

FINN CHURCH AID – OUR WORK, OUR RESULTS



FCA

Finn Church Aid

2022

MISSION

ACTION for human dignity.

VALUES

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS: We promote human rights for all and regard all human beings as equals. We trust our partners and learn together with them. We embrace diversity and create connections between people with differing views.

UNYIELDING HOPE: We are committed to working collaboratively and consistently in order to achieve our long-term goals. We celebrate our achievements and are not disheartened by setbacks.

COURAGE: We work courageously for change. We dare to question established practices and call for the reassessment of power structures where needed.

RESPECT: We respect each other and our different beliefs. We respect the communities we work with, extending this to the environment and all its inhabitants. We value the resources given to us and use them in a cost-effective and transparent manner. We strive for mutual learning with our partners.

VISION

FINN CHURCH AID (FCA)’S vision is a world comprised of resilient and just societies where everyone’s right to peace, quality education and sustainable livelihood has been fulfilled.

IDENTITY

FCA IS A RIGHTS-BASED actor, and our action is guided by international human rights standards and principles.

FCA IS A FAITH-BASED and church-related organisation founded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The Church has mandated FCA to carry out its international diaconal work to help those most in need globally. The Christian tradition of compassion and social justice guides us. We value the different backgrounds and beliefs of all people we work with and promote interfaith collaboration.

FCA IS A MEMBER OF ACT ALLIANCE and is committed to working with its ecumenical and faith-based partners.

FINN CHURCH AID is Finland’s largest international aid organisation with more than 75 years of experience. We specialise in the world’s most fragile contexts and work with the most vulnerable people, regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic background or political convictions.

COVER PHOTO: Kristina and her cat Lisa were photographed in March 2022. They fled the war in Ukraine to the border area between Ukraine and Hungary, where they received aid.
PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

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THERE IS HOPE EVEN AMIDST MULTIPLE CRISES

2022 WAS A YEAR OF CRISES that shook and challenged our worldview and affected us on many levels, perhaps more deeply than anything else ever before. Crises always lead to a great deal of suffering, and no matter the causes, and no matter where in the world we are, we all feel the impact. People are starting to question the rules we play by. Long-simmering discontent is boiling over. The world is changing; but listening to discussions – not only between experts, but also ordinary Finns – I believe it is changing for good.

For Finn Church Aid, 2022 was a year of changes. Just a few years earlier, we had discontinued our European operations, thinking our work there was done. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 changed everything overnight, and for much longer than we anticipated. Thanks to unprecedented support from Finnish people, Finn Church Aid was able to quickly mobilise programme work in the country. In no time at all, a country office and one of our organisation’s biggest aid programmes were up and running. Despite their own sense of shock and disbelief, people wanted to help. Individuals, businesses, churches and public authorities were ready and willing to give money and their time to support people in Ukraine. By the end of February 2023, our partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) reached 275,860 people in the humanitarian response supported by FCA. Our country office’s work focused mainly on education and reached 18,400 people in Ukraine already in 2022.

“With the support of our donors, we supported over one million beneficiaries in 2022.”

What happens in Ukraine also has repercussions for our activities elsewhere, including in Africa. The Horn of Africa is facing its worst drought in decades and our local employees, particularly in Kenya and Somalia, are fighting it on a daily basis. Cereals from Ukraine used to be a major part of the region’s food security, but the war stopped grain shipments, causing an acute food crisis and rapid inflation in a region suffering from various challenges. Meanwhile, our efforts to build long-term development cooperation are hampered by the ruling military junta in Myanmar, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and the impacts of the climate crisis. What this shows us above all, is that the work of Finn Church Aid is still needed. We can alleviate suffering and offer a ray of hope for many in times of despair.

In addition to the very tangible crises caused by war and disasters, we are facing a global political crisis. In times of crises, it is easy to withdraw mentally and physically; this is a natural protective mecha-

nism and how we instinctively react to danger. But in today’s world, no one can make it alone – this is what the crises mentioned above have shown us. We need others. We must learn to work together. At its essence, this involves recognising the needs of others and acting for the common good – within and beyond Finland’s borders.

