



DOING IT TOGETHER www.internationalbluecross.org

Message from the President and the General Secretary

International Blue Cross (IBC) started off the year 2020, prior to impending travel restrictions, by leading a training about the Self-Help concept in beautiful Botswana in January. The local Blue Cross

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Page 15 Network Committee / Secretariat Staff hosted IBC along with attendees from Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda. With its extensive experience in working virtually across the globe, IBC adapted well to remote working. Members responded with active participation on self-help, good governance and alcohol policy advocacy webinars.

The IBC prevention programme "Life Skills and Peer Education" received a successful external evaluation in Chad and the Republic of Congo, confirming that the programme contributes to the reduction of alcohol harm and creates behaviour change in the community. The programme was replicated in Togo in 2018 and in Tanzania in 2020.

Despite new challenges, the Network Committee continued meeting virtually and was able to continue General Assembly preparations, however it was not possible to hold the General Assembly in October 2020 in South Africa. Instead, IBC looks forward to conducting the event in a virtual space in 2021.

IBC's continued commitment to quality standards earned the recertification from the Swiss ZEWO foundation for the next five years. The support of a team of committed volunteers along with the ZEWO seal lays the foundation for successful IBC fundraising activities, ensuring the financial stability of the organisation.

The year 2020 was marked by the global Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences. Network Committee and secretariat want to express sincere thanks to IBC's members, partners and to generous donors for their continued loyalty and support.

IBC hopes you to enjoy reading the Annual Report 2020.



With Virtual Cooperation through the Corona Year

The Covid-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on social and professional life around the world. But it has also encouraged individuals, companies and organisations to dare to try new ways of working.

"The International Blue Cross as a global NGO has been among the pioneers of virtual working. Compared with corporate organisations which had the luxury of travelling before the pandemic, IBC always had to find different (less expensive) ways to keep its global network connected and managed to achieve this well virtually, much earlier than most other organisations. After collaborating with IBC for many years, I can say that IBC has steadily strengthened its skills in the area of virtual leadership and virtual collaboration, shaping virtual communication and virtual work with courage and always putting successful relationships at the core of virtuality."

Dr. Ghislaine Caulat, Black Gazelle Consulting Despite the travel restrictions and Covid-19 prevention measures, IBC was able to keep its projects operative by introducing innovative solutions and creating virtual connections at a national and international level.

Where Life Skills sessions could not take place because of closed schools, the peer educators and project staff created WhatsApp groups, conducted virtual Life Skills sessions and online support groups. Blue Cross staff all over the world became active in community awareness campaigns, to inform the population about prevention measures and essential life skills such as stress management and non-violent conflict resolution during lockdowns.

A free helpline has for example been set up by Blue Cross Togo for callers to get free support during the pandemic. Blue Cross members were also key in disseminating reliable information on Covid-19 and combating fake news through radio programmes, house to house awareness and TV broadcasts.

To ensure continuous support and monitoring of the projects in Africa, IBC created the **concept of virtual field visits**. It was first used in November 2020 with Blue Cross Togo. Instead of travelling to Lomé to conduct the yearly field visit, Programme Coordinator Flavia Ganarin and General Secretary Anne Babb connected virtually with the local staff, board, volunteers, community representatives and beneficiaries, and conducted trainings, interviews, discussions and exchanges.

"The virtual meeting room became an indispensable tool for us in fostering the organisational capacity-building with our members all over the world", reports Sonja Pönisch, IBC Coordinator for the Knowledge and Skills Transfer Programme.

IBC wants to congratulate all its members for their determination to find solutions during the pandemic and to support their beneficiaries who are among the most excluded and vulnerable people in the world.

IBC External Evaluation – Impact Report

How can **impact** be shown? Has the IBC prevention programme in Africa reduced alcohol consumption and prevented risk behaviors? Have people benefitted from the programme and are they satisfied?

With these questions in mind, International Blue Cross mandated the Swiss company RANAS to evaluate its Life Skills and Peer Education programme in Chad and Congo.

RANAS has long-standing experience in advising organizations on how to design and implement programmes based on behavioral change. Through their external evaluation, RANAS reviewed the programmes' relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability for the period from **2017 to 2020**.

