

Terre des hommes Foundation Valais
Activity report **2023**

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A La Maison nurse distributes medication to a young resident in the refectory of La Maison

A long-term mission

Regardless of political, religious or racial affiliation, **the Terre des hommes Valais Foundation** aims to help children in distress. The Foundation operates and manages **La Maison** in Massongex in the Valais region of Switzerland.

La Maison takes in seriously ill children, mainly from Africa, who are transferred to Switzerland to receive vital care that is not available to them in their own countries. Once cured, they return home to their families.

Every week, children leave their families temporarily to make this crucial journey. This is only the first stage of a journey that will require immense courage. When they arrive, they can count on a reassuring and comfortable place to live, where other children and caring staff surround them. La Maison guarantees them a worry-free convalescence.

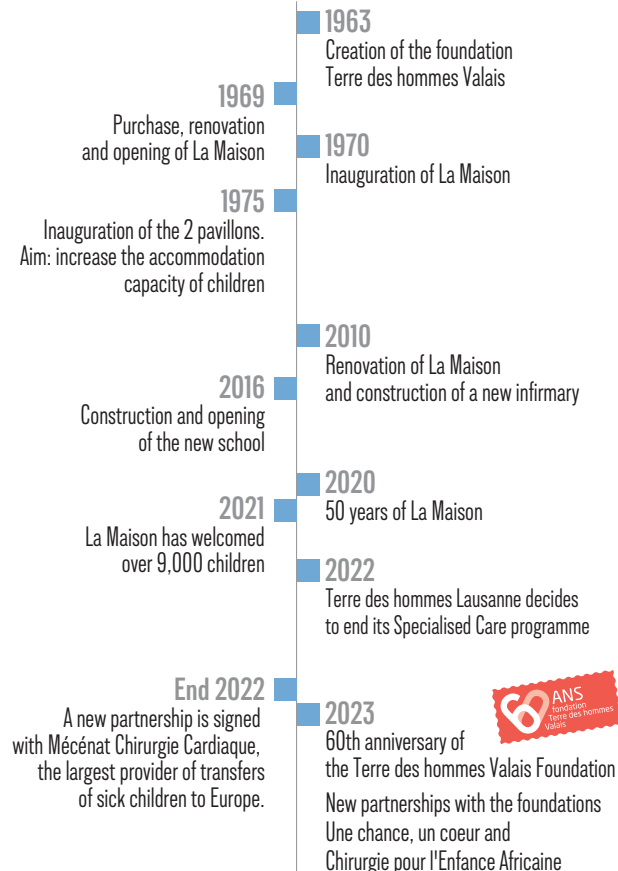
Our values

#COMMITMENT #SOLIDARITY #CARING

Did you know that the children's home relies solely on donations?

The Terre des hommes Valais Foundation manages La Maison independently and provides full funding.

The Foundation is legally and financially independent of any other organisation.



Structure of the Terre des hommes Valais Foundation

The Board of the Terre des hommes Valais Foundation is currently made up of 8 members, registered in the Commercial Register (RC). The Director is an ex officio member in an advisory capacity.

The Foundation Board maintains regular contact with the management and executives, as well as with all the staff on a more informal basis. The Board of Trustees is deeply committed to and identifies with our mission and our founding charter.

The members of the Foundation's Board are entirely voluntary and receive no remuneration. They are regularly called upon to contribute in specific areas, in addition to the activities inherent in any Foundation Board.

