. In addition, the licences in the African countries of assignment are only valid for one year. They do not understand that our licences are valid until they are actively withdrawn. The reference to the central medical register in Switzerland is sometimes not recognised, which leads to a high administrative burden and numerous queries.

After we had to cancel the missions planned for 2024 at Herona Hospital in Uganda due to a lack of financial transparency, we concentrated on the evaluation visit to Maragua Hospital, Muranga County. For the first time, the focus was not on our own surgical activities, but on analysing how we as the Cheira Association can support the hospital in the long term.

We were able to hand over a donation in kind that Cheira received to the county's health department. It consisted mainly of high-quality surgical instruments with a value of over 100,000 Swiss francs. The Minister Health and the hospital staff were delighted and our entry problem at customs was quickly forgotten.

The mission was organised by the local healthcare professionals. Within a week, 135 patients were examined, 55 operations were under general anaesthetic and 17 under local anaesthetic.



Despite challenges such as technical defects, lack of and limited resources, the team placed particular emphasis on the transfer of knowledge and the training of local specialist staff in order to achieve sustainable improvements.

In addition, discussions were held with the governor of the region to plan future operations, modernisation of equipment and further training programmes. The greatest need for improvement was identified in the area of anaesthesia. The entire surgical planning process, known as perioperative management, also proved to be inefficient and lacking in transparency. There is considerable potential for optimisation here.

We have repeatedly emphasised that support is only possible if the hospital management, the Ministry of Health and the local specialists approach us with a jointly developed commitment. This written declaration of intent should serve as a basis for jointly defining concrete measures and their implementation.

The first step will take place in summer 2025: A team of plastic surgeons will travel to Maragua to teach local surgeons simple reconstructive surgery techniques. They will also demonstrate how to plan and carry out an efficient surgical programme and provide practical training in safe anaesthetic management. We are thus continuing our efforts to sustainably improve medical care in Maragua.

Various missions are planned again for 2025. In 2024, our team was asked by an employee of Herona Hospital whether we would come to Uganda again if another hospital was available. We said yes, and the young man put us in touch with a private clinic.

A gynaecological assignment is initially planned for April. Whether this will result in further collaboration will be decided following this assignment.

PAGE 11 We also made contact with a doctor working in St. Gallen who originally comes from Cameroon. He has set up a foundation and recently a hospital in Cameroon. Those responsible reacted very positively to our offer of a possible assignment for Cheira. The infrastructure looks promising and we are currently planning to carry out our first mission in the autumn.

We hope to once again find partner hospitals that will enable us to operate sustainably and in line with Cheira's purpose.

So it remains exciting and the Cheira team is highly motivated to bring the help people long for, who unfortunately are often without hope.



Astrid Bergundthal Head,
Missions Department

CHEIRA | SWISS
HUMANITARIAN
SURGERY

Debriefing meeting with district governor



Local surgeon operates on breast tumour with Prof. Michael Knauer

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number of missions	1	8	4	4
Number of operations	72	188	117	118
Investigations Number	125	402	210	-
Re-operations due to complications	2	10	3	1
Postoperative infections	0	12	2	1
Number Deaths	1	0	0	0
Number Destinations	1	4	3	2

05 FUNDRAISING

Financing the missions through donations

- Each mission is financed in advance by donations, guided by the motto: "No mission without funding".
- Each mission must be approved by the Board of Directors on the basis of detailed planning documentation and a detailed budget.
- Ongoing budget controlling takes place.

No costs for fundraising

We do not spend any money on appeals for donations or fundraising campaigns. All contributors, the Board of Directors and the auditors work on a voluntary basis so that all donations benefit our patients in full.

Individual donation requests

Individual requests for donations are usually sent to:

- Foundations
- Private individuals
- Companies (especially for donations in kind such as medical dressings and surgical materials)

Small donations

- Small donations are very welcome. They are an expression of goodwill towards Cheira and strengthen our broad impact.
- We do not engage in campaign fundraising, as this would involve high costs.