Through the use of key information and beneficiary interviews, desk review and focus group discussions, the evaluation clearly demonstrated that IBC's work in Chad and Congo has a strong impact

on reducing the level and frequency of alcohol and drug consumption and related behaviours (sexual risk behaviours and sexual and gender-based violence), the related knowledge and attitudes.

The impact of IBC's local work goes well beyond the effects on beneficiaries, influencing **communal**, **structural**, **and governmental levels** by changing people's perception about substance abuse and even encouraging legal changes for the better protection of the population from alcohol and drug harm.

The evaluation emphasises that the programme is highly relevant in the respective countries and positively impacts the targeted groups. It also recommends implementing IBC's **prevention programme in additional countries**

Furthermore, the implemented projects are seen as sustainable as **behaviours** are changed leading to life-long im-

provements in the lives of beneficiaries, their families and communities.

The main recommendation from the evaluating team is **to further enhance monitoring and evaluation at local levels**; for example by conducting before-and-after analysis of behavioural indicators and by providing further training and support to the local teams in these methodologies. This way, IBC's strengths can be further solidified and **continuous learning and organizational development enhanced**.

IBC is honored to have a positive impact which actively contributes to the achievement of the **United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals**, in addition to contribution to more **peaceful**, **just, and inclusive societies**.

The IBC Life Skills prevention programme is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department for Foreign Affairs FDFA.

Life Skills Project Launched in Tanzania

In Tanzania the alcohol consumption level is with 9.4 litres annually of alcohol per capita far higher than the African average of 6.3 litres. The consequences for the communities are devastating and on the rise: road traffic accidents, sexual and gender-based violence, poverty and illness.

To combat this high level of consumption, IBC and its member organisation the Blue Cross Society of Tanzania (BCST) launched its Life Skills project for alcohol and drug prevention in

Arusha in 2020. With proven success in other African countries, the project aims at empowering individuals and communities to live a healthy life free from addiction.

With its comprehensive prevention approach IBC and its partners ensure long-lasting impact. The prevention strategy combines education, community action and alcohol policy advocacy. Through Life Skills Education, public school students, out-of-school youth, teachers and parents practise and de-

velop their cognitive and social skills in relation to addiction, HIV prevention, health, human rights, peacebuilding and gender equality. The Blue Cross in Tanzania works closely with communities, decision-makers and local leaders to discuss law enforcement on alcohol and drugs, to improve public health and to sustain positive change by educating youth and community members.

Communities as well as religious and political leaders in Arusha have expressed their support for the project. Despite the sanitary restrictions due to Covid-19 in 2020, the project has shown **great progress**: BCST reached out to more children and young people than initially estimated and was able to involve teachers and other local organisations in the Life Skills Education scheme. In 2021, the Blue Cross Society of Tanzania will establish further partnerships while continuously **empowering people to live healthy lives** and to transform their communities.





Self-Help Groups for Africa



"A problem shared is a problem halved." This idea lies at the core of the Self-Help concept. Being part of a Self-Help group allows individuals with alcohol and drug problems to see their addiction as an illness, to feel connected and understood by others, and to minimise the risk of relapse. Participants are also able to increase their self-esteem and

groups offer a series of self-reflective exercises that encourage an understanding of self and propose a path towards recovery.

Although the Self-Help concept cannot be considered as a replacement for therapy in general, it is an important building block in the field of addiction treatment, especially in developing countries, where support for people with dependency issues is very limited.

Self-Help groups, also known as Support or Mutual Help Groups, have therefore become an integral part of IBC's activities in Africa. They represent one of the most simply implemented yet effective approaches for helping people to recover from addiction, and treating dependency issues.

Seen as an invaluable resource for recovery and empowerment, the World Health Organization, with the vision of achieving "universal health coverage" (UHC)¹, has developed several selfhelp tools to support recovery from mental disease or substance addiction².

Self-Help Methodology

The method for Self-Help groups follows the **evidence-based model of behaviour** change where change is conveived as a process, not an event.

The IBC Self-Help training is based on the **12-Step Compass**, a set of principles outlining how to identify the problems caused by addiction, how to address them and how to subsequently support the recovery process and continue life as a recovering person³. Especially during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, many people run a higher risk of slipping into unhealthy drinking behaviour or relapsing. Lockdowns, isolation and insecurity make people around the world more vulnerable.