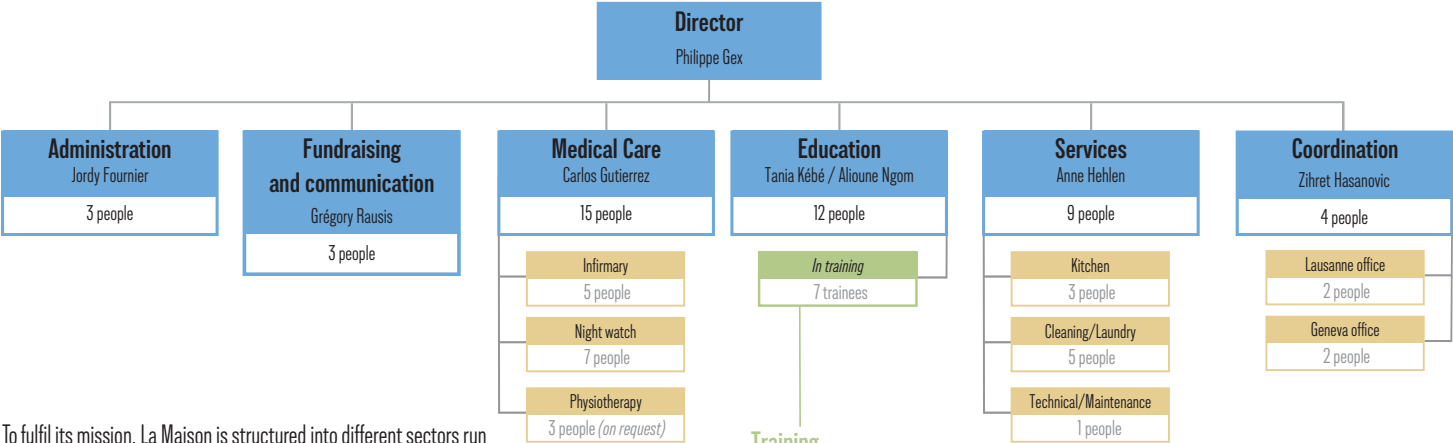
- Michel Mottiez

President
- André Morand

Vice-president
- Denis Chevalley

Doctor in charge of La Maison
- Amanda Cotter
- Robert Clerc
- Nathalie Revaz
- Olivier Derivaz
- Philippe Gex

Consultative voice



Training

Every year, the foundation provides internship places within the educational team (HES Social, ECG, professional retraining).

Our institution provides students with a framework in line with the objectives required by the schools. This represents 15 to 20 trainees over the course of the year, primarily supervised by members of the educational team who have been trained as training practitioners.

Number of permanent employees (excluding trainees) : 47 people

Full-time equivalent : 35,6 employees

A word from the foundation

Serving children

We saw 151 children return home in 2023. Healed, relieved and genuinely happy to be reunited with their families and friends. Impatient to live like other children their age, to start or resume school, to continue an education interrupted by illness or, basically, to finally be able to run and play with their friends.

During that same year, we welcomed 166 children for whom the journey to Switzerland was their last chance of survival.

We are deeply happy for all the children whose path has crossed that of La Maison in the small village of Massongex. We have a great deal of respect for all the families who have entrusted us with their son or daughter. They have had the courage to part with their child. They weren't just lucky enough to find support. They dared to trust.

Tribute

"In this activity carried out simply from a living person to a living person" (Edmond Kaiser's charter), from human being to human being, we live out this trust on a daily basis. We would like to express our gratitude and pay tribute to :

- The hospital staff who look after the children during the most difficult phases of their stay in Switzerland.
- The many volunteers who accompany and support the children on the flights, during the many road journeys in Switzerland and during hospitalisation.
- The donors whose generosity reflects an extraordinary sense of solidarity and humanity we will tirelessly do our utmost to ensure that we never disappoint that trust.
- The staff of La Maison, who do a remarkable job in a demanding environment.

Vision & development

For 60 years, our foundation has been caring for children entrusted to us by organisations operating in various countries, most of them on the African continent. We will continue to specialise in this medical, pre- and post-operative care, in a family environment. We will remain an important link in

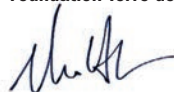
a complex chain, a committed, dynamic and trustworthy partner active in Switzerland, supporting partner organisations and friends that share the same values.

In 2023, we began working with the Association Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque, the Fondation Une chance un cœur and the Fondation Chirurgie pour l'Enfance Africaine. Agreements have been signed between these organisations, the university hospitals in French-speaking Switzerland (CHUV and HUG) and the Terre des hommes Valais foundation. Other collaborations may materialise in the near future, as our aim is to help save as many children as possible. We would like to thank all our partners for their trust. Together, we manage to look after some 200 seriously ill children from around twenty countries every year. Together, we seek solutions, dialogue and build. Together, with humility and humanity, we give the best of ourselves for these children with whom we are in contact every day.


