



**HEAR
THE WORLD
FOUNDATION**

a Sonova Group initiative

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019/20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04 CALL FOR ACTION
AUDIOLOGICAL CARE
- 06 WORLDWIDE SUPPORT
PROJECTS 2019/20
- 08 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
#HEARMEXICO
- 10 PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
#HEARTHEWORLD
- 12 PREVENTION OF HEARING LOSS
#HEARUKRAINE
- 14 PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES
#HEARKENYA
- 16 LONGSTANDING COOPERATION
#HEARDOMREP
- 22 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT
**CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING WITHIN
THE SONOVA GROUP**
- 24 AMBASSADORS
MARC SWAY – MUSICAL PREVENTION
- 26 FUNDRAISING
FASHION FOR A GOOD CAUSE
- 28 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
**HEARING TECHNOLOGY AT PREFERENTIAL
CONDITIONS**
- 30 ORGANIZATION
- 31 EDITORIAL INFORMATION

In the cover picture: Venus from Santo Domingo wears her new hearing aids with pink earpieces proudly like jewels.

Project: #HearDomRep – long-term investment in audiological care pays off. For more on this project, see **page 16**.

Cover picture: Silvio Gerber, Filmgerberei

OUR

ENGAGEMENT



VISION

Our vision is a world in which:

- every person has the chance to experience good hearing;
- a hearing aid is not seen as taboo;
- hearing is cherished and protected; and
- people with hearing loss enjoy equal opportunities.



MISSION

The Hear the World Foundation has set itself the goal of improving the quality of life of children with hearing loss from low- to middle-income countries by giving them access to audiological care and hearing solutions.



EFFECTIVENESS

Our overriding principles when it comes to project support are that our resources should be utilized in the most effective way and have a long-lasting, positive effect on the lives of disadvantaged people with hearing loss.

That is why we mainly support projects that benefit **children** with hearing loss, because they have their whole lives ahead of them. Our support enables them to hear, to learn to speak, to develop according to their age, to enjoy better opportunities at school and in their future occupations, and to live a life without limitations.

We also support **parents and families**, as they play a significant role in their children's development.

In addition, we invest in the **education and training of local professionals**, so that they will be able to provide quality audiological care to their local community without our help in the future.

Preventing hearing loss is another of our major aims. We make people aware of the importance of good hearing and protecting their hearing through public awareness campaigns.

INTRODUCTION

FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS



DEAR READER

Good hearing is a reality for most of us. However, for about 466 million people with hearing loss worldwide, this is not the case – especially not for those living in low- to middle-income countries. Audio-

logical care in these regions is often impacted by deficits in the healthcare system. For children in particular, untreated hearing loss can have serious consequences: if these children are unable to hear, they might not learn to speak or only learn to speak to a limited extent, can become socially isolated, and often have little chance of getting an education.

That is why we support aid projects around the world and provide disadvantaged children with access to audiological care, hearing solutions, and auditory-verbal therapy – thereby improving their prospects for the future. The achievements of our partner project CORAL in Mexico (p. 8) in fall 2019 are just one example.

The training of hearing care providers is another pillar of the Foundation's work. By providing our project partners with specialist knowledge, we invest in local audiological care that will no longer be dependent on foreign help in the long term. In 2019, for example, we made it possible for three Foundation project team members from Ukraine, Kenya, and Lebanon to attend advanced training at the reputed Academy of Hearing Aid Acoustics in Lübeck, Germany (p. 10).

As well as ensuring that children with hearing loss have access to first-class audiological care, it is important to us that they also receive speech and language support. Since there is a shortage of auditory-verbal therapists in most of the project countries, we hold informational events for parents where they can learn how to support their child's speech and language development (p. 14).

We are particularly proud of projects that we have been involved in for a long time and where we are achieving a great deal through integral support – for example in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to our engagement, people from all walks of life have access to first-class audiological care. This is also the case for little Venus, who was born with severe hearing loss and who, thanks to hearing aids, now has completely new prospects for the future (p. 16).

We are proud of what we have achieved this year. We will continue to do everything we can to make our vision of a world where everyone enjoys the delight of hearing a reality. As the new President of the Hear the World Foundation, I am delighted to be able to make a personal commitment toward this goal. It is very important to me to achieve maximum impact with our efforts and resources. That is why we are continuously striving to enhance our project portfolio, to assess the impact of our efforts, and to generally improve the quality of our work.

