



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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**BLESSED  
ARE THE  
PEACEMAKERS,  
FOR THEY WILL  
BE CALLED  
CHILDREN  
OF GOD  
(MATTHEW 5:9)**

## THE MESSAGE OF HOPE CREATES OPTIMISM AMID TURMOIL

2021 started out with hopeful expectations. However, the coronavirus pandemic showed that it was hard to beat. The protracted fight against the pandemic was not the only crisis of the year in our countries of operation. In addition to the prolonged armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen, political turmoil broke out in Myanmar and Afghanistan.

During times like this, Fida's vision stimulates our work: together we are building a world where everyone has hope and a future. Those words contain the DNA of our organisation's more than 100-year-old history. Although there is turmoil all around, this is the time to build an even stronger civil society of churches, organisations, and networks.

Fida's partner churches and organisations operate at the grassroots level among people who are affected most by crises: children and young people, the poorest in society, ethnic minorities and marginalised groups. By involving them in building the future, civil society is strengthened. Then it can even have a powerful political influence: strong people committed to justice and peace can persuade the decision-makers in their own country to change their policies in the right direction.

Cooperation with large churches brings thousands of volunteers into our work. Local churches are located where people live. That is why responding to the coronavirus crisis has also been swift. Fida's strong partner network has enabled near-normal operations to continue during the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, Fida achieved its objectives in missionary work, development cooperation, and humanitarian aid. In this annual report, we share the results of our work through examples. Read how Annonciate, a Burundian single parent, created a successful business and how Abdul, a small Tanzanian boy, gets to go to school by himself.

The negative effects of the pandemic hit sales in Fida's secondhand chain the hardest. The shops didn't make a profit, but luckily the fiscal year didn't end up in the red either. Otherwise, Fida's income was at the expected level.

During the 2021 crisis year, we achieved sustainable results and remained strong. That is why we will continue to gratefully convey the message of peace and hope and help our neighbours who are in the weakest situations.

We remember the words of our Lord, which He uttered to his disciples in his best-known teaching: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will shown mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." ❖



**Harri Hakola,**  
Executive Director

# FIDA IN 2021

TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A WORLD  
WHERE EVERYONE HAS HOPE AND A FUTURE.



OUR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
REACHED 373,600 PEOPLE  
IN POOR COMMUNITIES



WE CONVEYED HUMANITARIAN AID TO  
CRISIS AREAS IN YEMEN, CONGO (DRC),  
ETHIOPIA AND AFGHANISTAN



WE SUPPORTED 208,778  
WOMEN AND GIRLS



MORE THAN 130 NEW CONGREGATIONS WERE  
PLANTED AS A RESULT OF THE MISSIONS' WORK



WE STRENGTHENED THE RIGHTS OF  
99,601 CHILDREN TO EDUCATION.



OUR WORK REACHED ABOUT 50  
UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS



Fida is a Finnish Christian organisation that works around the world for human dignity together with local churches and NGOs. Children, young people, and the vulnerable are at the heart of our work. We do missionary work, development cooperation, and humanitarian aid inspired by God's love, serving people.

Founded in 1927 by The Pentecostal churches of Finland, Fida is one of Finland's largest missionary and development cooperation organisations and has one of Finland's largest chain of charity shops. Fida operates and influences the global Pentecostal movement.

Follow our work at [www.fida.info/en/](http://www.fida.info/en/)

## BRINGING HOPE TOGETHER

**434**

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

**5050**

SPONSORS AND REGULAR  
MONTHLY DONORS

**193**

PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES  
THAT SUPPORT FIDA'S WORK

**782 000**

STORE CUSTOMERS

## WE IN FIDA

**327**

PERSONS EMPLOYED  
BY FIDA

**167**

WORKERS ABROAD  
IN 34 COUNTRIES

**160**

IN FINLAND

**38**

IN DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION,  
HUMANITARIAN AID,  
AND DEACONATE WORK  
PROJECTS

**84**

IN CHURCH WORK

**22**

IN OTHER  
SUPPORT ROLES

**23**

GLOBAL PROFESSIO-  
NALS, THOSE IN MISSI-  
ONS THROUGH THEIR  
OWN PROFESSIONS

**37**

IN THE MAIN OFFICE

**123**

123 IN THE FIDA  
SECONDHAND CHAIN



## OUR MISSION

TOGETHER WITH LOCAL CHURCHES AND NGO'S, WE BUILD PEACE, PROMOTE JUSTICE, AND STRENGTHEN HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE WORLD'S POOREST REGIONS.

### IN 2021

Our development cooperation helped over **373,600** people

**2,153,000** people benefitted indirectly

**208,778** women and girls and **181,592** children received support

We strengthened the rights of **99,601** children to education

We planted **1,051,346** trees

The fields or vegetable gardens of **3,835** smallholder farmers produced better harvests



**THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION**  
EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL AND TO RECEIVE QUALITY EDUCATION.



**THE RIGHT TO GOOD HEALTH**  
EVERYONE NEEDS CLEAN WATER, NUTRITION, GOOD HYGIENE, AND INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.



**THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING**  
WE SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS, SMALL BUSINESS, AND FOOD SECURITY, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

## YEAR OF CHANGE AND CRISES



**Maikki Kuittinen,**  
Programme Manager  
for Development  
Cooperation

The covid-19 pandemic and several crises had a significant impact on our work in 2021. Plans changed, our programmes adapted, and the acute suffering of communities were met. The pandemic limited people's meeting with others and blocked many children's access to school. In many countries, the pandemic closed schools down and forced a search for new solutions for meeting children. As school attendance is dependent in many places on the financial situation of families, many children no longer returned to class. Teaching was arranged through digital channels and outdoors. The teachers also made home visits to the students. The pandemic also had a debilitating effect on the economy. The price of food rose sky high, which was really felt by

those living in the poorest conditions. Teenage pregnancies, child marriages, and mental health problems increased in several programme countries, including Kenya, Bangladesh and Tanzania. Political turmoil affected the most vulnerable, particularly in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Fida's country programme responded to the acute distress by, for example, delivering EUR 117 000 worth of food aid and hygiene supplies to communities in Myanmar.

Despite the challenges, the work achieved significant results and developmental impacts: Children's access to school improved, household livelihoods increased, and the ability of partner organisations to contribute to the development challenges of their communities was strengthened. ▣



## A SAFE SCHOOL PATH

Would you walk eight kilometres to school every day? 12-year-old **Leah** from Kenya made that trip every day because the nearest school was in a neighbouring village far away. When Leah got back home from school, her evening was spent doing household chores in her family of 10: washing dishes, doing laundry, and carrying water. No wonder she always started school feeling tired and hungry.

There were also dangers along the school path: lions roamed along the nearby savannah and snake bites were common. The girls were also threatened by sexual abuse on the way. Due to a long and dangerous trip to school, it was common for the girls in the village to start school only when they were about 10 years old.

With Fida's support, Kenya's Full Gospel Church built a school in Leah's home village. Now the children get to school on time, can eat at home during the day, and are able to learn energetically.

