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Corporate Citizen+

Projects and results 2024

Corporate Citizen+

Because the whole is more than the sum of its parts

As part of its sustainability and climate protection strategy, Dachser supports social and community activities beyond its direct business interests. In this sense, the company acts as a Corporate Citizen+. The focus is on cooperation with the children's rights organization Terre des Hommes, primarily in developing and emerging countries. This partnership is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025. The climate action partnership between Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and the climate protection organization myclimate has been newly established, launching its first joint projects in 2024.

Climate partnership with Terre des Hommes and myclimate

At the end of 2023, Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate officially inaugurated their partnership to launch projects around the world that address the consequences of climate change and open up long-term prospects for local populations. The partners have already launched their first projects in places such as India, Mozambique, Nepal, and Bolivia.

Project in Bolivia

Diverse—it's hard to find another country that fits this description as well as Bolivia. The Andean country is characterized by a multitude of ethnic groups, cultures, and languages, features a wide range of geographical and climatic conditions, and is home to great biodiversity. At the same time, however, Bolivia is also one of the poorest countries in Latin America.

A large part of the population in the project areas practices subsistence farming, using most of the harvest for their own food and selling only a small percentage. The consequences of climate change are thus having a particularly strong impact here. People are confronted with extreme weather events such as floods and droughts that lead to crop failures. Access to clean drinking water is not guaranteed and cooking with firewood is harmful to people's health. As part of a long-term project, Dachser, in partnership with Terre des Hommes and myclimate, wants to help local communities adapt to the consequences of climate change, improve local living conditions, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.

Long-term support on-site

The projects focus on families from the indigenous Guaraní, Quechua, and Chiquitano tribes living in the south and southeast of Bolivia. A full 5,000 families will receive ecological wood stoves that require less firewood and emit fewer harmful emissions, including CO₂. Pipelines and



tanks will bring fresh drinking water to 1,500 families, and 460 agroforestry systems are being established. This involves integrating trees and shrubs into agricultural land in order to increase soil fertility and diversification. The project participants are also setting up 200 agroecological gardens for families and offering comprehensive educational programs on environmental topics.

"With a bundle of measures and a holistic approach, we want to promote sustainable livelihoods, improve the health of the local population, and strengthen their resilience to climate-related threats," says Bernhard Simon, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Dachser. "We started off with a pilot phase so that we can make adjustments early on if necessary. Full implementation is planned for this year and is scheduled to run until 2029."

The measures are to be implemented by PRODECO, Terre des Hommes's local partner organization. Climate protection organization

myclimate is supporting the project during the evaluation phase, which follows the format of the Gold Standard. This has the world's strictest standards for certified climate action projects.

Key findings and initial successes

The pilot phase in Bolivia has already yielded key findings that can be applied in the further course of the project. For example, adjustments were made to the design of the ecological wood-burning stoves. Compared to the originally planned model, the new stove can be heated up more quickly, has better thermal efficiency, cuts firewood consumption in half, and has a chimney system.

Surveys in three communities have already shown that the new stove brings a number of benefits to families, especially its efficiency and the lower amount of smoke. "I used to need more firewood and the wind made cooking difficult. Now, with just two small logs, the water boils quickly and there's no smoke," says Sandra Pesoa Ribera, who uses one of the new stoves. The families also appreciated the fact that the stove preserves the traditional taste of their food.

Based on the knowledge gained and feedback from other projects, the stove's design will be further refined to provide an even better model.



A growing project portfolio

Climate action projects have been launched not only in Bolivia but also in India, Mozambique, and Nepal. Here, too, the project partners use various technologies to reduce emissions and implement measures that go far beyond climate action to ensure better livelihoods locally in the long term.

Projects in other parts of the world are currently being intensively reviewed and prepared. "We've already been able to gain valuable experience over the past few months," says Magdalena Droppelmann, who heads the Corporate Sustainability department at Dachser. "And that happens both in the course of working with local partners and during project visits, as well as in collaboration among the partner organizations. Talking with people directly on-site not only helped us develop a better understanding of the local conditions, but also provided key insights for further project planning and implementation."

The partners have big plans for the coming years. "We're constantly working to develop existing projects further and to carefully plan and evaluate new, additional initiatives—always with a clear focus on quality and holistic impact," Bernhard Simon explains.

He goes on to emphasize that the objective is always to collaborate closely on projects that not only promote climate action, but also strengthen local communities and improve living conditions for children and young people. "The successes we've enjoyed so far and our experiences to date confirm that the structures and processes created are sustainable and pave the way for the successful, long-term implementation of further measures."

"We build on the development of personalities"

This version has been edited for length. The full version was published in "Verantwortung (Responsibility) – The magazine for sustainability, CSR, and innovative growth," issue 01/2025

You're celebrating a special anniversary this year. Dachser has been working with Terre des Hommes on development projects worldwide for 20 years. What was the original impetus for the partnership?

Bernhard Simon: The partnership between Dachser and Terre des Hommes began in 2005, immediately after the tsunami in Asia at the end of 2004. At that time, there was a huge response in the form of donations, but they were earmarked for the coastal regions. The strong focus on those areas also had a negative side effect: Support for other disadvantaged areas, which otherwise received continuous support, was stopped. Companies were able to use the donations to the coastal regions in their communication efforts, but then that used up the budgets.

At the time, I said that if we were to get involved, we would do it for the long term and provide funds where companies were not currently donating. This also meant promoting projects that are less tangible and don't quickly deliver media-friendly images. That's precisely why we chose India, and Uttar Pradesh in particular. Together with Terre des Hommes and the local NGOs, we've been able to achieve a great deal over the years. Our success there confirms that it was right to take the harder path and go where no one else is looking.

Since then, you have launched over 20 projects spanning various regions such as Southeast Asia, Latin America, Southern Africa, Ukraine, and Turkey. How do you decide in which new regions or areas to initiate new projects?

It's always been important to me not to take a scattershot approach, but rather to focus our commitment in a structured and strategic manner.



