

Annual report 2021



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Fighting poverty at a time of multiple crises

The global community is at a critical moment in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against poverty. What was to be the decade of action has so far been the decade of crises.

The world has long been in a crisis of poverty and inequality. Although the proportion of people living in extreme poverty was halved since the 1990s, we witnessed this positive development being reversed in the aftermath of the corona pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Poverty kills, and sadly, global poverty is increasing again despite the knowledge that poverty denies a large part of the earth's population their basic right to a dignified life.

The pandemic was a setback in the fight against poverty. Strømme Foundation's Poverty Report 2021 provides an insight into the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the most marginalised communities. In areas where Strømme Foundation works, individuals and families have lost income and livelihoods. We also see more people eat fewer meals and less nutritious food than before. The report also shows the serious consequences of school closures in many developing countries. The education gap has further widened and many children, especially girls, have been more exposed to violence, abuse and forced marriage.

The war in Ukraine came just as many countries were recovering from the pandemic. The war has led to an increase in prices of essential commodities such as fuel, bread, sugar among others, and thus contributing to economic decline in the most vulnerable communities. This will undoubtedly exacerbate the poverty crisis, endangering the lives and health of millions of people.

In several of Strømme Foundation's countries of operation, we have witnessed a worsening security situation and political stability in 2021.

Finally, the climate crisis is intensifying every day. In the Sahel region, we see how desert expansion and increased conflict over scarce resources is affecting rural communities.

The challenges are multiple and immense, and we should use these crises to inspire us to transform the world. If all good forces were to come together, we can still reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and deliver the promise of a better life for poor and marginalised people.

We are proud of Strømme Foundation's results achieved in the fight against poverty in 2021. Strømme Foundation and our local partners reached 540 125 people through our programmes, 68 % were female and 45 % were under the age of 18. By ensuring inclusive quality education for disadvantaged groups, improving livelihoods for the rural poor and strengthen civil society, we have fought poverty in a time of crisis.

We could not have achieved these results without the collaboration from our partners, and the support from our donors including both institutional and private donors, foundations, private businesses, and individual donors.

Our total income grew by approximately 6,6 % in 2021. Thank you all for your invaluable support.

Fighting poverty is to strengthen the world's immune system. When people and societies rise out of poverty, we all become more resilient when facing new crises.

Let's work together for a world without poverty!



Erik Lunde
Secretary General

Erik Lunde

2021 International Department

Creating lasting impact in challenging times

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to significantly impact Strømme Foundation's (SF's) target communities in 2021. As outlined in SF's Poverty Report, the pandemic created a triple crisis with the education crisis caused by school closures coming on top of an economic and food security crisis. Children and adolescents missed learning opportunities, families lost income due to lockdowns and food prices soared as climate change continued to affect communities. On top of this, several countries experienced political instability and insecurity, with military coups taking place in both Mali and Myanmar.

Despite these challenges, SF's decentralised structure and the experience from the first year of the pandemic, enabled partners to continue programme implementation with the necessary adaptations such as organising activities in smaller groups and utilising both new and established technology to reach target groups.

Through our programmes SF strives to create lasting impact by strengthening civil society; ensuring that children and adults can access inclusive quality education and lifelong learning; and providing economic opportunities through job creation and enhanced income generation.

The experience from the pandemic has underlined the importance of creating resilient communities and a strong civil society. The 680 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) established in Asia by SF since 2019 played a pivotal role in helping families access social protection and food relief from local governments during a difficult year. In Nepal, 37 Women Watch Groups were established to

address the increasing rates of Gender-Based Violence (GVB) in the wake of the pandemic, and to ensure that case referral pathways and guidelines on GVB and children's rights were in place at the local level.

COVID-19 and insecurity affected children's access to inclusive quality education in Bangladesh, Uganda, and West Africa. In Bangladesh, Strømme Foundation teamed up with other International NGOs such as Plan International and Save the Children for the "Safe Back to School (SB2S)" national campaign which ensured that students had a safe return to school after 18 months of closure. In West Africa, 95 percent of out-of-school children that completed the Speed School programme transferred to primary school to continue their education. In Uganda, community-based Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres provided children in both refugee and host communities with a safe space to learn and play during the prolonged school closures.

The pandemic severely impacted the local economy in many of our target communities. SF's Poverty Report showed that households who were involved in agricultural production were less exposed to food insecurity during the pandemic. Yet, providing long-term economic opportunities for smallholder farmers requires both increased production and access to markets. To address these challenges, SF, together with private sector partners, launched a project titled Enhanced Livelihoods through Commercial Agriculture Production (ELCAP) in Tanzania in 2021. The project aims to work with 6,000 farmers and create 10,000 jobs over a four-year period.

Women were disproportionately affected by the pandemic as they lost income when the female dominated informal economy was hit hard by lockdown restrictions. The mid-term evaluation of SF's programmes shows that membership in savings groups have helped women manage the crisis. 94% of women surveyed in West Africa reported an increase in their income which allowed them to support their households through purchases of food items, children's clothing, and medicine. Women also report that participation in savings groups have helped build social cohesion and increased solidarity between group members. A total of 73,762 individuals (88% female) were members of 2,819 savings groups by the end of 2021.



A young girl in Bangladesh.
Photo: Per Fronth

37

In Nepal, 37 Women Watch Groups were established to address the increasing rates of Gender-Based Violence.

95%

In West Africa, 95 percent of out-of-school children that completed the Speed School programme transferred to primary school.

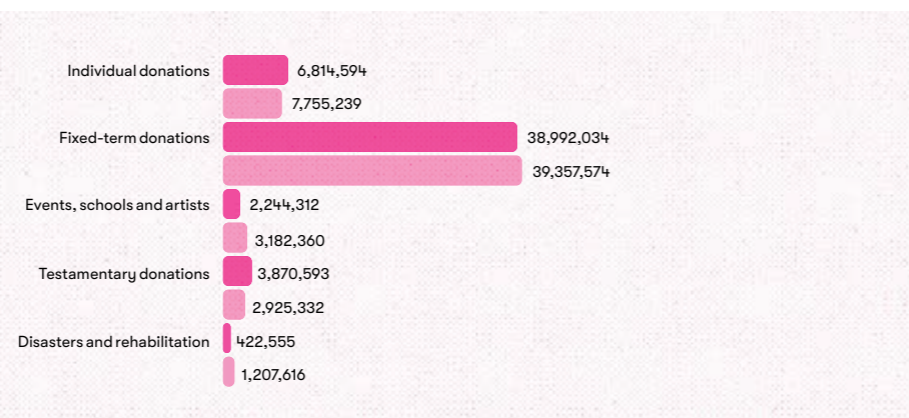
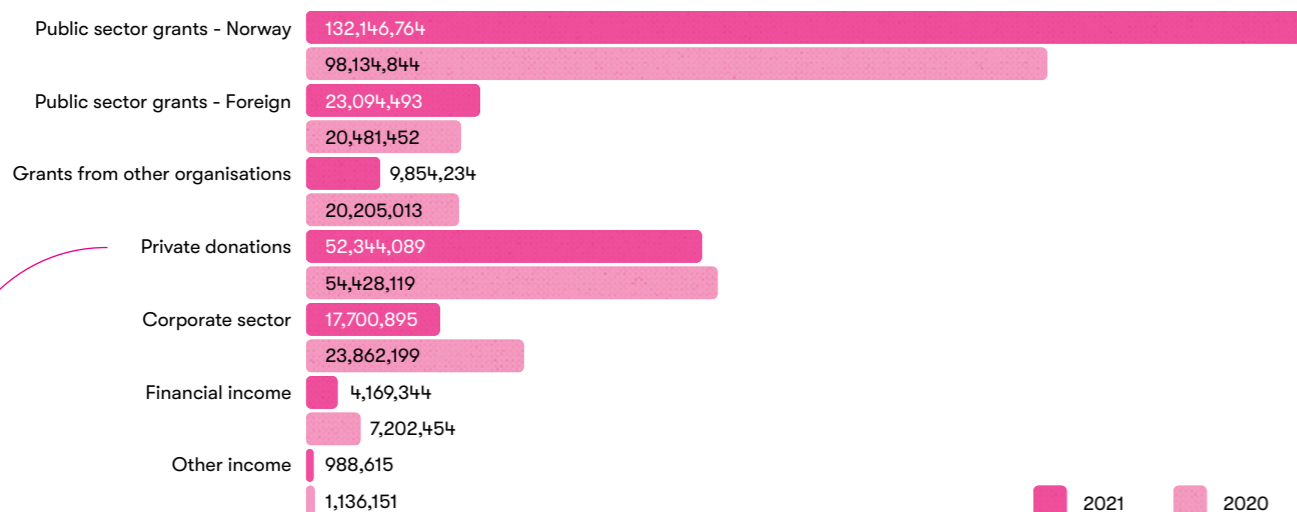
73,762

73,762 individuals (88% female) were members of 2,819 savings groups by the end of 2021.

Funds acquired

Good results despite a demanding year

Figures in NOK



Total funds acquired 2021

240,298,434

Total funds acquired 2020

225,450,232

2021 followed 2020 as one of the most remarkable years in decades. COVID-19 affected most of our fundraising activities and communication initiatives. For the second year in a row, it reduced our activities regarding face-to-face-recruitment of individual donors, and it also reduced the fundraising activities on our many collaborative schools.

The pandemic also made it more difficult with regards to communication since most of the attention in all media, including social media, was related to COVID 19 and the pandemic situation.

For Strømme Foundation (SF) it is of vital importance that we have funds from private donors, both those that are on a fixed term and

single gifts. The amount of money we receive as free funds allow us to engage in innovation and new programmes. It also acts as deductible funds for NORAD-funded programmes. In short, the donations from private donors give SF the room to work and develop according to our strategy. Thus, donations from the private market are the backbone of the foundation.

Despite all the challenges due to COVID-19, Strømme Foundation managed to achieve a good result from private income from both individual donors, legacies, philanthropy, and business cooperation. In 2021, we received a little less income compared to 2020.

In 2021, we launched new websites for Strømme Foundation, and we started a national brand awareness campaign in Norway.

What we
achieved
in 2021

Asia

Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

351,155

is the total number of beneficiaries in Asia.

- 62% are women.
- 123,674 are under 18 years old.
- 56% of them are girls.

