

Renewable energy for more climate justice.

# Climate justice – now!

Annual Report 2022



Online Annual Report  
[fastenaktion.ch/JB2022](https://fastenaktion.ch/JB2022)

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Faith Wanjiru, Kenya



Dear reader

‘Ending hunger together’ – this is the message that we want to live up to. It was a particularly big challenge in 2022, because the Covid-19 crisis had already driven extra millions of people into extreme poverty in 2020 and 2021. Then the war against Ukraine started. Grain became scarce on world markets, prices soared, the number of people affected by hunger increased worldwide from around 600 million to more than 800 million. An additional 200 million starving people: It is dramatic. And this drama does not stop at the project regions of Fastenaktion.

It is a development that is diametrically opposed to the sustainability goal of ‘A world without hunger’ set by the global community. The aid promised by governments often fails to arrive. A great injustice.

Climate chaos, terror and hunger meant that in 2022, we also provided emergency relief alongside the long-term assistance. Thanks to the good cooperation with our strong partner organisations, we were able to provide aid in many cases in order to avert the worst.

Despite the many restrictions and obstacles, we contributed to food security last year in our project regions. Many people are demonstrably better off today. In Switzerland, we have succeeded in making people increasingly aware of the terrible global consequences of the climate crisis, and in this context, we have also discussed solutions in the fields of sustainable agriculture and energy. Because according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we can still stop global warming if we take action in all areas. But we have to want it.

Thanks to your great support, the Fastenaktion Foundation was able to carry out effective work with its project partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Many thanks!



Warmest greetings

*Bernd Nilles*

Bernd Nilles, Director Fastenaktion

# Impact worldwide in 2022

**In the first half of the year, the pandemic continued to restrict the work in the project countries. With the start of the Ukraine war, food and raw material prices rose to dangerously high levels in many countries. The public responded positively to our name change, and thanks to cooperating in the alliances, we were able to further strengthen our core theme of ‘Right to Food’.**

In 2022, Fastenaktion reached approximately 2.5 million people with its activities in the twelve country programmes and in three International Programmes (IP). 58 per cent were women. A total of 338 projects could be implemented with local partner organisations. Emergency relief was provided for 34,000 people who lost their livelihood as a result of extreme weather events in the Philippines, Guatemala and Kenya. Despite continuing Coronavirus restrictions and the dramatic impacts of the Ukraine war, around 624,000 people were able to improve their access to sufficient and healthy food. With the IP, we create the framework conditions for affected communities from the Global South to be able to make their voices heard at the international level and in Switzerland.

In Switzerland, our activities are centred on change toward sustainability and global justice at the personal, social, economic and political level. According to an omnibus survey, 50 per cent of the Swiss population are aware of the Ecumenical Campaign of the three organisations Fastenaktion, HEKS and Partner sein – Fastenaktion’s new name and the new logo have not lessened the awareness. Also gratifying are the results of research carried out by the University of Bern on the effect of our ‘ClimateTalks’, the discussions that have for the last four years been held throughout Switzerland on how to reduce one’s own CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. More and more people want to practise a more mindful approach. Some companies ask HEKS and Fastenaktion to conduct the ‘ClimateTalks’ on their own premises and thus enable their employees to take part.

Fastenaktion consistently follows up on reports of corruption, abuse or sexual harassment and punishes these. Training sessions have been held on this issue in the programme countries both for employees and coordinators. In 2022, the SDC and Transparency International invited our Compliance expert to present our successful prevention programme to them.



For more information about our country programmes, go to [www.fastenaktion.ch/laender](http://www.fastenaktion.ch/laender)

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES (IP)

Fastenaktion's International Programmes (IP) focus on improvements of the political and economic framework conditions worldwide. Through this, they strengthen the work of the country programmes.

**Energy and climate justice**  
In Tolima in Colombia, young adults are trained as technicians so that they are able to install and repair solar panels. This innovative project stops migration. At the same time, the solar panels form the basis for the communities to operate their own cooling systems, water pumps and electric fences using eco-friendly electricity.

**Food justice**  
In Guatemala and in South Africa, two partner organisations have informed 1,042 farmers and agricultural workers from farming organisations about their rights so they can talk to government representatives on equal terms. In Switzerland, Fastenaktion has, jointly with the coalition 'Friends of the Declaration', presented a civil-society submission with recommendations on how Switzerland can align its foreign policy to conform with UNDROP.