One aspect of the selection of regions is the basic structures already in place. In countries without any functioning structures, or "failed states," it's very difficult to set up sustainable projects. It's also important for us in the company to maintain a close exchange with our colleagues in our country organizations beyond Germany in order to create an awareness of the big picture. Networking is a core element of our business model. That's why we're also socially involved in the countries in which Dachser operates, in order to create a sense of identification with the country. In these countries, too, we often see problems that otherwise receive little attention. And these are often problems where you can really make a visible difference.

Terre des Hommes takes on an advisory role in the selection of projects. They identify suitable local NGOs and help them to develop further. It's important to us that certain structures function in order to pursue our goals. These structures include, for example, professional financial management, social standards in managing employees, and transparent financial reports. Over the years, we've jointly created a strategic framework for the projects that defines our content orientation. It begins with fundamental human rights and children's and women's rights, then continues with topics such as gender equality, civil liberties, and the right to education, and finally culminates in the question: What happens after education and training?

A closer look: Interview with Bernhard Simon

You set up these projects within a certain time frame. How do you assess their success and what happens to them after this period?

For one thing, we look at the projects according to traditional, fact-based, quantitative criteria, such as the number of children enrolled in school, the dropout rate, or the proportion of young people who find employment after leaving school. We also believe that if a society is to be proud of the things it has created, it must be able to operate them itself. For the projects, this means that we plant the seed from the outset, so that all those who run a project can handle it independently. Development work must not create permanent dependency, but should demand that individuals take long-term responsibility themselves. For structures that are subject to state regulation, such as schools, we therefore concentrate on compensating for existing deficits. This can mean, for example, facilitating further training for teachers. Nowadays, a project usually lasts for around three years. If it proves successful, it can be extended to up to six years. There are then three options for follow-up financing: In the best-case scenario, the local population will continue to support the project themselves, as they clearly recognize the benefits. Alternatively, local authorities or larger NGOs take over the financing.

With such an extensive and long-term commitment, it's realistic to assume that not everything will always go according to plan. How do you deal with setbacks in the projects?

I believe that setbacks are absolutely necessary in order to understand that you are doing something challenging and that this also means taking a risk. Such projects therefore involve the knowledge that it doesn't always work. That's why you need robust thinking, and when problems arise, you don't immediately jump to "I knew that wouldn't work." But what generally always works is to carry out projects at the grassroots level of civil society, where there's the possibility of sparking enthusiasm, generating pride, and thus creating images that can be

used to inspire other people. We don't build dams, we don't build office towers; we build on the development of personalities, and that always works and pays off.

Self-employment and entrepreneurship are generally a recurring focus of your projects. What makes this approach so valuable in your eyes?

My grandfather started out with nothing—except the ability to bring people together and awaken in them the passion to create something. It's precisely this attitude that shapes our development work. It's not a question of waiting for external support from Europe, but of promoting personal initiative and giving people the opportunity to take their lives into their own hands. Entrepreneurship and development work can be perfectly combined in this way. This approach is particularly essential in the Global South, because in many countries there, the young population is growing significantly faster than the economy. So where's the possibility of young people being able to finance their own lives supposed to come from if these two growth rates diverge? Self-employment and the focus on the informal labor market are ways of bringing these speeds together so that young people have the chance of a future.

Dachser communicates its social and community activities under the term "Corporate Citizen+." Can you explain what this means and what it requires from the company?

Before investing in activities that lie outside the company, you should first think about a few things: What is the purpose of the company? What do I as a company want to achieve, and how do I go about it? It doesn't make much sense to say that I'll exploit all opportunities by going to places where, for example, environmental protection isn't a priority, so I can easily turn a profit and then spend part of that profit on a nature conservation project. That's not logical. So as good and responsible global citizens, we must first consider what standards are actually important to ensure that the business I do is

sustainable for the future. I must also be aware that these standards are not as advanced everywhere as they could reasonably be. So we need a set of rules—that's my "homework" as a corporate citizen. If it also makes sense to maintain activities and projects that go beyond the pure intention of making a profit, then we call this Corporate Citizen+. But if the former condition is not in place, if I am not internally at peace with how I want to run the business. then it becomes difficult to run and present everything beyond that in a credible way.

As a long-time CEO and member of the founding family, you've played a key role in shaping Dachser. What personal values are particularly important to you, and how do these values shape Dachser's corporate culture?

One value that's particularly important to me personally is standing up for others in the sense of inclusive responsibility. The awareness that one person alone is nothing, but all of them together are like a network. Someone who is individualistic in the network can only tear holes in it. What we need are people who are always inclined not to let holes in the network develop and, if there are any holes, to mend them again. Ever since my grandparents founded the company, it's always been important to us as a family to pay attention to how we do things. It's about being able to look ourselves in the mirror every morning with a smile on our faces. That's why we say that there are certain rules and conditions under which profit is made, and how it's made. Sales growth is not something that's to be achieved at any price. We can't always be flawless, but we are open to discussion and to criticism so that we can continue to develop things sensibly. Just as society and social norms continue to evolve. We also speak of an "intergenerational contract" in the company. Each new generation is called upon to reinterpret these values again and again. What do we actually want? And what's important as we pursue it? This is the basis for our corporate strategy. Over the years, a strong culture has developed from these ideas and we are a magnet for people for whom this is also important.

Together with Terre des Hommes, you've built up a long-term strategic commitment. What advice do you have for companies that aren't yet at this point?

If I want to invest seriously in activities, I mustn't see that as the achievement of a quick goal. I have to remember that it's the journey that counts. Being able to create more and more pride, enthusiasm, and self-confidence is what it's all about - and not about creating a marketable image. If I want to work successfully as an entrepreneur, I can do so only if I have a deep understanding of the customer's soul. If I want to do something beyond the company that moves society, then in a figurative sense I can do this only if I've understood what the local people really need. If I want to develop societies, then I have to build them from the ground up, in the process accepting that it takes a long time. In addition, you need to have the knowledge within the company. If you want to invest in development areas, you should first take a fundamental look at it and get people on board who understand the core of the subject. I wouldn't have been able to push the issues forward like that if I hadn't had the experience. There aren't many CEOs who've done development work before. This means that you have to bring the knowledge into the company. That's the crucial thing.