In this annual report, we look back over the past year, trying to avoid dwelling on cold statistics or comparisons with previous years. Behind the figures and graphs, there are children and their families thousands of miles away who are counting on us. For them, we want and need to be effective and consistent. Our rigorous management must enable us, with the widespread support mentioned above, to ensure the long-term future of our foundation, because the future of so many children depends on it.

Thank you for your trust and support.
Let's continue together.

Foundation Terre des hommes Valais



Michel Mottiez
President



Philippe Gex
Director

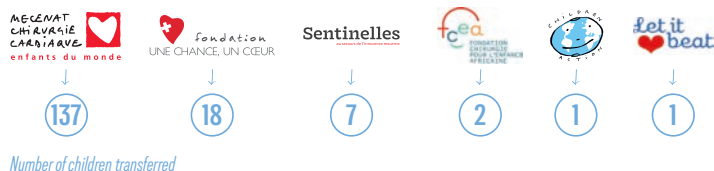


Children from around the world discover snow in Massongex

An international impact thanks to key partnerships

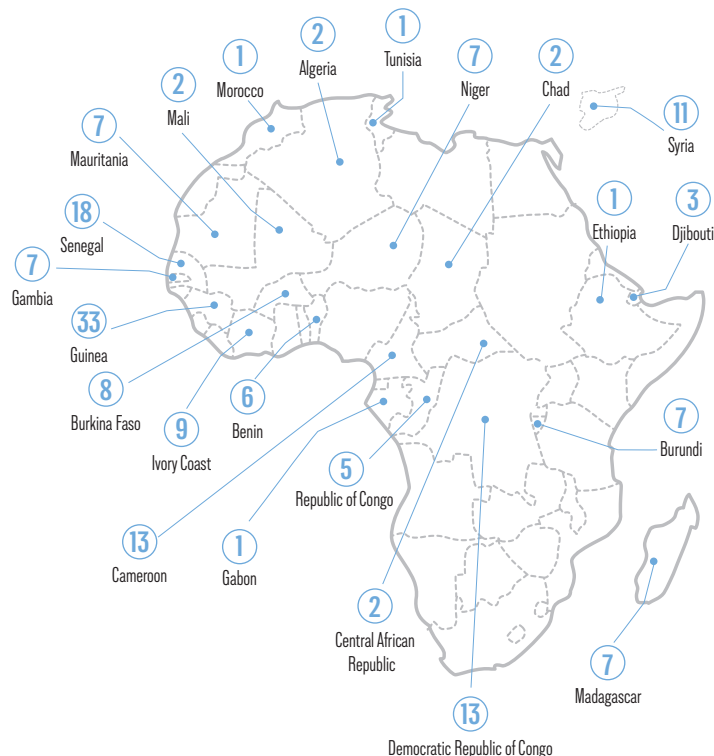
In 2023, La Maison welcomed **166 children from 23 countries**, breathing new life into their lives and transforming the lives of their families. These children have been saved thanks to essential partnerships with organisations active in their countries of origin, where the infrastructure is inadequate and the cost of care inaccessible. Rescuing these children remains our long-term mission, highlighting the vital importance of these collaborations. Every day at La Maison, we find reasons to hope and persevere. A child's smile and touching moments motivate us to continue our work, pushing back the boundaries of the seemingly impossible to build a more just and humane world.

Our main partners



How do children who speak a foreign language make themselves understood?

Several members of staff are multilingual. The children adapt very quickly. They learn and understand simple French words very quickly.





The children of La Maison de Terre des hommes Valais enjoy the beautiful autumn colours

Access to healthcare: guaranteeing a better quality of life

In 2023, the Terre des hommes Valais Foundation took in **82 girls** and **84 boys**, with an average age of 10. Health problems can affect all ages, from birth to adulthood. Unfortunately, in many countries, access to healthcare is limited and expensive, with dramatic consequences for individuals and their families who, it should be remembered, have no health insurance. We firmly believe that early treatment of health problems is crucial to ensuring a better quality of life for all. Improving access to healthcare is therefore essential.

