

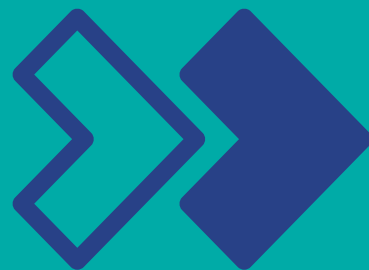


ANNUAL REPORT



2023

**We want to see a world
where no child is born
with viral hepatitis and
where people living with
hepatitis have access to
equitable treatment and
care - no matter where.**





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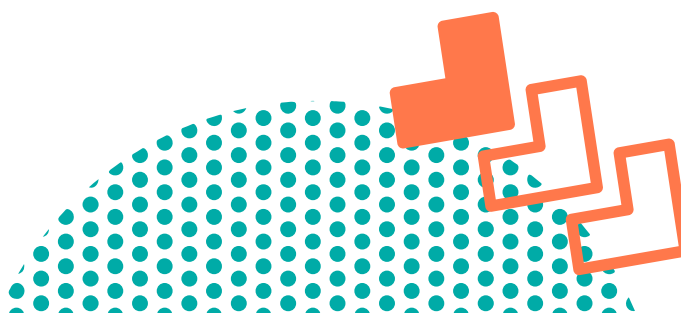
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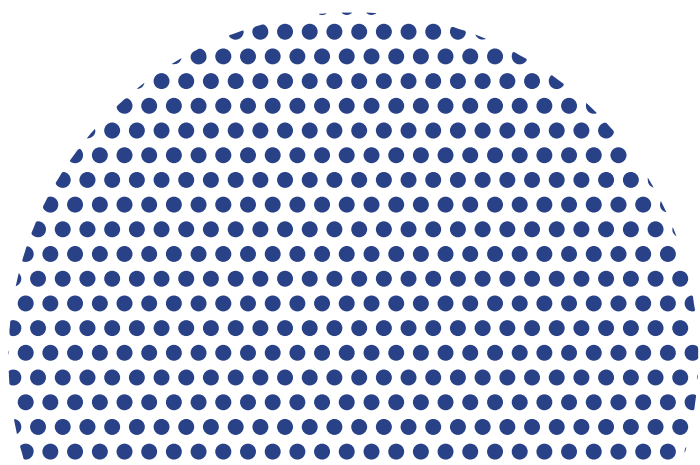
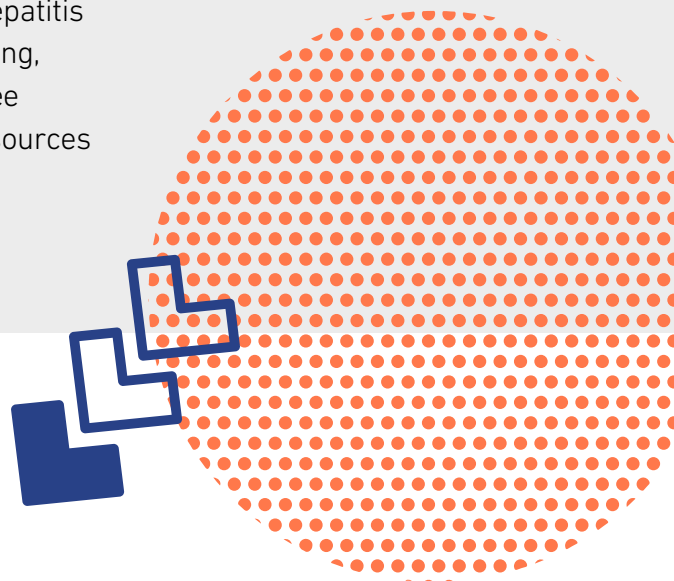
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MISSION

We mobilise public and private resources to eliminate viral hepatitis as a global health threat. We use best practices in grant-making, monitoring and evaluation, and technical assistance to oversee projects and guide them to impact, ensuring that financial resources are well invested and supported by political will to expand successful interventions.

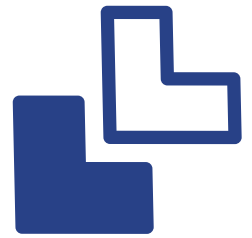


WHO WE ARE

The Hepatitis Fund is the result of a longstanding partnership between ZeShan Foundation, the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

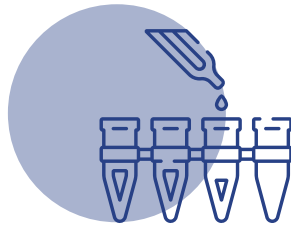


OUR IMPACT



13

Grants distributed



234,890

People tested & diagnosed*

*Tested: 204,530 / diagnosed 30,360



19,000

People on treatment

OUR COMMITMENT

Our strategy and grant funding portfolios are designed to reflect national and international development priorities. This includes alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and WHO global health sector strategy.

As part of this, we are committed to:

- **Accelerating the planning and delivery of national elimination strategies**
- **Integrating person-centred care in support of universal health coverage**
- **Supporting interventions that work to build national health system capacity**
- **Provide catalytic investment that will lead to domestic investment and universal health coverage**



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2023 was a momentous and defining one for us at The Hepatitis Fund (THF). We witnessed an expansion of our organisational capacity and funding networks, thanks to the generous support of our donors. We began an intense stretch of new activities aimed at lifting the profile of THF and raising awareness of our mission. We also made significant progress in establishing new donor relations, laying the groundwork for additional funding streams from private and public sources.

The year's first half was devoted to organising the inaugural Global Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference. The latter part of the year focused on negotiating new pledges, expanding our communications efforts, forging new collaborations and partnerships, and preparing to launch the new round of grants. Throughout the year, we have worked tirelessly to position hepatitis elimination on the agenda of donors and decision-makers.

Globally, 2023 was marked by significant advancements in our collective efforts to eliminate hepatitis. Egypt's efforts to virtually eliminate hepatitis C and become the first country to reach the WHO gold tier were remarkable and garnered international attention. Other countries, including Georgia, Mongolia and Rwanda, have made significant strides.

