The Swiss Re Foundation in 2013

Improving risk resilience
“Many things connect the ICRC with Swiss Re and its Foundation – our knowledge of risk and our deep concern for society at large among them. A partner like the Foundation helps us address complex humanitarian problems. Together we strive to protect vulnerable people worldwide.”

Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Message from the Chairman

In many ways 2013 was special for the Swiss Re Foundation, marking a year of positioning its programmes to a wider audience. Building on Swiss Re’s long tradition of philanthropic engagement and commitment to strengthening society and the environment, the Foundation already has achieved a lot.

The Foundation makes visible and tangible the social and humanitarian values of Swiss Re, working to increase risk preparedness and resilience – with special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable. Informed by Swiss Re’s deep understanding of risks – such as those posed by natural catastrophes, climate change, population growth and pandemics – the Foundation’s programmes aim to predict, redress and when possible avert the large-scale social, environmental and economic imbalances to which such risks too often lead.

While the Foundation tackles far-reaching and complex challenges, the solutions tend to be focused and hands-on. Most of our global programmes are in fact local – however, our local activities serve the global objective of social and environmental sustainability. That’s why we also invest our resources and know-how in safeguarding the natural and social environment of the communities where Swiss Re has offices. We also support causes to which Swiss Re employees donate their own money and time.

Protecting communities against risk
While the Foundation tackles far-reaching and complex challenges, the solutions tend to be focused and hands-on.

This report presents the Foundation’s strategic focus and activities in 2013. I am pleased that our support has prepared some communities for catastrophes and helped others to recover from them. It has put families in sustainable housing and sent children to school. It has enabled social entrepreneurs to make a business of empowering their own communities – the very essence of sustainable development. We have also launched a raft of new projects in the spirit of Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary theme “Open minds connecting generations”, from research to advance risk measurement and management through programmes to improve child literacy and maternal health.

None of these achievements would be possible without our partners, which include governmental and non-governmental organisations, national and international foundations, academic institutions and Swiss Re itself – especially its employees. Together, we are working to improve the resilience of individuals and society worldwide.

Zurich, 10 January 2014

Walter B. Kielholz
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
## Working to empower the community

By making targeted investments in communities, social entrepreneurship, and academic and social institutions, the Swiss Re Foundation promotes the best kind of protection against risk: resilience.

### Funding context

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Resilience is key to environmental and societal sustainability. Drawing on expertise from Swiss Re’s business, the Swiss Re Foundation supports initiatives that seek to provide protection against risk.

### Our approach and why

The Swiss Re Foundation helps people cope with change. We are primarily committed to emerging economies and developing countries, where people are particularly vulnerable. The Foundation also supports projects that benefit the communities in which Swiss Re works.
The Swiss Re Foundation focuses on risk-related issues where we can make a long-term contribution. In the communities where Swiss Re has offices we also contribute to projects that protect the environment and promote social welfare.

The Swiss Re Foundation’s grant programmes address the causes and effects of changes in the natural and social environment. Locally, the Foundation supports projects that benefit the communities in which Swiss Re works.

To qualify for support, projects should match the Swiss Re Foundation’s priority and grantmaking areas. They should be led by partners with strong management capabilities and have clear, well-defined measures of success.

The Foundation prioritises areas where Swiss Re’s expertise and capabilities can have the most impact, especially prevention of and preparation for natural disasters. We also support programmes that help people improve their living conditions and their resilience to risk.

We make grants to address social and humanitarian problems worldwide and build local capacity to face them. We collaborate on long-term projects and provide emergency aid to relieve suffering. Swiss Re employees also provide financial and volunteer support to their communities.

Poverty makes people vulnerable, limiting their resilience to risk. The Swiss Re Foundation supports poor communities to combat this vulnerability and establish sustainable ways of living. We also partner with academic institutions and social entrepreneurs to drive research and innovation in social and risk-related challenges.
Global programmes

The Swiss Re Foundation is committed to reducing vulnerability in at-risk communities. Our grants support social, humanitarian and environmental causes, such as increasing access to safe water and sanitation or improving risk resilience among subsistence farmers. We focus on five grant areas: Disaster Risk Reduction, Capacity Building, Research & Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship and Emergency Aid. In each area we prioritise projects that help communities manage risks caused by inequality, climate change, natural disasters and pressure on water resources.
Taking the right steps to reduce risk

The Swiss Re Foundation helps particularly vulnerable communities increase their resilience to risk by supporting work aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness and adapting to climate change.

Natural disasters strike certain areas of the world with particular frequency and severity. Climate change has aggravated this risk, exposing the real costs of substandard infrastructure and housing, inadequate public services and weak community institutions. The Foundation seeks to help communities strengthen their resilience and secure their environments against natural disasters.

We are committed to helping communities make effective, long-term use of improved capacities and resources. The projects we support aim to map out danger zones and risk factors, develop emergency preparedness plans, train staff and volunteers, and line up basic emergency relief supplies for a local first response to disasters. We also help people adapt to climate change by improving infrastructure, managing forests sustainably and building disaster-resistant food storage facilities.

By addressing the needs of local communities, the Foundation is contributing to long-term, sustainable and comprehensive disaster risk reduction.

An emergency risk committee in Guatemala demonstrates how to reduce risk from natural disasters. For more information on the Foundation’s work with Vivamos Mejor, see page 18.
Every year people living in Bajo Lempa, the delta region of El Salvador’s Lempa River, face the threat of renewed flooding, drought and other hazards. A single flood can expose hundreds of families to harm; repeat disasters can inflict damage from which they may never recover. The Swiss Re Foundation supports the Swiss Red Cross so that it can help communities in Bajo Lempa to cope better with the risks imposed by El Salvador’s largest and most important river.

Our support will set up local emergency committees and train up to 500 committee members in 32 villages to implement emergency evacuation and mitigation plans. The Swiss Red Cross works together with the committees and universities to improve early warning systems and climate change monitoring. Approximately 500 schoolchildren and teachers will receive training in disaster risk reduction as part of a safe school programme, while a further 750 people will benefit from a pilot project to build flood-proof stores and improved cooking stoves. Around 14,500 people will benefit indirectly. The Swiss Red Cross will also be able to strengthen primary healthcare through training and medical facilities.

With the Foundation’s grant, the Swiss Red Cross is reducing the impact of future disasters on the residents of Bajo Lempa.
A capacity to change lives for the better

Lack of access to safe water, proper sanitation or healthcare facilities can put lives at risk. The Swiss Re Foundation supports projects that build knowledge and resources in deprived communities to help establish sustainable ways of living.

For many poor communities, the ability to safeguard health and livelihoods can easily come under threat from risks such as sickness, natural catastrophes and the effects of climate change. Vulnerability to these risks encourages defensive, risk-averse choices, inhibiting the ability to plan, save, build and prosper.

The Foundation supports capacity-building programmes that make people more secure. Expectant mothers can be informed about the importance of antenatal care, and local health workers can be trained in how best to deliver that care. Communities can look beyond living day by day when they are provided with affordable housing and healthcare facilities. Poor families can access loans to invest in basic resources and receive training in how to repay them. We support partners who drive vulnerability out of the communities we are helping by building knowledge and capacity. We look for sustainable, affordable, practical solutions that strengthen resilience.

In 2013, the Foundation supported several capacity-building activities around the globe to provide water supplies and sanitation in poor communities.

