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# Letter from the Chairwoman

Dear Suyana Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the culmination of another impactful year at Suyana, I am honoured to share with you our Annual Report for 2023. It is with profound gratitude and a sense of accomplishment that I recount the collective efforts and significant strides made possible by the dedication of our teams and the unwavering support of individuals like you.

The year 2023 proved to be a defining chapter in Suyana's journey, characterized by moments of transformation and growth. Notably, it marked the official merger of Suyana Foundation and Suyana Mundial, a milestone that symbolizes our commitment to consolidating our efforts and maximizing our impact. Additionally, we proudly launched five new initiatives: the Community Empowerment Project in Uganda, the Artisan Empowerment Project in Bolivia, Scholarship Projects in Peru, and the Food Distribution Project in Greece. These endeavours have already begun to yield tangible benefits for the communities we serve, underscoring our commitment to innovation and sustainable development.

One of the particularly special highlights of 2023 was the celebration of Suyana's 20-year anniversary, which gave me the opportunity to reflect on the foundation's journey, the remarkable progress made, and the impactful initiatives that have defined our unwavering commitment to empowerment, resilience, and positive change for the people whose lives we have touched.

In 2003, equipped only with a laptop and a philanthropic vision, I established the Suyana Foundation with the purpose of providing development aid to the most vulnerable communities in Bolivia. Immersing myself in the lives of local families, I gained insights into their struggles, particularly in rural areas where elderly individuals, children, and young people faced acute challenges, often with little or no access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Drawing inspiration from their daily lives, powerful collaborations unfolded, leading to the development of a holistic program aimed at instilling hope, addressing specific needs,

and strengthening the family nucleus as a fundamental building block of society.

*"Suyana is the word for 'hope' in the indigenous languages of Quechua and Aymara."*

Collaborating closely with dedicated local teams, we have extended our reach from Bolivia to Peru, Switzerland, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, and Greece. Through our "local for locals" and holistic approach model, we have empowered and supported over 130'000 individuals worldwide, fostering resilience and positive change at the grassroots level. This journey of two decades has been transformative, shaping our distinctive approach and reinforcing our commitment to community-led development.

Looking forward, my vision for Suyana is one of continued growth and collaboration. I am committed to expanding our impact globally, forging partnerships with like-minded organizations, and leveraging our collective strengths to address the most pressing challenges of our time. Together, we can build a future where hope knows no bounds, and every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each supporter, partner, and stakeholder who has played a role in Suyana's journey. Your unwavering dedication fuels our work and inspires us to strive for greater heights. As we embark on the next chapter of our story, let us remain united in our commitment to creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

Sincerely,



**Ursula Kuhn**  
Chairwoman, Suyana Foundation

# Who We Are

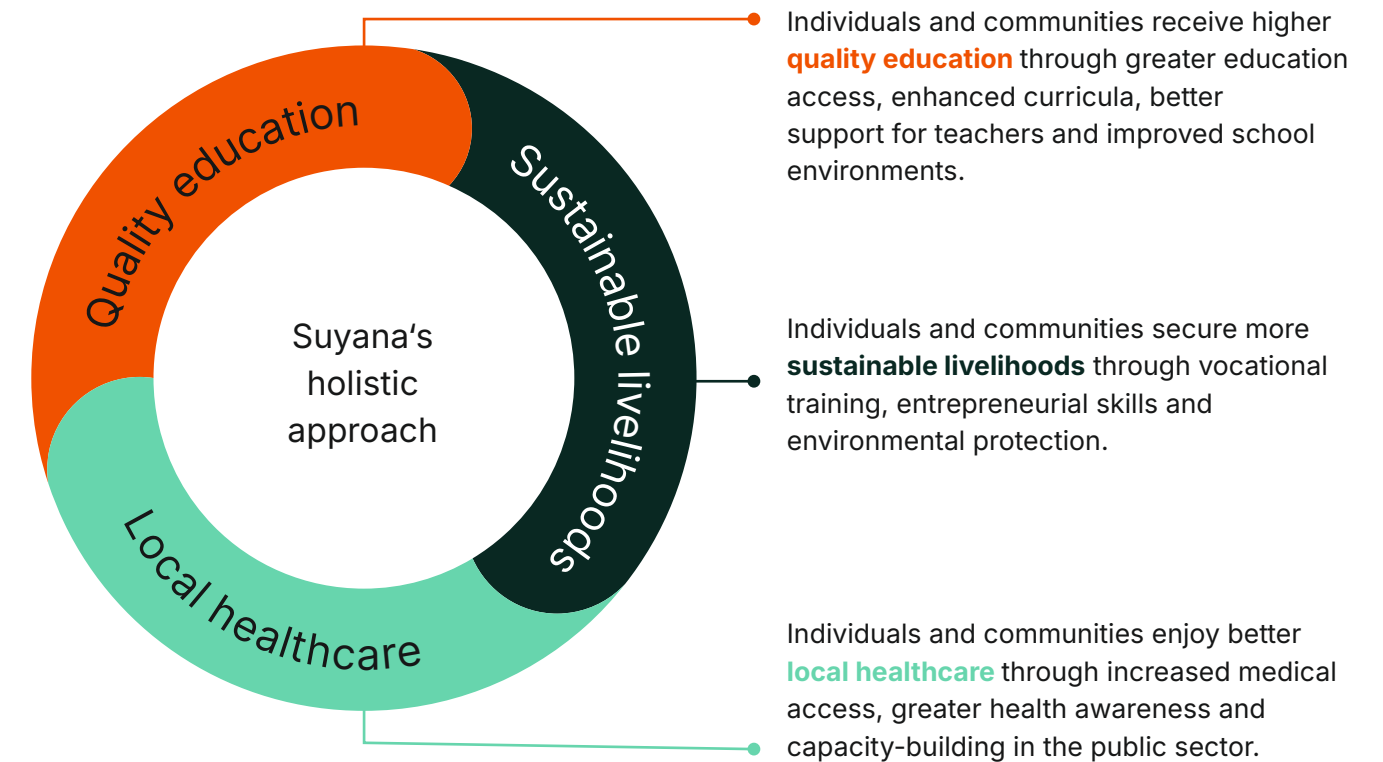
The Suyana Foundation, headquartered in Switzerland, is dedicated to **empowering individuals and rural communities to lead lives of dignity and self-reliance.**