In 2021, access to school for more than 4,200 children was made easier in Kenya with Fida's support. School trips have been shortened, classrooms and learning materials have been developed, and school safety has improved. 📌

**DURING 2018-2021,  
FIDA'S COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME IMPROVED  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
OF MORE THAN 9,000  
CHILDREN IN KENYA. TEN  
SCHOOLS WERE BUILT OR  
RENOVATED.**





## DIGITAL SKILLS IMPROVED IN 11 VILLAGES IN MYANMAR

A few years ago, internet connections in Myanmar were extremely limited for children in 11 village communities studying digital skills. As technology has evolved, the need of digital literacy has grown rapidly, especially in rural areas. Poor communities have lagged in development. Fida has helped schools to correct the learning gap using tablets.

Children are taught online and in various learning applications that can be used to learn native language, mathematics, and foreign languages.

– I’ve never had a tablet or even a phone, but now I’ve learned how to use them, laughs 15-year-old Joe Lay Yo.

He believes that English-language apps are the most useful.

– With the app, I can hear how to pronounce words correctly. That’s how I learned to speak English much better.

Children find tablets both fun and educational. They’ve appreciated the new way to learn.

– Originally, the tablets attracted children who were less interested in education. Now there are more children in our school than space, rejoices Walter Kaing, Fida’s programme manager.

In 2021, more than 650 school children participated in

club activities organised by Fida’s programme. Of these, 503 children participated in digital learning clubs. Last year, there were plans to expand learning centres to three new villages. Implementation was postponed due to political unrest in the country and the coronavirus pandemic. ▶





## TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE

**Fida, FELM, and the Abilis Foundation** organised a campaign against violence for disabled women and girls in Tanzania in 2021. The 16 Day campaign is based on an existing problem, as girls and women with disabilities face violence tenfold in relation to others. Violence experienced by people with disabilities is also rarely reported.

Globally, one in three women will be victims of violence in their lifetime. As a result of the covid-19 pandemic, violence against women has risen to even more alarming figures. Women's and young people's organisations were the leading stars of the campaign.

– Through the cooperation of Finnish partners, women and young people with disabilities are participating in the 16 days of activism campaign for the first time. This has opened the eyes of people with disabilities to their rights, rejoices **Aneth Gerana**, director of the local FUWAVITA organisation.

The starting point for the campaign was accessibility training, which presented tools to ensure access. Government representatives, NGOs and schools participated in the training. Implementing it virtually made it possible for people from all over Tanzania and even from Kenya and Uganda to participate. The event was also interpreted into Tanzania's sign language.

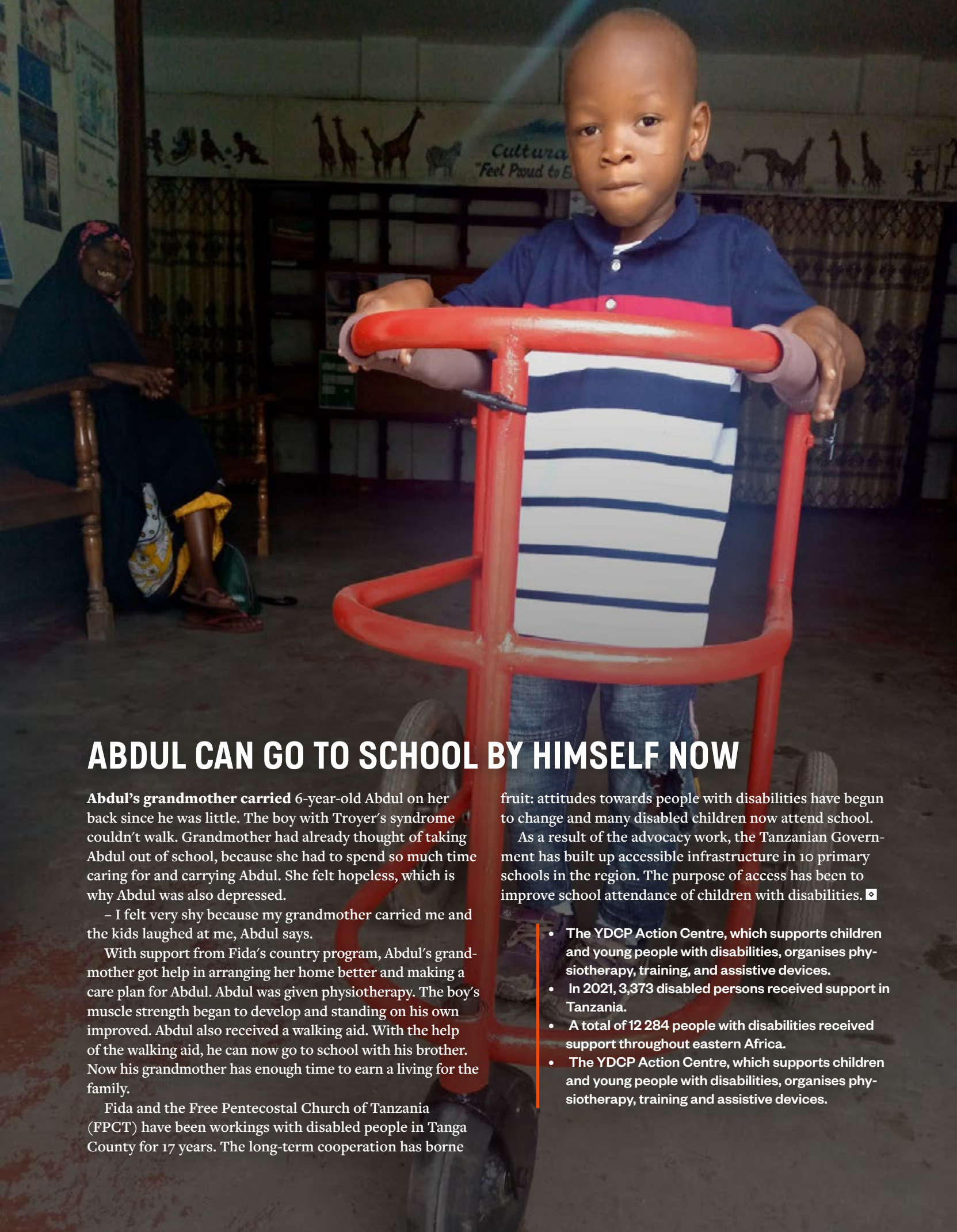
An event was organised for researchers and religious actors with the aim of strengthening the role of religious leaders in promoting gender equality and health. This cooperation is significant and important, as religious organisations are respon-

sible for up to 45% of health services in Tanzania.

The cooperation gave rise to a ground-breaking national dialogue on the right of women and young people with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health and non-violent living. More than 130 representatives from different sectors of society participated in the event.

– There are a lot of taboos about sexuality and disability, also in Tanzania. If disabled people are not considered sexually active, they will also not be provided with information and services. The national dialogue brought these themes up for public debate, says **Virpi Mesiäislehto**, Fida's advisor.





## ABDUL CAN GO TO SCHOOL BY HIMSELF NOW

**Abdul's grandmother carried** 6-year-old Abdul on her back since he was little. The boy with Troyer's syndrome couldn't walk. Grandmother had already thought of taking Abdul out of school, because she had to spend so much time caring for and carrying Abdul. She felt hopeless, which is why Abdul was also depressed.

– I felt very shy because my grandmother carried me and the kids laughed at me, Abdul says.

With support from Fida's country program, Abdul's grandmother got help in arranging her home better and making a care plan for Abdul. Abdul was given physiotherapy. The boy's muscle strength began to develop and standing on his own improved. Abdul also received a walking aid. With the help of the walking aid, he can now go to school with his brother. Now his grandmother has enough time to earn a living for the family.

