



ProjectRescue 

Life is Priceless

ANUAL REPORT 2025



RESCUE



RETURN HOME



REINTEGRATION





Project Rescue

Life is Priceless



Our **Vision:**

Our vision is a world free from human trafficking and sexual exploitation.



Our **Mission:**

We help victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation rebuild their lives with dignity and freedom. To achieve this, we provide emergency assistance in the country where they were exploited, as well as reintegration programs in their countries of origin.



How We **Help:**

Together with our global network, we provide legal, medical, and psychological assistance. We arrange safe accommodation, return travel, coaching, and support for establishing small businesses.



What **Motivates Us:**

Our compassion for women and men who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Our Christian values and our commitment to protecting human dignity—regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or gender—are at the heart of everything we do.



After five years serving as President of Project Rescue Switzerland, I still find it difficult to put into words what victims of human trafficking are forced to endure. Perhaps because no words can truly do justice to such injustice. Or perhaps because every number, every statistic, is only a limited attempt to capture human suffering that is almost impossible to comprehend.

Yet we must not look away. The numbers continue to rise—not slowly, but at an alarming pace. New regions are becoming hotspots of exploitation. Who would have imagined just two years ago that countries such as Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, or Laos would become key areas of our work?

And yet, in those places alone, we were able to help free 337 people from the grip of human trafficking. Three hundred and thirty-seven stories. Three hundred and thirty-seven lives given a new chance.

Against this backdrop, our work often feels like a never-ending story—and in many ways, it is. While an estimated 27.6 million people worldwide are affected by forced labour and human trafficking, only around 125,000 victims are officially identified each year. These figures reveal a sobering reality: most suffering remains invisible.

Yet this is exactly what drives us forward. We have 27.6 million reasons not to stand still. 27.6 million reasons to keep moving forward—step by step, person by person.

“We do not invest in structures, but in lives.”

Our motto, “**Life is Priceless,**” is more than a slogan. It is our conviction, our commitment, and our daily mission.

In 2025, we were able to assist 1,494 people and support them on their journey toward a self-determined future. Behind this number are stories of courage, pain, hope, and new beginnings. Likewise, the investment of CHF 351,922 represents far more than financial support through donations—it is an expression of trust, solidarity, and collective action.

These results are what fuel us. They give us the strength to continue—even when the road ahead is long and challenging.



Our organisation continues to grow—not only in its responsibilities, but also in its strength, but also in its strength. In 2025, Vicente and Katia accomplished something extraordinary. With remarkable dedication, they expanded our international partner network.

Together, they travelled more than 148,000 kilometres—equivalent to more than three and a half times around the globe. During their journeys, they attended conferences, strengthened existing partnerships, and established new connections. Their commitment has not only broadened our reach but has also deepened and strengthened our impact in a sustainable way.

Yet despite all this growth, one thing remains unchanged: this mission is a shared responsibility. None of us can accomplish it alone. It requires people who are willing to see, to act, and to take responsibility.

When we invest today—whether through our time, prayers, trust, or financial resources—we are not investing in ideologies. Nor are we investing in structures, but in people: in lives and in futures. Here and now.

And that is precisely why we continue on this journey. Together.

Peter Bähni
President, Project **Rescue** Switzerland

¹ Source: International Labour Organization (ILO)

² Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

What Does Project Rescue Offer?

SUPPORT for victims of human trafficking, prostitution, labour exploitation, and physical or psychological violence.



Rescue



Return



Reintegration

How Does Project Rescue Help?

1



RETTUNG
im Täterland



Emergency Support: Food, short-term accommodation, medical, psychological and legal support

Question: "What do you want? What would you like us to do for you?"

Answer 1: "I want to stay in this country!"

→ We refer the victim to organizations that can provide support in this process.

Answer 2: "I want to return home, to my family and my children!"

→ We work to make this wish a reality as quickly as possible.

2



RÜCKREISE
ins Heimatland



(in cases of dual citizenship or legal residence in another country, return to that country is also possible)

Arranging



**Documents/
Travel
Documents**



Flight Tickets



**Airport
Reception**



Onward Transport
(to the destination of the victim's
choice)

3



REINTEGRATION
im Heimatland

Question: "What would you like to do professionally? What is your dream?"

Each reintegration project is tailored to the returnee's individual wishes, needs, abilities, local circumstances, and overall situation. During the reintegration process, we work with a local mentor who serves as a point of contact, provides guidance when needed, and ensures that financial support is managed appropriately.

Apart from small amounts provided for food or travel expenses, no cash is paid directly to returnees. Payments are made directly to landlords and suppliers upon presentation of official invoices and receipts.

SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION:



Long-Term Goal: Building a Stable Foundation for the Next Generation – the Children of Returnees



Project Rescue
Life is Priceless

The year 2025 was a year of extremes:

We are active in more countries than ever before. We traveled around the world several times. We had more cases, returnees, and reintegrations than ever before. The already very high figures from the previous year have been doubled! In total, we were able to help 1,494 people. Behind every number is a story, a human life. Behind every number is a story, a human life.



Why this increase?

Cause No. 1: Deterioration of the situation of migrants from third countries in Switzerland and Europe.

Due to the scarcity of genuine job opportunities, more and more migrants from third countries are falling through the cracks. They find themselves in situation that makes them vulnerable to exploitation worsened:

The situation of many migrants from South America, Africa and Asia in Europe has changed significantly in the last year.

The legal labor market is largely saturated with refugees from Ukraine and migrants from other countries in Eastern Europe. People from outside of Europe have even fewer opportunities to integrate into the labour market.

As a result, they end up on the street, without legal residency status and without healthcare.

Many lack even the means to provide for basic necessities like food. In their desperate situation, they are easy targets for exploitation of all kinds. This increases the number of cases.

However, many also opt for a voluntary **easy return with the financial help of Caritas** and Frontex, insofar as this option is available in the host country offered.

If the destination country is Brazil, we will in the Rules concerning the reintegration of returnees

Besides its humanitarian impact, this is also an effective form of prevention. Because we've seen in which situations socially disadvantaged and vulnerable women and men can be advised.

Once the trap has snapped shut, rescue often proves difficult and returnees have to overcome additional trauma.