With **over two decades of experience** and a proven track record of **successful, sustainable projects**, Suyana teams work with **local communities** through a **holistic approach** in key areas such as **quality education, local healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods.**

Internationally active and present in **seven countries** in Latin America, Africa, and Europe, the foundation's projects thrive on **locally led efforts.**

With **care and commitment**, we enter into multiyear collaborations with **technical expertise** or through our **own implemented projects** to empower farmers, local entrepreneurs, school children, and families to lead lives of dignity and self-reliance.

Thanks to the active role of the project communities, the **holistic design and focus on collective efforts**, the projects ensure a **long-lasting positive impact.**



**2003**  
Year of foundation

**7**  
Countries we are active in

**108**  
Employees worldwide



# Our Road to *Impact*

“Impact-driven philanthropy is the practice of thoughtfully and intentionally using our time, talents and resources to give in ways that advance equity, effectiveness, and systems change.” – Larry Leibowitz

Embarking on a purpose-driven journey, our foundation charts a course towards impact through Our Theory of Change.

Our **inputs**, rooted in expertise, resources, and strong core values, serve as building blocks, shaping the foundation’s identity, and catalyse scalable, locally-led projects.

Our **outputs** transcend mere interventions. They embody dynamic solutions addressing community needs and materialize in the form of direct results and deliverables from our activities.

Our commitment materializes in **outcomes**: elevated education, enhanced healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods, creating tangible, positive transformations.

The ultimate **impact** of our journey is reflected in lives of dignity and self-reliance. Beyond statistics, we strive for lasting change, empowering individuals and communities to shape resilient and proud lives.

Our Theory of Change within the MEAL model enables us to continuously monitor and showcase the enduring impact of the work we do in our intervention communities. In each step, we remain steadfast in our collective commitment to meaningful difference. Together with partners and supporters, our road to impact becomes a testament to the enduring power of compassion and purpose.

## MEAL

 **Input**

 **Output**

 **Outcome**

 **Impact**



## MEAL Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning

In our pursuit of sustainable impact, we prioritize MEAL to assess and demonstrate the effectiveness of our local initiatives.