Our focus

- Empowering the family as a unit.
- Building strong civil society organisations at community level and strengthening the public sector.
- Ensuring quality education for disadvantaged groups, including building life and vocational skills.
- Enhancing access to sustainable income sources.

How we work

- Formulation of Family Development Plans which promote shared decision making and focus on the income generating activities of targeted families.
- Strengthening community structures that promote collective efforts which lead to community development in a sustainable way.
- Train school management committees and teachers in local schools.
- Adolescent empowerment programmes that improve self-confidence and their future plans.
- Vocational training for youth.

680

Community Based organisations (CBOs) were formed, and 50 percent achieved at least one advocated issue.

5,542

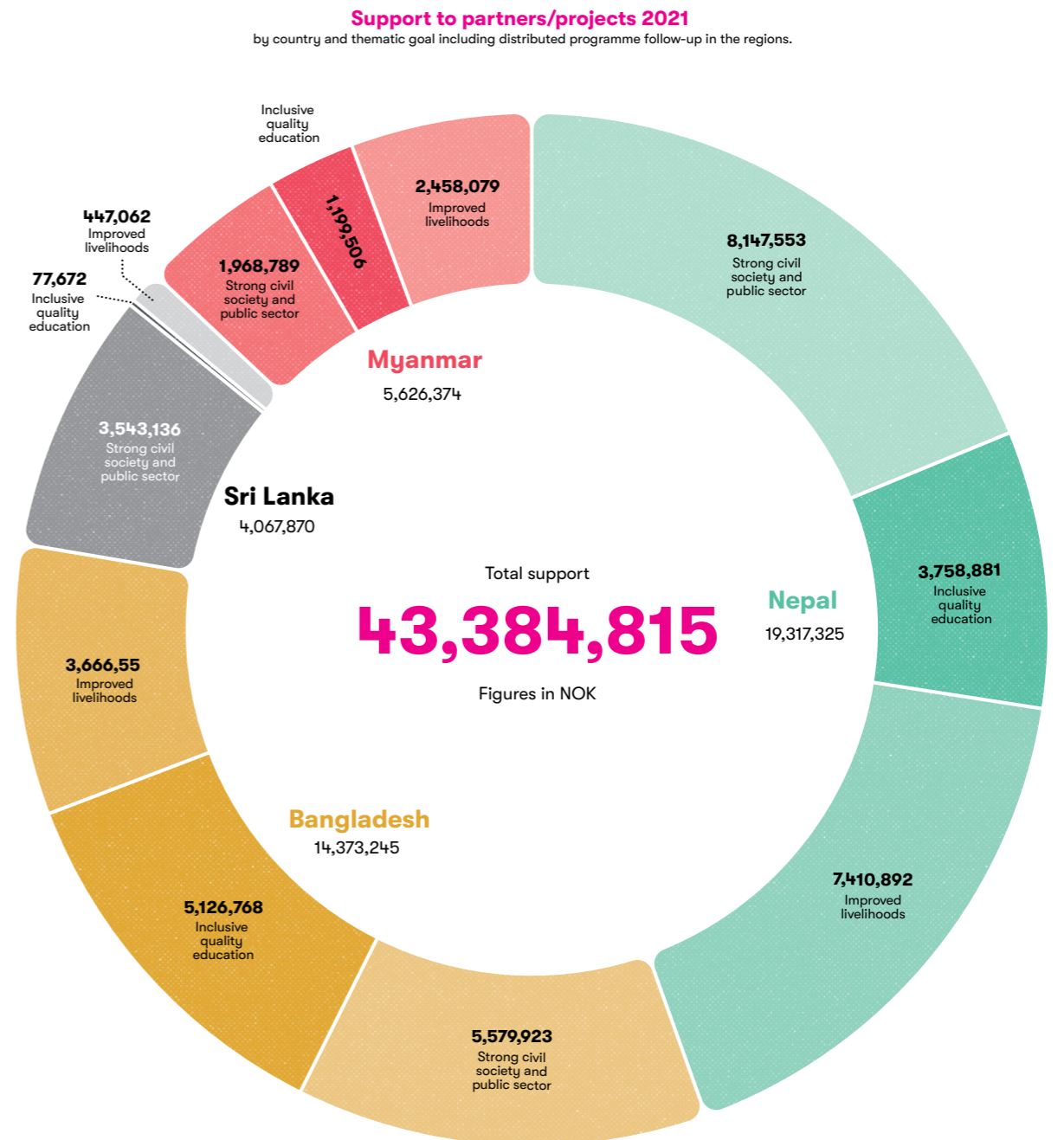
children supported in community coaching clubs during school closures.

5,155

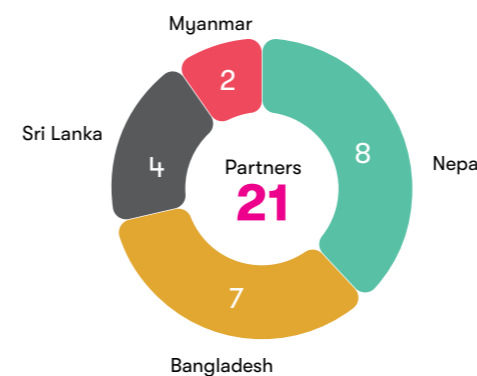
adolescents participated in 220 Samvad/Shonglap centres. 89 percent of the adolescents improved their life skills after completing the programme.

1,440

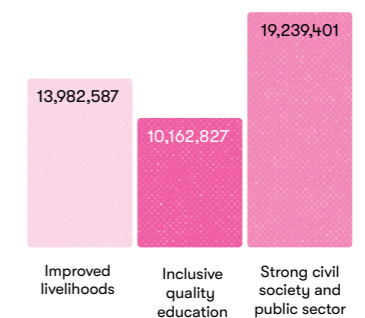
youth completed vocational training. 74 percent were either employed or started their own business 6 months after completing the training.



Number of partner organisations



Distribution of support by thematic goal



East Africa

South-Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya

142,905

is the total number of beneficiaries in East Africa.

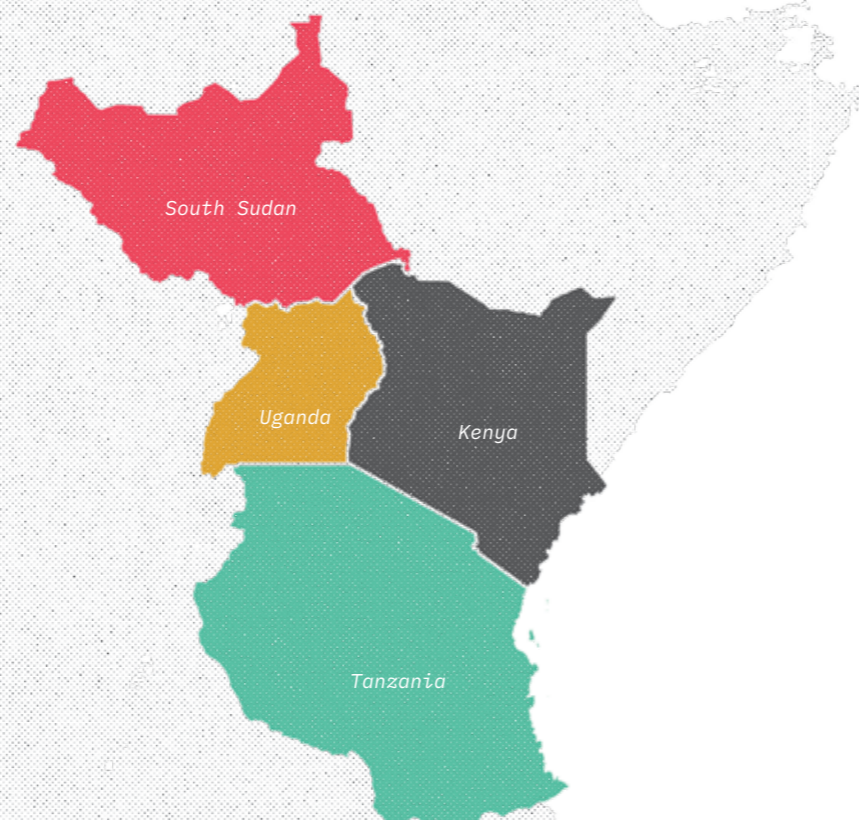
- 83% are women.
- 95,695 are under 18 years old.
- 88 % of them are girls.

Our focus

- Increasing access to pre-primary care centres and improving the quality of primary schools.
- Life skills for adolescents.
- Community managed savings groups.
- Increasing opportunities for job creation.
- Commercial villages and value chain development.

How we work

- Strengthening infrastructure and soft skills of teachers and caregivers in pre-primary and primary schools. Ensuring the enrolment of children and monitoring their learning outcomes.
- Providing life skills and vocational skills training for out-of-school adolescents.
- Engaging youth in marketable trades that lead to job creation and employment opportunities.
- Linking small rural producers to agricultural value chains to increase their incomes and harness economic growth for their communities.



4,087

adolescents in 135 centres were empowered through the Bonga programme.

