



**Hear
the World
Foundation**

a Sonova Group initiative

Activity Report

2025/2026

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Reflecting on impact, shaping the future

Dear readers,

In my first year as President of Hear the World Foundation, I have had the privilege to learn all about this institution and its important work. Thanks to the commitment of our partners, in particular Sonova and many individuals across our community, the impact of the Foundation is remarkable.

This year has also been an opportunity to reflect on the Foundation's future. As we continue to support children with hearing loss in low- and middle-income countries, we have re-examined our purpose, our role in the ear and hearing care ecosystem, and how we can contribute most effectively to delivering lasting impact in collaboration with our corporate sponsor.

In the past twelve months, we supported 14 project partnerships in 12 countries with 10.2 million CHF and donated 4,555 hearing aids. These achievements highlight the efforts of our project partners, donors, volunteers, and the many individuals and organizations who share our commitment to improving access to hearing care.

Looking ahead, we aim to elevate the role and impact of the foundation, both internally as a Sonova Group initiative and externally with our partners and peers, rooted in transparency, shared expectations, and a common vision.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Foundation team led by Elodie de Warlincourt, the Advisory Board for its invaluable contribution, and everyone else who supports us: our project partners, donors, and the many Sonova volunteers and employees who contribute their time and energy to our mission.

Sincerely,



Gilbert Achermann
President



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).



From transition to momentum

Dear readers,

This past year marks an important moment of transition for Hear the World Foundation. Joining the organization as Managing Director this year, I have spent my first months listening, learning, and sharing new perspectives. In doing so, I have encountered strong foundations; a committed team, trusted partners around the world, and meaningful opportunities to further strengthen how the Foundation works and the impact it creates.

The results of the past year reflect the dedication of this global community. In the 2025/2026 period, the Foundation further expanded access to hearing care for children in low- and middle-income countries. Together with our partners, we fitted 2,641 children with hearing aids, trained and furthered the audiological expertise of 1,724 local professionals, and reached 127,672 children and families through screening, treatment, and follow-up care (Page 7). Behind each of these figures are children gaining access to sound and communication, and professionals who are better equipped to support them.

In this year's report, we highlight how our partners are anchoring hearing care within national health systems – an essential condition for sustainable impact. You will see how organizations such as Sonrisas Que Escuchan work with the Ministry of Health in Guatemala to integrate early detection into public services (Page 26); how Sense International strengthens capacity by embedding trained health workers across hospitals in Kenya (Page 22); and how Christian Blind Mission and Beit CURE leverage community health networks to reach underserved populations in Zambia (Page 14). Delivering quality hearing care for children depends not only on clinical excellence, but on strong, accessible systems—where screening and diagnostic pathways are fully embedded in national structures.

At the same time, both the Foundation and Sonova are entering a period of broader leadership renewal. This rare moment offers an opportunity to reflect on how we work and how hearing care philanthropy can continue to evolve. For Hear the World, this creates an important responsibility. As we concluded our 2020/2025 strategy, we are working towards a new cycle. Beyond supporting projects, we aim to play a catalytic role by strengthening our collaboration with partners and placing greater emphasis on country and partner diagnostics. By working together, we seek to better understand local contexts, define shared ambitions, and identify where our support can have the greatest impact. We are also committed to learning along the way and sharing these insights and challenges openly.

We end the year with confidence and momentum, a strong and motivated team, the continued support of Sonova, and a clear sense that Hear the World stands at an important turning point. As we look ahead, our focus will be on laying out the groundwork for a new strategy that is informed, focused, and anchored in real-world evidence, moving forward with intention and clarity.

Sincerely,



Elodie de Warlincourt
Managing Director

During our project year 2025/2026, Hear the World supported 14 projects worldwide. Our goal is to sustainably grow impact in the regions of Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.