Reason No. 2: Expanding Project Rescue's Reach

Another reason for the increase is the expansion of our global network, particularly in Asia. Within just one year, our reach expanded to 50 countries. Project Rescue is now active in more than 50 countries worldwide.

The many conferences we attended around the world proved invaluable in this regard (see next page). ICAP Asia, in particular, enabled us to establish many valuable partnerships. Through these joint efforts, numerous victims of human trafficking were rescued.

Many families were finally reunited with their loved ones after a long and painful search filled with uncertainty and hope. The relief and joy were indescribable. We are deeply grateful to all the organizations, partners, supporters, and the dedicated officials from authorities and consulates who went above and beyond to make these rescues possible. Their commitment is a powerful reminder that, by working together, we can restore hope and transform lives.

To meet the growing demand, our team was expanded in both Switzerland and Brazil. The reintegration of most returnees is progressing well. The opportunity to focus on their future through individually tailored projects often provides the emotional encouragement they urgently need. At the same time, some women and men require additional time to recover physically and emotionally from the trauma they have experienced before they are ready to begin their projects. In these cases, we provide the time, care, and support they need, accompanying them throughout their recovery and reintegration process.

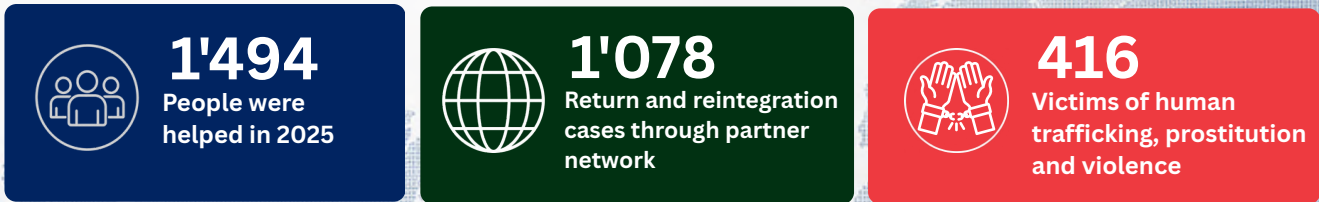
Vicente Mello Medeiros, Managing Director

RETURNEES and victims

Assisted

In 2025, Project Rescue assisted 1,494 people. Of these, 416 were victims of human trafficking, prostitution, and violence. Most have already returned to their home countries.

Exploitative/migration countries:



Cases in Europe	 2024	 2025	 Victims of Human Trafficking
 Belgium	608	670	4
 Switzerland	48	48	34
 Portugal	12	323	1
 Italy	13	30	14
 Spain	17	22	21
 Germany	2	2	2
 United Kingdom	3	47	2
 Denmark	3	0	0
 Austria	0	0	0
 France	1	0	0
 Croatia	1	5	0
 Greece	1	1	0
 Romania	2	0	0
 Finland	0	3	0
 Ireland	0	2	0
TOTAL EUROPE	711	1'153	78
Cases in Asia and Africa			
 Myanmar	–	329	329
 Cambodia	–	6	6
 Thailand	–	1	1
 Laos	1	1	1
 Turkey	1	1	1
 Tunisia	0	0	0
TOTAL ASIA AND AFRICA	2	338	338
Cases in Latin America			
 Brazil	0	1	1
 Argentina	2	–	0
 Dominican Republic	2	–	0
 Venezuela	3	–	0
 Colombia	1	–	0
 Panama	1	–	0
TOTAL LATIN AMERICA	9	1	1
TOTAL PROJECTRESCUE & NETWORK	722	1'494	416



In addition to the **416** cases involving direct support for victims of human trafficking, prostitution, and violence, Project Rescue coordinated and supported **1,078** return and reintegration cases related to social vulnerability and humanitarian emergencies.

These reintegration projects were implemented by Project Rescue and, in most cases, financed through partnership funds specifically designated for this type of support.



4'790

People were rescued between 2006 until the end of 2025.
The majority have already been able to return to their home countries.



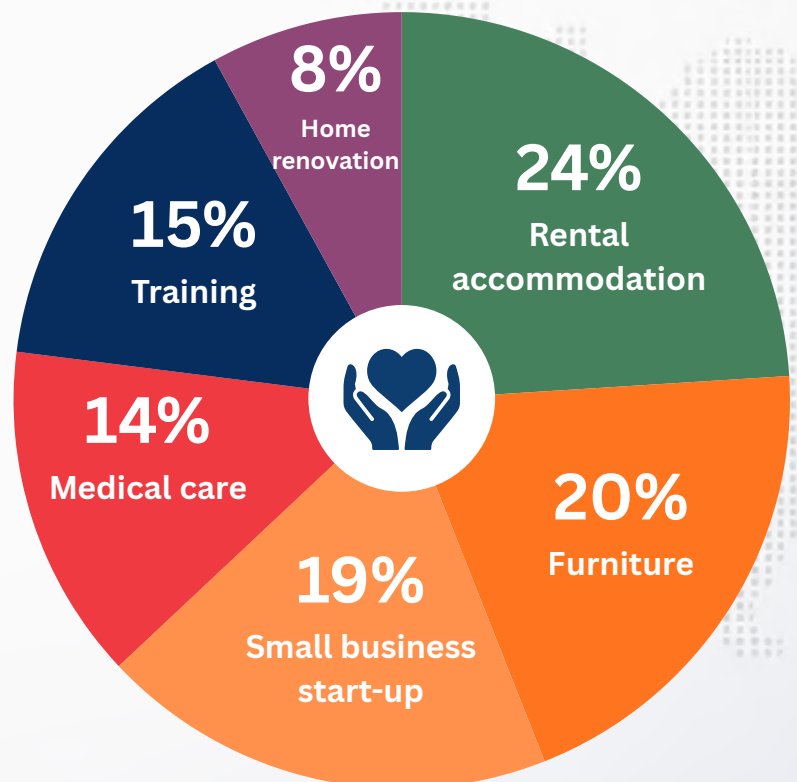
1'109

People were victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or violence.



DEVELOPMENT OF A REINTEGRATION PROJECT

Average distribution of reintegration project costs in 2025:



Rescue and return are accompanied by a social and economic reintegration program designed to restore self-esteem and dignity.