1,683

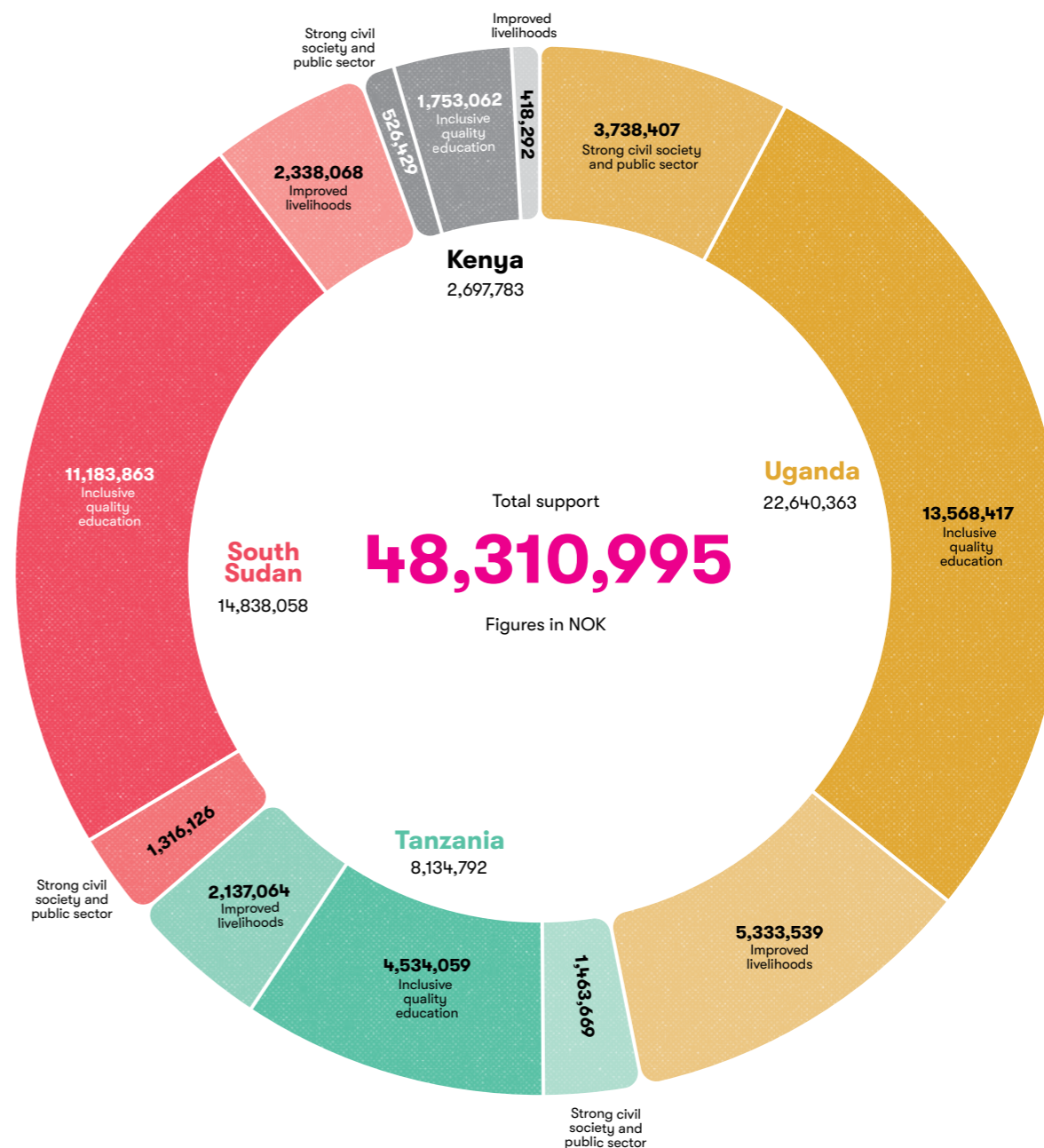
youths were trained in vocations with local artisans.

36,394

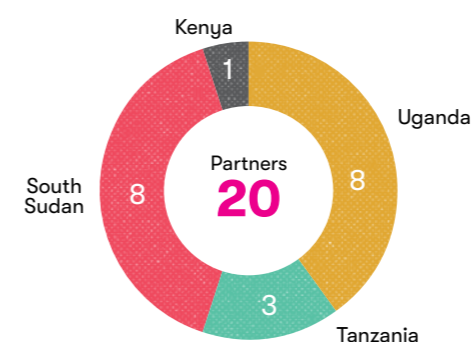
members were organised in 1,411 savings groups. 35 percent started or expanded an income generating activity.

Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 resulted in school closures and serious economic impacts in Uganda and South Sudan.

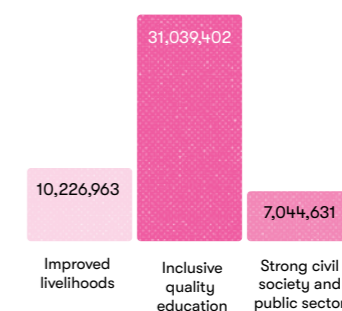
Support to partners/projects 2021
by country and thematic goal including distributed programme follow-up in the regions.



Number of partner organisations



Disitribution of support by thematic goal



West Africa

Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso

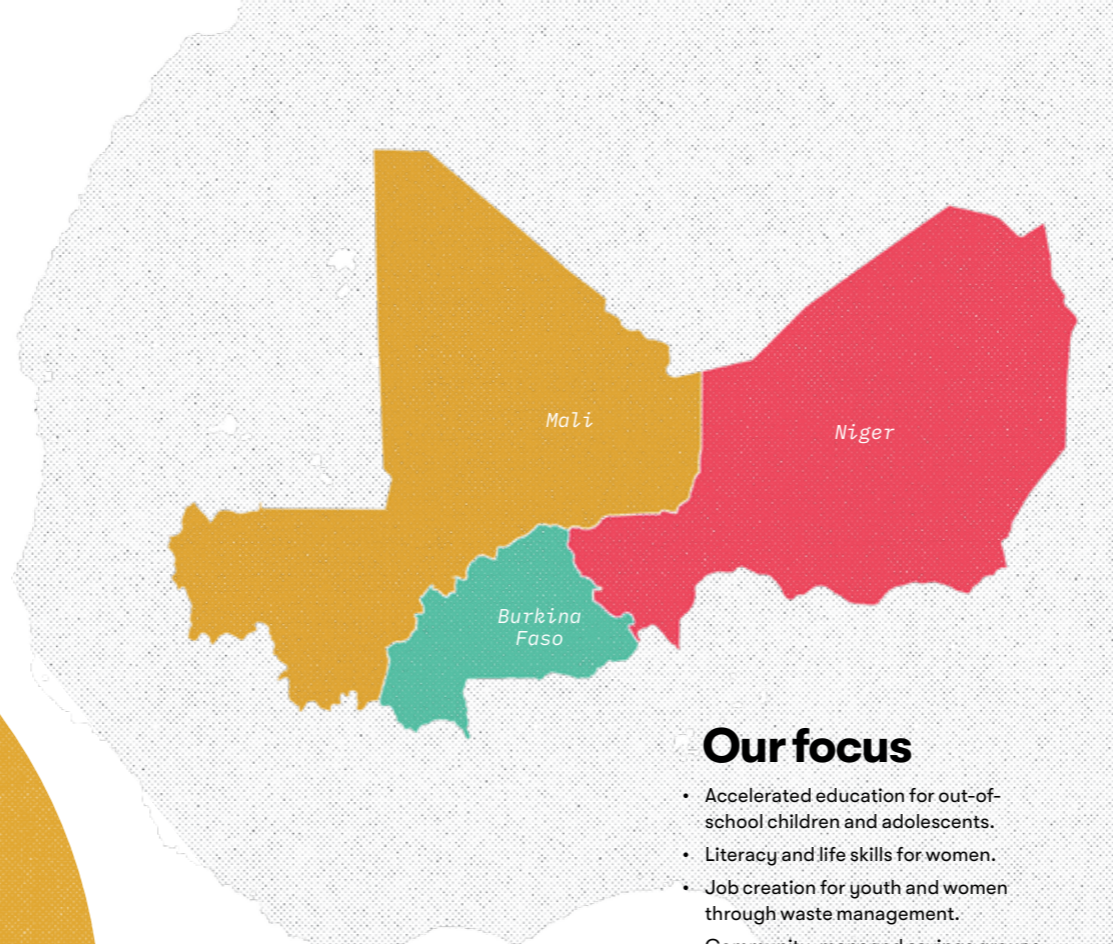
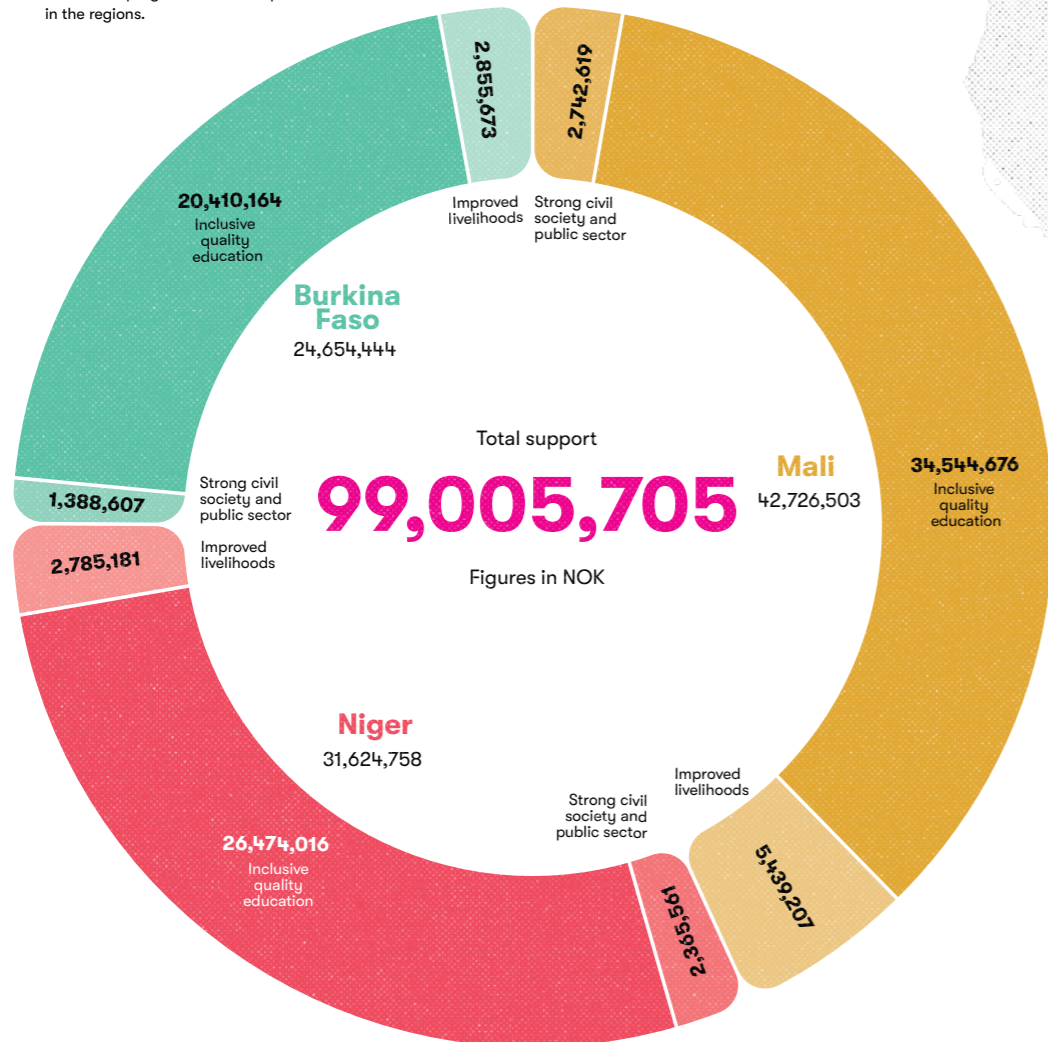
46,065

is the total number of beneficiaries in West Africa.

