



# Children Action Activity report 2023



In 2023, thanks to all of you who support us...

we could:

accompany  
help  
advise  
educate  
train  
guide  
integrate  
inspire  
instruct  
feed  
protect  
care for  
save  
treat  
support

Anonymous

Artists

Benefactors

Board of trustees

Doctors

Donors

Ethics committee

Field teams

Friends

Lawyers

Physiotherapists

Psychologists

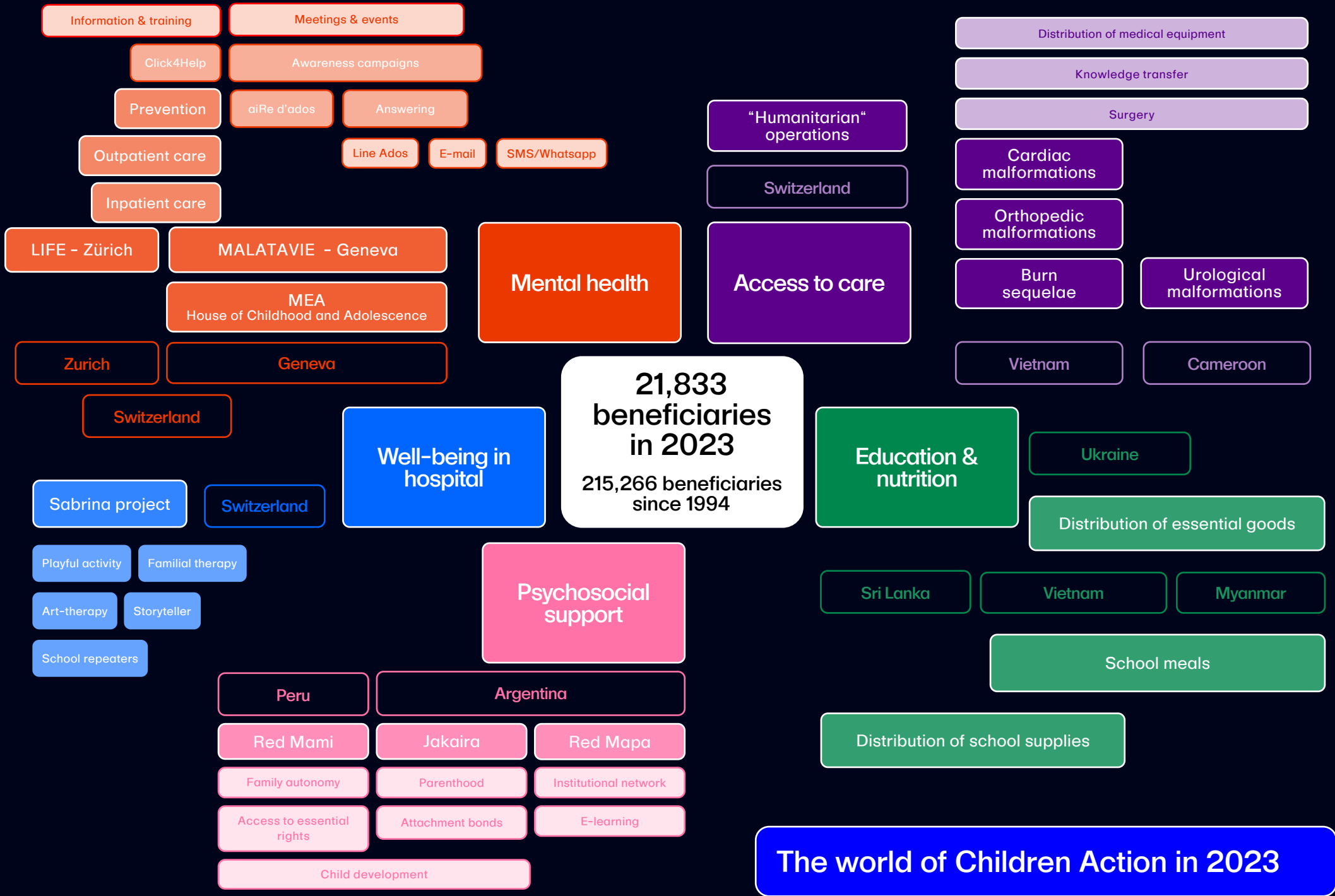
Sponsors

Surgeons

Volunteers

21,833

beneficiaries



**The world of Children Action in 2023**

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Thank you



# Editorial

In a world where algorithms and artificial intelligence seem to take precedence over communication and emotional intelligence, it is necessary to rethink our approach in conducting our projects.