Why do children come without their families?

A number of factors prevent parents from accompanying their children to Switzerland:

- *Difficulty obtaining a visa*
- *The high cost of travel*
- *The need to stay at home to look after the rest of the family*
- *The impossibility for La Maison to welcome 40 to 50 mothers or fathers from around twenty different countries*

Lively stories, first names that bear witness...



82

Girls

Mariama, Willow, Diejivie, Aisseta, Anne Kelly, Salma, Awa, Maelle, Sarah, Yaye Maty, Halimata, Ndey, Esther, Latifa, Schenaaja, Johanna, Célestina, Allegresse, Soumaya, Gemima, Plaza, Meda, Guymelle, Abigail, Divine, Ivonne, Fatimatou, Julienne, Habibatou, Hery, Yacine, Mariama, Houleymatou, Lepou, Oumou, Sublime, Précieuse, N'chira, Solange, Eugénie, Halimatou, Peace, Grace, Kadiatou, Olivier, Adama, Gyslaina, Marya, Ange, Oumou, Fatoumata, M'Mahawa, Fatma, Fatoumata, Raouda, Ruth, Ghita, Yakhara, Noliveh, Laouo, Fatoumata, Awa, N'Belinwisse, Finin, Aïcha, Kadiatou, Darille, Mame Arame, Abeline, Miangoty, Oumou, Khady, Mwanne, Iesnim, Marie-Jeanne, Mariama, Aminata, Mariame, Taibatou, Jeannette, Fanta, Fatoumata, Agbé, Oumy, Hadiza, Dalla, Mariama.



84

Boys

Aliou, Papa Ahmadou, Tsiaro, Yvan, Mekdad, Narivo Celestin, Darren, Noé, Yonas, Brahim, Daniel, Joseph, Iva, Ayham, Raslan, Dahab, Ahmed, Fariessa, Cheikh, Dosham, Ilo, Percée, Assemien, Adama, Boubacar, Mouhamed, Don Joshua, Ely, Ibrahima, Amro, Ishaq, Ousmane, Jad, Naël, Lionel, Alpha Oumar, Hamza, Hamidou, Imourana, Seedy, Romeo, Pentecôte, Guy, Alpha Abdoulaye, Mohamed, Qusai, Abdelaziz, Tommy, Yves, Afri, Ernest, Amadou, Ibrahima, Daniel, Abakar, Aimé, Mohamed, Raphael, Mohamed, Jean, Michel, Yaou, Nicanor, Mamadou, Mohamed, Daouda, Cheikh, Sidna, Mouhamed, Aimé, Lahine, Aliou Adama, Mohammad, Demba, Otniel, Ahmed, Ubai, Soufiane, Boris, Michel, Wannongo, Elhadj, Agalie, Nouradin, Jean-Jacques, Cheikh, Mamadou, Hasan, Mouhamed, Bassirou, Fousseny, Amadou.



10

Average age

Ages	2 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	+ 20
Number of children	42	57	41	17	9



Children with caustic oesophageal stenosis need to be tube-fed

Children's medical conditions in care at La Maison in 2023

A rescue mission

La Maison, as a medicalised children's home, accommodates between thirty and fifty children from far-flung countries at any one time. These young patients are preparing for vital operations, sometimes undergoing several surgeries during their stay, or are in the convalescence phase. Every week, three to four children undergo heart operations, which highlights the complexity of the situations and the pace of medical care.

La Maison accomplished a crucial mission in 2023, helping to save the lives of 166 children. The challenges and medical emergency these children faced underline the uniqueness of La Maison as an exceptional place to live and receive care.

Challenges and medical emergency

Unable to receive the care they needed in their home countries, these children benefited from an "emergency programme" essential to their survival.

An essential role

Despite the efforts of other organisations focused on prevention and local development, La Maison's life-saving mission persists. Hope lies in a future where such interventions are feasible and accessible locally, but in the meantime, La Maison continues to play an essential role in the lives of these children.