Returnees may require medical care, accommodation, furniture, vocational training, and support in establishing a small business. Individual needs vary. Not everyone requires medical assistance. Some need accommodation and basic furnishings, while others are able to stay with their families.



Medical care



Rental accommodation



Furniture



Training



Small business start-up



Drink-renovation



Projeto Resgate Brazil



Our high-performing team in Brazil

From left:

João Marcos
Reintegration/Finances

Adrielle
Data collection

Juliana
Assistant in Accounting and Finance, Reintegration Administration

Thiago
IT Technician, RIAT

Rubens
Translator Documents BuHa

Marco Aurélio
Managing Director



50%

of the Brazilian victims and around 30% of the Brazilian returnees are from the state Goiás

Why?

Due to their friendly and welcoming nature, the inhabitants of this region are particularly attractive to human traffickers and susceptible to enticing offers. We drew our own conclusions early on and moved our headquarters from São Paulo to Goiânia, the capital of the state of Goiás. This state is about the size of Germany. Its capital has approximately 1.4 million inhabitants and an area of 738 km². Together with government agencies and NGOs, we also work on prevention. We have various prevention programs in airports, on highways, and in schools.

Junior, our travel expert when plane tickets need to be booked quickly.

When someone has to flee, every minute counts. We have to maintain contact with the victim, often by phone; travel documents and support at the airport have to be organized, and safe accommodation has to be found where the victim can stay until departure.

There's little time to compare flights. That's why we rely on the professional help of Junior, Soney Tur Sorocaba. It's reassuring to know that someone is taking care of the ticket in the background while we arrange everything else.





From airport reception to accommodation, provision of basic necessities, medical and psychological support, public transport, training courses, setting up small businesses, social reintegration, right up to the moment when returnees are standing on their own two feet again – for some a short step, for others a struggle that lasts for years and setbacks are inevitable... but we never give up on anyone!

“

When a returnee calls us, we answer immediately. It's important not to let anyone down, even when we're very busy. They need to know they're not alone. We're here to help.

”



~1'000

Returnees are currently being supported in their reintegration process.



Prevention

In addition to helping returnees, a great deal of preventative work is also being done. This takes place at airports and events, on social media, and in joint operations with government agencies, NGOs, and the police.

"The Price of a Daughter"

(Original title: "The Price of a Daughter")

The short film reveals the gruesome reality of human trafficking and domestic violence.



Raunner Vinícius Soares | April 19, 2026 (translated from Portuguese)

Inspired by contact with the association Projeto Resgate, based in Goiânia, which operates in 35 countries. The organization provided testimonials and materials that helped to make the presentation convincing.



DIREÇÃO E ROTEIRO:
ISABELA EVA

Projeto **Resgate** Brazil

Project Rescue Brazil has its main office in Goiânia, the center of its reintegration activities, as well as bases in Brasília and in all 26 Brazilian states, 56 direct contact persons, and a network of more than 14,000 churches and NGOs throughout the country.

This makes it possible to help returnees quickly and effectively wherever they are.

PRESENCE THROUGHOUT BRAZIL



26

States active throughout
Brazil



56

Local contact persons



14'000+

Churches and NGOs
A strong network

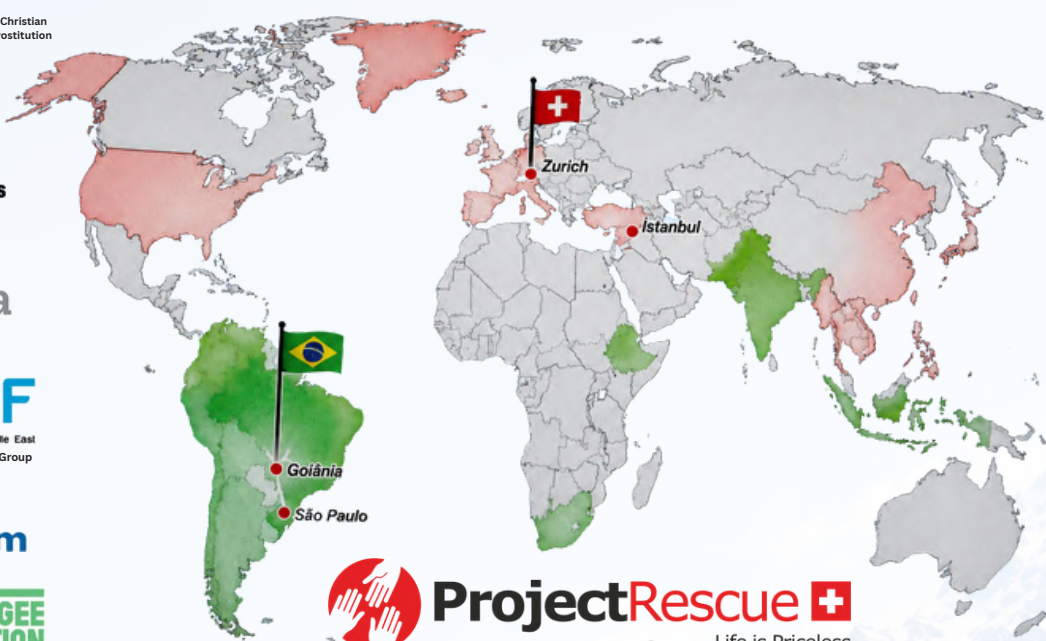


“ Unlike many organizations, we do not set deadlines for victims of human trafficking. We understand that the reintegration process can take time. Some people need time to recover, both physically and emotionally, from the trauma they have experienced before they are ready to begin their reintegration project. ”

GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WE RESCUE, WE REINTEGRATE, WE GIVE A FUTURE.

 We are currently active in 50 countries. However, our work is not limited to these countries. We rescue and reintegrate people worldwide through our extensive network.





