

# Annual report 2022



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## 555,620 people

Some years bring more challenges to the world than others. 2022 was one of those years. When the world regained some kind of normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia invaded Ukraine and brought back uncertainty for everyone.

Russia's war on Ukraine is also a war on one of the world's largest grain producers. This led immediately to a food crisis that mainly affected poor people around the world and in Strømme Foundation's countries of operation. Thereafter came rising inflation, causing food, fuel, and fertiliser prices to skyrocket. The war on Ukraine has also led to new political alliances where Russia and China have intensified their efforts to consolidate their position in Africa, sometimes at the expense of African countries' relations with Western countries. Finally, the value of the Norwegian currency has fallen up to 20 percent compared to the US dollar in the last year.

All the above means that it has become more expensive to run our programmes in 2022. Strømme Foundation obtains most of its income in Norwegian kroner and realises most of its expenses in US dollars or Euros. But Strømme Foundation is fortunate to have good donors in Norad, business cooperation, and around 15,000 individual donors. And we are also fortunate to have good partner organisations and qualified staff in our country offices. Therefore, it is with great pleasure to announce that despite all the troubles last year, we have reached 555,620 people with our development work in 2022.

555,620 are 15,000 more people than we reached in 2021. Every additional person who benefits from our programmes is on the road out of poverty.

The number of people living in extreme poverty has increased since the start of the pandemic. Strømme Foundation is fighting poverty through education and job creation. That is a fight we will continue until extreme poverty is eradicated. Sadly, we see the damaging impacts of crises on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals before 2030.

And inflation, new alliances, and instability are making it harder to reach these goals. We will therefore need more like-minded donors to support SF and other NGOs, more public development aid, more investment from the business sector and more political attention to poverty eradication in the years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors, all the staff in Strømme Foundation and our partner organisations for making it possible for us to continue in the fight against poverty.



Erik Lunde  
Secretary General

*Erik Lunde*

### ACRONYMS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. ARP = Aktivitets- og redegjørelsesplikt  | 8. INSO = International NGO Safety Organisation               |
| 2. CBO = Community-Based Organisation   | 9. KRS = Kristiansand   |
| 3. CMSG = Community Managed Savings Group   | 10. MNOK = Millioner Norske Kroner (Million Norwegian Kroner) |
| 4. ECD = Early Childhood Development  | 11. NGO = Non-Governmental Organisation                       |
| 5. Falck BHT = Falck Bedriftshelsetjeneste<br>(Occupational Health Services Provider) | 12. SDG = Sustainable Development Goal                        |
| 6. HR = Human Resources   | 13. SF = Strømme Foundation                                   |
| 7. ICT = Information and Communication Technology                                     | 14. SMC = School Management Committee                         |
|   | 15. SMF AS = Strømme Micro Finance AS                         |

## 2022 International Department

# Our commitment to recovery in a turbulent world

While COVID-19 related restrictions were finally lifted across SF's intervention countries, 2022 proved to be yet another challenging year for our target communities. The economic impact of the pandemic was exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. Simultaneously, the impact of climate change wreaked havoc with crops and harvests in many countries affecting household food security. Political instability and insecurity continued in the Sahel region, South Sudan, and Myanmar. Burkina Faso experienced two military coups in nine months, while in Myanmar the military junta solidified their grip on power.

Despite this challenging context, SF's programme results for 2022 are pointing towards recovery. Poverty and violence against women are decreasing, children are returning to school to catch up on lost learning, and newly established community structures are leading the way in locally led development processes.

Supported by SF's local partners, communities are strengthening their ability to claim their rights and deal with shocks. In 2022, 1,600 community mechanisms successfully achieved an advocated issue across the three regions. In Bangladesh, 70% of community-based organisations (CBOs) were represented at local government planning processes, and 159 families that lived in temporary or traditional shelters were able to access government funded housing through the support of their CBOs.

The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns and a challenging security situation, particularly in the Sahel, means that more children are now out of school and that learning gaps are increa-

sing. SF's effort to ensure access to quality and inclusive education is thus more important than ever. In West Africa, the Speed School programme provides out-of-school children with a second chance to get an education. Amidst heightened insecurity, 17,246 children (49% girls) enrolled in 632 Speed School centres and an impressive 97% transferred to host primary schools upon completion. Across East Africa and Asia, SF supported 70,510 children (51% girls), including 450 children with disabilities, in 330 primary schools with teacher training, learning materials, and improvements in infrastructure. In 2022, 12,053 participants took part in SF's adolescent empowerment programme. In Nepal, adolescents' campaign efforts helped prevent 183 planned child marriages from happening.

Women, particularly in rural areas, are among the most financially excluded populations due to a variety of formal and informal barriers. SF's community managed savings groups (CMSGs) not only meet the need for improved access to finance, but they are also gender transformative. A total of 97,540 individuals (89% female) were members of 3,655 savings groups by the end of 2022. As a result, 75% of members have started an income generating activity or expanded an existing one. CMSGs also promote women's ability to play an active role in their communities and households. In East Africa, 1,377 women held active leadership positions in their savings group; while in West Africa, women's participation in community decision-making bodies increased from 40% in 2019 to 70% in 2022. Overall, 77% of women members of CMSGs became more involved in household decision-making.



Participant from a saving group in Uganda advocating for women's rights.

Photo: Strømme Foundation, Øystein Melhus Venås

## 1,600

Across the three regions, 1,600 community mechanisms successfully achieved an advocated issue.

## 97%

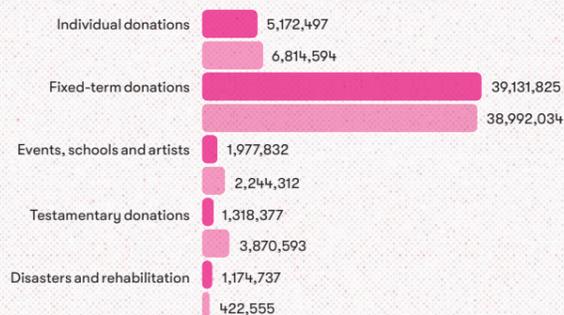
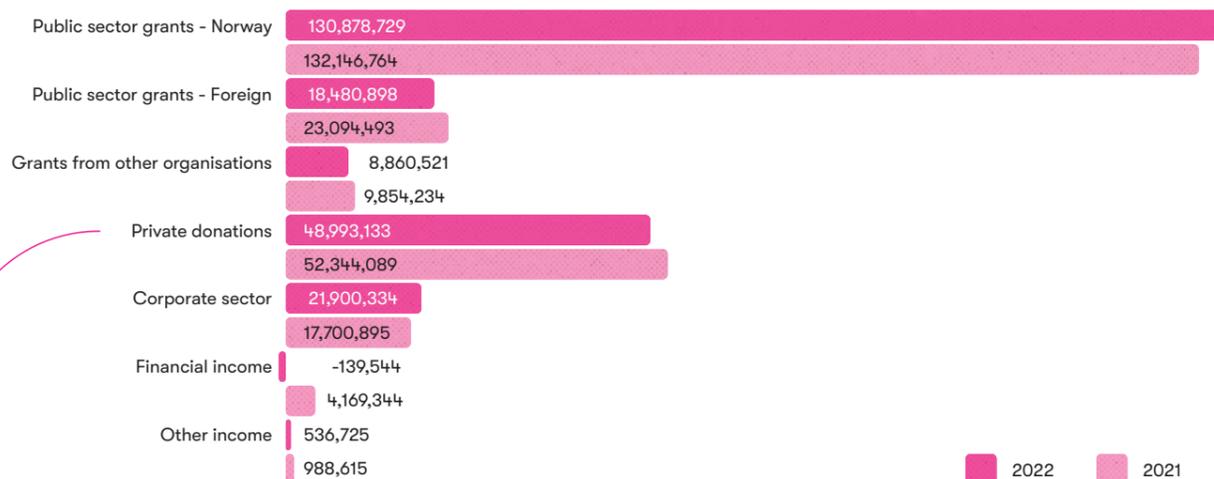
In West Africa, 97 percent of learners that completed the Speed School programme transferred to primary school.

## 97,540

By the end of 2022, 97,540 individuals (89 percent female) were members of 3,655 savings groups.

## Funds acquired

Figures in NOK



## New private donors in 2022

Total funds acquired 2022

**229,510,795**

Total funds acquired 2021

**240,298,434**

One could quickly think that Russia's attack on Ukraine and the war in Europe would make it more challenging to fundraise for poverty alleviation in countries in Africa and Asia. However, 2022 showed us that the total amount of money donated to charity in Norway increased when a crisis is happening in our neighbourhood. At least for Strømme Foundation, we were fortunate to gain almost 2000 new individual donors in 2022 for our Friends at Heart (Hjertevenn) programme.

For brand awareness raising, we continue to focus on the importance of education as a way

out of poverty. In mid-August, we organised a party for all the children in Kristiansand to celebrate the first day of school.

In November and December, Strømme Foundation cooperated with the television channel TV3 on their pre-Christmas programme, "Christmas Eve at Prøysen". This led to five prime-time programmes where Strømme Foundation could present our work through the eyes of five different well-known Norwegian celebrities. These programmes also contained field visits to Uganda, Niger, and Nepal.