“The Swiss Re Foundation has enabled Leonor Duran, farmer and community leader, and Fundación Natura Bolivia to develop a tool that is sensitive enough to identify potential pollution risks to Moro Moro’s drinking water.”

Nigel Asquith,
Project Manager,
Fundación Natura Bolivia

Farmer and community leader Leonor Duran monitoring the quality of water as part of a watershed management project. For more information on our work with Natura Bolivia, see page 18.
The Swiss Re Foundation is supporting nearly 6000 poor households in Bangalore and throughout southern India to build water connections and toilets with proper drainage facilities in their own homes. More than 26000 residents will benefit – women in particular – fulfilling a need for safety, comfort and dignity.

The work is being carried out by Water.org and their certified local microfinance institution partners. Together they provide affordable loans to families to undertake water and/or sanitation improvements as well as support for household budgeting so families can easily repay the loans. As of September 2013, nearly 2300 loans had been disbursed, enabling the construction of more than 2000 household toilets, 100 household water points and 140 combined water and sanitation improvements. As the loans are repaid, that money can be used again to provide more loans to additional families in need of safe water facilities. From September 2012 to September 2014 more than USD 1.1 million will be paid out, leveraging the Foundation’s support and additional commercial capital mobilised by the Foundation’s investment.

Water.org also provides training and information on hygiene and health issues as well as on diseases associated with poor sanitation. Through the Foundation’s support, Water.org and their local partners are building capacity in health and household finance. In more concrete terms, the Foundation empowers those living in poverty by giving them access to safe water and sanitation.
The strength of knowledge

The data and systems generated by research and innovation can help governments and other organisations decide where best to invest to improve infrastructure and services – enabling communities to protect themselves.
Research & Innovation focuses on projects that apply an idea or technique in a novel way – modelling earthquake risk in regions where it hasn’t been before, for example; or exploring how current heart disease trends might affect future mortality.

The Foundation supports work across various disciplines, as well as the development of younger researchers. Successful innovations can equip individuals, municipalities and even nations to manage risk in new ways.

Beginning in 2013 our partnership with the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation has aimed to make a big contribution to diminishing the impact of earthquakes. We know that reliable information makes a big difference to outcomes. However, in many earthquake-prone regions there are no risk models, and where models exist, they are often inaccessible to public agencies. The Foundation is supporting the estimate of seismic risk across South America and identifying the countries and sub-national administrative regions where risk reduction action should be prioritised, improving risk resilience for millions of people. This project is expected to be finished by the end of 2015.

The Foundation is also funding a research project at the Harvard School of Public Health to quantify health and disease risk factors linked with cardiovascular disease and stroke. This can provide a significant contribution to the understanding of morbidity and mortality trends.

In 2008 our founder, Swiss Re, partnered with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) and the ETH Zurich Foundation to launch the Integrative Risk Management initiative. Together they aimed to make the ETH Zurich the leading centre for research in the management of risk.

The ETH Risk Centre was founded in 2011, focusing on risk research and education as well as cooperation with industry and government agencies. In 2013 the Swiss Re Foundation took up Swiss Re’s role in extending the partnership, pledging a further CHF 5 million in support over five years as part of Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary.

This support enables the ETH Risk Centre to offer up to ten additional masters and post-doctorate level positions per year and to invite scientists from academia and industry to take part in research and education activities. It also supports innovative research projects that focus on the Centre’s areas of expertise, in particular: economic and financial crisis risk, social risks and conflicts, robustness of infrastructure systems and services, and integrative risk management and system design.

Swiss Re’s partnership with the ETH Zurich – and now the Foundation’s partnership with the ETH Zurich – aims to train new generations of researchers to establish concrete insights into the risk-related challenges we face.
Engaged in the business of change

Social entrepreneurs create positive change through new initiatives. They spread their solutions among communities, institutions and the private sector. By looking for new models and systems, they create social value and change people’s lives for the better.

The successful entrepreneur knows how to spot and meet an unmet demand. The successful social entrepreneur not only meets an unmet demand, but does so in a way that improves people’s lives. Social entrepreneurs are creative by definition and typically come from outside of government agencies and aid organisations. Often they are members of the communities their innovations seek to help. The Swiss Re Foundation supports these innovators in their efforts to generate positive change by commercial means.

Our grants enable social entrepreneurs to develop their talents, apply their skills and create lasting change. One outstanding example is the IMPACT HUB Fellowship for Longer Lives, an international fellowship programme developed by IMPACT HUB and supported by the Swiss Re Foundation and insurer AXA. It seeks to enable social entrepreneurs to address the challenges of increased life expectancy and demographic ageing. The fellowships give them one year of support to develop their innovations. Starting in Milan, Italy, the programme will be expanded to London, Madrid and Oaxaca, Mexico.

The Swiss Re Foundation removes the central obstacle to entrepreneurial success – the need for a powerful backer. This frees the entrepreneurs to apply their talents and grow their businesses for the benefit of society.

33 000
Direct beneficiaries

70 000
Indirect beneficiaries

390
Commitments in 2013
CHF thousands

A network of social entrepreneurs help design initiatives that promote good health among communities in India. For more information on the Foundation’s work with Ashoka, see page 18.
In 2001 Honey Care Africa started to explore a surprising way to help poor farming communities diversify their incomes: by making honey. Today thousands of African farmers are producing quality honey and generating up to USD 100 in extra annual income.

To help Honey Care extend further into western Kenya, the Foundation is matching donations raised by Swiss Re’s IT division. About 2,000 very poor families – around 10,000 people – will benefit directly, while a further 40,000 people will benefit indirectly from employment by Honey Care and the flow of additional income into the communities.

Under Honey Care’s “Business in a Beehive” programme, communities are organised into clusters, enabling access to a commercial honey value chain. With our support, Honey Care is setting up two new clusters with more than 4,000 modern beehives. Each participating family is responsible for at least two hives and receives instruction on how to maintain them. Project partner Kiva, a non-profit microlender, is providing households with financing for their hives. Each cluster should be economically sustainable and self-sufficient after about 18 months and families can begin to count on this supplement to their annual income, allowing them to pay off their loan, pay for school fees and buy medicines and supplies for their farms. Honey Care Africa ensures a return on investment for all participating families by guaranteeing the market for all honey produced.

To date, Honey Care has been able to double the income of several thousand small-scale farmers. The Foundation and Swiss Re employees are helping them grow their business and diversify incomes in rural Kenya.
A targeted response to disaster

Relief of every kind is needed in an emergency. By working with partners with operational bases in affected areas, we can ensure our help reaches those who need it most.

The Swiss Re Foundation’s emergency aid efforts are aimed at relieving the suffering caused by natural disaster, conflict or both. We work with organisations already active in affected areas to ensure our help gets to the right people quickly, and in the form it can best be used — food, equipment, transport, personnel, water. The Foundation has taken on the responsibility for these efforts from our founder, Swiss Re. Following Swiss Re’s lead, our support focuses on relief efforts, rebuilding after disasters, and channelling and matching the donations of Swiss Re employees.

Fundraising activities organised by the Foundation encourage Swiss Re employees to make donations following an emergency through our Group-wide donation programme. The Foundation matches employee donations at a predefined level per event.

Coordination is crucial in an emergency. Relief organisations establish logistics support teams to manage incoming aid.
Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the central Philippines in November 2013. Winds of up to 275 km/h and waves as high as 15 metres devastated coastal towns across the region and affected over 14 million people, including over 5.6 million children.