- 64% are women.
- 24,383 are under 18 years old.
- 48 % of them are girls.

Support to partners/projects 2021

by country and thematic goal including distributed programme follow-up in the regions.



Our focus

- Accelerated education for out-of-school children and adolescents.
- Literacy and life skills for women.
- Job creation for youth and women through waste management.
- Community-managed savings groups.
- Capacity building and advocacy.

How we work

- Accelerated learning programmes for children and adolescents who have never been to school or have dropped out during the course of their education. The Speed School programme consists of a condensed curriculum that allows learners to catch up with their peers and then transfer into the formal education system.
- Active literacy for women including life, literacy, and numeracy skills.
- Vocational and entrepreneurship training for youth.
- Contribute to job creation for youth and women through valorising and recycling waste.
- Community-managed savings groups for women to promote savings and loans for income generating activities and advocate for women's rights.

Norway

OUR FOCUS

- Capacity building of regional and country offices and partners.
- Fundraising and maintaining a good relationship with donors.
- Financial Management and Control
- Coordination of programme operations across regions.
- Quality assurance of programme results, narrative reports, and donor applications.

HOW WE WORK

- Strengthening monitoring systems for the collection of information on programme progress.
- Ensuring that good quality reports and applications are submitted to donors in a timely manner.
- Developing and maintaining good systems for financial control and minimum standards to detect and prevent corruption.
- Building organisational-wide capacity for mainstream cross-cutting issues (gender equality, environment and climate change, inclusion, and anti-corruption) and innovation across programmes and field operations.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Coordinate mid-term evaluations across all three regions.
- Development and operationalisation of programme quality standards for sustainable impact.
- Partnering with research institutions to strengthen the results focus of our programmes and our innovation actions.
- Secure new donor contracts to enable expansion of programmes.
- Travel to the regions resumed towards the end of the year which enabled field visits, workshops, and capacity building efforts to continue through on-site meetings

23,577

out-of-school children attended SF's Speed School in 2021. 95 percent enrolled in formal primary school after completing the programme.

14,953

women were organized in 556 savings groups. 4,166 took part in the Active Literacy programme.

70 %

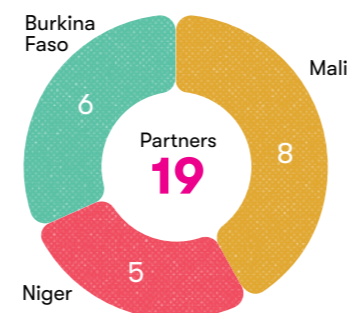
of women participate in decision-making bodies at community level.

991

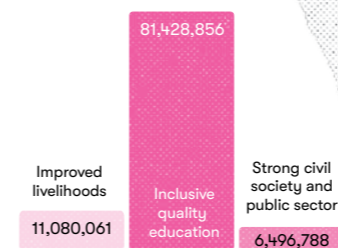
school benches were produced from plastic waste through the Green Jobs project.

Despite the security situation deteriorating in all three countries, the programmes were largely implemented as planned.

