



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope
to children”

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



God @ Work

SUMMARY

Editorial	3
Who We Are and How it All Began	4-5
GWJ Around the World – 2021	6
Eastern Europe – Romania	7
Middle East – Syria	8
Europe – Spain	9
Southeast Asia – Mongolia	10
Europe – France	11
Middle East – Lebanon	12
Central Asia	13
GWJ Financial Overview 2021	14
Thanks & Partners	15
Impressum & Contacts	16





Dear Grain of Wheat Friends,

Another year with Covid-19 has gone by. New year, same challenges as in 2020. But our teams learnt a lot and continued to develop new ways to bring hope to children. We enjoy the stories that we hear from around the world and share them with as many people as possible. You will read several testimonies in this annual report as well because we believe that you want to know what we are doing in so many countries.

On one hand we are thankful for what we can do and the number of children that we reach every year with the message of hope, but on the other hand we realize that there are still so many, many children in poverty without hope. And for them we have that same message too! So our goals for the coming years are clear: give everything we have in order to reach more children than we do today!

We hope and pray that you join us in that mission!

Thank you for every kind of contribution!

Rob Hondsmark
CEO



Dear Friends,

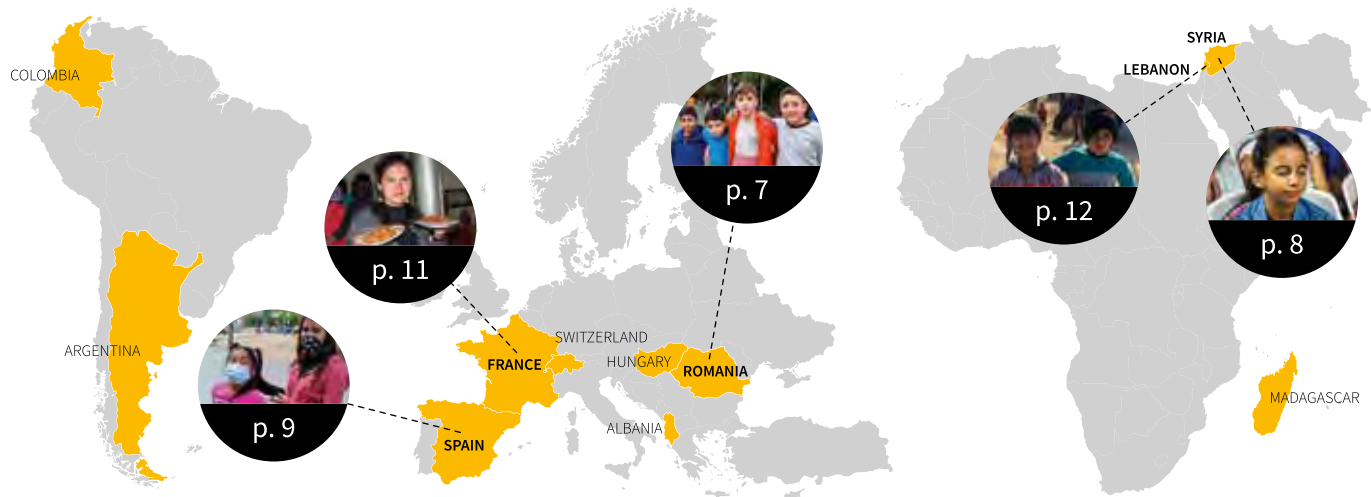
When I read the newspaper headlines, I often notice that the various countries mentioned are places where GWI actively serves the Lord. For over 6 years, I have had the pleasure of being a member of the Grain of Wheat's International Board, and I am always grateful to God for our dedicated teams around the world, that tirelessly proclaim the Good News of Jesus that never changes.

Everywhere we serve, Grain of Wheat has only one primordial purpose. That purpose is to share the Word through which the Lord Jesus speaks to the heart of each and every child and to lead them to the saving faith in Him. Considering this, we pray that God protects, renews, and guides Grain of Wheat in such a way that everlasting fruits will be produced in every nation we serve.