**Mining and Human Rights**  
We can count on strong civil-society and church-based networks in Africa and Latin America. They play an important role in raising the awareness of the communities in the mining environment and in the protection of human rights defenders. In October 2022, we organised a meeting with African UN missions and our South African partners to discuss the importance of the binding agreement on companies and human rights (UN Binding Treaty).

BURKINA FASO

82 per cent of the participants in training courses on agroecology said that they apply the knowledge they gained and are increasing their income as a result. The number of people living here who have access to land and who cultivate it themselves has further increased. More than 1,500 households have used efficient wood stoves in 2022; they reduce the amount of wood used and the emission of smoke.

SWITZERLAND

Throughout the year, Fastenaktion took the opportunity to raise awareness in Switzerland – whether with presentations in schools, universities and parishes or with lectures at specialist symposia. In addition, the publication of specialist articles and studies in our own name or through alliances in which Fastenaktion is active raised awareness among the Swiss public.

NEPAL

The Nepalese country programme was subject to a thorough revision in the first half of 2022. The majority of the projects were at the preparatory or pilot stage. Various evaluations and needs studies were carried out and project structures developed. In the second half of the year, first successes could already be achieved: 538 kitchen gardens were established, and more than 130 people participated in training courses on agroecological methods. Around 3,500 people benefited from this.

LAOS

We were able to reduce the proportion of children under the age of five who – due to malnutrition – suffer growth disorders in Laos. We achieved this by means of information and education in schools and villages. People learned about the link between healthy eating and the necessary cultivation of vegetables, mushrooms and foraging of forest products. Breeding of fishes and goats also contributes significantly to a well-balanced diet.

PHILIPPINES

The biggest problems in the country were, alongside the pandemic, the further restrictions on the rights of civil society and the great threat of natural disasters. In December, a strong typhoon caused huge damage in two project areas in Luzon. While the government has continuously improved the measures against disasters in order to give better protection to people, Fastenaktion provided emergency relief because due to climate change, the number of disasters has increased, and the vulnerability of the population is alarmingly high.

INDIA

Thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, the indigenous population groups of the Adivasi and Dalits were able to acquire a lot more land than during the pandemic-free time because state control decreased during the crisis. The number of families practising agroecological agriculture increased by 2,153 as a result. Almost all partner organisations now cooperate with state agricultural research institutes. This cooperation significantly increases awareness of agroecological and sustainable cultivation methods.

KENYA

The number of Kenyan solidarity groups grew from 434 in 2021 to 567 today. That is an increase of 31 per cent. 9,855 people organise themselves in these groups, three quarters of them are women. They save communally and use agroecological cultivation methods on their fields. The savings approach of the solidarity groups gives the women autonomy. And in times when money is tight, the interest-free small loan helps to pay school fees, buy necessary medicines or food.

DR CONGO

In the last year, the focus in Congo was on improving food security and food autonomy. In addition, 701 groupings now work here with the principle of solidarity groups. The work begun in 2021 on strengthening the position of women was intensively pursued in 2022. However, widespread violence in different parts of the country made the work of the partner organisations difficult.

SENEGAL

The local solidarity groups now give more than 665,000 people a secure livelihood. That amounts to four per cent of the Senegalese people. The recognition by the national government is a success for the programme. Also important are the communal fields and storage facilities which are established and looked after by the members of the solidarity groups and whose products directly contribute to food security. At the end of 2022, there were 1,114 tons of food in the communal storage facilities.

MADAGASCAR

According to a cautious calculation, at least 283,500 people in Madagascar benefit from the activities of the solidarity groups with their savings approach. In the course of the year, 1,222 of these groups became independent and 1,328 new groups were formed. The high rate of inflation and the impacts of two consecutive hurricanes at the start of 2022 devastated apartment blocks and arable land. Nevertheless, 28,644 people were able to pay off their debts thanks to access to internal loans in the communal savings funds.