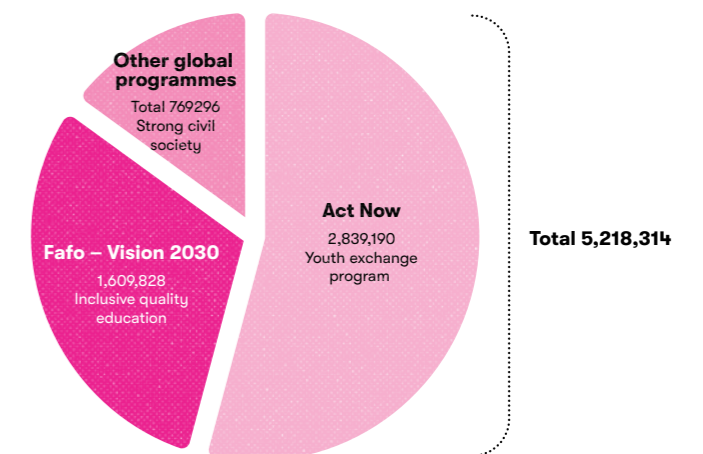
Number of partner organisations



Distribution of support by thematic goal



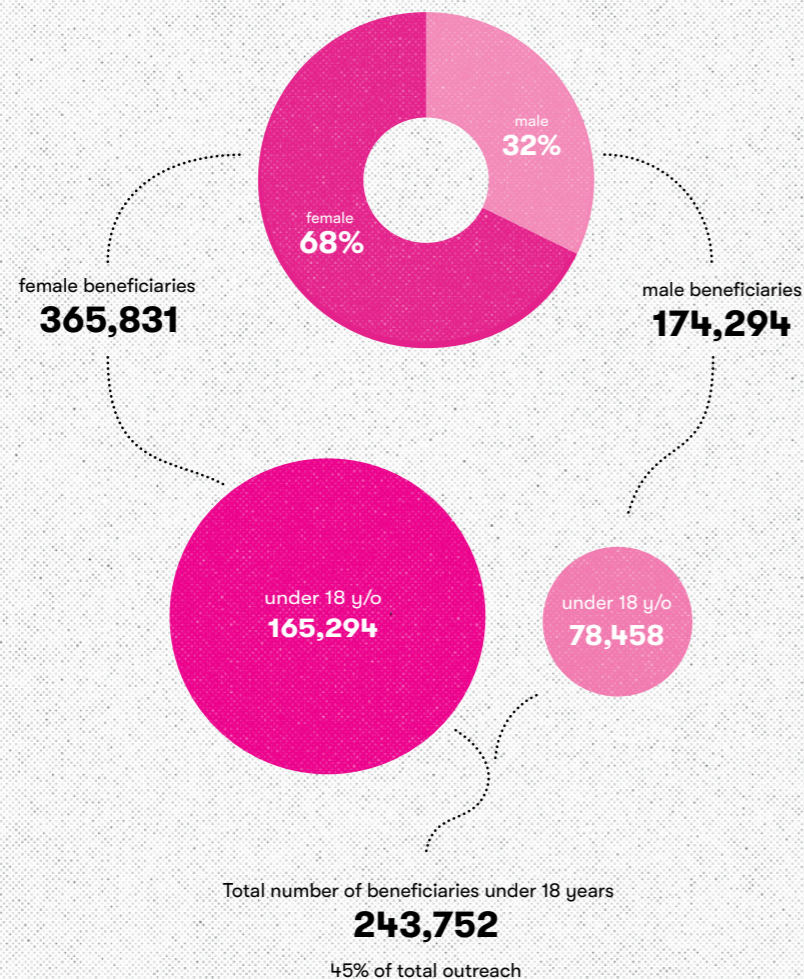
Global programmes



Total number of beneficiaries

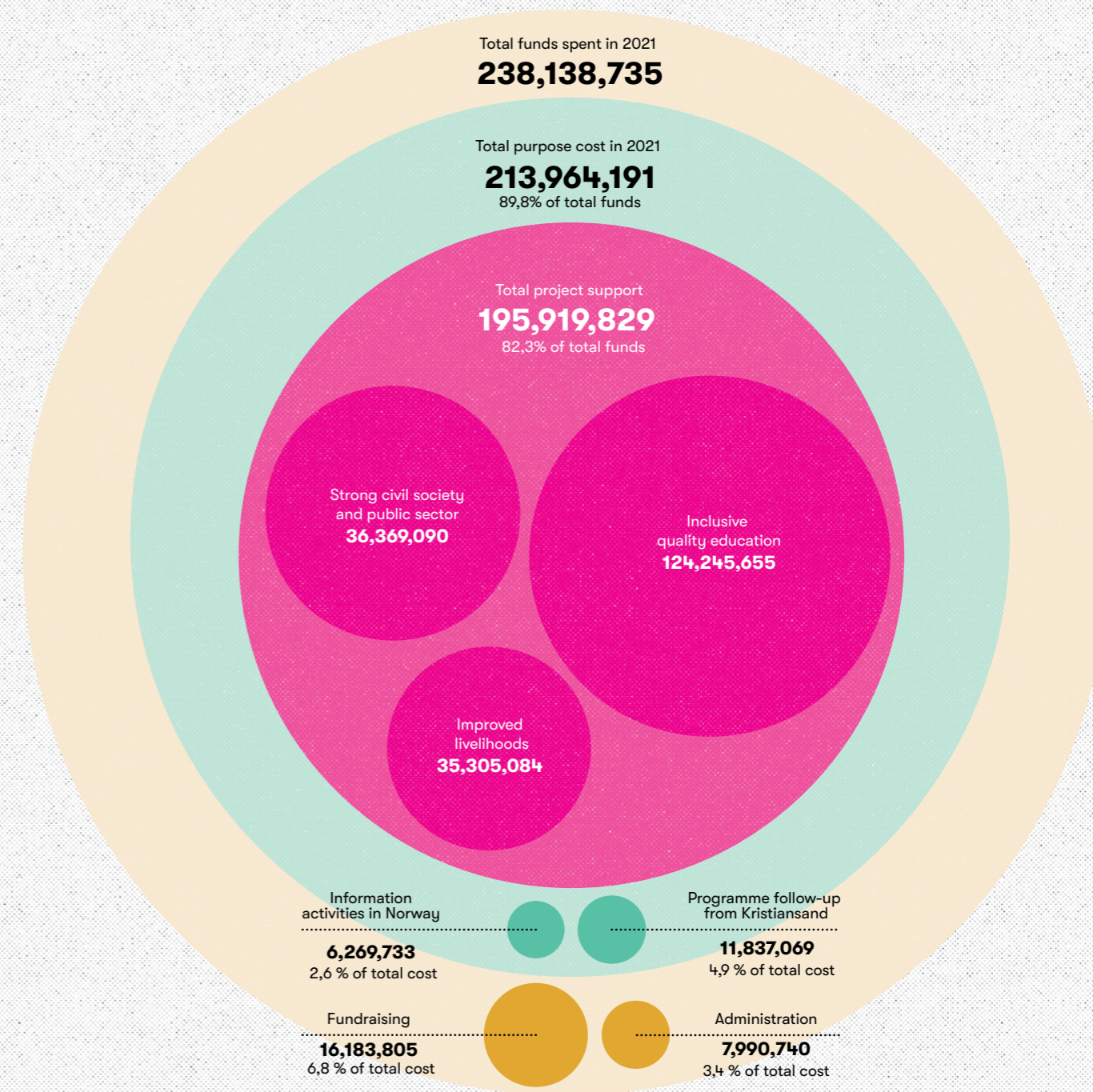
5440,125

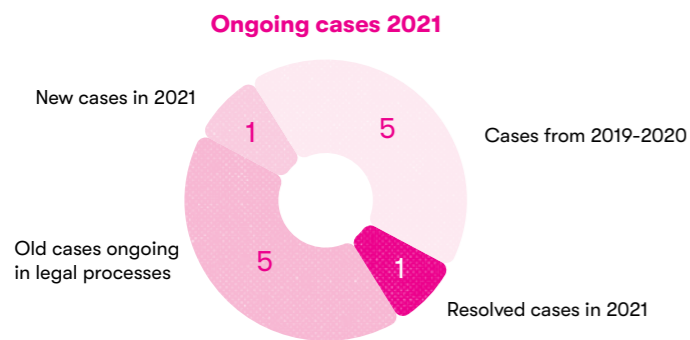
People benefited from our work in 2021
Trough 61 local partner-organisations we managed to achieve this



How we used our funds in 2021

All figures in NOK





Fighting corruption – one main goal

Strømme Foundation's efforts to combat corruption are targeted at three levels: our own staff and systems, local partners, and local communities. Strømme Foundation (SF) continuously works to strengthen local partner capacities and raise awareness on the importance of having strong internal control systems. This is central to capacity building efforts where partners are trained on SF financial procedures and other administrative related issues.

Since corruption is one of the root cause of poverty, we see fighting corruption as part of our main goals. We practice a zero-tolerance policy. This is an important principle in our work, and we see this as a positive approach in our fight against corruption.

Strømme Foundation has a whistle blower channel via an online system for receiving and handling whistle blower cases. The system handles both financial cases and all types of harassment cases. The whistle blower channel is easily accessible on our web pages and accessible for all our staff and all partner staff.

Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, we had limited opportunities to visit our

programmes in 2021. Most of the internal control and assessments have been carried out digitally. Thus, internal control, risk assessments and other follow up initiatives with partners and in programme areas will be prioritized in 2022 as travel bans are lifted all over the world. More extensive use of digital tools for programme monitoring and live data reporting have improved transparency and consequently SF's ability to immediately follow up on challenges or deviations.

A strong civil society is crucial in the fight against corruption in communities. In Nepal, evaluators found that almost all community members in SF's programme areas were highly aware of anti-corruption strategies, and that in particular members of the adolescent empowerment programme, Samvad, were proactive in addressing and protesting corruption. One senior public servant stated: "We are more afraid of SAMVAD forums and networks than of anti-corruption authorities (...) whether related to construction, selection of candidates or any decision making at local level," says a chief Administrative Officer in Airawati Rural Municipality in Pyuthan in Nepal.



Four young girls from Speed School in Niger enjoying doing homework together.

In Strømme Foundation, our vision is a world free from poverty.

The Strømme Foundation's origins began with Pastor Olav Kristian Strømme, who served at Kristiansand Cathedral, and organised fundraising to help disadvantaged people around the world. At the Strømme Foundation, our support for the underprivileged remains inspired by the Christian values that our founder always held dear.

Our ambition is to help the poorest and most marginalised, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, caste, gender, disability or other minority status, so that they can take charge of their own lives.

Our mission is to eradicate poverty.

With a deep respect for human dignity and a conviction concerning the value of equitable partnerships, Strømme Foundation works to empower the poor. We strive to facilitate change, not only by providing for material needs, but also in particular by creating opportunities for people to utilise their talents in a value-based development process.

We aim to

- **Strengthen** civil society and public sector
- **Ensure** inclusive quality education for disadvantaged groups.
- **Improve** livelihoods for the rural poor through enhanced income generation.

Strømme Foundation works through local partners and through two intervention approaches – education, and job creation through community-managed microfinance.

Civil society and public sector

Strømme Foundation considers a strong civil society as essential in order to ensure a true, free society and sustainable and inclusive people-centred development. We aim to safeguard people from exploitation and the deprivation of their rights by creating an environment in which they are empowered to support themselves. We work closely with a broad range of duty bearers such as in the public sector, which occupies the most important role in ensuring the rights of the poor.

Education

Strømme Foundation believes that the right to education is life long and begins at birth. Education is both valuable in itself and a decisive factor in the promotion of economic growth, social change, and sustainable development, whilst it also fosters the creation of free, critical, and creative global citizens. Our key areas of focus are early childhood education, “second chance” or accelerated learning, community-based vocational training, and adult literacy life skills training.

Financial Services

Strømme Foundation believes that job creation – ensuring that people have and can take advantage of the opportunities they have to earn a living – leads to poverty eradication. Through financial services like Community-managed Microfinance, we facilitate access to sustainable income sources and provide a means by which the poor can act upon their decisions.

Our values

DIGNITY

We believe in the inherent, inalienable rights of every person. At Strømme Foundation, this is the most important human right from which all other fundamental human rights are derived.

JUSTICE

We have a drive to fulfil not only legal, but also social rights of communities and individuals in creating a more just distribution of society's resources and power.

SOLIDARITY

We identify empathically with the plight of marginalised and discriminated groups.

Cross Cutting Issues

GENDER EQUALITY

SF's works to ensure that women and men have equal rights to economic resources and empowerment, as well as to basic services and quality education.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SFs understanding of sustainable development implies that we strive for our rights-holders to have their rights met in ways that do not compromise the ability of future generations to have their own rights met and increase the assets of the household in ways that are sustainable.

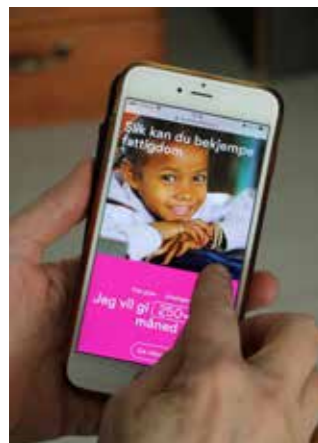
INCLUSION

SF promotes the inclusion, non-discrimination and empowerment of marginalised groups, including people marginalised by disability, ethnicity and other minority statuses.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Corruption, one of the root causes of poverty, exacerbates inequalities and harms those without power. SF works for zero corruption among our employees, our partners and our programmes.

2021 highlights



January

Strømme Foundation launches its new website – www.strommestiftelsen.no. In April the English website is launched. www.strommefoundation.org. The new websites are well adapted to digital media, and now you can read the websites as well on mobilephone as on PCs or tablets.



March

Erik Lunde (+1) is hired as Strømme Foundation's new Secretary general. Lunde has extensive political background and experience. He holds a degree in theology and a master's degree in management. He also holds a degree in information and information management. His last position was in the government as State Secretary in the Ministry of Children and Families.



May

During the second wave of COVID-19, Nepal faced serious challenges due to high infection and death rates. Strømme Foundation in Nepal adapted to support COVID-19 prevention and control measures by reaching out to over 30,000 people and supporting 320 extreme poor families who lost their daily wages.



July

The Head of Cooperation of the European Union Mrs. Silvia Severi, visited Speed Schools in Segou. She met with local people working in education, Strømme Foundation staff, Speed School learners and animators. Mrs. Severi heard about the different challenges for people in the area, among them the more than 20 000 out of school children.



September

In Nepal, the project "Addressing Violence against Women, Children and Mental Health" was successfully completed. The project reached more than 28,114 people and contributed to the prevention of cases of gender-based violence. A total of 11,661 women and men were educated to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation.



November

Strømme Foundation's head office in Kristiansand, was recertified as an "Equal Opportunity Workplace" by the Agder County Council. Equal working life is a certification scheme for both private and public businesses that confirms fair treatment and opportunity for all in the workplace. Equal working life is an employer tool on inclusion and diversity which are essential to build an equal workplace.

February

In Bangladesh, the Safe Back to School (SB2S) Campaign is launched by the Education Ministry. The goal is to prepare children, families, parents, and educational institutions so that students can go back to school safely after the pandemic. Strømme Foundation together with 21 international NGOs joined hands to support the campaign.

April

As part of the national vaccination campaign in Bangladesh, committees formed by Shonglap graduates hosted community awareness sessions and coordinated local communities to complete their online registration for the COVID-19 vaccine.



June

The Norwegian ambassador to Mali, Vegar Sundsbø Brynildsen, and Strømme Foundation's regional Director in West Africa, Rokiatou Dembele, visited a Speed School centre in Selingue. The village chief expressed his satisfaction with the Speed School centres in their area and hope that all out of school children can get a second chance to education through Speed Schools.



August

In Bangladesh, program participants observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9. The 2021 theme was "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract." Because of the third wave of COVID-19, the celebration was observed at the community level in SF's working areas.



October

In Uganda, on October 5th - World Teachers Day, Mr. George Ogwal of Omoti primary school in Gulu District, and Ms. Nguna Proscovia of Bukaana Early childhood Development Centre in Luuka District, were celebrated as model teachers. They were honoured for their creativity and how they used various teaching-methods to ensure continuity of learning for children during the COVID-19 lockdown.



December

In Uganda, Strømme Foundation took part in a televised debate to discuss the living conditions of people with disabilities. The debate was organised to commemorate the International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3. The theme for 2021 was: "Not all Disabilities are Visible". In the picture to the right: the Minister of State for Disability Affairs, Hellen Asamo. In the middle Joseph Walugembe from Strømme Foundation.



Staff interview

Strømme Foundation works in three countries in West Africa: Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. In the following pages, we present interviews with some members of our staff working in the region.

