

ilanga

Support mothers, help children

**Helping people develop themselves in Ethiopia
through skills building**



Annual Report 2023

Happiness is the only thing that doubles when you share it.
(Albert Schweitzer)

ilanga was able to consolidate its program in 2023 ...

With "double joy" and gratitude, we look back on a year in which we were only able to successfully continue the project in Ethiopia thanks to your kind support and your trust in our organization. We would like to thank everyone who made it possible for the ilanga team to provide help to mothers, children and families in Addis Ababa.

Despite the political situation in the Amhara and Oromia regions, the ongoing drought and the exorbitant inflation, which caused the cost of living to continue to rise enormously, we were able to continue to support the poorest of the poor. The team also suffers from the difficult living conditions. Nevertheless, they have implemented the Asset Based Program » has been expanded and successfully implemented, and so we can help other families. You have all left many positive and beautiful traces!

BETAM AMASEGANEHU!

Thanks go to....

...our donors and sponsors

This year, on behalf of the many needy people in Ethiopia, we would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts – private individuals, families, church communities, foundations, companies – who are giving these people a perspective with their generous contributions of all kinds.

A big thank you again goes to the Zuversicht für Kinder Foundation for their generous support over the last three years. Other foundations that work with us are: Roger Haus Foundation, Uster; Stiftung Fokus Frauen, Zurich, and the Susann and Max Krentel Foundation, Zurich. We are particularly pleased that we have found loyal partner foundations in Soleil d'Afrique (<https://www.soleil-d-afrique.ch>) and the Dr. Ernst-Günther Bröder Foundation (<https://www.egbroederstiftung.ch>).

...the team in Addis Ababa

Despite all the adverse circumstances, the entire team did its best competently and professionally and implemented the "Asset Based Program » at all levels. In this way, they have strengthened the mothers and children and successfully accompanied the mothers to independence and to work. The ilanga center is a popular, beautiful little oasis for everyone - a contact point for mothers and children. The team looks after a happy group of small children in the day care center and a large number of inquisitive children in the after-school care, giving them all a better chance for the future.

The team does this with the help of local volunteers as well as volunteers from afar.

... the board

The board has spent many hours of volunteer work developing ilanga strategically, raising money, informing people and working closely with the team in Addis. Together, the focus is on improving the living conditions of the children and their mothers as sustainably as possible and helping the people of Ethiopia.

Thank you all for the great work!

Many thanks to all patrons, donors and sponsors!



Annemarie Geurts,

President of the ilanga association

April, 2024

ilanga 2023 in Ethiopia

The empowerment program - ilanga makes a change in people's lives



Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

The mothers and children (community) can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilizing existing or not yet recognized strengths.

The program was consolidated in 2023 and continued to be implemented professionally and successfully.

► 61 women were enrolled in the program in 2023

The reception always includes a welcoming ceremony, which is very important as a first impression for the women to show them respect. This is the first key component and ilanga does this in collaboration with the local authorities.

The six pillars of the empowerment program are:

1. Training (according to ABCD)

❖ Life skills training:

➤ 61 women have successfully completed the training

- It helps women to discover their strengths and improve their skills.
- It is an effective tool for empowering women and achieving self-employment successfully.

•

❖ Basic business skills (running a micro-business)

- The Track Assessment is an individual consultation process, which helps the women to determine her career path. Based on this;

➤ 29 women completed additional vocational training (eg Bus driver, housekeeping, cook, sewing and child-caregiver)

➤ 30 women have started their own micro-business

* Two dropouts due to personal problems (out of 61)





2. Education (Self-confidence for single mothers)

➤ 11 Illiterate women enrolled and graduated

- The literacy classes take place twice a week and the women enjoy this opportunity to learn to read and write with other women.
- There is also a distance learning course for women who have completed the 8th grade. In addition to vocational training, they can continue their education alongside their work. That is why we organize distance learning for those who are interested.