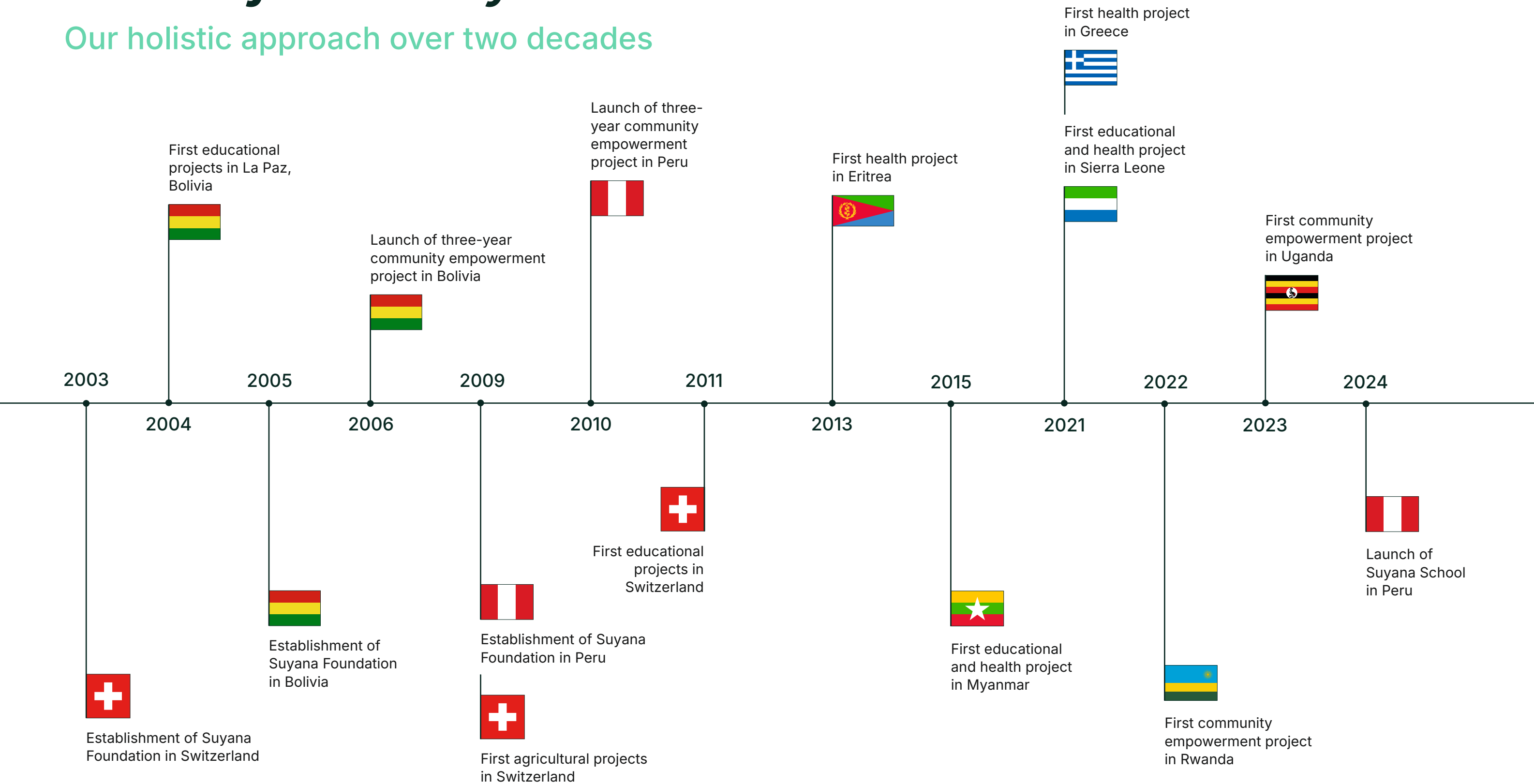
This systematic approach guides our measurement of program progress, outputs, and outcomes. The true challenge, however, lies in leveraging this information to continuously improve our efforts to generate meaningful change within the communities and our organization.

Our commitment to MEAL emphasizes our dedication to transparency, accountability, and continuous learning for enhanced philanthropic effectiveness.