Woman in Bangladesh taking care of her home garden.

Photo: Strømme Foundation, Kazi Riasat Alvee

## What we achieved in 2022

### Asia

Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**348,134**

is the total number of beneficiaries in Asia.

- 61% are women.
- 134,518 are under 18 years old.
- 55% of them are girls.

### Our focus

- Empowering the family as a unit.
- Building strong civil society organisations at community level and strengthening the public sector.
- Ensuring quality education for disadvantage groups, including building life and vocational skills.
- Bringing women and girls to the forefront of decision-making processes and combating harmful practices such as child marriage.
- Encouraging livelihood diversification and climate change adaptation.

### How we work

- Promote shared decision making and income generating activities through Family Development Plans.
- Strengthen community structures that foster collective efforts that lead to community development in a sustainable way.
- Support inclusive education and create child-friendly environments in supported schools.
- Life skills training to build adolescents confidence and their influence as agents of change.
- Vocational skills training for youth.

**770**

Community Based Organisations (CBOs) were formed, and 65% achieves at least one advocated issue.

**58,769**

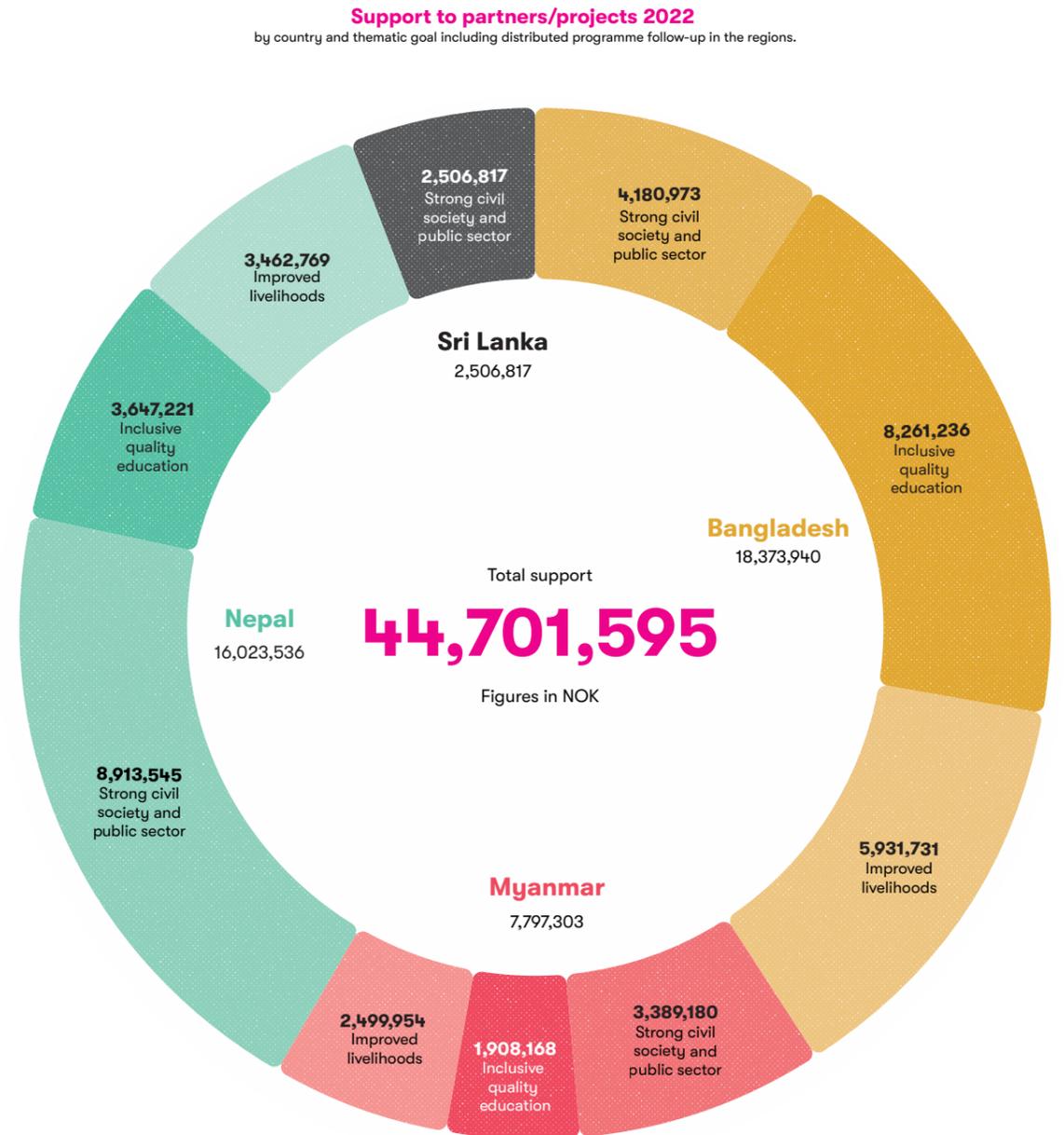
children in 289 primary schools with improved classrooms and locally developed teaching and learning materials.

**7,121**

adolescents participated in 317 Samvad/Shonglap/Sagar Wine centres. 97 percent of adolescents improved their life skills after completing the programme.

**2,637**

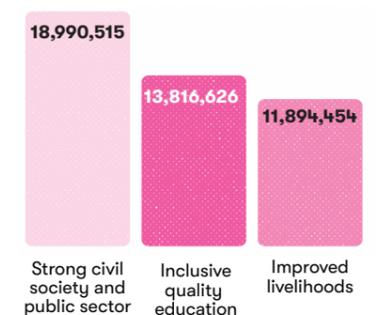
youth received vocational training. 67 percent of youth were either employed or started an income generating activity 6 months after completing the training.



### Number of partner organisations



### Distribution of support by thematic goal



## What we achieved in 2022

# East Africa

South-Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya

# 164,755

is the total number of beneficiaries in East Africa.

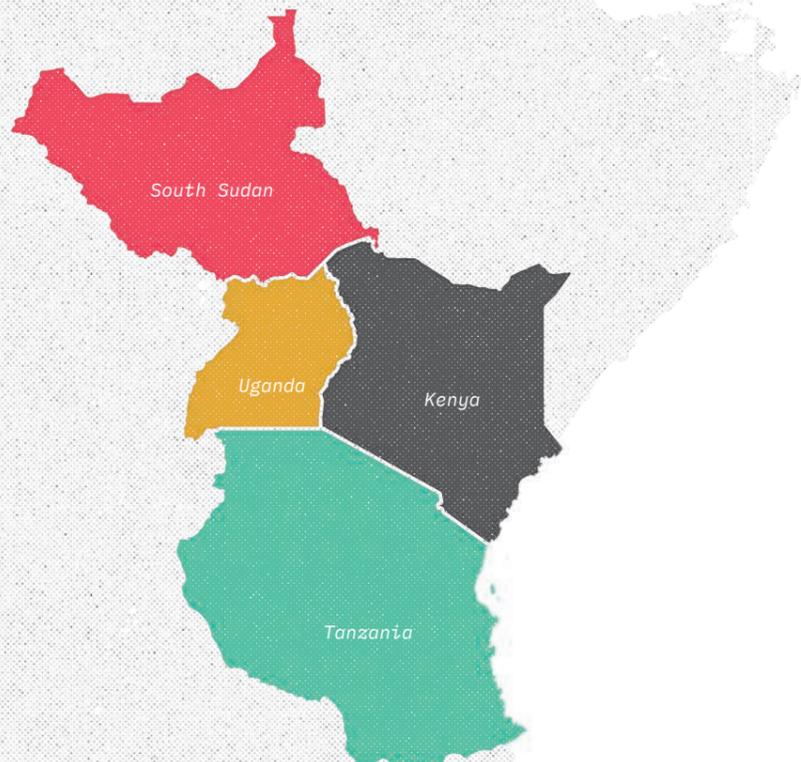
- 81% are women.
- 102,483 are under 18 years old.
- 86 % of them are girls.

## Our focus

- Increasing access to early childhood development centres (ECD) and improving the quality of primary schools.
- Life skills training for out-of-school adolescents.
- Community managed savings groups that increase access and control over resources.
- Empowering women and youth to build better livelihoods, earn more income and create businesses.
- Commercial villages and value chain development.

## How we work

- Strengthen infrastructure and soft skills of caregivers and teachers in supported ECD centres and primary schools to improve retention and learning outcomes.
- Provide life skills and vocational training for out-of-school adolescents.
- Engage youth in marketable trades that lead to employment opportunities.
- Link small rural producers to agricultural value chains to increase their incomes and promote economic growth for their communities.



# 15,744

children supported in 85 ECD and primary schools with learning materials and better infrastructure.

# 43,789

participants were organised in 1,644 savings groups. 52 percent started or expanded an income generating activity.