Children's medical conditions in 2023



Caustic esophageal strictures

Treatment provided to 2 children

Caustic stenosis of the oesophagus is caused by the accidental absorption of caustic soda in liquid form (similar to water) or solid form (similar to sweets or sugar). Ingestion causes burning of the tongue, throat, larynx, oesophagus and stomach, preventing children from swallowing and causing fever and pain.



Sequelae of noma

Care for 6 children

Noma is a devastating gangrenous infection that attacks the mouth and face, ravaging tissues and bones. It is fatal in 70% to 90% of cases.



Heart disease

Treatment provided to 154 children

Heart disease is any disease of the heart that develops before or after birth



Various medical conditions

Care provided to 4 children

La Maison at the heart of a network of committed partners

The transfer of children staying at La Maison requires a highly complex chain of humanity and skills at an international level. La Maison is one of the links, amongst the other links that are just as essential and committed. It plays a significant and indispensable role at the heart of this system

CHUV et HUG

Historical partners at the heart of the action.

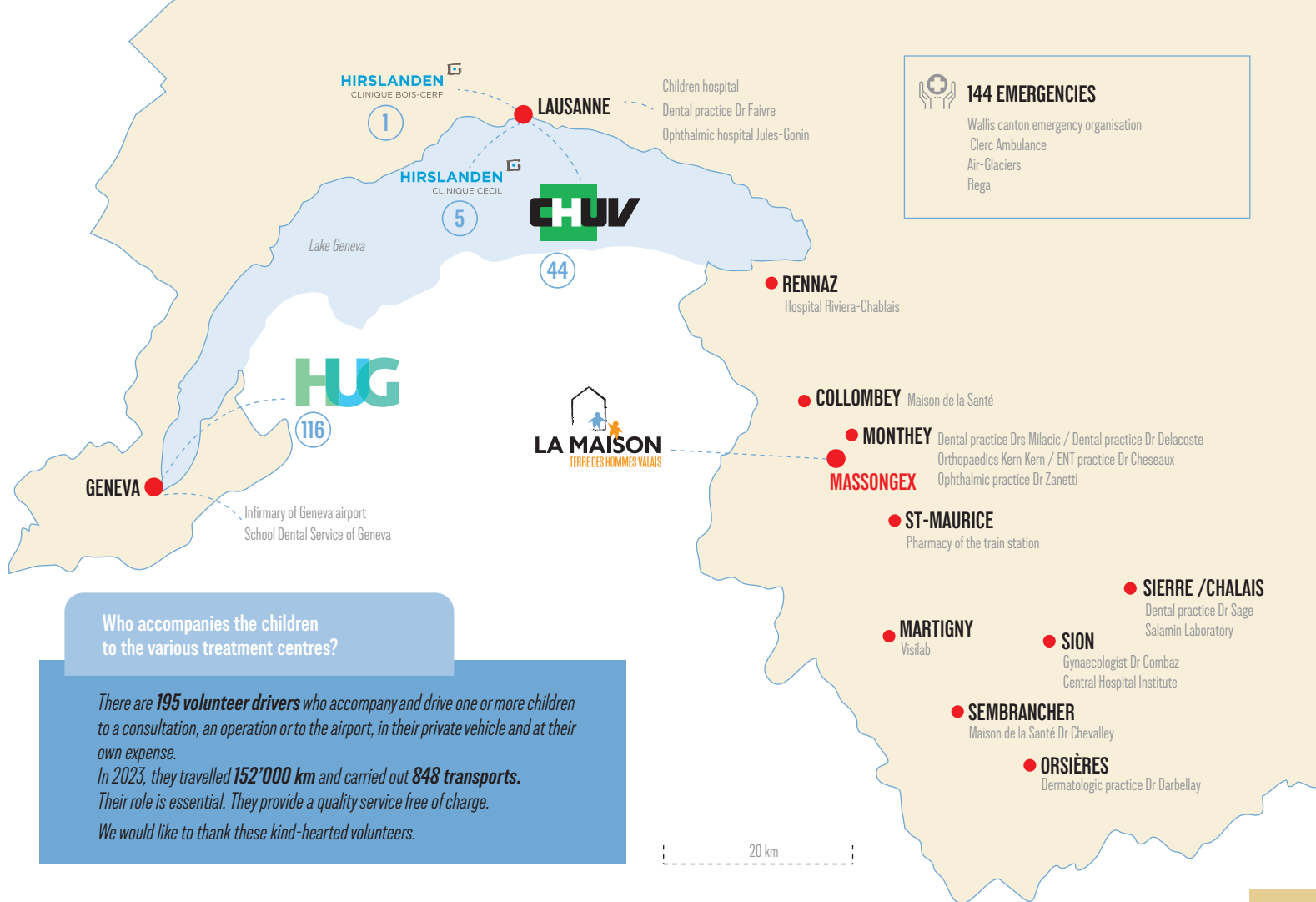
For over 60 years, La Maison has worked closely with the university hospitals of Geneva (HUG) and Lausanne (CHUV), which pay for their services through their humanitarian budgets. In addition to these two hospitals, La Maison also provides treatment for special cases at the Clinique Cecil, the Clinique Bois-Cerf and the Hôpital ophtalmique Jules-Gonin, all three in Lausanne.

