



**Hear
the World
Foundation**

a Sonova Group initiative

Activity Report

2024/2025



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Hearing the world, changing lives

Dear readers,

For a child, the ability to hear is essential to speech, language, and social development. Yet 34 million children worldwide live with hearing loss, facing barriers that can limit their prospects for the future.¹ In many low- and middle-income countries, a shortage of trained professionals and limited access to affordable hearing care leave children without the support they need. At Hear the World Foundation, we are committed to bridging these gaps, one child at a time: ensuring that every child has access to sustainable, high-quality hearing care. No child should face barriers due to untreated hearing loss.

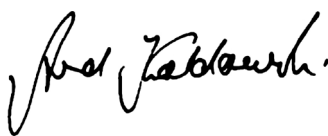
Through strong partnerships across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, we have been able to deliver more hearing aids, enhance audiological training, and provide critical resources to our project partners. Not only are we improving immediate access to care, we are helping to build long-term, sustainable hearing healthcare systems. This year, we provided 5,168 hearing aids to children in need, a 27% increase from 2023–2024. We expanded our training efforts and close to 5,000 local professionals were equipped with skills and resources, a 62% increase from 2023-2024.

I am grateful to the many individuals and organizations who support Hear the World Foundation, whether through donations, volunteer efforts, or partnerships. A special thank you goes to Sonova employees, their families, and friends who contributed through the fundraising initiative Give for Good, further reinforcing the collective effort behind our mission.

As well as growth, this year brought changes to our leadership. We welcomed a new Foundation Board member Katya Kruglova, Group Vice President of Human Resources and Communications at Sonova. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our interim Managing Director Domitille Harb for guiding the foundation with dedication and expertise during this period. As we move into the new fiscal year, we look forward to welcoming our new Managing Director Elodie de Warlincourt, who will drive our mission forward with strong leadership and extensive experience.

At a time when international development faces growing challenges and uncertainty, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting our partners and making a lasting impact in the field. By continuing to invest in sustainable hearing care and strong collaborations, we remain dedicated to creating meaningful change for the children who need it most.

Sincerely,



Arnd Kaldowski
President of the Hear the World Foundation



1. WHO. World Report on Hearing, 2021.

Mission

We are founded on the belief that every child deserves to have a chance to hear well and live life to their full potential.

Vision

We envision a world where children with hearing loss enjoy equal opportunities.

Projects

Hear the World Foundation projects span Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Projects are chosen based on the social impact they can generate and focus on the legacy they can create for the region and its people.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the global agenda for sustainable development up to the year 2030. With its work, Hear the World Foundation makes a valuable contribution toward SDGs 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), and 17 (partnerships for the goals).



A year of impact & progress

Dear readers,

The 2024/2025 period stands out as a year of growth and transformation for Hear the World Foundation. We expanded our impact, enhanced the resilience of our partners, advanced our grant-making, and diversified our funding.

Building on our core focus areas of awareness, access, and capacity development, we added advocacy to ensure that we support projects that drive long-term, systemic change in hearing healthcare (pages 10 – 11: Focus Areas). By integrating a fourth focus area, we aim to create more sustainable solutions that benefit children with hearing loss in low- and middle-income communities.

Various milestones have shaped our year, including collaborations with new and existing project partners that strengthen local healthcare systems and improve access to hearing care for more children. Their work inspires us every day. Through awareness initiatives like Society To Aid The Hearing Impaired's youth engagement program in India, we empowered communities to advocate for hearing health. By expanding access, partners like Oír Para Crecer in Peru decentralized care, ensuring more children received support closer to home. Capacity development remains vital, with Academia Brasileira de Audiologia in Brazil training professionals to expand pediatric audiology services. Advocacy through the joint efforts of the Jordan University Hospital and the Jordan University of Science and Technology is shaping national policies to strengthen early hearing detection and intervention.

Financially, this year represented another landmark for our contribution to global hearing healthcare. Hear the World has supported 14 projects in

13 countries (page 6), providing CHF 10.2 million in hearing technology, expertise, and funds. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and our extended fundraising efforts, this year has resulted in the largest annual donation to date.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who make our work possible: our dedicated project partners, our generous donors, our Foundation Board and Advisory Board members, our suppliers, our Sonova volunteers, and our ambassadors. With their support, we are strengthening hearing healthcare systems, expanding access to essential services, and helping more children around the world reach their full potential.