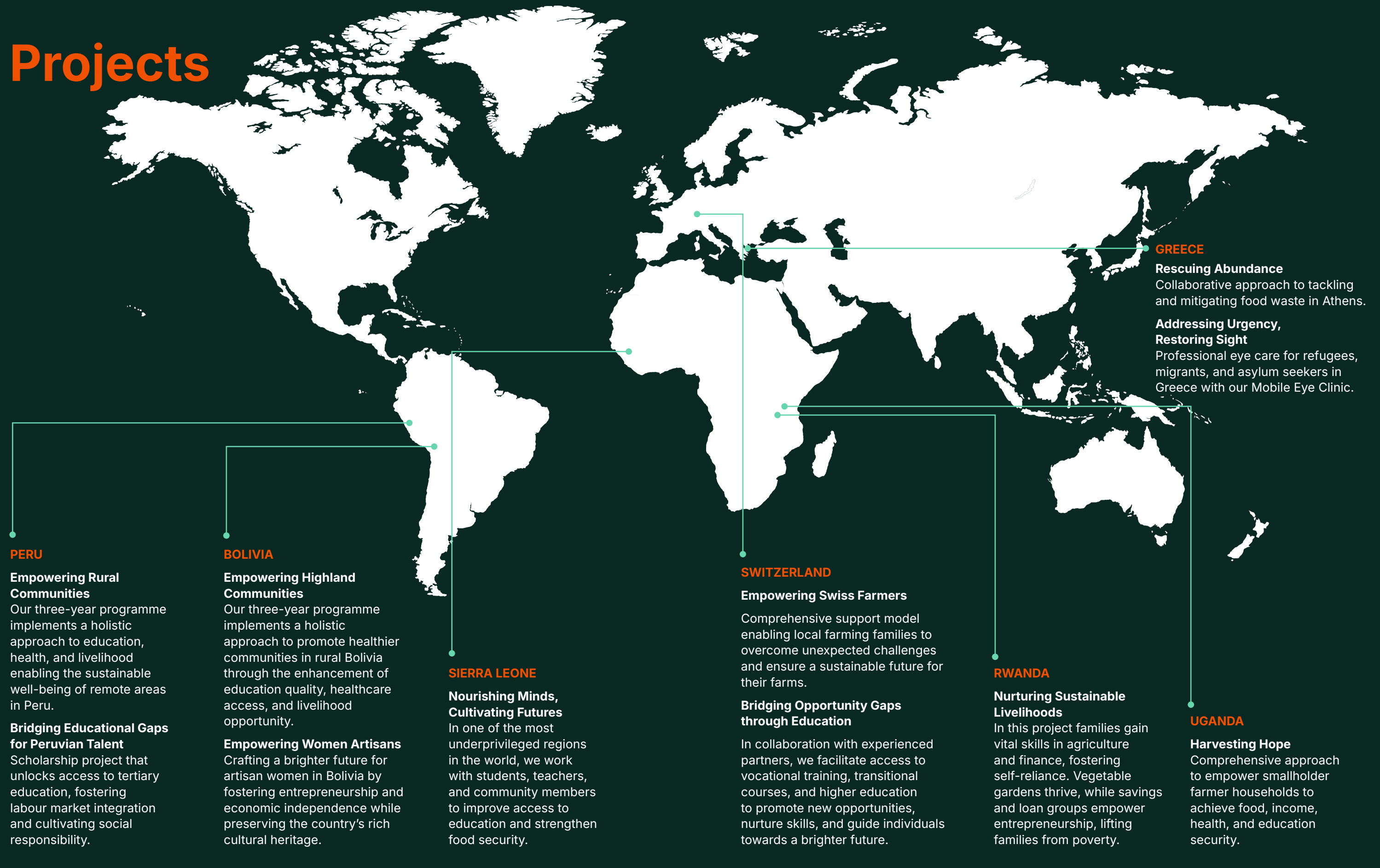
# The Suyana Story

Our holistic approach over two decades





# Projects



## PERU

### Empowering Rural Communities

Our three-year programme implements a holistic approach to education, health, and livelihood enabling the sustainable well-being of remote areas in Peru.

### Bridging Educational Gaps for Peruvian Talent

Scholarship project that unlocks access to tertiary education, fostering labour market integration and cultivating social responsibility.

## BOLIVIA

### Empowering Highland Communities

Our three-year programme implements a holistic approach to promote healthier communities in rural Bolivia through the enhancement of education quality, healthcare access, and livelihood opportunity.

### Empowering Women Artisans

Crafting a brighter future for artisan women in Bolivia by fostering entrepreneurship and economic independence while preserving the country's rich cultural heritage.

## SIERRA LEONE

### Nourishing Minds, Cultivating Futures

In one of the most underprivileged regions in the world, we work with students, teachers, and community members to improve access to education and strengthen food security.

## SWITZERLAND

### Empowering Swiss Farmers

Comprehensive support model enabling local farming families to overcome unexpected challenges and ensure a sustainable future for their farms.

### Bridging Opportunity Gaps through Education

In collaboration with experienced partners, we facilitate access to vocational training, transitional courses, and higher education to promote new opportunities, nurture skills, and guide individuals towards a brighter future.

## GREECE

### Rescuing Abundance

Collaborative approach to tackling and mitigating food waste in Athens.

### Addressing Urgency, Restoring Sight

Professional eye care for refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in Greece with our Mobile Eye Clinic.

## RWANDA

### Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods

In this project families gain vital skills in agriculture and finance, fostering self-reliance. Vegetable gardens thrive, while savings and loan groups empower entrepreneurship, lifting families from poverty.

## UGANDA

### Harvesting Hope

Comprehensive approach to empower smallholder farmer households to achieve food, income, health, and education security.

*A selection of projects we would like to spotlight is found on the following pages.*



# Empowering Farmers for a Sustainable Future in Switzerland

In the face of global agricultural challenges, including population growth, climate change, and land scarcity, Switzerland has a pivotal role to play in maximizing the efficiency of its resources. Recognizing this responsibility, our foundation is committed to supporting Swiss farmers in safeguarding their livelihoods and amplifying their contributions to regional food security.

## Project Goals

With Switzerland's limited agriculturally viable land, the preservation of farmers' livelihood is not only essential for ensuring food security but also plays a significant role in maintaining the picturesque landscape that drives the country's thriving tourism industry. Our overarching goal is to empower farming families to adopt sustainable land management practices, ensuring the uninterrupted provision of food while also preserving the scenic beauty that attracts tourists to the country.

## Activities

We offer indispensable support to farmers through expert guidance across multiple critical areas, ensuring their success and resilience in agricultural endeavours. This includes aiding in construction and infrastructural adjustments (5 projects), facilitating the procurement of machinery and technical equipment (9 projects), addressing health-related issues and accidents (4 projects), and extending emergency relief to families in distress (5 projects).

Our collaborative approach with other organizations further strengthens the economic viability and resilience of farming livelihoods, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices and long-term prosperity for Swiss farming communities.