1. Mexico
Centro Oaxaqueño de Rehabilitación de Audición y Lenguaje

2. El Salvador
Fundación Su Niño No Puede Esperar

3. Guatemala
Sonrisas que Escuchan

4. Peru
Oír Para Crecer

5. Brazil
Academia Brasileira de Audiología

6. Brazil
Laboratory of Technological Innovation in Health

7. Jordan
Jordan University of Science and Technology

8. Jordan
Jordan University Hospital

9. Kenya
Sense International Kenya

10. Zambia
Christian Blind Mission

11. Zimbabwe
WizEar

12. India
Society To Aid The Hearing Impaired

13. Cambodia
All Ears Cambodia

14. China
China Rehabilitation Research Center for Hearing and Speech Impairment

- Ongoing projects
- New projects
- Renewed projects
- Closing projects

Our projects and impact

Prevention

668,591
people reached



Screening

127,672
children screened



Intervention

2,641
children fitted with hearing aids



Aftercare

5,238
children received follow-up care



Auditory habilitation

1,560
children enrolled in speech therapy



Capacity building

6,290
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.

Hear the World in numbers

14

Projects supported globally

10.2M

CHF donated to projects

4,555

hearing aids fitted



A newborn is screened through Jordan University Hospital’s Hearing Joy Project, an initiative driving nationwide newborn and pediatric hearing care.

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

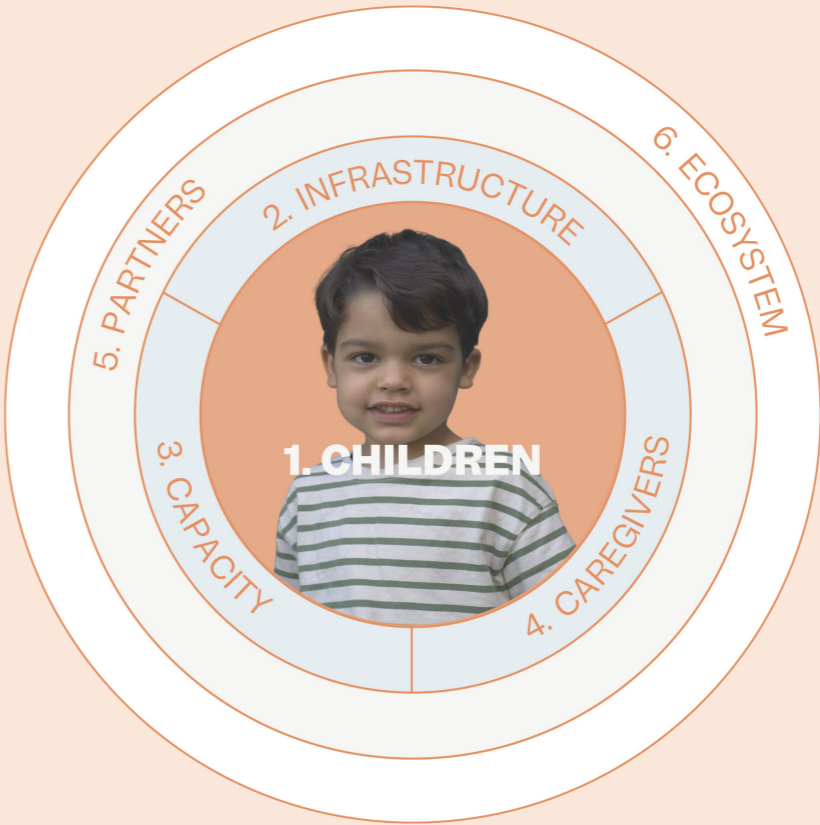
Strengthening local infrastructure. Equipping local facilities with the necessary medical equipment for accurate diagnosis and quality care.

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 advocacy.