Many committed and generous medical partners

As soon as they arrive in Switzerland, the children undergo an initial check-up at the Geneva airport infirmary. They are then admitted for a more in-depth initial health check (IHC) at one of the university hospitals, the Hôpital de l'Enfance in Lausanne or the Hôpital Riviera-Chablais in Rennaz. Various medical partners, including many specialists, offer their skills as part of outpatient services (dentists, ophthalmologists, dermatologists, etc.). A fine illustration of solidarity and commitment. Our heartfelt thanks go to these partners, friends of La Maison.



More than 60% of heart diseases are considered complex or even very complex





Boris, breathing again thanks to the operation which repaired his little heart

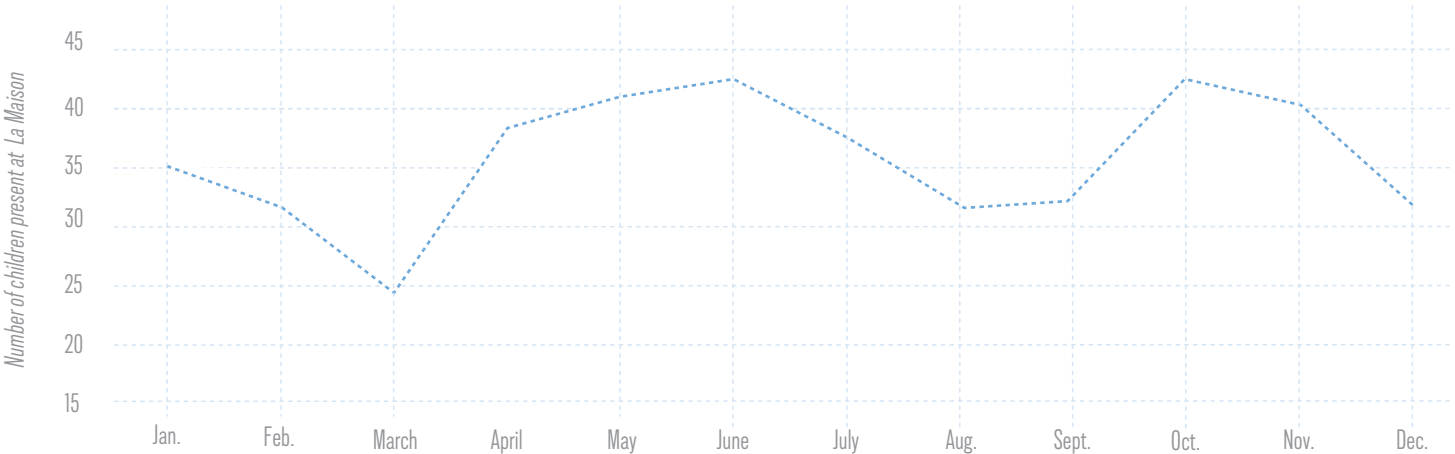
Increase in the number of children at La Maison in 2023

La Maison has a single ambition: to help save as many children in need as possible.