Interview conducted by Gregor Vischer, Managing Director of the F.A.Z. Institute

Project reports, 2024

Since 2005, Dachser has been partnering with the international children's rights organization Terre des Hommes to help people help themselves. Various projects in South Asia, Southern Africa, Latin America, and Ukraine improve the educational opportunities and living conditions of children and young people—particularly those in socially and economically disadvantaged communities. A particular focus is the promotion of youth groups that are committed to children's rights, education, climate action, and environmental protection. The projects directly address rural social structures to promote self-determination. In keeping with the credo of "helping people help themselves," the idea is for young people to take the future of their local communities into their own hands and shape it. With this in mind, the long-term projects empower them in a variety of ways, not least by awakening and encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit.

South Asia

India

The development partnership between Dachser and Terre des Hommes in India began in 2005 with a focus on education and children's rights; their first joint project was in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Since then, the project work has expanded significantly geographically, thematically, and programmatically: Projects in the capital New Delhi and in the northern states of Bihar and Rajasthan have been added, dealing with sustainability and environmental protection, employment, and the protection of women and girls.

In 2024, the projects focused on supporting children, young people, and women and strengthening their rights in the areas of health, nutrition, and environmental protection. Another focus is on combating gender-specific discrimination and violence.

The young people made contact with schools, universities, civil society organizations, and government agencies such as the National Rural Health Mission and the Department of Women and Child Development. They campaigned to

improve the health and nutritional situation of women and children and wrote letters with demands to various authorities.

The key results in 2024

Health and nutrition

- In Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, youth groups set up vegetable gardens, for example at 13 schools. The vegetables harvested are used for school lunches. A full 3,000 families have started to grow vegetables and thus obtain healthy food free of charge. In Uttar Pradesh, 42 families even earn an additional income through cultivation.
- In Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 319 new families (7,600 families in total) can now avail themselves of government welfare benefits and programs such as MGNREGA, Ayushman Health Card, Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), social assistance programs, and services of the National Rural Health Mission.
- The state government program ICDS provided 218 children with food packages.
- About 40 farmers successfully grew mushrooms for their own consumption. They sold the surplus of 248 kilograms.

Education and employment opportunities

- 90 children improved their school performance and actively participated in extracurricular activities.
- 47 children and young people were motivated through counseling sessions to enroll in online courses at schools and universities in order to continue their education.
- In Delhi, 133 young people improved their e-learning skills and their English language skills. A total of 46 young people secured a job in a private company, enabling them to support their families and continue their higher education.



■ 303 girls in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were trained as tailors. In four Indian states, partnerships have been formed with other organizations that offer courses. A total of 187 young people have enrolled in beautician, electrician, plumbing, computer, and digital learning courses, and 38 eventually found a job.

Fighting against gender-specific prejudices as well as child trafficking and abuse

- 25 young gender ambassadors from the youth network in Bihar attended 15 stakeholder meetings to raise awareness about gender-specific prejudices and prevention mechanisms for child trafficking and abuse. As a result, 22 girls were enrolled in school and 10 child marriages were prevented.
- 1.251 children and teachers as well as 310 community members were made aware of issues of gender-based discrimination and violence through songs, comics, and documentaries.

Members of the youth network have presented a charter to parliamentary election candidates in 20 districts of Bihar with demands for strengthening child protection committees and for tougher action on sham or forced marriages. They have also raised concerns about marriage registration at the panchayat level (panchayat is a type of self-governance in India's villages).

Child and gender rights, economic and social protection for marginalized groups, and environmental protection

Four youth networks at the national level with a total of 85 members took proactive measures for the safety and protection of girls and women. The young people empowered girls and women to take action in emergencies and distributed 4,500 flyers with emergency numbers. The youth networks also dealt with waste management issues in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

- 22 young leaders from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar addressed the issues of air pollution, heat waves, river cleaning, recycling, plastic reuse, and marriage registration at the panchayat level. They have joined forces with like-minded organizations such as Greenpeace India, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, CACL, and CACT to address the issues.
- In addition, five villages in three districts of Uttar Pradesh have declared themselves "plastic-free villages" with the help of young people and PRI members.

To strengthen the ongoing commitment of the young people, various activities such as sports, celebrations of important days, theater, and leadership training were introduced. This has successfully increased the participation of young people in campaigns and networks, promoted networking, and achieved a greater sense of community.

Climate action project in the Himalaya, Uttarakhand, India

The mountain ecosystem in India, especially in Uttarakhand, is very vulnerable to climate change and poses numerous challenges for people. The aim of the project launched in 2024 by Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate is to create a sustainable future for local communities and their environment. In Chamoli, Bageshwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Dehradun (districts of Uttarakhand), the project promotes energy efficiency, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability. Local project partners are the NGOs AMAN, HESCO, and Suvidha. The project is in line with several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), good health and well-being (SDG 3), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), life on land (SDG 15), and climate action (SDG 13). The following actions are planned for the project period:

600 biogas plants and 7,000 improved cooking stoves are to replace the inefficient clay stoves currently used. This significantly reduces the consumption of firewood and indoor air pollution.



- On an area of 200 hectares, the project will create 120 water fern ponds, climate-resistant mini-farms, and orchards with 15,000 fruit trees.
- The repair of eight spring boxes will improve the availability of drinking water and irrigation opportunities.
- To promote awareness of climate, environment, and biodiversity conservation, the project will train children, young people, and women from 40 villages in capacity building and actively involve them in decision-making processes.

Initial successes

- 24 project partners took part in a two-day orientation and training program on project implementation.
- The local project partners AMAN and HESCO organized two local stakeholder consultation meetings. The aim of the meetings was to present the planned project actions and obtain feedback. A particular focus was on promoting renewable energy solutions in rural households in Uttarakhand with their economic, health, and environmental benefits. Participants included members of the community and representatives of public and private institutions.
- Systems for the systematic collection of data for strategic project monitoring have been set up and staff at the project partners have been trained accordingly.