International Christian Alliance on Prostitution



Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz



caritas international.be



European Freedom Network



Service social international Suisse



AESCO



The Exodus Road



DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL



ezeikielrain



ACT212



NOW TRANSFORMING TRAVEL



FIET GRATIA FIETRATIA.ORG



Nigat Global Initiative



IOM UN MIGRATION



FRONTEX EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY



refugee action



SOLWODI Solidarity with women in distress Solidarität mit Frauen in Not



REFUGEE ACTION



Accem



EBF Europe - Central Asia - Middle East Anti-Trafficking Working-Group



Aliena



VICTRAS



CIR RIFUGIATI

Countries of Return and Reintegrations			Countries of Exploitation		
AMERICA Brazil Costa Rica Dominican Republic Venezuela*, Colombia Bolivia, Peru Chile, Ecuador Argentina* Panama Paraguay Uruguay	EUROPE Spain* Portugal* EASTERN EUROPE Bulgaria Romania Hungary Moldova Ukraine Croatia* Slovenia* Poland	ASIA Türkiye* Iraq India Thailand* Philippines AFRICA Ethiopia South Africa Madagascar	America Suriname Argentina Venezuela USA ASIA Türkiye Cambodia Laos Thailand Vietnam Myanmar AFRICA Tunisia	EUROPE Switzerland Portugal Italy Belgium Great Britain Germany Netherlands Sweden Denmark France Spain Croatia Greece Austria Finland	EASTERN EUROPE Croatia Slovenia

(A country's classification is based on where the majority of cases occur.
* These countries also have cases of exploitation.

NETWORKING:

In 2025, Vicente and Katia made almost superhuman efforts to expand our partner network.

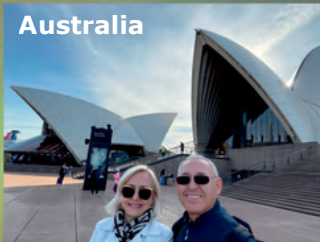


Lauran Bethell, founder of ICAP (International Christian Alliance on Prostitution), tireless advocate for victims and long-time friend of Kátia and Vicente.



Within a year, our network was expanded to include 10 additional countries: Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Madagascar, India, Ethiopia, Panama, and Iraq. In all these countries, we have contacts who are ready to help with rescue or reintegration, depending on the immediate needs. Often, the timing was simply perfect. We had barely returned from Asia when we received calls for help, for which we were able to utilize precisely these newly established contacts.

They traveled a total of 148,000 km (that's 3.7 times the Earth's circumference!), visiting conferences and partner organizations worldwide.



In Sydney, we happened upon a group of Christians sharing the Gospel. We struck up a conversation. It turned out that a branch of their church provides international support to victims of prostitution and human trafficking. We were able to get in touch immediately and establish a partnership.

ProjetoResgate is officially recognized by the Brazilian government.

Projeto Resgate has been an official member of CONATRAP since November 2018.
(National Council for Combating Human Trafficking at the Ministry of Justice in Brasília/DF.)

ProjetoResgate was selected as one of ten organizations to be a member of this anti-trafficking network, which was established by the Brazilian government. It unites government agencies, NGOs, universities, and various other organizations in the fight against human trafficking.

As soon as a case of human trafficking is reported to a Brazilian consulate worldwide, the consulate informs CONATRAP. Since we are part of this network, we will be notified. This gives us immediate access to a wide range of support services and government agencies, such as the Federal Police, hospitals, psychologists, and doctors, enabling us to provide victims of human trafficking with the fastest possible assistance.

This is particularly important in the case of victims who require medical or psychological assistance immediately upon their return, as in the following case:



Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública
Secretaria Nacional de Justiça
Coordenação-Geral de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas e Contrabando de Migrantes
Secretaria-Executiva do Comitê Nacional de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas

1. Associação Brasileira de Defesa da Mulher da Infância e da Juventude (ASBRAD);
2. Cáritas Arquidiocesana do Rio de Janeiro;
3. **Projeto Resgate;**
4. Associação Nacional dos Magistrados da Justiça do Trabalho (ANAMATRA);
5. Centro de Apoio e Pastoral do Migrante (CAMI);
6. Círculos de Hospitalidade;
7. Cáritas Foz do Iguaçu; e
8. Instituto Social Agatha em Defesa da Mulher.

SHE JUMPED FROM THE 3RD FLOOR.

The young Brazilian woman in Switzerland saw no other way to escape prostitution. She jumped from the third floor and was seriously injured.

She suffered fractures to both feet, her pelvis, and shoulder, as well as numerous other injuries. Police took her to the hospital, where she underwent urgent surgery.

We were able to visit her there. She burst into tears, overcome with emotion and joy: "God told me that he would send me the right people to help me. I thought, 'How is that going to work? I don't know anyone in this country!' And then pastor Vicente called and I can fly home on Monday, and now you're coming to bring me chocolate..."

We were notified. She was flown to Brazil for further medical treatment. Due to her condition, special transport was necessary.

She absolutely had to be taken directly from the airport to a hospital qualified to perform the necessary surgeries. However, thanks to the government network CONATRAP, everything needed to be arranged. The hospital

Transport from the airport to the hospital, the operations, the onward transport to her home country... She is now with her family. We arranged psychiatric care when the emotional aftermath of her experience set in. She has stabilized psychologically, and although she is not yet physically recovered enough to begin an apprenticeship, she is happy about this option for her future.



Photo: View from the hospital window

Italy - From Dream to Exploitation

I don't know if you can imagine it. How would you feel growing up in a slum? You only have dreams in your head. And then those dreams suddenly come true:

You've received a job offer in Italy!!! - Wow!

Italy, you know it from television. It's a beautiful country. Everyone seems so happy!

But they can't afford the flight. They never even dreamed of EVER being allowed to board a plane themselves. But they're so lucky: the costs will be covered by their employer! The employer will even take care of everything. Take care of the formalities.

Yes, they'll even give you some cash to buy a suitcase and cover your travel expenses to the airport! -

They're investing in you! They trust you! You're taking a risk

But nothing. The employer covers the costs!

Imagine Italy! Europe!

The excitement and anticipation sweep away all doubts...

She came to Italy to work. She was taken to an apartment and forced into prostitution. She was exploited for up to 18 hours a day and forced to serve up to 14 clients daily. She was completely broken. The day came when she was sold to another mafia group. During the transfer from Calabria, she managed to escape.

She contacted the Brazilian Consulate in Rome, which immediately got in touch with us.

We had to act quickly. We immediately arranged for her to travel to Rome. There, she was received by the Consulate and escorted to the police station. We accommodated her in a hotel overnight.

I believe no one can truly understand what she felt. She was free!

The very next day, she was already able to return home. When she arrived in São Paulo, her family was there waiting to welcome her.