It is fair to ask if there is hope left in this world? To answer that, I want to bring your attention to things we can do with your support. We can help children and youth go to school and learn, we can provide water to those who are thirsty and food to those who are hungry, we can offer asylum for refugees and strive for those who have no livelihood. In all crises, human response is of key importance. With the support of our donors, we supported over one million beneficiaries in 2022. We have been able to empower people living amidst crises to take action to improve their lives.

So yes, there is hope.

Tomi Järvinen
Executive Director



RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

ONE OF OUR KEY OBJECTIVES IS to maximise the opportunities of children and youth to attend school and receive a quality education. Our work covers early childhood education and care, primary and secondary school, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and education sector development.

Our educational work focuses on refugees and vulnerable children and youth, and particularly on gender equality and inclusion of people with disabilities. We also build and repair school facilities. Schools provide a safe environment to grow and learn for children living amidst disasters, societal pressures and harsh economic realities that lie at the core of issues like child marriage and child labour. We also develop digital solutions and resources for learning and teaching for situations, such as the war in Ukraine and the global pandemic, when online learning has been the only way for most students to continue learning.

We ensure quality education by building teachers’ professional skills and competence with the help of local professionals and volunteers from our Teachers Without Borders network. Teachers’ ability to provide psychosocial support is essential in crises.

Education is crucial as it provides young people with easier access to sustainable livelihoods while promoting stability in communities. Career counselling offers tools for encouraging children and youth to stay in school and helps them find their own career path. Vocational education and training offers opportunities for internships and thereby facilitates access to employment. Quality learning materials and trained teachers can make a real difference in young people’s lives and help them become responsible and caring adults. Peace education is another effective tool in building stability.

Our results in 2022



489,330

students at different levels have access to quality education.



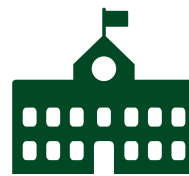
5,200

teachers participated in trainings.



10,400

persons with disabilities supported.



942

school-related structures constructed and rehabilitated.

In collaboration with: [Teachers without Borders](#) | [Omnia Education Partnerships \(OEP\)](#)



FCA rehabilitates schools in Syria with EU Humanitarian Aid funding. Photo from a class in Idlib. PHOTO: ERIK NYSTRÖM

RIGHT TO LIVELIHOOD

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO a livelihood that enables them to support themselves and their families, to increase their wellbeing and to participate in developing their communities as equal citizens.

Our business and vocational education and training programmes link learning to earning by training and mentoring women, young people and refugees for gainful employment or establishing businesses. In Uganda, for instance, more than 70 per cent of those completing our technical vocational education training (TVET) programme become employed. Besides traditional sectors such as agriculture, trade, and construction, jobs are now available in creative industries such as coding, online services, music and the gaming industry.

In developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a key role in job creation, which is why Finn Church Aid supports the private sector and promotes self-employment in all its programme countries.

FCA Investments, an investment company set up by Finn Church Aid, makes capital and business management skills available for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable SMEs that employ young people and women. These businesses reduce poverty by creating jobs and income opportunities and by building resilient and productive communities. We provide business development services for SMEs before and after financing them to develop key management practices that reduce investment risks and funding costs.

Community cooperatives and savings groups, which provide business loans and other assistance, are at the core of our livelihood work. The savings and loan groups and cooperatives supported by Women's Bank raised an impressive capital of three million euros in 2022; tangible proof of the effectiveness of the structures we have created that offer women financial stability. Of all the women supported by the Women's Bank, around 90 per cent have improved their income.

In collaboration with: **Women's Bank** | **FCA Investments** | **FCA Creative Industries**

Kaushila Ghimire earns a living from buffalo and vegetable farming. After five years, she has repaid her loan, built a new house and sent her children to school.
PHOTO: MONIKA DEPAULA



Our results in 2022



36,535

individuals and enterprises
had access to business
development services.



4,526

youth benefited from Linking
Learning to Earning services
aiming towards employment.



1,172

jobs created and maintained in
the agriculture and food process-
ing sector through our investment
company FCA Investments.