Distribution worldwide

	Projects	Expenditure in CHF
Africa	98	4 335 473
Asia	81	2 803 384
Latin America	60	2 669 193
International	9	273 365
International Programmes	49	2 054 347
Programme Development	20	872 500
Switzerland (incl. share of dioceses)	14	774 175
Director's Office	7	157 840
Awareness-raising		3 348 626
Total project expenditure		17 288 903



# A campaign between war and Corona

**After two years of the pandemic, the improved situation raised cautious hopes, and at Fastenaktion everything was ready for an Ecumenical Campaign focusing on climate justice. But the attack by Russia on Ukraine overshadowed the campaign.**

In the second campaign of the four-year cycle on the theme of 'Climate justice – Now!' our focus was on the theme of renewable energy. To present the theme in a vivid way, we further developed the energy walks, which were organised for the first time in 2021. Local organisers plotted energy paths which addressed climate-relevant questions and possible solutions at six different stations. The Lucerne 'Climate Action Day', which Fastenaktion organised in collaboration with the Lucerne churches and the Central Switzerland Sustainability Network, covered a range of issues from individual energy consumption via sustainable management and the climate policy of the city of Lucerne to the theme of climate justice and thus also the effects on the people in the Global South.

Due to the gradual relaxation of the Corona restrictions, events could again be held in church communities and parishes from 17 February 2022. As part of the Soup Days and educational events, Fastenaktion was able to give presentations, and representatives of our Foundation were invited to religious services. They gave interested churchgoers an insight into the work of the projects in the Global South. Since Russia's attack on Ukraine happened almost at the same time as the start of the Ecumenical Campaign, there was great shock as well as uncertainty of how to react to it.

For the first time after two long pandemic years, we were able to welcome a guest to the Ecumenical Campaign. Fernando Castrillón Zapata, the project manager of the partner organisation Grupo Semillas in Colombia, was in Switzerland for two weeks from mid-March to talk about his work at a time of global warming – both at a press conference on 15 March and to hundreds of people at nine events in parishes, at church services, to confirmation groups and in schools. Various events also took place as part of the Ecumenical Campaign in French-speaking Switzerland and in the Ticino.

10  
February



## Innovative project in the fight against hunger

Fastenaktion launches a multiannual project to promote human rights in food systems. The aim of the project, which is called 'Raise', is to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). In addition, the aim is to promote a locally adapted and agroecological agriculture. The project is being financed by, among others, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

15  
March

## From today, Switzerland is living at the expense of others

The quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> which Switzerland is allowed to emit to keep within the 1.5 degree limit has been reached. At a press conference in Bern, the organisations Fastenaktion, HEKS and Partner sein called for concrete and effective measures to ensure that Switzerland achieves the target of net zero by 2040. This is the only way to guarantee climate justice and strengthen the people who suffer most as a result of the consequences of global warming. We reiterated these demands with an open letter to the Federal Council and Parliament.



# Energy wastage leads to flooding



31  
May



## Milestone for the protection of biodiversity

After years of work, our partner organisation REDSAG (Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala) has submitted the Biodiversity Protection Act to the Guatemalan congress for adoption. The law recognises traditional knowledge and local seeds and protects biodiversity for the benefit of the indigenous communities and humanity. It is a huge step, which was prepared for years in cooperation with the Maya and Xinca communities. Since biodiversity means life and future, the proposed law was handed to the Congress members by children. The law is a counter-proposal to the Monsanto Law which was prevented in 2014.

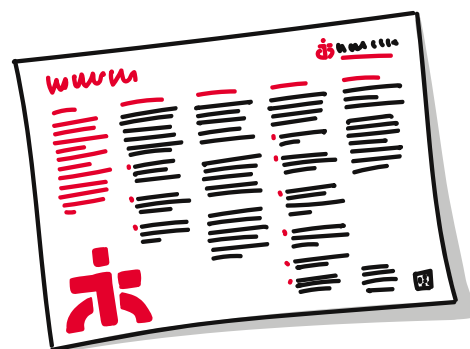
8  
June

## A call for help

The price of bread has increased in many of our project countries by up to 70 per cent within a very short time. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, there is a shortage of wheat. People in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and the Philippines no longer know how they can make ends meet. Because not only are they hit by the climate crisis, but they continue to suffer from the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and are eagerly waiting for rain. In these hard times, the programmes of Fastenaktion are a ray of light and give people confidence.