Be deeply blessed as you read the testimonies showing God at work in this report, knowing it is all because you cared enough to faithfully pray and generously support Grain of Wheat's ministry.

With deep appreciation,

Clément Friderici
International Board Member



Grain of Wheat International empowers thousands of children in 22 countries through a variety of programs uniquely designed to meet their specific needs.

Vision

We see each child becoming an **ambassador of hope** through Jesus Christ.

Mission

Encourage needy children with the message of God's love, develop their potential and equip them to

become **agents of transformation** within their community.

Strategy

- **Connect with children year-round** through camps, events and weekly clubs.
- **Equip and nurture children's growth morally, socially and spiritually** through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Train leaders** in partnership with local churches.

How it all Began

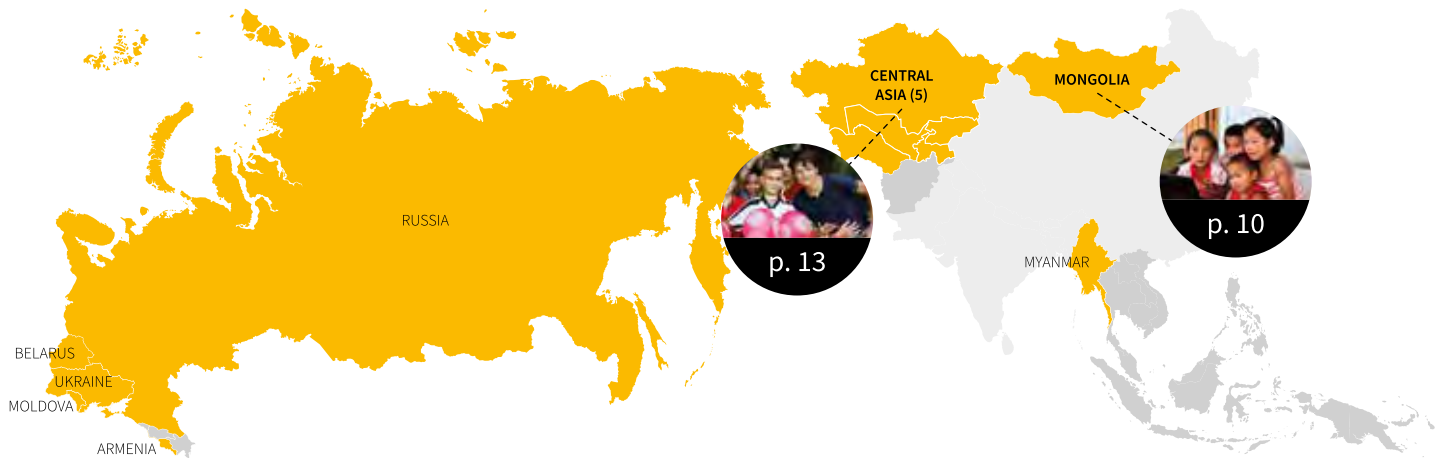
To understand the mission of GWI, we must go back to 1948 when a

Swiss businessman, Jean André, visited Germany after World War II. His heart was broken at the sight of so many homeless children wandering the streets.

In response, he brought a group of 120 German orphans to Switzerland for the summer.

They were well fed, cared for and learned how deeply God loved and valued them.

This first group of children returned to their homeland refreshed and better equipped to become all God intended.



Values

GWI's message and actions are centered on God's love for all children among the nations without distinction of any kind.

Our values and our teachings are based solely on the Holy Bible.

Every child is given the opportunity to accept God's saving grace through Jesus Christ.

Context

In most of the countries GWI serves, children are deeply scarred by war, poverty, addiction, divorce, violence and poor education.

In some cases, parents move elsewhere to find work leaving their children to fend for themselves.

GWI also cares for children in stable countries such as France, Spain, Switzerland, etc.

Activities

Our activities are enjoyed in a peaceful environment and designed to nurture each child spiritually, emotionally and physically.

This atmosphere of Christ-like love, fosters healthy relationships and opens children to faith in God.