3. Counselling (psychosocial intervention) / improving the mental health of mothers and children

These counseling sessions help women and children deal with special needs such as stress and trauma management (deep breathing), self-reflection and self-esteem, and mental health issues.

- 61 women participated in the trauma management sessions
- 31 received individual and group counseling
- 5 family consultations were carried out



4. Networking

- ilanga does networking work for women who want to attend vocational schools.
- Find a training facility, arrange a job placement agreement
- This makes it possible to identify various public, non-public and private vocational schools:
 - The vocational schools give the women an orientation about the achievements they will make.
 - The women then decide for themselves which school they would like to attend.

ilanga has invited the network partners to the start of the project period 2023–2025.

- recognition of partner organizations working with ilanga : Bosco, Merry Help, Sr. Yemiserach TVET (Technical and Vocational Education Training), HFK (Hope for Korah), CCRDA (Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association), CDTRC (Child Development Training and Research Center) , Swiss Embassy in Ethiopia



- SIKA (Swiss multinational specialty chemicals company) organized its annual "Community Engagement" event with employees at our center. We remain in discussion with SIKA about cascading support (direct funding, volunteer work and in-kind contributions). SIKA covered the course costs for a training day for the whole team on the topic of "empowerment".



Status of women 2023

- ▶ 30 of them founded a micro-business
- ▶ 29 women attended a vocational training centre and were employed
 - 5 Housekeeping
 - 9 Sewing
 - 5 Food preparation
 - 4 Daycare Nanny
 - 2 Woodwork and Car-mechanics
 - 1 Bus driver
 - 1 Beauty care
 - 2 Basket weavers work at our center



The further support measures are:

- Two new self-help groups were founded to exchange experiences. The women are actively involved.
- All women (61) undertake intensive follow-up and home visits.
- Refresher training and consultations were organized for all groups.
- The women visited various like-minded organizations and institutions together, such as Selam Children Village, to exchange experiences. The highlight was a trip to Unity Park.



Success stories

Tsedale is a single mother of a young daughter, whom she raises alone without any help. After the birth of her child, life became extremely difficult for her as she could not find work or accommodation. completing ilanga's Asset- Based Community Development Program with all the training, she wanted to pursue a job as a housekeeper. She completed the vocational training with good grades and after graduating, got a job at Saromaria Hotel, a five-star hotel. Now she earns 7,000 to 9,000 Birr net per month and can provide for herself and her child, who is looked after at ilanga's daycare center while she works. She has a bright future ahead of her and plans to continue her education.



Enkenyelesh Azene has three children. Ruth (12) in the 5th grade, Mariza (6) in kindergarten and Girmu (2), who is now being looked after at the ilanga day care center. Her husband was in the military and returned home after being injured in the war. A long story of suffering began for all of them. He started drinking and mistreating her, which ultimately led to a divorce and left her penniless on the streets. After completing ilanga's Asset- Based Community Development Program training, she decided to start a micro-business. She started sewing clothes at the ilanga center (on the ilanga sewing machines) and selling them to shops. This way she can provide for herself and her children and give them a good education.





5. Day and after-school care

In 2023, ilanga was able to support **49 children aged 1 to 4 and 70 students in grades 2 to 12** so that they could develop holistically, both personally and academically.

Childcare is the backbone of the empowerment project. It is crucial for the mothers that their children are well looked after while they try to become independent (business or education).



Daycare

Effective pre-school support has led to children developing better in the long term. Therefore, ilanga implemented the holistic child development approach according to “Montessori”.

We work in all areas of child development, physical, social and emotional development, language and literacy, and cognitive development to ensure children's well-being.

They are encouraged to play, which is not traditionally known in Ethiopia. There are also outdoor activities.