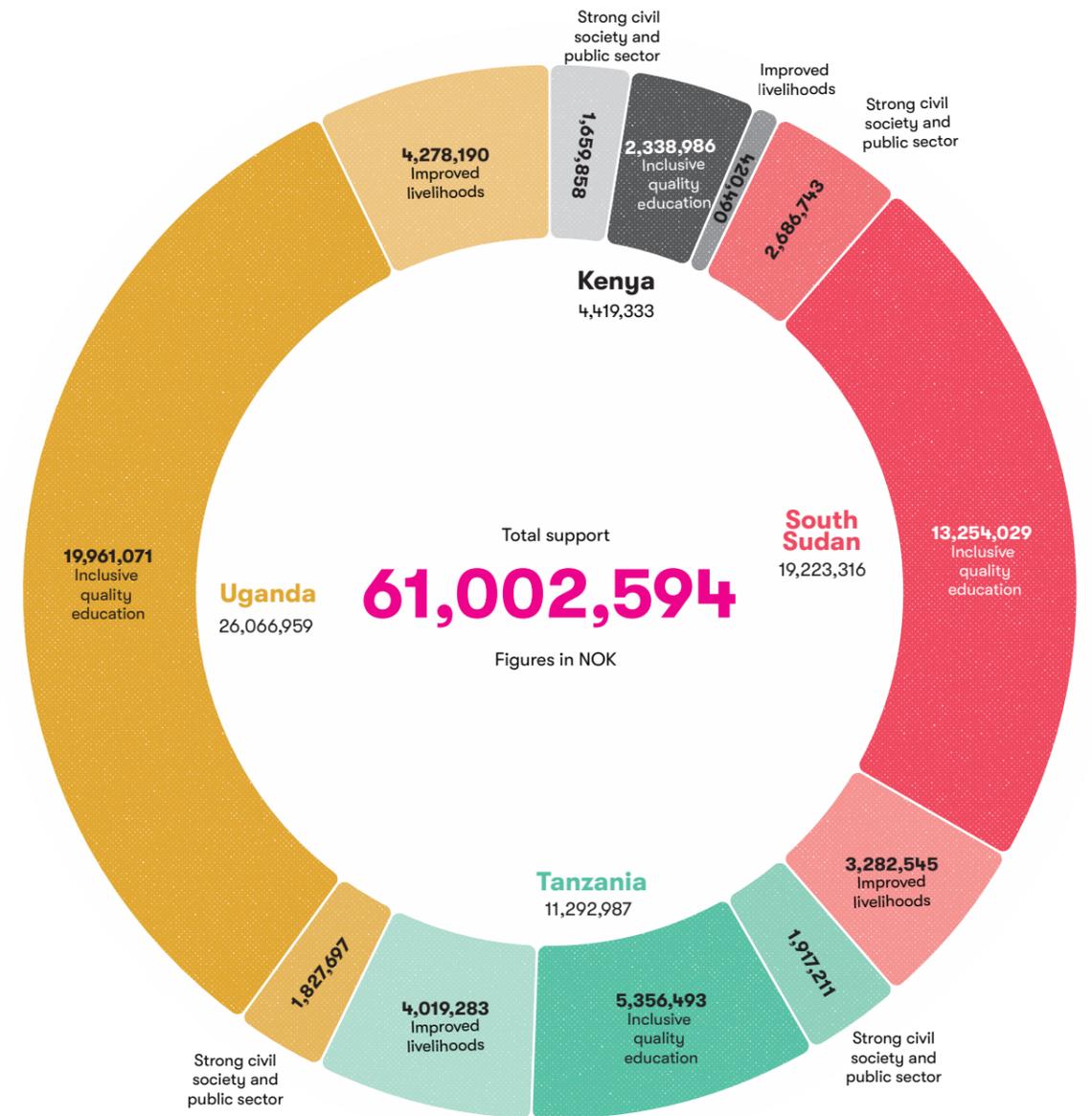
# 4,557

adolescents in 157 Bonga centres were empowered with life skills.

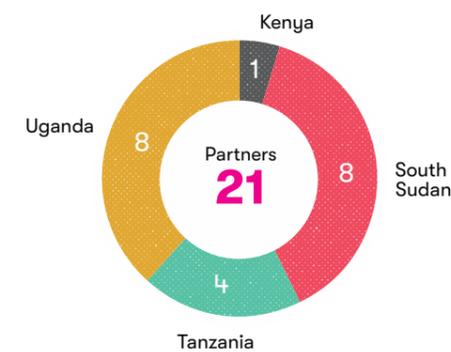
# 1,043

youths were trained on different trades by local artisans.

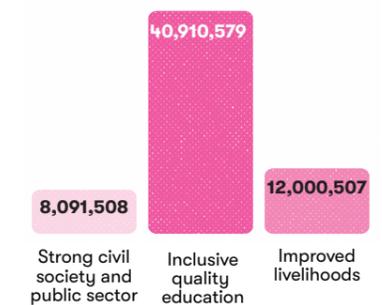
**Support to partners/projects 2022**  
by country and thematic goal including distributed programme follow-up in the regions.



**Number of partner organisations**



**Disitribution of support by thematic goal**



## What we achieved in 2022

# West Africa

Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso

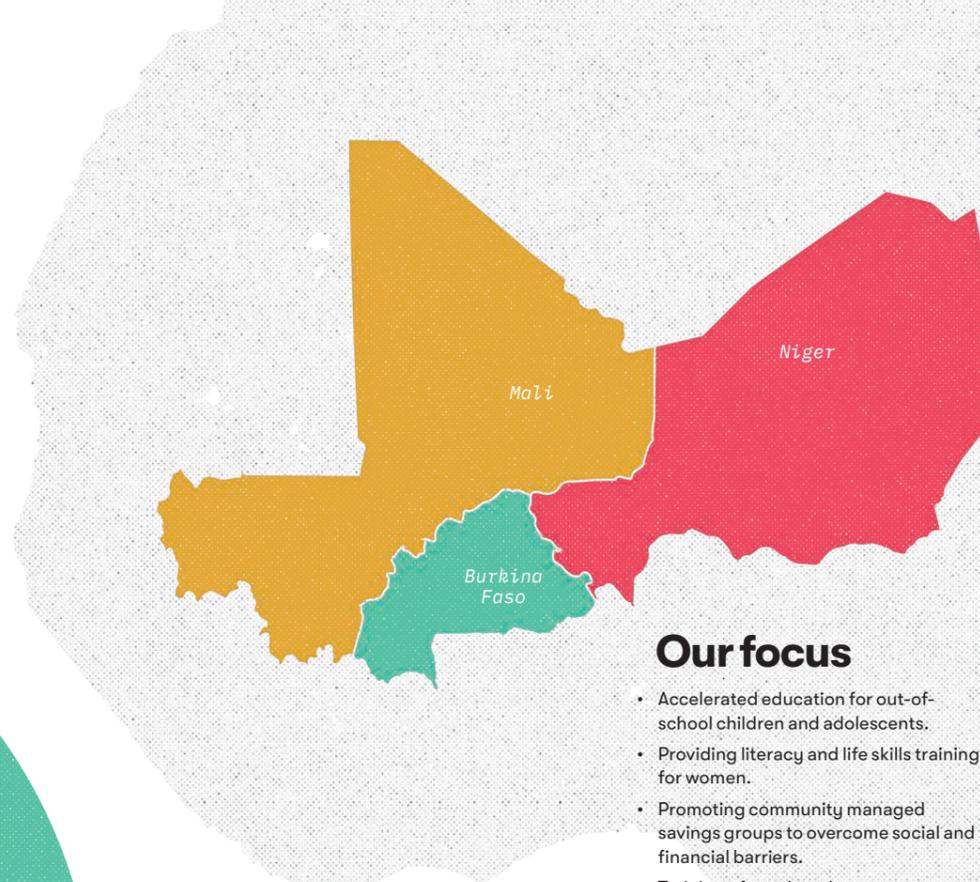
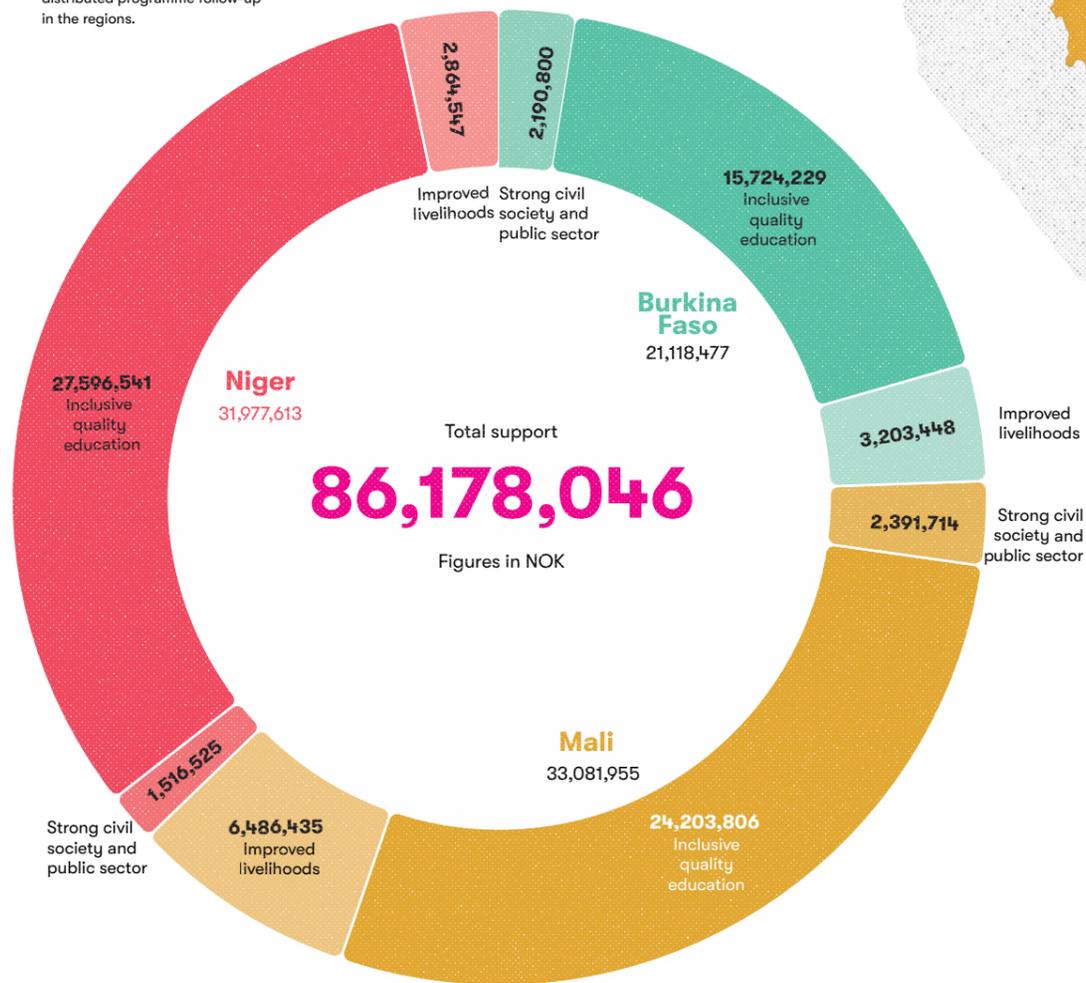
# 42,704