Sincerely,



Domitille Harb
Managing Director ad interim

During our project year 2024–2025, Hear the World supported 14 projects worldwide. Our goal is to sustainably grow impact in the regions of Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.



- 1. Mexico**
Centro Oaxaqueño de Rehabilitación de Audición y Lenguaje

4. Peru
Oír Para Crecer

7. Jordan
Jordan University of Science and Technology

10. Zimbabwe
WizEar

13. Cambodia
All Ears Cambodia
- 2. Guatemala**
Sonrisas que Escuchan

5. Brazil
Academia Brasileira de Audiologia

8. Jordan
Jordan University Hospital

11. India
Society To Aid The Hearing Impaired

14. China
China Rehabilitation Research Center for Hearing and Speech Impairment
- 3. El Salvador**
Fundación Su Niño No Puede Esperar

6. Ukraine
Hear the World Special Aid Project

9. Kenya
Sense International Kenya

12. Bhutan
Hear, Listen, Speak
- Ongoing projects

■ New projects

■ Renewed projects

Our programs and impact

Prevention

517,210

people reached



Screening

110,046

newborns and children screened



Intervention

5,168

hearing aids fitted



Aftercare

4,873

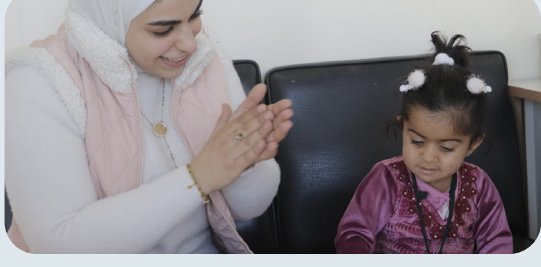
children received follow-up care



Auditory habilitation

1,123

children attended speech therapy



Capacity building

4,978

people trained



Children are at the center of our work. We take a holistic approach to hearing health, ensuring that we consider a child’s care in its entirety. By addressing the many stakeholders involved, we seek to achieve better hearing health outcomes and a higher quality of life for affected children.

Impact numbers

14

Projects supported globally

10.2M

CHF donated to projects

5,168

Hearing aids fitted on newborns and children



In Bhutan, two sisters receive a hearing screening from our project partner Hear, Listen and Speak.

Holistic approach

1. Children

Treatment of children with hearing loss in low- and middle-income countries. Enabling access to treatment through early identification, hearing technology, and aftercare.

2. Infrastructure

Strengthening local infrastructure. Equipping local facilities with the necessary medical equipment for accurate diagnosis and quality care.

3. Capacity

Building up local capacities and capabilities by training hearing care professionals. Ensuring sustainable treatment options are available on-site.

4. Caregivers

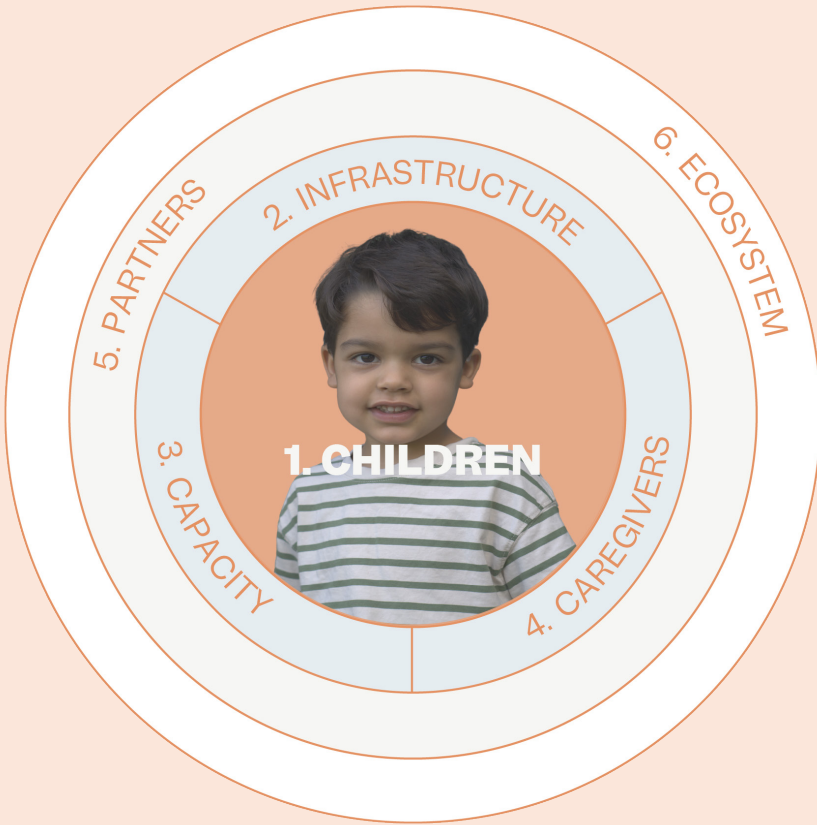
Supporting caregivers. Fostering a social support system for empowerment and wellbeing.