In the next few months, however, the most important action will be to assist our project partners with the challenges they face due to the coronavirus crisis. For many of them, the associated restrictions mean that their work cannot be continued or can only be continued with great difficulty. Where possible, we will help our partners to find creative and practical solutions to overcome these obstacles.

As you can see, despite the current challenges, we are motivated as we start the new fiscal year, and are delighted that you are continuing to support us.

Sincerely

Arnd Kaldowski
President of the Hear the World Foundation



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the global agenda for sustainable development up to the year 2030. With its work, the Hear the World Foundation makes a valuable contribution toward two of the SDGs: 3 (good health and well-being) and 4 (quality education).



CALL FOR ACTION

AUDIOLOGICAL CARE

A total of 34 million children around the world have moderate to profound hearing loss. 60 percent of all hearing loss could be prevented¹.

Around 80 percent of these 34 million children with hearing loss live in low- or middle-income countries and often have no access to audiological care. This has serious consequences: not hearing could mean not being able to learn to speak, experiencing difficulties at school, or not being able to access education, and therefore could severely limit job opportunities and reduce their chances of leading a life without limitations.

Early diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss are therefore crucial. That is why the Hear the World Foundation supports aid projects throughout the world that use the latest hearing technology and provide auditory-verbal therapy to give children the chance to develop according to their age and achieve their full potential.

“Quality and sustainability are two hallmarks of our dedication. We strive to perform our work according to international standards in pediatric audiology care and in the education and training of project team members. The ultimate goal is that our project partners will be able to provide for themselves in the future.”

Sunil Kapoor, Senior Director APAC Advanced Bionics and member of the Hear the World Foundation Board

¹ WHO, 2018



Sunil Kapoor, member of the Hear the World Foundation Board, plays an important role as a cochlear implant expert in our project in Vietnam where deaf children are provided with cochlear implants.



WORLDWIDE

OUR PROJECTS 2019/20

23 projects in 20 countries
1 worldwide project: 52 children

 hear-the-world.com/projects

OUR SUPPORT:

-  **Technology**
Provision of hearing solutions
-  **Funding**
Financial support
-  **Expertise**
Training for project partners

OUR FOCUS:

-  **PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**
-  **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**
-  **PREVENTION OF HEARING LOSS**
-  **PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES**



As part of a volunteer assignment by Sonova employees, the hearing ability of five-year-old Vania is assessed at her kindergarten in Villa de Zaachila, Mexico.



#HEARMEXICO

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Our involvement focuses on programs that provide audiological care to disadvantaged children with hearing loss. Thanks to professionally adjusted hearing solutions, we give these children access to the world of sounds, as well as to speech and education, thereby helping them to lead a life without limitations.

The Hear the World Foundation has cooperated with the Mexican organization Centro Oaxaqueño de Rehabilitación de Audición y Lenguaje (CORAL) since 2014. The goal of the partnership is to improve the lives of children with hearing loss in the state of Oaxaca who are between birth and six years of age and come from low-income families. CORAL is committed to the prevention, early detection and treatment of hearing loss, and advocates for inclusive education. To this end, the Hear the World Foundation supports CORAL financially, including covering the costs of the necessary diagnostic equipment and paying the wage costs of language teachers and psychologists. The Foundation also donates hearing aids for children in need and promotes the development of local expertise through education and training by Sonova specialists.

>35 000

CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD UNDERWENT HEARING SCREENINGS IN THE COURSE OF OUR PROJECTS. OVER 1,000 CHILDREN WERE DIAGNOSED WITH HEARING LOSS.



#HEARTHEWORLD

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Foundation seeks to build local capacity: in the course of our aid projects, we provide education and training for project team members in order to establish the necessary conditions for these teams to help themselves in the future. In this way, we are making sustainable investments in audiological care that will not be reliant on foreign aid in the future, while creating qualified jobs locally.

In August 2019, a one-week course in pediatric audiology was held at the Academy of Hearing Aid Acoustics (afh) in Lübeck, Germany. For the first time, the Hear the World Foundation made it possible for three of its project partners to participate in this course. During the course, participants Gladys (#HearLebanon), Myroslava (#HearUkraine), and Elizabeth (#HearKenya) were able to expand their knowledge of pediatric audiology and exchange ideas with other professionals.

> 190

PROFESSIONALS FROM ALL 24 OF OUR PROJECTS WERE TRAINED OVERALL.