## Outcomes

In 2023, our efforts contributed significantly to various UN Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By working on these fronts, we were able to help secure the livelihoods of 23 Swiss farming families, advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

## Facts & Figures 2023

Impact area	Livelihood
Project timeline	2023
People empowered	~115
Projects implemented	23
Geographic reach (Swiss cantons)	8

*"Thanks to the invaluable support from the Suyana Foundation, we've acquired essential technical equipment, enabling us to establish a second source of income through forest management. This assistance safeguards the long-term sustainability of our farm, and without it, the crucial development of this second pillar would have been at risk."*

— Hirschi Family from Canton Bern





# Nourishing Minds, Cultivating Futures in Sierra Leone

Ensuring access to adequate nutrition and education poses significant challenges for families in Sierra Leone. With 26% of children suffering from chronic malnutrition and attending school without breakfast, there's a pressing need for intervention. Many students only eat their first meal in the afternoon upon returning home, hindering their ability to concentrate, and thus negatively impacting their academic performance.

## Project Goals

This project aims to enhance learning outcomes and promote continuous studying by providing school meals to children in Worreh Yeama and its five surrounding villages. The overarching objective is to facilitate quality education and ensure nutritious meals for these communities.

## Activities

Through a collaborative effort, the project community prepares agricultural fields behind the school for cassava cultivation. Once the rainy season subsides, the dedicated school committee oversees cassava planting. Parents of Worreh Yeama's pupils participate in planting and tending to the cassava in a rotational system. After 8–10 months, the cassava is harvested and processed into fine grain using a grinding machine. Mixed with water, this produces gari, a porridge that serves as a nutritious meal for the children, enabling them to study effectively on a full stomach. Additionally, to foster community empowerment and local ownership, training in cassava farming and processing has been provided.

## Outcomes

Since 2021, Suyana has been steadfastly supporting the communities in and around Worreh Yeama, fostering a healthy and sustainable school environment. Through agricultural activities, the community now provides daily school meals, resulting in improved nutrition and reduced malnutrition among students. The provision of school meals has positively impacted learning outcomes, evident in the increased number of children passing their final primary school exams and transitioning into secondary education. Through this initiative, Suyana contributes significantly to achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and, notably, SDG 4 (Quality Education).

## Facts & Figures 2023

Impact area	Education, Health
Project timeline	2021–2024
People empowered	~4'000
Students impacted	232
Teacher positions secured	6



*"Thanks to this initiative our children no longer have to study hungry. We are proud that the whole community is supporting our cassava farm and enabling the school to serve daily meals. As a teacher, I am happy to see that the children now study with enthusiasm."*

— Unisa Conteh from Worreh Yeama, Sierra Leone



# Empowering Rural Communities in Peru

In the remote Andean regions of Peru, accessing basic services remains a formidable challenge due to geographical isolation. Communities grapple with limited healthcare, educational opportunities, and income prospects, exacerbating issues such as malnutrition and stunted development among children. Moreover, inadequate infrastructure impedes both economic productivity and the overall well-being of families.



## Project Goals

Through our community empowerment programme we seek to support rural communities by enhancing income opportunities, healthcare accessibility, and educational enrichment. Embracing a holistic approach, we strive to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable living conditions in homes, schools, and entire communities.

The model was first established in Bolivia in 2006 and continues to generate sustainable impact in rural Bolivian villages to this day. In 2010, we launched the project in Peru, which consistently evolves to meet the needs of local populations, particularly those vulnerable to market fluctuations and climate shocks.

Implemented over a three-year cycle with continuous renewal, the project is a collaborative effort between the Peruvian Suyana team, local governments, and community stakeholders, with the common aim to promote enduring economic and social development in rural communities.

## Activities

In the third year of our project cycle, we undertook multifaceted interventions across three impact areas. We established carpentry workshops to empower youth with technical skills, and marketing workshops to cultivate entrepreneurial acumen among secondary school students. To enhance educational quality, we developed workbooks to promote critical thinking skills, and equipped teachers with effective didactic methods. Revamping classrooms and constructing new playgrounds to promote engaging learning environments involved the active participation of teachers, students, and community members. In the realm of healthcare, over 3'000 individuals received comprehensive medical consultations, including dental care and medication distribution, while health and nutrition training sessions further promoted improved hygiene practices and disease prevention. In alignment with our Family Strategy, we installed water harvesting systems, bolstered water and solid waste management in collaboration with local authorities, and initiated reforestation efforts to mitigate erosion and address the impact of climate change.

## Outcomes

The holistic nature of our project yielded tangible improvements in the economic and living conditions of over 15'000 individuals in remote Andean communities. Through the establishment of 21 new playgrounds, we facilitated interactive learning environments for students. Our health-focused initiatives resulted in heightened awareness of healthy habits, leading to reductions in dental cavities, malnutrition, and anaemia. With guidance from agricultural experts, over 500 families were empowered to promote healthy housing and livestock management practices, fostering greater resilience and sustainability within communities.