is the total number of beneficiaries in West Africa.

- 69% are women.
- 18,569 are under 18 years old.
- 51% of them are girls.

### Support to partners/projects 2022

by country and thematic goal including distributed programme follow-up in the regions.



## Our focus

- Accelerated education for out-of-school children and adolescents.
- Providing literacy and life skills training for women.
- Promoting community managed savings groups to overcome social and financial barriers.
- Training of youth and women on different trades and waste management.
- Capacity building and advocacy for community development.

## How we work

- Implement the Speed School programme which consists of a condensed curriculum that allows out-of-school children to catch up with their peers and then transfer to the formal education system.
- Support women with life, literacy, and numeracy skills.
- Establish community managed savings groups for women to increase their control over resources and decision-making power.
- Contribute to youth empowerment through vocational and entrepreneurship training.

# Norway

## OUR FOCUS

- Capacity building of regional and country offices and local partners.
- Fundraising and maintaining a good relationship with donors.
- Financial management and internal controls.
- Coordination of programme operation across regions.
- Quality assurance of programme results, reports, and applications.

## HOW WE WORK

- Strengthen digital monitoring systems for the collection of data on programme progress.
- Ensure that high quality reports and applications are submitted to donors on time.
- Develop and maintain systems for financial control and procedures to detect and prevent corruption.
- Build organisational wide capacity to mainstream cross-cutting issues and innovation across programmes and field operations.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Coordinate and consolidate results reporting across all three regions.
- Develop and operationalise quality standards for all programmes.
- Partner with research institutions to strengthen learning and innovation.
- Secure new donor contracts to expand our programmes.
- Adapt to new realities brought by insecurity, high prices and climate change.

# 17,246

out-of-school children enrolled in Speed School in 2022. 97 percent transferred to primary school after completing the programme.

# 93%

of women are more involved in household decision-making.

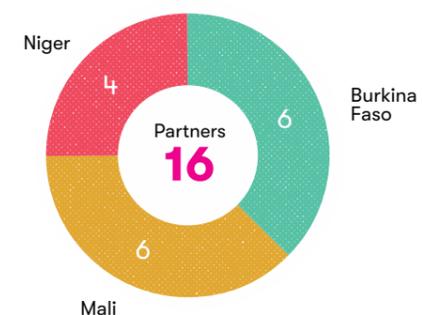
# 53,751

women were organised in 2,011 savings groups. 7,506 women took part in the Active Literacy programme.

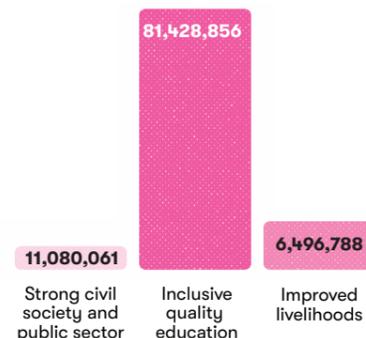
# 615

youths receive start-up kits for their income generating activities.