12  
October



## New Mission Statement

After around 25 years, Fastenaktion has renewed its mission statement. A good mission statement is like the soul of an organisation. It is not as formal as Articles of Association and not as detailed as the Strategy, it is the binding link that holds everything together. The central idea of Fastenaktion's Mission Statement: A just world without hunger and a life in dignity are possible. And they are worth fighting for. To this end, we must preserve creation in its diversity and have the coming generations in mind. The Mission Statement also newly includes the right to food for all and a lifestyle and economy that respects planetary limits. We want to be an organisation that stands for justice and practises it, including gender justice. We want to systematically address the causes of poverty and environmental destruction.

10  
December

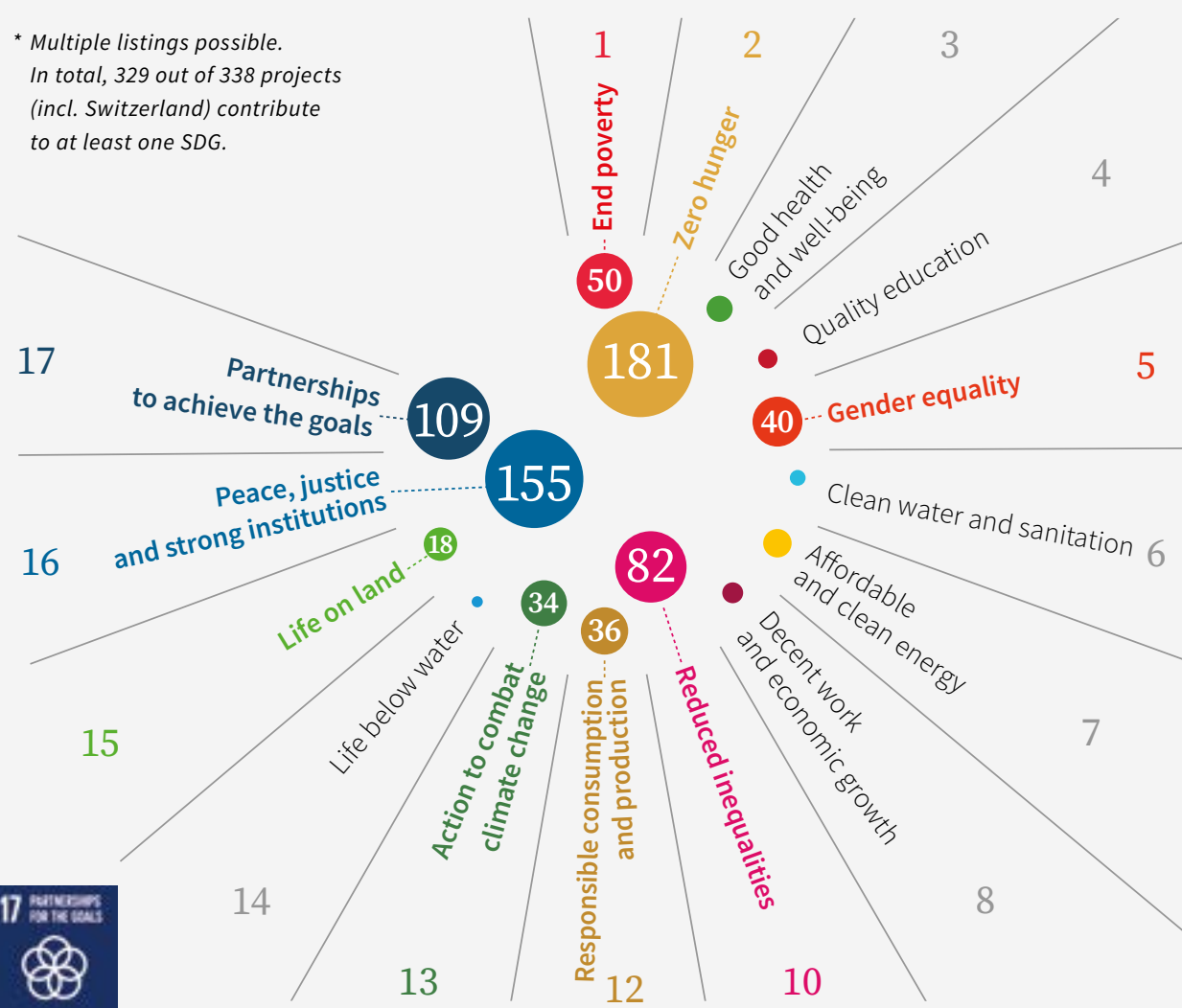
## Appeal for the rights of farmers

Without small-scale agriculture, humanity could not survive. It secures the food supply for many people. The right of farmers to participate in shaping locally adapted agricultural and food policy is set out in the UN Declaration UNDROP and must be urgently ensured. All the more so because the farmers' food production is adversely affected in several respects: as a result of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the deterioration in soil quality. On Human Rights Day, special attention must therefore be paid to the rights of farmers. Because without access to land and seeds, there will be no food, which is one of the foundations for a dignified life.



## Number of projects in line with SDGs\*

\* Multiple listings possible.  
In total, 329 out of 338 projects (incl. Switzerland) contribute to at least one SDG.



## Many thanks for your help and support.

Fastenaktion thanks the SDC for the programme contribution received within the framework of the Sufossec Alliance\*.

\*The Sufossec Alliance is an alliance of six Swiss NGOs active in development cooperation.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals applies worldwide to all countries.





The detailed figures and the full annual report can be found at [www.fastenaktion.ch/Jahresbericht](http://www.fastenaktion.ch/Jahresbericht)

# Profit and Loss Statement as of 31 December 2022

Revenue	2022 (CHF)	%	2021 (CHF)	%
General donations	9 514 844	39.7	8 660 488	39.7
Earmarked donations	4 641 447	19.4	4 716 196	21.6
Contribution from public funds	1 442 633	6.0	1 200 697	5.5
Federal contributions (DEZA)	6 756 040	28.2	6 361 710	29.1
Legacies	1 223 141	5.1	369 622	1.7
Additional third-party contributions for projects	265 000	1.1	280 880	1.3