Through this project, we have made impressive strides towards the achievement of SDG 1 (Zero Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

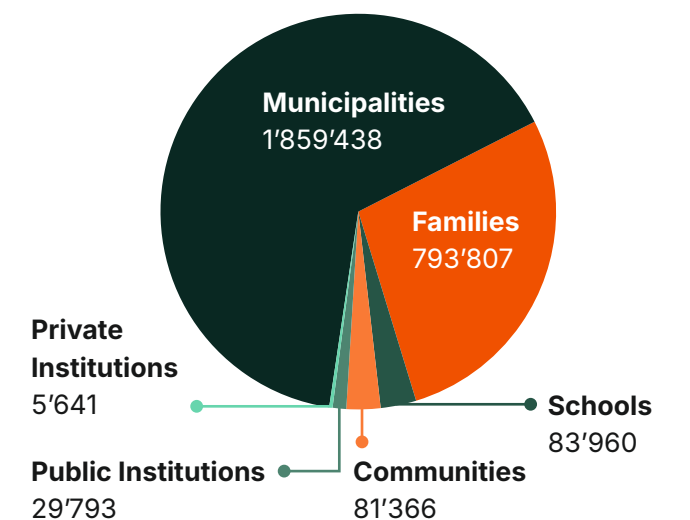
In order to establish profound local ownership, our efforts rely on the active participation of local stakeholders. In 2023, the total amount of time invested by counterparts has been measured and equates to over 2.8 million USD.

## Facts & Figures 2023

Impact area	Health, Education, Livelihood
Project timeline	2021-2023
People empowered	15'000+
Number of dental check-ups provided	17'138
Reduction in anaemia cases	16%

### Investment from Counterparts (USD) in Peru

Total: 2'854'005







***"In our district, there is a high percentage of anaemia. Thanks to the programme, I learned how to make iron-rich meals that I did not know about previously. I personally was able to see the results of our adapted nutrition because my daughter recovered from her anaemia within a month."***

***— Mery Quispe Oviedo from Acchupampa, Peru***



# Our Partnership Model

At Suyana we recognize that every contribution supports our work to empower individuals and rural communities to lead lives of dignity and self-reliance.

We take our responsibilities seriously, and through thorough financial management, we emphasize that each donation is strategically utilized to maximize its impact on our project communities. We are proud to ensure that 100% of funding from donations are directly and fully allocated to projects.

To ensure operational sustainability, personnel costs and other operational expenses are covered by the foundation's capital and return on assets. 79% of foundation costs are directly related to projects, 12% support our resource mobilization efforts, and 9% are administrative overhead expenses. This allocation ensures efficient resource utilization, reinforcing our steadfast commitment to achieving our resource mobilization ambitions, and fulfils our mission.

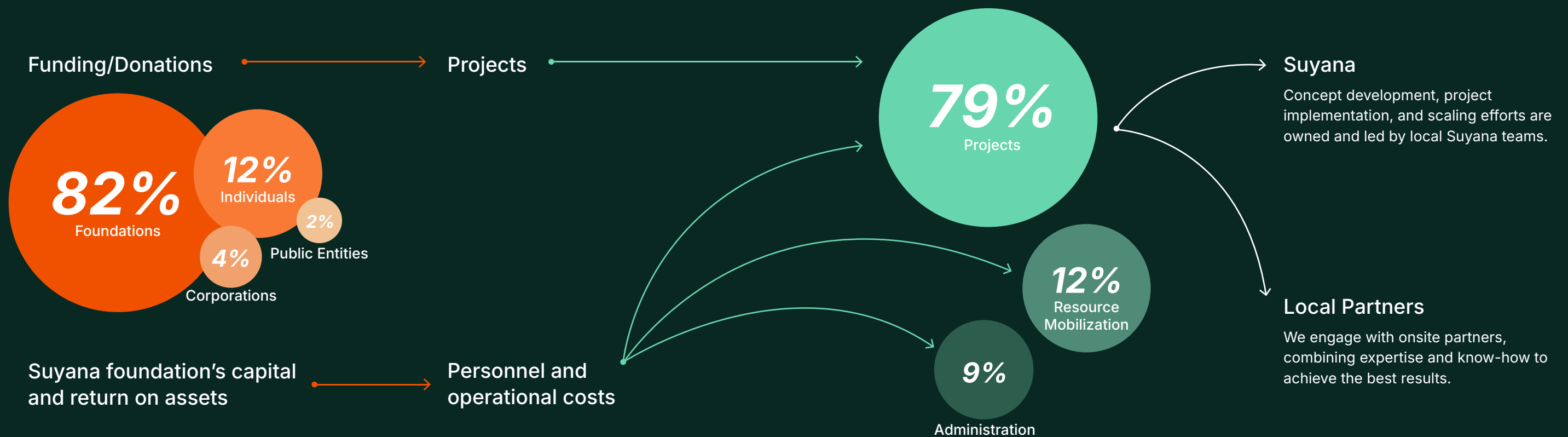


## INCOME SOURCES

## FUND ALLOCATION

## EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

## IMPLEMENTATION MODELS



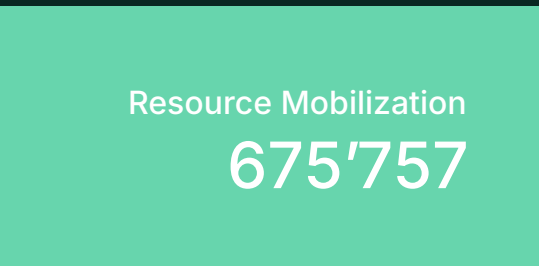


# Suyana in Numbers

A brief overview of our costs and expenditure in 2023: We remain steadfast in our commitment to drive our mission forward by prioritizing projects in the allocation of our funds.