It is undeniable, on the eve of our 30th anniversary, that the impact of these digital tools on psychological well-being is significant, and the mental health of young people is at the heart of our concerns. More than ever, listening and developing new strategies to understand the loneliness and despair of those who think they have “hundreds of friends” allows us to help and sometimes save teenagers who have lost the will to live.

In the framework of our other programs such as pediatric surgery, child rights protection, or nutrition, we seek to optimize digital tools to improve the management of certain pathologies, promote knowledge transfer with our local surgical colleagues, and better understand the follow-up of our patients.

This year was marked by the opening of the MEA, the House of Childhood and Adolescence in Geneva. Initiated over 10 years ago thanks to the vision of Professor Ansermet and the unconditional support of our Foundation Board, the MEA, the result of a public-private partnership between Children Action and the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), welcomed its first patients in July 2023. This unique establishment, open to the city, brings together 11 medical services offering a complete range of psychiatric care tailored to the needs of children and adolescents, supervised by dedicated teams and high-quality professionals.

In the same vein, the LIFE project in Zurich, inspired by MALATAVIE, provides comprehensive care for young people in suicidal crisis. The collaboration between the public and private sectors ensures rapid development and an appropriate response to the needs of adolescents, with promising results already noticeable.

29 years

Value of projects  
since 1994:  
CHF 172 millions

215,266 beneficiaries  
since 1994

50 projects



In Laos, where access to healthcare is limited, we have launched a new program in collaboration with LAO Friends Hospital For Children, opening new prospects for the surgical management of burn sequelae in children.

Whether by facilitating access to education, providing essential surgical care, caring for the mental health of adolescents, or strengthening the autonomy and resources of young parents, making a difference in the lives of those in need is at the heart of our action.

Together, with the support of our partners, our teams on the ground, our dedicated volunteers, and our donors, we continue our mission for a world where every child has the opportunity to grow up safely, with hope and opportunity.

It is together that our impact is strongest.

Thank you to all those who, with us, are Children Action.

Bernard Sabrier  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Sabrier". Below the signature is a horizontal line.



# The Foundation



The first human right is the right to a childhood.

# Approach

Create a lasting positive impact in the lives of the beneficiaries of our projects.

Children Action initiates and leads its own programs while closely collaborating with partners to implement and monitor projects aimed at having a long-term positive impact on the lives of beneficiaries. In this context, the Foundation evaluates the criteria of ethics, feasibility, quality, and effectiveness of the programs.

It also acts as an incubator and catalyst for projects with the purpose of accelerating the implementation of initiatives, replicating successful programs, or transforming innovative ideas into concrete actions.

**Children Action is particularly active in the following areas:**

Mental health



Education & nutrition

Psychosocial support

Access to care

Well-being in hospital



# Teams

**In 2023, 206 individuals contributed to the foundation's projects.**

## **7 members of the Board of Trustees**

who bring their expertise and experience to strategic decision-making, risk management, and the definition of funding policy.

## **5 members of the Ethics Committee**

who ensure that actions and projects adhere to strong ethical principles, in line with the mission and values of the Foundation.

## **4 people at the headquarters**

who lead, coordinate, and oversee all projects, manage fundraising and communication, and interact with various stakeholders.

**Rely on the expertise of professionals.**

## **45 volunteers**

healthcare professionals (anesthesiologists, surgeons, doctors, physiotherapists, and other specialists) who contribute their skills and expertise to ensure the quality of surgical missions.

## **145 paid professionals**

recognized in their field, these professionals work on the ground daily to successfully carry out the projects.





# Leverage effect

A participatory environment is established for each project. Focused on leveraging impact, the goal is to actively encourage stakeholders to contribute in terms of human, financial, and material resources necessary for the implementation of each project.