Awareness

Educating communities about hearing loss is essential for children to receive timely support and care. In Zambia, our partners Christian Blind Mission and Beit CURE Hospital Zambia operate a network of community-based volunteers, equipping trusted local voices to raise awareness, dispel misconceptions, and connect families with the hearing health services their children need. (Pages 12–15)



Capacity development

Building local expertise promotes timely diagnosis and care for children with hearing loss. In Kenya, our partner Sense International Kenya trains public health workers in Kwale County, embedding hearing screening into routine maternal health, pediatrics, and newborn care services. By strengthening capacity and referral pathways, the program is creating a sustainable, decentralized model for hearing care. (Pages 20–23)



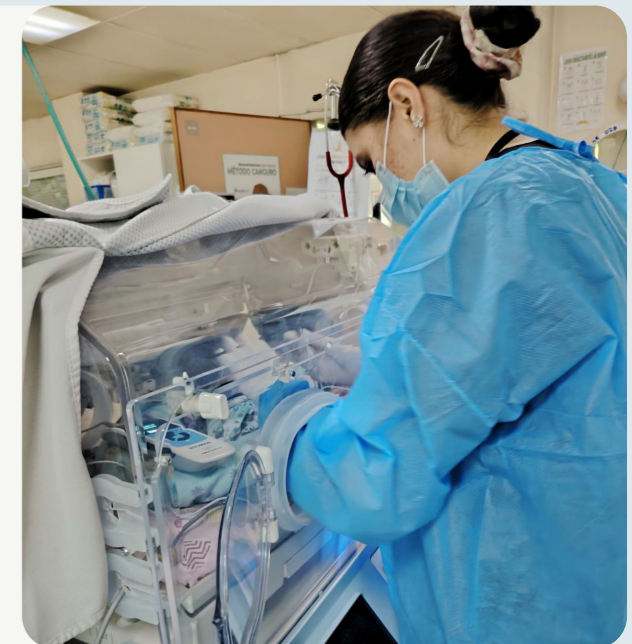
Access

Long-term partnership enables sustainable impact for children with hearing loss. Our project partner in Cambodia, All Ears Cambodia, has grown over 16 years into one of the country's leading providers of specialized hearing care, operating four centers and an extensive referral network bringing screening, diagnostics, and hearing aids to thousands of children. (Pages 16–19)



Advocacy

In Guatemala, our partner Sonrisas que Escuchan (SQE) collaborates with the Ministry of Health to advance neonatal hearing screening in hospitals nationwide. By sharing data with policymakers and engaging government institutions, SQE is helping to develop a coordinated national approach for screening to ensure more children are connected to care early. (Pages 24–27)



Focus area: Awareness

In many communities, the first step toward addressing hearing loss is to give families access to reliable information. When caregivers, teachers, and community leaders understand the signs of hearing loss and the importance of early intervention, children are far more likely to receive the support they need.



A young girl prepares to receive an otoscopy at a school screening as part of CBM's work to embed hearing care into local communities.

Christian Blind Mission

Lusaka, Zambia

In Zambia, our project partner Christian Blind Mission, in collaboration with Beit CURE Hospital Zambia, strengthens awareness through a network of community-based volunteers (CBVs). Established within a national public health framework, CBVs are trained community members who serve as a vital link between residents and health facilities. Their role is to bridge the information gap between communities and healthcare professionals, helping identify children with ear and hearing challenges while encouraging families to seek appropriate care.

Almost 400 CBVs operate across seven provinces. As they are recruited locally, they foster an important level of trust and cultural understanding. Speaking local languages and using familiar examples, they help to debunk myths and misconceptions, such as beliefs that hearing loss has spiritual causes, with evidence-based information about hearing health and the benefits of assistive technology like hearing aids.

CBVs serve as a primary link between the community and medical professionals. Through door-to-door outreach and interactions in markets, schools, and community gatherings, CBVs identify children who may have hearing challenges and refer them for screening and care. Many volunteers accompany families to their first appointments, helping address fears or uncertainty that might prevent them from seeking help.