- The requirements for Gold Standard certification also include a Project Design Document (PDD), which sets out the environmental, social, and financial aspects. The document was developed in 2024 and is still being finalized. This ensures that all the necessary information is available before submission to the Gold Standard Registry.
- 65 community meetings were held in 2024, each attended by around 30 community members. Some of the topics these meetings focused on were building relationships, community engagement, forming community organizations, and presenting the youth network's environmental and conservation activities. The project has also initiated the establishment of youth, children's, and women's groups.

Nepal

Climate action project in Karnali Province

In 2024, Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate launched a climate action project in the Nepalese province of Karnali. The current challenges on the ground include multidimensional poverty, illiteracy, and climate-related hazards such as landslides and flooding. Agriculture, water resources, food security, and livelihoods are threatened by this. Climate change is further exacerbating these challenges. In addition, there are social problems such as gender discrimination and the exodus of young people, which have been exacerbated by the lack of jobs and have led to an increase in poverty and malnutrition rates.

The project focus on climate action is particularly important for rural communities where people live below the poverty line. The project also aims to contribute to achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The following actions are planned for the project period:

■ 9,000 households in two districts will receive improved stoves and water filters.

- The project will be registered for the Gold Standard in order to receive Verified Emission Reductions (VER).
- Climate-resistant cultivation methods create employment opportunities for young people and women.
- Technologies are provided at the individual and community level to facilitate work in agriculture (sprayers, tractors, gloves, etc.), especially work done by women.

Initial results

- The climate action project was submitted to the Social Welfare Council (SWC) for mandatory approval. Project staff for the field service and the main office were recruited and informed about the project and the project partner Terre des Hommes at an orientation event.
- To make it easier to select a suitable stove. the project partner carried out preference tests in two communities and installed three stove models for community members to try out.
- A tree planting campaign was held to mark World Environment Day. A total of 200 community members planted 500 trees on the grounds of Mahadev Secondary School. The local government supported the campaign financially.
- The children and young people of the Tilagufa community organized a cultural event during a visit by the donors, at which various dances were performed on the subject of climate change and environmental protection. More than 600 students, 400 women, and 250 men took part in the program. Talks were also held with the local authorities as part of the visit.
- Approval for the project was obtained from the local authorities in the province of Karnali. In regular meetings, the project partners informed the local authorities about the objectives of the project and the planned actions. A separate meeting with local government representatives helped to strengthen relations with the local authorities.

Southern Africa

South Africa

Catholic Institute of Education (CIE)

In 2020, Terre des Hommes launched a project with the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) with the support of Dachser. Through comprehensive and market-oriented vocational training, it opens up pathways to economic participation for young men and women in two townships in Johannesburg. The focus is on young people who are neither employed nor in training or studying. The project aims for equal participation of male and female young people.

The second project phase ran from February 2021 to December 2024 with 120 young people. In addition to the training, all participants completed a two-week life skills program. Topics include preparing for job interviews, behavior in the workplace, and a module on gender-based violence. The effectiveness of this training program was evaluated externally.

The project is also actively looking for opportunities to implement learning directly in companies and supports the participants by placing them in jobs. The career paths of former project participants are also tracked and recorded. The project also carried out a needs analysis of requirements for fundraising capacity building in order to support the training centers in the long term.

Results

- 124 apprentices successfully completed their qualification programs over three years. With a 46% share of women, gender parity was almost achieved. However, the project also showed that strategies for contacting or recruiting women need to be optimized. In addition, obstacles such as childcare, transportation problems, or social perceptions that prevent women from training in certain professions must be addressed.
- 20 women and 24 men successfully completed their training at the Bokamoso Skills & Economic Development Centre and St. Anthony's Education Centre in 2024. A total of 7 women and 15 men took part

in the bartending course in Bokamoso, and 4 women and 6 men took part in the plumbing course at St. Anthony's. The computer course had the highest female participation, with 9 female and 3 male trainees.

- More than half of all young people who have completed vocational training since 2022 have taken part in workplace-based learning (WPBL) courses.
- It became clear that scholarships will be necessary in the future for those who have to travel to WPBL offerings.
- In October 2024, the job service offers from the two training centers conducted a survey among the 124 graduates. The survey reached 60 former apprentices (48%), 39 of whom stated that they were economically active, most of them in the formal sector.

South Africa

Outreach Foundation

Since February 2023, Terre des Hommes and Dachser have been supporting a project for forcibly displaced children and young people run by the local partner Outreach Foundation (OF) in Hillbrow in the center of Johannesburg and in Diepsloot Township. Participants include school dropouts, victims of abuse and human trafficking, as well as migrants with disabilities.

The focus is on psychosocial well-being and the creation of a sustainable livelihood. Children and young people receive a psychosocial assessment and an individual development plan from community development workers so that their strengths can be expanded in a focused way. The community development workers also offer psychosocial support, campaign for the enrollment of undocumented migrant children in school, and educate them about human rights in workshops.

A total of 225 young migrants were trained in trades such as tailoring, hairdressing, and carpentry. About 45 young people received support in setting up self-employment companies, while 150 children and young people and their families benefited from psychosocial



support to promote their emotional resilience and social integration. A further 150 families received food parcels or vouchers and were introduced to longer-term income-generating actions. A good 30 migrant children were supported in obtaining legal recognition as South African citizens, and 36 girls who had experienced sexual abuse and exploitation received group counseling and therapeutic services.

Successes

Community development workers have worked with three schools to offer therapeutic groups for migrant women, focusing on mental health and legal support. The Athlone High School for Girls was attended by 112 girls, including 76 migrants. The groups provided a safe space to talk about mental health issues (such as anxiety, depression, and trauma), share experiences, and develop coping strategies. A special focus was placed on problems related to cultural adaptation

- and displacement, which particularly affect migrant women. Group activities included discussions, diary writing, and creative expression. Individual support meetings were also offered. If necessary, the girls could turn to external agencies for further help.
- In addition, therapeutic self-help groups were held for 68 young migrants at Our Lady of Wisdom Primary and Secondary School in Hillbrow. The sessions focused on the stress associated with official documents and residency rights, which leads to feelings of isolation and anxiety. Activities included ageappropriate games, discussions, and individual counseling sessions. Parents of children facing problems with their documents were referred to the legal team for support.
- 283 young migrants received training in business management, cosmetic and beauty treatments, computer skills, or catering. About 167 of them subsequently succeeded in increasing their household income. This improvement in income is primarily due to

the self-employment activities that many of the participants carried out after completing their training.