On the advocacy front, thanks to the work we and the rest of the hepatitis community have carried out, we achieved positive outcomes: support by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, for hepatitis B birth-dose vaccination and the decision of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to fund testing for key populations were vital steps to address hepatitis.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

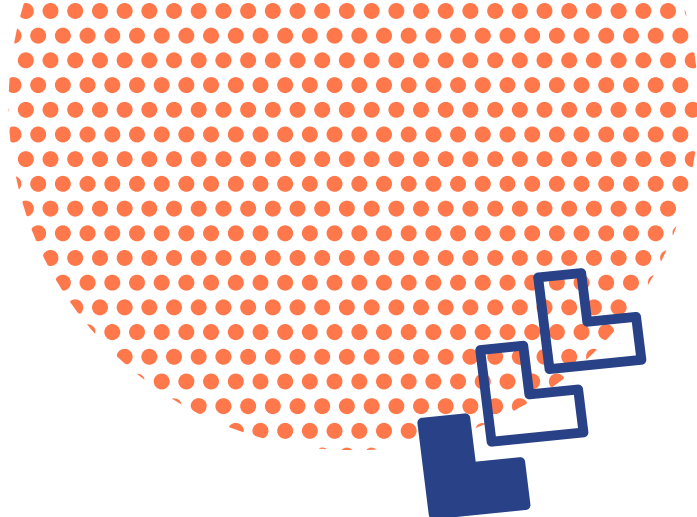
Our Global Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference, the first-ever pledging event focused on viral hepatitis, attracted a diverse and engaged audience, including representatives of governments, industry, international institutions and communities. Additionally, the historic drug pricing agreements announced at the conference hold the potential to significantly reduce treatment costs for low- and middle-income countries, expanding access to treatment.

Despite progress, we are still far from achieving the 2030 viral hepatitis elimination goals. New data from WHO show that hepatitis-related deaths are on the rise, from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022. This figure makes hepatitis a leading cause of death from infectious diseases alongside tuberculosis. Too many people still don't have access to care, treatment and prevention.

As we reflect on our journey, we recognise both the challenges we've faced and the milestones we've reached. Our dedication to eliminating viral hepatitis remains steadfast, and we are more committed than ever to galvanising political will and increasing funding for hepatitis elimination. We thank our donors, partners and stakeholders for their unwavering trust and support and look forward to continued collaboration with you.



2023 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



FEBRUARY

New partnership with the Muslim World League, an engaged supporter of health-related initiatives.

APRIL

16-19 APRIL, MELBOURNE

We joined an expert panel focused on the financial landscape of viral hepatitis at the Viral Hepatitis Pre-Conference convened as part of the 23rd Harm Reduction International Conference. With partners, we contributed to developing the Global Priority Statement, which focused on the urgent need to integrate hepatitis B responses into harm reduction.

22 APRIL, DHAKA

With one of our grantees, the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, we ran a workshop focused on the hepatitis elimination Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) operational guide.

25-28 APRIL, PARIS

We joined a session organised by WHO at the Global Hepatitis Summit to share our experience from the funder's perspective. We addressed the financing gap and highlighted the successes and critical challenges of implementing a public health approach. This included development of costed national plans as demonstrated by our grant implemented by WHO.

2023 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



MAY

14 MAY, GLOBAL

We launched the White Paper: Financing Hepatitis B Elimination (see spotlight on page 24).

17 MAY, GENEVA

In partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), we organised the first-ever Global Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference. Find more about the conference on page 9.

JUNE

6-9 JUNE, CAIRO

We joined the Africa Health ExCon where our ED, Finn Jarle Rode, chaired the "Investors and Funders for International Cooperation – Resources and Lessons from the Pandemic" session featuring speakers from the African Development Bank, the Global Fund and Unitaid.

JULY

18 JULY, GLOBAL

We joined the launch of the first White Paper of our partner, the APAC Liver Disease Alliance. This is a resource for learning more about how to eliminate liver diseases in the Asia-Pacific region.

28 JULY, GLOBAL

To mark World Hepatitis Day, we joined several initiatives in Geneva and globally.

AUGUST

21-22 AUGUST, CAIRO

Our ED joined a session at the Africa Free of Hepatitis Conference, "Hepatitis-Free Villages". The event was organised by the African Liver Patients Association and the Pan African Foundation for Development and Capacity Building in collaboration with the Scientific Research and Innovation Council of the African Union Commission.



SPEAKERS AT THE AFRICA FREE OF HEPATITIS CONFERENCE. Photo ©: THF.

SEPTEMBER

6 SEPTEMBER, GLOBAL

We co-authored a new commentary published in The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, titled "HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis as an entry point to the elimination of hepatitis B virus".

OCTOBER

2-6 OCTOBER, KIGALI

We went to Rwanda to assess the end of the first year of a three-year project co-funded with the Canton of Geneva to eliminate vertical transmission of hepatitis B. Find more about this project, implemented by CHAI, on page 15.

17-20 OCTOBER, GENEVA

We joined INHSU 2023, hosted by the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users. Our ED, Finn Jarle Rode, was part of a panel discussion with CHAI, the Global Fund and Unitaid during the Plenary Session: "Leveraging Funding Opportunities to Improve the Health of People who Use Drugs".



THF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINN JARLE RODE (LEFT), PARTICIPATES IN THE "LEVERAGING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS" PANEL SESSION AT INHSU 2023.
Photo ©: THF.

24-26 OCTOBER, ABUJA

We joined the African Hepatitis Summit. The conference brought together civil society organisations, policymakers, global funders, medical professionals and other stakeholders around the theme, "Putting Africa on Track towards Viral Hepatitis Elimination".

SPOTLIGHT:

GLOBAL HEPATITIS RESOURCE MOBILISATION CONFERENCE 2023

On 17 May 2023, we organised the first Global Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). The event was the first-ever pledging event focused on viral hepatitis, meant to be seen as a global call to action to boost financial and political commitment towards viral hepatitis elimination.