5. Partners

Collaborating with reliable project partners and partnering with other organizations. Scaling activities and beneficiary reach, while enhancing the scope of care to provide comprehensive support aimed at improving integration and quality of life.

6. Ecosystem

Influencing the larger ecosystem. Embedding access to hearing health care and hearing technology into national health care services.



Our focus areas

We aim to provide quality and sustainable audiological care to children in need through four interconnected focus areas: awareness, access, capacity development and a new addition, advocacy.

Awareness

Educating people about hearing loss is key to breaking down misconceptions and ensuring early intervention. In India, our project partner Society to Aid the Hearing Impaired (SAHI) is engaging young volunteers through its youth engagement program, equipping them with the tools to raise awareness and advocate for hearing health. (Pages 12–15)



Capacity development

The shortage of trained hearing care professionals is a challenge worldwide. In Brazil, our project partner Academia Brasileira de Audiologia (ABA) addresses this by providing comprehensive audiology training. By equipping professionals with essential skills, ABA is expanding access to quality hearing care, particularly in underserved regions. (Pages 20–23)



Access

Partnership with sustainable and scalable projects, enables more children to access audiological care. Our project partner in Peru, Oír Para Crecer (OPC), is expanding hearing care beyond Lima by training and equipping local organizations to provide essential services in their communities. This decentralized approach reduces barriers to care, ensuring more children receive the support they need close to home. (Pages 16–19)



Advocacy

In Jordan, Jordan University Hospital (JUH) and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), have been instrumental in pushing for nationwide improvements in pediatric hearing screening. By collaborating with the Ministry of Health, providing expert training, and joining national policy discussions, they are ensuring that early detection of hearing loss becomes a priority across the country. (Pages 24–27)





Focus area: Awareness

Raising awareness about hearing loss is essential to break down misconceptions and reach key stakeholders in communities, including families, caretakers, teachers, and health professionals. In particular, it ensures that families and caretakers understand the importance of early intervention.



SAHI Youth Wing volunteer students engage with young hearing aid recipients through art and play.

Society To Aid The Hearing Impaired

In India, our project partner Society to Aid the Hearing Impaired (SAHI) is working to raise awareness about hearing loss through its youth engagement program. This initiative empowers young volunteers to contribute to the cause while gaining hands-on experience in advocacy and community outreach.

Through the SAHI Youth Wing, students from various backgrounds participate as interns or volunteers, engaging in activities such as writing blogs, creating awareness materials, and organizing events. Some students have even written books or sold their artwork to raise funds for SAHI. This year, 20 students participated in SAHI's youth program. Their involvement helps spread awareness beyond traditional health-care settings, promoting hearing care as a topic of discussion for families, school peers, and the community.

Beyond awareness, the program fosters connections between youth and children with hearing loss. Volunteers witness firsthand the impact of hearing aids and early intervention, turning many into lifelong advocates for hearing health. By engaging the next generation, SAHI ensures that hearing health awareness continues to grow, creating a more informed and supportive society for those with hearing loss.