49 high-performing graduates received starter kits to make it easier for them to set up their own business. A total of 53 participants were offered an internship or apprenticeship, and 65 participants found formal employment and thus contribute to the income of their households.

Case study: Self-employment thanks to support and plenty of ambition



As a single mother, Nokubonga was faced with the great challenge of caring for her two children. She realized that she had to free herself from the vicious cycle of poverty. When Nokubonga heard about an Outreach Foundation course on beauty care, she immediately seized her chance and learned the various aspects of beauty care such as hair styling, makeup, and nail care.

After successfully completing the course, she received a starter kit from the Outreach Foundation to help her set up her own business. With her newly acquired skills and this support, Nokubonga began offering beauty treatments from home. Word of her talent soon spread and she was quickly able to build up a loyal customer base. Her business began to grow and provided her with a regular income that far exceeded the child benefit she once depended on.

The Outreach Foundation continues to support Nokubonga. The young woman is confident that further support will help her to attract even more customers. Her new income helps her to pay her children's school fees and thus give them a better future.

Zambia

Trash4Cash

Using trash to earn your own income—that's what Trash4Cash (T4C) is all about. The aim of the project is to establish a value chain for recyclable waste in the city of Livingstone and thus generate an income for the young entrepreneurs. By handing in pre-sorted waste, the people in Livingstone can also earn some extra money. They also keep their hometown dependent on tourism and its proximity to Victoria Falls—clean, which helps to improve hygiene and health.

As part of the project, the first waste center was built in Livingstone. Members of the community and waste collectors bring their waste in the form of various types of plastic. The plastic is pressed into bales and transported to Lusaka, where it is sold to recycling companies.

Trash4Cash is dedicated to the fight against youth unemployment and inadequate waste management. Unlike the municipal waste system, which has no organized, community-based collection points, T4C offers a structured approach to waste recovery. Livingstone City Council has recognized the potential of T4C and included it in future plans to set up six community-based waste collection points. By promoting recycling, it's not only unemployed young people who benefit, but also vulnerable women who are looking for sustainable sources of income. The project with partner Environment Africa was in its second phase from 2022 to 2024.

The key accomplishments in 2024

A few years ago, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) initiated a project to set up a plastic recycling plant in Livingstone. However, due to financing problems, construction of the plant has not yet begun and the UN-financed machines are sitting unused in a garage. After almost a year of lobbying, approval was granted at the end of 2024 to transfer the equipment to the T4C project. The prerequisite for this was that Terre des Hommes would take over the financing for construction of the facility, which will later house the recycling machines. This success was made possible by the partnership between UNIDO and the Livingstone City Council as well as the support of ZAK, the municipal waste disposal company in Kempten, and Dachser.

- Livingstone City Council provided additional land next to the existing T4C waste center for the project expansion with the new waste recycling plant.
- The T4C team recruited 100 new waste collectors in Kazungula and Livingstone. This significantly increased the reach of the project and the volume of waste recycling and raised awareness of recycling in both communities. Of the 100 new collectors, 37 received training to improve their business management skills and develop their selfemployment skills.
- The project founded five new eco-clubs in Kazungula and Livingstone, involving children and young people in discussions about environmental rights. The focus of these clubs is on environmental awareness, education, and social commitment.
- The project also strengthened the work of Livingstone Youth Networking by supporting the implementation of youth-led initiatives. The youth network reached an estimated 5,000 children through activities such as awareness-raising campaigns and other actions.
- The project team trained seven waste recyclers in the areas of project management, monitoring, and evaluation as well as marketing and financial management. This enables them to carry out the majority of their activities, including regular operational meetings, implementing corrective measures, and preparing detailed financial reports, independently and without the project partner Environment Africa.
- Through continuous coaching and mentoring, the young people ensured that the waste recycling plant remained in operation throughout the year. Power outages remained the only major challenge.

A closer look: Knowledge through dialogue



The business idea for Trash4Cash, which combines sustainability and social aspects, was born in 2019 during a youth exchange involving Dachser trainees and Young Professionals in Germany.

Five years later, the team from Livingstone in Zambia visited Kempten in the Allgäu again. The participants in the three-week exchange in May 2024 were eleven young entrepreneurs from Zambia, the project supervisor from a local NGO called Environment Africa, and a representative of Livingstone City Council. That year, the focus of the exchange was on further training in the circular economy, innovation, and personal development.

For three days, the Trash4Cash team worked hard at the recycling center and in the secondhand shop of the Zweckverband für Abfallwirtschaft Kempten (ZAK). The Zambians were able to expand their knowledge of waste recycling by learning about the processes and technologies of waste processing in Germany. At a workshop held by a local newspaper publisher, the young entrepreneurs learned how to use social media effectively for themselves and their business.

As part of a project to improve the waste separation system at Dachser's Head Office in Kempten, young employees organized a workshop on waste separation for the guests from Zambia. Through the mutual exchange, the young people were able to learn a lot from each other.

The German group's return visit to Zambia took place in late summer. Twelve young adults from Dachser and ZAK spent three weeks in Livingstone and Lusaka. During this time, the group from Germany learned about the challenges of waste management in Livingstone. Their visit played a key role in deepening cooperation between the municipalities of Livingstone and Kempten and promoting global learning.

During an internship lasting several days at the Trash4Cash recycling hub, the participants became familiar with the waste sorting and processing systems in Livingstone and worked together to develop ideas for optimizing the processes. Through visits to waste processing companies in Lusaka, which process the raw materials pre-sorted and prepared by Trash4Cash, the young adults learned about the entire value creation process. School visits and meetings with youth networks also facilitated an intercultural exchange between the young people from Zambia and Germany.