## Cost Breakdown

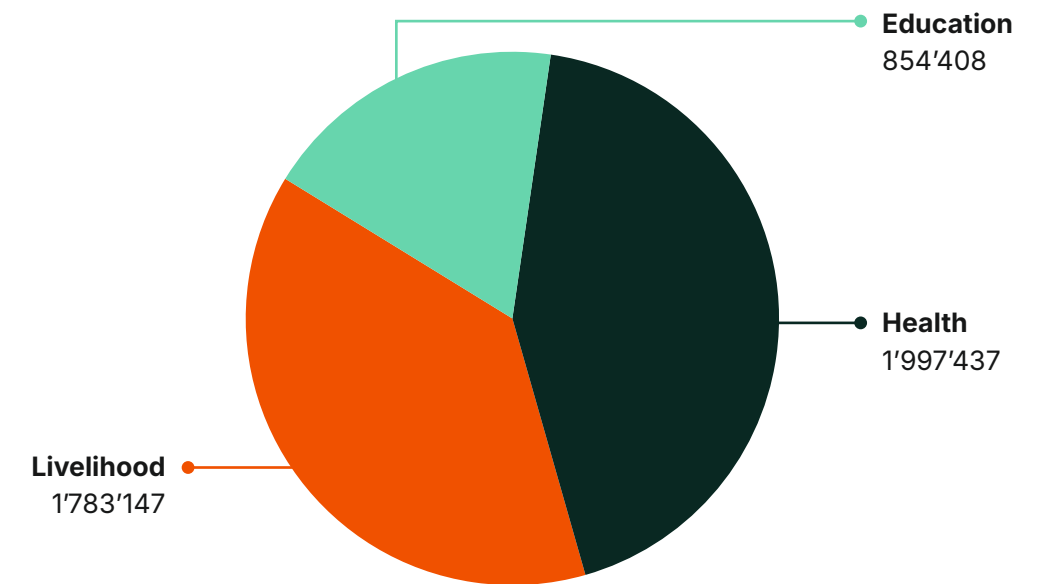
Total: 5'872'874



All data on this page are in Swiss francs (CHF)