By embedding hearing health awareness within the fabric of community life, this program supports the early recognition and treatment of hearing loss, giving children a better chance to develop language, communication, and social skills during the critical early years of life.

168

children fitted with hearing aids

260

people trained

14,437

children screened



Focus area: Access

Access to hearing care is essential for children with hearing loss. For more than 16 years, Hear the World Foundation partnered with All Ears Cambodia (AEC) to expand access to audiological care and strengthen hearing health services for children and families.



A boy with hearing aids engages in play-based therapy in Cambodia, where hands-on activities help children develop vital communication skills.

All Ears Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Founded in 2003 by clinical audiologist Glyn Vaughan, AEC began as a small, single-practitioner service that has grown into one of Cambodia's leading providers of specialized ear and hearing care for vulnerable populations. Today, AEC operates four centers in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kratié, and Battambang, supported by an extensive referral network that includes more than 80 partner organizations and public hospitals.

Throughout this long-standing partnership, the Foundation supported the expansion of AEC's services and technical capacity. Together, AEC and the Foundation contributed to the development of an ear mold laboratory in Siem Reap, communication therapy services in Phnom Penh, and mobile outreach clinics that bring care to high-risk and underserved communities. More recently, AEC's Project ECHO initiative has helped scale pediatric hearing services across central, northern, and eastern Cambodia.

Over the last decade, AEC has delivered ear and hearing health education, screening, and hearing aids to thousands of children, while continuing to provide diagnostic audiology services.

Delivering quality hearing care for children depends not only on clinical excellence, but on robust, accessible systems, where screening and diagnostic pathways are fully embedded in national structures. As the partnership transitions and concludes, AEC stands as a strong and independent organization with established services, skilled professionals, and a growing national network.

105

children fitted with hearing aids

64

people trained

21,178

children screened

Focus area: Capacity development



AKDN Regional Eastern Africa
Learning 2
United for European Values

Building local expertise is essential to ensure children with hearing loss receive timely diagnosis and care. In many regions, hearing screening services remain limited due to a shortage of trained professionals and resources. In Kenya, our project partner Sense International trains clinical screeners within public health facilities in Kwale County, a coastal county in south-eastern Kenya with a population of nearly 870,000.



During a family feedback session in Kenya, Hear the World Advisory Board member and audiologist, Dr. Patricia Roush, carefully reviews a young boy's hearing aid and ear mold fit.

Sense International Kenya

Kwale, Kenya

Almost 90 healthcare workers from departments including maternal and child health, pediatrics, maternity, and newborn care have been trained to conduct hearing screening as part of routine hospital services. By embedding screening within everyday service delivery, children can be reached at the points where they already receive care.

The model promotes shared responsibility across hospital departments. Through rotational screening schedules and hands-on training supported by specialized equipment, healthcare workers build practical skills while maintaining competencies over time. The initiative also strengthens institutional ownership. By engaging frontline health workers and county leadership, the program integrates screening into routine services and planning structures.

This project contributes to the implementation of Kwale County's Health Development Plan under the County Integrated Development Plan, where ear and hearing care had been prioritized but not operationalized due to limited resources. By providing technical support, equipment, and capacity development, the program is helping translate these priorities into functioning services.

The program is also strengthening referral pathways between schools, community units, and health facilities. It plans to expand services to other sub-counties within Kwale, ensuring equitable access across Matuga, Msambweni, Lunga Lunga, and Kinango and creating a decentralized model that can serve as a blueprint for other counties.

By embedding hearing screening into routine healthcare services and strengthening expertise, the program is building a sustainable model that empowers local professionals to drive long-term improvements in hearing care within their communities.

50

children fitted with hearing aids

88

people trained

5,448

children screened

Focus area: Advocacy



The early identification of children with hearing loss requires more than clinical expertise. It depends on strong public health systems and policies that prioritize screening and early intervention. In many countries, however, neonatal hearing screening remains limited to pilot initiatives.