One of the highlights of the project in 2024 was the exchange between the young Zambians and Germans, which took place in May and September 2024. The young Zambians visited the Zweckverband für Abfallwirtschaft Kempten (ZAK) and the Dachser Head Office, where they learned about recycling and waste management. The young Germans visited Livingstone in September 2024 and familiarized themselves with the T4C project in detail.

South America

Argentina

Against the backdrop of the complex political and social situation in Argentina, Terre des Hommes project partner APADIM is taking major steps to support environmental and human rights with its holistic and inclusive approach to learning, education, and the participation of children and young people.

The Young Environmental Citizens project entered its second phase in July 2024. The aim is to turn children and young people with and without disabilities in the city and province of



Córdoba into "environmental citizens" who can defend their right to a healthy environment and environmental education.

The project aims to reach 410 children and young people with and without disabilities who attend APADIM and other schools in the city of Córdoba and the surrounding communities. Indirectly, the project actions influence a further 3,068 people, such as teachers, the families of pupils at APADIM and other schools, APADIM employees, adults, community members who take part in public events, and those addressed by the communication measures. The current political situation in Argentina, with the state withdrawing from many social projects and environmental protection actions, is jeopardizing the implementation of the Environmental Education Law, which forms the central framework for the project's educational initiatives. Although the Milei government was able to curb economic inflation, around 50% of Argentinians currently live below the poverty line. Looking just at children and young people, the figure is as high as 70%.

Against this backdrop, the project is planning the following actions:

- Conduct a training program on environmental rights, environmental citizenship, and gender equality for teachers and for children and young people with and without disabilities
- Develop a curriculum on environmental rights with an interdisciplinary pedagogical approach
- Create an advocacy strategy to promote the Environmental Education Act
- Form a trained team of observers (APADIM students) to disseminate environmental citizenship content and carry out actions

Initial successes of the second project phase:

- 42 young people with disabilities completed a training course on the agroecological cycle on the APADIM site.
- With the support of APADIM teachers, the young people created illustrative and explanatory material and carried out eight school visits.
- The young people also initiated an end-ofyear celebration where they cooked together and shared their experiences.
- Teachers who support the young people receive a fee to show appreciation and as motivation.
- By participating in numerous project activities, workshops, and lessons on environmental topics, the young people with disabilities identify themselves as "defenders of environmental and human rights" and as "environmental citizens."
- The project coordination team and the teachers have noticed that the young people are increasingly participating in internal and external activities, taking the initiative, and expressing their opinions on environmental issues.

Brazil

The project launched in July 2021 with Instituto Cultivar (an institutional branch of the Landless Workers Movement – MST) promotes agroecological education at rural schools in areas of land reform. The aim is to strengthen environmental rights as well as the right to land and education. In July 2024, the project entered its second phase and was expanded from eleven to include six additional schools. A total of 150 teachers and local knowledge brokers reach around 1,500 children and young people at the participating schools. The activities at the schools are intended to involve children, young people, and their families in the national initiative "Plant trees, produce healthy food," which promotes education in rural areas.



Initial successes of the second project phase:

- In the eleven schools that took part in the first phase of the project, the topic of agroecology was consolidated in everyday school life and continuously integrated into the curriculum.
- In October 2024, the decentrally organized San Terrinha event took place, where students had the opportunity to expand their theoretical and practical knowledge about agroecology, native trees, healthy food, and climate change.
- In the six new schools, the project coordination team trained teachers and community representatives and involved them in the processes.
- In preparation for the project activities at the new schools, the project team visited the coordinators of the education sector, met the requirements for mapping the environment of the schools, and promoted the exchange of agroecological experiences between the original and newly participating schools.

- From July to December, the project activities were planned for the 2025 school year, which in Brazil begins in January. This enabled the activities to be successfully integrated into the annual educational plans of the participating schools.
- Greater ownership of the project by school management teams, community members, and MST education sector coordinators at the state and national level will ensure the longterm success of the project.
- In the second phase of the project, the education department of the MST is also closely involved as a local partner in the planning and implementation of the project. This partnership is proving to be particularly enriching in view of the geographical scope of the project and the different perspectives of schools, MST settlements, and local agricultural companies.

Peru

The project with Terre des Hommes partner ABA started in June 2022. It supports Quechua-speaking young people between the ages of 16 and 24 from 20 communities in the Ayacucho region. This region suffers from high levels of poverty, with around 40% of the population living below the poverty line. Drinking water is notoriously scarce in this region with little rainfall. In addition, there are political conflicts and corruption, which erupted into violent protests at the end of 2022.

Indigenous young people are largely excluded from political and social life. As part of the project, they are empowered to defend their land and their environmental rights and to develop their own opportunities. The young people become cultural mediators whose actions reestablish community practices and who act as points of contact with the authorities.

One focus of the project is on SCALL techniques: ways of collecting and using rainwater. The young people learn these techniques and pass them on to other young people. In addition, the young people learn entrepreneurial skills so that they can develop and offer products and services that are in harmony with their culture and their community.

Regional rainwater collection program

Three youth networks with 294 members, over 50% of whom are women, have implemented communication and training strategies and disseminated the SCALL technical guide in communities and schools. The program trained 28 young people between the ages of 13 and 17 in SCALL techniques in practical sessions. They now act as cultural mediators and community advisors. A total of 34 young people took part in excursions to other districts in the province. This also involved identifying natural basins for the construction of freshwater lagoons. About 30 young adults helped build 43 new rainwater ponds in their communities. They also put what they have learned into practice. In addition, the National Meeting of Young Water and Mother Nature Nurturers took place, with 125 participants aged 16 to 20 from various regions.

Program to protect water and biodiversity and promote cultural heritage

As part of the project, excursions were made to important cultural sites, such as the Nuestra Señora del Carmen church and the Ruqruqa waterfall, in order to register them as tourist attractions with Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR). Five such sites belonging to the indigenous community of Quispillaccta have been registered. Radio Quispillaccta broadcast 49 programs in Quechua on topics such as traditional knowledge and environmental issues. A participatory video about SCALL was also produced.