Elizabeth Wambui, hearing aid acoustician from Kenya, experiences the deficits in the Kenyan healthcare system firsthand during her work in a hospital in Kijabe. In Lübeck, she was able to expand her knowledge of pediatric audiology to help close the gap in her community's healthcare provision.



#HEARUKRAINE

PREVENTION OF HEARING LOSS

According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), 60 percent of all hearing loss in children could be avoided. That is why we also invest in hearing loss prevention campaigns as part of our aid projects.

The Hear the World Foundation has supported the Hearing Center in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, since 2018. Three local ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctors established the Hearing Center to provide professional audiological care to disadvantaged people in Western Ukraine. They also carry out educational work, for example by organizing a wide-reaching information and education campaign each year on World Hearing Day, March 3. They also give lectures on the importance of hearing loss prevention in schools and universities. And they specifically explain the importance of prevention to the patients who come to the Hearing Center.

>700

CHILDREN WORLDWIDE WERE
REFERRED TO AN ENT DOCTOR.

The Hearing Center in Ivano-Frankivsk provides professional audiological care to disadvantaged people in Western Ukraine.



#HEARKENYA

PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

Since parents play a key role in their children's speech development, we also promote programs to educate and empower parents and families.

As well as requiring hearing aids to ensure good hearing and understanding, children with hearing loss also need auditory-verbal therapy to develop their speech ability. However, there is a shortage of qualified auditory-verbal therapists in most low- to middle-income countries. This makes the role played by parents in the speech development of their children even more important. The Hear the World Foundation supports parents by organizing information events and providing training material. This enables parents to learn how to handle hearing aids and to stimulate their children's speech themselves. The children are fitted with hearing aids and the parents can attend information events where they learn how to help their children fully benefit from their hearing.

>2,000

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS BENEFITED AND RECEIVED SUPPORT WORLDWIDE.

In Kenya, the Hear the World Foundation helps a parent organization and teachers at a school in Nairobi by explaining how they can advise parents of children with hearing loss.

#HEARDOMREP

LONGSTANDING COOPERATION

While vacationers usually perceive the Dominican Republic as a post-card idyll, almost half of all Dominicans live in slums. Access to medical care is too expensive for many inhabitants. The Centro Cristiano de Servicios Médicos was founded in Santo Domingo in 1980 with the aim of providing these people with first-class and affordable healthcare. Today, the clinic has five sites across the country. This ensures that even people in remote regions can receive medical care. Thanks to the support of the Hear the World Foundation, locals from all walks of life have access to first-class audiological care.

It all began in 2010 with an application to the Hear the World Foundation for funding for a sound level meter. Today, the Centro Cristiano de Servicios Médicos offers audiological services that are unique on the Caribbean island. The clinic has state-of-the-art equipment as well as qualified and enthusiastic staff. It also runs its own training program to ensure that junior staff are professionally trained.

Hear the World Master Clinician Diana Lurnagaray from Argentina is responsible for the education and training of the staff of the Centro Cristiano de Servicios Médicos during her visits to the site.



Partner: Centro Cristiano de Servicios Médicos
Location, period: Dominican Republic, since 2010

Our support:   

TRAINING OF 33 LOCAL AUDIOLOGISTS

How this success came about: In 2010, the Hear the World Foundation initially financed diagnostic tools to identify hearing loss and also funded training for the local project team. Then in 2014, the internationally renowned pediatric audiologist Professor Richard Seewald from the Hear the World Advisory Board traveled to the Caribbean island to see the clinic for himself and gain a picture of the local situation. Professor Seewald subsequently developed a master plan for the next five years alongside project leader Nicole Hunter-Diaz. The aim was to turn the Centro Cristiano into a model clinic. "During our visit, we met five passionate and committed employees. In addition, the clinic management showed great willingness to improve the quality of audiological care, especially with regard to the care of babies, infants, and their families. This corresponded perfectly to two of our Foundation's goals: building local capacity and early detection and treatment of hearing loss," explains Seewald.

First of all, the clinic was renovated and equipped with state-of-the-art equipment with funding from the Hear the World Foundation. Local people were then given full audiological training. The project now has 33 trained audiologists who – spread across three locations – provide audiological care to the Dominican population. Regular training sessions by Sonova volunteers and Hear the World Master Clinician Diana Lournagaray from Argentina ensure that the audiological care available is of the highest international standard. "During several on-site visits, we provided the staff with education and training, and familiarized them with international protocols. Thanks to this support, the Centro Cristiano now has the necessary expertise," says Lournagaray.