Fida and the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT) have been working with disabled people in Tanga County for 17 years. The long-term cooperation has borne

fruit: attitudes towards people with disabilities have begun to change and many disabled children now attend school.

As a result of the advocacy work, the Tanzanian Government has built up accessible infrastructure in 10 primary schools in the region. The purpose of access has been to improve school attendance of children with disabilities. ▣

- The YDCP Action Centre, which supports children and young people with disabilities, organises physiotherapy, training, and assistive devices.
- In 2021, 3,373 disabled persons received support in Tanzania.
- A total of 12 284 people with disabilities received support throughout eastern Africa.
- The YDCP Action Centre, which supports children and young people with disabilities, organises physiotherapy, training and assistive devices.



**MORE THAN 500  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN  
BURUNDI PARTICIPATED  
IN VOCATIONAL AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
TRAINING IN 2021.**

## ANNONCIATE STARTED A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

**Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world.** Not even higher education guarantees finding employment, because there's not enough jobs. So in Burundi, many people have created their own jobs: 22% of the working-age people start a business.

Fida and the Northern European Business Academy (NEBA) piloted its first training in Burundi. Annonciate Munezero, who lives in the Ngozi region of northern Burundi, recently completed NEBA's online training. Annonciate is a 28-year-old mother of a little girl. As a person of short stature, she's had to face a lot of discrimination and struggle to prove that she is equal to others. However, she has not allowed prejudice to discourage her. She heard about the training provided by NEBA and decided to apply for it. When she was selected, she was able to attend the course at a local internet cafe.

During her training, Annonciate had a business idea:

she would start making and selling sweet potato cakes. The business idea was new, although sweet potatoes are part of an everyday diet in Burundi. The company has done so well that she has already hired two people to help her. There is enthusiasm and optimism about the young woman:

– I would like to take sweet potato cakes for sale to other countries as well. The training helped me create something completely new from the sweet potatoes. It changed my life!

With the help of the training programme, many other business ideas have also been realised in practice. Programme coordinator **Edouard Nderagakura** therefore believes that education will bring about real change.

– We hope that young people will go even further and grow their businesses. They do not have to wait to be offered a job, they can create jobs themselves. ♦



## RACHEL FROM TAJIKISTAN IS SUCCEEDING AS AN ENTREPRENEUR:

### ”I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY WITH BOTH HANDS”

Located in Central Asia, Tajikistan is a small, mountainous country on the Afghanistan-China border. The poor country is afflicted by massive migration: up to one million people leave each year to emigrate abroad. Fida worked in Tajikistan from 2016 to 2021. The programme promoted the rights of women and children and the well-being of families.

One important part of the programme was entrepreneurship training, which created job opportunities for the rural population. Rachel is one of them.

Rachel was left alone with two children when her husband suddenly went to work in Russia. One of their children is blind, which is why the life of a single parent was difficult. Rachel's neighbor urged her to join Fida's program. Rachel learned how to grow vegetables and set up a greenhouse in her yard. She

took very good care of her crops and sold the harvest. After six years she was able to buy a cow which earns her extra income.

– This greenhouse was my only chance to improve my life and that of my children. I grabbed it with both hands. Now I can farm the land, I have a job, and I can support my family.

As her income has grown, Rachel has also been able to think about saving money and her long-term dream of building a wall around her home. 🗨️

- In 2021, 540 people in Tajikistan received business and livelihood training with Fida's support.
- In total, around 56,000 people have benefited from Fida's work in the countryside in Khatlon Province.



**MORE THAN 2000  
BHUTANESE  
WOMAN HAVE FOUND A  
PROFESSION THROUGH  
FIDA TRAININGS**

## DESIGN COMPETITION PROMOTED WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BHUTAN

**Bhutan, next to the Himalayas,** is a beautiful, mountainous country. The Bhutanese are known as people who care for nature. But the country also has a dreadful side. The Global Gender Gap index of 153 countries which measures the position of women in areas such as education, the economy, and political influence, ranks Bhutan in place 131.

Bhutan ranked particularly poorly in women's entrepreneurship and political participation.

– Although Bhutan is known above all for its reputation as a happy people, domestic violence is still widespread and the position of women is still weak in many places, says **Riina Happonen**, Fida's country programme coordinator.

In 2021, Fida and the women's organisation RENEW organised a design competition to campaign for an end to violence against women. The competition featured women's versatile handcrafts and women's right to have their own profession

and livelihood.

The challenge in Bhutan has been to find handcraft products made from local materials. The products sold in the country are very similar to each other and new products are rarely on the market, because almost all the materials are imported from India.

The aim of the competition was to motivate local artisans to design new products from Bhutanese raw materials. At the same time, it was a way to strengthen women's entrepreneurship and opportunities for livelihoods. The partner organisation RENEW is an organisation founded by the Queen Mother of Bhutan, **Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck**, and focuses on the prevention and treatment of gender violence victims.

– In Bhutan, there is a great deal of respect for the royals, and it was a great honour to receive the award from the Queen Mother, says Happonen. 📌



## AN OASIS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT

**In the middle of the Kenyan** wilderness, an oasis has been created. Research results show that clean water and farming practices developed for harsh conditions have resulted in significant change there. Unlike previous generations, children no longer suffer from hunger.

Marsabit Province is in Kenya, near the Ethiopian border. The extinct volcanoes nearby have dispersed sharp lava rocks in the area. Whirlwinds lift dust and sand high off the ground. The sun's rays burn through your skin, and you can feel the dryness. There has been hardly any rain in the area since December 2020. The harsh landscape causes problems for both humans and animals.

The drought has resulted in malnutrition, which has been a serious problem in Loglogo, Marsabit for long. In children, malnutrition can cause stunted growth. In Kenya, more than a quarter of children under five are small for their age.

Elias Kithinji, an employee of the Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, arrived at Loglogo to teach farming and improve the water situation. In the middle of the barren wilderness there is now a green oasis that differs from its surroundings.

It all started from a borehole. A large steel water tank now rises above the area. There's a school nearby, and greenhouses covered with screens. The protective screens make it possible to grow vegetables and fruits. Strong winds have prevented the cultivation of plants, which is why the structures of the greenhouses were redesigned.

Elias trained the residents in cultivating and preparing vegetable-rich foods. At first, the taste seemed strange to them. Over time, however, vegetables became part of their diet. The villagers' diet became more varied. Soon the harvested crops were sufficient for their own nutrition, with a surplus to sell to others. 🍅



## HELP AMID THE WORLD'S WORST CRISES



**Maija Saarni,**  
Humanitarian  
Aid Manager

We were able to help people living in the middle of crises to restart their lives. Those who received psychosocial support could process the traumatic experiences better, and believe in a better future. In all Fida projects people with disabilities are especially included, and it was great to see how they were active as community members.

### IN 2021

In 2021, Fida's humanitarian aid reached **310,000** people in Ethiopia, Yemen, Congo (DRC) and Afghanistan.

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported our work with EUR **2.25 million**.

Finns donated **191,810** euros to humanitarian aid.

In Afghanistan, **220 000** people received aid.

In the Congo, our aid reached **70,000** people.