The typhoon destroyed up to 90% of homes and infrastructure in the hardest-hit areas, leaving many survivors extremely vulnerable. Around 4 million people were displaced and in desperate need of food, water and shelter; the death toll is estimated at over 5,900.

The Foundation’s Board of Trustees quickly released CHF 250,000 to the Swiss Red Cross for relief efforts. These funds provided survivors of the storm with 213 tropical tents, 200 family tents and 448 shelter kits. The Foundation also launched a Group-wide Swiss Re employee donation programme to support Save the Children, which has operational and field bases as well as support teams in the three worst-hit areas on Leyte and Panay Islands. Employee contributions are being used to provide some of the most vulnerable families with access to emergency shelter, safe water, food and healthcare. Donations will also help children get back into a routine and continue their schooling despite the devastation.

The Foundation’s global appeal for donations met with great response from Swiss Re employees. Donations from employees around the world amounted to CHF 124,315. The Foundation matched these contributions.

01 Millions of children in affected areas are without adequate shelter or appropriate medicines and healthcare
02 Expert medical teams attend to the needs of the most vulnerable
Our commitment to a safer world

The Swiss Re Foundation supports projects that help vulnerable communities manage the risks to health, safety and development posed by inequality, climate change, natural disasters and pressure on water resources. Swiss Re handed responsibility for some of the following projects to the Foundation in 2013.

**Addressing health inequalities in India through nutrition**

Many health problems in India can be traced to nutrition. By creating an interdisciplinary network of social entrepreneurs committed to finding and spreading prevention-focused solutions, this effort helps build communities that ensure good health for all.

*Project partner: Ashoka*
*Duration: 2011–2014*
*Country: India*

**Community risk management of natural hazards in Guatemala**

In close cooperation with local authorities and residents, this project aims to reduce natural risks through community organisation and training as well as reforestation and sustainable forest use.

*Project partner: Foundation Vivamos Mejor*
*Duration: 2012–2015*
*Country: Guatemala*

**A win-win approach to watershed management in South America**

This project scales up the innovative approach to watershed protection that won the 2010 ReSource Award. Downstream water users enable economic development projects for upstream landowners in return for conservation of forested water factories.

*Project partner: Fundación Natura Bolivia*
*Duration: 2013–2016*
*Countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia*

**Water for life in Pernambuco State**

Cisterns and roof upgrades enable people in extremely poor, remote areas to safely collect and store rainwater at home rather than trekking long distances to fetch low-quality water. Youth-focused training strengthens the communities’ ability to help themselves by enabling them to maintain and expand the programme as well as the communities as a whole.

*Project partner: Habitat for Humanity International*
*Duration: 2013–2015*
*Country: Brazil*

**Decent housing for poor working families in Brazil**

This project focuses on building houses for impoverished families headed by women who work in the cassava flour mills of Pernambuco State, as well as bolstering community organisation, addressing gender issues and increasing financial sustainability.

*Project partner: Habitat for Humanity International*
*Duration: 2012–2013*
*Country: Brazil*

**New opportunities for poor farmers in western Kenya**

This project enables subsistence farmers to join a commercial honey value chain. By tending beehives, farmers raise crop yields through on-farm pollination and earn cash for essential medical care and schooling, creating new local jobs in the process.

*Project partner: Honey Care Africa*
*Duration: 2013–2015*
*Country: Kenya*
Championing people’s rights worldwide

This funding supports Human Rights Watch in its efforts to advance human rights and protect vulnerable people around the world through in-depth research, targeted media outreach and high-level policy advocacy.

Project partner: Human Rights Watch  
Duration: 2011–2013  
Country: Global

Community-based palliative care in Tamil Nadu

Palliative medicine focuses on relieving suffering. Pioneered in Kerala, this approach helps communities that lack palliative care services build the capacity to provide such services to their incurably ill, chronically bedridden and dying residents.

Project partner: Institute of Palliative Medicine  
Duration: 2013–2015  
Country: India

Clean water for better health in Sudan

After years of armed conflict, many people in Darfur lack access to safe drinking water and medical care. This initiative combines emergency aid with reconstruction of medical and water infrastructure to improve health and foster local recovery.

Project partner: International Committee of the Red Cross  
Duration: 2013  
Country: Sudan

Survival and community development in Somalia

With a focus on people in conflict zones, this project provides emergency shelter, medicine and water rations and helps create sustainable living conditions through construction of wells and boreholes and better veterinary care for livestock.

Project partner: International Committee of the Red Cross  
Duration: 2013  
Country: Somalia
Weather insurance for Ethiopia’s rural poor

Based on a novel “labour-for-premiums” scheme for insuring the poor, this project offers rural Ethiopians insurance cover against drought risk in return for their work on community-led reforestation and crop irrigation projects.

*Project partner:* Oxfam America  
*Duration:* 2012–2016  
*Country:* Ethiopia

Earthquake preparedness in Kathmandu

Natural disasters kill more people in Nepal than in all the rest of South Asia, and a major earthquake is expected to occur soon. This project prepares members of the community and health workers to cope with the aftermath by supporting mass casualty plans, infrastructure adaptation and training.

*Project partner:* Save the Children  
*Duration:* 2013–2014  
*Country:* Nepal

Putting children first when natural disaster strikes

Targeting the Yi ethnic minority in Liangshan Prefecture, this pilot focuses on actions children should take in case of disaster, with children joining and often leading activities to build local knowledge and capacity and to make communities safer.

*Project partner:* Save the Children  
*Duration:* 2012–2015  
*Country:* China

A caring environment for at-risk youth in Sri Lanka

The newly built SOS Youth Facility in the town of Monaragala helps adolescents from the local SOS Children’s Village grow into socially and economically integrated adults while allowing the SOS Village to accommodate more young children.

*Project partner:* SOS Kinderdorf  
*Duration:* 2012–2014  
*Country:* Sri Lanka

Increasing disaster preparedness in the Mekong Delta

Vietnam is one of the most disaster-prone countries of Asia. This partnership in the southern part of the country aims to help poor communities mitigate the impact of natural catastrophes and boost resilience to typhoons and climate change through risk assessment and training.

*Project partner:* Swiss Red Cross  
*Duration:* 2012–2014  
*Country:* Vietnam
Disaster risk reduction in the South Caucasus

Unique in targeting urban as well as rural communities, this initiative strengthens resilience to natural disasters through risk mapping, capacity building and planning exercises informed by the knowledge and experience of local residents.

**Project partner:** Swiss Red Cross
**Duration:** 2013–2015
**Countries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Rescue dogs for rapid disaster response in Japan

Following on emergency relief provided after the 2011 tsunami, this project facilitates knowledge-sharing between the Japanese Rescue Dog Association and the Swiss Disaster Dog Association to ensure swift rescue of disaster survivors.

**Project partner:** Swiss Disaster Dog Association (REDOG)
**Duration:** 2012–2014

Promoting climate adaptation in rural Maharashtra

With an emphasis on women’s empowerment, this project helps drought-prone communities adapt to climate change and variability by restoring their ecosystems, diversifying their livelihoods and adopting new agricultural and renewable energy technologies.

