The Swiss Re Foundation in 2016

Shared skills, resilient futures
“The Swiss Re Foundation is much more than a corporate foundation. It brings the people of Swiss Re together to support and learn from social entrepreneurs in disadvantaged communities.”

Carsten Rübsaamen, CEO, BOOKBRIDGE
Tapping Swiss Re know-how to build resilience

The Swiss Re Foundation is finding more ways to deploy its most powerful resource: the people of Swiss Re.

In 2016 we reaffirmed the Swiss Re Foundation’s core mission to empower communities to build resilience, and we set our strategic course for the next three years. Going forward, we want to expand our support for entrepreneurial solutions and engage Swiss Re employees and partners more in the Foundation’s activities.

Giving back to the community has long been a guiding principle for Swiss Re, which encourages employees to help make the world more resilient both near and far from home. At first we engaged them primarily through traditional volunteering and fundraising activities, which are still going strong.

More and more, we invite Swiss Re employees to share professional know-how with the Foundation’s external partners and beneficiaries, from subsistence farmers in the Peruvian Andes to aspiring entrepreneurs in Kenya. Swiss Re senior management is also committed to developing leaders with a track record of social engagement. This year’s Focus Report, starting on p. 6, features the diverse ways in which employees and the communities targeted by the Foundation benefit from one another.

We are particularly excited about the Global Entrepreneur Program (GEP), a collaboration with Swiss Re Human Resources and the Foundation’s partner BOOKBRIDGE, a social enterprise which challenges business professionals to think and act as entrepreneurs. In 2016, six Swiss Re employees devoted their enthusiasm, expertise and vacation time to participating. Together with employees from several other companies, they partnered with local entrepreneurs to develop and build community-based Learning Centers in rural Cambodia and Mongolia.

In an effort to raise awareness and stimulate discussion of challenges that communities face, we recently launched the Entrepreneurs for Resilience Award, which — as the name indicates — recognises initiatives that take innovative approaches to building resilient societies. The theme of the 2016 award, presented at a ceremony in Hong Kong, was enabling the elderly to live independently at home.

We are all getting older, both individually and as a society. There is no doubt in my mind that new concepts and interactive
technologies to promote health and self-sufficiency will play a crucial role in keeping our societies vital. An independent jury including clients, academic partners and Swiss Re senior managers evaluated the award finalists’ approaches to meeting this challenge. The Resilience Award programme is a great example of how the Foundation can bring people and organisations together to make a difference. For profiles of the 2016 winner and three runners-up, turn to p. 22.

We continue to support the launch and scale-up of social enterprises. Among them is the 2016 ReSource Award winner MSABI, which maintains and repairs pump-operated wells in remote areas of Tanzania for a subscription fee paid by mobile phone. You will meet the three promising enterprises competing for the honour in 2017 on p. 21.

The Swiss Re Foundation has made substantial commitments in recent years to academic research. In 2016 we became a founding partner of the Zurich Center for Economic Development at the University of Zurich. As the special feature on p. 24 shows, the Center’s research addresses issues highly relevant to risk resilience in emerging markets.

In 2016 the Swiss Re Foundation’s Board of Trustees bade farewell to Michel Liès, who resigned as Board Member and Vice Chairman. We are delighted to have Christian Mumenthaler, interviewed in brief on p. 8, succeed Michel in both roles.

I am proud of the Foundation’s achievements in 2016, particularly of how it has encouraged Swiss Re’s employees, clients and collaborators to invest their passion and talents in our activities. All these partners have played an essential role in our endeavours, and I am grateful for their contributions and commitment.

Zurich, 16 January 2017

Walter B. Kielholz
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

More and more, we invite Swiss Re employees to share professional know-how with our external partners and beneficiaries.
Our approach in 2016

The Swiss Re Foundation is here to empower communities to become more resilient. In our quest for innovative, sustainable solutions, we continued to support social enterprises and engaged Swiss Re partners more deeply in our work.

Partnerships have always driven the Foundation’s activities and impact. Chief among these are our collaborations with the NGOs, business ventures and research institutions that develop and run the initiatives we support. But our most important partner is Swiss Re itself, not only as our benefactor but also as a collection of people with knowledge, experience and relationships that are directly relevant to the business of building resilience.

In 2016 we stepped up our efforts to tap this invaluable resource by engaging Swiss Re employees and clients more extensively in our activities. Employees now enjoy more ways than ever to volunteer for the benefit of the Foundation’s partners and beneficiaries and get involved with our projects on the ground.

We remain convinced of the potential of business-minded approaches to generate effective long-term solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, we expanded our portfolio of collaborations with social enterprises and launched the Entrepreneurs for Resilience Award to promote innovative ways of building resilience in vulnerable communities.

As the Foundation is a global organisation, we worked to raise awareness of our activities outside Switzerland, including our support of universities and think tanks worldwide that are developing new ways to address risk. It is no coincidence that our first Resilience Award ceremony was held in Hong Kong.

Number of countries where we have projects, by region

- **Americas**: 14
- **EMEA***: 15
- **APAC****: 13

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* EMEA = Europe, Middle East, Africa
** APAC = Asia Pacific
**Who we are**

The Foundation reflects the social and humanitarian values of Swiss Re. We partner with social entrepreneurs, aid organisations, researchers and Swiss Re employees and clients to help communities increase their resilience. Our initiatives address the causes and effects of risks in four areas – climate, natural hazards, water and society – both in emerging and developing countries and in regions where Swiss Re has offices.