The conference featured a compelling programme making a strong case for hepatitis elimination. Notable speakers included Dr Chelsea Clinton, Board of Directors at CHAI, Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Senior Fellow, Global Health Center, The Graduate Institute for International Affairs and Development, Geneva, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General and representatives from the two host countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The “Voices of the Community” were heard loud and clear as community leaders, including people living with hepatitis B or C, harm reduction activists and healthcare representatives, shared their lived experiences. They called on the world to deliver on global commitments to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. Speakers also highlighted some of the current barriers – beyond funding – to achieving that, including stigma and access to prevention and treatment.

Dr Homie Razavi, Managing Director of the Center for Disease Analysis Foundation and Dr Meg Doherty, Director of WHO's HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STI Programme, presented a robust investment case for hepatitis elimination. Both confirmed that prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B and C have never been more straightforward, affordable or urgently needed.

The country-focused session explored the progress made by Cambodia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia in their hepatitis elimination initiatives. Speakers shared creative ways of scaling programmes despite minimal financial investments, highlighting the need to keep working on access challenges and strengthening service delivery.

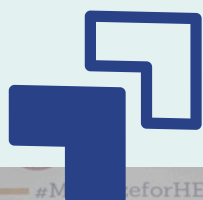
The day featured a lively discussion on the role of industry, with representatives from pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hetero, Hologic, Roche, Viartis and the Medicines Patent Pool. This session culminated in ground-breaking announcements (see page 11).

SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL HEPATITIS RESOURCE MOBILISATION CONFERENCE 2023

Global health institutions, including the Global Fund, Unitaaid, USAID and FIND, made programmatic commitments to reinforce their efforts toward hepatitis elimination and expressed their support for The Hepatitis Fund. Brazil, Nigeria's Nasawara State and Pakistan announced their country-specific commitments to domestic initiatives. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced its commitment to supporting The Hepatitis Fund in our future activities, including the next round of grants.

Nathalie Fontanet, representing the State of Geneva, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the pivotal role of "Geneva International" in fostering actions toward hepatitis elimination. She also expressed the State of Geneva's support for THF and its partners.

The conference left participants energised and motivated by the various commitments made and the atmosphere of collaboration throughout. It built momentum for hepatitis elimination by bringing together civil society, governments, NGOs, implementing and funding agencies, and technical experts, fostering mutual learning and initiating critical discussions.



FROM LEFT: ANTON BASENKO, KENNETH KABAGAMBE, RAQUEL PECK AND SISTER ANNIE KANUNGA, SPEAKERS OF THE "VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY" SESSION AT THE GLOBAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION CONFERENCE.

Photo ©: Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos/THF.



SPEAKERS DISCUSS "COUNTRY EXPERIENCES" DURING THE GLOBAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION CONFERENCE.

Photo ©: Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos/THF.

SPOTLIGHT:

HISTORIC DRUG PRICING AGREEMENTS

In May 2023, with CHAI, we negotiated a memorandum of understanding with leading generic manufacturers Viartis and Hetero to secure historic ceiling prices for life-saving hepatitis B and C treatments.

Globally, over 80% of people living with hepatitis lack access to prevention, testing and treatment services. These new drug prices can significantly reduce the cost of treatment to low- and middle-income countries – an estimated savings of US\$2 billion – and scale up hepatitis programmes to meet growing demand, all towards eliminating hepatitis.

Viartis and Hetero now offer WHO-prequalified sofosbuvir and daclatasvir, a 12-week, once-daily oral treatment for hepatitis C, at a ceiling price of US\$60 per person for a course of treatment.

Both manufacturers now also offer WHO-prequalified and/or US FDA-approved tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) 300 mg single tablets, used for hepatitis B treatment (once-daily lifelong oral treatment) at a ceiling price of US\$2.4 per 30 tablets, a month's course of treatment.

These ceiling prices are the lowest for WHO-prequalified hepatitis B and C drugs globally. They represent over a 90% reduction from the lowest cost of hepatitis C treatment by originators in 2016 and align the price of TDF for hepatitis B with that of TDF used in HIV treatment.

SPOTLIGHT: HISTORIC DRUG PRICING AGREEMENTS

Thanks to these agreements, the cost of treatment in low- and middle-income countries is significantly reduced, therefore contributing to access to treatment for many more healthcare clients in countries with the highest epidemiological burden. Furthermore, they have the potential to scale up hepatitis programmes and reduce the funding needed to achieve hepatitis elimination.

This represents a golden opportunity for governments to increase financing for viral hepatitis elimination, showing solid political will and interest to attract donors.

With all stakeholders engaged in hepatitis elimination, we are committed to ensuring that information on the pricing agreements is shared with countries' procurement divisions, national hepatitis programme managers, healthcare workers, community advocates and the population at large.



FROM LEFT: ORIEL FERNANDES AND AMAN SIWACH, CHAI, RAHUL LANDE, HETERO, DR DAVID RIPIN, CHAI, FINN JARLE RODE, THF, KEDAR MADHEKAR, VIATRIS, AND BENEDETTA NIRTA, THF.
Photo ©: Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos/THF.

GRANT PROGRAMME



Most of the grants in our first call ended in 2023. We conducted a detailed analysis and review of each project implementation, and grantees submitted a final narrative, financial and indicators report. In addition to the projects in the first round of grants, two new projects, one in Rwanda and one in Vietnam, began in 2022. More about these grants is on pages 15 and 18.

A continued monitoring and evaluation (M&E) analysis and follow-up for each grant enabled implementers to achieve their desired outcomes and, in some cases, exceed them. The specific indicators for each project allowed us and the implementers to cross-correct actions and demonstrate the impact. The M&E framework allowed us to collect outcomes, outputs, processes, practices and lessons learned. Throughout the year, we refreshed our grant guidelines and application processes in preparation for a new call for proposals, and we collected interest from many potential implementing partners. In addition, we sponsored our grantees' attendance of key conferences to present the results of the grant projects.