RIGHT TO PEACE

PEACE IS A PREREQUISITE for achieving human rights and sustainable development. When peace prevails, children can go to school, and adults can focus on building secure livelihoods and stable societies.

Finn Church Aid builds peace in some of the world’s most fragile countries, such as South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Somalia, and countries suffering from protracted conflicts. In addition to war and conflicts, stability is threatened by the shrinking space of civil society, hate speech and climate change; which contributes to competition for scarce natural resources and forced migration.

Needs are growing, but at the same time, international resources and attention are moving away from conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This shift of global attention shrinks the space for peace. Peacebuilding needs to adapt and provide support to local peacemakers, including digital solutions such as social media and radio, to support the active role of civil society and by linking peace to education and livelihoods.

Peace means more than the absence of conflict; we can achieve sustainable peace only if the entire community agrees to implement structural changes that support peaceful co-existence between different groups. Civil society actors in conflict-ridden countries are instrumental in creating inclusive and equitable peace, but they need long-term support.

Peace can be achieved and sustained if it is inclusive. Women, youth and religious and traditional actors are all affected by conflict and therefore also hold the solution to it. Peacebuilding processes often exclude them, which is why we want to make sure their voices are heard.

In collaboration with:

The Network for Religious & Traditional Peacemakers



Antony Umjima prepares food for a graduation event in Yei, South Sudan. Training and employment opportunities for youth also increase stability in communities.

PHOTO: PETER CATON



Our results in 2022



8

district councils in Somalia to date formed with FCA support with participation of 74 youth, 42 women and 20 internally displaced people.



797

civil society groups and networks supported.



3,533

people trained in dialogue building and civil society engagement, among other topics.

FCA WORKS IN CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

Our long-term operations continued in Africa, the Middle East and Asia in 2022, and following the escalation of the war in Ukraine we re-established operations in Europe.

Africa

1 Uganda

With 1.4 million refugees, most of them from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda is Africa’s largest refugee-hosting country. Finn Church Aid runs educational and entrepreneurship programmes for both refugees and Ugandans.

“I faced many challenges at home. After joining this school, I made friends with the teachers, and they support me.”



Alex Dusabe, 16, is mobility-impaired and now a student at Sweswe Special Needs School. He stays at the school’s boarding facilities and enjoys learning. PHOTO: BJÖRN UDD

2 South Sudan

Ever since its independence, South Sudan has been afflicted with outbursts of local violence, which have intermittently escalated into civil war. Conflicts combined with floods and droughts caused by climate change are complicating daily life and access to food. In South Sudan, we focus on peacebuilding, livelihood opportunities for youth and women, as well as training and education.

“I have two daughters. I want to buy a sewing machine to teach them my skills and ensure they become independent.”



Tereza Joan Anania graduated from our three-month training programme in Yei, South Sudan and became a seamstress. PHOTO: PETER CATON

3 Somalia

Somalia suffers from a number of complex and interconnected crises: severe drought caused by climate change is displacing people; and the humanitarian crisis is exacerbated by political instability and conflict. In Somalia, we focus on peacebuilding that supports national reconciliation and inclusive local governance, but we also support education and income opportunities.

4 Kenya

In Kenya’s poorest regions, drought brought on by climate change is causing shortages of basic supplies, while disputes over the use of scarce natural resources spark regional conflicts. In Kenya, we support peace work and education. In the capital city Nairobi, we help young people growing up in harsh conditions to gain the skills needed in creative sectors such as the music and gaming industries.

“Life is hard here, and it is difficult to keep my children fed. Now I’m happy that my children can go to school and that way they can have a future.”



Amina Dimajilo, a single mother of seven, received cash assistance during the prolonged drought in Northern Kenya. She used the money to buy food, pay school fees and buy shoes for her children. PHOTO: BJÖRN UDD

5 Central African Republic

While the Central African Republic is recovering from civil war, conflicts between armed groups continue. People have been forced to leave their homes to escape the violence. Here, our emphasis is on providing education to children and young people and on providing peace education to eradicate hate speech and tensions between groups.