Our core goals:

**Empower communities** to become more resilient to risk and adapt to a changing natural and social environment

**Contribute to promoting social welfare**, protecting the environment and enhancing quality of life near Swiss Re locations

**Engage Swiss Re employees** as local volunteers and as expert consultants in our global programmes

**Boost impact by teaming up** with private and public partners that share our goals and complement our expertise

**Earn the respect of our stakeholders**, creating measurable value for society and for Swiss Re
Teaming up for resilience

The Swiss Re Foundation carries on Swiss Re’s long tradition of giving back to society. It has always been important to us to involve Swiss Re employees in our philanthropic efforts and to foster a culture of social engagement and commitment within Swiss Re.

In 2016 the Foundation enhanced its portfolio of entrepreneurial efforts to build resilience by encouraging Swiss Re employees to lend their skills to and also learn from our initiatives. As well as donating time and money, employees support our activities by sharing their know-how in direct collaborations with our partners and in the communities where we work.
On a Community Day in Switzerland, Swiss Re volunteers and a refugee tune up a used bike for shipment to a needy community in Madagascar.
Many ways to engage

Swiss Re’s vision is to make the world more resilient. Ours is to empower communities to build resilience on their own. By working with Swiss Re employees and external partners, we not only amplify our impact but also help develop the company’s talent and strengthen its culture and values.

Good causes

Just as the Foundation has evolved over time, so too have the ways in which Swiss Re employees support our mission. Their contributions range from one-off fundraising drives to sustained skills-based volunteering. Many also support the Foundation in the course of their work at Swiss Re, such as by staffing our events and supporting our communications.

As ever, and with our support, Swiss Re employees give generously to building communities’ resilience. For instance, they enlist us in local initiatives to raise emergency aid, such as after a cyclone struck Fiji, earthquakes shook Ecuador and Italy and Hurricane Matthew ravaged Haiti (see p. 12).

Another popular way for employees to support the Foundation’s activities is to volunteer on the Community Days that we organise at Swiss Re locations around the globe.

Two-way learning

Beyond traditional philanthropy, the ways in which Swiss Re employees both lend and extend their skills through the Foundation keep growing. These now include serving as a project consultant or award jury member, mentoring programme participants and implementing a social enterprise hands-on.

With our sharper focus on entrepreneurial approaches to building resilience, business acumen and substantive expertise are more important than ever for our partners. But aid organisations value the access to Swiss Re know-how that comes with our sponsorship as well. In a prime example, Swiss Re experts in agricultural risk management are contributing to our collaboration with

Meet our new Vice Chairman

Early in your career you considered joining an NGO. Why?

I wanted to make a positive difference in the world and thought that NGOs were best placed to do so. After searching but not finding an interesting job in an NGO, I decided to join Swiss Re for a while. It is only after several years at Swiss Re that I finally realized our business is helping millions of people rebuild after disaster or continue a more or less normal life after having lost a dear one. I realized a for-profit business can do as much, if not more, good in the world than an NGO.

In what direction would you like to steer the Foundation?

Clients choose Swiss Re because they trust in our expertise to assess and help them manage their risks. I’d like to see the Foundation deploy more of this expertise for the benefit of people who cannot afford insurance coverage.

How do Swiss Re employees fit in to this vision?

Employees can both contribute to and benefit from the Foundation. By taking an active role in our projects, they get the satisfaction of tackling important challenges outside their day-to-day work while helping vulnerable communities improve their lives.
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in Cusco, Peru (see p. 18).

In 2016 the Foundation facilitated an ambitious new learning partnership between Swiss Re employees and our external partners and beneficiaries. The Global Entrepreneur Program (GEP) combines skills-based volunteering with leadership development, challenging participants to get an education start-up on its feet in six months (see p. 16).

Swiss Re employees can explore and sign up or apply to participate in the wide range of activities reviewed here by visiting the Foundation’s ACT platform (‘Act – Contribute – Team up’) on the Swiss Re intranet. ACT is a one-stop shop where employees can make donations, sign up for a Community Day, apply for a grant on behalf of a charity in which they invest their personal time and browse skills-based volunteering opportunities such as GEP.

Swiss Re volunteer Markus Seifert teaches business basics to high school graduates at a Swiss Re Start Up Academy in the Philippines in cooperation with Aiducation, a Foundation partner.
Helping near and far

Volunteering and fundraising have been part of Swiss Re’s culture from its earliest days. Led by local Swiss Re offices, such philanthropy helps communities build their resilience on multiple fronts. Today the Swiss Re Foundation brings these activities under one roof and strives to make it even easier and more rewarding for employees to get involved.

In most Swiss Re offices, employees can choose to take part in a Community Day, one paid workday per year on which they volunteer for the benefit of the disadvantaged, the wider community or the natural environment. At all larger Swiss Re locations, employees can also nominate and vote for their favourite local cause to be Charity of the Year. The winner receives a Foundation grant and fundraising proceeds as well as the support of Swiss Re volunteers.

Through our Dollars-4-Doers programme, self-starters can apply for funding to support charities for which they volunteer on their own. Many of these are local, while others aim to empower people on the other side of the globe to build their resilience. Swiss Re employees’ donations and fundraising, too, often target challenges far from home.
96
Number of Community Days worldwide

CHF 338 278
Total funds raised by employees worldwide

“Community Days are a great way to spend time with colleagues and support a worthy cause, helping people right in our backyard.”