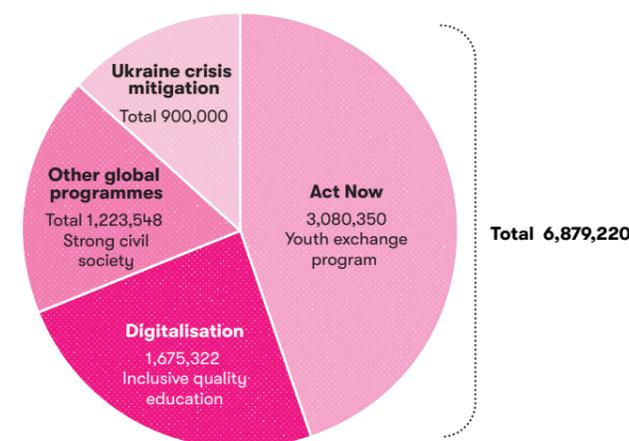
### Number of partner organisations



### Distribution of support by thematic goal



## Global programmes

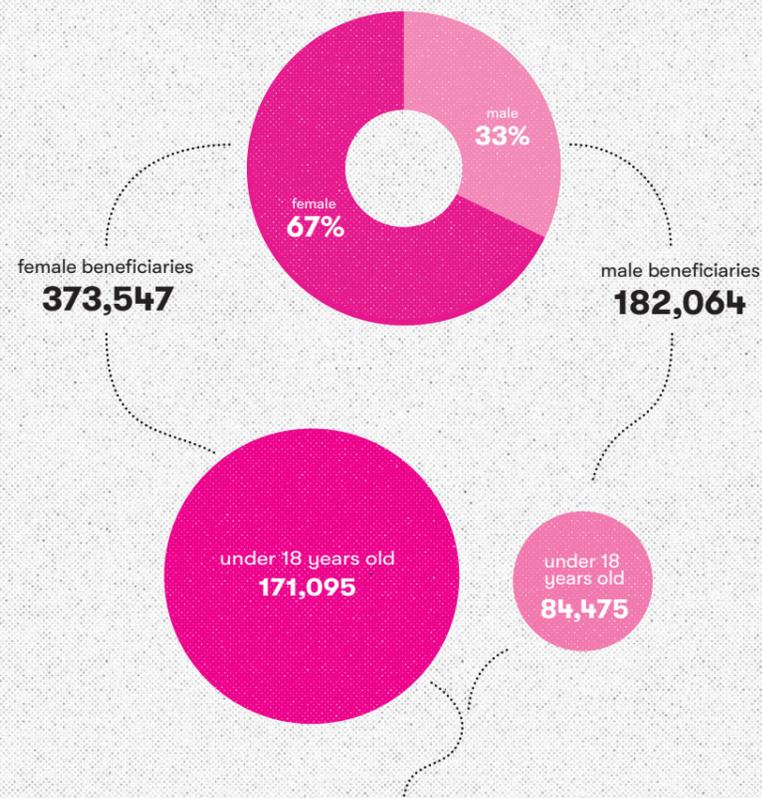


## Total number of beneficiaries

# 555,620

People benefited from our work in 2022

We achieved this in collaboration with 61 local partner organisations



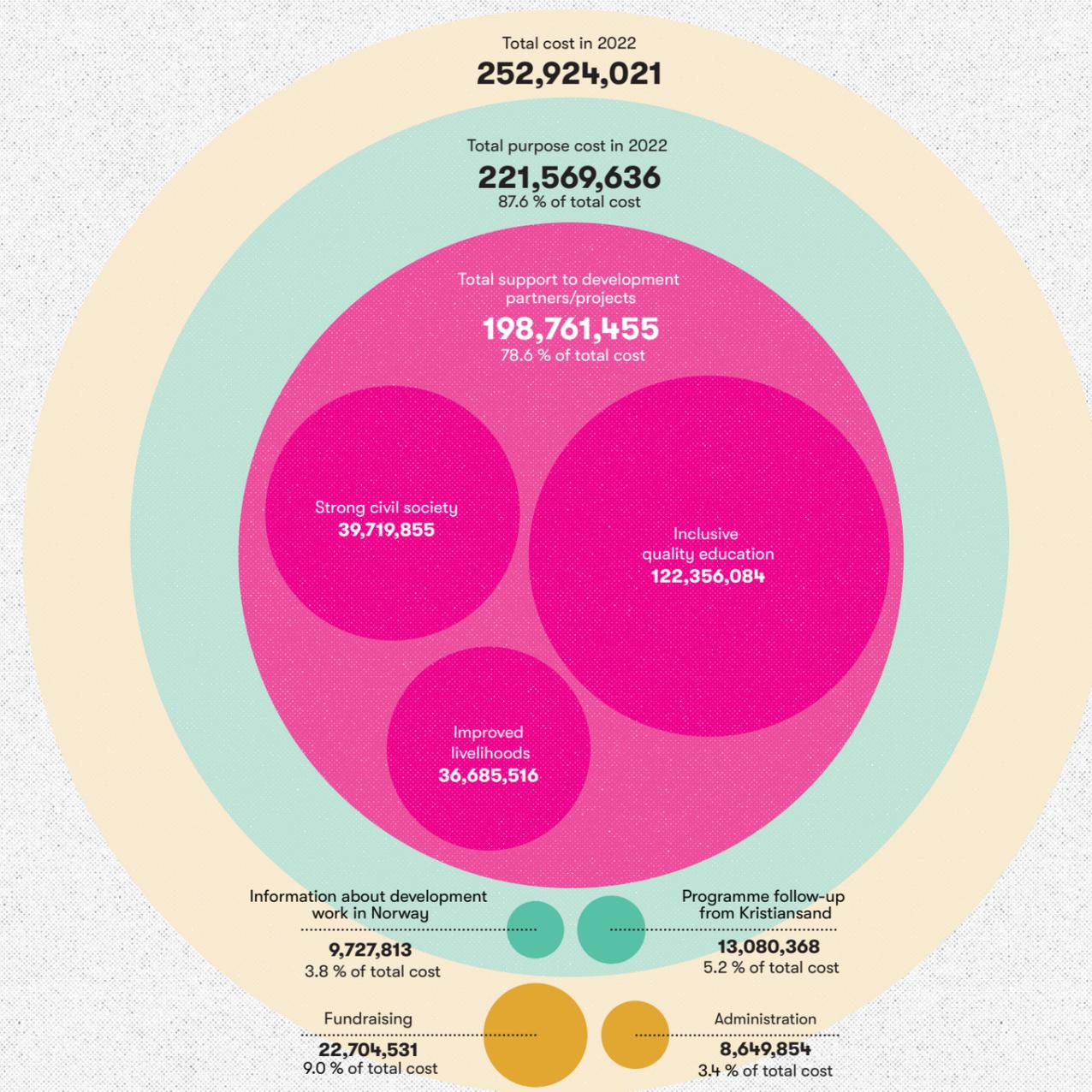
Total number of beneficiaries under 18 years old.

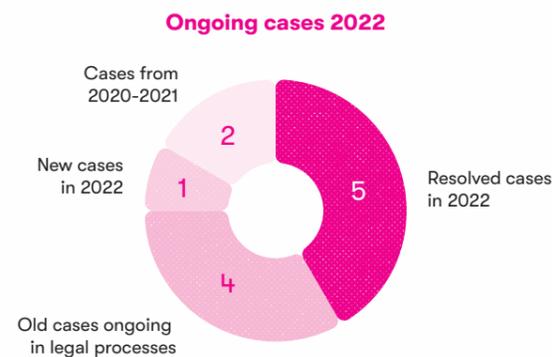
**255,570**

46% of total outreach

## How we used our funds in 2022

All figures in NOK





## Fighting corruption – one main goal

Strømme Foundation's efforts to combat corruption are targeted at three levels: our staff and systems, local partners, and local communities. SF continuously works to strengthen local partner capacities and raise awareness of the importance of having robust internal control systems. This is central to capacity building efforts where partners are trained on SF financial procedures and other administrative related issues.

Given that corruption is one of the root causes of poverty, we see fighting corruption as part of our main goals. We practice a zero-tolerance policy. This is an essential principle in our work, and we see this as a positive approach in our fight against corruption.

SF has a whistle-blower channel via an online system for receiving and handling whistle-blower cases. The system manages both financial cases and all types of harass-

ment cases. The whistle-blower channel is easily accessible through our web page for all our staff and partner staff.

More extensive use of digital tools for programme monitoring and live data reporting have improved transparency and, consequently SF's ability to immediately follow up on challenges or deviations.

Anti-corruption is integrated as a cross-cutting issue across SF's global programmes. Programme participants are trained and empowered to prevent, recognise, and address corruption in their community, and good governance principles are built into interventions, such as savings groups. The positive effects of these activities became evident at community level during the COVID-19 pandemic, when SF empowered community groups took action to keep government officials accountable regarding aid distribution.



The Chandragini Hills in Nepal show the threat of stepping outside the correct path.

Photo: Strømme Foundation,  
Øystein Mølhus Venås

# In Strømme Foundation, our vision is a world free from poverty.

**T**he Strømme Foundation's origins began with Pastor Olav Kristian Strømme, who served at Kristiansand Cathedral, and organised fundraising to help disadvantaged people around the world. At the Strømme Foundation, our support for the underprivileged remains inspired by the Christian values that our founder always held dear.

Our ambition is to help the poorest and most marginalised, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, caste, gender, disability or other minority status, so that they can take charge of their own lives.

## Our mission is to eradicate poverty.

With a deep respect for human dignity and a conviction concerning the value of equitable partnerships, Strømme Foundation works to empower the poor. We strive to facilitate change, not only by providing for material needs, but also in particular by creating opportunities for people to utilise their talents in a value-based development process.

## We aim to

- **Strengthen** civil society and public sector
- **Ensure** inclusive quality education for disadvantaged groups
- **Improve** livelihoods for the rural poor through enhanced income generation

Strømme Foundation works through local partners and through two intervention approaches – education, and job creation through community-managed microfinance.

## Civil society and public sector

Strømme Foundation considers a strong civil society as essential in order to ensure a true, free society and sustainable and inclusive people-centred development. We aim to safeguard people from exploitation and the deprivation of their rights by creating an environment in which they are empowered to support themselves. We work closely with a broad range of duty bearers such as in the public sector, which occupies the most important role in ensuring the rights of the poor.

## Education

Strømme Foundation believes that the right to education is life long and begins at birth. Education is both valuable in itself and a decisive factor in the promotion of economic growth, social change, and sustainable development, whilst it also fosters the creation of free, critical, and creative global citizens. Our key areas of focus are early childhood education, “second chance” or accelerated learning, community-based vocational training, and adult literacy life skills training.

## Economic Inclusion

Strømme Foundation believes that job creation – ensuring that people have and can take advantage of the opportunities they have to earn a living – leads to poverty eradication. Through financial services like Community Managed Savings Groups, we facilitate access to sustainable income sources and provide a means by which the poor can act upon their decisions.

## Our values

### DIGNITY

We believe in the inherent, inalienable rights of every person. At Strømme Foundation, this is the most important human right from which all other fundamental human rights are derived.

### JUSTICE

We have a drive to fulfil not only legal, but also social rights of communities and individuals in creating a more just distribution of society's resources and power.

### SOLIDARITY

We identify empathically with the plight of marginalised and discriminated groups.

## Cross Cutting Issues

### GENDER EQUALITY

SF's works to ensure that women and men have equal rights to economic resources and empowerment, as well as to basic services and quality education.

### ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SF's understanding of sustainable development implies that we strive for our rights-holders to have their rights met in ways that do not compromise the ability of future generations to have their own rights met and increase the assets of the household in ways that are sustainable.

### INCLUSION

SF promotes the inclusion, non-discrimination and empowerment of marginalised groups, including people marginalised by disability, ethnicity and other minority statuses.

### ANTI-CORRUPTION

Corruption, one of the root causes of poverty, exacerbates inequalities and harms those without power. SF works for zero corruption among our employees, our partners and our programmes.

# 2022 highlights

## NEPAL



### Samvad adopted into the School's Curriculum

Six Municipalities in SF's working districts have developed a new curriculum based on the SAMVAD teaching approach and methodology and began its implementation in the local schools.

## SRI LANKA



### Celebrating programme achievements

All programme activities ended in Sri Lanka with an event to celebrate the results achieved during the previous five years. Lessons learned, best practices and challenges faced by the programme were shared with programme participants and local authorities.

## NORWAY



### "Christmas Eve at Prøysen"

The famous Norwegian singer Bjarne Brøndbo hosted the Christmas television programme "Christmas Eve at Prøysen", which focused on the work done by SF.

Photo Bjarne Brøndbo: Tellus Works Television/Odd Thygesen

## NORWAY



### Brand awareness raising

For brand awareness raising, we continue to focus on the importance of education as a way out of poverty. In mid-August, we organised a party for all the children in Kristiansand to celebrate the first day of school.

Photo First Day of School event: Strømme Foundation, Egil Mongstad

## BANGLADESH



### Women receive national awards

Ten women from programme areas received the Joyeeta Award, a government award given to women who have made a big impact in society by raising awareness on women's empowerment. These ten women are setting an example in their communities by showing how women can overcome challenges and build a successful life.

## MAYANMAR



### Upgraded ECD centres

Due to the crisis in Myanmar, many Early Childhood Development centres (ECD) established in the communities lacked teaching aids, a safe playground, and a child friendly environment. SF supported the renovation of 54 centres, giving 889 children access to quality education.