Heading our work in a region under pressure

West Africa is one of the most unstable regions in the world today. Security is challenging, and politically the region is under pressure regarding recent military coups in both Mali and Burkina Faso. In addition, climate change is a challenge for everyone.

Text: EGIL MONGSTAD Photo: ROKIATOU BEMBÉLÉ



“Working with children is one of the most rewarding things to do”, says Rokiadou Dembele. Here she is with a girl from one of our Speed School classes in Mali.

“I like working with children and I like my work. Jesus said that we should not be worried about anything but put everything we have in our hearts before him. This is where my motivation comes from, and from where I gather my strength”.

Rokiadou Dembele, regional director for West Africa

“There is so much that is challenging for us in this region, and on top of that we had the pandemic and now the war in Ukraine has not made things easier. Inflation is high, prices are rising, security is deteriorating and there are many people who are struggling,” says regional director for West Africa, Rokiadou Dembele.

She has worked in Strømme Foundation, West Africa for the past six years, first as a senior programme officer, and since the autumn of 2019 as Regional Director overseeing all of our operations in the three countries where we work in the region: Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. She is married and has four children. Her husband works for UNICEF.

“We work through local partners. This makes us operational. Even with a difficult security situation, through the pandemic, climate change and all the challenges we face, we

remain operative. The partners provide us with proximity to local communities and individuals and that creates a good dynamic between us as an NGO and the local society. Together, we identify the challenges, and good, local solutions for them. Security is the biggest problem. We can protect ourselves from the pandemic, and we can refrain from attending demonstrations. But security is unpredictable – we can’t do anything about it. It is out of our hands. The terrorists are well-armed while local partners and communities are not armed. We can only carry out security assessments to take care of our staff and our partners,” says the regional director.

Once a week she gathers all the staff and partners for a security briefing. “We have several red areas where we work which we can’t visit, and a weekly briefing on safety is important. If there are radical groups in areas where we

work, we must consider pausing activities for a period of time. As of today, we have 15 Speed Schools that are closed because of security threats. Our target groups live with this uncertainty the whole time. They know that things can happen at any moment. Mentally, this is a great burden for everyone,” says Dembele.

She explains that partner staff use mules and carts in some areas to reach the projects. The terrorists come in motorbikes and cars. The local communities become anxious when cars or motorcycles arrive that they do not recognise.

“That’s why we use mules, public transport, or bicycles. We must adapt to the situation, and the fear of terrorism is the biggest challenge we have right now. We take this seriously,” says the regional director. She had a brother who worked as a prison guard and was killed while he tried to protect the prison on his own

from terrorists storming in. “I know what this is about”, says Dembele.

She emphasises that there is good collaboration with national and local authorities, and that this cooperation means a great deal, both for us and for our partners.

Rokiadou has worked within aid and development for 24 years. During this time, working with children has been the driving force behind it.

When the pandemic started, she decided to visit as many of the projects as possible. “As a leader you have to make some daring choices sometimes. It was important for me to show that Strømme Foundation cares and is together with people in demanding times as well. This did not go unnoticed, and people have said how much it meant for them that we did this,” she explains.

The regional director is worried about the consequences of the pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine. Prices are increasing, and it is becoming more expensive to live.

“The things that are happening in the world today make us more vulnerable. More people are becoming poor now. But we are going to use the funds that we receive to counteract this and to work so that the poor improve their livelihoods. What we do must be sustainable. After 10 – 15 years, my hope is that we will see that what we did led to changing people’s attitudes, living conditions, and the options available to them. And ultimately led to a better life for everyone. It is for this reason that Speed Schools and our work is so important. What we do changes lives and creates opportunities. That’s why I like this job,” she says.

Staff interview

Inclusion for development

Adamou Ousmane (43) works to change lives in Niger. For the last four years he has worked with Strømme Foundation in West Africa as a Liaison Officer for the Together for Inclusion (TOFI) project in Niger.

FATOUmata DEMBÉLÉ, MALI

TOFI aims to integrate people with disabilities into all programmes. "We work to improve respect for the rights of people with disabilities through advocacy, inclusive education, and inclusive economic empowerment. We sensitise and train organisations, opinion leaders, and administrative leaders. So far, we have opened 30 speed school centres that integrate children with disabilities," says Ousmane with a big smile.

"To ensure women's economic empowerment, we have opened 10 inclusive Active Literacy centres and organised 40 inclusive Saving for Change women's groups. So far, the project has enabled many voiceless people to claim their rights. The training in sign language and braille has allowed us to take care of 174 beneficiaries, including 141 from Speed Schools and 33 from Active Literacy this year," says Ousmane.

The project has granted the beneficiaries hearing aids, corrective lenses, tricycles, tablets, canes, crutches and cubarithms. To

make learning easier we also provide punches, braille, and brailord papers, perkins machines, and various other educational materials, he says.

In Niger, we see people with disabilities often marginalised and discriminated against. Very often they will be on the streets begging. This project will provide opportunities and confidence and allow them to believe in themselves and in their potential.

"After implementing the programme, we see that stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities are decreasing. We see people acting more and more together, and in some women's groups, people with disabilities are the leaders of the management committees. I am so proud to work for Strømme Foundation, especially for an inclusive project that contributes to the well-being of the population, especially that of people with special needs.

I am convinced that inclusion is a big part of development and together we can achieve a holistic development," says Adamou Ousmane.



Adamou Ousmane is heading the TOFI-program in Niger. Here he is together with Jasmina Mussa, in the center, and some other pupils in a Speed School classroom under the TOFI program in Niamey.

Staff interview



"It really motivates me to see more women of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger become actors of development", says Mariam Coulibaly. Here she is, to the right, with some women from a savings-group in Niger.

A passion for empowering women

She has travelled to almost every small village in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Her work and passion is to improve the living conditions of vulnerable women. Mariam Coulibaly is Community Managed Microfinance Officer at Strømme Foundation in West-Africa.

FATOUmata DEMBÉLÉ, MALI

Mariam is 58 years old and the mother of 4 children. Over the last 30 years, 17 with Strømme Foundation, she has worked organising women and training them. In Strømme Foundation her special focus has been the Saving for Change programme.

Mariam Coulibaly always meets the members of the saving groups with an open mind and a big friendly smile. She is very passionate about women's empowerment. Her motivation is to see more women in Mali, Burkina and Niger become actors in development. She wants to see women participating in the development of their communities, and being included in decision-making within their own households, families, villages, municipalities and beyond. She wants to see more women being trained through Active Literacy being more able to support their children in their education, as well as being elected instead of always voting for men to be elected.

"I am more motivated when I meet women in Saving for Change groups who can now list all of the financial and non-financial benefits

that they are getting for themselves and their families. Some of them tell me that they have developed their self-confidence and can say with pride that 'this I can do'. Others had the opportunity to start, increase and diversify different income-generating activities through trade, livestock, food processing, agriculture, etc."

"I see more women paying their children's school fees and buying supplies and clothing. They invest and improve their houses. More women also understand the importance of having citizenship documents for themselves and their children," says Mariam.

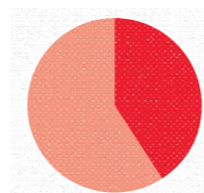
"When women are trained, they act for their own good, the good of their family, and the good of their communities. The governments of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger should take ownership of the Saving for Change programme and turn it into a true development programme because it is replicable everywhere, has a rapid impact, and costs less," says Mariam Coulibaly.

Our contribution to the SDG-goals

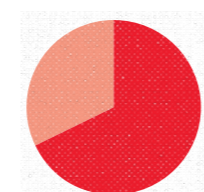


By 2021, Strømme Foundation and partners reached

540,125 beneficiaries



45% of total outreach are participants under 18 years of age.



68% of participants are female.

SF's Outreach 2021

	Total	Male	Female	% Female
Under 18	243 752	78 458	165 294	
Adults	296 373	95 837	200 536	
Total outreach	540 125	174 295	365 831	68%



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

5,824

adolescents and

66,470

women who take part in household decision-making.



42,166

women participate in local decision-making bodies and processes.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

30,906

Number of children, adolescents and adults in 1,173 centres having a "second chance for education".

8,637

Number of children in early childhood education.

9,617

Number of Adolescents in 372 Adolescent Empowerment centres.

3,033

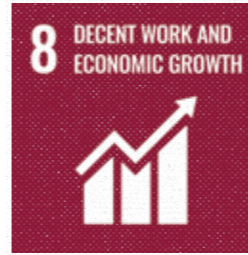
Number of education staff trained.

2,077

Number of School Management Committees.

1,981

Number of formal and non-formal education institutions provided with learning materials.



Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

44,711

Number of families in 2,313 self-help groups.

75,643

Number of members in 2,914 Saving groups.

3,402

Number of youths in vocational training.

Annual report for 2021 from the Executive Board of Strømme Foundation

Strømmestiftelsen (SF) is a rights-based development NGO, established in 1976 in Kristiansand by Chaplain Olav Kristian Strømme. SF aligns its efforts to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 of eradicating extreme poverty and halving relative poverty by 2023 and works towards a vision of a world free from poverty. Our values are human dignity, justice, and solidarity. Our most important interventions in the fight against poverty are education, job creation and strengthening of civil society. From its inception, SF has continued to follow the Christian values of its founder.

Today, SF has grown into a professional organisation that has a framework agreement with NORAD and spends over NOK 200 million annually to help the world's poor. As a rights-based NGO, Strømme Foundation provides the tools and training needed to lift people out of poverty with dignity and respect. SF works in the world's most marginalised communities regardless of ethnic group, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.

Strømme Foundation has its head office in Norway (Kristiansand) and three regional offices in West Africa (Mali), East Africa (Uganda) and Asia (Sri Lanka). In addition, there are six country offices in South Sudan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Burkina Faso and Niger.

BOARD ACTIVITIES 2021

The Board of Directors held four ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting in 2021. The board dealt with a total of 49 cases.

In 2021, the Board of Directors consisted of the following members:

Arvid Grundekjøn (Chairman of the Board), Kristin Tofte Andresen (Deputy Chairman of the Board), Idunn Helle, Snorre Kjesbu, Carol Azungi Dralega, Erik Lunde (until March 2021), and Anne Breivik (staff representative).