In July, a six-month no-cost extension was granted to a Pakistani implementing partner, the Association for Social Development. This extension resulted from a positive remaining balance and was granted due to its potential multiplying effect. It had three components:

- Development of a cost-effectiveness and investment study on integrated hepatitis care in Pakistan. The study assessed whether hepatitis C care delivered at a Rural Health Center (RHC) was as effective as care delivered at a hospital-based hepatitis clinic. Results found that the effectiveness was comparable in both settings. However, the cost per patient was lower for care given at RHCs.
- Integration of co-morbidity hepatitis "test-treat-prevent" care of people with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and people living with HIV in ten sites in Punjab.
- Promotion of co-morbidity hepatitis care of people living with HIV in Malawi and Kenya by training a partner and assessing the situation in these countries.



Photo ©: ASD.





The Hepatitis Fund enabled WHO to develop Costed National Plans for four countries and supported them to accelerate and scale up their response. With further investment, we could replicate this success in more countries. It's not a fantasy, we can realise the dream of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

DR TEDROS GHEBREYESUS,
Director-General, WHO



THF STAFF VISITING MASAKA DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN KIGALI.
Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI/THF

The grant received from THF has strengthened the hepatitis response in Zambia, which has improved the lives of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of people living at risk of hepatitis.”

MICHAEL VINIKOOR,
University Teaching Hospital HIV/AIDS
Programme, Lusaka, Zambia



SPOTLIGHT:

ADVANCING RWANDA TOWARD ELIMINATION OF VERTICAL TRANSMISSION OF HEPATITIS B

Grantee:

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Project timeline:

November 2022 – October 2025

PROJECT SUMMARY:

With the Canton of Geneva, we are funding a project implemented by CHAI in Rwanda. CHAI is collaborating with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (the implementation arm of the Ministry of Health) over three years to eliminate vertical transmission of hepatitis B. The project aims to address critical barriers to scale hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening, diagnosis and antiviral treatment among pregnant women and demonstrate implementation of timely targeted hepatitis B birth-dose vaccines to prevent vertical transmission of hepatitis B in Rwanda.

GRANT PROGRESS:

For the first year of the grant, CHAI has focused on preparatory activities to lay the foundations for the project. This includes evaluating the landscape for prevention of vertical transmission of hepatitis B in Rwanda, capacity building and setting up systems that can ensure the successful rollout of interventions in the second year of the project. During the first year of implementation, CHAI and the Government of Rwanda assessed the situation and developed a strategy to address service implementation challenges for prevention of vertical transmission of HBV in Rwanda. To do this, a baseline analysis was conducted across 62 health facilities throughout the country to

understand the existing coverage of this service, identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen services for all pregnant women, and assess readiness for introduction of HBV birth-dose vaccination.

In October 2023, we went to Kigali to evaluate the project as it reached the end of its first year. Site visits to Masaka District Hospital and Masaka Health Center provided insights into on-the-ground realities and the pivotal role of local healthcare institutions and staff. THF engaged with health workers, including nurses and doctors, delving into their daily challenges to understand how the training had enabled them to start rolling out the project and confidently identify potential roadblocks. Overall, the field visits and discussions showed that the collaboration between CHAI and the Rwandan Government had yielded promising results and a strong commitment to the cause.

The dedication of health workers and the alignment of strategies to the most impactful indicators were instrumental in our approach to achieving the best possible outcomes. The M&E process, while highlighting challenges, underscored the adaptability and resilience of the project.



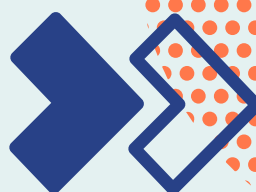
**“THANKS TO THE TRAINING I RECEIVED,
IT IS NOW FEASIBLE TO PREVENT
NEWBORNS FROM CONTRACTING HEPATITIS B.
I’M CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN ELIMINATE
HEPATITIS AND REACH THE GOAL OF
ZERO NEW INFECTIONS AMONG NEWBORNS.”**

CLAUDINE UWINGABIRE,

midwife at an RHC that is part of the grant project.



**NURSE CLAUDINE UWINGABIRE VISITING A CLIENT AT
THE RHC SHE WORKS AT.** Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI/THF



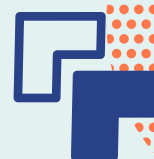
SPOTLIGHT: GRANT PROGRESS

Thanks to a grant by The Hepatitis Fund and the Canton of Geneva, CHAI is actively assisting the Rwandan government to address key obstacles to expanding HBV screening, diagnosis, and antiviral treatment for pregnant women and to showcase the successful implementation of targeted hepatitis B birth dose interventions. Our efforts are projected to reach significant milestones within three years: screening over 450,000 pregnant women for HBV, administering hepatitis B birth-dose vaccinations to all newborns (more than 10,000) laying the foundation for Rwanda to eliminate vertical transmission of HBV. The funding will also allow CHAI to generate evidence and lessons learned from the project to develop a sustainability plan for HBV services for pregnant women in Rwanda, inform policies and future introduction strategies, in Rwanda and other AFRO countries.

DR BRENDA KATEERA, CHAI Country Director, Rwanda



A POSTER BY CHAI PROVIDING INFORMATION ON HEPATITIS B PREVENTION IS DISPLAYED AT THE MATERNAL WARD OF MASAKA DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN KIGALI.
Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI and THF.



SPOTLIGHT:



HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL TRAINED AS PART OF THE PATH PROJECT IN VIETNAM FUNDED BY THF. Photo ©: PATH.