Kali Marino, Strategy Research Manager, Swiss Re Americas

Swiss Re volunteers in Armonk, New York, package macaroni noodles at a local food bank for distribution to nearly 800 area families.
A culture of giving

When disaster strikes, Swiss Re employees rise to the challenge, initiating fundraising drives to help communities impacted by flooding, earthquakes and other disasters and engaging the Foundation and Swiss Re clients in their efforts.

**Fiji**

Tropical Cyclone Winston was the strongest tropical cyclone ever to make landfall in Fiji and the South Pacific Basin. When it reached Fiji on 20 February, images of the devastation spurred the Swiss Re team in Australia to band together and raise money for emergency aid and rebuilding.

In addition to making personal donations and collecting from family members and business partners, the team ran an auction and boosted proceeds with matching funds from the Swiss Re Foundation.

“Not only is Fiji important to our region, but this disaster was closely linked with what we do as a business. We felt we had to help.”

Katrin Porm, Communications Manager, Swiss Re Asia Pacific

**Italy**

On 24 August, a 6.2-magnitude earthquake caused extensive damage and nearly 300 casualties in central Italy. It was a stark reminder of the importance of building resilience not only in developing countries but in developed countries as well.

Using the Swiss Re Foundation’s ‘Giving at Work’ portal, Swiss Re’s reinsurance business in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) urged employees to support Red Cross recovery and relief efforts in the region’s hardest-hit towns. The Foundation matched their contributions.

“Swiss Re will play an important part in rebuilding the lives of those affected by this tragedy and making society more resilient. There was also an immediate need to open our hearts and help the victims.”

Jean-Jacques Henchoz, CEO Reinsurance EMEA, Swiss Re, and Trustee, Swiss Re Foundation

**Ecuador**

On 16 April, Ecuador’s most powerful earthquake since 1979 ravaged the country, prompting a state of emergency in six provinces. A total of 661 people died, 27 732 were injured and more than 10,000 buildings were destroyed.

On the initiative of Swiss Re location heads in Miami, Mexico and Sao Paulo, employees across Latin America collected donations for earthquake victims and increased the amount raised by appealing to the Foundation for matching funds. Proceeds went to earthquake relief delivered by the American Red Cross in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

**Haiti**

The strongest storm to hit the Caribbean in a decade, Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti on 4 October, taking a great many lives and leaving anywhere from 350,000 to 1.5 million people dependent on humanitarian aid. The Swiss Re Foundation invited employees worldwide to donate toward instant relief measures to prevent a cholera outbreak in an area where the Swiss Red Cross has been working since the devastating earthquake of 2010.
The Swiss Re Foundation in 2016
Smart partnerships

Widely recognised as a thought leader, Swiss Re offers risk management knowledge and experience spanning fields as diverse as agriculture, climate science, demographics, finance and public health. What better partner could a social enterprise or aid organisation hope for than Swiss Re?

More and more, the Swiss Re Foundation creates opportunities for Swiss Re employees to give their know-how as well as their time to initiatives we support. In some cases, they do so directly, by mentoring and coaching subsistence farmers, high school students or start-up entrepreneurs. Such collaboration may take place at the programme site, on a virtual basis or in a Swiss Re office. In other cases, employees share insights and data that help make our partners more effective in empowering vulnerable communities.

Many Swiss Re employees lend their expertise to the Foundation itself. The latest example is the 2016 Entrepreneurs for Resilience Award, which recognises innovative approaches to building resilient societies and helping realise the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 22). Subject matter and finance experts from Swiss Re select the award finalists, and an independent jury of Swiss Re senior managers, clients and academic partners picks the winner.

Finally, together with Swiss Re Human Resources, the Foundation has developed the Global Entrepreneur Program, which allows employees to combine skills-based volunteering with professional growth in Foundation projects.
Local entrepreneurs in Mandalgovi discuss plans for their community’s new Learning Center with participants in the Global Entrepreneur Program.

“Despite language and cultural differences, team spirit kept us united. Now we’re all excited to bring the Learning Center in Mandalgovi to life.”

Loredana Mazzoleni Neglen, Head Specialties Asia Pacific, Swiss Re and participant in the Global Entrepreneur Program

Facts and figures about Mandalgovi, Mongolia

14 602
Number of residents

84%
Literacy rate

30%
Share of population under age 16

Local entrepreneurs in Mandalgovi discuss plans for their community’s new Learning Center with participants in the Global Entrepreneur Program.
The Swiss Re Foundation is always looking for new ways to engage Swiss Re employees and to put their know-how to work. In 2016, we launched the Global Entrepreneur Program (GEP) in collaboration with Swiss Re’s Human Resources department and BOOKBRIDGE, a social enterprise which challenges business professionals to think and act as entrepreneurs by building up community-based Learning Centers in Mongolia, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Operated as social enterprises by locals for locals, the Learning Centers offer quality education, access to books, room for children to play and exposure to different disciplines depending on local needs.

Swiss Re employees who apply for GEP must pass a rigorous application and selection process and be willing to invest considerable personal time in the program over six months. Participants work with professionals from other companies and with local entrepreneurs to develop a business plan, muster the necessary resources and get the Learning Centers up and running together with BOOKBRIDGE.
Mandalgovi residents and GEP participants including Edith Wolfram Kisseleff (wearing red) prepare for the opening of the community’s Learning Center, which includes a library of English and local-language books.

Children in Mandalgovi listen as GEP participants tell them about the new Learning Center.