2021 Board Deputies:

Benedicte Sørensen Strøm, Christiane Marie Ødegård and Ole Morten Stavland (deputy staff representative).

Board Insurance:

Insurance has been registered for the board members and the Secretary General to protect them from possible personal liability for the organisation. The insurance applies worldwide, except in the United States/Canada.

STRATEGY 2019-2023

2021 was the third year of Strømme Foundation's strategic plan period (2019-2023). With a mission to eradicate poverty, SF works strategically in four ways to achieve the best possible results:

1. Enhancing the quality of our programmes to address the root causes of poverty.
2. Influencing public opinion and government policy by raising awareness on the issues of global poverty and injustice.
3. Making available long-term funds and resources for our programme operations.
4. Running an efficient and effective organisation.

In our programme work, the focus of the current strategy is to work through local implementing partners to attain three thematic goals:

5. Strengthen civil society and the public sector.
6. Ensure inclusive quality education for disadvantaged groups.
7. Improve livelihoods for the rural poor through enhanced income generation.

The main objective of the strategic plan is to strengthen the organisation's ability to permanently lift people out of poverty (SDG 1). SF aligns its work thematically with the following three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (Quality Education); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). SF sees innovation and intersectoral cooperation as prerequisites for economic growth and development and thus aims to promote more innovation in our programmes, operations, and fundraising efforts. We also seek to strengthen our collaboration with others (cf. SDG 17) as we cannot attain our ambitious vision alone.

Our cross-cutting issues (Gender Equality, Environment and Climate Change, Inclusion and Anti-Corruption) are reflected in all our work.

Our target groups are primarily women, children and young people, and people who live in poverty and who do not have their rights met. Based on our values, our goal is to ensure that "no one is left behind", as advocated by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SF, therefore, strives to reach persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other marginalised groups with our programmes.

Strømme Foundation has a decentralised organisational structure and programmes are implemented through local partner organisations. This ensures that decisions on how to

best combat poverty are always anchored in the local context. In our experience, this ensures better and more sustainable results. We work to make individuals and communities (rights holders) aware of their rights and provide them with the means to claim these rights from the duty bearers (authorities). This is done, among other things, by identifying and utilising the potential and strengths inherent in local communities.

To remain a successful development organisation, we regularly monitor, analyse, and evaluate the results of our work. Strømme Foundation is continuously developing our methods of planning and implementation and aims to be a learning organisation at all levels.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect SF's target communities. What started as a health crisis developed into a widespread economic crisis. SF's 2021 Poverty Report highlighted the negative impact of the pandemic on children and young people's education, family incomes and increased food prices. Ultimately, COVID-19 pushed more people into poverty. In addition, both Mali and Myanmar experienced military coups in 2021.

Despite these challenges, SF's decentralised structure has allowed programme implementation and monitoring to continue. By building on the experience and adaptations made in the first year of the pandemic, the activities in 2021 continued to great extent.

At the country level, programme meetings and capacity building took place online, in shifts or smaller groups. By following preventive measures and adhering to local government regulations, SF's programmes could continue. This allowed children to continue their education and participants to increase their income through job creation interventions.

The pandemic has shown the importance of creating robust and resilient communities. The 680 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) SF has established since 2019 helped families access social protection and food handouts from local authorities in a difficult year. 37 Women's Watch Groups started by SF in Nepal led the work against gender-based violence at the local level and helped establish a reporting system for women who needed help and protection.

In Bangladesh, SF played an active role in the national Safe Back to School (SB2S) campaign together with Save the Children and Plan International. The campaign ensured a safe reopening of schools after an 18-month closure. In West Africa, 95% of the 22,518 children who completed the Speed School programme were transferred to primary school to continue their education despite widespread security challenges.

The pandemic weakened the local economy in many of our communities in 2021. SF's Poverty Report highlighted how members of savings and loan groups were better equipped to deal with the crisis. Participants gained access to information about infection control measures, experienced community cohesion and solidarity and continued to save, albeit to a lesser extent. A total of 75,643 people (89% women) participated in 2,914 savings groups in 2021.

KEY FINANCIAL FIGURES

Total revenues for 2021 increased to MNOK 240.3 compared to MNOK 225.5 in 2020.

Revenues from the public sector in Norway increased to MNOK 132.1 in 2021 compared to MNOK 98.1 in 2020, mainly due to additional grants from Norad and new grants from the Norwegian Embassy in Uganda.

Public grants from abroad were MNOK 23.1 in 2021, compared with MNOK 20.5 in 2020.

Revenues from private donations were MNOK 52.3 in 2021 compared to MNOK 54.4 in 2020, legacy gifts increased while individual and fixed donations decreased.

Revenues from the corporate sector were MNOK 17.7 in 2021, compared with MNOK 23.9 in 2020. Grants from other organisations decreased to MNOK 9.9 in 2021 compared with MNOK 20.3 in 2020, due to the completion of some agreements in 2020-21.

Costs for purpose activities were MNOK 214.0 in 2021 compared to MNOK 187.1 in 2020.

The annual result shows a profit of MNOK 4.8 compared with a profit of MNOK 14.1 in 2020. Other purpose capital increased to MNOK 93.3 compared to MNOK 88.6 in 2020.

Consolidated accounts

The consolidated accounts ended with a loss of MNOK 6.2, compared with a profit of MNOK 10.1 in 2020.

Total equity decreased from MNOK 253.2 MNOK in 2020 to MNOK 246.6 in 2021. The cash flow from the operational activities is satisfactory; total liquid assets at the end of the financial year were MNOK 188.7 compared to MNOK 172.4 MNOK in 2020.

The balance of liquid assets excludes Strømme Micro Finance AS (SMF AS) which has been consolidated according to the equity method. Liquid assets in the SMF group are MNOK 38.0, compared with MNOK 33.4 in 2020.

Key figures for Strømme Foundation's percentage share of total costs for 2021 are as follows:

- Administration 3.4% (3.7% in 2020)
- Acquisition 6.8% (8.6% in 2020)
- Purpose 89.8% (87.7% in 2020)

In addition, the Norwegian Control Committee for Fundraising has introduced a measurement of the share of the private funds that go to the organisation's purpose, and this amounts to 80.0% (78.4% in 2020).

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYEES

The working environment at Strømme Foundation is perceived to be good. In the past year, the cooperation between the union and management has been constructive and contributed positively to the workplace. This is through regular collaborative meetings, but also through elected representatives' involvement in all processes concerning employees.

Through these collaborations, a hybrid work solution has been established as the "new normal". In addition, structured titles and positions have been established. A new pay structure is currently under development. The union representatives have been involved in the planning of professional days and other internal activities where the intention has been to create a positive atmosphere for all staff.

In 2021, we had several lockdowns where the majority of staff worked from home. In the autumn of 2021, it was

important to increase the opportunities for social and professional interactions to "get to know each other again". This was positively received and has had a good effect on the working environment.

Like other organisations, Strømme Foundation is required by law to explain how gender equality, inclusion and diversity are addressed. SF was recertified as a "Likestilt arbeidsplass" by Likestilt Arbeidsliv in Agder in November 2021. Agder County Council is behind the certification scheme and worked on a re-certification since 2020. SF has prepared a report for this purpose. This report can be read in full on the Strømme Foundation's website (<https://strommestiftelsen.no>).

At the end of 2021, there were 2 men and 4 women on the Board. Subsequent information about employees included the SMF AS group (consolidated). Among the employees in Kristiansand, at the end of the year, there were 17 women and 17 men (compared to 20 and 13 in 2020, respectively). The number of full-time equivalent persons in Norway went up from 30.5 in 2020 to 31.0 in 2021. Abroad, there were 37 women and 73 men (compared to 40 and 90 in 2020, respectively). In total, there were 54 women and 90 men (compared to 60 and 103 in 2020, respectively). The management team, which includes department directors in Kristiansand and regional directors, consisted of 4 men and 4 women at the end of 2021. Strømme Foundation strives for gender equality at all levels and is conscious of this during the recruitment of new positions.

In 2021, the Kristiansand office had a total absence rate due to sickness of 1.33% (2.81% in 2020).

The Kristiansand office has an agreement for occupational health services with Falck BHT. In the autumn of 2021, ergonomic mapping and facilitation of all office spaces was carried out.

There were no serious work accidents at the Kristiansand office that have resulted in material destruction or personal injury during the year. However, there was a traffic accident in South Sudan where two of our local employees suffered injuries and one partner staff died.

Every two years, a working environment survey is carried out in Strømme Foundation, which covers the entire organisation. The next working environment survey will be conducted in autumn 2022.

The global HR group has regular meetings and continuous efforts are being made to identify differences in practice between the offices and their harmonisation where possible. The global HR group has maintained a strong focus on creating "one organisation" and will continue to work actively on measures to promote this.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Board continuously monitors Strømme Foundation's risks through quarterly reports. In 2021, the focus was on the consequences of the pandemic in our programmes and the opportunities to monitor our programmes despite travel restrictions domestically and internationally. SF has established strong systems and controls to mitigate fraud and corruption and has maintained a good dialogue with donors upon suspicion of corruption. The digitalisation of reporting

through new software has facilitated an immediate overview and management of the programme portfolio.

In 2021, the direct and indirect consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have remained an important topic. The pandemic has led to a worsening situation for aid recipients in all countries. The pandemic has also changed the reality in some target locations; some programmes have been closed during periods related to outbreaks of infection or as a result of national lockdowns. For example, in Uganda, all schools remained closed throughout 2021. It is important to highlight that SF's decentralised structure with only local employees has enabled SF to maintain operations despite COVID-19. SF has continued to focus on infection control and effective quarantine measures at all offices and in our programmes. Participants in several of the programmes have also been active in training and distributing personal protective equipment in their local communities.

The security situation has been challenging in Myanmar, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and South Sudan in 2021. In Myanmar, the military took power in February 2021, which was met with subsequent demonstrations, unrest and challenges related to the implementation of our programme. Mali also suffered another military coup in 2021. According to Humanitarian Outcomes, South Sudan is the country in the world with the highest number of attacks on aid workers. [https://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/sites/default/files/publications/figures at glance 2021.pdf](https://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/sites/default/files/publications/figures%20at%20glance%202021.pdf)

SF has implemented several mitigation measures to improve the security situation for our employees and in our programmes. These measures include dedicated workshops concerning security for employees in East Africa. The Regional Office in West Africa has a good overview of the security situation in all three countries and has comprehensive security plans in place. They also remain in close dialogue with the Norwegian Embassy in Bamako and other NGOs through the INSO cooperation.