ELIMINATING VERTICAL TRANSMISSION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS B IN VIETNAM: DEMONSTRATING THE IMPACT OF INTRODUCING SCREENING AND TREATMENT OF PREGNANT WOMEN AS PART OF VIETNAM'S 2030 TRIPLE ELIMINATION GOAL

Grantee:

PATH

Project timeline:

November 2021 – October 2024

PROJECT SUMMARY:

With support from the City of Geneva and THF, PATH is collaborating with the Nghe An Center for Disease Control (CDC) to implement an initiative to accelerate the elimination of vertical transmission of HBV, HIV and syphilis through an integrated, decentralised and coordinated model in two high-burden districts of Nghe An Province

(Dien Chau and Thai Hoa). The model engages Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities, including Commune Health Stations (CHS), District Hospitals (DH) and Private Health Facilities (PHF), in providing systematic screening for HBV, HIV and syphilis. The model uses rapid HBsAg and dual HIV/syphilis tests, makes referrals or linkage to diagnosis and treatment for pregnant women who seek antenatal care services, and provides the hepatitis B birth-dose within 24 hours of birth.

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate the impact of introducing screening and treatment of pregnant women as part of reaching Vietnam's 2030 triple elimination goal.

GRANT PROGRESS:

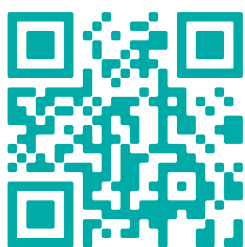
So far, PATH has engaged 12 facilities (eight CHSs, two DHs and two PHFs), trained 94 health staff, and started providing systematic screening and linkage to care and treatment of HBV, HIV and syphilis to pregnant women seeking antenatal care. As of October 2023, the project had reached 3,795 pregnant women, 98.6% of whom (3,743 women) opted for HBV, HIV and syphilis testing. Notably, the model facilitated systematic and early screening of pregnant women for HBV, HIV and syphilis at the PHC level. Among the 3,743 pregnant women screened for HBV, PATH detected 276 HBsAg+ (7.4%), out of which 66.7% received HBeAg or HBV DNA testing and 32.1% were eligible for HBV prophylaxis. Of those eligible, 45.8% timeously initiated HBV prophylaxis from the 24th or 28th week of the pregnancy.

Regarding HIV and syphilis screening, among the 3,748 pregnant women screened, PATH found three pregnant mothers with HIV-reactive test results and six with positive results for syphilis. All of these mothers received confirmatory testing and treatment at district hospitals.

SPOTLIGHT: GRANT PROGRESS

PATH has now expanded its implementation to all 46 communes in the two selected districts, from just eight communes initially, thanks to support from Abbott Diagnostics. In the remaining 38 CHSs in the two districts, we engaged and trained an additional 88 health staff on screening and referring pregnant women for HBV, HIV and syphilis testing.

In the upcoming period, PATH will continue to work with the Nghe An CDC to provide screening for HBV, HIV and syphilis for pregnant women in all CHSs in the two districts, generate evidence to advocate for developing the provincial action plan, and secure domestic resources for the implementation of the prevention of vertical transmission programme on a larger scale.



A NURSE, INVOLVED IN THE PATH PROJECT IN VIETNAM FUNDED BY THF, PROVIDING COUNSELLING TO AN EXPECTING MOTHER.
Photo ©: PATH/THF.

In the 28th week of my third pregnancy, the Commune Health Station offered me screening for three diseases, hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis, as part of antenatal care. My HBV test came back positive. I was referred to Dien Chau District Hospital for further testing [HBV viral load testing], and the doctor told me that I needed to take HBV prophylaxis treatment with TDF to prevent transmission of the disease to my child. I began my treatment in the 24th week of pregnancy, and the social health insurance covers my treatment. Thanks to the EMTCT project for helping me detect my status of HBV infection and timely intervention to prevent transmission of the disease to my child that I have never learned during my first two pregnancies.

PREGNANT WOMAN, 28 YEARS OLD, Dien Van Commune, Dien Chau District, Nghe An

STRENGTHENING OUR FUNDRAISING STRATEGY:

FORGING A PATH TOWARDS A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Throughout 2023, we have made significant strides in fortifying our fundraising capabilities to support our vision. With the generous support and guidance of ZeShan Foundation, we strengthened our organisational development, laying the foundation for a structured and robust fundraising area.

Preceding the very first Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference, we have seized multiple engagement opportunities with various donors in both the private and public arena. While yielding immediate results has proven difficult, the following negotiations with key governmental and philanthropic partners have bolstered our long-term sustainability, signifying an endorsement of our mission on a global scale.

Moving forward, our team will focus on amplifying our reach in the Asia-Pacific region, hoping to further deepen our impact through innovative and collaborative alliances.

A lot remains to be done, but we recognise the importance of walking this path with our stakeholders for the benefit of generations to come.



NURSE GILBERT MICO PROVIDES PERSONALISED HEPATITIS B COUNSELLING TO A PATIENT AT MASAKA DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN KIGALI AS PART OF THE CHAI PROJECT CO-FUNDED BY THF AND THE CANTON OF GENEVA.

Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI/THF

AMPLIFYING OUR MESSAGE



In 2023, our communications efforts were dedicated to strengthening the positioning and role of The Hepatitis Fund within the global health sphere. Early in the year, we adopted a fresh branding and visual identity, aligning with our overarching vision and mission. At the same time, we strengthened our media and communications strategy, disseminating opinion pieces and interviews. As a result, we observed a notable surge in our digital footprint. With an expanded presence across four social media platforms, we witnessed significant growth in followers and, more importantly, heightened engagement levels.

To further amplify our message, we proudly welcomed a new goodwill ambassador, the Right Honourable Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand and a leader in global health.

Throughout the year, we strategically identified and capitalised on key moments to connect with

diverse audiences, including the Global Hepatitis Resource Mobilisation Conference in May and World Hepatitis Day on 28 July.

The Mont Blanc bridge in Geneva served as a prominent platform for our message with THF-branded flags throughout the week leading up to World Hepatitis Day. Our Executive Director participated as a panellist in a WHO event on the day itself. Additionally, THF joined an online event organised by the WHO Office for the Eastern Mediterranean the day before, further amplifying its global impact.

On the same day, as part of our ongoing commitment to illustrating the tangible impact of our projects, we published *The Lives Behind the Numbers*, a collection of human-interest stories. Featuring first-hand accounts of individuals affected by hepatitis and healthcare professionals, these narratives vividly depict the real-world impact of the initiatives we support.