In Yemen, we helped **13,793** people





WE PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE



WE SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES



WE PROVIDE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

**MISSION**

**WE PROMOTE LIFE WORTH HUMAN DIGNITY AMID CRISES. WE HELP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY PROTRACTED CRISES TO RETURN TO EVERYDAY LIFE.**



**TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA:**

**”THE AID GAVE ME STRENGTH TO KEEP GOING”**

Fida has delivered emergency aid to Tigray, Ethiopia, together with the local Guenet Church. Because it has been difficult to transport goods to the area, aid has been distributed directly into people’s bank accounts or given as a cash grant. The grant always covers one family’s food and hygiene supplies for two months at a time. About 500 families have received aid. Single parents, widows, and persons with disabilities have been chosen especially.

The 38-year-old Aklil was pregnant when she was forced to flee the conflict with her five children. The escape on foot to visit relatives in a neighboring town was dangerous: Aklil and her children were caught in the middle of a hail of bullets.

– I couldn’t run because of my pregnancy, so I was about to lose all hope of survival. However, with God’s help, we were able to get to our relatives, Aklil says.

Aklil and the children waited for their father to arrive at the same refuge, but he never made it.

– My husband’s death brought great darkness to our family. I was left alone, says Aklil quietly.

However, hope has been brought by the birth of a little girl baby. After losing her husband, her income was also compromised. So Aklil also received food aid.

– God remembered us in this difficult situation. I got two months’ financial help to buy food. The aid came just before Easter. Oh, how it gave me hope! I was able to buy my children food and celebrate an important holiday for us amid all the grief. The aid gave me strength to keep going.

In Fida’s project, a professional psychologist has also trained volunteers to lead Trauma Healing events. Aklil has also participated in them.

– It was important for me that I could share my burdens with others, she says. ☒

**FIDA’S AID REACHED 3950 PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA**



## FOOD AID WAS DISTRIBUTED AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT GIVEN IN DR CONGO.



**Heini Siren,**  
Psychosocial support specialist

There is a continuing state of crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has driven millions of people from their homes. Fida operates in eastern Congo together with CEPAC, a Congolese Pentecostal church.

“Psychosocial support is important also when the local partner plays two different roles: both help giver and recipient. In May 2021, disaster struck the town of Goma when the nearby Nyiragongo volcano erupted. Our church partner’s workers also fled Goma to the safer areas. After the eruption subsided, settlements in the vicinity of the volcano turned into refugee camps where resident volunteers were trained to provide psychosocial support. In Congo, many of our workers have experienced being a refugee themselves. One volunteer told us that during the last volcanic eruption, he had fled to the mountains. Now, in this new situation, through his previous experience, he had been able to support many and inspire hope in the middle of hopelessness.

Changes in the roles of help givers and receivers can become a major challenge, but on the other hand they can also create important know-how from the experience.” -Heini Siren

” In DR Congo, the child-friendly spaces set up in the refugee camps have been particularly important, providing activities for children and young people. They play games, do sports, practice music, and learn together. We’ve noticed that the children’s own human dignity is strengthened by this support.

- Fida’s aid reached 67,000 people in Congo.
- €150,000 Euros was given to help those who fled the volcanic eruption.
- In Congo, 2,500 people received psychosocial first aid
- Fida and CEPAC built four child-friendly spaces for refugee children, where you can play games, sports, and learn. 4000 children used the spaces.
- Primary schools in the Kalemie area were repaired and furnished: 28 brand new classrooms were completed.
- 1000 refugees were supported in schools. They were helped with school fees and materials.



## THE YEMEN CRISIS CONTINUES - FIDA'S HELP KEEPS LIFE GOING

After nearly six years of war, Yemen has the highest number of food insecure people in the world. This year, Yemen is also in danger of becoming the poorest country in the world. Yemeni children need special protection: up to 79% of them suffer the consequences of a prolonged state of war, such as insomnia, depression and anxiety. Fida's project has provided community trauma support for children and adults.

– There are very few mental health professionals in Yemen. However, we can train and equip community leaders, volunteers, and social workers so that they can provide mental support. For the children, we organized group activities where they were able to deal with their fears, says **Maija Saarni**, Manager of Humanitarian Aid. ❖

” **My name is Kabir\*** and I live in a village in southern Taiz province. The economic crisis in Yemen has affected the lives of every Yemeni. I go to construction sites for casual work if I'm able. Some days it's hard to find a job. I have two mentally disabled daughters whose care I am responsible for. I've sometimes felt like I've failed as a parent.

It's been difficult to take care of my daughters, especially their special health needs. I've had to take loans to buy them food and medicine. Everything changed when you came to our village and brought us into food aid. Now we get a food basket every month. We are happy and blessed! Many of our problems began to be solved with this help. For example, the money I saved in food helped me pay off my debts and meet my daughters' other needs. Thank God and the organization!”

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

- Fida helped 13,793 people in Yemen
- Fida repaired primary schools and village roads in Yemen.
- Accessible classrooms for pupils with disabilities were built in two schools.
- A sewing center was built for women.



## AID REACHED OVER 200 000 PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN

After the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, the humane crisis in the country turned into a disaster: the number of people in need of food aid increased in a matter of months from 14 million to 24 million. Fida helped families in Afghanistan and refugees in Tajikistan meet their basic needs and get off to a safe start to a new life. Together with our partners, we shared food and heaters as part of a project coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP). The aid is also intended to prevent the side effects of hunger and poverty, such as child marriage.

One of Fida's recipients is Surayo, who settled in Tajikistan and fled Afghanistan with her three teenage daughters when her husband was killed. She wanted to protect her daughters from a possible forced marriage with the Taliban. They are safe now, but life as a refugee has not been easy. The family is grateful for the support they have received. They were especially pleased with the heating system they received, which brings warmth to the apartment and removes moisture. ❖

- 220,000 people received food aid in Afghanistan



<b>IN 2021</b>	we supported Bible and mission training in <b>19</b> countries.	<b>500</b> graduated from Bible schools into church ministry
we contributed to planting more than <b>130</b> new churches around the world.	our mission work included about <b>50</b> unreached people groups.	<b>107</b> sent mission workers served with churches around the world.



**Harri Hakola,**  
Executive director

"Fida is the missions organization for the Pentecostal church of Finland. Our partners around the world are Pentecostal churches or NGOs that share Fida's values. Local churches are a major force for social change, while taking the message of joy and hope from Jesus to where He is yet not known. The focus of our mission work is to support our partners to plant new churches, especially in large cities. In 2021, several church planting projects continued, and new ones were started. The partner churches were challenged to begin their own missions work, and they were trained and equipped for this task.

The future of missions is in the hands of young people. That's why Fida's mission aims to reach and empower children and young people. I hope that these stories of the world of missionary work will inspire and give you hope during this time in the world."



We carried out missions work in **46** countries.