Organisational capital (equity - reserves)

Unrestricted donations

- As an association, Cheira naturally has no share capital.
- In accordance with the precautionary principle, Cheira's aim is to maintain adequate organisational capital at all times. With a reserve to fulfil the purpose of the association, we want to be in a position to carry out missions even if donations fail to or are reduced. For this reason, we are dependent on unrestricted donations.

High transparency in the use of donations

- Accounting in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER (core FER and FER-21 accounting for charitable non-profit organisations)
- Professional revision
- Reports on completed missions with a high level of detail
- Background discussions with donors
- Disclosure of all facts and figures
- Possibility of accompanying missions as observers

06 BANK DETAILS - DONATION ACCOUNT

Raiffeisenbank Regio
Uzwil Neudorf 8
CH-9245 Oberbüren

Account in the name of:
Cheira Association
c/o Johannes Schläpfer
Hauptstrasse 15 B
CH-9053 Teufen

IBAN CH86 8129 1000 0052 7623 2
SIC/BC number 81291
Swift BIC RAIFCH22

TWINT



QR-bill



DONORS

- Georg Gasser, Bergdietikon
- Regula and Fredy Lienhard, Niederteufen
- Sushila Tüscher, Berne
- Sandra Hartmann, Altendorf
- Verena Rohner, Lindau
- Annemarie Tischhauser, Teufen
- Brigitte Weisskopf, St. Gallen
- Gynaecological practice in the Marktgasse, St. Gallen
- Ingrid Moosmann, Rothrist

PARTNERS

- aqua pura association, Oberglatt/Switzerland, www.aqua-pura.ch
- Hans and Wilma Stutz Foundation, Herisau
- Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Kastanienbaum
- Rotary Club Lucerne Water Tower, Lucerne
- IMET2000, imet2000.org
- Practice at Zeltweg, Zurich
- Galagala Mission Hospital, Cameroon

8 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

8.1 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Amounts in CHF

ASSETS		31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Cash and cash equivalents	4	346'741	370'232
Receivables		-	1'927
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	4	2'448	2'140
Current assets		349'189	374'300
Tangible assets	4	-	-
Fixed assets		-	-
Total Assets		349'189	374'300
LIABILITIES		31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Trade payables	4	182	23'128
to third parties		-	22'885
to related parties		182	243
Short-term liabilities		182	23'128
Non-current liabilities		-	-
Fund capital (appropriated)		2'275	2'275
Share capital		-	-
Unrestricted capital		346'732	348'897
Restricted capital		-	-
Organisational capital		346'732	348'897
Total liabilities		349'189	374'300

PAGE 17 8.2 OPERATING STATEMENT 2024

Amounts in CHF

		2024	2023
Donations received	5.1	119'193	50'726
Other income		12	-
Total Income		119'205	50'726
Project and services expenses	5.2	-119'813	-244'933
Fundraising and general advertising expenses		-	-162
Administrative costs	5.3	-1'343	-1'307
Operating income		-1'952	-195'676
Financial income		-213	-1'911
Non-operating earnings		-	-
Earnings before change in fund capital		-2'165	-197'587
Change in restricted fund assets		-	34'442
Earnings before allocation to organisational capital		-2'165	-163'146

8.3 CHANGE IN CAPITAL

Amounts in CHF	Stock 1.1.2024	Allocations	Internal Transfers	Consumption	Allocation Financial Income	Total	Stock 31.12.2024
Fund Capital							
<i>Appropriated funds</i>							
Hans & Wilma Stutz Foundation Childcare	1'775	-	-	-	-	-	1'775
Rotary Club Lucerne - Family Health Program Uganda Prevention / Education for young women and mothers	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
Christian Niehus Expenses of Christian Niehus	-	2'000	-	-2'000	-	-	-
Total Fund Capital	2'275	2'000	0	-2'000	0	0	2'275
Organisational capital							
Share capital							
Unrestricted capital	348'897	-	-	-2'165	-	-2'165	346'732
Restricted capital	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Organisational capital	348'897	0	0	-2'165	0	-2'165	346'732