296

newborns and children fitted with hearing aids

19

people trained

14,665

newborns and children screened

"I joined SAHI thinking I would be helping others, but I never realized how much it would change me. Meeting children who are experiencing hearing loss and seeing their confidence grow inspired me."

— Saahil, SAHI Youth Wing volunteer



Focus area: Access

Access to hearing care is essential for children with hearing loss, especially in regions where services are limited. Working in partnership with Canadian non-profit World Wide Hearing, our project partner Oír Para Crecer (OPC) is decentralizing audiological care beyond Lima and bringing essential services closer to families across Peru.



A young child receives a hearing screening at Suyai Kids in Peru, part of OPC's efforts to expand access to pediatric hearing care in underserved regions.

Oír Para Crecer

Decentralization starts by identifying and partnering with local organizations that share OPC's commitment to improve hearing health. So far, OPC has engaged 6 partners in 5 provinces throughout Peru, including Asociación Holanda in Cajamarca, Suyai Kids in Huancayo, and Cusco-based organizations, Centro Fonoaudiológico Cusco and Centro AMIR, as well as in Lima. These partners receive audiology training, equipment, and ongoing support, enabling them to provide sustainable care in their communities.

For many families, the expansion of services means easier access to hearing care. OPC has found that patients who struggled to reach Lima are able to attend appointments when services are available locally. Collaborating with local partners also helps OPC understand cultural differences and provide care that is both effective and trusted by the community. Having been successful in decentralizing its services, OPC plans to expand to 7 provinces in the next year.

Its goal is to create a sustainable model where local partners are equipped to deliver high-quality, consistent care. This approach not only increases access but fosters a deeper connection with the communities they serve.

517
newborns and children
fitted with hearing aids

66
people trained

9,583
newborns and children
screened

“I am proud of the incredible team we have built and the quality of care we are achieving with the recipients of our services. Seeing them feel supported and truly benefiting from their hearing aids is what motivates us every day.”

— Rosario Urdanivia, Project Lead & Founder of OPC



Focus area: Capacity development

The shortage of trained hearing care professionals underscores the urgent need for specialized training to develop capacity and improve hearing healthcare services. In Brazil, where healthcare resources vary widely across regions, our project partner Academia Brasileira de Audiologia (ABA) is bridging the gap through comprehensive audiology training programs.



Audiology professionals take part in hands-on training at ABA in Brazil, building local capacity to provide high-quality pediatric hearing care.

Academia Brasileira de Audiologia

ABA offers a 100-hour online course in pediatric rehabilitation, equipping professionals with essential knowledge in diagnosis, hearing technology, and aural rehabilitation in collaboration with four universities in São Paulo. Since working with Hear the World, 783 hearing care professionals started ABA’s advanced training course to specialize in pediatric audiology, one of the various levels of training ABA offers. In the last three years, approximately 368 students completed the advanced training course, and ABA is actively working with the remaining students to achieve completion. To ensure practical experience, graduates complete 20 hours of hands-on training in specialized pediatric hearing health services. These sessions allow them to work with diagnostic tools, hearing aids, and speech therapy techniques under expert supervision. Recognizing the need for regional access, ABA aims to bring training directly to professionals in underserved areas, including north and northeast Brazil.

Beyond education, ABA’s work has a direct impact on children with hearing loss. It has fitted 255 children with hearing aids in the course of its partnership with the foundation. In many public healthcare settings, delays in diagnosis and intervention can hinder a child’s development. With support from Hear the World, ABA has been able to accelerate the process, ensuring the immediate fitting of hearing aids and access to the Roger system for enhanced speech audibility in classrooms.

203
newborns and children
fitted with hearing aids

710
people trained

“Our hope is to expand our practical training programs and extend our reach to Latin America, ensuring that more professionals have access to high-quality audiology education and more children receive the care they need.”

— Beatriz de Castro a Mendes, Professor Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo and ABA Project Coordinator



Focus area: Advocacy

The late diagnosis of hearing loss in children has long been a critical issue in many countries where hearing healthcare is not integrated in the health system. In Jordan, despite legislation in 2010 for newborn hearing screening, implementation has remained inconsistent.