Early hearing screening is vital for NICU newborns, where premature birth heightens the risk of hearing loss. In Guatemala, our partners are collaborating with the Ministry of Health to strengthen early detection.

Sonrisas que Escuchan

Guatemala City, Guatemala

In Guatemala, our project partner Sonrisas que Escuchan (SQE) works closely with the Ministry of Health to strengthen early detection. Together, they are advancing neonatal hearing screening in 10 hospitals nationwide so that more newborns are screened and referred for timely diagnostic assessments and care.

A key element has been positioning screening as a shared public health priority. SQE's work to drive newborn hearing screening pilots has resulted in the Ministry of Health's commitment to fund more screenings. Through its collaboration with the ministry, SQE regularly shares screening results and program data, highlighting the number of children with hearing loss and the importance of early intervention. This evidence-based approach raises awareness among policymakers and reinforces the need to integrate screenings more systematically within the national healthcare system.

The program brings together hospitals, municipalities, and local associations to expand screening beyond neonatal care. Screening programs in 85 schools identify children who may not have been tested at birth or developed hearing loss later, ensuring that more children are connected with diagnostic services and support.

SQE works with the Office of the First Lady of Guatemala to support programs focused on children under state protection. These collaborations focus national attention on hearing health and create mechanisms for coordination between public institutions and local partners.

Through sustained dialogue with government and national stakeholders, this program is helping move hearing screening from isolated initiatives toward a coordinated national approach and laying the groundwork for sustainable early detection and care for children across Guatemala.

329

children fitted with hearing aids

1,901

people trained

44,357

children screened

For Hear the World Foundation, partnerships are a driver of lasting social impact. We see philanthropy as a collaborative co-investment, bringing together complementary strengths to enable sustainable solutions for children with hearing loss.

Since 2023, we have worked closely with the Vontobel Foundation as a co-funder of projects in Guatemala and Brazil. We share the ambition to create sustainable impact for vulnerable populations, including children with hearing loss. Through this partnership, we combine philanthropic funding with sector-specific expertise, deep industry knowledge, and strong professional networks—laying the groundwork for meaningful and lasting change.

Partnership for impact



The Vontobel Foundation is a highly efficient grant giving organization that maximizes reach by supporting charitable Swiss institutions in social affairs, culture and society, and nature and science. Established in 1993 by Dr. Hans Vontobel, its core assets stem from Vontobel shares and family contributions.

Vontobel Stiftung

Q&A

Marlies Heerdegen, Managing Director, Vontobel Foundation

Q

What are the benefits for your foundation in engaging in partnerships like this? How does a co-investment approach strengthen your ability to create impact?

Engaging in partnerships and co-investment approaches is a natural extension of our foundation's commitment to achieving sustainable, long-term impact. By collaborating with like-minded foundations, we are able to pool not only financial resources, but also expertise, networks, and perspectives. This strengthens the quality of project selection, enhances due diligence, and supports more robust implementation.

Q

Why is it increasingly important for foundations to come together and align their efforts to address complex social challenges and support vulnerable populations effectively?

In today's increasingly complex and interconnected world, social challenges such as inequality, poverty, and health disparities cannot be effectively addressed by isolated actors. Foundations must therefore align their efforts to create meaningful and lasting change. For us, this means working towards shared goals such as promoting equal opportunities, strengthening economic independence, and supporting sustainable livelihoods for marginalized communities. When foundations align their strategies, they can reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication of efforts, and create synergies that amplify impact.

Through Hear the World Foundation’s global volunteering program, Sonova employees are encouraged to support the foundation and its partners by contributing their time, skills, and expertise. Volunteers can engage on-site or remotely to apply their professional knowledge in areas such as audiology, operations, strategy, communications, and marketing.

In 2025/2026, Sonova employees contributed 1,188 volunteer hours across 62 assignments, supporting projects over 144 days.