Her dream was to open a beauty salon together with her mother. She already had the necessary skills. We helped make that dream come true.

The two of them are so proud! They sent us many photos from the opening celebration.

Thank you for helping make this success possible!



Milton and Zoraide Campos are responsible for all cases in Southern Europe and the Spanish-speaking countries of South America.



ASIA - Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos

A life is priceless!

Vicente: "I will never forget this. She was in Myanmar. We knew exactly where she was. But the place where she was being held was beyond the reach of even the police and the military..."

At the beginning of the year, we received her desperate plea for help. The young woman was being held in a scam center located in a rebel-controlled area. She had fallen into the hands of human traffickers through fraudulent job offers. Trapped in a remote region controlled by the mafia, she was completely beyond the reach of the authorities.

Even if she had managed to escape from the compound, she would still have had to cross a river by boat—and that crossing was also controlled by the mafia.

Vicente: "Weeks went by. I spoke with her often. She was still able to use her phone. The criminals were convinced that no one would ever come to rescue her."

Then the situation became even more dangerous. Because she was not generating the profit they expected, they planned to sell her to the Chinese mafia, which is known to be even more ruthless.

Vicente: "Ask them how much you want for her. The price should include transportation to the city and to the hotel."

More time passed. The person who had the authority to make the decision was not there. Finally, an answer came. The amount sounded terrifying in the local currency, but after converting it, it was equivalent to about CHF 800.

"Tell him I'll buy her."

Vicente: "We even sent a little extra money and asked them to give it to her as travel money. Thankfully, they did."

It was an incredibly tense time. Would the traffickers keep their word?

Thankfully, everything happened quickly. The phone call saying, "I'm at the hotel!" was an enormous relief. We immediately arranged her flights. But another question remained: Would she be allowed to leave the country?

The Brazilian Consulate took care of everything. The very next day, she was able to board her flight, and just two days later, she was safely back home with her family.

Her dream had always been to become a flight attendant.

That dream soon became a reality. She successfully completed her training, and at her graduation ceremony, she received a standing ovation after delivering a heartfelt speech—a truly personal triumph. Shortly afterward, she was hired by an airline and is now living the dream she had always hoped for.

We are incredibly happy for her!



ASIA - Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos



Shortly after returning from the ICAP Conference in Asia, we received an urgent email. Twenty-four victims of human trafficking—10 from India and 14 from Ethiopia—needed assistance to return home. They had managed to escape on their own but were unable to continue their journey.

They had been lured to Myanmar and Cambodia with promises of dream jobs, only to be imprisoned in scam centers.



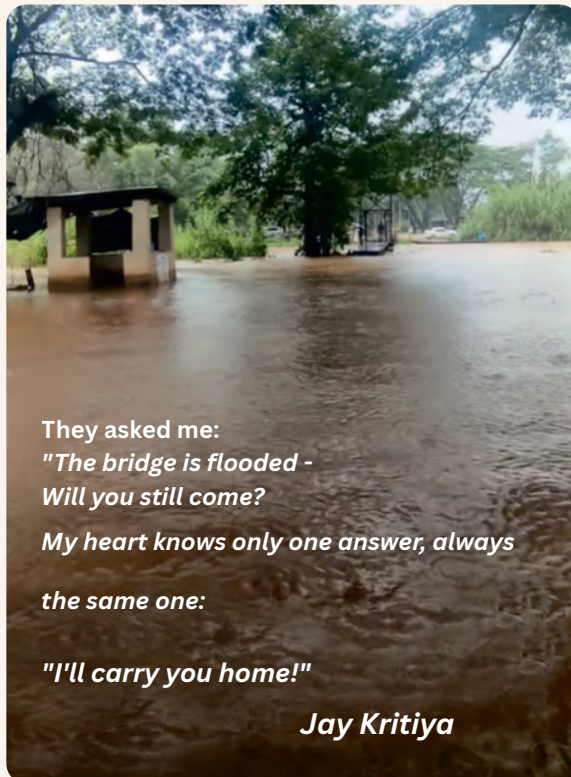
The conditions inside these centers are horrific. Victims are subjected to torture and forced to commit online fraud. They are required to meet strict quotas, and failure to do so can result in further torture, sometimes even death, or being sold to even more violent criminal organizations.



The situation is extremely serious, and we are deeply grateful for our partners on the ground, especially Jay Kritija of CSNHTV (Civil Society Network for Human Trafficking Victim Assistance) and all the people working tirelessly behind the scenes to rescue these victims.



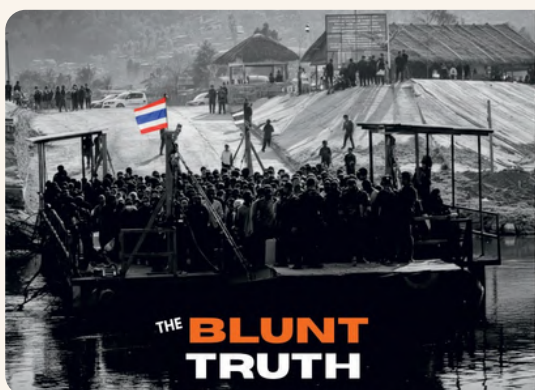
They risk their own lives by monitoring scam centers in civil war zones, negotiating with armed groups, local authorities, and governments, and speaking publicly to expose these crimes. Out of compassion for people they had never even met before, they demonstrate an extraordinary level of personal commitment and courage.



They asked me:
*"The bridge is flooded -
Will you still come?"*
*My heart knows only one answer, always
the same one:*
"I'll carry you home!"
Jay Kritiya

Photo: Flooded bridge leading to the Myanmar-Thailand border crossing. Thanks to the excellent cooperation between local organizations, frontline workers, government agencies, and international organizations, a large number of victims were able to receive the assistance they urgently needed.

Exhibition and panel discussion "The Blunt Truth"



The exhibition "The Blunt Truth," supported by Project Rescue, had a significant positive impact. Ambassadors from various countries, journalists, and representatives of government agencies and humanitarian organizations attended the event. It helped raise public awareness of the victims' situation and contributed to the rescue of numerous victims.



Fourteen Ethiopian victims of human trafficking were able to return safely to their home country. They were escorted to the airport by our team in Thailand. Upon arrival in Addis Ababa, they were welcomed by our local partner, Nigat, who provided temporary accommodation and initial support.