THF BRANDED FLAGS ON THE GENEVA MONT BLANC BRIDGE TO COMMEMORATE WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2023. Photo ©: Claudia Molina/THF.

EXPANDING OUR PARTNERSHIPS



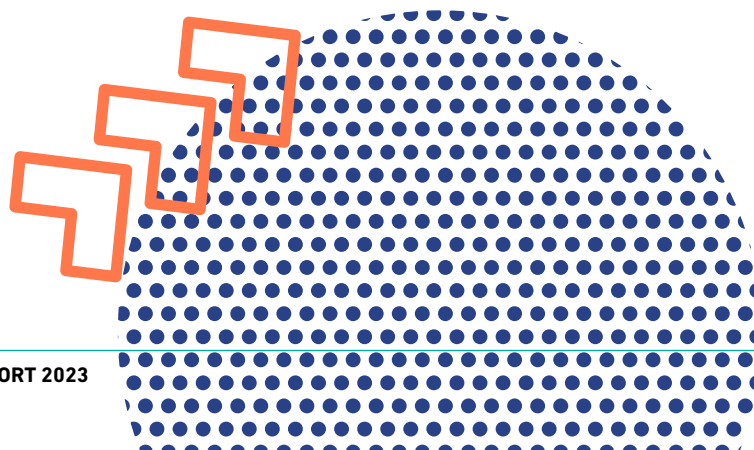
In 2023, we cultivated existing partnerships and established many new ones. During the year, we engaged with various African governments representing high-burden areas and multilateral organisations, such as the African Union and Africa CDC. At the same time, various team members participated in panels and discussions at high-level African conferences, such as the Africa Free of Hepatitis Conference, the African Hepatitis Summit, and the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Diseases in Africa (ICASA).

A monitoring and evaluation visit to the three-year project in Rwanda focused on vertical transmission of hepatitis B took place in October (see page 17). This was an opportunity to enhance our relationship with CHAI, the implementing partner, talk to the Rwandan Government to strengthen its engagement and commitment, and correct actions regarding indicators and activities to achieve better results.

THF was actively involved and invited to participate as speakers and technical experts in major hepatitis and global health meetings and conferences. Specifically, WHO invited us as a technical expert to attend the global consultation on defining the path to elimination and updating the 2021 interim guidance for the validation of the elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat. THF was also invited to participate as a panellist at the WHO sessions at the Global Hepatitis Summit in Paris in April 2023 and the Health African Expo 2023 in Cairo.

In July, we were asked to play an active part in organising a funding roundtable for Pakistan. The roundtable is meant to gather the interest of key stakeholders in solving the great financing challenge that hinders the implementation of the hepatitis C elimination programme in the country.

We joined an intense advocacy action to reinstate the hepatitis B birth-dose vaccination by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. This campaign, coordinated with other global health organisations, showcased the power of persistence, collaboration and collective efforts. It concluded with GAVI's announcement that it would soon restart procurement and delivery of the vaccine; this was previously approved but was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and product development delays.



SPOTLIGHT:

APAC LIVER DISEASE ALLIANCE

We are among the proud founding members of the APAC Liver Disease Alliance, a critical collaborative healthcare initiative that brings together diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies, academia, NGOs, liver coalitions and experts.

The APAC Liver Disease Alliance represents a pioneering platform dedicated to the prevention, early detection, timely referral and research of a spectrum of liver diseases, ranging from cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma to viral hepatitis. Through collaborative efforts, the Alliance catalyses public-private dialogues, advocating for enhanced liver disease prevention, control and management.

In line with our overarching strategy to transcend boundaries between disease responses, our participation in the APAC Liver Disease Alliance underscores our commitment to holistic healthcare solutions. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing, we aim to dismantle silos and drive innovation in liver disease management.

The Hepatitis Fund is pleased to contribute as a member of the APAC Liver Disease Alliance, working towards addressing challenges posed by liver diseases in the Asia-Pacific region and raising awareness of the link between hepatitis and liver diseases. Despite significant challenges, the collective dedication of the Alliance, evident in its first year of growth and success, positions us to make a lasting impact.



HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL TRAINED UNDER THE CHAI PROJECT, FUNDED BY THF, AT A RURAL HEALTH CENTRE NEAR KIGALI. Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI/THF

SPOTLIGHT:

WHITE PAPER: FINANCING HEPATITIS B ELIMINATION

Despite the significant burden that hepatitis B places on communities across all regions, governments and policymakers have largely ignored it as a health and development priority until recently. So far, no major global health funder or international donor has committed to the goal of hepatitis B elimination despite compelling evidence from modelling studies that scaling up prevention, testing and treatment would potentially avert 7.3 million HBV-related deaths globally by 2030.

While major barriers prevent countries from addressing HBV elimination, new opportunities have emerged to support programmes. In 2023, we published a White Paper with examples of successful models that countries, including Cameroon, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uzbekistan, have piloted to get started with HBV programming. These focus on prevention first, integrate HBV with existing programmes and service delivery systems, identify efficiencies and cost savings, and find creative ways of financing programmes.



CLIENTS AT MUSAKA DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN KIGALI. Photo ©: Olivier Mugwiza/CHAI/THF.

GOVERNING BOARD

Our work is overseen and governed by an international Board of Directors composed of renowned global health experts with strong expertise in viral hepatitis and comorbidities. The Board sets the strategic direction and operational guidelines for the organization.

- **Gregg Alton**, *President*
- **Manal El-Sayed**
- **Charles Gore**
- **Gottfried Hirnschall**
- **Kenneth Kabagambe**
- **Lynn Lau**
- **Carol Tissot**



THF'S GOVERNING BOARD: FROM LEFT, GOTTFRIED HIRNSCHALL, CHARLES GORE, MANAL EL-SAYED, LYNN LAU, KENNETH KABAGAMBE, GREGG ALTON. Photo ©: Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos/THF.