1,188
hours of work

62
assignments

144
days volunteered

The Hear the World Foundation team and our project partners are grateful for the dedication and support of Sonova volunteers and our voluntary Advisory Board Members throughout the 2025/2026 project year. Your efforts are creating lasting change for children with hearing loss.

Prof. Dr. Beatriz Novaes – Dr. med. Doreen Mulenga – Dr. med. Dorothe Veraguth

Prof. Lena Wong – Prof. Emeritus Patricia Roush

Agnieszka Grzeda, Akanksha Puri, Albert Zhang, Allison Young, Andrew Partridge, Anna Biggins, Aya Anasse, Avinash Grubb, Axel David, Barbara Hoesli, Cem Bakar, Chantal Belanger, Charlotte Vercammen, Christophe Lesimple, Claudia Bachmann, Claudia Diaz, Cloe Yang, Doris Zahnd, Douglas Baldwin, Emi Yoshida, Ersin Bozkurt, Gael Induni, Halima Firdus, Hany Taha, Heinz Thomi, Isadora Ruiz Casanova, Jacek Czuba, Jana-Kosima Sooprayen, Janani Jeyaraman, Jean Anne Schnittker, Karine Evora, Katarzyna Mikula, Leyu Ji, Lina Granada, Lina Hilsmann, Lisa Bacic, Lisbeth Strang, Louise McAnulty, Maho Mori, Manuel Bürgisser, Marc Johnson, Maren Stropahl, Maria Cristina Nieddu, Mariana Maggio, Martin Heierle, Martin Rahn, Melahat Yavuz, Nahia Medard, Natalia Peixoto, Natalia Perez, Nikolas Klakow, Paola Fabbian, Paula Orozco Tovar, Peter Kossek, Polina Stirnemann, Rachel Lamb, Raphael Beauvais-Landry, Richard Hughes, Rodica Socolov, Rosalie Lewis, Timothy Weals, Sabine Grögli, Sabrina Bretschneider, Manuela Ruff, Stef Launer, Stephanie West, Sujaany Pathmanathan, Sunil Kapoor, Swati Sejpal, Talita Donini, Tamas Rippel, Xin Zhuang

Volunteers

Centro Oaxaqueño de Rehabilitación de Audición y Lenguaje (CORAL), Mexico

Natalia Perez volunteered four days with Hear the World Foundation’s project partner CORAL as a verification trainer in Oaxaca. She provided best-practice training in real ear measurements, helping ensure that hearing aids were precisely fitted for each child.

Following her return to Canada, Natalia continued to support CORAL as a mentor, volunteering for five working days during the year. She remained in regular contact with the local audiology team, offering guidance, troubleshooting support, and practical advice. Her encouragement helped the team apply newly acquired skills consistently in their daily practice.

Natalia played a key role in reinforcing learning, addressing challenges, and supporting the long-term quality of pediatric hearing care delivered by our partner.



“As a trainer with CORAL, I witnessed how knowledge can empower others to change lives. Seeing the dedication of the team and the joy of the children reminded me why I’m so passionate about this work.”

Natalia Perez, Audiologist, Connect Hearing Canada



Shape the future
with confidence

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To the Board of Trustees of
Hear the World Foundation, Stäfa

Zurich, 13 May 2026

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, operating statement, statement of changes in capital and notes) of Hear the World Foundation for the financial year ended 31. March 2026.