Europe

6 Ukraine

The war in Ukraine that began in spring 2022 has left thousands of school buildings damaged, with hundreds of them in disrepair. Our work in Ukraine focuses on rebuilding schools, providing psychosocial support for teachers and pupils, and supporting the education sector’s development.

“I don’t like online learning. What I like most about school is spending time with my friends.”

Daryna Khomenko’s school in Chernihiv was damaged by shelling. She is excited to resume classes after its rehabilitation. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



Middle East

7 Syria

More than a decade of conflict has left many in Syria displaced and unable to access food, education or employment. Our operations in Syria focus on supporting teachers and the construction and renovation of school buildings.

“What do I think about girls’ education? Education is my right. I wish to become a doctor or an engineer.”



Foton, 14, has joined the first girls’ class in her school in Idlib, Syria. Previously, only boys were learning in her school. PHOTO: ERIK NYSTRÖM

8 Jordan

Jordan hosts the second highest number of refugees in the world per capita. The vast majority of refugees are from Syria. In Jordan, we help young people, women and refugees to earn a living by teaching them business skills and by offering vocational education and training.

9 Israel and the Palestinian territories

FCA’s programme in Israel and the Palestinian Territories focuses on improving the quality of education through our partnerships.

Asia

10 Myanmar

Since the military coup in Myanmar, we have focused on education work. Cash transfers to beneficiaries have also become an essential part of both our programme work and direct humanitarian assistance.

11 Cambodia

In Cambodia, there are still large income disparities between urban and rural areas, and the rural population relies on natural resources and agriculture for their livelihoods. We support the education of children and young people and offer income opportunities for vulnerable households.

12 Nepal

Almost two thirds of the population of Nepal rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Our work in Nepal focuses on providing women and other vulnerable people with income opportunities and access to education in order to promote the country’s long-term development.

“I’ve achieved financial independence through my enterprise. Previously, I had to ask for money from others.”



Salina Chaudhary took part in FCA’s entrepreneurship training in 2017 and established a business for dressmaking. PHOTO: UMA BISTA



Finn Church Aid used 91,5 per cent, a total of EUR 62,1 million, of its operating expenses in 2022 for international aid operations.

RELIEF TO DISASTER-AFFECTED PEOPLE

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE alleviates suffering in emergencies caused by natural disasters and wars.

We support people in affected areas with sufficient nutrition, clean water, health care, accommodation and sanitation. Being able to return to school as quickly as possible gives children and young people a sense of security, while in protracted crises it is important to provide families with opportunities to earn a living.

In addition to delivering emergency assistance we run country programmes, which are a way of offering long-term humanitarian assistance. Many of our programmes focus on supporting displaced people in their home countries or neighbouring states. Our goal is to combine humanitarian assistance with long-term development co-operation and peacebuilding – known as the triple-nexus approach.

According to international humanitarian principles, everyone is entitled to assistance regardless of their ethnic background, religion or nationality. After international assessment, Finn Church Aid was certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

East Africa has been hit by the worst drought in 40 years

WHAT HAS REALLY STRUCK ME about the ongoing drought in northern Kenya is seeing men coming back from grazing their livestock with their hands in their heads, because every single one of their animals died. They're not sure whether they should even return to their villages. It struck me because they, and whole communities, had lost hope.

The drought has wiped out entire sources of livelihoods and that has knock-on effects. Children are no longer in school because of the constant moving to find new grazing land. Younger children, pregnant and lactating mothers are becoming malnourished, because of the lack of nutritious foods. Then the elderly and the sick also become badly affected.

Despite this, we've been able to reach hundreds of families with cash assistance and thousands with clean water in Garissa and Marsabit and it's really made a difference.

Those families have been able to sustain their lives and overcome the effects of drought. It might look like a drop in the ocean, but after meeting these families, I can tell you that the change it has caused in their lives is immense. That's something not to take for granted.

Alexon Mwasi
Programme Manager, FCA Kenya

In 2022, FCA Kenya supported 950 households with cash assistance in Garissa and Marsabit counties.



PHOTO: VILLE MAALI

Kateryna Tkachenko's school in Zhytomyr was destroyed in a missile strike on March 4, 2022.
PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



301 113

people's access to basic services supported through our disaster responses.