**Project partner:** Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR)
**Duration:** 2012–2015
**Country:** India

Reinforcing resilience in a flood-prone river delta

In an extension of an earlier Swiss Re-funded initiative, villages in Bajo Lempa, El Salvador, learn to benefit from their new capacities in disaster management, risk reduction and adaptation to climate change as well as improved healthcare.

**Project partner:** Swiss Red Cross
**Duration:** 2013–2015
**Country:** El Salvador

Wider access to safe water and sanitation in Bangalore

Most of the world’s 2.5 billion people who lack proper sanitation would pay for it were it available. Building on India’s strong microfinance systems, this lending scheme allows poor families to install water connections and toilets in their homes.

**Project partner:** Water.org
**Duration:** 2012–2014
**Country:** India

Sanitation through social entrepreneurship in Lima

One-third of Lima’s residents have no safe sanitation. With a focus on ecological and financial sustainability, this project scales up a social business that offers water-free toilets, linked with a human waste pick-up service and ecological waste treatment, to poor urban households at very low cost.

**Project partner:** X-Runner Venture GmbH/Sanisol
**Duration:** 2013–2015
**Country:** Peru
Award programme

As populations grow and lifestyles change, the pressure on water resources is intensifying. Climate change adds further pressure by disrupting rainfall patterns and raising temperatures. For millions of people in developing countries, these pressures have become so intense that their access to clean water is threatened, putting their health, safety and even survival at risk. Watershed management – work that enhances and sustains the supply and quality of clean water – helps to reduce this risk through improved forest management, irrigation and rain water collection and storage.
The International ReSource Award is a result of our founder’s commitment to water protection projects in developing countries. Swiss Re handed responsibility for the award to the Foundation in 2013.

The International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management recognises water protection projects that promote sustainable access to clean water supplies in developing and emerging countries. Every year an international jury awards USD 150,000 to one or several winning projects. The Swiss Re Foundation administers the award.

Since its launch in 2002, more than 1,500 project proposals have been submitted, an average of 140 per year. Around 40% of the projects come from Asia, 25% from Africa, 20% from Latin America and 15% from the rest of the world.

The award recognises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other private, scientific or public institutions that are committed to raising awareness of the ecological, social and economic significance of water sources and watersheds. Award participants should have a proven track record in sustainability and project planning and/or management in the field of water and source management. Projects should demonstrate innovative, preventative measures for protecting water resources and involve local community and/or regional institutions. More than 1,200, or 77%, of applications received so far have met the award selection criteria.

A panel of experts from NGOs, governmental institutions and Swiss Re and its Foundation make up the jury of the ReSource Award while an international panel of patrons promotes the award and winning projects through their networks worldwide.

“Thanks to the award, hundreds of participants are involved in remediating highly polluted areas of the watershed, replacing latrines draining directly to the rivers and creating safe places for the community.”

Joe Mulligan
Member of the Project Team,
Kounkuey Design Initiative

The Association “Kounkuey Design Initiative” partners with residents of the Kibera slums in Nairobi to implement watershed remediation approaches. For more information on this project see page 27.
A watershed management plan that improves food and income security while relieving pressure on the environment won the 2013 ReSource Award. The project, put forward by the WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office, aims to improve sustainable agriculture and husbandry systems in Madagascar’s Manakaravavy watershed. It also sets an example for other regions.

The WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office will work with local communities and authorities to manage and protect the Manakaravavy River, its riverbanks and surrounding forests. The project will directly impact the livelihoods of about 1100 farming households through improved irrigation technologies and agricultural techniques. Livestock production will also benefit from efforts to increase the capacity of grazing land within the watershed.

An additional 500 hectares of rice and inter-seasonal crops will come into cultivation, increasing wage labour and contributing to food security.

It should also give farmers an incentive to stay in their communities, helping to reduce harmful migration to the nearby Tsimanampesotsa National Park.

Thanks to the capacity-building measures implemented by the WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office, communities will be able to sustain and benefit from improvements to the Manakaravavy watershed well beyond the project’s lifetime.
Protecting water sources and watersheds with innovative projects

Winners of the ReSource Award, chosen by an international jury of experts from NGOs, governmental institutions and Swiss Re and its Foundation, put water resources and local communities first.

2002

Water users become biosphere conservers in Guatemala

Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza aims to mitigate man-made threats to freshwater and downstream coastal marine ecosystems caused by deforestation, cattle ranching, agricultural expansion and over-consumption of surface and ground-water resources by compensating forest owners and other parties for conservation activities.

2003

Introducing regulatory reforms in the A’Vuong watershed, Vietnam

The Vietnam Office of WWF Indochina aims to stop the degradation of the A’Vuong watershed by allocating land and resource rights to local institutions. The project also enables indigenous Ka Tu communities in the upland watershed areas to receive a share of the revenues from the A’Vuong dam to invest in forest management and protection, or in the form of livelihood development grants.

2004 (two winners)

Clean water through eco-sanitation in China

The Yunnan Environmental Development Institute supports activities aimed at protecting and rehabilitating the upstream water sources of the Pearl River system without any resettlements of lake residents and tourists in Xian Rendon village and tourist spots. Residents benefit from reduced water pollution and higher living standards as a result of eco-sanitation installations and biogas production.

2004 (two winners)

Improving the quality of water in Cuenca, Ecuador

ETAPA, the public municipal company for water supply and sanitation in Cuenca, aims to sustainably manage the Tomebamba watershed in the southern Andean region. Key activities include installing dry sanitation facilities, building capacity among community leaders and beneficiaries and providing environmental education for schoolchildren. Reintroducing alpacas should help combat accelerated soil erosion and water contamination from intensive cattle production.

2005

Compensating for upstream activities in the Philippines

Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies, an all-Filipino organisation, aims to protect the environment and alleviate poverty in the Penablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape area. The project has been designed to be economically sustainable through Payment for Environmental Services, livelihood activities and other benefits such as agroforestry. Upstream communities receive training in sustainable farming practices, and forest patrolling and monitoring.

2007

Water harvesting to improve livelihoods in southern Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Rainwater Harvesting Association (ERHA) aims to promote rainwater harvesting among at least 10 communities (approximately 2,000 people) in southern Ethiopia. Project goals include building sand dams and storage tanks to ensure access to safe drinking water and water for productive use in the short- and long-term for communities living in the catchment area of an ephemeral watershed.

2008 (two winners)