- In addition, they receive a nutritious meal and a clean and quiet sleeping area where they can take a nap
- **The daycare center accommodates 35 children between the ages of 1 and 4 every day. 14 of them graduated in 2023 and were sent to kindergarten. This meant that 14 new children could be admitted.**
- There were celebrations (children’s birthdays, Christmas, Easter, etc.).
- ilanga offers mothers advice on child-rearing/care as well as feedback from the carers on the child’s development.
- Monthly parent meetings are organized.
- The mothers are expected to participate in the daycare regularly in order to gain experience themselves.

The Kinder Care Team did :

- Refresher training and support for the Montessori approach

We became a center of excellence and visitors come to ilanga to see how we organize and run the daycare center and to learn from our experiences.



Success stories

Bilen Gete (3) is one of the girls in our day care. She lives in a very small house on the side of the road and her mother told her to stay in bed all the time. Because of this, she could not walk properly, could only communicate with her mother and was extremely shy. When she came to ilanga, she could hardly interact, play and communicate with other children. She was very anxious and nervous. The ilanga team suspected that she might be a child with special needs. So they sent Bilen to a pediatrician for evaluation. He did not diagnose anything except the speech delay. However, the ilanga team was not satisfied with her development and she was sent to a neurologist for further examination. It turned out that she suffered from vitamin D deficiency. The caregivers gave her the prescribed medication properly and helped her to walk. Little by little she started to communicate with other children, play with them and build relationships. She is now actively participating in the daycare life and can already walk quite well.



After-school care

The after-school care offers places not only for the children of mothers who are in the ilanga empowerment program, but also for children who live in the area around the center. The aim is to reach as many children as possible *who* do not have access to school support. In this way, ilanga wants to offer them the support they need to promote their school development and give them better opportunities. Unfortunately, for reasons of budget constraints, we have had to reduce the number of children we can care down to 70 per day.

The team is led by Alem , who puts together a well-structured weekly program. In collaboration with about 6 volunteers, the team guides the children and young people with great commitment.

➤ **70 school children visited the centre every day**

Activities include

- Life skills training
- Tutorial service: A suitable environment for learning and relaxing is available
- Todo homework
- Outdoor games, poetry and literature competitions, with small awards for the participants, are loved by the children
- Invited volunteers (who are especially seen as role models by the students) tell stories and poems and accept the award from the active students
- There is a library with reference books
- They make educational excursions
- Game afternoons and a well-organized Christmas and Easter celebration were held
- Special topics such as environmental awareness are covered. Engagement with social responsibility (e.g. planting seedlings on the national "Green Legacy Day")
- All school children receive a meal, which relieves the burden on families in the current difficult economic situation and ensures that the children are better fed. You can't learn when you're hungry.



6. Health

- Family planning, nutrition, hygiene
- Cervical cancer screening, health check of all mothers and their children
- Health insurance for mothers and children in the program
- All children are regularly examined and vaccinated in cooperation with the state health center. A nurse comes to the ilanga center for this purpose.

Working together for ilanga – volunteer work

ilanga in Addis Ababa welcomed 2 volunteers for 2 weeks each. In October, **Britta Ulma** (architect) from Hamburg to realize her wish, which she had been planning for years, to do a volunteer assignment in Africa. She supported the team in reorganizing the library and registering the books. She helped in the day-care center and in the after-school care and had a lot of fun. The team was very happy about her help and everyone enjoyed the enriching exchange and the many new experiences for everyone.



Gino Granieri, professional photographer, visited ilanga in November to take photos and video material for us to be used. He did a mobile photography course with the team so that they can provide us with up-to-date photos.



«My charity work as a photographer for the ilanga project in Ethiopia was a challenge both personally and creatively in three essential ways.

- Personally: The challenge of engaging with the world of these women
- Creative: To convey the lives of the people in Ethiopia through my pictures
- Ethical: To keep human dignity first in my pictures.

I am grateful to provide this illustrated chapters for the Ilanga project.»