Through local partnerships, dynamic mobilization of volunteer teams, generous donations of equipment, pro bono services provided by benefactors, as well as rigorous cost optimization, this system generates a significant multiplier effect. On average, the value of projects funded by the Foundation is three times higher than the costs incurred, highlighting the effectiveness of this collaborative approach.

In 2023, partnerships with the University Hospitals of Geneva, the University Psychiatric Hospital of Zurich, the Kaléidos Foundation in Argentina, the Taller de los Niños Association in Peru, the Maison Terre des Hommes Valais, Aviation Without Borders, Health Committees in Vietnamese provinces, our partners in Poland, as well as the involvement of families, collaborations with various organizations, and the contribution of volunteers have contributed to tripling the funds allocated by our donors

As every year, all salaries at Children Action headquarters and all administrative expenses were covered by the Founder and his Family Foundation, thus allowing 100% of the funds raised to be allocated to field activities.

In 2023, the Foundation completed projects worth about:

**CHF 14,286,510.-**

**x3**

Local involvement

Partnerships

The Foundation sets up collaborations aiming at the involvement of local partners and the contribution of their own resources in order to cover part of the costs related to the projects.

+

Thanks to the Foundation's network, part of the material and human resources needed to implement the projects are covered by in-kind donations, equipment, and pro bono services.

**x2**

In-kind donations

Equipement

Pro bono services

+

**x1**

No operatin costs

**CHF 4,762170.-**  
allocated to projects in 2023

All salaries and administrative expenses at Children Action headquarters are covered by the Founder and his family foundation, ensuring that every franc raised is allocated 100% to projects.

# Funds allocation

38%  
Teen suicide

41%  
MEA  
House of Childhood and Adolescence

8%  
Access to care

4%  
Education & nutrition

1%  
Other projects

2%  
Well-being in hospital

6%  
Psychosocial support

# Sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals covering a wide range of issues including poverty reduction, hunger eradication, access to quality education, gender equality, health promotion, water management, climate change mitigation, and many others.

By embracing these goals, the international community, governments, the private sector, and civil society commit to working collectively and mobilizing resources to create a fairer, more equitable, and sustainable world for present and future generations.



Children Action contributes to the achievement of 10 out of the 17 goals of this ambitious solidarity program.

No Poverty

Zero hunger

Good health and well-being

Quality education

Gender equality

Clean water and sanitation

Decent work and economic growth

Reduced inequality

Peace, justice and strong institutions

Partnerships for the goals



# Projects

# Mental health

## Geneva

MALATAVIE

aire d'ados

click4help

House of Childhood and Adolescence

## Zurich

LIFE



23,376 beneficiaries since 1996

**Suicides can be prevented. Reactivity, accessibility, and continuity of care are essential in preventing suicides and suicide attempts.**

**MALATAVIE in Geneva and LIFE in Zurich, both results of public-private partnerships between Children Action and, respectively, the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) and the Psychiatric Hospitals of Zurich (PUK), implement comprehensive care approaches focused on rapid response, tailored services, and follow-up for young people aged 13 to 25 who are at risk of suicide.**

# MALATAVIE

Geneva

Launched in 1996 through a partnership between Children Action and the Geneva University Hospitals, MALATAVIE provides a holistic approach with a multidisciplinary team to address the distress of young people and the heightened risk of suicide affecting this population.


MALATAVIE Prevention targets young people up to 25 years old at risk of suicide, including their families and the professionals around them, offering various services.

In 2023, the Teen Helpline (022 372 42 42) received 990 calls from 704 callers, of which 603 were clinical in nature, with nearly 72% directly related to suicidal risk. This response, provided by MALATAVIE's nurses and psychologists, required 222 hours of listening and follow-up. The prevention team also responded to 248 emails, with 153 sent to the MALATAVIE prevention address and 95 to the Ciao.ch website.

Ados Line  
7j/7 24h24

990 calls received

222 hours listening



Response  
given to 248  
emails

MALATAVIE Outpatient and Inpatient Care provide services to adolescents aged 13 to 18, offering pediatric psychiatric evaluation, individual and group crisis therapy, family support, and assessment of socio-professional needs if necessary.