What difference does this centre make in Mandalgovi?

Nangaa: More than half our community work in agriculture, and unemployment is high. English is a stepping stone to higher education and work, but the English taught in local schools is lacking. The Learning Center complements schools by giving children a supervised space where they can play, read and do homework. It also helps young adults master future challenges by offering them English tutoring and coaching in life skills. I believe both are essential to success.

How did you work together?

Tobias: We started working with Nangaa and her colleagues in Mongolia early on, after meeting via videoconference. The intense virtual collaboration that followed helped us learn quickly about the environment and the community’s needs. Personality and cultural differences were challenging at the beginning, but we were able to define a common goal quickly.

Why did you want to create a Learning Center in your hometown, Nangaa?

Nangaa: As a child I had no chance to learn English. While traveling in 2008 I saw an English-language library in a community like the one where I grew up and found out it was established by BOOKBRIDGE. I approached BOOKBRIDGE because I wanted to improve the life chances of Mandalgovi’s next generation.

Tobias, why did you apply for GEP? What did you learn?

Tobias: I wanted to help this community improve opportunities for its people through quality education and also to grow in my job and my personal life.

I learned to think and act more entrepreneurially, for instance, from pitching the project to people whose support we needed and dealing with all the practical challenges that arose along the way. Building a venture literally from the ground up has changed the way I approach my work at Swiss Re.

Social entrepreneur Narangarav (Nangaa) Jambaltseren and Tobias Wassmann, Treaty Underwriter, Swiss Re EMEA and a GEP participant, collaborated on setting up a Learning Center in Mandalgovi, Mongolia.

1 Mandalgovi residents and GEP participants including Edith Wolfram Kisseleff (wearing red) prepare for the opening of the community’s Learning Center, which includes a library of English and local-language books.

2 Children in Mandalgovi listen as GEP participants tell them about the new Learning Center.
Higher resilience at high altitude

In rural communities in the southern Andes of Peru, extreme weather conditions exacerbated by climate change increasingly threaten livelihoods. The Swiss Re Foundation and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation are working with farmers in Cusco, Peru, to find ways to increase farmers’ capacity to manage and respond to these conditions, which include frost, hail and drought.

The project draws on traditional local knowledge and modern scientific methods to identify and disseminate the most effective risk management practices and develop suitable micro-insurance options for highland agricultural communities.
“Thanks to this project, I’ve learned to analyse my current living situation and plan for the long term. I’ve also had the chance to meet farmers from other regions and learn things such as how to harvest water, how to make my own insecticides and fertiliser naturally and why greenhouse cultivation is important.

I share what I’ve learned with families in my region and help them adopt the new methods. It’s a long road, but we have to keep on learning to be prepared for the future.”

Mario Quillca, Farmer, Cusco, Peru

Cristina Ribeiro and Isabel Ponce de Leon, both agribusiness underwriters for Swiss Re in Brazil, serve on the Project Steering Committee alongside representatives of the Swiss Re Foundation, HELVETAS and local authorities.

How are you contributing to this project?  

Isabel: As a veterinarian and agribusiness underwriter, my contribution to the farmers will be to find insurance solutions to manage their production risks and to evaluate their sanitary control and how they identify and immunise their animals.

What has been most difficult and most rewarding?  

Cristina: The hardest part has been seeing people living in extreme poverty, with restricted access to basic necessities such as water and sanitation. Most rewarding has been realising that we can improve human welfare and the environment with simple measures that enable communities to adapt to and recover from disasters.

How do you define success here?  

Cristina: For me success means feeling happy and satisfied with what I do for others and to make our “little world” better.

Isabel: I would define success as an exchange of experience and information. The first step to success in this project would be to bring a new perspective to the participating communities and to help start a conversation between farmers and the government about adapting to climate change and other challenges.
ReSource Award
Winner 2016

The International ReSource Award for resilience in sustainable water management honours entrepreneurial thinking and leadership. This year’s winner was chosen from three finalists who received six months of financial and coaching support to develop their early-stage businesses.

With a name that stands for ‘safe water for better health’ in Swahili, social business MSABI won the 2016 International ReSource Award for its entrepreneurial approach to delivering water point maintenance in developing countries. Over the next three years, MSABI will receive an additional USD 75,000 and coaching from Swiss Re experts and Swiss Re Foundation partners to further develop, validate and expand its ‘Pump for Life’ program in rural Tanzania.

Despite a quadrupling of funding for water and sanitation since 2002, 53% of Tanzanians have no access to adequate water sources, contributing to high rates of diarrheal disease and mortality. An estimated 50% of water points in the country are broken and abandoned. Steady increases in population size and density make improving Tanzania’s water infrastructure only more urgent.

For a monthly or annual premium, Pump for Life customers receive maintenance and repair services both reactively and on a scheduled monthly basis. Premiums can be paid by mobile phone, making Pump for Life accessible to remote communities and ensuring MSABI’s capacity to provide reliable service.

A decentralised network of private sector mechanics maintains the water points, while an advanced surveillance-response system monitors their distribution, functionality and history as well as premium payments and spare part usage. By focusing on rehabilitation and repair, MSABI’s model is ecologically and financially more sustainable than new construction.