In addition, the Hear the World Foundation helped the Centro Cristiano from day one by supplying modern digital hearing devices so that even patients who cannot afford hearing aids can be looked after.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONWIDE EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM

Another milestone followed in 2016 with the establishment of a hearing screening program for newborns. To this end, the Centro Cristiano works with the largest maternity clinic in Santo Domingo, where around 11,000 babies are born each year. Several times a week, Centro Cristiano employees visit the clinic and perform free hearing screenings on newborns. "If young children do not perceive sufficient or any hearing stimuli due to untreated hearing loss, they have difficulty learning to speak, or are unable to learn at all," explains Miguel Evangelista, Head Audiologist at the clinic. "Shortcomings in this phase of development are difficult to catch up on."

The hearing test is free of charge. This is an important condition, because many of the newborns are children of immigrants from Haiti who cannot afford diagnosis or care. If the test result is negative, the baby is referred to the Centro Cristiano for further tests. The program is a huge success: every year, around 400 babies with hearing loss can be identified, and further treatment provided at Centro Cristiano. As a result, more and more families are coming to the Centro Cristiano with their little ones. In order to ensure that they receive audiological care of the highest standard, as well as optimal examination and treatment, a further clinic location has been opened east of the capital.

"During several on-site visits, we provided the staff with education and training, and familiarized them with international protocols. Thanks to this support, the Centro Cristiano now has the necessary expertise."

Diana Lournagaray, Hear the World Master Clinician



Audiologists trained by the Hear the World Foundation conducted more than 7,000 free neonatal hearing screenings at the largest maternity clinic in Santo Domingo. Around 400 babies with hearing loss were identified and cared for as a result.

Ever since Venus started wearing her hearing aids, she has been babbling tirelessly and absorbing every sound like a sponge. She is now even livelier than before.



HEARING AIDS FOR VENUS' FUTURE

Little Venus was born far too early, in the 28th week of pregnancy. Thanks to a program for premature babies run by our partner clinic, she developed well. Like all babies at the clinic, Venus underwent a newborn hearing screening – the result of which proved negative. The subsequent tests were also negative. To treat her hearing loss, Venus' mother Jeannette would then have had to take her to the Centro Cristiano. However, the family lived in a remote area, a long way from the clinic. The young mother was desperate. Since Venus' father was unemployed at the time, the family could not afford to pay for trips to the clinic. So, they let the appointments go by and stopped reporting to the Centro Cristiano. As luck would have it, Venus' father found a new job in the fall of 2019 – near the Centro Cristiano. The young family moved to a new house.

Finally Jeannette could do something for Venus, who was now two years old. She was very bright and, despite her severe hearing loss, the sunshine of the family. At the beginning of November, the time came for Venus to receive her new hearing aids. The effects were immediately visible to Jeannette: the little girl has been babbling tirelessly ever since and absorbing sounds like a sponge. She is now even livelier than before. To Venus' great delight, Jeannette chose bright pink earpieces – that the young girl now wears as proudly as if they were jewels. Venus attends auditory-verbal therapy twice a week at the Centro Cristiano to make up for the lost time in her speech development as much as possible.

“If young children do not perceive sufficient or any hearing stimuli due to untreated hearing loss, they have difficulty learning to speak or are unable to learn at all.”

Miguel Evangelista, Head Audiologist at the Centro Cristiano de Servicios Médicos



SONOVA

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

In 2013, the Hear the World Foundation initiated a volunteer program under which Sonova employees can carry out volunteer work for Hear the World projects. This program is responsible for the professional assistance granted by the Foundation to its partners. In addition to volunteer work on aid projects, employee involvement also includes other opportunities to provide support, such as employee fundraising.

“My experience as a volunteer was very enriching and a real eye-opener. It was a great pleasure to work with a team of other Sonova employees and to mutually support one another. I am very grateful for this experience outside my comfort zone.”

Nikki Chan, audiologist at Boots Hearingcare in the UK



55 SONOVA EMPLOYEES

were deployed as volunteers worldwide.



268 DAYS

of volunteer work were completed on a project basis for the Foundation.



FUNDRAISING

Sonova employees raised over CHF 26,000 for the Foundation in the 2019/20 fiscal year.



hear-the-world.com/employee-engagement



Nikki Chan from Boots Hearingcare in the UK assisted the Foundation as part of the #HearPeru project in Lima.



Marc Sway sings about the prevention of hearing loss with school children from Cape Town's poor districts.