Team development in Addis

In 2023, the ilanga team once again contributed a lot to the success of the mothers and children through good, professional and motivated cooperation. In charge in Addis are Berhanu (CD) Abinet (women's empowerment specialist), Yodit and Leti (social workers), Alem (team lead for the children). All team members of the ilanga family are important: Beletu keeps the compound clean so that everyone feels comfortable. Mesret and Elfenesh cook healthy food, which is important for the development of the children. An organization can only function fully if all the administrative and accounting basics are taken care of. Kalkidan and Kindahafti ensure this. The guards are also not only important for security; they are also the friendly door openers. And the good volunteers in the background who keep the laptops and the compound functioning must not be forgotten. The team

consists of 15 paid members of staff, plus about ten volunteers who mainly help with after-school care.

The project team was able to attend various training courses on the following topics:

- Orphan care
- Project cycle management
- attends Federal ACSO 's NGO Leaders Meeting in Sululta
- Global Leadership Summit
- Trauma healing program



A big thank you goes to the team, to whom we would have liked to give salary compensation, as they too are suffering from the cost explosion: Unfortunately, due to tight finances, this was only possible for those on the lowest incomes.

Nevertheless, everyone is very motivated to help people in need together as part of ilanga.



Admin Activities in Ethiopia 2023

Overview

- As a future, long-term sustainability strategy, ilanga is planning income-generating activities (IGA) in order to be able to finance part of the budget locally. We were able to have two ideas developed in concrete terms (daycare for paying parents, urban chicken farm). Now we need extra funds for this.
- Berhanu made great efforts to inquire about possible funds in Ethiopia – also in cooperation with similarly functioning partner organizations (NGOs in cooperation with CCRDA or embassy funds, etc.).
- Another milestone has been achieved for ilanga Ethiopia. We have been waiting for this moment since we applied for membership one and a half years ago. After they conducted the organizational capacity assessment of ilanga, we were finally accepted as a CCRDA member. CCRDA is one of the largest consortium in Ethiopia of local and foreign charitable organizations engaged in various development activities for the past fifty years. Benefits of being a CCRDA member:
 - Networking with more than 460 international and local NGOs through the General Assembly and through the involvement of various thematic forums.
 - Participating in various relevant discussions and generating valuable feedback to the development sector by commissioning relevant research studies
 - Our employees can participate in various training programs that focus on capacity building.
 - Possible access to financing opportunities. Today's consortium approach is more applicable to large donors such as the EU, USAID and Global Fund.
- Project kick-off event of the 2nd project phase (2023 to 2025) (see Networking)
- **ilanga was visited by many people and organizations throughout the year, including:**
 - Yonne Frei from the Confidence for Children Foundation (project completion)
 - Evi Barmet from BUKAIA (networking with volunteers)
 - SIKA; employee event (see Networking)
 - Stefan Bartusch from SONNE International (project assessment)
 - Various members of Soleil d'Afrique
 - Christoph Zinstag from Selam Children Village Switzerland
 - Local NOGs and partner organizations (exchange of experiences)
 - Travel groups
 - etc

We received a lot of very positive feedback about the professional and motivated team and the efficient, successful work

.



Project visits 2023

There were also project visits by the board from Switzerland in 2023:

in March/April and November by Annemarie Geurts, President

There are always many topics to discuss. The focus of these visits were:

- Discuss board strategies with Berhanu and local management
- FtF meetings with the team with updates and lessons learned , 1:1 conversations regarding personal development and personnel issues
- Strategy meetings regarding the launch of IGA. We hired a professional business consultant to prepare a good clarification with a feasibility study and business plan.
- Network building: Network meetings with other NGOs in focus was e.g. Selam Children Village with future plans for IGA, networking of the team with other organizations, local volunteers and sponsors
- Important visits to authorities with Berhanu for ilanga, where it is important that the President is present (e.g. in the Ministry of Finance, Customs Office, MoFA etc.)
- Participation in various activities at the center, such as trainings, certification of mothers, children's birthdays, after-school activities, etc.