TEAM

- **Finn Jarle Rode**, *Executive Director*
- **Jade Chakowa**, *Senior Advisor, Programme and Partnerships (from January 2024)*
- **Francesca Da Ros**, *Communications Manager*
- **Benedetta Nirta**, *Deputy Director/Fundraising Manager*
- **Capucine Pénicaud**, *Director, Programme and Partnerships (until July 2023)*
- **Maria-Carolina Salazar**, *Senior Advisor, Grants, and Monitoring and Evaluation*
- **Cristina Zogg**, *Executive Assistant*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the donors and partners who generously supported us in 2023. A special thank you to ZeShan Foundation for its continuous and outstanding support in the expansion of our headquarters.

- ZeShan Foundation
- Muslim World League
- République et Canton de Genève
- Ville de Genève

We also thank our numerous individual donors and those who supported us in 2023 but wish to remain anonymous.



IRENE SO, ZESHAN FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPEAKING AT THE GLOBAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION CONFERENCE. Photo ©: Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos/THF.

Eliminating viral hepatitis may sound like an ambitious goal, but it is achievable if we unite our efforts behind it. This belief motivated ZeShan to incubate and seed The Hepatitis Fund, a dedicated platform to highlight this important cause and to bring important partners and stakeholders globally to work together towards this goal. While government policies and interventions are key, private philanthropy, including family foundations such as ours, can play an important role in helping to make elimination of viral hepatitis a reality.

ANNIE CHEN, Grants Committee Member, ZeShan Foundation



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 2022

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Report of the statutory auditors on the limited statutory examination
to the Board of Directors of
THE HEPATITIS FUND, GENEVA

Geneva, 29 February 2024

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of The Hepatitis Fund, Geneva for the year ended 31 December 2023.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation.

GAS Global Audit Services SA



Alain Gimmi
Licensed audit expert
Auditor in charge



Catherine Minder-Reynard
Licensed audit expert

Appendix: financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 2023

ASSETS	Notes	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2022
		USD	CHF	USD	CHF
		<i>Indicative translation</i>	<i>Base currency</i>	<i>Indicative translation</i>	<i>Base currency</i>
Cash and cash equivalents		625 008	526 021	910 904	842 796
Accrued assets	6.1.	71 095	59 835	54 041	50 000
Total current assets		696 103	585 856	964 945	892 796
Total assets		696 103	585 856	964 945	892 796
LIABILITIES & FOUNDATION'S EQUITY	Notes	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2022
		USD	CHF	USD	CHF
Accounts payable	7.1.	12 999	10 940	39 276	36 339
Accrued liabilities	7.2.	126 747	106 673	246 069	227 670
Total current liabilities		139 746	117 613	285 345	264 009
Initial capital		59 409	50 000	54 041	50 000
Available funds		776 388	418 243	955 006	578 787
Foreign exchange translation difference		(279 440)	n/a	(329 447)	n/a
Total foundation's equity		556 357	468 243	679 600	628 787
Total liabilities & foundation's equity		696 103	585 856	964 945	892 796

PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE PERIOD GOING FROM JANUARY 1st, 2023 UNTIL DECEMBER 31st, 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 USD <i>Indicative translation</i>	2023 CHF <i>Base currency</i>	2022 USD <i>Indicative translation</i>	2022 CHF <i>Base currency</i>
Grants received		1 897 363	1 705 353	1 875 589	1 721 933
Total grants received		1 897 363	1 705 353	1 875 589	1 721 933
Grants awarded		(512 892)	(460 988)	(881 555)	(823 347)
Total grants awarded		(512 892)	(460 988)	(881 555)	(823 347)
NET RESULT FROM GRANTS		1 384 471	1 244 365	994 034	898 586
Salaries & employee's benefits		(28 101)	(25 257)	(240 841)	(229 995)
Other program & fundraising related expenditures		(234 745)	(210 989)	(16 660)	(15 909)
Total program related expenditures		(262 846)	(236 246)	(257 501)	(245 904)
RESULT BEFORE OPERATING EXPENDITURES		1 121 625	1 008 119	736 533	652 682
Salaries, employee's benefits & other personnel expenses		(963 201)	(865 727)	(423 624)	(404 548)
Rent		(69 081)	(62 090)	(51 520)	(49 200)
Communication, Events, Travel		(95 025)	(85 409)	-	-
Gouvernement levies and Professional fees		(38 149)	(34 288)	(20 480)	(19 558)
IT & computer		(15 301)	(13 753)	(4 477)	(4 276)
Telecommunications		(4 754)	(4 273)	(1 478)	(1 412)
Consulting fees		(4 745)	(4 265)	(39 268)	(37 500)
Other operating expenditures		(3 853)	(3 463)	(22 270)	(21 267)
Office supplies		(1 850)	(1 663)	(310)	(296)
Total operating expenditures		(1 195 959)	(1 074 931)	(563 427)	(538 057)
RESULT BEFORE INTERESTS & TAXES (EBIT)		(74 334)	(66 812)	173 106	114 625
Financial result	8.1.	(104 284)	(93 731)	(1 006)	31 193
Net financial result		(104 284)	(93 731)	(1 006)	31 193
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD		(178 618)	(160 543)	172 100	145 818

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 2023

1.1. GENERAL ASPECTS

The Hepatitis Fund (hereafter "THF" or "The Foundation") aims to eliminate viral hepatitis as a threat to public health.

The scope of The Hepatitis Fund's activities spans numerous hepatitis prevention and care interventions that target different populations in a wide range of geographical settings. Members of the Advisory Council have expertise in key programmatic aspects of hepatitis prevention and care, are representative of the key populations affected by hepatitis and of regions heavily affected by hepatitis.

The foundation has its headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland and has been incorporated at the Geneva's commerce register on August 9th, 2019.

It operates under the company registry number (UID) CHE-309.456.081.

The initial capital of the foundation amounts to CHF 50'000, fully paid upon registration.

1.2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements were prepared according to the provisions of the Swiss Law on Accounting and Financial Reporting (32nd title of the Swiss Code of Obligations).

The Foundation presents its accounting books in Swiss Francs (CHF).