## MALI



### Norad Director's visit

The Director of The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) Bård Vegar Solhjell, visited SF's vocational training programme in Mountougoula. Mr. Solhjell met with the youths trained to improve their business and entrepreneurship skills.

## BURKINA FASO



### Speed School helps internally displaced children

In Ouahigouya, SF has established Speed School centres targeting children that have been displaced by terrorist attacks. These children are at high risk of not returning to school. "I am happy to be alive and to be able to continue studying, but I would like to go home, see my friends and be able to play like before", said Zango, 12 years-old.

## NIGER



### Food security

In February, 750 kits with food items and necessities were distributed to poor families under the Together for Inclusion programme in the Tillaberi region. The supplies covered one month consumption for the families.

## SOUTH SUDAN



### Inclusive Education

Since 2014, SF has played a big role in the development of national inclusive education policies to ensure the right to education for children with disabilities. In 2022, a school-based inclusive education policy initiated by SF was approved by the National Ministry of Education and its subsequent roll out to all schools in the country.

## KENYA



### Energy companies visit Masai Mara

The project in the Masai Mara hosted representatives from Skagerak and Agder Energy, two energy companies from Norway. This visit was essential to strengthen the relationship with these donors.

## UGANDA



### Rising for out-of-school-children

SF launched the 4-year Rising Uganda project. It targets 100,000 out-of-school children and works with families, communities, local leaders, and other stakeholders to remove barriers to education, such as shortage of classrooms and lack of learning materials.

## TANZANIA



### New Country Office

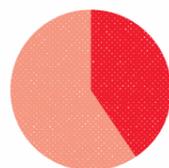
Management announced its expansion in Tanzania with a new Country Office. This was followed by stakeholder engagements within the country, particularly with the Tanzania NGO Association. This expansion will allow SF to increase its outreach and closely monitor its projects.

# Our contribution to the SDG-goals

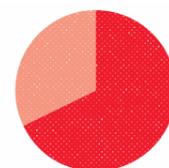


By 2022, Strømme Foundation and partners reached

**555,620** beneficiaries



46% of total outreach are participants under 18 years of age.



67% of participants are female.

**SF's Outreach 2022**

	Total	Male	Female	% Female
Under 18	255 570	84 475	171 095	
Adults	300 050	97 589	202 452	
<b>Total outreach</b>	<b>555 620</b>	<b>182 064</b>	<b>373 547</b>	<b>67%</b>



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



**26,949**

Number of children, adolescents, and adults in 1,001 centres getting a second chance to return to education.

**70,510**

Number of children in supported primary schools.

**12,053**

Number of adolescents in 489 Adolescent Empowerment centres.

**3,282**

Number of education staff trained.

**2,183**

Number of School Management Committees trained.

**2,269**

Number of formal and non-formal education institutions provided with learning materials.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**25,897**

adolescent girls and



**56,168**

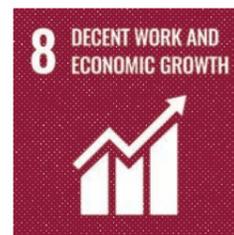
women participate in local decision-making bodies and processes.

**361**

early marriages stopped in Asia.

**80,090**

women who take part in household decision-making.



Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

**45,425**

Number of families that form 2,130 self-help groups.

**97,540**

Number of members in 3,655 savings groups.

**4,020**

Number of youths in vocational training.

# Annual report for 2022 from the Board of Directors of Strømme Foundation

Strømmestiftelsen (SF) is a rights-based development NGO, established in 1976 in Kristiansand by Chaplain Olav Kristian Strømme. SF aligns its efforts to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 of eradicating extreme poverty and halving relative poverty by 2030 and works towards a vision of a world free from poverty. Our values are human dignity, justice, and solidarity. Our most important interventions in the fight against poverty are education, job creation and strengthening of civil society. From its inception, SF has continued to follow the Christian values of its founder.

Today, SF has grown into a professional organisation that has a framework agreement with NORAD and spends over NOK 200 million annually to help the world's poor. As a rights-based NGO, Strømme Foundation provides the tools and training needed to lift people out of poverty with dignity and respect. SF works in the world's most marginalized communities regardless of ethnic group, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.

Strømme Foundation has its head office in Norway (Kristiansand) and three regional offices in West Africa (Mali), East Africa (Uganda) and Asia (Sri Lanka). In addition, there are six country offices in South Sudan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

## BOARD ACTIVITIES 2022

The Board of Directors has held four ordinary meetings in 2022. The board has dealt with a total of 46 cases.

### In 2022, the Board of Directors consisted of the following members:

Arvid Grundekjøn (Chairperson of the Board), Kristin Tofte Andresen (Deputy Chairperson of the Board), Vidar Haukeland, Adelheid Firing Hvambal, Knut Arild Hareide, Carol Azungi Dralega and Anne Breivik (staff representative).

### 2022 Board Deputies:

Arvid Hestås, Arnhild Leer-Helgesen and Tørres Gilje (deputy staff representative).

### Board Insurance:

Insurance has been registered for the board members and the Secretary General to protect them from possible personal liability for the organisation. The insurance applies worldwide, except in the United States and Canada.

## STRATEGY 2019-2023

2022 was the fourth year of Strømme Foundation's current Strategic Plan (2019-2023). With a mission to eradicate poverty, SF works in four ways to achieve the best results:

1. Enhancing the quality of our programmes to address the root causes of poverty.
2. Influencing public opinion and government policy by raising awareness on the issues of global poverty and injustice.
3. Making available long-term funds and resources for our programme operations.
4. Running an efficient and effective organisation.

In our programmes, the focus of the current strategy is to work through local implementing partners to attain three thematic goals:

5. Strengthen civil society and the public sector.
6. Ensure inclusive quality education for disadvantaged groups.
7. Improve livelihoods for the rural poor through enhanced income generation.

The main objective of the strategic plan is to strengthen the organisation's ability to permanently lift people out of poverty (SDG 1). SF aligns its work thematically with the following three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (Quality Education); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). SF sees innovation and inter-sectoral cooperation as prerequisites for economic growth and development and thus aims to promote more innovation in our programmes, operations, and fundraising efforts. We also seek to strengthen our collaboration with others (cf. SDG 17) as we cannot attain our ambitious vision alone.

Our cross-cutting issues (Gender Equality, Environment and Climate Change, Inclusion and Anti-Corruption) are reflected in all our programmes.

Our target groups are primarily women, children and young people, and people who live in poverty and who do not have their rights met. Based on our values, our goal is to ensure that "no one is left behind", as advocated by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SF, therefore, strives to reach persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other marginalised groups through our programmes.

Strømme Foundation has a decentralised organisational structure and programmes are implemented through local partner organisations. This ensures that decisions on how to

best combat poverty are always anchored in the local context. In our experience, this contributes to better and more sustainable results. We work to make individuals and communities (rights holders) aware of their rights and provide them with the means to claim these rights from local authorities (duty bearers). This is done, among other things, by identifying and utilising the potential and strengths inherent in local communities.

To remain a successful development organisation, we regularly monitor, analyse, and evaluate the results of our work. Strømme Foundation is continuously developing its methods for planning and implementation as we aim to be a learning organization at all levels.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

While COVID-19 related restrictions were finally lifted across SF intervention countries, 2022 proved to be another challenging year for target communities. The economic impact of the global pandemic on local communities was exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. At the same time, extreme weather events and the impact of climate change wreaked havoc on crops and harvests in many countries, affecting household food security. Political instability and insecurity continued in the Sahel region, South Sudan, and Myanmar. Burkina Faso experienced two military coups in only nine months, while in Myanmar the military junta solidified their grip on power. High levels of inflation and exchange rate fluctuations also meant that SF had to make some adjustments to programme implementation.

Despite this challenging context, the 2022 results for SF's programmes are pointing towards recovery. Poverty is decreasing, children are returning to school to catch up on lost learning and newly established community structures are leading the way in locally led development processes. Supported by SF's local partners, communities are strengthening their ability to deal with shocks.

Establishing sustainable structures that empower communities to claim their rights is central to SF's efforts to build a strong civil society. In 2022, 1,600 community mechanisms successfully achieved an advocated issue across the three regions. In Bangladesh, 159 families that previously lived in temporary or traditional shelters, were able to access government-funded housing through the support of their community-based organisations (CBOs).

Access to quality and inclusive education is important for community empowerment. In West Africa, SF's Speed School programme provides out-of-school children with a second chance. Despite the challenging security context in West Africa, 17,246 children (49% girls) enrolled in 632 Speed School centres in 2022 and an impressive 97% transferred to host primary schools upon completion.

To strengthen women's economic empowerment and ability to play an active part in their communities, 3,655 Community-Managed Savings Groups (CMSGs) have been established with 97,540 members (89% female). CMSGs help promote female leadership. In 2022, in East Africa, 1,377 women held active leadership positions in their group, while 90% of women members of CMSGs became more involved in household decision-making.

## KEY FINANCIAL FIGURES

Total revenue for 2022 ended at MNOK 229.5 compared to MNOK 240.3 in 2021.