Specifically March/April 2023:

- «Swiss Etho Forum» meeting organized by the Swiss Embassy (meeting of Swiss NGOs and Swiss companies in Ethiopia, lecture by World Bank Head in Addis)
- «Working lunch» at the Swiss embassy with various ambassadors and NOS. Yodit and Annemarie were able to briefly introduce ilanga
- Discussion with Selam Children Village regarding land issue in Shire.
- Attempt to release the donated bus from customs; unsuccessful (customs pre-order is much too high and the legislation is unclear! – wait and see)
- Team Event: Participation with everyone in the «Women's first 5km Great Run» in Addis Ababa
- Team building event: Annemarie organized a day trip to the Haile Training Center with games, fun and a delicious meal. There was a lot of laughter!
- Accompanying the 1st Ilanga trip after COVID and war with visit of the participants to ilanga for exchange

Special November visit 2023:

- Meetings with partner NGOs for cooperation (Pestalozzi Children's Village, SIKa, Biruk from USAID, Sport the Bridge, local small partners, school project WARKA. Selam etc
- Meeting with Zenebe Kebede the Head of MoFA for EU and USA
- Accompanying the 2nd Ilanga trip with visits of the participants to ilanga for exchange
- Invitation to the Swiss Embassy, where the SDC presented its new orientation for 2024 to 2027



Side projects

Restore Hope



Restore Hope

Kobo Hospital was able to resume its operations and the Restore Hope team wanted to wait a while as the region is still a contested conflict zone and security is not guaranteed.

In May, Annemarie was invited by « MoH , Taiwan; can help » give a presentation on the use of Restore Hope in the Ethiopian Disaster Strategy cadre and establish contacts for Restore Hope



ilanga-travel

In 2023, **2 project trips took place with very enthusiastic participants:** One at Easter with a visit to Lalibela and other very beautiful highlights in the north and east. One in November with highlights in the east (Harar, Bale Mountains and Rift Valley). Both tours led to the Afar region with the Erte Ale volcano. The travelers visited ilanga and were able to gain a personal insight of ilangas the work.. The travelers are also donors, because ilanga receives five percent of the package price as a donation. By traveling, we can all contribute to the development of Ethiopia. Tourism provides a livelihood for many people. They are happy when travelers come again because, in addition to income, it is also a sign of normality.

The travel offers can be found on the website (www.ilanga-reisen.ch) and are continually being developed and published. We would be delighted if one or the other would travel with ilanga.

We would also like to thank Eyayaw from Eyayaw Tours (<https://www.eyayawtours.com/>), with whom we have a competent and reliable partner to organize the trips together. He supports ilanga and also visits ilanga with other travelers who can get to know ilanga in this way.





i langa activities/fundraising 2023 in CH

It was not easy to raise the money we needed. We are grateful for any support (donations, membership, networking with foundations, organizations, institutions, arranging/organizing activities, volunteer work, participating in trips, etc.)

The board and numerous volunteers worked hard on fundraising activities in Switzerland.

The exchange during the activities was always enriching for everyone. I would like to mention the ilanga fundraising dinner at the last general meeting in Lucerne, which introduced many people to ilanga over a fine Ethiopian meal in a lovely atmosphere. Or the exchange with the school children during the preliminary discussions for the 2023 Lenten offering of the Reussbühl parish. The great preparation and implementation of the Spiegel parish bazaar in Bern in November, in which Natalie and Angela took part. The lecture at the University of Birmingham with great interest from the students and lecturers. Or the Velafrica event with ilanga at the Roche company with great commitment from volunteers. The great commitment from the board is impressive!