A young boy receives a hearing screening from a dedicated audiologist at JUST.

Jordan University Hospital & Jordan University of Science and Technology

Recognizing the urgent need for change, the Hearing Joy team at the Jordan University Hospital (JUH) in Amman and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) team in Irbid, have taken a leading role in advocating for nationwide improvements in pediatric hearing care collectively in Jordan.

With support from Hear the World Foundation, the JUH team engaged with the Jordanian Ministry of Health, positioning itself as a key partner in policy discussions about pediatric hearing care. By offering specialized training for screening personnel, providing technical expertise, and demonstrating the real-life impact of delayed diagnosis, the hospital has built credibility and trust with decision-makers. In tandem, JUST is working to contribute to pediatric health on a national scale through evaluating and enhancing hearing screenings offered in Jordan’s public schools at the primary grade levels and in public health centers in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Education.

Key members of the JUH team were invited to join the national newborn hearing screening committee, enabling them to influence policies related to hearing care and to advocate for expanded screening programs. The hospital is leading efforts to train screeners across the country, focusing on rural and refugee communities where access to care is most limited.

216
newborns and children fitted with hearing aids

1,617
people trained

3,538
newborns and children screened

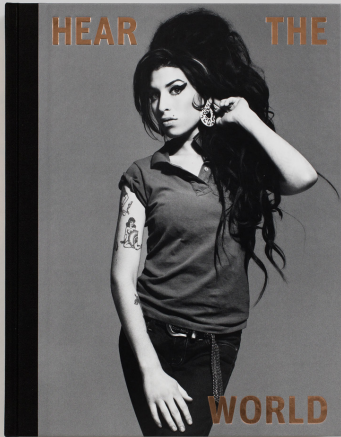
“It was very gratifying to engage with such an energetic and motivated team of clinicians seeking to improve and expand hearing services for children. I am fully confident their efforts will result in long-lasting benefits to children with hearing loss and their families in Jordan.”

— Professor Dr. Patricia Roush, Advisory Board Member

In June 2024, Galerie Andres Thalmann, in collaboration with Hear the World Foundation, hosted a photography exhibition in Zurich featuring works by Bryan Adams to launch the ‘Hear the World’ book, a collection of portraits of our ambassadors for conscious hearing. The internationally renowned artist was present to sign copies of the book, a highlight for guests and supporters alike. Adams is a committed partner and ambassador for the foundation. Published by art publisher Steidl, ‘Hear the World’ was sold through Thalmann’s galleries in Zurich and Paris, with all proceeds benefiting the foundation. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Carina Thalmann, Bryan Adams, and their teams for their generous support.

Celebrating Sound

Hear the World book vernissage



Hear the World can be purchased via QR code



(From left to right): Attendees at the vernissage line-up to receive a signed ‘Hear the World’ book. Bryan Adams signs books for over 250 attendees. In the Thalmann gallery, Adams’ portraits from his exhibition EXPOSED hang on display.



“Collaborating on ‘Hear the World’ was a chance to reflect on a project that’s meant a lot to me over the years. Seeing all the portraits come together in one place and knowing the stories behind them was a powerful reminder of why I said yes to working with the foundation in the first place.”

— Bryan Adams, photographer, musician, and Hear the World Ambassador



As part of Hear the World Foundation’s global volunteering program, Sonova employees are invited to contribute their skills and expertise by volunteering with the foundation and our partners around the world. Individuals can bring their skills on-site or remotely in the areas of audiology, operations, strategy, fundraising or communications and marketing. In the year 2024/2025 volunteers performed a total of 1,048 hours of work on 58 assignments over 127 days.

1,048
hours of work

58
assignments

127
days volunteered

The Hear the World team would like to give a big, heartfelt round of applause and thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who have contributed to our work benefiting children with hearing loss in 2024/25.