Every week, children leave their families to come to us for treatment.
Every week, children leave cured.
Every day of the week, children leave for consultations or operations in Geneva or Lausanne.
The fluctuating number of children at La Maison depends on the operating capacity of the partner hospitals. La Maison can accommodate up to 50 children at any one time.

	2023	Average over ten years
Number of sick days at La Maison*	12'917	12'971
Average number of children at La Maison	29	35

**a sick day is accounted as a day spent at La Maison by a child*



The figures give the attendance figures for La Maison.
The real value lies in each Life we save together.



Post-operative care at the La Maison infirmary

Number of transfers of the 166 children arriving at La Maison in 2023

La Maison as a temporary home

La Maison welcomed ~97% of children transferred to Switzerland for the first time and ~3% of children needing additional care or surgery. Parents or children who have become adults can call on a partner to obtain help in their country of origin and organise a new transfer if necessary. A child's arrival at La Maison marks the beginning of a relationship that can be extended, depending on needs.



162 children → 1st stay

1 child → 2nd stay

3 children → 3rd stay

Who accompanies the children on the plane?



The children are accompanied on commercial flights by volunteers from Aviation sans Frontières. Some of the children are in a critical condition, and these missions require a great deal of personal commitment and vigilance on the part of the accompanying persons.

Length of stay of the 151 children who left La Maison in 2023

Longest stay : **478** days.

Shortest stay : **15** days.

Average length of stay for all medical conditions combined : **74** days.

Average length of stay for children undergoing heart surgery : **61** days.

Abeline arrived at La Maison on 23 August 2022. She suffered from a severe orthopaedic deformity. The complexity of her treatment kept her away from her family for more than 18 months. She returned to her country, cured, in December 2023.





A trainee at La Maison with the little ones at the Jardin d'enfants

Education and development of children at La Maison

The school at La Maison

The right to education is a fundamental human right that La Maison also guarantees to the children it cares for during their stay in Massongex. The La Maison school offers quality education and teaching adapted to each child, thus helping to reduce the inequalities suffered by disadvantaged and sick children.

La Maison has two multi-grade classes. The investment in the school is undeniably beneficial, but it also has a cost. The annual running costs of the school are around CHF 80'000.- based on the costs of the teaching staff.

The Kindergarten of La Maison

The Kindergarten of La Maison is a place where children can discover and open up to the world around them. It is designed to provide an environment conducive to exploration, experimentation, self-building, play and encounters with others. It gives young children in care the opportunity to experience, discover and learn in a playful way.



Mathematics for a young boarder at La Maison school

Sources of funding for La Maison in 2023

During 2023, we once again benefited from diversified funding.

60% came from **private donors**, for the most part domiciled in Switzerland.

We received substantial support from various **foundations**, representing 24% of admissions.

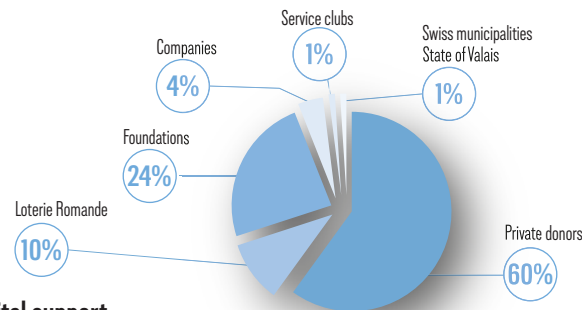
The important financial support of the **Loterie Romande** represents 10% of our resources.

Companies made a significant contribution, accounting for 4% of our funding.

Service clubs supported us by volunteering their time and by making donations, which accounted for 1% of our resources.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of various **Swiss municipalities** and the **State of Valais**, whose combined contributions represent 1% of our funds.

Together, these contributions enable La Maison to continue to bring hope and healing. Our warmest thanks go to every contributor, partner and donor.



Vital support

La Maison is funded entirely by donations and receives no subsidies.

Its budget for 2024 is CHF 4.15 million.

It is not yet possible to delve into financial details in this report. It will be completed as soon as the accounts have been drawn up, submitted to the Foundation Board, audited by the auditors and verified by the Valais State Supervisory Authority for Foundations.