MARC SWAY

PREVENTION WITH A SWISS MUSICIAN

Swiss musician Marc Sway visited an aid project supported by the Hear the World Foundation (#HearSouthAfrica) in Cape Town this year.

As a Hear the World ambassador, Marc Sway helped the Foundation with a hearing loss prevention campaign at the largest schools in the poor district of Mitchells Plain and in many small institutions in the poor district of Khayelitsha. He rewrote the world-famous children's song "Old MacDonald had a farm" especially for the occasion. His version conveys child-friendly messages on the prevention of hearing loss. And that's how he found himself singing along with the enthusiastic children at the top of his voice: "I know I have the right to hear, I know, I know, I know. And that's why I protect my ears, I know, I know, I know."

"I was touched by this project visit and will remember it for a long time. It's wonderful to see how much we have been able to achieve with our efforts, in terms of both the prevention and the treatment of hearing loss," says Sway. "As musicians, good hearing is a vital asset, and therefore of existential importance." Which is why he found it particularly important to pass this message on to the children as well.

Marc is one of more than 100 prominent Hear the World ambassadors who promote the importance of good hearing and the prevention of hearing loss.



hear-the-world.com/hearsouthafrica



FUNDRAISING

FASHION FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Sonova employee and slow-fashion designer Morena Rüfenacht created a T-shirt for the Hear the World Foundation in the summer of 2019. Sonova brand ambassador – French model Sophie Vouzelaud – presented the T-shirts at a fashion show attended by employees at the company's head office in Stäfa, Switzerland. A portion of the proceeds went to the Hear the World Foundation.

Morena Rüfenacht works part-time at Sonova as well as being a slow-fashion designer. She designed a T-shirt for the Hear the World Foundation to raise funds for the Foundation and to draw attention to the subject of hearing loss. By using the "Hear the World" slogan, she wanted to motivate people to adopt a more conscious attitude toward life. This is meant both literally – in the sense of "I hear the world" – and figuratively, that people should make more conscious decisions in everyday life. By purchasing a sustainably produced T-shirt, the buyer becomes an ambassador for the importance of hearing and also finances ten hearing tests in developing countries.



hear-the-world.com/fashion

Sonova employee and slow-fashion designer Morena Rüfenacht with French model Sophie Vouzelaud presenting the Hear the World T-shirts.

TECHNOLOGY

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

The Hear the World Foundation relies on partners to supply audiological equipment for its aid projects. In addition to the Phonak, Unitron, and Advanced Bionics hearing solutions from the Sonova product



Audioscan produces systems that make it possible to check objectively whether a hearing aid is fitted precisely. Audioscan has been supplying the Hear the World Foundation with these devices at preferential conditions since 2015. Projects in Peru and Vietnam have benefited from this partnership in the current fiscal year.



For more than ten years, all Hear the World projects worldwide have been supplied with “power one” hearing-aid batteries courtesy of VARTA Microbattery.



Vibes is a manufacturer of high-fidelity earplugs that use an acoustic filter. Since 2016, Vibes has been supporting the Hear the World Foundation by donating part of its revenue. In 2019/20, this donation amounted to over CHF 40,000, funding audiological equipment and additional hearing aids for the #HearPeru project.