Clean safe water supply for Shangri-la, China

The Mountain Institute (TMI) works together with government agencies, village committees and community representatives to ensure clean and safe water supplies from the Sangna reservoir watershed. The Sangna Reservoir Bureau and TMI designed an activity plan based on Improved Management Practices for five communities (or about 1,200 inhabitants) that make up the catchment area.
<table>
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<th>Award Year</th>
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| 2008 (two winners) | **Supporting sustainable forest management in the Solomon Islands**  
The Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (LLCTC) aims to secure the Chivoko watershed forests (ca. 8,000 ha) by legally protecting the area from industrial logging. Working together with national experts, the LLCTC provides a watershed management plan that supports sustainable forest development practices. The LLCTC also assists community cooperatives with alternative income generation activities. |
| 2009 | **Sustainable and productive management of degraded watersheds in Afghanistan**  
Helvetas aims to improve livelihoods of the poor rural population in the Kahmard district by reducing the risk of flood damage and increasing long-term land productivity. This is achieved by improving watershed management of areas affected by erosion and surface water runoff. |
| 2010 | **Establishing Municipal Water Funds in the Santa Cruz valleys, Bolivia**  
Natura Bolivia aims to help municipalities establishing five Municipal Water Funds to maintain drinking and irrigation water supplies, invest in upper watershed protection and improve livelihoods in Bolivia’s Santa Cruz valleys. Natura Bolivia specialises in developing financial mechanisms that compensate upstream landowners for the opportunity cost of protecting environmental services. |
| 2011 | **Improving water supplies in Kyrgyzstan**  
The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) aims to create a “Payment for Ecosystem Services” (PES) scheme, linking upstream and downstream populations of the Chon-Aksuu river basin. To ensure sustainability of the PES scheme, the project also aims to include a “Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation” (REDD) scheme. |
| 2012 | **Engaging the community in Kibera, Kenya**  
The Association “Kounkuey Design Initiative” implements three “productive public spaces” including river bolstering, environmental remediation, water supply, sanitation facilities, community buildings and micro-businesses in partnership with residents of the Kibera slums in Nairobi. The economic and social benefits of the reclaimed river and public spaces will engender a new spirit of environmental stewardship and cooperation amongst residents. |
| 2013 | **Sustainable agricultural and husbandry systems in Madagascar**  
The WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office aim to improve farmers’ access to water, better technologies and production resources, thereby enhancing food and income security in Madagascar’s Manakaravavy watershed while taking significant pressure off the Tsimanampesotse National Park. |

*Since 2006, the award year has referred to the date of the award ceremony, not the application deadline.*
PROJECTS COMMENORATING SWISS RE’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY
In 2013 our corporate founder, Swiss Re, celebrated its 150th anniversary. The Swiss Re Foundation is supporting an exceptional set of projects to mark this anniversary and to demonstrate our shared commitment to enhancing resilience against risk.

“Open minds connecting generations” is the theme, giving us all a chance to stop, think, and fully open our minds to the risks facing today’s communities and generations beyond.

The Foundation teamed up with partners, clients, and Swiss Re employees throughout the year to launch new initiatives that support at-risk communities and generations.

Orphaned children in Swaziland are able to receive medical care and food support as well as go to school. For more information on this and other projects selected by Swiss Re employees and their families to commemorate Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary, see page 31.
Reaching out to different generations

In Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary year, the Swiss Re Foundation launched a number of initiatives that demonstrate our shared commitment to improving the risk resilience of communities today – and of future generations.

For its 150th anniversary, Swiss Re focused attention on select topics that pose huge challenges to the world and future generations: food security, ageing populations, sustainable energy and adapting to climate change and the risk of natural disasters. The company has invited its clients, employees and other stakeholders to explore how society can respond to these challenges, stimulating intergenerational dialogue and potential action.

The Foundation can add to the discussion by leveraging our relationships with universities, non-governmental organisations and other partners. We have also launched 16 projects that deal with the risks associated with each of the challenges.

The generations theme is prominent in all of our anniversary projects. The social and emotional needs of older generations in the UK are being met through a project that provides vital support services. Children’s basic needs for health and welfare are being met through different projects around the world. We also look ahead to future generations by funding basic research that may one day contribute to enhanced resilience for all.

Our partners are essential in carrying out these 16 anniversary-themed projects. Together we are working to promote sustainable risk prevention that can also benefit generations to come.
In celebration of Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary, the Swiss Re Foundation is funding three projects aimed at improving the health, well-being, and educational and economic success of disadvantaged children around the world. The Foundation selected six worthy candidates and invited Swiss Re employees and their families to decide which three projects they wanted to support.

Swiss Re staff were given the opportunity to choose three out of six projects that aim to benefit children and youth. The three winning projects received grants from the Foundation.

A close-run vote decided the winning projects: improving literacy in El Salvador (Save the Children), providing eye care and preventing blindness in northeast India (LIGHT FOR THE WORLD) and caring for orphans in Swaziland (Swiss Red Cross).

Save the Children will increase the reading proficiency of the children in four low-literacy municipalities in El Salvador through its Literacy Boost programme. About 7,000 children and their families, 90 teachers and at least 10 educational advisors and supervisors will benefit directly.

In Meghalaya, one of India’s poorest states, rural schoolchildren and adults benefit from LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’s efforts to train teachers and others to screen for and address basic eye problems. Identifying refractive errors will help keep children in school, while diagnosing glaucoma or cataracts at an early stage will help prevent blindness.

Swaziland has one of the world’s highest rates of HIV/AIDS, with about 26% of adults affected. Our support enables the Swiss Red Cross to provide school fees, medical care, food support and peer education on topics that include HIV/AIDS for over 100,000 orphaned and at-risk children.
Celebrating the past with investments in the future

In the spirit of Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary theme, the Swiss Re Foundation launched a raft of projects that open new avenues of inquiry and nurture the next generation.

### Generations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project partner</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child literacy in El Salvador</td>
<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Many Salvadoran children leave primary school without basic literacy skills. This extension of the proven programme &quot;Literacy Boost&quot; aims to raise reading proficiency of the children in four low-literacy municipalities by ensuring access to and effective use of reading materials for children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope for at-risk Swazi children</td>
<td>Swiss Red Cross</td>
<td>2013–2015</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>With one of the world’s highest rates of HIV/AIDS, tiny Swaziland is home to thousands of orphaned and at-risk children. This project pays their school fees and offers medical care, food support and peer education on topics including HIV/AIDS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy mothers in Tanzania</td>
<td>Vodafone Foundation</td>
<td>2013–2015</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>This project seeks to reduce maternal mortality in Tanzania by informing women and their communities about birth preparedness and risks as well as training community health workers in the timely detection, management and referral of high-risk cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmic health in rural Meghalaya</td>
<td>LIGHT FOR THE WORLD</td>
<td>2013–2015</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Aimed at rural schoolchildren and adults in one of India’s poorest states, this project trains teachers and others to screen for and address basic eye problems and takes people in need of advanced care or surgery to the state capital for treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round-the-clock information, friendship and advice for older people</td>
<td>The Silver Line</td>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>A response to the growing number and isolation of older people in the UK, this free helpline offers callers information, friendship and advice; links them to groups and services in their community; and protects and supports those suffering abuse and neglect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Risk Resilience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project partner</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training humanitarian leaders</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</td>
<td>2013–2016</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>The Humanitarian Leadership Management School will train present and future ICRC managers in the capabilities, mindsets and behaviours required to realise ICRC’s ambitions and ensure it continues to provide quality service to those who need it most.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers of disease and mortality</td>
<td>Harvard School of Public Health</td>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Brazil, China, India, Mexico</td>
<td>Designed to predict future trends, this research looks at how risk factors and medical interventions affect health outcomes and estimates their quantitative contribution to cardiovascular disease and stroke in four fast-developing countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquakes’ toll in Latin America</td>
<td>GEM Foundation</td>
<td>2012–2015</td>
<td>Peru, Ecuador</td>
<td>Assessing risk and raising awareness of Latin America’s vulnerability to earthquakes. GEM and the Swiss Re Foundation have joined forces to develop an interdisciplinary research endeavour to assess seismic hazards and simulate the potential physical and socio-economic impact of earthquakes on communities in the region. Between 2012 and 2015, Lima and Quito will be the focus for local risk assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Area</td>
<td>Project partner</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative risk management</td>
<td>ETH Zurich Foundation</td>
<td>This project not only increases the ETH Risk Center’s capacity to generate research insights, but also helps train a new generation of researchers to address the risk-related challenges that societies face in an integrative, collaborative way.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue in finance and insurance</td>
<td>University of Zurich</td>
<td>The University of Zurich’s new Center for Finance and Insurance helps bridge the gap between finance theory and insurance practice by conducting basic research and training early-career researchers to advance this important area of study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increasing life expectancy: a global trend</td>
<td>IMPACT HUB</td>
<td>Innovative solutions are needed to help deal with the challenges of longer living. The programme provides financial and practical support to entrepreneurs in Italy, the UK, Spain and Mexico who aim to develop new products and services that can make a positive change to the way we live.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art therapy for children in hospital</td>
<td>University Children’s Hospital Zurich</td>
<td>Part of a wider effort to improve quality of life for critically ill children, art-based therapy at the University Children’s Hospital Zurich gives child patients a chance to express themselves, cope with pain and fear, build confidence and self-heal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable housing for students</td>
<td>Witellika</td>
<td>Swiss Re set up the Student Dormitory Foundation and built Zurich’s Witellika dormitory in 1963. To ensure students at top local universities continued access to affordable housing, Witellika was renovated on the occasion of Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture in harmony with nature</td>
<td>Museum Rietberg</td>
<td>Architect Shigeru Ban became famous for creating emergency dwellings in disaster-struck areas from simple, sustainable materials. This project supported the construction of Ban’s reusable, contemporary outdoor pavilion to mark Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary at Zurich’s Rietberg Museum, a Swiss Re neighbour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compositions on the theme of risk</td>
<td>Lucerne Festival</td>
<td>This project nurtures young composers and musicians by commissioning four pieces on the theme “music at risk” and hosting performances of this original music at four day-long regional events marking Swiss Re’s 150th anniversary around the globe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing the city of Zurich’s reputation</td>
<td>Kunsthau Zürich</td>
<td>The Kunsthau Zurich, one of Switzerland’s leading art museums, will build an extension for art and the public in the 21st century. This contribution to the project enhances Zurich’s reputation as an attractive world city.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Community programmes