<b>Total donations and contributions</b>	<b>23 843 106</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>21 589 593</b>	<b>98.8</b>
Trading profit	64 624	0.3	150 031	0.7
Income from services	61 217	0.3	101 820	0.5
<b>Other income</b>	<b>125 841</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>251 851</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>23 968 947</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21 841 444</b>	<b>100.0</b>

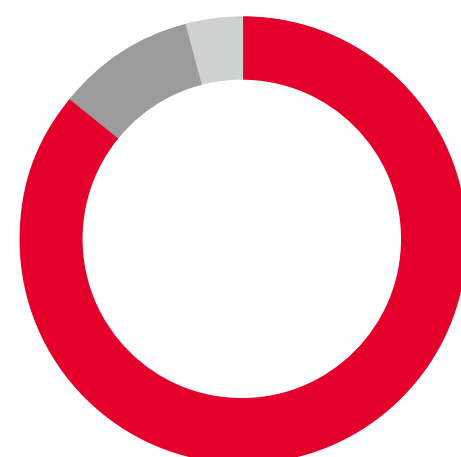
Expenditure	2022 (CHF)	%	2021 (CHF)	%
Country programmes	- 10 081 414	43.9	- 10 895 535	48.3
International programmes	- 2 054 347	9.0	- 1 509 826	6.7
Programme development	- 872 500	3.8	- 602 740	2.7
Projects in Switzerland (IMF FO-RKZ) Pastoral contribution Switzerland	- 774 175	3.4	- 767 579	3.4
Share of dioceses / Pastoral contribution dioceses	0	0.0	0	0.0
Directorate projects	- 157 840	0.7	- 168 569	0.7
Awareness-raising	- 3 348 626	14.6	- 3 234 106	14.4
<b>Interim total</b>	<b>- 17 288 902</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>- 17 178 355</b>	<b>76.2</b>
Project processing costs (esp. project planning, coordination and control)	- 2 349 131	10.2	- 2 387 529	10.6
<b>Direct project expenditure</b>	<b>- 19 638 034</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>- 19 565 885</b>	<b>86.8</b>
Administration	- 941 590	4.1	- 893 296	4.0
Fundraising	- 2 372 091	10.3	- 2 077 042	9.2
<b>Administrative expenditure</b>	<b>- 3 313 681</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>- 2 970 338</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>- 22 951 715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>- 22 536 223</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Operating result</b>	<b>1 017 233</b>	<b>- 694 778</b>
Return on real estate investment	471 733	475 205
Real estate expenditure	- 175 801	- 180 063
<b>Real estate result</b>	<b>295 931</b>	<b>295 142</b>
<b>Ordinary result</b>	<b>1 313 164</b>	<b>- 399 635</b>
Financial income	107 017	1 109 636
Financial expenses	- 1 530 953	- 85 359
<b>Financial result before change in exchange rate fluctuation reserve</b>	<b>- 1 423 935</b>	<b>1 024 277</b>
Extraordinary result	0	0
<b>Tax payment</b>	<b>- 28 741</b>	<b>- 28 025</b>
<b>Interim result before change in fund capital</b>	<b>- 139 513</b>	<b>596 616</b>
Change in fund capital	366 000	354 526
<b>Interim result before change in organisation capital</b>	<b>226 487</b>	<b>951 142</b>
Change in exchange rate fluctuation reserve	176 429	- 153 597
Change in social fund personnel	0	0
Change in internally generated free capital	0	0
Change in approved project funds	0	0
Change in free resources	- 402 916	- 797 545
<b>Surplus/shortfall after allocations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Fastenaktion in numbers