Revenue from the public sector in Norway was slightly reduced to MNOK 130.9 in 2022 compared to MNOK 132.1 in 2021, mainly due to some projects closing in 2021 and less access to new public sector grants in 2022.

Public grants from abroad were MNOK 18.5 in 2022, compared to MNOK 23.1 in 2021. This is mainly because of a major EU project in Mali ending in 2021.

Revenue from private donors was MNOK 48.9 in 2022 compared to MNOK 52.3 in 2021, given that legacy gifts and individual donations decreased, while fixed donations slightly increased.

Revenue from the corporate sector was MNOK 21.9 in 2022, compared to MNOK 17.7 in 2021. Grants from other organisations decreased to MNOK 8.9 in 2022, compared to MNOK 9.9 in 2021.

Costs for purpose activities were MNOK 221.6 in 2022, compared to MNOK 214.0 in 2021.

The annual result shows a deficit of MNOK 20.7 compared to a profit of MNOK 4.8 in 2021.

## Consolidated accounts

The consolidated accounts for SF and our microfinance group ended with a deficit of MNOK 23.7, compared to a loss of MNOK 6.2 in 2021.

The total equity decreased from MNOK 246.6 MNOK in 2021 to MNOK 217.2 in 2022. The cash flow from the operational activities is satisfactory; total liquid assets at the end of the financial year were MNOK 166.2 compared to MNOK 188.7 MNOK in 2021.

The balance of liquid assets excludes Strømme Micro Finance AS (SMF AS) which has been consolidated according to the equity method. Liquid assets in the SMF group are MNOK 35.5, compared to MNOK 38.0 in 2021.

## Key figures for Strømme Foundation's percentage share of total costs for 2022 are as follows:

- Administration 3.4 % (3.4 % in 2021)
- Acquisition 9.0 % (6.8 % in 2021)
- Purpose 87.6 % (89.8 % in 2021)

In addition, the Norwegian Control Committee for Fundraising has introduced a measure for the share of the private funds income that are utilised for the organisation's purpose, and this amounts to 70.6 % (80.0 % in 2021).

## WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYEES

In 2022, SF conducted different activities and processes with the intention of strengthening our focus on "One organisation".

We have established global meeting structures for the Leadership group, Human Resources (HR), Administration, ICT and Finance. The goal of this structure is to share information, agree on common targets and align the processes carried out in all regions.

HR and ICT also arranged a Global workshop in Kristiansand in May 2022. The result of this workshop was the development of a new Global HR policy, and strategic

global plans for these departments. SF staff have been very pleased to receive the same benefits and services all over.

Leadership decided to bring together regional budgets for capacity building under one budget and gave the Global HR group the mandate to manage these resources. This gives all employees the same opportunity to apply for funds to build their competence, and the possibility to organise global trainings.

The working environment in SF is perceived as good. In 2022, we carried out a global Employee Survey and compared it with the one carried out in 2020.

Like other workplaces, SF is required by law to outline how gender equality, inclusion and diversity are addressed. SF was recertified as a "Likestilt arbeidsplass" by Likestilt Arbeidsliv in Agder in November 2021. Even though this is a Norwegian certification and evaluates our standards in the Kristiansand office, we have been focusing on gender equality and inclusion through a global perspective. The new global HR policy introduced common practices for paternity leave, welfare leave and work flexibility. The next step in this work is to structure the salary level so it is based on fixed criteria and not on gender. Considering the reporting duty for employers on gender equality (ARP), the report can be found on SF's website.

By the end of 2022, there were three men and four women on the Board. Subsequent information about employees includes the SMF AS group (consolidated). Among the employees in Kristiansand, there were 18 women and 17 men (compared to 17 and 17 in 2021). The number of full-time equivalent persons in Norway went up from 31.0 in 2021 to 31.5 in 2022. Abroad, there were 37 women and 74 men (compared to 37 and 73 in 2021). Overall, there were 55 women and 91 men (compared to 54 and 90 in 2021) employed in the organisation. The leadership team, which includes department directors in Kristiansand and regional directors, consisted of four men and five women by the end of 2022. SF strives for gender equality at all levels and is conscious of this during recruitment of new staff.

In 2022, the Kristiansand office had a total absence rate due to sickness of 5.63% (1.33% in 2021).

The Kristiansand office has an agreement for occupational health services with Falck BHT. In the autumn of 2022, a medical check-up for all employees in Kristiansand was carried out.

There were no serious work accidents at the Kristiansand office that have resulted in material destruction or personal injury during the year.

**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The Board continuously monitors SF's risks through quarterly reports. In 2022, the focus has been on monitoring the combined consequences of the pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine, which have resulted in higher inflation rates, civil unrest, and brought more uncertainty into our countries of operation. SF has established strong systems and controls to mitigate fraud and corruption and has maintained a good dialogue with donors upon suspicion of corruption. The digitalisation of reporting through new tools has facilitated the overview and management of the programme portfolio.

The security situation has remained challenging in

Myanmar, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and South Sudan in 2022. South-Sudan is still the most dangerous country in the world for development aid workers, with the number of fatalities higher than for war affected countries like Syria and Afghanistan. Crime, murder, conflict between different groups of the population, and traffic accidents are some of the reasons that make South Sudan a dangerous country to work in. Political instability and insecurity also characterise the Sahel region. Burkina Faso suffered another military coup in 2022 with large parts of the population displaced and schools closed following attacks from armed non-state groups.

SF has implemented mitigation measures to improve the security situation for our employees and in our programmes. These measures include better planning of travels and sharing of vital information with other NGOs. The Regional Office in West Africa has a good overview of the security situation in all three countries and has comprehensive security plans in place. They also remain in close dialogue with the Norwegian Embassy in Bamako and other NGOs through the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO).

Most of SF's costs are incurred in currencies linked to the US dollar or the Euro, while the largest share of the revenue is in Norwegian kroner. Therefore, exchange rates play a significant role in what SF can deliver to its implementing partners in the South. However, the terms of SF's contract agreements with its partners stipulate that the obligations are limited to the budget adopted in Norwegian kroner. SF enters forward exchange contracts to secure parts of the exchange rate between the Norwegian kroner and the US dollar or Euro.

SF has no external loans, so there are no serious consequences for the organisation if interest rates increase significantly.

Microfinance activities are undergoing liquidation but are still exposed to both financial and societal risks. Based on follow-up systems in the company's portfolio, the board believes that the risk has been reduced to an acceptable and controllable level.

**FUTURE PERSPECTIVE**

Strømme Foundation's vision is a world without poverty. Our mission is to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goal 1 – To end poverty in all its forms everywhere, and by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty. SF continues its efforts to strengthen marginalised communities so that they can escape poverty.

SF's countries of operation were hard hit by the pandemic. Lockdown measures, particularly those affecting schools, have resulted in more people falling into poverty. The war in Ukraine, which broke out in the spring of 2022, has exacerbated many of these existing challenges. The war has resulted in a rise in various commodity prices. At the same time, several countries, including Norway, have reprioritised aid funding from poverty alleviation to combat the crisis in Ukraine and the reception and settlement of Ukrainian refugees. This means that it has become more challenging to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SF's intervention countries are characterised by political instability and a deteriorating security situation. Non-state actors continue to face increasing restrictions on their activities

in some of the areas where SF works.

Within the organisation, 2022 has been characterized by the process of developing a new strategic plan. When formulating a new strategy, it is necessary to consider the major developments we are seeing globally. Promoting social justice and ending poverty requires a just transformation to a sustainable future. We want to contribute to a green economy that is socially inclusive, low-carbon and resource efficient.

SF will continue to fight poverty through education and job creation. We will do so by supporting the most marginalised through a decentralised structure and working through local partners. At the same time, we will increasingly operate in a space between humanitarian aid and long-term development work.

SF aims to strengthen its strategic partnerships, particularly with new actors from the private sector in both Norway and internationally. If the world is to achieve its goals of eradicating extreme poverty and cutting greenhouse

gas emissions, more green jobs are needed. Green job creation will therefore be a priority area for SF in the years to come.

The Board of Directors believes that SF has activities and international programmes that are suitable for further operations. The Board believes that Strømme Foundation is in a good position to respond to changes in global and national contexts, and to changes in the institutional and private donor market.

**ALLOCATION OF THE YEAR'S RESULT**

From SF's total deficit of MNOK 20.7, MNOK 0.3 has been allocated to purpose capital for programme activities and MNOK 20.4 to other purpose capital. Further, MNOK 61.5 has been transferred from purpose capital in microfinance and redistributed by MNOK 33.4 to purpose capital for programme activities and MNOK 28.1 to other purpose capital.

In addition to SF's result, the SMF AS group had a consolidated deficit of MNOK 3.1, which is reducing the purpose capital for microfinance.