Activities at a glance:

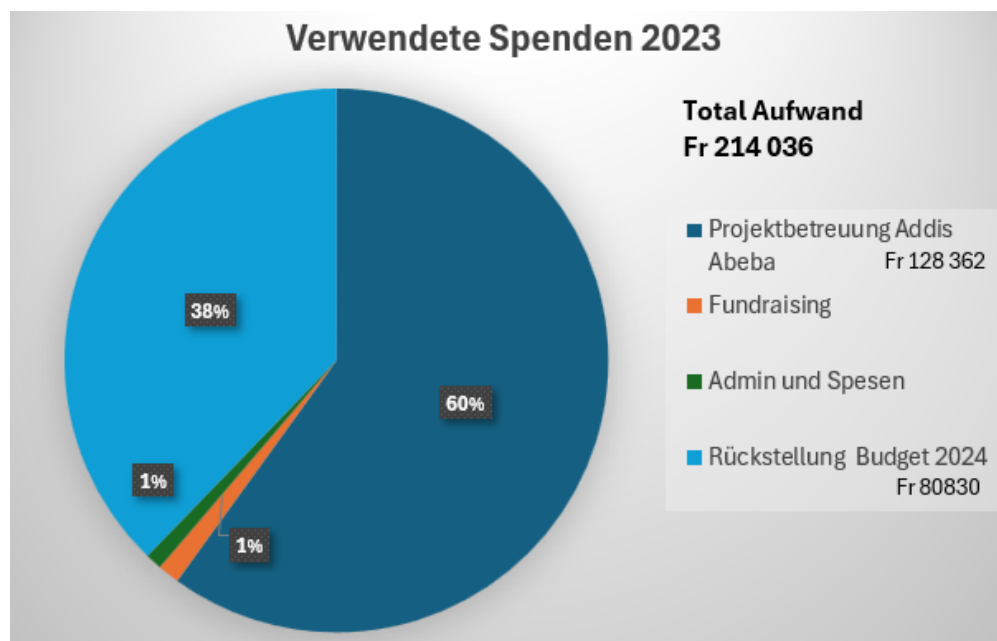
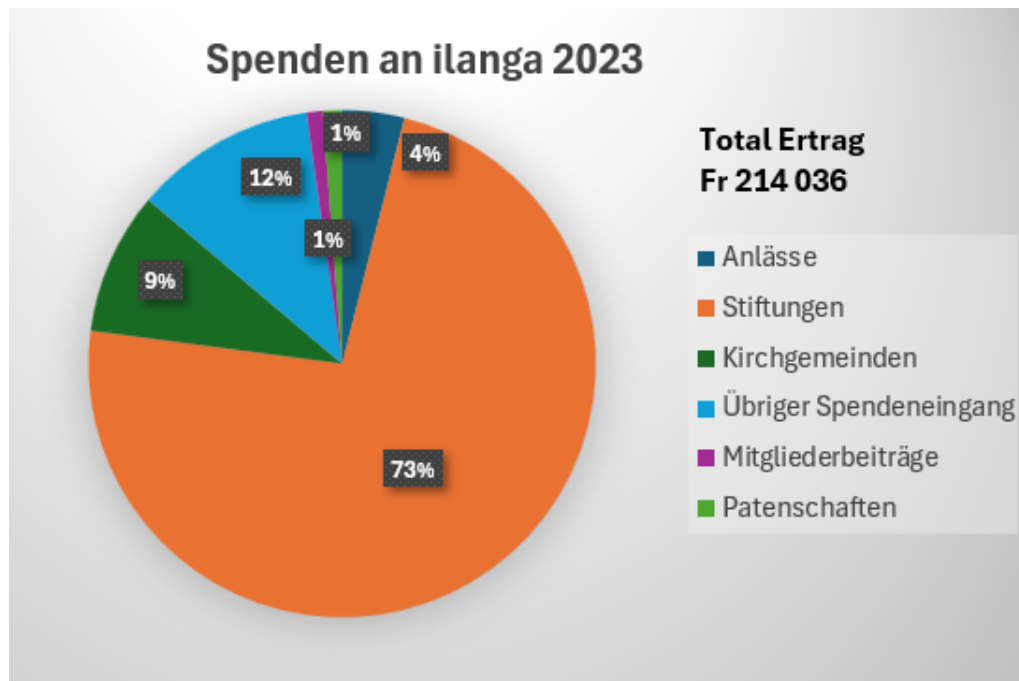
- Several project proposals to various foundations
- Personal introduction to two foundations
- Written fundraising
- Fundraising dinner MV 2023
- Bazaar in the parish in the mirror, Bern (participation)
- Lenten offering of the church Reussbühl /LU (3 children's afternoons and participation on Sunday)
- Sales stand at the Emmenbrücke Christmas market in aid of ilanga from the Zündhölzli association
- Zofingen School Apple Market in aid of ilanga
- Velafrica event with ilanga at Roche
- Lectures in Geneva at WHO with visit to the new Ethiopian ambassador
- Lecture at the University (Health and Socialwork) in Birmingham UK
- Swiss- Etho Forum: Panel participation