60 years of solidarity and hope



Since its creation in 1963, Terre des hommes Valais has followed an exemplary path of solidarity with children in need. Founder Paul Veillon's response to Edmond Kaiser's appeal led to the creation of La Maison in 1970. In 2024, 60 years later, La Maison continues its mission, relentlessly, without interruption, humbly, discreetly, in the service of humanity.

Highlights of the 60th anniversary

Rencontres Estivales

The gardens of La Maison were transformed into an ephemeral restaurant for 1 week during the 2nd Rencontres Estivales, bringing together nearly 900 guests. In addition to the event itself, the net result of CHF 41'400.- underlined the willingness of a wide public to meet at La Maison to support the children.

10th anniversary of the Vallée d'Illeiez Intercommunal School

The Intercommunal School marked its 10th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of our foundation with an exceptional solidarity initiative, involving nearly 860 pupils. The Walk of Hope produced an impressive net result of CHF 85'367.-.

Guest of honour at the Foire du Valais

The 2023 Foire du Valais will be remembered for the determined commitment of its volunteers, strong media support and numerous partnerships. The highlight was the memorable concert by the Genevans of Basel's Beau Lac, which contributed to a net result of CHF 35'300.-.

These highlights of the year illustrate the great solidarity that reigns in our country and the various forms it can take.

Environmental investments

In order to comply with the management of clear water, which must no longer be mixed with waste water, the Terre des hommes Valais foundation has had to carry out work to separate clear water from waste water on the La Maison site, to be completed during the summer and autumn of 2023.

The work, estimated at around CHF 65'000.- includes the installation of collectors and a retention basin.

At the same time, a new project to install solar panels on various roofs of the institution is planned for the coming years, with the aim of significantly increasing the energy autonomy of La Maison and protecting the environment. These installations will enable even more solar-generated electricity to be produced on site, reducing dependence on the electricity grid and generating long-term savings on electricity bills.

These initiatives require specific financial support.



The roof of La Maison school has already been fitted with photovoltaic panels



Children convalescing in front of La Maison Terre des hommes Valais

Acknowledgments

We mention only by name those entities that have expressly requested to be mentioned :

- Our generous donors in Valais, Switzerland and abroad.
- Organisers of events in aid of La Maison.
- Companies in Valais and Switzerland.
- Numerous foundations in Switzerland and abroad.
- The "Plein Vent" foundation of Emile, Marthe and Charlotte E. Rüphi.
- The Coromandel Foundation.
- The 500 or so extraordinary volunteers who take part in La Maison's various activities.
- More than 195 "convoyeurs" who transport the children to the various clinics and to the airport.
- The volunteer "godparents" who visit and look after the children in hospital.
- Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque, Une chance, un cœur, Chirurgie pour l'Enfance Africaine, Sentinelles, Children Action and Let it Beat, who entrust the children to our care.
- With the support



- Anyone who does not recognise themselves in the above and who has contributed, with us, to saving lives and changing the world.

Confidence at the heart of our actions

- From the parents who entrust us with their child.
- From the children we hold in our arms.
- All the volunteers who give their time.
- All the staff who give their all every day.
- All the donors whose support saves lives.
- To the competent, caring and available medical teams.

Thank you

- **For your generosity**
- **For your trust**
- **For your messages of encouragement**
- **Your donations**
- **Services offered**
- **Discounts**

sharing this mission with us



Foundation Terre des hommes Valais

Route de Chambovey 3 • CH-1869 Massongex/Wallis
+41 24 471 26 84 • info@tdh-valais.ch
www.tdh-valais.ch

PostFinance
POFICHBEXX
IBAN CH79 0900 0000 1900 9340 7

Director
Philippe Gex
+41 (0) 24 471 26 84
philippe.gex@tdh-valais.ch

Fundraising and communications
Grégory Rausis
+41 (0) 24 471 73 80
gregory.rausis@tdh-valais.ch



The online version of the 2023 activity report
<https://www.tdh-valais.ch/en/activity-report2023/>



@laimaiontdh



@tdhvalais



@fondation-terre-des-hommes-valais



@tdhvalais



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@TerredeshommesValais