Training program to restore well-being and intercultural policy

A total of 129 young people took part in 19 events that imparted traditional, indigenous knowledge on topics such as rituals, water care, agricultural astronomy, and healing. The Maqta Chuya youth network campaigned at a political level for the right to a healthy environment and for Chimaycha music to be declared part of the nation's intangible cultural heritage.

About 75 young people visited agricultural astronomy centers and documented their experiences in texts about traditional astronomy

and agriculture. In addition, 45 young people took part in Yachaq training courses on traditional medicine. The Political Training School for Well-Being trained 28 young people and 21 people with leadership roles in the community (1 woman, 20 men) on topics such as water management and Andean values. The internal statute of Quispillaccta was finalized and a regional ordinance on water conservation was promoted.

Training program for entrepreneurial skills

Siete de Junio, an educational institution, has been modernized and offers two new training courses: "Confectioner and chocolatier" and "Vegetable and fruit processing." A total of 78 young people received training in traditional medicine, music, soap making, gastronomy, and music. This helps preserve culture, network the community, and strengthen self-determination.

A total of 148 pupils received career advice and a further 104 young people took part in workshops on food and the manufacture of cosmetic products, which were sold at local fairs. Furthermore, 44 young people were trained in beekeeping, guinea pig breeding, and tourism. The project supported 20 indigenous companies engaged in fish farming, dairy farming, beekeeping, and cheese production, among other things. In addition to technical training to improve their production, there were workshops on business plans, product catalogs, and trade fair participation. However, networking with other successful and established indigenous companies in the region also plays a key role.



Case study: From a problem to a meaningful company

Anthony Humaní is a 16-year-old from the village of Quispillaccta. The starting point for his entrepreneurial journey was a problem familiar to many teenagers: acne. In addition, Quispillaccta's location at an altitude of over 3,000 meters often leads to dry skin and cold burns on the cheeks.

As part of the Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurs of Quispillaccta project, which is supported by Terre des Hommes and Dachser, Anthony learned how to make natural soap. The soaps he made himself improved the appearance of his own skin enormously. He then experimented with making soaps from other natural ingredients such as turmeric, vitamin E capsules, and coconut oil. The positive effects of the homemade soaps motivated Anthony to share his knowledge with his peers. He also gave courses at the village school, where he teaches other children and young people in the Magta Chuya network.

This was the birth of Anthony's first company, Chuya Uya ("clean face"), which offers various natural soaps for facial care. Anthony started selling the soaps at his school at affordable prices. Many of his classmates, who also struggled with acne and cold burns, trusted the products and recognized their benefits. For Anthony, taking part in the Achievement Day of the Science and Technology course was one of the most important moments in his journey as a young entrepreneur. There he presented soaps made from aloe vera and ayrampu, an indigenous fruit that grows at an altitude of over 3,800 meters and has amazing properties for skin care. Feedback from the other participants was very positive.

Through a career training course, Anthony was able to take his business to the next level and officially launch his Chuya Uya brand.



Anthony took second place in a company competition organized by the local education management department. This recognition motivates him to further develop and improve his products. Through digital content creation workshops, Anthony also learned how to promote his products online. He now devotes most of his free time to creating digital content for his brand.

Anthony is currently expanding his business on his village's shopping street and sharing his experiences with other young people. His dream is for Chuya Uya to reach many more people and show that with commitment and creativity. problems can also become great opportunities.



Ukraine

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine means stress for children, caregivers, and families. Displacement, destroyed social networks, the loss of loved ones, and the constant threat of bombing are a daily burden. There are still too few professional services that deal with stress and trauma. In addition, the methods they use are often based on outdated assumptions and are not sufficiently effective.

The Psychosocial Support for Families in Ukraine project has therefore been offering children, young people, and their caregivers psychosocial and trauma support since September 2022 so as to build stress resilience and deal with traumatic events. The project includes trauma-informed play sessions and retreats where children can learn and play. The caregivers were previously trained in trauma-informed childcare.

Through needs-based therapy and training, parents and caregivers learn how to deal with their own stress or traumatic experiences and how best to support stress reduction. This also included the development of non-violent and trauma-preventive communication in families and care facilities. The project was implemented from September 1, 2022, to February 29, 2024.

Key results of the project

- The project engaged over 2,600 people through a series of trauma-informed trainings, support groups, and workshops. These activities were tailored to both children and adults. More than 1,200 children and young people took part in activities, and just as many adults attended the training sessions.
- An important part of the project was the development of the Trauma Informed Glasses protocol. This is intended to enable childcare staff and professionals to respond appropriately to traumatized children. Through a kind of imaginary glasses, adults can recognize trauma symptoms in children in the first step and intervene sensitively in the second step. The starting point for developing the protocol

- The project team distributed more than 1,500 comic handbooks on coping with stress, overcoming trauma, and dealing with future challenges.
- In addition, a family camp was held together with the partner organization Leaderland. The aim was to give parents and children the opportunity to relax and learn a new and more informed way of dealing with stress and trauma.
- In the area of psychosocial support, the focus was on integrating psychosomatic methods. These approaches enable coping with stress, grief, and traumatic stress by helping people reconnect with their bodies and understand the natural processes in the nervous system that help process stress and trauma. By integrating these techniques into teaching and childcare, participants were given valuable tools to strengthen their resilience and well-being. The introduction of psychosomatic approaches showed how necessary continuous education, support, and cultural sensitivity are in order to effectively integrate these methods into the participants' everyday lives and strengthen their resilience.
- Over 616 children took part in art therapy workshops, learning to reduce stress through creative methods. The workshops were designed to be child-friendly and provided a safe environment in which the children could express and process their experiences.
- Commitment and networking within the local communities were key to the success of the project. Therefore, the project built strong relationships with local organizations, schools, and community leaders that increased the reach and effectiveness of the project and facilitated the sharing of resources and expertise. The project team also actively sought partnerships with organizations trusted by the community and leveraged these relationships to reach those affected.

Another focus was on expanding capacity and training specialists in the area of psychosocial support. There were targeted training programs for social workers, psychologists, and educators in trauma-informed care, stress management, and psychosomatic methods. This gave professionals practical tools to support the affected population groups and promote a culture of resilience and empowerment. It became clear that the quality and impact of psychosocial support improves noticeably through the further training of professionals.