Amounts in CHF	Stock 1.1.2023	Allocations	Internal Transfers	Consumption	Allocation Financial income	Total	Stock 31.12.2023
Fund Capital							
<i>Appropriated funds</i>							
Hans & Wilma Stutz Foundation Childcare	1'775	-	-	-	-	-	1'775
Kalonge Foundation Support of children under 18 years of age	24'942	-	-	-24'942	-	-24'942	-
Rotary Club Lucerne - Family Health Program Uganda Prevention / Education for young women and mothers	10'000	500	-	-10'000	-	-9'500	500
Total Fund Capital	36'716	500	-	-34'942	-	-34'442	2'275
Organisational capital							
Share capital							
Unrestricted capital	512'043	-	-	-163'146	-	-163'146	348'897
Restricted capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organisational capital	512'043	0	0	-163'146	0	-163'146	348'897

8.5 NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

Organisation

Under the name CHEIRA Swiss Humanitarian Surgery, a non-profit organisation with company number CHE-216.149.359 is registered in the commercial register of the Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden.

CHEIRA is an independent association that no shareholdings in other non-profit organisations. CHEIRA is a member of the No Noma Federation (nonoma.org).

The association is domiciled at the place of residence of the President Johannes Schläpfer, Hauptstrasse 15B, 9053 Teufen AR.

The association was founded on 29 June 2015.

Accounting principles

The annual financial statements were prepared in accordance with the principles of the Swiss Code of Obligations and the Swiss GAAP FER (Kern -FER and FER 21 for charitable non-profit organisations).

Due to the size of the company, it is not necessary to prepare a cash flow statement in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER.

Zewo Standard 13 requires costs to be calculated and recognised in the financial statements in accordance with the Zewo method. The revised instructions of the ZEWo method applicable from 1 January 2018 have been implemented.

Accounting and valuation principles

- Cash and cash equivalents: Cash and cash equivalents are recognised at nominal value on the balance sheet date.
- Foreign currencies: Transactions in foreign currencies are valued at the daily exchange rate on the posting date; holdings in foreign currencies are valued at the daily exchange rate on the balance sheet date.
- Property, plant and equipment: Property, plant and equipment with an acquisition value of more than CHF 1,000 is capitalised on the date of acquisition. Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis pro rata from the date of capitalisation over the defined useful life

PAGE 21 8.6 NOTES TO BALANCE SHEET ITEMS

		31/12/2024	Prior year
4.1	<p>Cash and cash equivalents</p> <p>The balance of cash and cash equivalents is held on instant access accounts at the Raiffeisenbank Region Uzwil.</p>	346'740.89	370'232.25
4.2	<p>Prepaid expenses / accrued income</p> <p>Travel insurance for following year</p> <p>Website expenses</p>	<p>2'447.90</p> <p>2'147.90</p> <p>300.00</p>	<p>2'140.25</p> <p>2'140.25</p> <p>0.00</p>
4.3	<p>Tangible assets</p> <p>Fixed asset accounting is maintained. All tangible assets are fully impaired. The acquisition costs of tangible assets amount to CHF 33'482.55</p>	0.00	0.00
4.4	<p>Trade payables</p> <p>Outstanding expense reimbursement to Management board member</p> <p>Outstanding invoices from missions</p>	<p>181.80</p> <p>181.80</p> <p>0.00</p>	<p>23'127.70</p> <p>243.05</p> <p>22'884.65</p>