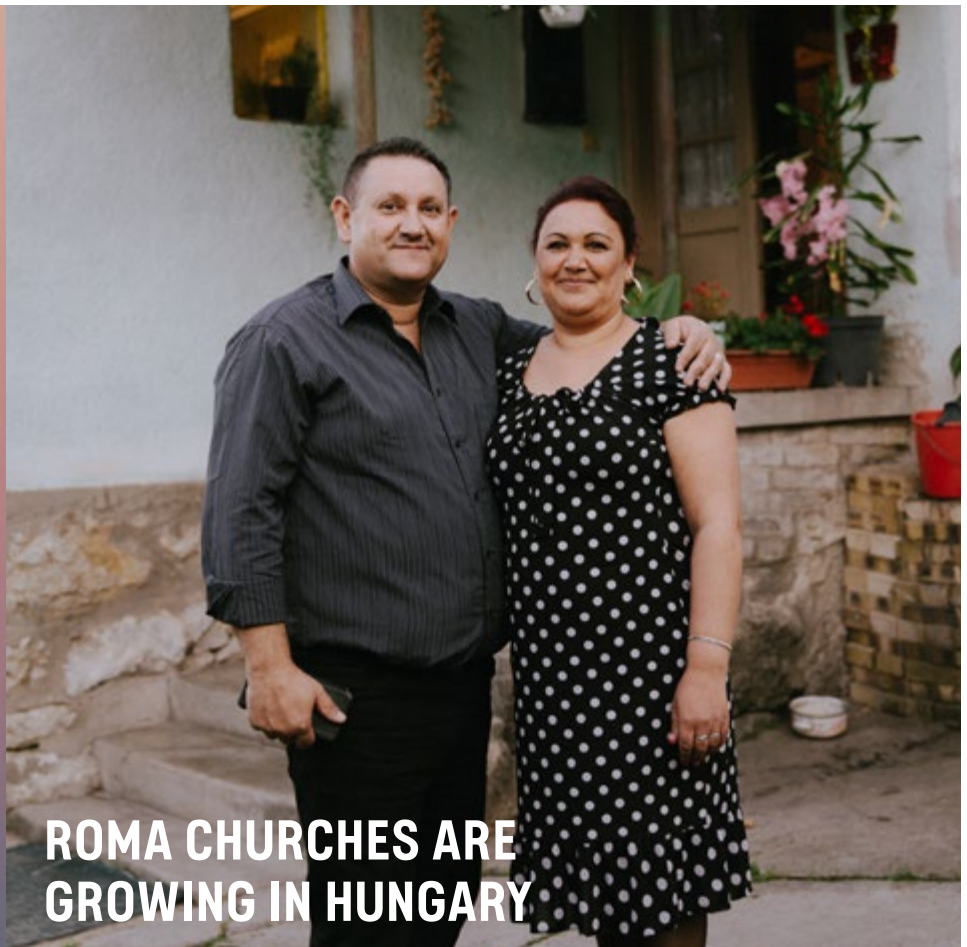
WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL,  
THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND  
HOPE, TO ALL PEOPLES



WE SUPPORT CHURCHES TO SERVE  
THEIR COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



WE PLANT NEW CHURCHES AMONG  
UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS



## ROMA CHURCHES ARE GROWING IN HUNGARY

**There is a spiritual revival** among the Roma in Hungary and churches are growing. They bring hope among the poor and often discriminated against Roma communities. In addition to eternal hope, they provide help for the daily lives of communities. Albert Durko, leader of the Hungarian Roma Mission, sees the spiritual awakening of the Roma as an important stimulus for total change.

– Churches are like yeast in bread. They give an example that people can follow. I believe that the Roma in Hungary will be a blessing to the whole of Europe.

There are currently 130 Roma churches with a total of about 6 000 members. The aim of Roma Mission is to double the number of churches over the next three years. To do this, 200 new church planters will be sent across the country.

Starting work in a new area is often challenging and requires perseverance. That's why they want to send well equipped the church planters. In September 2021, The Roma Mission of Hungary started mentorship training, for which experienced church workers were selected. Their purpose is to guide the work of future church planters and to provide support and encouragement. After the mentorship training, separate training for church planters will start.

Tivadar Tóth is one of the mentor trainees. He started a church in northern Hungary where he now serves together with his wife. The church used to meet in rented premises but was able to acquire its own meeting room recently. Tivadar hopes that with the new facility, the church will be able to be more present in the everyday life of the Roma community. The plans include a homework club for school children and a low-threshold meeting place where everyone is welcome.

– I believe that through genuine presence there will also be a spiritual awakening, Tivadar says. The Hungarian Roma Mission is a long-term partner of Fida. Fida participates by financially supporting 12 church planters. One of them is Tivadar Toth. ☑



OVER 50  
IMPOVERISHED  
EVANGELISTS HAVE  
BEEN SUPPORTED WITH  
SCHOOL FEES FOR  
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES  
IN TANZANIA.



## TANZANIA'S PENTECOS- TAL CHURCHES INVEST IN SUNDAY SCHOOLS

**More than half** of Tanzania's population is under the age of 20. The children of big cities are a large group unreached by the gospel. Nevertheless, activities aimed at children have not been considered important in local churches. Teacher training is limited to a few seminars, and there is a shortage of both materials and teachers.

The outskirts of Dar es Salaam are home to a large Muslim community. Fida's missionaries, Ruut and Jouko Nygren, who work in connection with the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania, have started church activities in the playgrounds of these neighbourhoods.

– The foundation for life is laid in childhood. The type of future leaders of the church and society depend to a large extent on how the churches today carry out their responsibility for bringing the gospel into the children's world, say Ruut and Jouko Nygren. They have been sent by the churches of Savonlinna and Siilijärvi to Tanzania and have been missionaries for well over 30 years.

With the help of Fida, the first student from Dar es Salaam was sent to the Assemblies of God Church's Bible school last year, to study child ministry. Currently, there are 11 Sunday school coordinators in Bible school. After the training, the Sunday school coordinators return to their home church to teach, promote, and expand activities for the benefit of children. ▣



## SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOKS BRING JOY TO CHURCHES IN PAPUA-NEW-GUINEA

**Marianne and Esa-Matti Pyykkönen** have reason to celebrate. The couple have been doing missionary work in Papua New Guinea for nine years and now an important phase of their work has been completed. They have translated and edited the Book series Pearls of the Bible into the tok pisin language. The series consists of six teaching books and six picture books and has previously been translated into more than 30 languages.

The population of Papua New Guinea is very young and is divided into more than 700 tribes and languages. However, the child and youth work of Fida's partner churches is still in its infancy. In 2013, the ALC Pentecostal movement invited the Pyykkönens to develop activities for children. The 50-year-old Pentecostal Church, started by Finnish missionaries, has also taken steps in recent years to develop its missionary work.

The Pyykkönens have produced Sunday school materials and trained teachers. When completed, the book series will be unique. There are hardly any books available in the country and people are not used to reading. The training of Sunday school teachers was started right at the very beginning: how to hold the

book in the right way, and how to illustrate the teaching.

The fruit of the work are the enthusiastic Sunday school teachers. When the first three books with pictures were completed in 2018, they rushed to buy the books for their use during the Pentecostal movement's national children's ministry days.

– Many people cried with joy when the wonderful materials were made available to them, Marianne says.

The covid-19 pandemic restrictions slowed the training work. But the book project progressed, and by the end of 2021 it was already certain that the book series would be completed this spring. Marianne and Esa, who will return to Finland in June, know that the work is not over, but the locals now have a good toolbox to take the children's activities forward. The main idea of the work right from the very

beginning has been God's love for children. Marianne raises the topic of prayer:

– The whole future of Papua New Guinea is in the hands of today's children. Let's pray that when the book series finds its way to small jungle villages, it would be a blessing for the children, the church, and the whole community. ■





Ulf Strohhahn with former Bible School students. Both come from small, unreached people groups, one of them is an udegi and the other is a chuckchi. They're both now testifying about Jesus to their own peoples.