2020-2023 Strategy

GWI's goal is to reach 5 million children in 2023. In view of this, we are professionalizing our ministry in every country.

By training volunteers, developing new educational strategies and building partnerships with various Christian organizations, our desire is to **help children become active disciples in families, churches and communities.**

See how and where we interact with children*



Number of Children reached

By all our activities

1,415,987



CLUBS

Nurture children's faith through weekly meetings

728
CLUBS

33,698
CHILDREN
ATTENDING



CAMPS

Encourage children as they discover the Word of God

601
CAMPS

21,269
CHILDREN
PRESENT



SPORTS, ARTS & OTHER EVENTS

Experience the Gospel through sports and arts

1,013,000
PARTICIPANTS &
SPECTATORS



TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Equip and encourage leaders

1,395
LEADERS TRAINED

3,871
VOLUNTEERS



HUMANITARIAN AID

Provide relief in a holistic way

197,913
RECIPIENTS

* Covid-19's impact on every aspect of our ministry has made it necessary for us to rely on each country to send us their specific data. Because of this, these statistics are only meant to give you an idea of Grain of Wheat's outreach over the past year

ROMANIA 

Grain of Wheat Romania started its activities with GWI in 1990

From Isolation to Acceptance



Like so many kids, Danut* was fearful and uncertain about how to re-enter life after the isolation he experienced during the long Covid lock-down. As he sunk deeper and deeper into depression, he distanced himself from his friends and basically lived in seclusion. He tried to cope with his pain by eating as many sweets as he could find, and even stole money from his parents to buy more.

Needless to say, Danut's mother was desperate to find a way for him to get out and interact with other kids. When she learned about our camp, she knew this would be a good place for him to find healing and convinced him to give it a try.

He was very shy on his first few days at camp, and even though the other kids were friendly and invited him to play with them, he just stood back and watched. Step by step he slowly began to join in their games and in the end, he even made a good friend.

With a big smile on her face, Danut's mother told us that his life has completely changed, because of the love and acceptance he experienced at camp. Now, all he wants to do is play with his friends every chance he gets and has even stopped eating so much candy!

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

*"With a big smile on her face,
Danut's mother told us that his
life has completely changed..."*

SYRIA



Grain of Wheat Syria started its activities with GWI in 2009

Lifetime Memories Made



The Grain of Wheat Syria team was able to provide summer camps for 9 churches in 2021. It was at these camps that a lifetime of memories were made, that are next to impossible to make anywhere else. Not only did our summer camps change the lives of children in Syria, but they also changed the lives of our camp leaders.

Some of the children at our camp were from broken homes and some were orphans. Because praying was new for most of them, it was on our heart to teach them how to personally pray to the Lord each day.

Their response was precious, as with tears they sincerely asked each other to raise them and their families up in prayer for joy, peace, and health.

“ He was so in love with God's Word that he even memorized scripture beyond what the team was teaching! ”

Elias*, an 11-year-old boy, memorized all the Bible verses he heard each day at camp. At our morning meetings, he was always the first to raise his hand so he could share the verses he had learned with everyone. He was so in love with God's Word that he even memorized scripture beyond what the team was teaching!

After camp, his mother asked, "What did you do to my son?". She couldn't believe the transformation she saw in his life at home and was amazed by how much he loved reading his Bible every day.

* Name changed for privacy reasons.

SPAIN 

Grain of Wheat Spain started its activities with GWI in 1996

Precious and Important

Miriam is 13 years old. She and her single mother are from Peru and live in a small flat with five other people. Because Miriam's two older brothers live under a death threat from the local mafia in Peru, she and her mother are in constant fear that they will be killed. Their difficult situation led social services to send her to our summer camp. It didn't take long for Miriam's leader to notice that she seemed unusually sad, so she found a quiet time to sit and talk with her.

Miriam opened her heart and tearfully said that she had planned to take her life because she felt so miserable and useless with no sense of purpose.

This opened the door for her leader to lovingly express how important and precious she is to her family and friends.