Local dedication fuels humanitarian response in Ukraine

I HAVE BEEN AMAZED at the level of response from the Ukrainian society and the international community to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war since February 2022. In Ukraine, so many people, through local organisations and on their own, immediately began helping those in need. Distributing food, converting schools into accommodations for internally displaced persons and fundraising for medical supplies are just a few examples.

Through our education work, we regularly meet parents, and teachers take the lead on fixing the damages inflicted on their schools by Russia's attacks, so their students can get back to school as soon as possible. This involves repairing, painting, and transforming school basements into shelters, which are required for schools to reopen. The desire to see their students learn is a great incentive to participate in our projects.

The summer camps FCA and our local partner DOCCU conducted, in partnership with the city of Chernihiv in the summer of 2022, were the first education activities in the region following de-occupation. Teachers and parents have told us those camps were an important sign that life was coming back to normal and that it was safe to return with their families. By May 2023, we renovated 16 schools in Chernihiv oblast.

As our reach expands to new areas in Ukraine, the dedication and love of learning from parents and teachers is a huge motivation for us to continue helping students get back into the classroom wherever we can.

Patricia Maruschak
Country Director
FCA Ukraine

In 2022, our country office's work reached 18,400 people in Ukraine.



PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

CHANGE REQUIRES RELENTLESS ADVOCACY AND SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

DESPITE CHALLENGES, significant progress has been made over the past few decades in promoting human development. Extreme poverty has been reduced and more children have access to education.

These achievements are the result of tireless advocacy and open-minded partnerships. In addition to our programme work, FCA aims to give a voice to the most vulnerable people in Finland, internationally and in our programme countries by seeking changes in policies, attitudes and laws.

In our rapidly changing world, significant challenges may appear out of the blue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused a shock in the food and energy markets that had major repercussions as far as East Africa. We have seen global crises fuel others: the Covid-19 pandemic; extreme weather events caused by climate change; and the geopolitical tensions that spark conflicts.

No one can resolve these crises alone, but it is possible to build better opportunities for livelihoods, education and peace for those living amidst them. That is why FCA depends entirely on carefully selected partnerships in Finland and in our programme countries, as well as on long-term collaboration and systematic work to improve our own practices.

Thanks to strategically planned and optimally timed partnership work, we have been able to diversify our funding base. This work is set to continue, especially as our traditional funding providers continue to cut their support. We would not be able to work in our programme countries without the involvement of local civil society and organisations that help us to implement projects.

Our commitment to working with local government also makes us a sought-after partner when expertise is needed in important processes at both regional and national levels.

It is easier to come up with effective solutions and to engage in powerful advocacy work with reliable partners. In our work, all important partner groups are taken into account. In addition to our traditional activities – fundraising, advocacy and programme work – we participate in research cooperation. This enables us to tell others how our work improves the resilience of societies and people and how it promotes global justice and the realisation of human rights.

In collaboration with: **Changemaker**

Our results in 2022



88 %

of the 65 advocacy initiatives supported produced a positive change.



Together with Unicef, we support Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports in the country's educational reform. The reform commission visited Finland to familiarise itself with the Finnish education system.



We published a report on vocational education in collaboration with UNHCR, Germany's Development Agency (GIZ) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). It was published at the UN General Assembly in September 2022.



Students catching up on school years lost in FCA's accelerated education programme in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Uganda.
PHOTO: BJÖRN UDD

PARTNERING WITH PARISHES FOR A MORE JUST WORLD

FINN CHURCH AID is one of the treaty organisations of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, mandated to carry out the international diaconal work of parishes. The Church and its parishes is one of FCA's key stakeholder groups. Almost all of Finland's 354 parishes have named a focal point for collaborating with FCA.

Productive meetings across Finland:



18 events
8 trainings
37 Common Responsibility Campaign briefings

“During the box collection, people shared their shock over the war in Ukraine. People had clearly been waiting for us - everyone from small children to the elderly wanted to donate.”