8.7 NOTES TO ITEMS IN THE INCOME STATEMENT

		2024	Prior year
5.1	<p>Donations received</p> <p>Donations received are divided into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unrestricted donations - restricted donations - Donations in kind and special discounts 	<p>119'193.20</p> <p>17'193.20</p> <p>2'000.00</p> <p>100'000.00</p>	<p>50'726.10</p> <p>46'470.70</p> <p>500.00</p> <p>3'755.40</p>
5.2	<p>Project and service expenses</p> <p>These items comprise costs directly related to the implementation of missions.</p> <p>Travel / hotel / meal costs are exclusively related to the implementation of missions or to the reconnaissance of new locations. In detail, these items consist of the following:</p>	<p>-119'813.28</p>	<p>244'933.24</p>
	<p>Cost of material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care material - Instruments - Medicines, medication - Other auxiliary materials B - Receipt of medical services on site 	<p>3'265.13</p> <p>492.85</p> <p>2'566.78</p> <p>205.50</p> <p>0.00</p> <p>0.00</p>	<p>43'609.07</p> <p>13'123.30</p> <p>9'008.87</p> <p>8'156.90</p> <p>10'441.90</p> <p>2'878.10</p>
	Personal expenses	0.00	2'410.00
	<p>Travel / hotel / meal costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs for travel, accommodation, meals - Travel insurance - Miscellaneous expenses (souvenirs for locals, tips) 	<p>11'705.00</p> <p>8'538.00</p> <p>2'569.85</p> <p>597.15</p>	<p>79'1113.20</p> <p>74'706.80</p> <p>2'578.00</p> <p>1'828.40</p>
	<p>Project related expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent of hospital / operating room / storage room - Maintenance costs instruments / systems - Forwarding of a restricted donation - Depreciation of project-related assets - Material expenses <p>Depreciation on tangible assets is reported in accordance with the revised instructions of the Zewo method as a project-related expense. Fixed assets acquired are instruments and devices that are exclusively used for the mission</p>	<p>104'843.15</p> <p>3'493.80</p> <p>823.55</p> <p>100'525.80</p> <p>0.00</p> <p>0.00</p>	<p>119'800.97</p> <p>108'7779.57</p> <p>1'002.70</p> <p>9'974.60</p> <p>0.00</p> <p>44.10</p>

		2024	Prior year
	Fundraising and other expenses	0.00	161.55
5.3	Administrative costs	1'343.45	1'307.30
	– Digital media	300.00	3.30
	– Travel and representation expenses	0.00	51.00
	– General administrative costs	800.00	998.00
	– Translations	0.00	0.00
	– Duties and fees	33.45	255.00
	– Loss on receivables	210.00	0.00
	As a non-profit association, we are committed to limiting the management's administrative costs to an absolute minimum. All Management Board members work as volunteers. Therefore, only external costs are included as administrative expenses. The Management Board members have not been paid any compensation or benefits (see Note 7).		
	The audit review is also carried out on a voluntary no-fee basis.		

8.8 GRATUITOUS BENEFITS RECEIVED

A total of 8 (previous year: 46) volunteer mission participants took part in the missions in 2024. One ordinary mission carried out. No compensation was paid for their work as surgeons, anaesthetists, operating theatre nurses, patient carers and animators.

8.9 REMUNERATION OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Board of Directors of the CHEIRA association also assumes the functions of management. No remuneration or other benefits have been paid to the members of the Board of Directors. This does not include reimbursement of expenses to members of the Board of Directors in the course of carrying out missions or for representations in Switzerland.

8.10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Board of Directors approved the 2024 annual financial statements at its meeting on 12 March 2025.

There were no significant events after the balance sheet date.



8.11 AUDIT REPORT

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

2024 was another year full of dedication, courage and humanity for CHEIRA. Our work would not be possible without the great commitment of countless people. We would therefore like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who have dedicated their time, energy, expertise and passion to our mission.

Whether in the operating theatre or in the organisation, whether on site in the countries of operation or in the background in Switzerland - every single contribution counts. There are doctors, nurses, logistics managers, coordinators, donors, supporters and many other silent heroes who together give hope where there is despair.

You are the helping hands behind CHEIRA - hands that heal, hands that hold, hands that build bridges. You live the meaning of our name and our vision: hand in hand for a more humane world.

On behalf of all the patients whose lives you have changed and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors: thank you. May the knowledge of your valuable work strengthen and accompany you.

With deep gratitude and great respect,
your CHEIRA Board of Directors