Most of SF's costs are in currencies linked to USD or EUR, and since the largest share of the revenue is in NOK, exchange rates play a significant role in what SF can deliver to its implementing partners in the South. However, the terms of SF's agreements with the partners are such that the obligations are limited to the budget adopted in NOK. SF enters forward exchange contracts to secure parts of the exchange rate between NOK and USD/EUR.

SF has no external loans, so there will be no serious consequences for the organisation if interest rates increase significantly.

Microfinance activities are undergoing liquidation but are still exposed to both financial and societal risks. Based on follow-up systems in the company's portfolio, the Board believes that the risk has been reduced to an acceptable and controllable level.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

SF continues its efforts to strengthen marginalised communities so that they can climb out of poverty. Strømme Foundation's Poverty Report 2021 highlights that our target group has been hard hit by the pandemic. Lockdown measures have resulted in far more people ending up in extreme poverty.

Livelihoods and incomes have dissipated, families can afford fewer meals, children and young people have lost education and become far more vulnerable to violence and abuse.

SF's intervention countries are characterised by political instability and a deteriorating security situation. Non-state actors continue to face increasing restrictions on their activities in some of the countries where SF works.

The war in Ukraine, which broke out in the spring of 2022, exacerbates many of these pre-existing challenges. The war has resulted in an increase in prices of numerous commodity items. At the same time, several countries, including Norway, have prioritised aid funding to combat the crisis in Ukraine and the reception and settlement of Ukrainian refugees. This means that it has become more demanding to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal no. 1.

In 2021, the Board approved a process for developing a new strategy for SF. When drawing up a new strategy, it is necessary to consider the major developments we are now seeing globally.

SF will continue to fight poverty through education and job creation. We will do so by being present for the most marginalised through a decentralised structure and working through local partners. At the same time, we will increas-

ingly operate in the transition between humanitarian aid and long-term development work.

SF aims to strengthen our strategic partnerships, particularly with new actors from the private sector in both Norway and internationally. If the world is to achieve its goals of eradicating extreme poverty and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, more green jobs are needed. Green job creation will therefore be a priority area for SF in the years to come.

The Board of Directors believes that SF has activities that are suitable for further operations. The result from 2021 shows growth in regular income. The Board believes that the Strømme Foundation is in a good position to respond to changes in the fundraising market, whether from competitors or the general financial conditions.

ALLOCATION OF THE YEAR'S RESULT

Strømme Foundation's total profit of MNOK 4.8, MNOK 0.1 has been added to purpose capital with restrictions and MNOK 4.7 has been allocated to other purpose capital. The consolidated financial statements show a total loss of MNOK 6.2, of which MNOK 10.9 is derived from purpose capital with restrictions and MNOK 4.7 is added to other purpose capital.



Arvid Grundekjøn

Arvid Grundekjøn
Chairperson



Kristin Tofte Andresen

Kristin Tofte Andresen
Board Member



Knut Arild Hareide

Knut Arild Hareide
Board Member



Vidar Haukeland

Vidar Haukeland
Board Member



Adelheid Firing Hvambdal

Adelheid Firing Hvambdal
Board Member



Anne Breivik

Anne Breivik
Board Member



Carol Azungi Dralega

Carol Azungi Dralega
Board Member



Erik Lunde

Erik Lunde
Secretary General

Strømme Foundation Activity Account

FIGURES IN NOK

	2021	2020
Funds acquired		
Public sector grants – Norway	132,146,764	98,134,844
Public sector grants – Foreign	23,094,493	20,481,452
Grants from other organisations	9,854,234	20,205,013
Private donations	52,344,089	54,428,119
Corporate sector	17,700,895	23,862,199
Financial income	4,169,344	7,202,454
Other income	988,615	1,136,151
Total funds acquired	240,298,434	225,450,232
Funds spent		
Cost of fund acquisition		
Fundraising cost	-14,038,391	-16,909,819
Other acquisition cost	-2,145,413	-1,492,272
Total cost of fund acquisition	-16,183,805	-18,402,091
Purpose cost		
Support to development partners/projects	-161,912,312	-136,677,081
Programme follow-up at regional offices	-34,007,517	-33,831,803
Programme follow-up from Kristiansand	-11,837,069	-10,247,370
Information activities in Norway	-6,207,292	-6,269,733
Total purpose cost	-213,964,191	-187,025,987
Administration cost	-7,990,740	-7,822,435
Total funds spent	-238,138,735	-213,250,513
VAT compensation	2,686,272	1,924,261
The year's activity result	4,845,971	14,123,980
Additions/reductions in purpose capital		
Change in purpose capital with restrictions	131,498	-1,238,617
Transferred to / (from) other purpose capital	4,714,473	15,362,597
Total additions/reductions in purpose capital	4,845,971	14,123,980

Strømme Foundation Balance Sheet as of 31.12

	2021	2022
Assets		
Long-term assets		
Fixed assets		
Property	-	6,090,700
Office furniture and equipment	285,960	235,179
Total fixed assets	285,960	6,325,879
Financial assets		
Investments in subsidiaries	37,329,847	37,329,847
Investments in other companies	200,000	200,000
Loan to subsidiaries	10,000,000	28,000,000
Overfinanced pension schemes	2,784,890	2,383,038
Total financial assets	50,314,737	67,912,885
Total long-term assets	50,600,697	74,238,764
Inventory	65,577	52,509
Receivables		
Trade Debtors	1,180,202	1,762,816
Inter-company receivables	328,375	219,195
Other short-term receivables	13,041,439	9,170,856
Total receivables	14,550,017	11,152,867
Investments in current financial assets	88,816,191	79,193,690
Bank and cash	99,925,046	93,209,040
Total current assets	203,356,832	183,608,106
Total assets	253,957,529	257,846,870

	2021	2020
Purpose capital (PC)		
Purpose capital (PC)		
Founding capital	3,326,092	3,326,092
	-	-
Acquired purpose capital		
PC with restrictions (SF projects)	3,564,488	3,432,990
PC with restrictions (Microfinance)	106,882,512	106,882,512
Other purpose capital	93,318,886	88,604,413
Total acquired purpose capital	203,765,886	198,919,915
Total purpose capital	207,091,978	202,246,007
Liability		
Long-term debt		
Staff gratuities in regional offices	6,432,905	7,533,747
Legacy obligations	150,000	150,000
Total long-term debt	6,582,905	7,683,747
Short-term debt		
Creditors	3,738,112	4,346,581
Public duties and taxes	2,625,786	2,163,757
Owed to employees	2,006,193	2,184,010
Inter-company debt	1,859,222	3,520,783
Deferred project income	29,165,529	35,299,391
Other account payable	887,802	402,593
Total current liability	40,282,645	47,917,116
Total liability	46,865,550	55,600,862
Total purpose capital and liability	253,957,529	257,846,870

Kristiansand 18. June 2022

Arvid Grundekjøn
Chairperson

Kristin Tofte Andresen
Board Member

Knut Arild Hareide
Board Member

Vidar Haukeland
Board Member

Adelheid Firing Hvambal
Board Member

Anne Breivik
Board Member

Carol Azungi Dralega
Board Member

Erik Lunde
Secretary General

Strømme Foundation Executive Board and Advisory Board Members 2021

THE BOARD; 31 DECEMBER 2021

Arvid Grundekjøn (chairperson)
Caroline Azungi Dralega
Snorre Kjesbu
Anne Breivik
Erik Lunde (until March 2021)
Idunn Helle
Kristin Tofte Andresen

SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD 2021

Ole Morten Stavland
Christiane Marie Ødegård
Benedicte Sørensen Strøm

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS; 31 DECEMBER 2021

Stein Hannevik (chairperson)
Kristin Andresen
Sissel Leire
Svein Gunnar Gundersen
Live Fanavoll
Steffen Syvertsen
Melissa Lesamana
Andreas Kolaas
Erik Solheim
Reidun Sørmo Strømme
Henrik Syse
Line Alice Ytrehus
Aud Sunde Smemo
Lars Erik Baller
Jill Akselsen
Lars Erik Lyngdal
Dag Tynes

ELECTION COMMITTEE; 1 JANUARY 2021

Stein Hannevik
Ingeborg Mongstad Kvammen
Svein Hånes

The external Financial audit for 2021 is done by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

For the Auditors report and the complete Strømme Foundation financial statements including cash flow, accounting principles and notes, see www.strommestiftelsen.no



Cover image: Children cheering coming out from Strømme Foundation supported bridge-school in Bangladesh.

Photo: Egil Mongstad

The Strømme Foundation is a member of the Norwegian Control Committee for Fundraising.

Strømme Foundation is also a signatory to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief.

Editor: Egil Mongstad
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Mother-language education brings minority language back to life



In the Sherpur district of northern Bangladesh, SF's multilingual Early Childhood Development (ECD) project has helped revive the Koch language. One of the oldest ethnic minority groups in Bangladesh, the Koch community only counts 5000 people. Literacy levels are very low, and communities are in hard-to-reach areas.

With Bangla being the medium of instruction in schools, Koch children have struggled to access education. The project aims to offer quality pre-primary education in both Koch and Bangla while preparing children for transition to mainstream schools. As there was no written language in place when the project started, SF and local partners first had to develop the Koch alphabet, before teaching materials and books were produced.

After three years, the initiative is bringing results. Not only are Koch children completing the ECD course and transferring to primary schools, but the broader impact on the community is also evident. "There was no trace of Koch language before this project. Some words and letters have existed among the old people. But those were about to be lost. The initiative of making books in Koch language has brought a revolutionary change to the community," said a Koch community leader.

The facts behind the figures

How we used the money in 2021

Purpose cost	89,8%	<div style="width: 89.8%;"></div>
Administration	3,4%	<div style="width: 3.4%;"></div>
Fundraising	6,8%	<div style="width: 6.8%;"></div>

Distribution of the purpose cost in 2021

International project work	82,3%	<div style="width: 82.3%;"></div>
Project support/follow-up in Norway	4,9%	<div style="width: 4.9%;"></div>
Information, development work/education	2,6%	<div style="width: 2.6%;"></div>

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