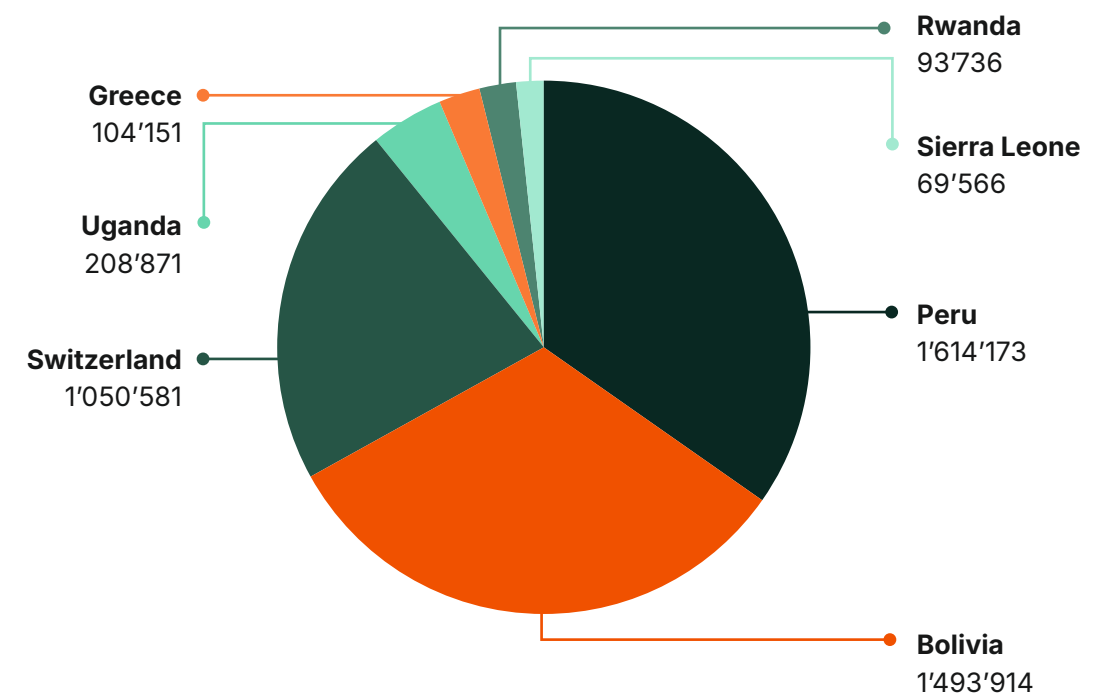
## Project expenses by impact area

4'634'992



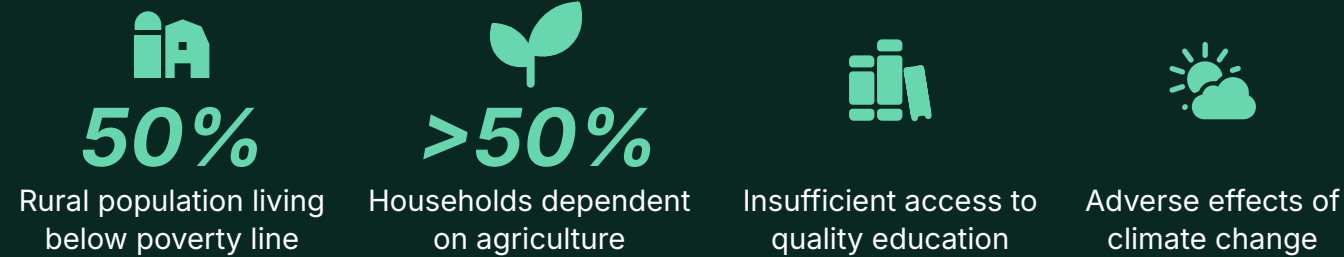
## Project expenses by country

4'634'992



# Outlook 2024

A peek into one of the many exciting new initiatives starting in 2024:  
The Suyana School in Peru.



## Context

In Peru, despite progress in reducing extreme poverty, many rural communities still struggle to access quality education and adapt to the challenges posed by accelerating climate change. Smallholder farmers, who form the backbone of Peru's agricultural sector, face particular difficulty in adapting to changing conditions due to limited training opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of accessible technology.

## Objective

The Suyana School proposes an innovative solution to address rural poverty and climate change in Peru through the establishment of a higher education institution in the outskirts of Cusco. Our objective is to empower disadvantaged students from rural communities with the technical, productive, and entrepreneurial skills needed secure gainful employment in the agriculture sector and build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

## Approach

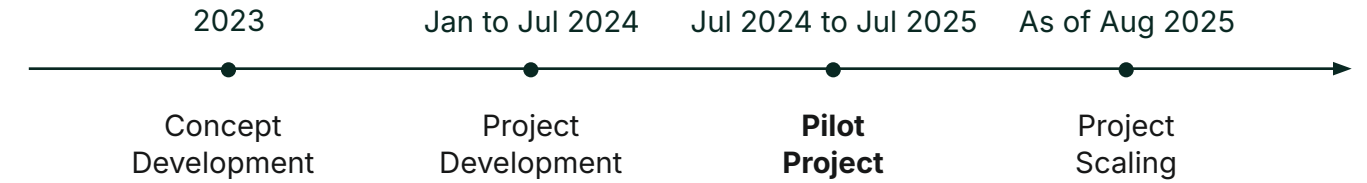
Our approach is centred upon a holistic model that integrates academic, technological, and en-

trepreneurial elements for youth empowerment and rural development. This entails a customized academic program crafted specifically for agrarian communities, infrastructure enhancement, collaborations with agricultural technology providers, and practical learning opportunities. A key focus of the project is bridging the educational disparities among the scholars while bolstering their leadership and entrepreneurial abilities. Furthermore, the school aims to create a sustainable structure, incorporating revenue-generating initiatives and community engagement to ensure its long-term viability and impact.

## Activities

The Suyana School is a vocational program with a comprehensive training model that is both practical and theoretical. At its heart are activities such as courses on climate-resilient agricultural practices, livestock breeding, marketing and business administration, as well as practical seminars and hands-on learning experiences. We equip students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to succeed in the agricultural sector and encourage them to pursue entrepreneurial ventures while sharing good practices with their communities.

## Timeline



## Implementation

The project will be implemented directly by Suyana, which has over a decade of experience running projects in Peru. The initiative first began in 2023 based on a detailed needs assessment and conceptual co-development with local agricultural and education specialists. Key milestones in 2024 include crafting an innovative academic curriculum, preparing adequate infrastructure, and forming partnerships with local and international entities. The three-month pilot course will be followed by a robust monitoring and evaluation stage. Should the project receive a favourable assessment and achieve adequate

resource mobilization, scaling will be implemented to expand the model's reach to other regions.

## Expected Outcome & Impact

By empowering students with technical and entrepreneurial skills for agricultural career paths, we seek to enhance youth employability, strengthen smallholder farmer expertise, and increase the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices in rural areas to ensure meaningful, sustainable impact for years to come in the form of a stronger local economy and regional environment.





# Join us in Creating *Positive Change*

As we embark on another year of transformative initiatives, we invite you to join us in our mission to build a better world for generations to come. Your contribution will be a catalyst for direct impact, providing support to a transparent and accountable project that empowers communities by fostering their independence and resilience.

*Together, we can create a lasting difference.*

## Partner With Us

Have we inspired you to embrace new opportunities? Would you like to know more about a specific project? Our team would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@suyana.ch](mailto:info@suyana.ch).

## Direct Donations

Access our donation page through the QR code or by visiting our website, [www.suyana.org](http://www.suyana.org).





# Heartfelt thanks from the entire Suyana Family





**suyana** 

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