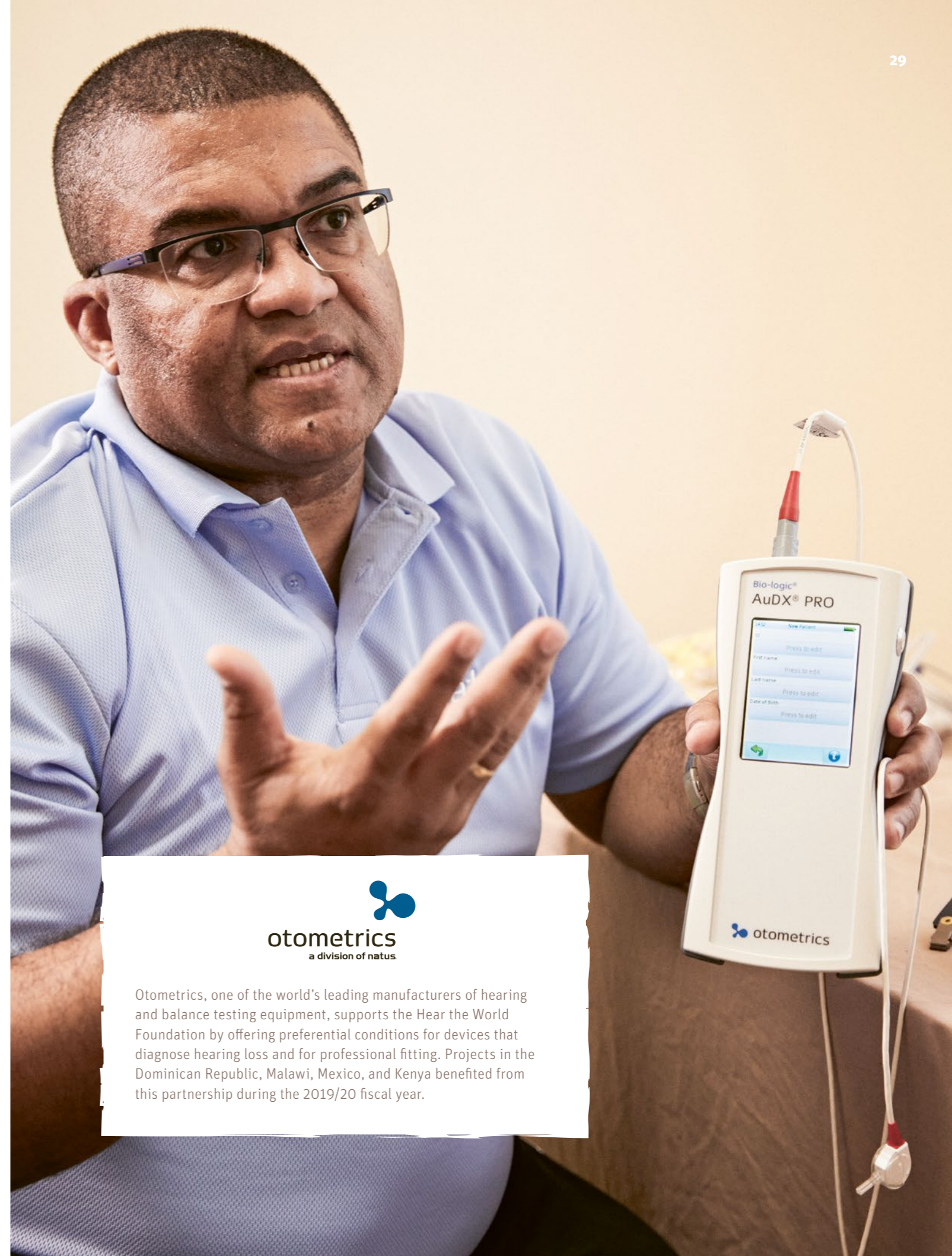
portfolio, these partners provide the Foundation with products at preferential conditions or offer financial support.

“We are impressed by the work of the Hear the World Foundation and its sustained commitment in many regions of the world. Everyone benefits from our involvement: people who protect their own hearing with Vibes also give others the gift of good hearing – possibly for the first time.”

Jackson Mann, founder of Vibes

“We are proud that by supporting the Hear the World Foundation with hearing-aid batteries made in Germany, we enable many people around the globe to hear, day after day. These social projects are very important to us.”

Torsten Scherer, General Manager Healthcare VARTA Microbattery GmbH



Otometrics, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of hearing and balance testing equipment, supports the Hear the World Foundation by offering preferential conditions for devices that diagnose hearing loss and for professional fitting. Projects in the Dominican Republic, Malawi, Mexico, and Kenya benefited from this partnership during the 2019/20 fiscal year.

ORGANIZATION

The Hear the World Foundation Board consists of members of the Sonova Group who can support the work of the Foundation at both strategic and operational levels through their roles in the company. The Advisory Board consists of hearing experts from outside the company, including professors of audiology. It is responsible for evaluating

suitable projects, which it then puts forward to the Foundation Board for support. The members of the Advisory Board are volunteers. Expenses are paid as incurred. The Administrative Office is responsible for the strategic and operational management of the Foundation.