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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Pump for Life, MSABI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2015–2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Morogoro and Njombe, Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Subscription-based delivery of water point maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water points under contract</td>
<td>190 in 2016, 2,800 planned in 2019</td>
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</table>
Growing solution
Vetiver TT is introducing vetiver grass to Trinidad and Tobago. Vetiver grass is a bio-engineering tool used to stabilise slopes, control erosion, conserve soil and water and rehabilitate contaminated water and land in tropical climates. The approach is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly than many 'hard engineered' solutions. A for-profit company with public and private sector clients, Vetiver TT’s goal is to target hillsides in the country’s north, where every two to three years fires in the dry season wipe out vegetation and the ensuing rains wash away topsoil and cause floods in the valleys below.

Ponds of promise
Clearwater Farms plans to improve the supply of produce in increasingly dry sub-Saharan Africa through aquaponics, which combines the raising of fish in tanks with the cultivation of plants in water. Aquaponics is rain-independent, can use as much as 50% less water than drip irrigation and offers better yields than field-based farming. By enabling smallholders and farmer cooperatives in Zambia to consistently produce high-quality fish and horticulture for local premium markets, the venture aims to boost their skills and incomes and thus the economic prospects of their communities at large.

Better than boiling
Sixty percent of people in Uganda boil water to drink, usually over wood fires. The social business SPOUTS of Water produces, distributes and markets ceramic water filters to households and institutional customers as an effective, portable and easy way to purify water while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One filter serves a five-person household for two years and pays for itself in just six months by eliminating the costs in time and money of boiling water – not to mention the risk of cross-contamination through storage in dirty containers.

Finalists 2017
In the ReSource Award programme, all finalists receive USD 25 000 to further develop their initiatives over a six-month incubation period. The winner then receives an additional USD 75 000 and coaching support over the next three years. An independent jury will select the 2017 winner, to be announced in March, from the following ventures.

1/2 Local mechanics learn how to maintain and repair MSABI wells.
3 A woman in rural Tanzania pumps water for her family.
Entrepreneurs for Resilience Award
Winner 2016

Launched in 2016, the Swiss Re Foundation Resilience Award recognises entrepreneurial initiatives that take innovative approaches to building resilient societies and realising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Enabling the elderly to live independently at home was this year’s award theme.

An independent jury of Swiss Re senior managers, clients and academic partners selected the US-based venture SimpleTherapy as the winner of the 2016 Resilience Award from a field of four finalists. This company focuses on helping people recover from, and prevent, fall-related injuries – a primary cause of hospitalisation and death among the elderly and a major source of healthcare costs.

By accessing SimpleTherapy’s online platform, users can perform physical rehabilitation exercises anywhere and anytime, accompanied by videos that simulate a physiotherapist’s personalised instructions. The tool employs artificial intelligence to assess and adapt the regimen to users’ needs based on their feedback about exercise difficulty and pain levels. The award grant will enable SimpleTherapy to finish developing and clinically test its Falls and Fracture Prevention Program, which is targeted at users aged 65 and older.

While the jury chooses the Resilience Award winner, Swiss Re employees determine the winner of the “Employee Award” by voting for their favourite finalist in an online survey. In 2016 this honour was bestowed on Canary Care (see facing page), which coincidentally was also the first runner-up in the jury’s selection process. The four finalists share the total prize money of CHF 800,000, using their respective grants to further develop their enterprises. The 2016 winner received CHF 400,000, the first runner-up CHF 250,000 and the remaining two finalists CHF 75,000 each.
Runners-up 2016

Responsive robot
To improve frail and dependent people’s quality of life and relieve pressure on private and professional caregivers, KOMPAÏ Robotics has developed a personal assistance robot that can navigate and interact independently or be remote controlled. The robot combines a platform for sending and receiving information with a walking frame that can assist users with such tasks as walking or getting out of bed. Kompai is now identifying the most relevant scenarios and functionalities for commercialisation and preparing for wider deployment.

Healthy mind and body
Linking elderly patients with their health advocates, care.coach provides 24/7 psychosocial support via an easy-to-use platform operated on low-cost tablets. Patients interact with the company’s team of specially trained health advocates via a captivating avatar. The platform helps patients manage chronic conditions, for instance, by prompting them to take their medications and drink fluids, monitors their condition and, if necessary, sends alerts to caregivers. In the next phase, care.coach will expand its staff and launch pilot collaborations with healthcare providers.

Keeping carers informed
Canary Care has developed an affordable system that helps elderly or vulnerable people live safely and independently at home by allowing carers to track their day-to-day activities remotely. It relies on wireless sensors placed around the home to record movement, temperature, door activity and visitors. Carers can access the resulting data online by computer, tablet or phone and receive alerts in case of anomalies. Canary Care aims to expand its business from the UK into other European markets.
Expanding horizons

From its beginnings, the Swiss Re Foundation has supported academic research that provides new perspectives on risk and applied science projects that drive innovation needed to tackle challenges of the future. In 2016 we focused on three initiatives in Switzerland.

- **Zurich Center for Economic Development**
  Launched in December 2016 at the University of Zurich, the Center’s research and teaching address key questions for economic development and public finance in developing countries. In an inaugural meeting, Swiss Re experts from Global Partnerships, Group Sustainability Risk, Risk Research and Life & Health Research and Development met with professors Lorenzo Casaburi and Dina Pomeranz, who presented insights from their research on topics including the role of crop insurance in rural finance and the potential and limits of micro-savings as a form of self-insurance. The dialogue between Swiss Re and the Center aims to identify topics and projects of mutual interest to academics and insurers or reinsurers.