Katri Tuori
Voluntary Work Coordinator,
Parish of Forssa

Number of collection boxes ordered by parishes for Ukraine fundraising

1239



and for the parish election fundraising

341

‘Thursdays in Black’ is a campaign against sexual and gender-based violence. Cloth panels from Finland and various other countries were incorporated into an artwork entitled ‘A Waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance’ for the World Council of Churches Assembly. Archbishop Tapio Luoma is one of the campaign’s spokespersons.

PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



542

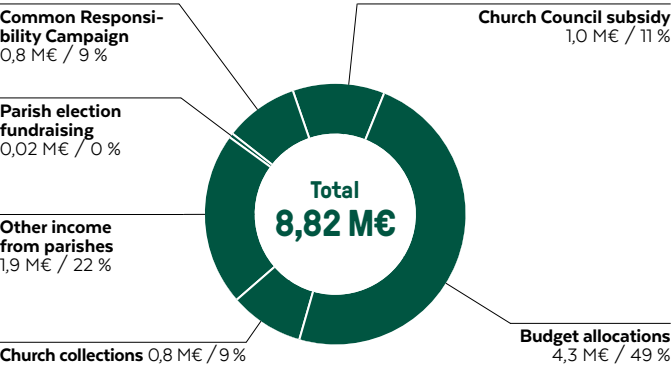
participants at four disaster response information briefings for parishes.

“When we support disaster responses, we fulfill the international responsibility outlined in our strategy. Close collaboration with FCA’s staff makes it easier to prepare aid decisions. It is important to us that we are working with a faith- and rights-based actor.”

Matti Peiponen
Multicultural specialist,
Espoo Parish Union

FUNDS ALLOCATED by parishes are one of the most important sources of support for FCA. In 2022, budget allocations to FCA from parishes amounted to some 4,3 million euros, church collections to over 800 000 euros, and the Common Responsibility Campaign resulted in 800 000 euros.

Church and parish support in 2022



Jolanta Medne and Pauls Bekeris represent Latvijas Finieris Group and its subsidiary Riga Wood, who support FCA in Ukraine.
PHOTO: ERIK NYSTRÖM

MAJOR DONORS PROVIDE SIZEABLE SUPPORT TO THOSE MOST IN NEED

MAJOR DONORS INCLUDE individuals, foundations or companies. Their sizeable donations help us offer support to the most vulnerable children and families. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 touched our major donors deeply and prompted them to make significant donations towards emergency assistance and support for schools, students and teachers affected by the war.

Major donors understand how multifaceted our work is, and many share our concerns about the global impact of the conflict in Ukraine. Inflation and rising food prices, combined with the humanitarian crisis resulting from severe drought, have pushed many people in East Africa to the brink of famine. Major donors have expressed their will to direct support where it is most needed. They support fragile communities and promote access to education and livelihoods in countries such as Somalia, Uganda, Kenya and Nepal.

A growing number of major donors donate stock. As a non-profit organisation, FCA does not pay gift tax on stocks or book-entry securities, nor is the donor required to pay tax on potential value increase. We direct stock donations to a specific project or programme area, in line with the donors preference.

It is important for us to have an open and confidential relationship with our donors. We report on the progress of our work and the impact of their donations. According to the donors, they highly appreciate the fact that they can trust us and the work we do, and that making a donation is very easy. With every major donor, we do our very best to find the most suitable and convenient way of working with us.



Major donors have for instance donated to FCA's education work in Chernihiv.
PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR


2022 WAS MARKED BY the beginning of the war in Ukraine, which impacted us considerably from a financial perspective. The amount of targeted domestic fundraising was well above our plans due to an exceptional amount of donations towards our response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

2022 also saw the Covid-19 pandemic receding in most countries and, as a result, the lifting of restrictions on travel related to programme support and monitoring activities. We implemented projects almost according to plan.