The Swiss Re Foundation’s community work aims to promote social welfare and protect the environment where Swiss Re has offices. Through our programmes, Swiss Re employees around the world can spend time volunteering – often in very different settings from their day-to-day work. We also give grants to national charities chosen by employees working in Swiss Re’s main locations. Employees who devote their free time to non-profit volunteer work or community projects can also receive funding from the Foundation.
Building close ties in the community

Swiss Re employees in selected locations organise fundraising events and volunteering for their Charity of the Year, bringing them closer to the communities in which they work.

The focus of the Swiss Re Foundation’s Charity of the Year programme is most definitely local. Employees from Swiss Re’s main locations around the world can nominate a charity in their community to receive financial support from the Foundation. The support does not stop there; employees organise fundraising events, raffles and volunteering throughout the year to further help the charity they have chosen.

In Switzerland, Swiss Re employees nominated the local education and occupational integration centre Stiftung Bühl as their Charity of the Year in 2013. The centre offers valuable development opportunities in a residential setting for about 180 children, teenagers and adults with mental disabilities, learning disorders and psychological problems.

The Foundation and Swiss Re’s Zurich employees are helping to build better recreational and sports facilities for the centre’s residents. In Japan the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ARK NOVA, an inflatable concert hall designed to bring cultural activities to regions affected by the 2011 earthquake, was nominated as the 2013 Charity of the Year. It was inspired by Noah’s Ark as well as a concept from Japanese folklore known as “marebito”, or sacred guests from afar. Swiss Re staff in Japan volunteered to welcome and guide visitors from abroad to ARK NOVA’s first performance in Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture in October 2013.

The Charity of the Year programme allows Swiss Re’s local offices to leverage the strength of the Foundation to meet local needs.
Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for the seven young people aged 13 to 24 diagnosed with cancer every day. The organisation funds and builds specialist units in National Health Service hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together so they can be treated by teenage cancer experts in the best place for them.

Teenage Cancer Trust wants every young person with cancer to have access to this specialist support, no matter where they live. Traditionally treated alongside children or elderly patients at the end of their lives, young people can feel extremely isolated, some never meeting another young person with cancer. Being treated alongside others their own age can make a huge difference to their whole experience.

Teenage Cancer Trust also educates young people and health professionals about cancer to help improve the speed and quality of diagnosis.

The Swiss Re Foundation is partnering with Teenage Cancer Trust to raise GBP 150,000 over two years to help transform the lives of young people with cancer. Swiss Re UK employees will make a valuable contribution to achieving this target by organising fund-raising activities as teams or as individuals. Employees will also raise awareness about the work Teenage Cancer Trust is doing.
The difference a day can make

Swiss Re employees support volunteering initiatives at Swiss Re locations around the globe.

**3 607**
**Swiss Re volunteers in 2013**

**9 853**
**Volunteering hours in 2013**

The Swiss Re Foundation encourages Swiss Re employees around the world to spend one working day per year volunteering during Swiss Re Community Days. Thanks to employees’ engagement and commitment, the programme is thriving. Since expanding from Swiss Re’s Americas and UK offices in 2010, participation has gone from strength to strength: in Zurich, about 460 employees volunteered in 2013 and in Asia-Pacific engagement among employees is growing. In the Americas, nearly 600 Swiss Re employees now participate over nearly two weeks of Community Days.

Volunteering can take place in children’s hospitals, shelter homes or the great outdoors, allowing employees to apply their talents in very different settings from their day-to-day work environments. Employees restore houses and groom forests. They pack food parcels and donated items. They cook and serve meals to those in need. Community Days give Swiss Re employees a proud and lasting connection to colleagues across the organisation.

Volunteers give their time, skills and expertise. What they gain is a clearer definition of community and a keen understanding of how much can be achieved through their actions. Volunteering strengthens social awareness, giving employees a fresh perspective when they return to their daily routine.

“GrowNYC’s many programmes strengthen communities in the Greater New York area on so many levels. Getting a first hand look at the power of their initiatives has been truly appreciated by all who took part.”

**Dominic Capobianco**
Swiss Re Americas

Volunteers from Swiss Re’s Americas offices build a school garden in New York. For more information on our work with GrowNYC, see page 43.
Mountain forests offer valuable protection against avalanches, falling rocks, soil erosion and flooding to the valleys, lowlands and urban areas below. Steep terrain and a scarcity of roads and trails, however, make it difficult to manage these forests in a cost-effective way, especially as people leave mountain communities for towns and cities.

It’s no surprise that this problem is especially prevalent in mountainous countries like Switzerland. Volunteers from Swiss Re’s Zurich offices go back to the Tamina Valley in eastern Switzerland again and again to take care of the valley’s mountain forest and thus help maintain its protective function. To date they have built and repaired footpaths, constructed nearly 100 wooden snow barriers, planted 1,000 wild tree seedlings and cleared weaker trees from forested land. This work will protect the valleys below for the next 40 years or more.

01 Volunteers from Swiss Re’s Zurich offices construct protective barriers on the slopes of the Tamina Valley in eastern Switzerland

02 Preparing for a well-earned break from working in the mountain forests
Injecting cash into community engagement

The Swiss Re Foundation recognises the deep commitment among Swiss Re employees to community engagement by offering financial support to those who dedicate their free time to social causes.