  The Swiss Re Foundation contributes funding to the Zurich Center for Economic Development at the University of Zurich because its research facilitates a better understanding of insurance markets and insurance behavior in emerging economies. The University of Zurich’s Department of Economics is renowned for its innovative methods in experimental and behavioral economics, a strength on which the Center will build.

  Many of the developing countries on which the Center’s research focuses lie in regions where the Foundation is active. By helping improve insurance protection in societies and communities that suffer from a ‘protection gap’, insights gained from our projects with the Center will in turn increase the long-term risk resilience of those who live and work there.
The Swiss Re Foundation in 2016

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ESA Business Incubation Centre
Switzerland

Switzerland is home to one of 16 European Space Agency Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs). Launched in November 2016, the Swiss-based ESA BIC seeks to inspire entrepreneurs to develop earthly applications of space-related technologies and turn them into commercial enterprises that address challenges in industries such as energy and communications.

From higher data transmission (and thus faster Internet connections) and improved solar energy production to weather forecasting, navigation and natural disaster monitoring, the potential of technologies in what the ESA calls “Space 4.0 – The Next Era of Space” is huge and indisputably relevant to the insurance and reinsurance industry.

The Swiss Re Foundation supports ETH Zurich, which leads the ESA BIC Switzerland in cooperation with partners.

Innovation Switzerland

The Swiss Re Foundation is one of the founding partners of Switzerland Innovation, an organisation created to establish and promote a network of regional sites for research and innovation across Switzerland called Innovation Parks. The idea is to attract international companies to set up research and development departments near Swiss research institutions and collaborate with start-ups that thrive in such an environment. Focus areas include manufacturing and materials, computational science, mobility, life sciences, human health and environment and energy.

All five Innovation Parks provide infrastructure, access to networks and other forms of support and services. The two hubs in Zurich and Lausanne, with research and quality assurance provided by ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne, respectively, are complemented by sites in Basel, Biel and Villigen/Aargau.

ESA Business Incubation Centre
Switzerland

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The Swiss Re Foundation supports ETH Zurich, which leads the ESA BIC Switzerland in cooperation with partners.
New ventures

In 2016 we expanded our roster of global projects that draw on business tools and insights to empower communities to increase their resilience.

- **Mutual support for microentrepreneurs**
  With our support, Hand in Hand International is offering 2,400 members of a poor community in Kitui, Kenya, a flexible suite of services to build their own microenterprises, including self-help group set-up, business training and access to larger markets and micro-credit when needed. Group members, most of them women, learn and save together and help one another build their businesses to diversify family income.

- **Clear vision for small enterprises**
  The Swiss Re Foundation and VisionSpring have teamed up to improve access to affordable eyewear in rural India. In this pilot, 24,000 microentrepreneurs in Maharashtra and around Delhi are receiving vision screenings and, if needed, eyeglasses to boost their productivity and lifetime earnings. One hundred micro-entrepreneurs will be trained to integrate basic vision screenings into their current businesses and sell reading glasses on commission. Sales revenues will be invested in a revolving fund which will cover ongoing operations and inventory procurement.

- **Rooting for smart agriculture**
  Agricultural enterprises are often the primary or only way for smallholder farmers to access markets and are therefore well placed to promote climate-smart agricultural practices at scale. Yet many such businesses lack the resources and know-how needed to play this role. Our partner Root Capital trains such enterprises to collect, analyse and use farm-level data to deliver more effective agronomic extension to farmers, accelerating the transition to best practices on thousands of smallholder farms in Latin America.
Learning lights
In Indian households with little or no access to on-grid electricity, children’s schoolwork often suffers for lack of lighting. While kerosene lamps are harmful to health and costly to fuel, solar lamps are expensive and repair services scarce. Together with LED safaris, we are providing low-cost LED lamps to 1,500 secondary students in India and teaching them to make and repair their own lamps.

Fair deal for farmers
The natural products company Shangrila Farms helps some of China’s poorest farming families in remote regions boost their income by linking them directly with urban consumers, offering training in organic production and purchasing their produce at fair trade prices. With a grant from the Swiss Re Foundation, Shangrila is expanding its organic beekeeping program for farmers in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces into Tibetan areas, aiming to reach an additional 8,000 farmers.
Enthusiastic engagement

Swiss Re employees bring the Foundation’s commitment to enhancing the company’s neighbouring communities to life.

Food for body and mind
Voted Charity of the Year by Swiss Re employees in Westlake Village, California, Food Share is dedicated to providing food and education to people who experience hunger while teaching the whole community about the hungry, the root causes of hunger and how to reduce hunger. For a second time, employees spent a Community Day collecting, culling, sorting and distributing food on behalf of the organisation.

Life-changing bikes
Employees in Switzerland chose Velafrica as their Charity of the Year. Velafrica collects old bicycles, makes them roadworthy again and ships more than 15,000 a year to communities in Africa where the nearest school, water source or market may be hours away on foot. In such communities, bikes change lives for the better. On a Community Day in 2016, employees teamed up with Velafrica technicians and local refugees to assess, test, disassemble and package 52 refurbished bikes for shipment to Madagascar.

Children’s University of Zurich
The Foundation’s current partnership with the Children’s University of Zurich extends a collaboration that began in 2013. With our support, the Children’s University of Zurich introduces children to science by tapping their natural curiosity about the world both hands-on and in the classroom.