FOUNDATION BOARD

ARND KALDOWSKI (PRESIDENT)

CEO, Sonova

CLAUDIO BARTESAGHI

Group Vice President Corporate HRM & Communications, Sonova

ORA BÜRKLİ-HALEVY

Senior Advisor, Sonova

JEAN ANNE SCHNITTKER

Audiological Researcher, Group Research & Development, Sonova

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Senior Director APAC, Advanced Bionics

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

ELENA TORRESANI

Director, Hear the World Foundation

CAROLE WITMER

Program Manager, Hear the World Foundation

LINDA DEFLORIN-KARRER

Program Manager, Hear the World Foundation

LOUISE SEN

Program Manager, Hear the World Foundation

ADVISORY BOARD

PROF. DR. RICHARD SEEWALD

Professor Emeritus at the National Center for Audiology, University of Western Ontario (CA)

PROF. DR. BEATRIZ NOVAES

Professor at the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences at the Catholic University of São Paulo (BR)

PROF. DR. JERRY L. NORTHERN

Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (USA)

DR. DOROTHE VERAGUTH

Chief Physician at the Audiology Clinic for Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Surgery at the University Hospital of Zurich (CH)

PROF. DR. PATRICIA ROUSH

Professor at the Department of Otolaryngology and Director of Pediatric Audiology at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill (USA)

SONOVA EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ADVISORY BOARD

FERAZ ASHRAF

Regional Hearingcare Manager, Boots Hearingcare

ANNA BIGGINS

Clinical Development & Training Manager, Phonak

LISA BACIC

Rehabilitation and Editorial Manager, Phonak

AVINASH GRUBB

Head of Audiology, Sonova India



PUBLICATION DETAILS

MAY 2020

CONCEPT AND TEXT

Hear the World Foundation

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HEAR THE WORLD FOUNDATION

a Sonova Group initiative

Founded in 2006, the Hear the World Foundation supports aid projects benefiting people in need with hearing loss worldwide. The foundation focuses particularly on projects for children with hearing loss, enabling them to develop to their fullest potential. The non-profit Swiss foundation provides funding, hearing aid technology and on-site expertise with a view to training up local staff. More than 100 high-profile personalities, such as Bryan Adams, Bruce Springsteen, Cindy Crawford, Annie Lennox, and Sting, have supported Hear the World as ambassadors for conscious hearing.



hear-the-world.com

HELP BY MAKING A DONATION!

Dear Reader

You too can help people hear! As an officially recognized nonprofit Foundation, the Hear the World Foundation guarantees that 100% of your financial support goes directly to helping disadvantaged people with hearing loss. The Sonova Group bears all the administrative costs of the Foundation. What is more, donations to the Hear the World Foundation are tax deductible in Switzerland.

The **bank information** for donations is:

UBS AG, Zurich

Account: Hear the World Foundation

Account number: 230-477384.01U

IBAN: CH12 0023 0230 4773 8401 U

SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A





Report of the statutory auditors

on the limited statutory examination to the Board of

Hear the World Foundation
Steinhausen

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements of Hear the World Foundation, which comprise the balance sheet, operating statement, statement of changes in capital and notes, for the year ended 31 March 2020. As permitted by Swiss GAAP FER 21 the information in the performance report is not required to be subject to the statutory auditors' examination.

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

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

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER. Furthermore, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG



Sandra Böhm Uglow

Audit expert
Auditor in charge



Dominik Hatstrup

Audit expert

Zürich, 20 April 2020

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, operating statement, statement of changes in capital and notes)

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ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MARCH 31

(in Swiss francs)	2019/2020	2018/2019
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	371,278	550,781
	371,278	550,781
Total assets	371,278	550,781
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Other current liabilities	7,948	0
Accrued liabilities	7,539	13,525
	15,487	13,525
Capital of the organization		
Paid-in capital	500,000	500,000
Free capital	(144,210)	37,256
	355,790	537,256
Total liabilities	371,278	550,781

OPERATION STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1 TO MARCH 31

(in Swiss francs)	2019/2020	2018/2019
Income		
Income from donations	3,782,033	2,615,517
Total income	3,782,033	2,615,517
Expenses		
Technological support for projects abroad	(3,138,830)	(1,840,601)
Financial support for projects abroad	(468,269)	(368,523)
Professional support for projects abroad	(200,840)	(291,435)
Technological support for projects in Switzerland	(70,425)	(68,627)
Financial support for projects in Switzerland	(76,400)	0
Administrative expenses	(8,101)	(10,887)
Other operating expenses	(364)	(417)
Realized gain / (loss) on exchange rate differences	(270)	(192)
Total expenses	(3,963,499)	(2,580,682)
Result for the year before allocation to the capital of the organization	(181,466)	34,835

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CAPITAL

(in Swiss francs)	Paid-in capital	Free capital	Capital of the organization
As of 31.03./01.04.2018	500,000	2,421	502,421
Change	0	34,835	34,835
As of 31.03./01.04.2019	500,000	37,256	537,256
Change	0	(181,466)	(181,466)
As of 31.03.2020	500,000	(144,210)	355,790

Hear the World Foundation, Turmstrasse 26, CH-6312 Steinhausen, Tel.: +41 58 928 01 01, info@hear-the-world.com, hear-the-world.com

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2020

1 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The objective of the Foundation is to provide global education on hearing, with the aim of helping to prevent hearing loss. The Foundation also provides technological, financial, and professional support to groups, public facilities and private individuals to prevent hearing loss or to improve the lives of those with hearing loss.