Annual financial statements and audit report 2023

Are part of the MV on 25.05.2024

Overview of donations and use:



We strive to use donations responsibly and carefully in the interests of the donors.

Ilanga Budget 202 4

Description	(CHF)
operating cost	
Social support for children	
For very needy families: school materials, clothes, hygiene products Health support; health insurance for all families and necessary medication / day care if not possible in ilanga	7900
Educational and recreational activities, basic life skills training for all school children/training materials/transport	3200
Day care and after-school care	
Day Care Center Maintenance	950
Daily meals for all children (snack and lunch) /	11000
Daily snack for the children in after-school care	400
Center teaching materials ; books, notebooks , audiovisual material, laptops	4570
Total child specific	28055
Rent of the center	21000
Empowerment and social assistance for vulnerable single mothers	
Psycho-emotional strengthening	
Family support (professional psychotherapy, monthly home visits, support for self-help groups)	3600
Socioeconomic empowerment and support	
ABCD program Life skills and business training for mothers/business advice and support/aftercare for families/living costs	2100
Social assistance: living expenses (rent for accommodation (maximum 1200), food (maximum 1200), health (maximum 1500)) for the most needy beneficiaries between 4 and 6 months while they are in the program	10600
One-time start-up costs for income-generating activities for all women (business start-up or vocational training)	14500
Total mothers	30800
Project staff	
Wages of all employees (empowerment expert, two social workers, a cashier, accountant, a day care center manager and four carers, two cooks, a cleaning lady and security staff)	27400
Transport costs	3800
Total operating costs	111020
Administrative costs Ethiopia	
Country Director salary / Accounting (part-time) / Pension fund contributions / New purchases of office supplies / Maintenance / Transport / Electricity / External trainers for the team / Audit	24 000
Total costs Ethiopia	135620
Administrative costs Switzerland	
Fundraising (including social media, shipping , postage)	3100
Administration (including internet, office supplies , etc.)	2100
Travel expenses project trips	2400
Total costs Switzerland*	7600
Total budget	142620

Outlook 2024

2024 holds some challenges for ilanga. Budget constraints and the current national economic recession complicate the situation.

- ▶ Our active area of operation is in a densely populated area with particularly poor families. We have received a huge number of beneficiaries but have not been able to reach all of them due to budget constraints
- ▶ The rent of the center has increased massively. We are forced to find an alternative by the end of 2025
- ▶ As a future long-term sustainability strategy, ilanga plans to incorporate income generating activities (the feasibility study and business plan have been prepared by a professional consultant) to expand our operational and catchment area and improve the lives of the poor. However, getting the start-up capital will still be a challenge
- ▶ Raising funds through volunteer work is becoming increasingly difficult in the current political situation. We are therefore looking for partnerships to secure the project financially in the long term. Discussions and work are ongoing.



The people of Ethiopia are grateful for the life in dignity that you make possible.
We at ilanga thank you .

Annemarie Geurts and Board