22 951 715

Expenditure in 2022 in CHF







Fresh fruit for the grandchildren, who live with Faith Wanjiru throughout the year. Little Faith in the orange t-shirt.



The roots of fruit trees can store water very well.

# Double digging and gardening without chemicals



**At first, Faith Wanjiru did not want to participate in Fastenaktion’s project. The agroecological methods seemed to her to be difficult to apply, and she had little confidence in her own abilities. Today, she is glad that she changed her mind.**

The people in the diocese of Nyahururu in the Kenyan highlands specialise in agriculture and cattle breeding. However, due to global warming, overgrazing and widespread deforestation, there are regular crop failures, and the cattle can no longer find fodder. The farmers are driven into debt due to their dependence on expensive hybrid seeds and artificial fertilizers, as well as exploitation by users. Fastenaktion and its partner organisation want to confront this distressing state of affairs.

In a first step, they encourage those interested to join together in solidarity groups in order to tackle problems that arise together. In a second step, the local facilitators train the people in soil protection and cultivation methods based on agroecological principles. Thanks to protection against erosion, healthier soils and the planting of fruit and timber trees, the soil is better able to store rainwater and thus becomes more fertile. The mutual support on the fields fosters exchanges of knowledge.

Faith Wanjiru, who has been part of a solidarity group for some years, talks about how this work has changed her life. ‘The drought period hits us very hard here, and it lasts ever longer. Rainfall is no longer seasonal and predictable, which can be confusing for a farmer and a human being.

**‘We are all happy that our fields are so fertile, that we can even plant fruit trees on the previously barren land.’**

Faith Wanjiru

When the programme was presented, I was among the women who rejected these agroecological methods. But my group members convinced me to stay and give it a try. At first, it seemed very difficult to apply. But increasingly, it became clear to me that I can do it. Firstly, the programme facilitators asked us to fence in our farms to prevent the plants from being destroyed by the animals. Then we learned about double-spit digging, and growing curly kale and vegetables in the plots, planting fruit and making compost so that we don’t have to use chemicals any more for our plants. What is great is that despite the biting cold in the region, the plants don’t die. We are now in a position where we can eat the food we have planted ourselves and even sell it if we have a surplus.’

Faith’s granddaughter adds: ‘I like to sit here on the farm and eat fruit, particularly berries that we grow here.’ Grandmother Faith Wanjiru continues: ‘We are all happy that our fields are so fertile, that we can even plant fruit trees on the previously barren land. That’s the greatest achievement for us, because previously, we had to buy fruit and now we don’t do that anymore. In the past, I had health problems and had to see the doctor quite often, but since I’ve been able to change my diet, and since fruit and vegetables grow on my plot, I have not been to see the doctor.’



For more information about Kenya go to [www.fastenaktion.ch/kenia](http://www.fastenaktion.ch/kenia)





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# Climate Justice – now!

The Fastenaktion Foundation has the following purpose:

- Support of the work and the projects of development organisations and churches in favour of economically and socially disadvantaged people worldwide, with the priority on Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Participation in shaping opinions and decisions on development policy
- Contributing to the Time of Lent by putting forward suggestions and providing educational resources

## Imprint

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