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



Martin Mattes
(Qualified Signature)

Licensed audit expert
(Auditor in charge)



Nicole Meister
(Qualified Signature)

Licensed audit expert

Enclosure

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

Annual Financial Statement

Balance sheet as of 31 March

(in Swiss francs)	2025/2026	2024/2025
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	827,479	843,180
Total assets	827,479	843,180
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accrued liabilities	9,729	0
Fund capital	(0)	36,043
Capital of the organization		
Paid-in capital	500,000	500,000
Free capital	317,750	307,137
	817,750	807,137
Total liabilities	827,479	843,180

Operation statement 1 April - 31 March

(in Swiss francs)	2025/2026	2024/2025
Income		
Income from donations earmarked	252,566	227,839
Income from donations free	9,947,979	10,018,998
Total income	10,200,545	10,246,837
Expenses		
Technological support for projects abroad	(9,383,433)	(9,372,246)
Financial support for projects abroad	(689,850)	(711,049)
Professional support for projects abroad	(142,601)	(119,763)
Administrative expenses	(9,729)	(9,765)
Other operating expenses	(362)	(369)
Total expenses	(10,225,975)	(10,213,192)
Result before the change of fund capital	(25,430)	33,645
Change fund capital	36,043	69,884
Result for the year before allocation to the capital of the organization	10,613	103,529

Statement of changes in capital

(in Swiss francs)	Paid-in capital	Free capital	Capital of the organization	Fund capital
As of 31.03./01.04.2024	500,000	203,608	703,608	105,927
Change	0	103,529	103,529	(69,884)
As of 31.03./01.04.2025	500,000	307,137	807,137	36,043
Change	0	10,613	10,613	(36,043)
As of 31.03.2026	500,000	317,750	817,750	(0)

Hear the World Foundation, Laubisrütistrasse 28, CH-8712 Stäfa, Tel:+41 58 928 01 01, info@hear-the-world.com, hear-the-world.com

Notes to the annual financial statements as of 31 March, 2026

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 13 May, 2026.

The Foundation Board consists of the following persons:

• **Gilbert Achermann** • **Katya Kruglova** • **Beate Eckhardt** • **Katrin Imhof**

The business operations of the Foundation comply with the articles of association dated 24 July, 2025 and the Foundation's rules of procedure dated 4 December, 2006. In connection with the relocation of the Foundation's domicile to the Canton of Zurich, the articles of association were amended and editorially refined. The fundamental purpose of the Foundation remained unchanged.

Ernst & Young AG served as auditor for the fiscal year. Their mandate is based on applicable legal regulations and conducted in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards.

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 with the objective of presenting a true and fair view of the Foundation's financial position, results of operations. The preparation of a cash flow statement has been omitted 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. Accrued liabilities contain the audit fees 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 1,215,000 (previous year CHF 1,165,000). 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 their estimated fair value, generally based on 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 9,042,923 (previous year CHF 9,102,270).

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 Stäfa 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:

	2025/2026		2024/2025	
	CHF	in %	CHF	in %
Technological support for projects abroad	9,383,433	92%	9,372,246	92%
Financial support for projects abroad	689,850	7%	711,049	7%
Professional support for projects abroad	142,601	1%	119,763	1%
Administrative expenditures	9,729	0%	9,765	0%
Other operating expenditures	362	0%	369	0%
	10,225,975	100%	10,213,192	100%

As of the balance sheet date, technological support amounting to CHF 423,200 for the project LAIS Brazil were outstanding. These commitments are not recognised as liabilities as of the reporting date.

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 2025.

Organization

The Hear the World Foundation Board comprises Sonova Group executives and external experts with extensive experience in foundation management. Members implement the foundation's purpose, providing oversight and setting its strategic direction.

Our Advisory Board members generously volunteer their expertise in audiology and international development. They 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.

Foundation Board

Gilbert Achermann

President, Hear the World;
Chair, Sonova Board of Directors

Beate Eckhardt

Philanthropy and foundation expert

Katya Kruglova

Chief Human Resources Officer, Sonova

Dr. Katrin Imhof

Expert in sustainable development
cooperation

Advisory Board

Dr. med. Doreen Mulenga

Former UNICEF representative and retired medical
doctor (Zambia)

Prof. Dr. Beatriz Novaes

Professor, Department of Human and Health
Sciences, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo
(Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Patricia Roush

Professor Emeritus, Otolaryngology, University of
North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill
(United States of America)

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