*Arvid Grundekjøn*  
Arvid Grundekjøn  
Chairperson



*Kristin Tofte Andresen*  
Kristin Tofte Andresen  
Board Member



*Knut Arild Hareide*  
Knut Arild Hareide  
Board Member



*Vidar Haukeland*  
Vidar Haukeland  
Board Member



*Adelheid Firing Hvambdal*  
Adelheid Firing Hvambdal  
Board Member



*Ole Morten Stavland*  
Ole Morten Stavland  
Board Member



*Carol Azungi Dralega*  
Carol Azungi Dralega  
Board Member



*Erik Lunde*  
Erik Lunde  
Secretary General

## Strømme Foundation Activity Account

FIGURES IN NOK

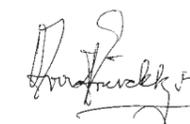
	2022	2021
<b>Funds acquired</b>		
Public sector grants – Norway	130,878,729	132,146,764
Public sector grants – Foreign	18,480,898	23,094,493
Grants from other organisations	8,860,521	9,854,234
Private donations	48,993,133	52,344,089
Corporate sector	21,900,334	17,700,895
Financial income	-139,544	4,169,344
Other income	536,725	988,615
<b>Total funds acquired</b>	<b>229,510,795</b>	<b>240,298,434</b>
<b>Funds spent</b>		
<b>Cost of fund acquisition</b>		
Fundraising cost	-20,816,962	-14,038,391
Other acquisition cost	-1,887,569	-2,145,413
<b>Total cost of fund acquisition</b>	<b>-22,704,531</b>	<b>-16,183,805</b>
<b>Purpose cost</b>		
Support to development partners/projects	-159,145,262	-161,912,312
Programme follow-up at regional offices	-39,616,193	-34,007,517
Programme follow-up from Kristiansand	-13,080,368	-11,837,069
Information activities in Norway	-9,727,813	-6,207,292
<b>Total purpose cost</b>	<b>-221,569,636</b>	<b>-213,964,191</b>
<b>Administration cost</b>	<b>-8,649,854</b>	<b>-7,990,740</b>
<b>Total funds spent</b>	<b>-252,924,021</b>	<b>-238,138,735</b>
VAT compensation	2,735,354	2,686,272
<b>The year's activity result</b>	<b>-20,677,871</b>	<b>4,845,971</b>
<b>Additions/reductions in purpose capital</b>		
Change in purpose capital for programme activities	33,151,904	131,498
Change in purpose capital for microfinance	-61,552,665	-
Transferred to / (from) other purpose capital	7,722,889	4,714,473
<b>Total additions/reductions in purpose capital</b>	<b>-20,677,871</b>	<b>4,845,971</b>

## Strømme Foundation Balance Sheet as of 31.12

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Long-term assets</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Property	333,024	-
Office furniture and equipment	256,875	285,960
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>589,899</b>	<b>285,960</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Investments in subsidiaries	37,329,847	37,329,847
Investments in other companies	200,000	200,000
Loan to subsidiaries	8,000,000	10,000,000
Overfinanced pension schemes	2,602,556	2,784,890
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>48,132,403</b>	<b>50,314,737</b>
<b>Total long-term assets</b>	<b>48,722,302</b>	<b>50,600,697</b>
<b>Inventory</b>	<b>54,284</b>	<b>65,577</b>
<b>Receivables</b>		
Trade Debtors	1,735,526	1,180,202
Inter-company receivables	240,059	328,375
Other short-term receivables	10,564,537	13,041,439
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>12,540,122</b>	<b>14,550,017</b>
<b>Investments in current financial assets</b>	<b>83,532,696</b>	<b>88,816,191</b>
<b>Bank and cash</b>	<b>82,711,935</b>	<b>99,925,046</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>178,839,038</b>	<b>203,356,832</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>227,561,340</b>	<b>253,957,529</b>

	2022	2021
<b>Purpose capital (PC)</b>		
<b>Purpose capital (PC)</b>		
<b>Founding capital</b>	<b>3,326,092</b>	<b>3,326,092</b>
<b>Acquired purpose capital</b>		
Purpose capital for programme activities	36,716,393	3,432,990
Purpose capital for microfinance	45,329,847	106,882,512
Other purpose capital	101,041,776	93,318,886
<b>Total acquired purpose capital</b>	<b>183,088,015</b>	<b>203,765,886</b>
<b>Total purpose capital</b>	<b>186,414,107</b>	<b>207,091,978</b>
<b>Liability</b>		
<b>Long-term debt</b>		
Staff gratuities in regional offices	7,671,739	6,432,905
Legacy obligations	150,000	150,000
<b>Total long-term debt</b>	<b>7,821,739</b>	<b>6,582,905</b>
<b>Short-term debt</b>		
Creditors	2,491,940	3,738,112
Public duties and taxes	2,701,392	2,625,786
Owed to employees	2,213,625	2,006,193
Inter-company debt	-	1,859,222
Deferred project income	24,622,544	29,165,529
Other account payable	1,295,994	887,802
<b>Total current liability</b>	<b>33,325,494</b>	<b>40,282,645</b>
<b>Total liability</b>	<b>41,147,233</b>	<b>46,865,550</b>
<b>Total purpose capital and liability</b>	<b>227,561,340</b>	<b>253,957,529</b>

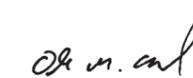
Kristiansand 15. June 2023


Arvid Grundekjøn  
Chairperson of the Board

Kristin Tofte Andresen  
Board Member

Knut Arild Hareide  
Board Member

Vidar Haukeland  
Board Member

Adelheid Firing Hvambal  
Board Member

Ole Morten Stavland  
Board Member

Carol Azungi Dralega  
Board Member

Erik Lunde  
Secretary General

## Strømme Foundation Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS; 31 DECEMBER 2022

Arvid Grundekjøn, Chairperson  
Kristin Tofte Andresen, Deputy Chairperson  
Dralega Caroline Azungi, Member  
Vidar Haukeland, Member  
Ole Morten Stavland, Member  
Adelheid Firing Hvambal, Member  
Knut Arild Hareide, Member  
Arild Hestås, Member

### SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Arnhild Leer-Helgesen, Substitute  
Tørres Gilje, Substitute

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS; 31 DECEMBER 2022

Stein Hannevik (chairperson)  
Sissel Leire  
Steffen Syvertsen  
Live Fanavoll (Re:Act Leader)  
Andreas Kolaas  
Line Alice Ytrehus  
Aud Sunde Smemo  
Anne Helen Høyland Mork  
Lars Erik Lyngdal  
Dag Tynes  
Vidar L. Haanes  
Arne Bang  
Synnøve Bjørke  
Jostein Sæth  
Jørgen Reme  
Vigdis Anita Gåskjenn  
Per Kristian Lunden  
Solveig Omland

### ELECTION COMMITTEE; 1 JANUARY 2022

Stein Hannevik  
Svein Haanes  
Ingunn Folkestad Breistein

Pricewaterhouse Coopers conducted the external financial audit for 2022.

For the Auditors' report and the complete Strømme Foundation financial statements, including cash flow, accounting principles and notes, scan the QR code to publications on our website:



Cover image: Jasmina Mussa, 12 years-old Speed School pupil from Niger.

"It's so lovely to be here! I used to sit at home and watch the other kids leaving for school in the morning. I started crying when I thought about having to stay home. But now I'm like the other children. I am learning and playing with them, and I have friends who help me and come to my house. No one is bullying me because I am in a wheelchair. Speed School has given me a chance I would not have gotten without it," said Jasmina, a 12 years-old.

Photo: Strømme Foundation | Øystein Melhus Venås



The Strømme Foundation is a member of the Norwegian Control Committee for Fundraising (Innsamlingskontrollen) and is certified by Eco Lighthouse (Miljøfyrtårn).

Strømme Foundation is also a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief.

Editor: Kirsten Falch  
Contributors: Tørres Gilje, Gro Lindvik Robstad, Gase Handeland, Celeste De la Huerta, Anne Breivik, Hege Kristoffersen Olsen, Ole Morten Stavland, Fatoumata Dembélé, Patience Atim, Christian Neumann.  
Graphic design: Innoventi  
Photo: © Strømme Foundation

## The courage to learn

Girls that want to pursue an education continue to face gender-based challenges in West Africa. In 2022, when 12-year-old Fatoumata wished to join the Speed School centre in her village in Mali, her father refused.

Yet, through observing her brother's progress at the local Speed School, her desire to learn became so strong that she approached the School Management Committee (SMC) president. She begged him to sign her up. "When Fatoumata came to see me, I was very moved and surprised at the same time, I decided to give her a chance knowing that the negotiation with her father would be tough", said the president of the SMC.

While her father was still hesitant, Fatoumata's determination to learn helped change his mind. He is now very proud of his daughter, who is ranked second in her class and wants to become a doctor, underlining the gender-transformative impact of education.



"I never thought I would be able to read and write one day; my priority was to learn how to be a good woman so I could get married as soon as possible."

TEXT AND PHOTO: FATOUMATA DEMBÉLÉ, MALI.

## The facts behind the figures

### How we used the money in 2022

Purpose cost	87,6%	<div style="width: 87.6%;"></div>
Administration	3,4%	<div style="width: 3.4%;"></div>
Fundraising	9,0%	<div style="width: 9.0%;"></div>

### Distribution of the purpose cost in 2022

Total support to development partners/projects	78,6%	<div style="width: 78.6%;"></div>
Project support/follow-up in Norway	5,2%	<div style="width: 5.2%;"></div>
Information about development work in Norway	3,8%	<div style="width: 3.8%;"></div>

Strømmestiftelsen

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