1.3. TAX EXEMPTION

By decision of the tax administration dated September 26th, 2019, the foundation benefits from a tax exemption in terms of Professional Tax, Direct Federal Tax and Cantonal and Communal Tax for a duration of 5 years.

A new decision dated November 27th, 2023, the foundation tax exemption has been renewed for an undetermined time.

2. FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYEES

Average number of employees during the period

2023

2022

< 10

< 10

3. ASSETS USED TO SECURE LIABILITIES

31.12.2023

31.12.2022

CHF

CHF

n/a

n/a

4. PENSION FUND OBLIGATION

31.12.2023

31.12.2022

CHF

CHF

Debt toward pension fund

-

12 441

Total as above

-

12 441

5. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE CLOSING DATE

No significant event occurred between the closing date and the preparation of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 2023

6. DETAIL REGARDING ASSETS ON THE BALANCE SHEET

6.1. - Accrued assets	31.12.2023 CHF	31.12.2022 CHF
Expenses paid in advance toward third parties	9 835	-
Grants to receive	50 000	50 000
Total as above	59 835	50 000

7. DETAIL REGARDING LIABILITIES ON THE BALANCE SHEET

7.1. - Accounts payable	31.12.2023 CHF	31.12.2022 CHF
Accounts payable toward third parties	10 940	36 339
Total as above	10 940	36 339

7.2. - Accrued liabilities	31.12.2023 CHF	31.12.2022 CHF
Accrued expenses (toward third parties)	19 825	11 621
Grants to be paid	86 848	216 049
Total as above	106 673	227 670

8. DETAIL REGARDING POSITION ON THE INCOME STATEMENT

8.1. - Financial result	2023 CHF	2022 CHF
Bank fees	(2 297)	(961)
Unrealized foreign exchange gain/(loss) from reevaluation, net	(91 434)	32 154
Total as above	(93 731)	31 193

9. DETAIL RELATED TO OTHER OBLIGATIONS

As of October 31st, 2022, the foundation had a commitment to spend CHF 437'000 as per an agreement signed with the Canton of Geneva on a 3 year period.

The financial contributions are planned as follows :

- CHF 169'000 for the year 2022
- CHF 145'000 for the year 2023
- CHF 123'000 for the year 2024

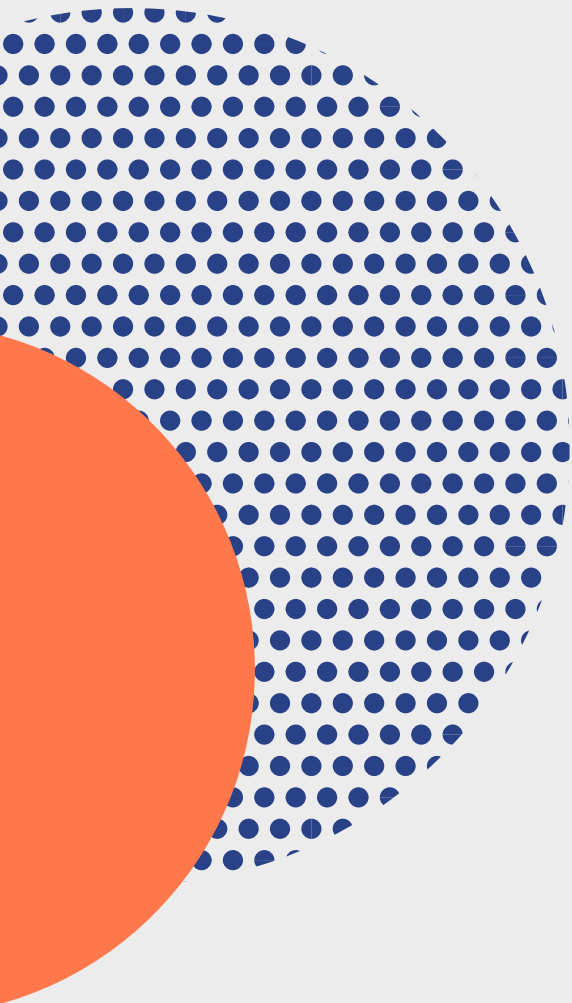
As of December 31st, 2023, only the amount of CHF 123'000 remained as financial contribution commitment, for the year 2024.

As of December 31st, 2023, the foundation had a commitment to receive a remaining amount of CHF 50'000 per an agreement signed with the City of Geneva on a 3 year period (2021 - 2023).

The financial contributions are planned as follows:

- CHF 50'000 for the year 2023 as final balance (installment received in January 2024)

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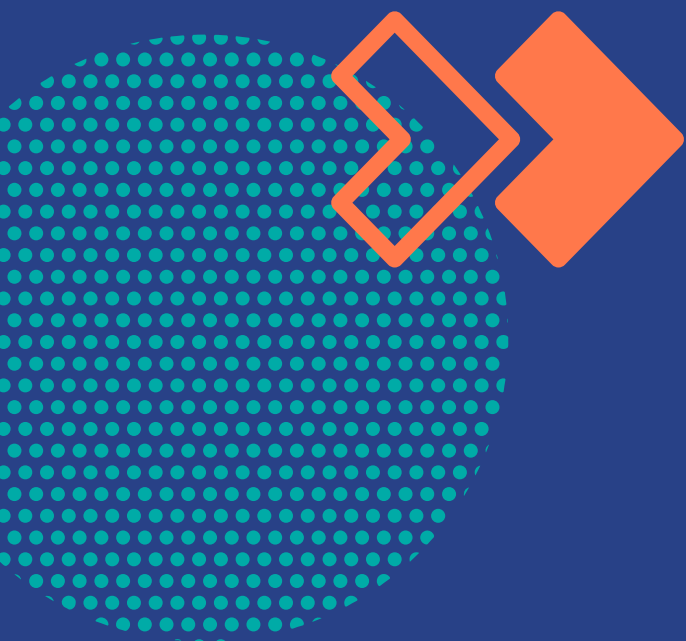


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