Overview: Ongoing projects in 2024

Local partner organization	Duration	Brief description		
South Asia				
Participatory Action for Community Empowerment (PACE), India	October 2020– September 2025	Life, food, and health for children and livelihood basics for young people in India The projects focus on providing young people with a platform to identify socioeconomic problems in their neighborhoods and strengthen their skills in the areas of health and nutrition, environmental protection, and understanding gender-based violence. They also aim to improve young people's personal skills and opportunities in the labor market through e-learning courses and other vocational training.		
Disha Vihar, India				
Bhoomika Vihar, India				
Human Resources Center (HRC), Nepal	October 2020– February 2024	Improved education and livelihood opportunities in the rural community of Gaumul in Bajura district, Nepal The project aimed to ensure quality education and adequate livelihood opportunities. The project focused on equipping schools with teaching and learning materials and creating a child-friendly environment. In this way, children and young people were to be granted access to quality education. The project also dealt with qualifications and start-up assistance for various livelihood opportunities at the local level.		

Overview: Ongoing projects in 2024

Local partner organization	Duration	Brief description		
Latin America				
CEDECA Limeira, Brazil	April 2021– March 2024	Education and Citizen Training in Limeira, Brazil The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the increase in inequalities and violence, of which Brazilian children and young people are the main victims. For this reason, the project, in its third and final phase, continued to rely on three proven pillars: sociocultural workshops, training in the field of human rights, and communication with children and young people from three neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city of Limeira. In addition, professionals such as social workers and even public security personnel were involved.		
APADIM – Asociación de Padres y Amigos del Discapacitado Mental, Argentina	July 2021– June 2027	Promoting the right to a clean and healthy environment—with an inclusive perspective. This project aims to empower children, young people, and young adults with and without disabilities to promote the right to a clean and healthy environment and environmentally responsible behaviors at the local level. The children and young people participating in the project live in neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city of Córdoba, characterized by environmental pollution and urban socioeconomic problems.		
Instituto Nacional para o Desenvolvimento Social e Cultural do Campo—INSTITUTO CULTIVAR (in association with O Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra—MST), Brazil	July 2021– June 2027	Education and environmentally friendly agrarian culture in rural schools in Brazil This project focuses on training in environmentally friendly agriculture and mobilizes children, young people, and young adults for the right to a clean and healthy environment, the right to land, and the right to education. The project will be implemented in the five ecologically diverse regions of the country. The project will reach approximately 1,000 students and 100 teachers, who will share the best practices developed through the project.		
Aba Asociación Bartolomé Aripaylla, Peru	June 2022– June 2025	Young Quechua from 20 communities in Ayacucho, Peru, are empowered to defend their territories and environmental rights and build their own life prospects. The project aims primarily to strengthen the individual and collective skills of young indigenous women in the areas of water harvesting, agricultural techniques, and entrepreneurship. The projects, in conjunction with local advocacy work, are intended to benefit both participants themselves and their communities.		

Local partner organization	Duration	Brief description		
Sud du continent africain				
Environment Africa, Livingstone, Zambia	September 2022– December 2024	Trash4cash — Upgrading the youth-led recycling and entrepreneurship project in Livingstone, Zambia, EAT4Cash II The main objective of the project was to promote entrepreneurship among young people through waste collection and recycling. The project focused on capacity building in Livingstone to strengthen the waste management income generation project. Phase II of the project further focused on the sustainability aspects of the project and sought to expand in Livingstone and to two other towns, Zimba and Kazungula.		
Outreach Foundation, South Africa	February 2023– January 2025	Education and training for young migrants in the Hillbrow district of Johannesburg Many of the refugees in Johannesburg have no official status and no access to education and training. The project offers educational opportunities, professional prospects, and psychosocial assistance. Special attention is paid to young mothers and their children.		
Catholic Institute of Education (CIE), Johannesburg, South Africa	April 2022– December 2024	Vocational preparation for young people in townships The project helped reduce unemployment among unskilled and unemployed young people in Reiger Park (East Rand) and Evaton (Emfuleni) in Gauteng, South Africa. Particular emphasis was placed on improving opportunities for young women to access market skills training and participate economically in markets, whether formal or informal.		

Local partner organization	Duration	Brief description		
Ukraine				
Vostok Sos/Libereco — Partnership for Human Rights	September 2022– February 2024	Feniks—Psychosocial support for families in Ukraine The project provided psychosocial and trauma therapy for children, young people, and their caregivers. The goal was to help them individually and collectively build stress resistance and cope with traumatic events.		

Local partner organization	Duration	Brief description		
Climate action projects by Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate				
Suvidha, Aman, HESCO – India	2025–2029	The project focuses on implementing sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. It includes the use of clean energy to reduce dependence on wood fuel, the development of irrigation and drinking water systems, azolla cultivation and nitrogen fixation, climate-friendly agriculture, and the development of orchards to improve greening and livelihoods.		
SAHAS, Karnali Resilient Initiative Nepal (KRIN)	2025–2029	This project targets 7,000 households in two districts and supports climate-friendly technologies at the household level to reduce CO_2 emissions while improving the resilience, knowledge, and capacity to respond to climate change. By promoting clean energy technologies and resilient livelihoods, the project aims to bring sustainable social benefits to communities.		
PRODECO, Bolivia	2025–2029	Multiple initiatives for climate action and adaptation to climate change are underway in Quechua, Guarani, and Chiquitano families in Bolivia. The focus is on introducing ecological wood stoves to reduce GHG emissions. In addition, the project aims to ensure access to water via pipelines and tanks, to establish agroforestry systems and agroecological gardens, and to provide environmental education.		
MAHLAHLE, Mozambique	2025–2029	In the provinces of Inhambane and Gaza, this project provides 12,000 households with support for the introduction of climate-friendly technologies to improve livelihoods and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Households and the agricultural sector receive access to solar-powered water systems, while young people are trained in sustainable trades and the operation of more efficient cooking stoves. At the same time, environmental education raises climate awareness among children and young people.		