What people do in their free time is their own business. At the Foundation we invite Swiss Re employees to make it our business. Our Dollars-4-Doers programme supports employees who devote their free time to non-profit voluntary work or community projects. Employees can apply for grants of up to CHF 3,000 per project per year to benefit their favourite cause. The programme supports volunteering in areas such as education, health and the environment. To qualify for support, projects must align with the Swiss Re Foundation’s mission and guiding principles.

In 2013 the Foundation issued over ten grants to Swiss Re employees, including support for a project organised by Women’s Centers International (WCI), a US-based non-profit founded in 2011. WCI develops community-based centres managed by and for women living in urban slums around the world. In Nairobi, Kenya, WCI helped set up the Baraka Women’s Center, which offers women business training in a safe, supportive environment. In April 2013, the centre’s first 80 enrollees completed their training successfully and are now going ahead with their business plans.

Through our Dollars-4-Doers programme, we recognise and encourage community engagement among Swiss Re employees.
Dedicated to improving the lives of young women in urban communities, Young Women Rock! organises after-school educational, leadership, and personal development programmes for girls aged 14 to 18 in two of New York City’s most underserved neighbourhoods: Brownsville and East New York, Brooklyn. Young Women Rock! interrupts the poverty cycle by providing young women with access to important resources and to a strong, life-long support system that encourages their ambition and builds their confidence. Young Women Rock! received support from the Foundation’s Dollars-4-Doers programme in 2013.

The need for support is great: rates of poverty, teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS are alarmingly high in Brownsville and East New York, Brooklyn. Teenage pregnancy in particular leads many girls to drop out of high school, lowering their chances of completing higher education.

YWR! is operated by The Women Worldwide Initiative (TWWI), which Swiss Re employee Uraidah Hassani founded in 2011. Uraidah devotes much of her spare time to developing, monitoring and evaluating programmes, as well as providing oversight of and support to TWWI. The work of TWWI aligns closely with the Foundation’s focus on sustainability and high impact in the areas of education, community and health.
Benefiting the greater good

The Foundation’s community programmes enable Swiss Re employees to support causes close to their communities through volunteering and fundraising activities.

The projects listed opposite are a selection of community programmes in which Swiss Re employees engaged in 2013.
Community Programmes / Selected projects

Americas

Community Day

Building a school garden
A Citywide School Gardens Initiative in New York transforms plots of land into vibrant gardens to be used as dynamic classrooms for students. Plots are cleaned up, landscaped and furnished with equipment such as rainwater harvesting systems.

Project partner: GrowNYC
Country: US

Charity of the Year

Building more resilient communities
The programme aims to develop new community resilience strategies and deepen relationships with local leaders and agencies. The project identifies a given area’s resiliency needs and works to meet those needs through custom services.

Project partner: American Red Cross
Country: US

Community Day

Providing comfort and community
Dedicated to caring for families of hospitalised children, the charity enables families to stay together in a home away from home. Volunteers plan, shop for and prepare meals for the families.

Project partner: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicago and Northern Indiana
Country: US

EMEA

Community Day

A playground at the Roetel children’s home
Swiss Re employees joined forces to build a new playground at the Roetel children’s home and daycare in Zurich. The home also received support from the Foundation’s Christmas Gift Collection in 2013.

Project partner: Stiftung Zürcher Kinder- und Jugendheime
Country: Switzerland

Charity of the Year

Helping school leavers find apprenticeships
Thirty percent of high school graduates in Germany can’t find a training position. People whose careers have been successful support teenagers in their search for an apprenticeship.

Project partner: ZONTA Club Munich
Country: Germany

Community Day

Promoting self-reliance
Providing help for people suffering long-term unemployment, social isolation and loneliness, the school offers classes in practical skills and self-reliance such as producing goods to sell and collecting clothes for fellow students.

Project partner: Kofoeds School
Country: Denmark

Asia-Pacific

Charity of the Year

Generating water supplies
Aimed at improving annual water supplies for 70 villagers engaged in livestock and agricultural production, the project will construct earthen dams for the village of Saswad.

Project partner: Rotary Club of Pune Gandhi Bhavan
Country: India

Community Day

Oxfam trailwalker
Teams of four from Swiss Re’s Sydney office walked or ran 100km in a limited amount of time, in all weather conditions and on rough terrain to raise money to help overcome poverty and injustice around the world.

Project partner: Oxfam International
Country: Australia

Charity of the Year

Support services for the chronically ill
Donations from Swiss Re staff help to provide support services and training to improve the quality of life for people who are chronically ill, thereby facilitating their reintegration into society.

Project partner: Regeneration Society
Country: Hong Kong
Effective action is best achieved through partnership. The Swiss Re Foundation’s partners include respected governmental and non-governmental organisations, national and international foundations, academic institutions as well as Swiss Re and its employees. Thanks to these long-term relationships our projects are run sustainably and professionally. Working in partnership also builds trust and enables frank dialogue.
Global partners

Ashoka
Ashoka is the world’s largest association of leading social entrepreneurs, numbering 3,000 so-called Ashoka Fellows across 76 countries. Ashoka identifies, selects and supports social entrepreneurs from early stage onwards to work full-time on their social innovation and grow its impact. The Fellows inject its global network with innovation, system-changing impact and leadership needed to accelerate social change. ashoka.org

ETH Zurich Foundation
ETH Zurich Foundation connects companies, private individuals and foundations with ETH Zurich. As the leading technology and science foundation, it supports the university in achieving its most important strategic objectives in education and research. Funding partners benefit from access to bold, high-quality partnerships with one of the best universities in the world. ethz-foundation.ch

Fundación Natura Bolivia
Natura Bolivia helps communities protect their water supplies through forest conservation. It develops the institutional architecture by which water users feel confident that if they invest, their contributions will conserve upstream water-producing forests. In return, upstream farmers receive compensation such as training in honey production. naturabolivia.org

Global Earthquake Model Foundation
The mission of the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) collaborative effort is to increase earthquake resilience worldwide, enhancing public understanding and awareness of seismic risk. The GEM Foundation, a non-profit public-private partnership, drives the GEM effort, sharing data, models and tools, informing decision-making and expanding the science and understanding of earthquakes. globalquakemodel.org

Habitat for Humanity International
Habitat for Humanity’s vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that safe and affordable housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat has worked since 1976 in more than 70 countries and has helped more than 4 million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve their homes. habitat.org

Harvard School of Public Health
Harvard School of Public Health educates global health leaders and produces research to transform lives. The 400 faculty teach 1,000 full-time students and train thousands more online and in ExecEd. Research ranges from molecular biology of AIDS to cancer epidemiology, violence prevention, environmental health and nutrition. hsp.harvard.edu

Honey Care Africa
Its mission is to partner with smallholder farmers across East Africa to strengthen incomes and grow Africa’s ‘family honey company’ through sustainable beekeeping. From the hive to the home, farmer to consumer, it believes its company can help transform millions of men, women and children across East Africa into pillars of wealth, health and environmental stewardship. honeycareafrica.com

Human Rights Watch
Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s leading international, independent organisations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights around the world. Its rigorous, objective investigations and strategic advocacy expose human rights abuses and lay the necessary groundwork to create meaningful, lasting change. hrw.org
The Swiss Re Foundation in 2013