Abhishek Singh, **Ahmad Baghdadi**, Ajimsha KM, **Alexander Zent**, Andre Müller, **Andreas Kraiss & kitchen team Sonova Switzerland**, Anju Mistry, **Anna Biggins**, Annette Gill, **Annika Todt**, Avinash Grubb, **Barbara Muench**, Bettina Turnbull, **Bernhard Buschle**, Carmen Bösch, **Carsten Enke**, Chantal Belanger, **Christian Kurmann**, Christian Fronz, **Claudia Diaz**, Cloe Yang, **Cristiane Basilio**, Curdin Massüger, **Dean Blagojevic**, Douglas Baldwin, **Ersin Bozkurt**, Felicia Chang, **Florence Camenzind**, Florian Furrer, **Franz Brand**, Gaël Induni, **Giorgio Rizzello**, Hany Taha, **Heinz Thomi**, Helen Tesar, **Hillary Cruise**, Jean Anne Schnittker, **Jorge Rosales**, Julia Litvina, **Kalyan Dasari**, Karine Evora, **Katalin Jaszberenyi-Szabo**, Katarina Schiffer, **Kristin Lücke**, Lisbeth Strang, **Lucas Sünkel**, Malgorzata Goralska, **Manuela Ruff**, Marcela Figueroa Padilla, **Mariana Maggio De Maggi**, Martin Zois, **Martina Giron**, Michael Waloszek, **Milton Rangel**, Minouche Haverkort, **Monica Scheler**, Nadine Föll, **Nadja Tresch**, Natalia Perez, **Nathan Kaufmann**, Nicole Grotti, **Nicole da Rocha**, Nikolas Klakow, **Paola Fabbian**, Paula Orozco, **Peter Kossek**, Raffael Schmitt, **Regula Portmann**, Sabine Grögli, **Sabine Trautmann**, Sabrina Bretschneider, **Sally Arafat**, Sam Sambhi, **Sandra Maechler**, Simona Mazzotta, **Stef Launer**, Stefan Rätthe, **Stefanie Roth**, Stephanie Fraser, **Sunil Kapoor**, Talita Donini, **Tonia Rihs and Sonova Apprentices Switzerland**, Verena Pleiner and **Yvonne Zahnd**.

Volunteers

As part of our commitment to capacity development, we have introduced a mentoring role to our volunteer program. This role enables Sonova employees to provide long-term guidance to local project teams, empowering them to achieve their goals while receiving expert support in audiology. By fostering stronger local expertise, the mentor helps ensure that our impact extends beyond short-term volunteer visits, creating lasting change for the communities we support.

Douglas Baldwin, an audiologist from Unitron in Canada, supported our project partner WizEar in Harare, Zimbabwe during a three-day stay. He worked closely with the five audiologists on the team to improve the existing processes in diagnosing hearing loss in children.



“Witnessing the dedication and passion of the WizEar audiologists inspired me to continue working with them in a mentorship role. Through regular exchange and feedback sessions, we ensure the knowledge and skills acquired are sustainable, while continuously building upon them to make a lasting impact.”

— Douglas Baldwin, Hear the World Mentor & Sonova Audiologist



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To the General Meeting of
Hear the World Foundation, Steinhausen

Zurich, 8 May 2025

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, operation statement, statement of changes in capital and notes) of Hear the World Foundation for the financial year ended 31 March 2025.

These financial statements prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, Swiss law and the deed of foundation are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. In accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21, the information in the performance report is not subject to verification by the statutory auditor. 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 the 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 company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of 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 and the deed of foundation.

Ernst & Young Ltd

EY Martin Mattes
(Qualified Signature)
Licensed audit expert
(Auditor in charge)

EY Nicole Meister
(Qualified Signature)
Licensed audit expert

Enclosures

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

Annual Financial Statement

Balance sheet as of March 31

(in Swiss francs)	2024/2025	2023/2024
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	843,180	819,228
Total assets	843,180	819,228
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accrued liabilities	0	9,693
Fund capital	36,043	105,927
Capital of the organization		
Paid-in capital	500,000	500,000
Free capital	307,137	203,608
	807,137	703,608
Total liabilities	843,180	819,228