Being there for kids
In the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme, a child is paired with an adult who regularly spends time with him or her and acts as a mentor, role model and caring, dependable friend. Having been a ‘big brother’ to 10-year-old Tyler for two years, Schaumburg-based employee Barry Blodgett applied for and won a Dollars-4-Doers grant from the Swiss Re Foundation to help support his local Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter.
Garden of youth
Swiss Re employees in Bratislava spent a Community Day helping to upgrade the garden of Children’s House Piestany, a small orphanage not far from Slovakia’s capital city. The young residents of the home rewarded the 15 volunteers who rebuilt the garden and painted the outdoor furniture with curious questions and plenty of grateful smiles.

Blooming potential
To kick off their partnership with the Hong Chi Association, their Charity of the Year, employees in Hong Kong raised nearly CHF 2 000 through a flower arrangement workshop and a charity sale organised by young adults from Hong Chi. The charity aims to help intellectually disabled people of all ages develop to their full potential, offering services including preschool, job training, recreational programmes and family support.

Young Enterprise Switzerland
We support Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES), a non-profit that focuses on helping school-aged children understand social and economic relationships, act entrepreneurially and develop their persuasion skills in preparation for participation in the global economy. The Foundation sponsors a workshop in which Swiss Re experts teach YES students about business strategy and related topics.
Resilience realised

The global projects we concluded in 2016 illustrate what we mean by resilience. For participating communities, the end of each project marks the beginning of a more manageable future.

Shock absorbers
This partnership with the World Food Programme and Oxfam empowers poor households whose livelihoods depend on agriculture to increase their food security and resilience to climate risks through a combination of risk reduction, risk transfer, prudent risk-taking and risk reserves. Accessible to 40,000 smallholders in four African countries, the program features crop insurance that farmers can pay for with labour. Evaluations so far show that participants are more food-secure and better equipped to cope with climate shocks than non-participants.

The future of risk
With the Humanitarian Leadership and Management School (HLMS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aims to develop leaders who can manage, empower and inspire a diverse, high-performing workforce. The Foundation and Swiss Re helped develop the HLMS curriculum by exchanging experiences and having participants from Swiss Re attend the HLMS. It also created opportunities for knowledge transfer between ICRC and Swiss Re, which share a focus on risk around the world, through workshops for managers from both organisations.

Water wins
The Foundation’s project with Natura Foundation Bolivia to improve watershed management succeeded in consolidating 10 funds for reciprocal water agreements (RWAs) in seven municipalities and conserving 25,447 hectares of Andean forest. Compliance with RWAs, in which downstream water users pay for development projects that benefit upstream landowners in return for watershed conservation, exceeds 99 percent. The model has also spread to 32 other municipalities, where it is helping protect 190,000 hectares of water-producing forest.
**Flood of insights**

We collaborated with Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) to create a toolkit of strategies for reducing flood risk in Kibera, Nairobi’s largest informal settlement. Results include a detailed analysis of flood impacts before and after the “long rains” of 2015 based on a survey of 963 households, a flood-risk map of Kibera based on hydraulic modelling and field data and an institutional map of urban flood risk drawn from interviews with diverse stakeholders. KDI is now constructing two physical projects to demonstrate the toolkit’s applicability and working with municipal authorities to integrate its data into the design of drainage and access works in low-income areas.

**Useful in any weather**

With the Foundation’s support, social business M-KOPA Solar modified its solar home energy systems to collect and relay weather-related information to its database. In 2015, a total of 200 units that record temperature, humidity and barometric pressure were deployed throughout East Africa, with another 100 units that gauge rainfall and soil moisture to follow. M-KOPA is also working with a major regional insurer to explore the potential of the technology to validate weather-insurance claims.
Global and selected community partners

Aiducation International
Start up for success
Duration: 2016–2017
Countries: Kenya, Philippines

Alzheimer’s Society
★ Caring for carers and patients
Duration: 2015–2016
Country: United Kingdom

Ashoka
Better nutrition for better health
Duration: 2014–2017
Country: India

Bergwald Project
★ Protecting nature’s protectors
Duration: 2016
Country: Switzerland

BOOKBRIDGE
Road to impact
Duration: 2015–2017
Countries: Cambodia, Mongolia

Build Change
Making homes stronger and safer
Duration: 2015–2017
Country: Colombia

Canary Care
Keeping carers informed
Duration: 2016–2019
Country: United Kingdom

care.coach
Healthy mind and body
Duration: 2016–2018
Country: United States

Centre for Environmental Education and Communications
★ Sustainability on the syllabus
Duration: 2015–2016
Country: China

Kinder-Universität Zürich
Children’s University of Zurich
★ A head start in science
Duration: 2015–2016
Country: Switzerland

Dazin
Cleaner fuel for cleaner air
Duration: 2015–2017
Country: Bhutan

dr.consulta
★ Healthcare for the underserved
Duration: 2015–2016
Country: Brazil

Eos Entrepreneur Foundation
From cacao to chocolate
Duration: 2014–2017
Country: Colombia

ESA Business Incubation Centre Switzerland
Innovation in space technology
Duration: 2016–2020
Country: Switzerland