## UNREACHED NATIONS OF THE FAR EAST HEAR THE GOSPEL

The gospel has not reached even half of Russia's 200 ethnic groups. They don't have a church in their own language, and often no Bible translation.

Fida's Bible and Missionary Education Expert Ulf Strohhahn began a collaborative project with a Pacific islands church in 2014.

- Our goal was to plan a mission school and train teachers for the task. The area is home to members of the Udmurt, Nanai, and Oroch ethnic groups, says Strohhahn.

- When we started the school, the idea was to send workers abroad, for example to India and Africa.

The school has sent more than 100 missionaries to different parts of the world, and in many countries, they have stayed permanently. However, the Lord spoke to the headmaster about the need for their own people to hear the gospel.

Strohhahn says it was decided to change the school's strategy. The goal became the training of missionaries to reach the unreached people groups of their own country.

- Now we understand that this was really from God, for the Russians can no longer go abroad in this world situation. The work has borne fruit. There are 44 unreached people

groups in the area, and the church has already begun work among 27 ethnic groups.

- Shamanism is practiced in the area, and when the gospel is brought to the area, it is always accompanied by a spiritual struggle. Please pray for the church and the mission school so we can continue to train workers to reach unreached people-groups, asks Ulf Strohhahn. 🙏

- Russia is a country of many peoples, where more than a hundred different languages can be heard.
- half of the peoples of Russia are unreached, that is, they do not yet have a Christian church among them.
- Russia also has several indigenous peoples who practice animism and nature religions.
- Pray for the people of the country!





IN 2021 FIDA'S  
PARTNERING CHURCHES  
PLANTED 49 NEW  
CHURCHES AMONG  
UNREACHED PEOPLE  
GROUPS.

## AIMING FOR 500 NEW CHURCHES IN ETHIOPIA

**Fida's history in Ethiopia** goes back to 1951, when the first Finnish pentecostal missionaries arrived in the country. Now the church founded by the Finns has grown to be the sizable Ethiopian Guenet Church with 2.1 million members. The church is one of Fida's local partners. The head of the Church, Secretary-General Tamirat Tariku, thanks the Finns very much for sending missionaries to their country.

– They lit a fire! With your help, now there is a huge number of believers in our country. It all started with the Mattson family from Ostrobothnia, who knew no one in our country.

Ethiopia's population of more than 100 million includes more than 87 ethnic groups and 123 different languages. There are still dozens of unreached regions and groups of people in the country. Many of them do not have the Bible in their own language yet. The Guenet Church is working with unreached people groups. In 2020, Fida's business team, a network of Christian entrepreneurs, joined the work with a new 5-5-5 project to specifically reach these unreached groups of people. The numbers symbolize the agreed upon goals: to send 500 pioneer pastors across Ethiopia over the next five years, to tell the gospel to 5 million people, and to establish 500 new

churches. The Fida Business Team has agreed to finance half of the expenses through its own network, while Guenet church is responsible for the rest. They will also choose the pastors to be sent out.

A total of 106 pastors were sent out in 2021: 65 with the support from the business team, and 41 locally.

– Before starting work, pastors receive training from Fida. It includes discipleship, church planting, and family. The pastors go to their designated area, and their work is monitored by the local coordinator. The pastor works using his own profession, for example as a farmer, and becomes part of the community. The aim is to multiply the impact, and plant more new churches in the area as new people come to the faith, says Tamirat Tariku.

He says that Christianity is no longer a "white man's faith", but now they themselves are spreading the gospel, even beyond the borders of the country.

– We are surrounded by several Muslim countries: Sudan, Djibouti, and Somalia. There are unreached peoples there, too. We want to be a sending church, and we have missionaries in our neighbouring countries. 📍



## BIG CITIES NEED THE GOSPEL

The world's population is crammed into big cities, which are growing ever bigger. Reaching cities with the gospel is a challenge.

### FIDA-SUPPORTED BIBLE EDUCATION IN ASIA:

- supports students growth as Christians so that they take root, develop, and are strengthened their faith in Christ.
- plays a key role in the goal of training workers, promoting the gospel, and healthy church growth.

**Asian culture** is strongly influenced by old religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Students come from the amidst different religions and traditions that have shaped their thinking and the way they understand things. Theology is studied in the Bible School, but special courses are also offered, such as urban youth work.

**The populations** of many of Asia's big cities often outnumber Finland's total population. It is therefore important to direct missionary work to where people live. But we need to look for new ways of reaching people in urban centers. These trainings are offered by Fida's partner's Bible School, where a course for urban work has been developed.

The Bible School is in a large Asian city of over 20 million people, where it is estimated that only 0.9% are Christians. The Fida-supported Bible School students come from the heart of the

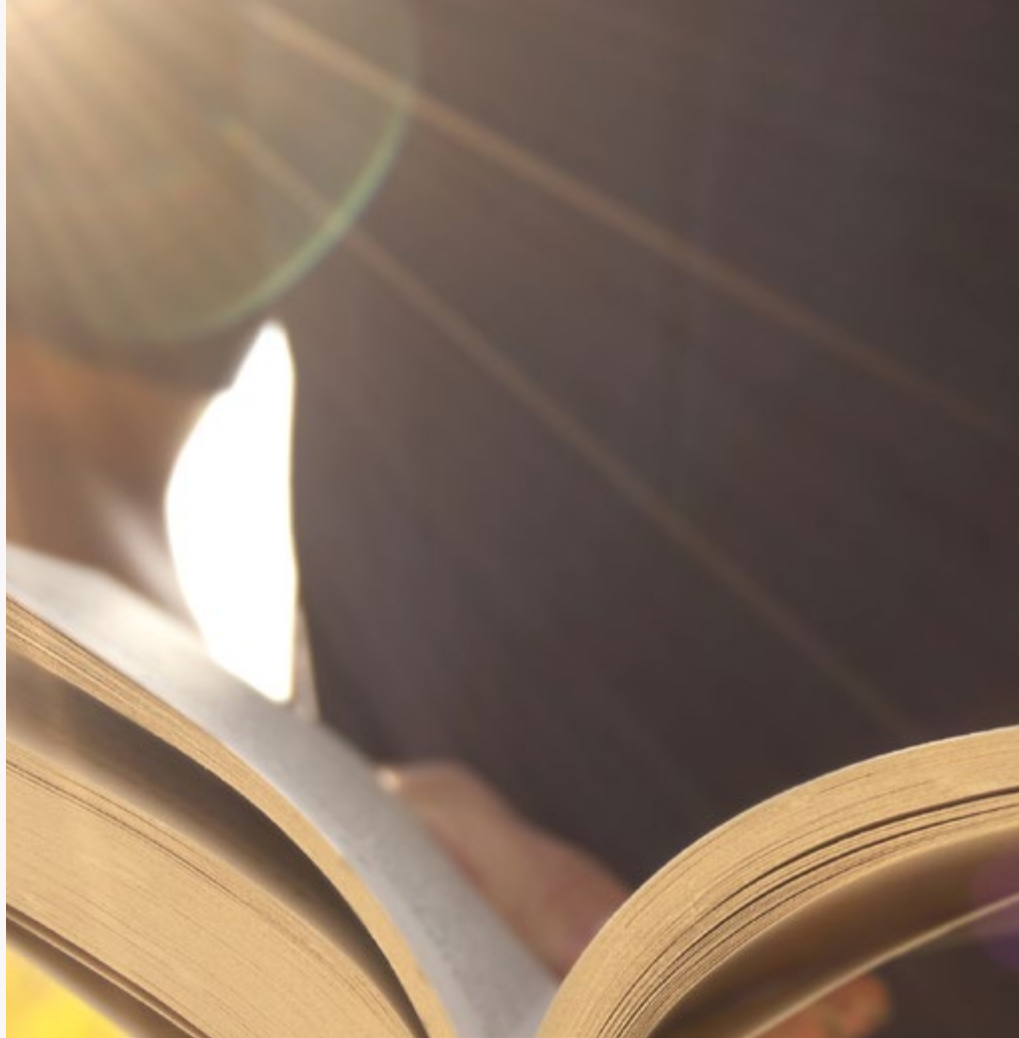
big city and different social classes.