According to the Foundation charter, the initial paid-in capital of CHF 500,000 does not have to be maintained. All capital is available to the Foundation Board for grants.

The Foundation Board consists of the following persons:

- ARND KALDOWSKI
- ORA BÜRKLI-HALEVY
- CLAUDIO BARTESAGHI
- JEAN ANNE SCHNITTKER
- SUNIL KAPOOR

The business operations of the Foundation comply with the articles of association dated December 4, 2006, and the Foundation's rules of procedure dated December 4, 2006.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG served as the auditor for the fiscal year. Their mandate is based on legal regulations and generally accepted accounting principles.

2 ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING PRINCIPLES

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting principles under the Swiss GAAP FER Framework, core FER, and Swiss GAAP FER 21 in order to provide as reliable an assessment as possible of the Foundation's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. The financial statements contain comparatives and have also been prepared in accordance with Swiss law.

There are no employees.

3 VALUATION PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INDIVIDUAL ITEMS IN THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in an account held with UBS Switzerland AG in Zurich. Accrued liabilities include the audit fees.

4 FINANCIAL ASSETS AND EXPLANATIONS REGARDING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Foundation does not have any fixed assets. Its assets comprise the Foundation's capital, which is deposited in a current account. The capital was deposited with UBS Switzerland AG at an average interest rate of 0.00% and is available on a daily basis.

5 GRATUITOUS (FREE) SERVICES

All resources required for the governance, management and administration of the Foundation and all of the Foundation's communication activities were provided by Sonova and its Group companies free of charge, and funded by them where necessary. This includes, for example, resources for communications and administration amounting to around CHF 513,000 (previous year CHF 509,000). To quantify the investment, the estimated percentage of resources provided is multiplied by the annual salaries, including social security benefits. Additional resources of Sonova AG were provided for accounting and logistics services. These amounts were not recorded in the operating statement.

6 TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

Technological support was provided mostly by Sonova AG, Unitron Hearing GmbH and Advanced Bionics AG. Technological devices are charged to the Foundation at production cost but are reported in the income statement at the list price for Swiss audiologists. The difference between production cost and list price is reported as a donation.

In total, Sonova Group provided noncash benefits worth CHF 2,993,965 (previous year CHF 1,751,058).

7 PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

By training project partners, Sonova Group employees conduct professional support for the Foundation. The service hours are multiplied by the median salary of the Sonova headquarters in Staefa and added to the respective travel costs. They are accounted for as donations, as the Foundation is not charged for these donations by Sonova Group.

8 EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

To combat the spread of the coronavirus, effective March 2020, preventive measures to protect the population were initiated on a global level. These measures will have an operational and financial impact on the Hear the World Foundation. The effects depend on the duration of this state of emergency and cannot be estimated at the moment. Clinical activities in projects around the world are currently taking place to a limited extent. In addition, due to travel restrictions, project visits, and face-to-face training had to be postponed.

9 ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

The Foundation Board determines the resources to be awarded and their allocation during budgeting. These resources were distributed as follows during the fiscal year:

	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	CHF	in %	CHF	in %
Technological support for projects abroad	3,138,830	79%	1,840,601	71%
Financial support for projects abroad	468,269	12%	368,523	14%
Professional support for projects abroad	200,840	5%	291,435	11%
Technological support for projects in Switzerland	70,425	2%	68,627	3%
Financial support for projects in Switzerland	76,400	2%	0	0%
Administrative expenditures	8,101	0%	10,887	1%
Other operating expenditures	364	0%	417	0%
Realized gain/(loss) on exchange rate differences	270	0%	192	0%
	3,963,499	100%	2,580,682	100%

As of the balance sheet date, technological support CHF 12,000 for project (IRAP, Lebanon) is outstanding.

10 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The performance report, which contains information on the purpose, governing bodies, and work of the Foundation, forms part of the Foundation's annual Activity Report. The most recent Activity Report was published in May 2019.