She then gave Miriam a New Testament and read verses to her about how God has shown His great love for her through Jesus Christ. As Miriam took these words into her heart, she was deeply encouraged and comforted.

Even though Miriam is doing much better, she is eager to meet with a Christian psychologist to work through her emotional struggles and find the help and healing that only hope and faith in God can bring.



“ As Miriam took these words into her heart, she was deeply encouraged and comforted ”

MONGOLIA



Grain of Wheat Mongolia started its activities with GWI in 2008

Camps via Zoom



Each year, GWI teams from Russia travel to Mongolia to hold camps, but this year's Covid restrictions made this impossible. In their determination not to give up, they held camp via Zoom.

Ganbaatar* remembers, *"I learned a lot from this online camp and would like to thank the Russian team, the teachers, and the worship team for all the hard work they put into sharing the Good News of Jesus with us when we needed it the most!"*.

Munhtsetseg*, age 12 is a middle child who feels invisible and second best to the others in her family. After hearing our message on how God has made us

special and sees us a winner, she later exclaimed, *"Wow, I just realized that I am a winner! I am special, and just as valuable as the others in my family!"*.

Another young girl lives with her alcoholic father. Sometimes he is so drunk she can't even sleep at home. It was like honey to our hearts to see her filled with peace after she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Batjargal*: *"I never imagined that so many children would believe in the Lord after sitting for 2 days on a Zoom call, but I was one of those who decided to follow Jesus. I'm now going to church and will always remember to focus on living God's way"*.

" I never imagined that so many children would believe in the Lord after a Zoom call "

The importance of face-to-face meetings motivated us to find new ways to gather again, but our greatest concern was that parents would keep their kids home. As it turned out parents were overjoyed that camp was starting up again and they are already looking forward to next year!

** Names changed for privacy reasons.*

FRANCE



Grain of Wheat France started its activities with GWI in 1960

Martine – Volunteer Cook at Art Camp 2021



She remembers, *"Even though being a cook's helper is not my profession, I wanted to serve Jesus as a volunteer in the kitchen at art camp. Little did I know this would mean being on my feet all day, cooking over a hot stove in warm weather. Washing dishes, washing clothes, taking out the garbage, swollen legs in the evening and getting up before the sun every morning."*

Even though this was really hard, the one thing that made it all worthwhile, was my heart's commitment to serve Jesus every day and to love my neighbor by using my talents to work for Gods children. I saw each person as a blessing and noticed how a simple smile or a kind word could bring joy to another's heart.

In short, I would like to say that volunteering at camp is intense and not easy. Yet, with a heart ready to serve Jesus, it was just amazing!"

The mom of a child at Cap Aventure summer camp 2021 shares: *"Since coming home from camp, my daughter has a newfound peace. On her own, she is listening to worship music and spends time drawing pictures from stories in the New Testament. I wanted to thank you for all the work you are doing in the lives of these children, and thank the Lord for changing my daughter's heart".*

NB: *The girl in the picture is not Martine.*

"Even though being a cook's helper is not my profession, I wanted to serve Jesus..."

LEBANON



Grain of Wheat Lebanon started its activities with GWI in 1985

We're Your Friends Now



At our first camp meeting we showed a film called, *"Not Alone"*. It tells the story of two Syrian refugee children who are filled with loneliness and how they discovered that God was with them even there.

While we watched it, young Raza* began to cry. Afterward, we sat with him and asked why he had been crying. He said, *"I am so alone because I have no friends and feel like nobody loves me"*. We lovingly assured him, *"We're your friends now and so are all the children at this camp!"*. Over the next few weeks, he was the first one waiting for us when we arrived at camp and couldn't wait to hear the Bible stories. It was so rewarding to see that he even applied what he learned by getting along better with the other kids.

As Raza's mother wondered how this dramatic change had happened, we gave all the credit to God, as it was only when Raza discovered God's great love for him that he knew he would never be alone again.