Some of the students have acquired professional education before their theological studies and are already carrying out various church tasks alongside their own work. Most of the students are lay leaders, and some are full-time church pastors. The vision is that they become witnesses of Christ in their daily lives, so they can reach different classes of society, for example through their own profession in their own workplaces. In this way we can affect people which we could not otherwise reach. ☒

## STUDENTS' STORIES:

“ I invested in higher education, which was required for the labour market, but I started to think about my own spiritual growth and eternal life. At Bible school, I found my place. The studies had answers to important problems in our society. My own thinking about faith also deepened. God’s word has become a turning point in my life. I work as an expert in a large international company. I feel like I’ve changed as a person: I’m more understanding, and easier to approach. I’ve made it my habit to tell at least one person about Jesus every day. It’s my mission every morning. – *a young woman*

“ When the Bible school opened, our long-standing dream of Bible studies came true. We have always been timid about our faith, for we were afraid of difficult questions from other religious groups. The studies gave us courage and strengthened our identity as Christians. In the traffic jams of a city of millions, the distance to study can be a challenge. This is also the case for us. It took four hours to get to and from Bible school. But it paid off! Through independent studying, we could not have obtained the same amount of information. – *Student couple*



## 25 YEARS OF BIBLE SCHOOL EDUCATION IN INDIA

**The Full Gospel Bible College** on the shores of the Bay of Bengal in India celebrated its 25th anniversary in March 2021. During this time, the school has grown from an early humble hut into an impressive center. Bible teaching began as evening classes in 1996 from the home of a church member. The church’s young people’s enthusiasm to study led to the establishment of an evening bible school. The premises for it were found in the church of the current principal. There were 72 students, and their goal was to train for full-time ministry. In 1999, The Bible school offered full-time studies, and in 2002 the campus moved to the current location. Over the years, the goal has remained unchanged: the Revival Movement’s own Bible school to train students to plant churches among unreached people groups. Fida, together with the Pentecostal churches in Finland, has supported the work for years. In 25 years, 722 students have graduated. During the jubilee year, 26 new students graduated. The coronavirus pandemic made it difficult for the school to operate, but it did not close. ❖





## AS SPONSORS, EVERYONE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

You can become a sponsor through Fida for children and young people in 13 countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. Sponsors annually donate more than EUR 1.8 million for the good of children



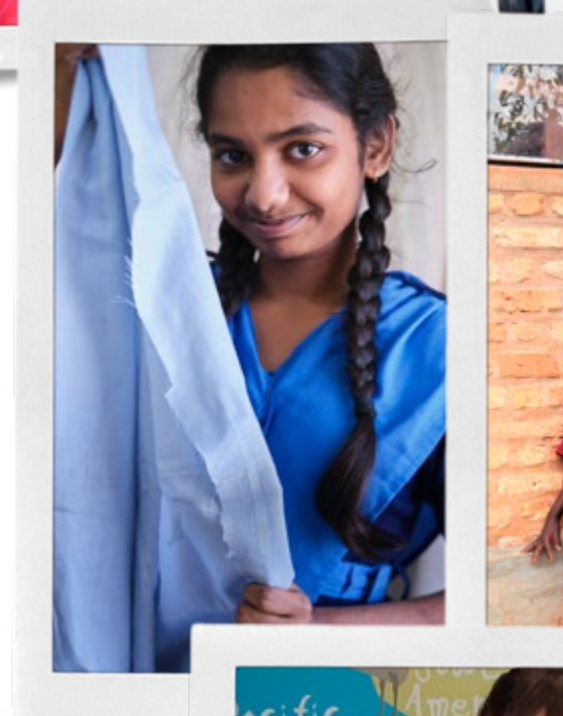
**In the poor Albanian countryside**, many girls are married young and school dropouts are common. In September, 400 children from Fida’s sponsorship community received needed school supplies to make it easier to return to school after a long period due to the pandemic. The communities organised events together with teachers to encourage both parents and children to continue school on a regular basis.

In sponsored communities, it has been noted that after-school clubs have increased children’s school performance and helped them stay in school. So far, 60 children have already improved their learning outcomes.



**Ononna from Bangladesh** appreciates her own sponsors. Otherwise, a family living in a slum would not have enough income to go to school. Led by qualified teachers, the eighth-grade girl has been allowed to grow up and learn in a safe environment, in Joy & Hope school in Dhaka. Ononna has already learned a lot! In addition to the usual subjects, the school has clubs in the afternoons where you can study information technology, crafts or, for example, the children’s rights.

– Studying is important because it will help me get a good job and take care of my family, and later, also my own family. When I grow up, I want to be a fashion designer, Ononna says.



” As a sponsor, I can be part of global missions. I can give my own little contribution to help my sponsored child and his/her whole community have a better life.

**Johanna Tampio,**  
Sponsor for Deepak in India





**Fida's sponsors** have supported young people since 2012 who have fled from the LRA in Uganda. The aid has strengthened hundreds of former child soldiers. Psychosocial, health, and education support has helped them move ahead in life. Fida's work among these young people was completed at the end of 2021.

Uganda's sponsors will continue to support children and young people who have fled the war in South Sudan in the refugee settlement of Bidibidi. In 2021, sponsors had a unique opportunity to see work being done there as the annual "Food for Life" campaign focused on helping Bidibidi children. The support allows refugee children to access trauma therapy, and their wishes for playing, school, and learning new things are satisfied. A warm thank you to the sponsors and donors!



**In Burundi**, 198 children started preschool, and 179 started primary or secondary school. It is important that each child has the needed materials, so it is easy for them to study. In the poor Batwa community, this has been a challenge and Fida has supported them with school materials.



**In Bosnia-Herzegovina**, the Roma community of Tuzla started a toy library. It is open to preschooler children and their mothers. Children can play with each other and borrow toys and books to take home. The library has readings sessions and arranges farm visits for the community. The Toy Library is an important place for mothers, because they can share their thoughts with each other and get advice from professionals on raising children



*Join us and become a sponsor!*

**WWW.FIDA.INFO/EN/  
BECOME-A-SPONSOR**





**Janne Jokisalo**  
Director, Fida secondhand



**Fida secondhand** offers sustainable fashion, affordable clothing and a unique collection of secondhand treasures. By donating and buying from Fida, you are promoting not only sustainable development and circular economy, but also Fida's global work for the most vulnerable people. A big Thank you for all our customers!



## FIDA SECONDHAND SURVIVED A SECOND PANDEMIC YEAR

Fida secondhand chain developed its operations amid pandemic restrictions. Many new openings were made during 2021 although Covid-19 restrictions still affected the chain's sales and customer flow.