In 2023, the outpatient care team supported 347 adolescents, of which 40% were admitted following a suicide attempt, totaling 2,805 sessions. Inpatient care accommodated 96 youths, with an average stay of 12.8 days

[Malatavie.ch](https://www.malatavie.ch)

96 young people

Inpatient care

Outpatient  
follow-up

347 young people

40 % of young people



Admitted after a suicide attempt

# MEA

## House of Childhood and Adolescence

Geneva

The House of Childhood and Adolescence (MEA), which was a dream, a “crazy idea” in 2014 when Children Action embarked on this ambitious project alongside the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), became a reality on June 5, 2023, when it was inaugurated.

This new facility brings together 11 units within a reinvented hospital, offering a comprehensive range of psychiatric care for children and adolescents up to 18 years old, as well as medical services for adolescents and young adults up to 25 years old.

MALATAVIE has now joined this innovative setting, and the distressed youth of Geneva can receive high-quality care there, benefiting from the competence and expertise of HUG caregivers, as well as new synergies and services, enjoying cultural mediations and social connections developed within it.

[Mea.hug.ch](http://Mea.hug.ch)

11 units

12,600 m<sup>2</sup>



MEA inauguration – June 2023

## aire d'ados

Geneva

aire d'ados was established in 2014. This facility, composed of professionals from the health and social sectors, addresses the public health issue of youth suicide. It caters to professionals who interact with young people aged 12 to 25 residing in the Canton of Geneva, offering:

- a platform for meetings and exchanges
- the organization of events and training sessions
- clinical support through networking.

In 2024, aire d'ados has 35 members and 54 partner institutions.

[airedados.ch](http://airedados.ch)



## click4help

Geneva & Zurich

In Geneva, numerous organizations offer a wide range of assistance and resources to young people aged 12 to 25, their families, and the professionals surrounding them. In 2016, Children Action listed them on the click4help website, thus facilitating quick access to information or assistance among these numerous options.

In 2023, Children Action expanded the website to institutions in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. This extension was supported by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) and the Bern University of Applied Sciences. The website was redesigned for this occasion, with a new design allowing for better filtering. Its launch is planned for April 2024. The Foundation hopes to include aid organizations from all Swiss cantons by the end of 2025, offering a website in four languages.

In 2023, 3,287 people visited the click4help website. Since its launch in 2017, 21,872 internet users have accessed the site to find answers on various topics such as suicide, behavioral disorders, violence and sexual abuse, sexuality, family, education, and social and legal problems.

[click4help.ch](http://click4help.ch)



LIFE is a care and prevention program modelled on MALATAVIE, aimed at young people at risk of suicide in the canton of Zurich. Born of a public-private partnership between the University Psychiatric Hospital Zurich (PUK) and Children Action, with the involvement of the Department of Health of the Canton of Zurich, LIFE opened its doors on October 3, 2022.

The program offers adolescents aged 13 to 18, experiencing suicidal crises, depression, or distress:

- a crisis inpatient care unit
- a day care unit
- an intensive outpatient care unit
- an early prevention and treatment unit

The main objective of LIFE is to intervene at an early stage of the mental health crisis, to avoid prolonged psychiatric hospitalization, and to promote reintegration into their family and school environment as soon as possible. The program prioritizes an approach focused on the resources of each patient, encouraging the development of the personal potential of each young person to overcome the impasse.

average age: 15,34 years

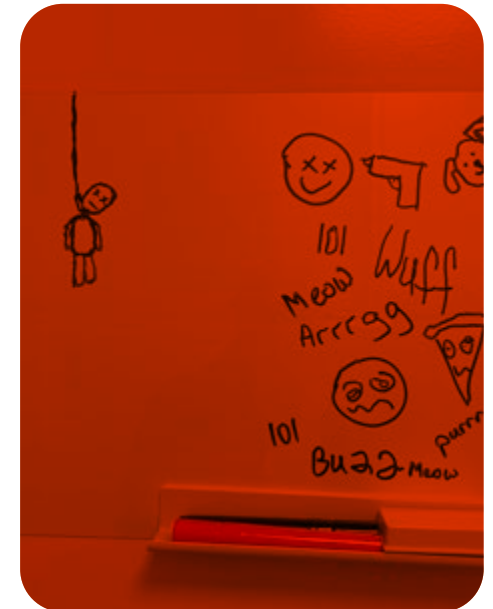
average stay: 103 days

122 patients

The initial results from an ongoing systematic study funded by the Heuberg Foundation indicate that patients treated within the framework of LIFE have shown, on average, a significant improvement surpassing the usual levels in Switzerland.