They received psychological support and additional assistance. For many victims, it is difficult to overcome the inhumane treatment they have endured.

"For the first time in a long time, we are being treated like human beings."



Additional support was also provided to a pregnant woman who was a victim of human trafficking. She has since given birth to a healthy baby. Both mother and child are doing well.



The best news, however, is that one of the victims has now joined our team and is helping other survivors overcome their trauma.



“ Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go back home. I had been suffering in Myanmar for eight months. Thank you so much—you truly changed my life. I thought I would have to stay there forever, but because of your support, I am now on my way to the airport and finally returning home. Thank you so much, and God bless you! ”

She was rescued and is now safely back with her family in Madagascar.



Race against time - rescue from the clutches of the Mafia



She was a Brazilian nursing student in the seventh semester of her professional training. In Brazil, however, students are responsible for financing their own education. Alongside their studies, they must also work and hope that their income is enough to cover their tuition fees.

She was just a short time away from completing her training when she fell behind on her tuition payments and faced the prospect of having to drop out. This would not only have forced her to start over but also left her with outstanding tuition debt. At that moment, she received what seemed like an incredible opportunity: a company offered her a job abroad. Accommodation and meals were included, everything would be taken care of, even the airfare. The salary promised was far higher than she could ever have expected to earn as a qualified nurse.



Delighted by what appeared to be the perfect opportunity, she accepted the offer. Shortly afterwards, she found herself in Cambodia—in the hands of the mafia.

The nightmare only became worse. It is common there for criminal organizations to sell victims to other trafficking groups once they no longer have a use for them. After three months, that moment came. She was taken to a hotel where the handover was to take place. From there, she managed to send an emergency message to Brazil and share her location.

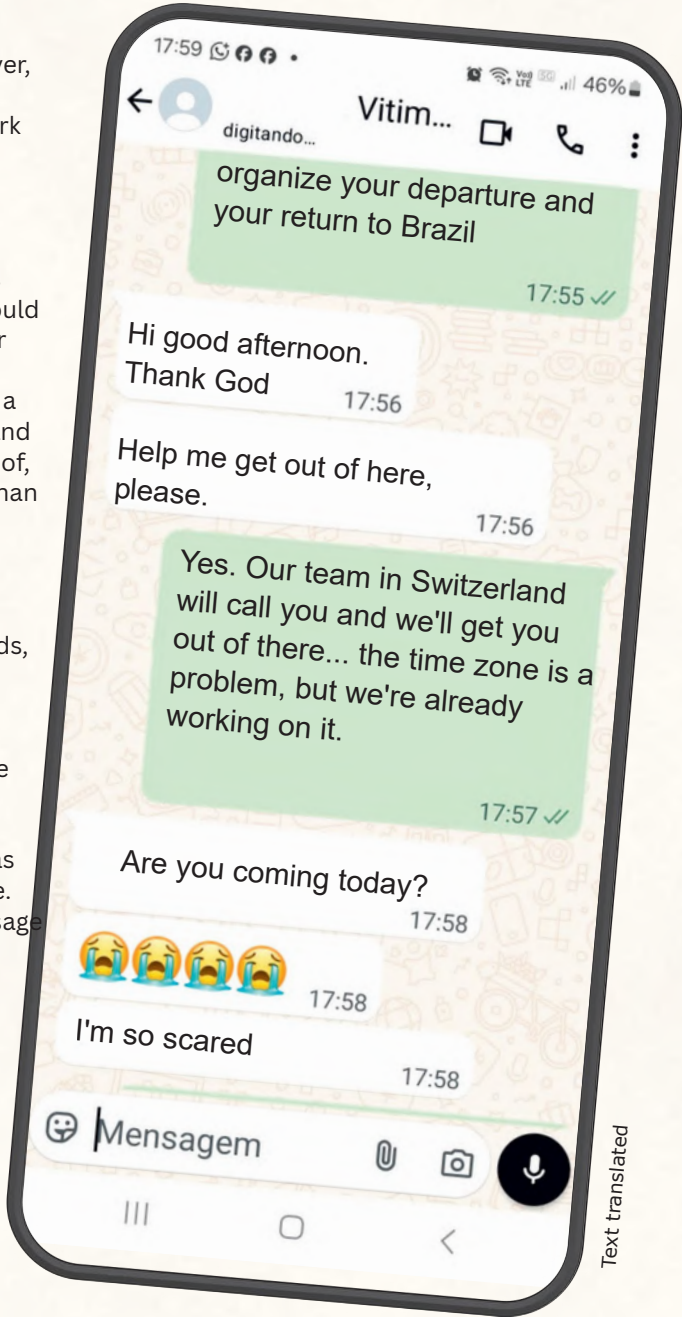


It was Sunday at 6:00 p.m. local time when this emergency message reached Marco Aurélio, the head of Project Rescue's headquarters in Brazil. He immediately contacted Pastor Vicente. It was already 10:00 p.m. here in Switzerland, and we had just finished cleaning up after our Sunday church service.



Pastor Vicente immediately contacted one of our local partners in Cambodia, a Brazilian missionary actively involved in the fight against human trafficking. However, because of the time difference, it was only 5:00 a.m. there. At that hour, everyone was still asleep.

At any moment, we expected the traffickers to arrive and take the young woman away. All Vicente could do was pass on the available information—and pray.



“

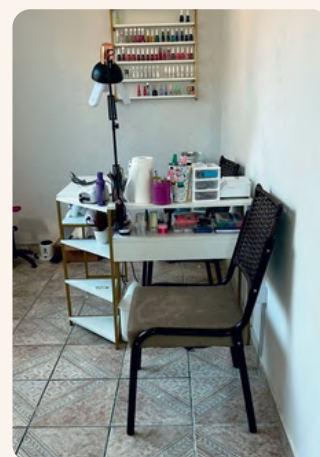
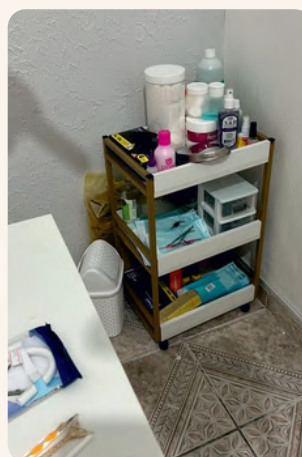
We knew exactly where she was, but all we could do was hope that help would arrive in time.