“ *It was so rewarding to see that he even applied what he learned by getting along better with the other kids* ”

No Longer Alone

Because Ahmed* can't walk, he was unable to join our camp program. We also discovered that he has trouble pronouncing words, so he stays alone in his tent all day and has made no friends.

Imagine Ahmed's delight when we brought camp to his tent the following week. He enthusiastically clapped along with the other kids as we sang Christian songs and was captivated by the puppets we used for story time. As Ahmed's mother watched this, it was her dream come true to see her son playing with friends, and no longer the special needs boy sitting alone in his tent.

** Names changed for privacy reasons.*

CENTRAL ASIA 

Grain of Wheat started its activities in Central Asia in 1996

Jesus Comes into his Life

Amir*, a Muslim boy, age 12: *"On the first day of camp, I saw that Bible lessons were listed on the schedule every day. I thought, well this is it; I'm not going to have a fun vacation after all! But surprisingly, I found the lessons fascinating as I had never heard the story about Eve, and how everything that went wrong from the beginning of creation was her fault, or the story about Jesus' second coming.*

Before this, I didn't deny the existence of God, I just didn't know anything about Him, except that it is necessary to read 'Namaz' (a Muslim prayer). But after learning so much more, everything in my soul turned upside down. At first it was scary, I thought what do I have to do, to avoid going to hell? Then everything was explained to me in detail, and I invited



“ We prayed that the Lord would touch him, and the next day he repented! Every day his face shone more and more ”

God into my life. But I will not be able to tell my parents about this yet.

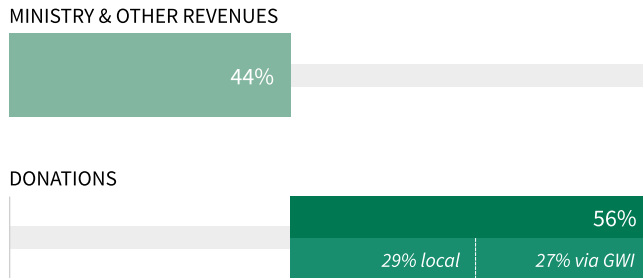
Maybe when I grow up and turn 21, I'll get rich and buy this place for camp, so that children can come here for free and learn about God".

Another boy didn't know that he had been sent to a Christian camp and was deeply distressed for the first two days. He analyzed everything we did and said and began to ask if he could go home because he didn't believe in God.

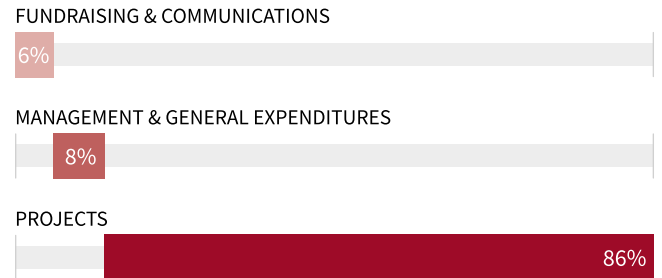
We prayed that the Lord would touch him, and the next day he repented! Every day his face shone more and more. Not only did he learn how to pray, but he even wanted to lead a prayer!

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

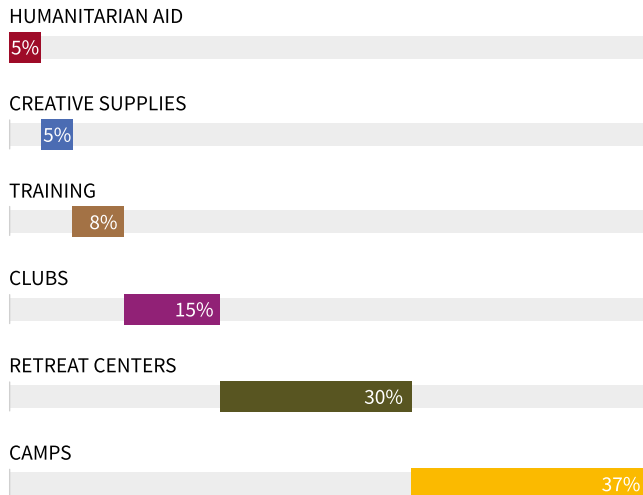
TOTAL REVENUES 2021
\$ 4,171,728 (CHF 3,814,245)