**In March**, new stores were opened in Espoo and Joensuu. In November, a new store was opened in Ideapark Shopping Center in Lempäälä. Fida stores in Espoo/Niittykumpu and Tampere/Lielahdi had to close after their leases ended.

Fida secondhand chain adopted a new cash register system and a digital customer loyalty program. Despite of the pandemic, customer flow, sales, and turnover of Fida secondhand grew in comparison to 2020. The 42-year-old secondhand chain still operated as a foundation for Fida's global operations. ❖



## FIDA SECONDHAND IN 2021

**42**

years of recycling

**1 400 000 KG**

of clothing from shops, homes, and collection points

**1 234 000 KG**

of clothing, shoes and small items were processed at the Helsinki Sorting Centre

**22**

stores

**8 MILJ. €**

million turnover

**529 000 €**

chain operational result (before general expenses)

**97**

clothing collection points

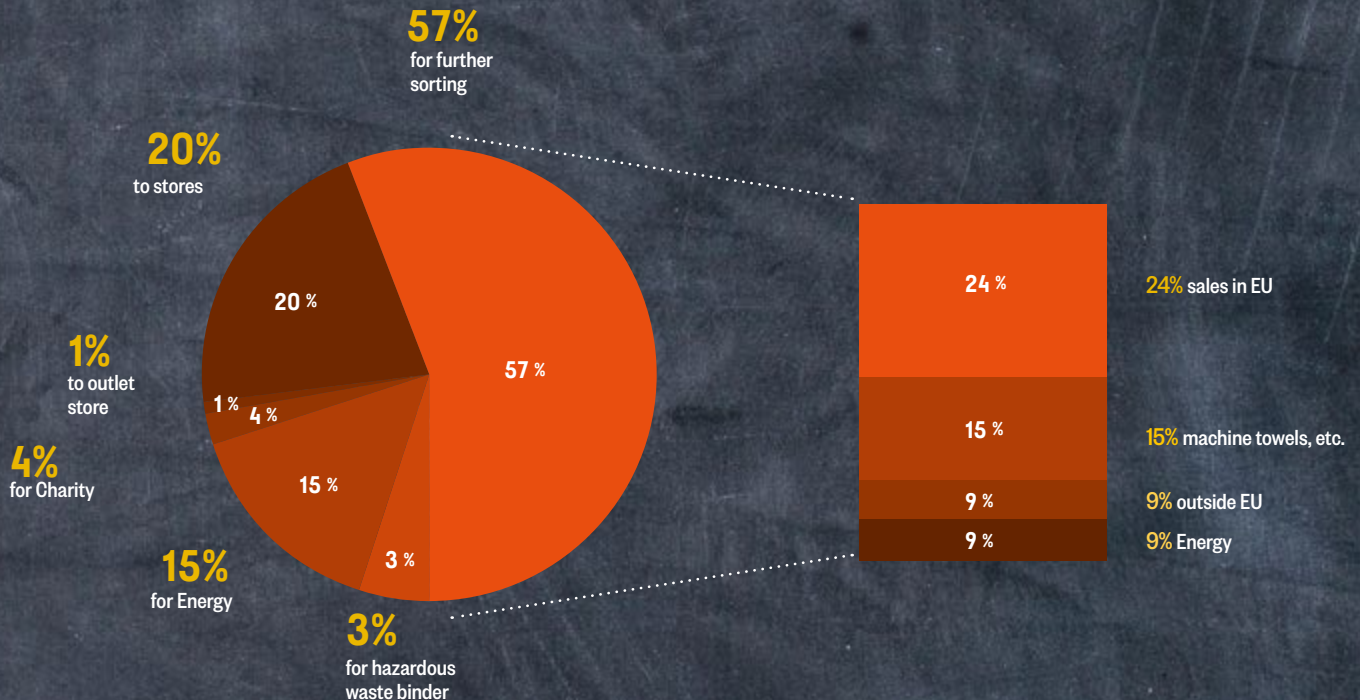
**9 452**

free pick-up services

**782 000**

customer visits to stores

## IN 2021, THIS IS HOW YOUR DONATED CLOTHING WAS USED





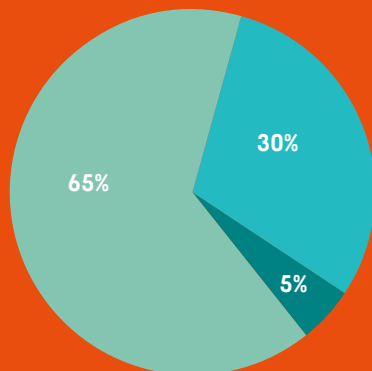
### WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

Grants (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)	8 189 807 €	63 %
Donations & Sponsors	3 462 241 €	27 %
Parish fees	654 410 €	5 %
Wills & others	689 770 €	5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 996 229 €</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### HOW WAS THE MONEY USED

Work abroad	11 451 115 €	84 %
Administration	1 364 906 €	10 %
Communication and fundraising	834 918 €	6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 650 940 €</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### WORK ABROAD



- EASTERN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA
- ASIA
- EUROPE



<b>FIDA'S INCOME IN</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Grants (MFA)	8 112 340 €	7 395 987 €
Second-hand shops	7 957 188 €	6 996 421 €
Donations and wills	3 554 984 €	4 214 258 €
Churches	654 410 €	709 779 €
Other income	732 429 €	620 830 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 011 351 €</b>	<b>19 937 275 €</b>

<b>FIDA'S EXPENSES IN</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>		
Personnel costs	-2 982 393 €	-2 603 718 €
Depreciation	-231 950 €	-229 313 €
Other expenses	-10 485 311 €	-8 681 920 €

<b>Fundraising</b>		
Personnel costs	-4 448 427 €	-3 934 628 €
Depreciation	-102 982 €	-100 873 €
Other expenses	-3 522 801 €	-3 265 323 €
Investments and funds	-26 728 €	-25 934 €
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>-21 800 594 €</b>	<b>-18 841 709 €</b>

<b>INCOME STATEMENT SUMMARY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total revenue	21 011 351 €	19 937 275 €
Total expenses	-21 800 594 €	-18 841 709 €
Fund transfers	7 000 €	0 €
Fiscal year- Surplus/deficit	-782 243 €	1095 566 €

<b>OTHER KEY FIGURES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Liquidity, Quick Ratio	1,7 (hyvä)	2,1 (erinomainen)
Equity ratio/solvency	71 % (erinomainen)	71 % (erinomainen)
Members/communities*	193	187

\* Churches and mission agencies

<b>ABOUT FIDA'S PERSONNEL</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Number of employees as of</b>	<b>31.12.2021</b>	<b>31.12.2020</b>
Domestic, Main Office	37	37
Domestic, Fida stores	123	123
In foreign countries*	40	36
Personnel, total	200	196
Personnel costs	-7 430 820 €	-6 538 346 €

\* Only contracted employees are included in Fida's foreign personnel figures. The number does not show Pentecostal churches sent out contracted employees

**THANK YOU TO  
THE SUPPORTERS  
OF OUR WORK!**


In a Bangladeshi village, a school run by Fida's partner provides food for children from poor families. Fida's country programme improves the rights of the child in 18 rural villages in Bangladesh.

*Photo: Arto Karvonen*

**fida** 

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