The missionary and her team reached the hotel just in time. They were able to put the terrified young woman into a taxi that was to take her to another hotel. They followed the taxi in another vehicle to make sure no one was following them.



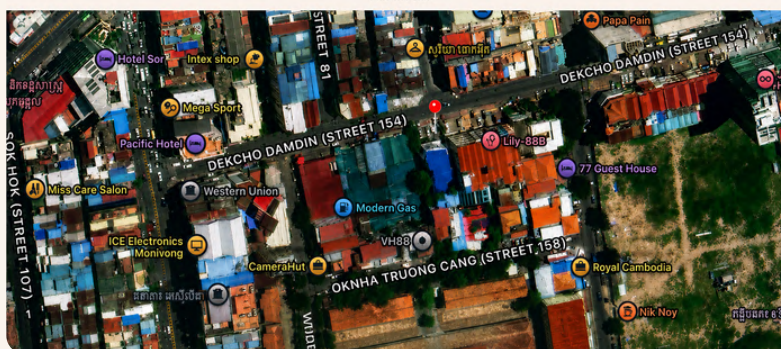
The rescue was successful! But the young woman was, of course, completely traumatized. She panicked every time someone knocked on the door. And, of course, a hotel is never a completely safe place. The mafia had her passport with her Cambodian visa. She needed travel documents, but there was no Brazilian consulate in Cambodia yet. She would have to go to neighboring Thailand to obtain travel documents at their consulate. But without valid documents, she couldn't cross the border!

There was a delay of several days, but thanks to the valuable assistance of the Brazilian consulates in Zurich and Thailand, all obstacles were overcome and her return flight was arranged.



Project **Rescue** covered the cost of her remaining semesters and also helped her set up a small beauty salon at home so she could earn an income while completing her training.

Dekcho Damdin (Street 154)
Phnom Penh



Through Caritas International Belgium, we were able to arrange temporary accommodation for the victim at a Caritas Cambodia shelter. Caritas Cambodia also helped her overcome the challenges with the Cambodian authorities.

After ten days, she was finally able to return home.



But what happened during those ten days was an even greater miracle. The missionary and her team visited her every day, studied the Bible with her, and spent time in worship together. During that time, she sent us a message filled with joy and hope, without a trace of fear. It was the best trauma therapy she could have received.

When she returned home, her family welcomed her with a banner that read: "You are a living miracle! Welcome home!"

The church community in Brazil, to which the missionary belongs, organized a fundraiser while she was still waiting to return from Cambodia. The funds covered her outstanding tuition, allowing her to continue her nursing training.

Our volunteer board



Peter Bähni, President of Project Rescue Switzerland, born in Switzerland, completed an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter and subsequently furthered his education in the commercial sector and at the KLZ management school in Zurich.

He worked as a security officer for 23 years. Since 2020, he has served as President of Project Rescue Switzerland and, much to the appreciation of our team, is always available—even in the middle of the night—whenever needed.



Claudia Hedinger, Head of Communications, was born in Switzerland. A native of Graubünden, she earned a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Zurich and a diploma in TV Journalism from the MAZ School of Journalism in Lucerne. She works in communications for an NGO.

Her passion is helping victims—especially women exploited in prostitution—find a way out of their situation.

Jacqueline Schmid-Earle, Actuary, was born in South Africa and is a qualified registered nurse. She has extensive professional experience in a wide range of fields and countries, including work with shelters for women in need. Jacqueline is currently involved in addiction care. Guided by a strong sense of justice, she is always willing to help wherever she can.



Jürg Streckeisen, Head of Finance, was born in Switzerland and trained as a conference interpreter and economist. He owns a fiduciary firm in Zurich and is also an entrepreneur with business activities in several Eastern European countries. Always generous and willing to help, he supports the team with his extensive expertise.



Our team in Switzerland



Kurt Ramser, born in Switzerland, is actively involved in fundraising and public relations.



Ruth Schwalm, born in Germany, is responsible for the Zurich office, the accounting, the German-speaking area, as well as reintegrations in Eastern Europe and Asia.



Vicente and Kátia Medeiros are Brazilians and the founders of **Project Rescue**.

Vicente is an electrical engineer, pastor, and trained social worker. He currently serves as President of Projeto Resgate Brazil and Managing Director and Founder of Project Rescue Switzerland. Together with his wife, Kátia, he has built a global network and works tirelessly with remarkable dedication, efficiency, and patience to rescue and reintegrate victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

In 2020, in recognition of his work for Project Rescue, he was awarded the Order of Rio Branco by the Federative Republic of Brazil, one of the country's highest civilian honors.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jürg Streckeisen,
Quaestor



Project Rescue has recorded a record number of returnees for the fourth year in a row. The majority of cases are handled in cooperation with partner organizations, thus distributing the financial burden. However, the number of victims whose needs must be covered through our own resources has also increased significantly.

After exceeding the million mark in revenues for the first time two years ago, we reached 2.35 million by the end of 2025. This marks the fourth consecutive year of massive growth in both revenues and expenses.

Most of the funds are earmarked and used directly for the reintegration of returnees in their home country. In this area, we saw the highest increase compared to the previous year, at 907,080 Swiss francs (including service fees).

The increased administrative burden and project work are primarily due to higher personnel costs, a direct result of the high number of cases and the associated increased workload. For the same reason, the costs for monitoring, evaluation, and travel expenses have doubled.

In numerous new countries, local partners had to be found who could carry out rescues and care for returnees. Far beyond

1,000 reintegrations had to be documented. Consequently, the annual surplus was lower than the previous year.

Despite the higher number of cases, the SOS assistance costs were somewhat lower. This is primarily because we react very quickly and, for safety reasons, evacuate victims from the perpetrator's country as soon as possible. This minimizes costs between rescue and return.

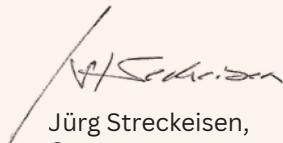
The amount generated through fundraising from foundations, churches, and private individuals was significantly lower than in the previous year. This is because in 2024 we received large donations for multi-year projects that are still ongoing.