In 2023, Children Action developed, in collaboration with the LIFE teams, the website [www.howislife](http://www.howislife) describing the services of the program, providing information and links for young people, their families, and the professionals around them.

In 2023, 122 patients with an average age of 15.34 were admitted as part of one of the LIFE programs. The average duration of follow-up was 103 days. The majority of the youth (62%) were cared for for a short period in hospital care, then in day care, and finally in outpatient intensive care.



**HowIsLife.ch**

# Access to care

## Vietnam

Burn sequelae

Orthopedic malformations

Cardiac malformations

## Laos

New surgical program

## Cameroon

Urological malformations



## Switzerland

"Humanitarian" operations



15,094 surgeries since 1996

Access to healthcare, particularly pediatric surgery, is a fundamental right often compromised in emerging countries. .

Financial barriers, a lack of trained healthcare providers, inadequate pediatric surgical infrastructure, shortages of equipment and medication, and logistical challenges all pose significant obstacles to accessing necessary treatments. These factors present major challenges for the physical health of children..

Since 1996, Children Action has implemented surgical programs aimed at facilitating access to relevant and quality care for children aged 0 to 18. By prioritizing treatment within their own countries, this approach promotes the autonomy of local health structures, improves sustainable access to pediatric care, and contributes to the development of medical skills within the communities we support..

In 2023, 13 missions were organized, involving 30 highly skilled European medical specialists: 9 in Vietnam, 2 in Cameroon, and 2 evaluation missions in Laos.

**Providing quality care while sharing expertise to act today and sustain our efforts into the future.**

256 offered days

**by 30 specialists  
across 13 missions**



## Orthopedic malformations and burn sequelae

Vietnam

For nearly 25 years, Children Action has organized missions dedicated to treating complex orthopedic malformations in Vietnam, such as scoliosis and congenital hip dislocation, as well as severe burn sequelae. The skills of local medical teams have significantly improved, especially in hospitals in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, where now only the most severe cases require our support.

The current focus is on transferring knowledge to medical teams in hospitals near more remote areas, enabling children in these regions to receive appropriate care. In 2023, surgeries were performed on 130 children with orthopedic malformations and 41 children affected by burn sequelae.

**130 surgeries**

Orthopedic malformations

Burn sequelae

**41 surgeries**



## Cardiac malformations

Vietnam

Vietnamese medical teams provide exemplary care for pediatric cardiac malformations. However, many children with cardiovascular disorders requiring surgical intervention are not treated because their families cannot afford the costs of surgery.

Children Action collaborates closely with local surgical teams at the Tamduc Clinic in Ho Chi Minh City and the VietDuc Hospital in Hanoi to coordinate surgical interventions for underprivileged children, enabling them to receive often life-saving care.

In 2023, Children Action funded 104 surgeries.

104 surgeries



## Urological malformations

Cameroon

Since 2009, Children Action teams have visited the Pediatric Gynecological Obstetric Hospital in Yaoundé 26 times to collaborate with local healthcare providers in the care of children suffering from severe urological disorders.

These abnormalities can affect the functioning of the urinary system and kidneys, posing risks of serious complications, other severe health problems, and social stigmatization.

In 2023, 40 patients benefited from surgery.

## 40 surgeries

## New surgical project

Laos

In 2023, two assessment missions were conducted at the LAO Friends Hospital For Children (LFHC) in Luang Prabang. Funded by Friends Without A Border (FWAB), this hospital is the only free pediatric facility in the northern region of Laos.

Starting in 2024, an exchange of operational and technical expertise with LFHC is planned. This collaboration will include two missions focused on the treatment of burn sequelae, with potential expansion to orthopedic care in the future.