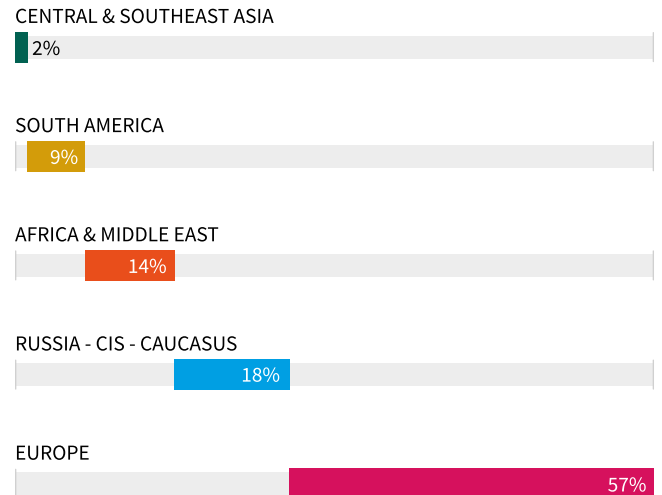
TOTAL EXPENSES 2021
\$ 4,159,589 (CHF 3,803,146)



PROJECT CATEGORIES



RESOURCES USED



Comments

Whether you are new to supporting GWI or have been helping us over the years, we never take your partnership for granted! Because of this, we strive to be the best stewards of the funds you have entrusted to us, by making every effort to keep our overhead costs as low as possible.

Partners

Alliance Presse	Lausanne Movement
Alongsiders Europe	Licht im Osten
Association of Young Intercessors	LSESD
AWANA	Mission of Mercy
Barnabas Fund	Near East Initiatives
Bible Mission	Near East Organization
Biblica	New Hope
Big Ministries	New Life
BRF	One Hope
Central Asia Conference	OCC-Samaritan's Purse
Child Evangelism Fellowship	Operation Mobilization
Children Matter	Orda Funds
Christian Bikers	Reaching Europe's Children
Christian Camping Intl.	RHEMA
Christian Men's Association	Schools Without Walls
Climber CA for Alpinist	Scripture Union
Equipping the Next Generation	Slavic Gospel Association
Global Children's Forum	Torchbearers
Good News to Children Mission	UNICEF
Guitar's Camp Ministries	World Alliance Association
Hope for Armenia	World Vision
International Sport Coalition	Yocontigo Association
JC2033	Youth for Christ

Thanks

We say it often, and we mean it, YOU make all the difference! Not only have you encouraged us by your faithful help and donations, but even more importantly you have reached the world's children with the hope and love of Jesus.

As always, we end our Annual Report with a heart full of gratitude for you!

“
*From the Bottom
of Our Heart,
the Grain of Wheat
Team Thanks You!*
”



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

Writing:

Clément Friderici
Rob Hondsmark
Katharina Kubli
Jean-Pascal Richir
Nancy Sands

Graphic design:
Maracudja.ch

International Board

Eric Lecomte, *Chairman*
Clément Friderici
Luc-André Neuenschwander
Frans Koopmans
Myriam Schaffter

**Grain of Wheat
International
(Headquarters)**

Chemin des Trois-Rois 5bis
1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
info@grainofwheat.org

US Board

Rebecca Khan, *Chairwoman*
Pam Deaton
Nancy Hansen
Rob Hondsmark
Anne Louise Portwood
Charlotte Schuyt

**Grain of Wheat
International (USA)**

P.O. Box 1125
Wheaton, IL 60187 USA
info@grainofwheat.org

Do you dream of seeing children become messengers of Christ's hope across the world? You can make it happen through your prayers and by your donations.

Donations: www.grainofwheat.org/donate or

IBAN: CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5

... or send your cheque made out to Grain of Wheat International to the address in your country.