Operation statement April 1 to March 31

(in Swiss francs)	2024/2025	2023/2024
Income		
Income from donations earmarked	227,839	202,200
Income from donations free	10,018,998	7,090,446
Total income	10,246,837	7,292,646
Expenses		
Technological support for projects abroad	(9,372,246)	(6,652,782)
Financial support for projects abroad	(711,049)	(446,206)
Professional support for projects abroad	(119,763)	(80,926)
Technological support for projects in Switzerland	0	(87,930)
Financial support for projects in Switzerland	0	(30,371)
Administrative expenses	(9,765)	(9,693)
Other operating expenses	(369)	(304)
Total expenses	(10,213,192)	(7,308,212)
Result before the change of fund capital	33,645	(15,566)
Change fund capital	69,884	(105,927)
Result for the year before allocation to the capital of the organization	103,529	(121,493)

Statement of changes in capital

(in Swiss francs)	Paid-in capital	Free capital	Capital of the organization	Fund capital
As of 31.03./01.04.2023	500,000	325,101	825,101	0
Change	0	(121,493)	(121,493)	105,927
As of 31.03./01.04.2024	500,000	203,608	703,608	105,927
Change	0	103,529	103,529	(69,884)
As of 31.03.2025	500,000	307,137	807,137	36,043

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, 2025



1 General information about the Foundation

The Hear the World Foundation aims to improve the quality of life of people with hearing loss. To reach its objective, the Foundation supports local aid organizations by providing hearing solutions, financial resources and professional support. In addition, the Foundation raises awareness for the importance of good hearing and contributes to the prevention of hearing loss on a global level.

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

The annual financial statement was approved by the Foundation Board as of 8 May 2025.

The Foundation Board consists of the following persons:

• **Arnd Kaldowski** • **Katya Kruglova** • **Beate Eckhardt** • **Katrin Imhof**

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.

Ernst & Young AG served as 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 preparation of a cash flow statement has been abstained from in accordance with FER 21/16. 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 and are valued at nominal value.

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 Donations in kind

Various resources required for the governance, management and administration of the Foundation and various of the Foundation's communication activities were provided by Sonova AG and its group companies free of charge and funded by them where necessary. This included, for example, resources in communications and administration amounting to the value of around CHF 1,165,000 (previous year CHF 1,255,000). To determine the expenses, annual expenses are multiplied by times the annual salaries including social security benefits. Additional resources of Sonova AG were provided in accounting and logistics services. These amounts were not recorded in the operation statement.

6 Transactions with entities of the Sonova Group and related parties

Technological support was provided mostly by Sonova AG. Technological devices are charged to the Foundation at production cost but are reported in the income statement at the list price. The difference between production cost and list price is reported as a donation.

In total, Sonova Group provided non-cash benefits worth CHF 9,102,270 (previous year CHF 6,497,784).

7 Professional support

Sonova Group employees conduct professional support for the Foundation by training project partners. The service hours are multiplied with the median salary of Sonova Headquarter 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. The Foundation also provides professional support to its project partners through training delivered by third-party organizations.

8 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 financial year:

	2024/2025		2023/2024	
	CHF	in %	CHF	in %
Technological support for projects abroad	9,372,246	92%	6,652,782	91%
Financial support for projects abroad	711,049	7%	446,206	6%
Professional support for projects abroad	119,763	1%	80,926	1%
Technological support for projects in Switzerland	0	0%	87,930	1%
Financial support for projects in Switzerland	0	0%	30,371	1%
Administrative expenditures	9,765	0%	9,693	0%
Other operating expenditures	369	0%	304	0%
	10,213,192	100%	7,308,212	100%

9 Performance report

The performance report, containing 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 2024.

The Hear the World Foundation Board is made up of Sonova Group executives and external experts with extensive experience in foundation management. Members implement the foundation’s purpose, providing oversight and setting the strategic direction.

The Advisory Board generously volunteers expertise in audiology and international development. Its members advise the Foundation Board on the selection of projects and provide support to these projects.

The Executive Team is responsible for the strategic and operational management of the foundation.

Executive Team

Domitille Harb
Managing Director ad interim

Marisa Schnurrenberger
Senior Fundraising and Relationship Manager

Gerald Lilburn
Senior Program Manager

Rugile Staneviciute
Program Manager

Jacqueline Drexler
Program Manager

Rina Hernandez-Sae Ma
Communications and Engagement Manager

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Office Manager

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