## “Humanitarian“ surgeries

Switzerland

As part of a collaboration with the University Hospitals of Geneva, the Foundation provides surgical interventions and medical treatments for children who cannot receive appropriate care in their home countries. In 2023, a young patient from the Central African Republic underwent an operation in Switzerland, requiring several months of recovery.

This project benefits from the valuable support of Maison Terre des Hommes Valais, which accommodates the children and ensures their medical follow-up throughout their recovery, as well as Aviation Without Borders and their escorts who accompany the children on their journey from their home country to Switzerland.



# Education and nutrition

## Myanmar

School meals

## Ukraine

Distribution of essential goods

## Vietnam

School meals

School supplies

Clean water systems



## Sri Lanka

School supplies

111,102 beneficiaries since 2007

Access to education in emerging countries is often closely linked to practical and financial considerations.

The distribution of meals at school canteens encourages parents to enroll their children and is a key factor in ensuring regular attendance. Similarly, providing school supplies to children from less privileged backgrounds and making bicycles available to those living far from schools facilitates access to education.

## School meals and supplies, bicycle distribution, clean water systems

Vietnam

Since 2007, the Foundation has implemented a notebook distribution program across approximately fifteen provinces in Vietnam. Concurrently, Children Action actively provides food support by covering meals at school canteens for children from disadvantaged families, thereby ensuring they receive a balanced diet and supporting their overall well-being and development.

In 2023, these initiatives led to the distribution of 130,000 notebooks to 8,534 children from 14 provinces, along with the provision of 385,393 meals and snacks benefiting 1,294 students. Additionally, 80 bicycles were distributed to children living in remote areas, enhancing their access to school facilities. Furthermore, two wells were constructed in schools, providing clean water to 440 children.

1,294 students

385,393 meals

130,000 notebooks

8,534 beneficiaries

Drinking water for 440 children

Construction of clean water systems

## School meals

Myanmar

Since 2021, Children Action has been running a nutritional program at a monastery school located thirty kilometers from Rangoon, Myanmar.

In 2023, this program facilitated the distribution of 91,940 meals, benefiting 98 young residents and 340 students from the most disadvantaged families in the surrounding area. This initiative is designed to support the growth and well-being of these children, providing tangible assistance to those most in need within the local community.

438 beneficiary children

91,940 meals





## Distribution of school supplies

Sri Lanka

Since 2015, Children Action has annually financed nearly 500 school kits for the most underprivileged students in Sri Lanka. Distribution is ensured by our local partner, the Foundation of Goodness. Each kit includes essential materials needed for a year of studies, such as a bag, shoes, books, pencils, and notebooks.

In 2023, a total of 542 packages were distributed.

542 school kits

## Distribution of essential goods

Ukraine

The Foundation participates in one-off initiatives aimed at providing essential goods as part of emergency responses. Amid the ongoing war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, Children Action collaborates with a trusted partner based in Poland to deliver essential humanitarian aid to children and families in the regions most affected by the conflict..

In 2023, over 51 tonnes of goods, including essential food and hygiene products, were transported during 17 dedicated trips to various parts of the country, specifically targeting refugee families, orphanages, and rehabilitation centers.

51 tonnes

food and hygiene product



# Psychosocial support

## Argentina

Jakaira

Red Mapa



## Peru

Red Mami

28,860 beneficiaries since 2003

The situation of teenage mothers in Latin America remains concerning, with some of the highest pregnancy rates in the world and persistent inequalities affecting primarily adolescents from low-income families with limited access to education.

## Jakaira

Argentina

In 2023, Children Action and the Argentine Foundation Kaleidos celebrated the 20th anniversary of their partnership within the framework of the Jakaira project, launched in 2003. This project aims to support teenage mothers and fathers, as well as their babies. The multidisciplinary team offers personalized solutions for each beneficiary, also working in collaboration with the healthcare and social network surrounding young parents. Jakaira is active in Buenos Aires and Traslasierra.

Longitudinal research, conducted over two decades of fieldwork, has highlighted the essential support provided by Jakaira to young parents. They emphasize aspects of the program related to improving their self-esteem. Strengthening self-confidence consolidates their bond with their children, while the presence of a respectful and caring dialogue space helps them build themselves and envision their future with confidence.