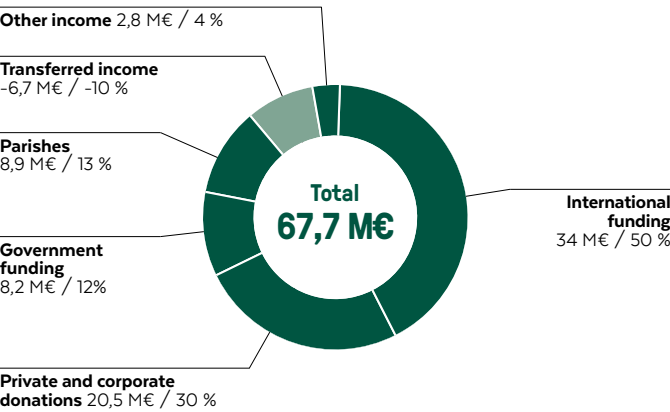
Putting aside the one-off impact of the Ukraine fundraising, FCA's revenues continued to increase, driven by institutional donors

in most of our existing country offices. It is to be noted that within institutional donors' fundraising, the decrease in funding from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is compensated by other sources such as United Nations (UN) agencies and the European Union (EU).

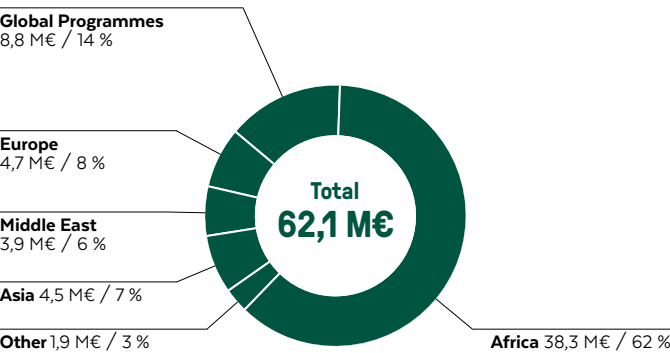
All in all, 2022 was balanced in finances for Finn Church Aid Group, despite the challenging and fast-paced operating environment.

 **READ MORE** about FCA's financial information by scanning the QR code or go to the address: kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/en/us/finances

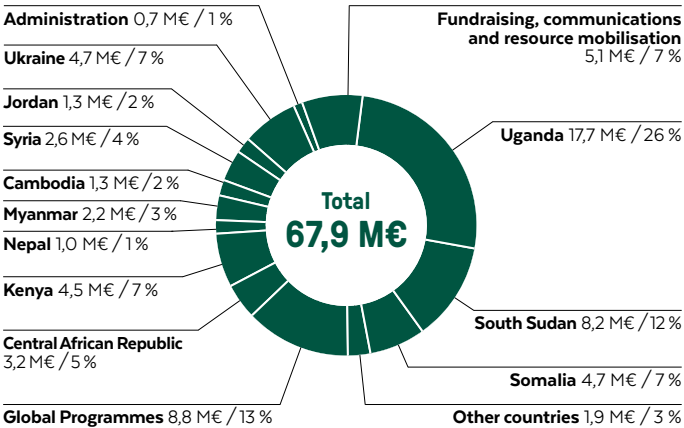
2022 Income



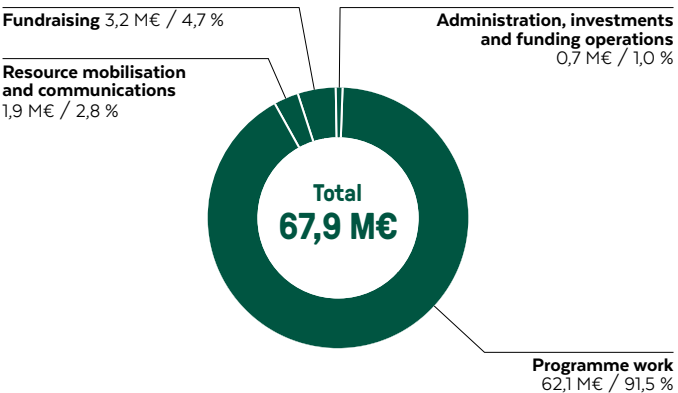
2022 Programme areas



2022 Expenditure



2022 Programme work and support functions



OUR PARTNERS





actalliance

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The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) describes the essential elements of principled, accountable, and high-quality aid work. FCA complies with and is certified against the CHS since 2017.