My heartfelt thanks go to all our supporters, large and small. Without your support, rescues on this scale would not have been possible.

We are deeply grateful for your solidarity with the victims. In doing so, you are not only enabling those directly affected to start a new life, but also giving their children a better future.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

On behalf of the board


Jürg Streckeisen,
Quaestor

 Our work is financed by membership fees and donations from individuals, companies, churches, and foundations. We receive no federal funding.



Thank you very much
To everyone who supported us in 2025!

**Contributions from
partnerships**

Caritas International Belgium
Service Social International
Frontex Danish Refugee
Council

**Donations and contributions from
foundations and other organizations**

Dorothea and Paul Schwob Foundation,
Vontobel Foundation, Scarlatti
Foundation, Hospital Sisters'
Community Lucerne, Brothers'
Foundation Peter Friedhofen, Walter
and Louise M. Davidson Foundation,
Hope Parparim Association

**Donations and contributions from
churches**

Baptist Church Zurich, Brazilian Baptist
Church Zurich, International Protestant
Church, Baptist Church Thalwil,
Reformed Parish Küsnacht, Roman
Catholic Parish Pfäffikon, Church Bild
St. Gallen, Reformed Parish
Stammheim, Baptist Church Baden-
Wettingen, Evangelical Reformed
Parish Reinach, Reformed Parish
Hinwil, Reformed Parish Seegräben

Financial Statement 2025

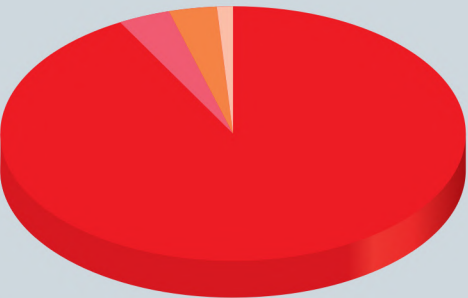
	In CHF	2025	2024
INCOME			
Donations from individuals and membership fees		29 582	34 521
Contributions from churches		95 180	82 830
Contributions from foundations, institutions and companies		100 150	240 500
Earmarked contributions from partnerships and service fees		2 124 070	1 216 990
Other income		2 940	0
Total income		2 351 922	1 574 841
EXPENSES			
Project work and counseling		-160 130	-124 181
SOS accommodation		-16 713	-18 958
Repatriation costs [1]		-51 176	-24 501
Reintegration costs in the home country		-1 685 757	-960 742
Monitoring, evaluation and travel expenses		-141 537	-67 767
Project Rescue Türkiye		- 7 629	-17 482
Project work expenses		-2 062 942	-1 213 631
Personnel costs		-157 818	-123 195
Office and administrative expenses		-21 984	-17 528
Fundraising and general communication expenses		-7 888	-8 961
Administrative expenses		-187 690	-149 684
Exchange rate differences and bank charges		-14 495	-28 212
Total expenses		-2 265 127	-1 391 141
Changes in earmarked funds		25 751	24 967
Surplus		112 546	208 667

[1] In most cases where partner organizations are involved, we do not incur repatriation flight costs, as these are usually covered by our partner organizations.

BALANCE SHEET as of December 31, 2025			
Assets	Liquid assets	315 335	
	Prepaid expenses	21 185	
	Partner current accounts	144 217	
	Total assets	480 737	
Liabilities	Trade payables	3 192	
	Accrued expenses	639	
	Earmarked funds	50 748	
	Balance brought forward	313 612	
	Surplus	112 546	
	Total Liabilities	480 737	

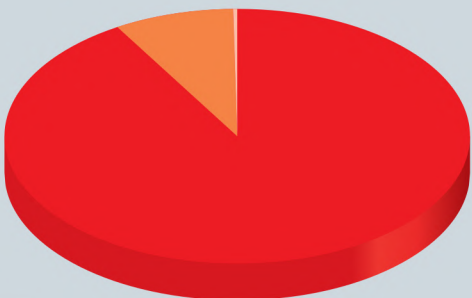
BALANCE SHEET as of December 31, 2024			
Assets	Liquid assets	115 588	
	Partner current accounts	275 963	
	Total assets	391 551	
Liabilities	Trade payables	1 440	
	Earmarked funds	76 499	
	Balance brought forward	104 945	
	Surplus	208 667	
	Total Liabilities	391 551	

The annual financial statements were audited by our auditors Verena Geiger and Karl Walder. The complete annual accounts, prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21, can be viewed at the ProjectRescue office.



■ Earmarked contributions from partnerships
■ Contributions from foundations, institutions and companies
■ Donations from churches
■ Donations from individuals

Annual reintegration costs are not directly proportional to the number of cases handled during the year, as the costs of medical or psychological assistance, as well as other forms of support, vary considerably from one case to another.



■ Project work expenses
■ Administrative expenses
■ Fundraising and general advertising expenses
■ Administrative expenses



Project Rescue

Life is Priceless



RESCUE



RETURN HOME



REINTEGRATION



Thank you Thank you for your interest.

We would be pleased to provide you with further information and introduce Project Rescue to you personally.

Support our work!

**Jetzt mit TWINT
spenden!**



QR-Code mit der
TWINT App scannen



Betrag und Spende
bestätigen



Donations to Project Rescue are
tax-deductible.

Project Rescue Association

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PostFinance AG
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Where do we work?

Our work supports victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation in Europe and around the world. We are constantly expanding our reach to include new countries. We assist victims in returning safely to their home countries. We work directly on the ground in Switzerland (head office), Brazil, Italy, and Turkey. We are active in over 50 countries, often in cooperation with national and international organizations.

- Switzerland
- Brazil
- Argentina
- Ethiopia
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- Chile Costa
- Rica
- Denmark

- Germany
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Great Britain
- India
- Iraq

- Italy
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Croatia Laos
- Moldova
- Myanmar
- Netherlands
- Austria
- Panama

- Paraguay,
- Peru,
- Philippines,
- Poland,
- Portugal,
- Romania,
- Sweden,
- Slovenia,
- Spain,
- South Africa

- Suriname
- Thailand
- Türkiye
- Tunisia
- Ukraine
- Hungary
- Uruguay
- USA
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