In 2023, Jakaira supported 82 mothers, 18 fathers, and 55 children. The program raised awareness among 2,561 students and teachers.

[Fundacionkaleidos.org/jakaira/](https://fundacionkaleidos.org/jakaira/)

2,561 students and teachers

Senzitisation

82 mothers  
18 fathers  
55 babies

Targeted support and interventions lead to the improvement of the well-being and future prospects of teenage parents and their babies. By focusing on access to education, reproductive health, and psychosocial support, and by enhancing the autonomy and resources of young mothers and fathers, it is possible to contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and offering them meaningful opportunities.



## Red Mapa Argentina

In 2022, the Kaleidos Foundation launched the Red Mapa project, aimed at replicating and sharing the experience of Jakaira. Supported by Children Action, Red Mapa facilitates access to and transmission of the methods and tools developed by Jakaira to various structures dedicated to supporting parents of teenagers, not only across Argentina but also in other countries in South America.

This project offers an intensive program targeting Argentine structures working with teenagers but often lacking resources when it comes to adolescent parenthood, providing them with a three-month training and support for implementing a project for young mothers and fathers.

Additionally, Red Mapa includes a networking and expertise-sharing program with structures from other South American countries that are already involved in supporting parents of teenagers.

In 2023, 4 new organizations and 3 municipalities joined the platform. 26 of their collaborators enrolled in the intensive training. 9 organizations from 8 South American countries are part of Red Mapa Global.

To date, 5 projects have been implemented in different regions of Argentina, reaching over sixty young parents.

[redmapa.org](http://redmapa.org)



5 new  
projects

26 professionals

Training

## Red Mami

Peru

Since 2009, the Foundation has been collaborating with the Association Taller de Los Niños on the Red Mami project, which aims to support teenage mothers in the San Juan de Lurigancho favela in Lima. The intervention spans twelve months of intensive support and establishes ongoing follow-up. Its main objective is to ensure access to essential rights, provide support in cases of violence, and strengthen the resources and autonomy of young mothers by building a personalized support network for each one. Reintegration into education and professional integration are also part of the program.

In 2023, a total of 375 mothers aged 12 to 17 and 346 babies were supported, with 285 mothers and 259 babies joining the program during the year.

In total, 2,840 interventions were carried out, with 86% occurring during home visits and 14.4% being conducted through phone calls, WhatsApp messages, or directly at the Taller De Los Niños center.

[www.tallerdelosninos.org.pe/fr/progr](http://www.tallerdelosninos.org.pe/fr/progr)



375 mothers et 346 babies

Accompaniment

2,840  
interventions

# Well-being in hospital



Geneva

Sabrina project

2,500 beneficiaries since 2016

The Foundation works within the pediatric services of the University Hospitals of Geneva by implementing and supporting programs aimed primarily at improving the quality of life of sick children and their families, particularly during often challenging hospitalization periods.

## Sabrina project

Switzerland

At the heart of the Pediatric Oncology–Hematology Unit at the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), the Sabrina project offers a range of services aimed at providing holistic and tailored support to young patients facing specific challenges related to their illness.

Medical students make regular two-hour visits each day, five days a week, to play, distract, and listen to the children. Additionally, an art therapist intervenes for four hours each week, providing young patients with an alternative way to express their emotions through art.

The Sabrina project also includes a home tutoring service, established to facilitate the resumption of the school year after sometimes long and repeated hospital stays.

The psychological dimension is also at the heart of the project, with a program of family therapy/transgenerational psychological support provided by two therapist physicians.

Furthermore, Children Action provides financial support to the Ronald McDonald House, allowing families to stay close to their children during treatments.

These programs are designed to offer emotional, social, and educational support, thus promoting the overall well-being of young patients and their families.



A young child with red face paint and a woman with butterfly face paint at an event. The child is wearing a white t-shirt with a floral design. The woman is wearing a blue and white patterned top. The background is a blurred indoor setting with other people and a wheelchair.

**With you,  
we are building  
a better world**



Thank you!



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