★ Concluded project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETH</th>
<th>International Committee of the Red Cross</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concluded project</td>
<td>The future of risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantytowns redesigned</td>
<td>Duration: 2013–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 2014–2017</td>
<td>Country: Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country: South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<th>ETH Zürich Foundation</th>
<th>Clean water in conflict zones</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellence in risk research</td>
<td>Duration: 2016–2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 2013–2017</td>
<td>Countries: Somalia, South Sudan</td>
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<td>Country: Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Kennemer Foods International</th>
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<tr>
<td>Food for all</td>
<td>Farming smarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 2016</td>
<td>Duration: 2015–2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: United States</td>
<td>Country: Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fundacion Natura Bolivia</th>
<th>Kompai</th>
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<tr>
<td>Water wins</td>
<td>Responsive robot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 2013–2016</td>
<td>Duration: 2016–2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru</td>
<td>Country: France</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grootbos Green Futures Foundation</th>
<th>Kounkuey Design Initiative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Employability through enterprise</td>
<td>Flood of insights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country: South Africa</td>
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<td>Mutual support for microentrepreneurs</td>
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<td>Country: Kenya</td>
<td>Country: Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<th>HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation</th>
<th>L’Arche International</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farming despite frost</td>
<td>All abilities welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country: Peru</td>
<td>Country: France</td>
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<th>Human Rights Watch</th>
<th>LED Safari</th>
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<tr>
<td>The fight for human rights</td>
<td>Learning lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region: Worldwide</td>
<td>Country: India</td>
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<p>| LGT Venture Philanthropy | <strong>The Swiss Re Foundation in 2016</strong> 33 |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Country/Countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development</td>
<td>Making water protection pay</td>
<td>2014–2017</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Network EMN</td>
<td>Empowering patients</td>
<td>2015–2017</td>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>MSABI</td>
<td>Working wells</td>
<td>2015–2018</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxfam America</td>
<td>Protection from drought</td>
<td>2012–2016</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>restart</td>
<td>Help for homeless kids</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Root Capital</td>
<td>Rooting for smart agriculture</td>
<td>2016–2018</td>
<td>Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round Table India</td>
<td>Independence through education</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Shangrila Farms</td>
<td>Fair deal for farmers</td>
<td>2016–2017</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheen Hok Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>Helping kids see the world</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>SimpleTherapy</td>
<td>Exercising independence</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUGRUVI (Sustainable Growth for Rural Venture, Inc.)</td>
<td>From subsistence to profit</td>
<td>2016–2017</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland Innovation</td>
<td>Hub for innovation</td>
<td>2015–2020</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Red Cross</td>
<td>Bracing for nature’s worst</td>
<td>2014–2019</td>
<td>El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Children’s Hospital Zurich</td>
<td>Space to heal</td>
<td>2016–2018</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>UZH Dept. of Economics</td>
<td>Center for Economic Development</td>
<td>2015–2019</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Velafrica</td>
<td>Life-changing bikes</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision Spring</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>X-Runner</td>
<td>Scaling up a sanitation solution that works</td>
<td>2015–2017</td>
<td>Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Enterprise Switzerland</td>
<td>Early economic education</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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Concluded project
Organisation

The Swiss Re Foundation is guided by Swiss Re’s strategic framework while enhancing its competencies and brand positioning. Each year brings new opportunities for the two to work together.

1 Walter B. Kielholz, Chairman, Board of Trustees
2 Christian Mumenthaler, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees
3 Fritz Gutbrodt, Trustee
4 Thomas Wellauer, Trustee
5 Jean-Jacques Henchoz, Trustee
6 Angela Marti, Director, Swiss Re Foundation
Since its establishment in 2012, the Foundation has been governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. In 2016 its Vice Chairman, Michel Liès, resigned on retiring from his post as Swiss Re’s Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Trustees appointed Christian Mumenthaler, Swiss Re’s new CEO, as Vice Chairman at its meeting in October.

In 2016 the Board confirmed the Swiss Re Foundation’s overarching goals and defined key strategic initiatives for the next five years. These goals include engaging Swiss Re employees more extensively in the Foundation’s activities. In an interrelated world, the company’s future leaders in particular are expected to make social responsibility an integral part of their professional attitude and behaviour.

Involvement in the Foundation’s activities will increasingly serve to complement more conventional approaches to talent development and engagement. Moreover, the diverse relationships and innovative ideas cultivated by the Foundation will contribute to Swiss Re’s thought leadership and introduce the company to insights and solutions beyond its traditional business model.

A full-time staff in Zurich manages the day-to-day affairs of the Foundation under the Board’s guidance and leadership. It is supported by regional Swiss Re colleagues who organise its activities outside Switzerland. As illustrated by the first Entrepreneurs for Resilience Award event, held in Hong Kong, the Foundation supports Swiss Re’s global profile around the world.

“It has been exciting to see the Foundation evolve over its first five years. As a strong believer in the power of entrepreneurial approaches to building resilience, I am particularly pleased by its growing support of social innovators who are taking on the world’s big challenges.”

Michel Liès
Former Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees
Key figures for 2016

- **Total commitments**: 7,246,000
- **Number of global projects**: 53
- **Swiss Re volunteers**: 1,506
- **Number of community projects**: 152
- **Volunteering hours**: 12,761

Global projects, by region:

- **Americas**: 16
- **Africa**: 15
- **APAC**: 12
- **Worldwide**: 6
- **Europe**: 4
Total commitments by region

- Africa: 16%
- Americas: 22%
- APAC: 23%
- Europe: 11%
- Worldwide: 28%

Total commitments by focus area

- Climate: 58%
- Water: 21%
- Natural hazards: 7%
- Society*: 14%

*Society* includes all activities related to social welfare, equality, education and research and innovation for the greater good.
Residents of all ages took part in the opening ceremony for the Learning Center in Mandalgovi, Mongolia.