International Committee of the Red Cross
The ICRC, established in 1863, works worldwide to provide humanitarian help for people affected by conflict and armed violence and to promote the laws that protect victims of war. An independent and neutral organisation, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it employs some 12,000 people in 80 countries; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. icrc.org

Impact Hub
Impact Hubs make up a global network of people, places and programmes that inspire, connect and catalyse impact. Part innovation lab, part business incubator and part community centre, Impact Hubs offer their members a unique ecosystem of resources, inspiration and collaboration opportunities to grow their impact on society. fellowship.impacthub.net

Institute of Palliative Medicine
The Institute of Palliative Medicine is a training and facilitating center for development of community based services for the elderly, incurably ill, bedridden and dying people, currently involved in palliative care activities in India and abroad. It is the World Health Organisation Collaborating Center for Community Participation in Palliative Care and Long Term Care since 2010. instituteofpalliativemedicine.org

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is a European confederation of national development NGOs aiming at an inclusive society. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is committed to saving eyesight, improving the quality of life and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries. More than one billion people on the planet live with disability. light-for-the-world.org

Oxfam America
Oxfam America is a non-profit global relief and development organisation working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. It saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, and campaigns for social change. As part of the international Oxfam confederation, it works in more than 90 counties, with a total budget of over $1.1 billion. oxfamamerica.org

REDOG
REDOG trains rescue dogs for search and recovery missions in case of disasters and missing people. REDOG has approximately 650 members throughout Switzerland. They conduct training in Switzerland and internationally, and they are widely recognised as a leader in the field of training search and rescue dogs. redog.ch

Save the Children
Save the Children is the world’s leading independent organisation for children. Its vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Its mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. savethechildren.org
### Global partners continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOS Children’s Villages</strong></td>
<td>SOS Children’s Villages works in 133 countries to support families and help children at risk. Every child should grow up in a family environment – loved, respected and cared for. SOS Children’s Villages helps families worldwide with care, prevention, education, health and emergency programmes. <a href="http://sos-childrensvillages.org">sos-childrensvillages.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swiss Red Cross</strong></td>
<td>The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) was founded in 1866 and is the oldest and largest humanitarian organisation in Switzerland. The SRC is a committed part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The SRC is working in 30 countries to establish primary healthcare and combat poverty-induced epidemics and in light of new challenges also invests its resources heavily in disaster risk reduction. <a href="http://redcross.ch">redcross.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Universität Zürich</strong></td>
<td>The Department of Banking and Finance at the University of Zurich is a leading finance group in the German-speaking part of Europe. It has a broad expertise in its four core areas of Banking, Corporate Finance, Financial Economics and Quantitative Finance. The department promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching. <a href="http://uzh.ch">uzh.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vivamos Mejor Foundation</strong></td>
<td>Vivamos Mejor is a non-profit Swiss foundation based in Bern, which operates primarily in the long-term development cooperation. Vivamos Mejor exclusively supports projects in Latin America with the approach of “self-help”. In Switzerland, it is involved in information and education work. <a href="http://vivamosmejor.ch">vivamosmejor.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vodafone Foundation</strong></td>
<td>Vodafone Foundation deploys its charitable giving and the liberating power of mobile networks, not just to help communities in the 28 countries where it operates, but to mobilise and deliver social change. The USD16 million programme in Tanzania is a partnership that is already saving and transforming the lives of women through mobilised maternal health care. <a href="http://vodafonefoundation.org">vodafonefoundation.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water.org</strong></td>
<td>Water.org is a non-profit organisation that has transformed more than a million lives across three continents by providing access to safe water and sanitation. Founded by Gary White and Matt Damon, Water.org pioneers innovative solutions to help solve the global water crisis, giving women hope, children health and communities a future. <a href="http://water.org">water.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOTR</strong></td>
<td>WOTR implements developmental projects, builds capacities and helps shape policies through applied research, creating “scalable best practices” and policy engagement. WOTR specialises in climate change adaptation, ecosystems development, water resources management, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, women’s empowerment, energy and livelihoods. <a href="http://wotr.org">wotr.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>x-runner</strong></td>
<td>x-runner offers reliable and sustainable sanitation to low-income urban households that do not have access to safe toilet facilities. In Lima, Peru, a capital struggling with severe water scarcity, x-runner’s waterless system and its customer-oriented service ease people’s daily lives and create a cleaner, healthier environment for the entire family. <a href="http://xrunner-venture.com">xrunner-venture.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected regional partners

**American Red Cross**
The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilising the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Through its strong network of volunteers, donors and partners, the American Red Cross is always there in times of need. [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

**ARK NOVA**
LUCERNE FESTIVAL ARK NOVA was initiated immediately after the 2011 earthquake in Japan by LUCERNE FESTIVAL, the Swiss international music festival. ARK NOVA will visit disaster regions and generate activities putting the spotlight on each location as it interacts with locals. Although the project was born as a result of the earthquake, ARK NOVA aims to develop a structure that can extend beyond rebuilding to create “ARS NOVA”, meaning “new arts”. [ark-nova.com/en/](http://ark-nova.com/en/)

**Bergwaldprojekt**
The Mountain Forest Project (Bergwaldprojekt) was started in 1987 as a not-for-profit foundation domiciled in Trin in the Swiss canton of Grisons. The foundation’s purpose is to promote the conservation, maintenance and protection of the forests and cultivated land in mountain regions, and to do so primarily through assignment-based maintenance and rehabilitation work and through activities to raise awareness of the forest among the general public. [bergwaldprojekt.org](http://bergwaldprojekt.org)

**Stiftung Bühl**
The Bühl Foundation is a centre for curative education and occupational integration. It offers children, teenagers and adults with mental disabilities, learning disorders and psychological problems the opportunity to live and develop in a residential setting that meets their needs in all areas of life. [stiftung-buehl.ch](http://stiftung-buehl.ch)

**Teenage Cancer Trust**
Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for young people with cancer aged 13 to 24. The charity funds and builds specialist units in National Health Service hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together so they can be treated by teenage cancer experts in the best place for them. [teenagecancertrust.org](http://teenagecancertrust.org)

**The Silver Line**
The Silver Line is the confidential, free, national helpline for older people, open 24 hours, every day of the year. The statistics about older people are frightening. More than half of all 75-year-olds in the UK live alone, and one in ten suffers “intense” loneliness but is reluctant to ask for help. The Silver Line offers information, friendship and advice to callers. [thesilverline.org.uk](http://thesilverline.org.uk)
The Swiss Re Foundation’s Board of Trustees is made up of four Swiss Re executives and chaired by Swiss Re’s chairman. Together they offer a broad range of knowledge and expertise relevant to the Foundation’s mission: to redress large-scale imbalances caused by events such as natural disasters, climate change, population growth or pandemics.
Trustees

From left to right
Fritz Gutbrodt, Trustee | Jean-Jacques Henchoz, Trustee | Walter B. Kielholz, Chairman | Michel M. Liès, Vice Chairman | Thomas Wellauer, Trustee

For full biographies of Board of Trustees members see
swissreorganization.org/why_we_are_here/team_governance
Protecting generations – a photo exhibition by Braschler & Fischer

Swiss Re commissioned Swiss photographers Mathias Braschler and Monika Fischer to capture an amazing series of images on camera as part of its 150th anniversary. The cover image is part of the series and tells of a family who benefitted from a Swiss Re Foundation grant.