Self-Help in Africa

During 2020, Blue Cross organizations of Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Chad took part in regular on-line coaching for Self-Help group facilitation. The groups are facilitated **by trained laypersons, volun-**

teers and/or formerly addicted persons. They meet on a regular basis and operate autonomously. Group members speak about their experiences and listen to each other.

One of the attendees in a Self-Help group in Botswana said: "I am not used to people letting me speak, and they listen without advising or interruptions. It was a very empowering experience". This empowering experience is the key to success of Self-Help and the reason why IBC is committed to this concept, advising member organisations on how to establish and run Self-Help groups in order to reach the most vulnerable people.

Supporting the Self-Help concept Volunteer Ashwin Hulman, Mauritius

With my double bachelors' degree in Linguistics, I have been working as an interpreter and translator since 2008. It's been almost a year now since I am using those skills to support IBC's work in the volunteer team worldwide. Besides other translation and editing tasks I have translated the 12 Steps Guide that is used as a base in the Self-Help groups of IBC's member organisations participating at the Self-Help programme. My involvement brings me great satisfaction. I believe being able to help IBC to promote its programmes, assist people with addiction problems,

and contribute to giving a hand to those in need.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together", African proverb

¹ World Health Organization's QualityRights, Person-centred recovery planning for mental health and well-being self-help tool (2019), p10.

²World Health Organization, Self-help strategies for cutting down or stopping substance use (ASSIST) (2010).

³ Used by Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

Volunteering Worldwide at IBC

Christa Stamm, Switzerland

In 2019 I started to look for a pro bono activity to complement my professional role as a lawyer – and I found my place at IBC! I am impressed by the approach to fostering sustainable development by focusing on prevention



of alcohol and drug harm. As a mother, I particularly appreciate IBC's work for young people. My main activity is proofreading and translation work. Whenever I am able to, I

also use my legal skills to support IBC's activities. I admire the team's dedication and commitment, and I am very happy to be able to assist them as a volunteer.

Francisco Martins, Brazil

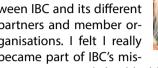
Since 2018 I have had the opportunity to collaborate with IBC and utilise my experience in the



field of graphic design. I worked on a wide range of IBC's documents and publications. By volunteering I was able to gain more experience in my field of work, and improve my skills as a junior graphic designer. What I like as a volunteer for IBC is that I am convinced that the prospects IBC provides for societies around the world are very important. It makes the vision of a better future more palpable to me. In providing good designs for IBC's publications I can help to communicate IBC's vision - I like that!

Rosalind Firth, United Kingdom

I graduated recently from Durham University with a degree in Modern Languages. Given my background, I got involved with IBC as a volunteer translator and proofreader in 2020. The reason why I started the volunteer position was that I wanted to use my language skills to help others. Besides this, working on a variety of documents helped me to keep up my language skills and gain work experience. I got a good insight into the organisational structures and the collaboration between IBC and its different partners and member organisations. I felt I really became part of IBC's mis-



sion to give people healthy life perspectives without alcohol and drugs.



With a degree in Applied Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology, I have spent most of my professional life in the field of language training. Therefore, I am happy to reignite my creative writing flair by travelling (at least in mind) to countries all over the world and improving people's lives. Since 2019, I have been working as a voluntary translator and proofreader for IBC. At IBC, I really appreciate the human and respectful

attitude, the ever-interesting topics and this sense of being part of a highly committed team standing up for a world with increased solidarity.



Thank You Blue Cross! The story of Ms. Atchon from Lomé, Togo

The socio-political turmoil that has affected Togo since the 1990s, the development of the clandestine market, and the country's position on the drug trade, have all contributed greatly to supplying the local market with illicit substances in a country where 60% of the population is under 25 years of age. Moreover, the local brewed alcohol "Sodabi" is consumed daily around the table. At the same time, the local population is poorly informed about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. Parents often lack the awareness and skills to protect their children from being harmed by these substances. In IBC's Life Skills sessions for parents, mothers and fathers acquire tools to support their children in becoming healthy and informed young adults. One of the participating mothers, Ms. Atchon, reports:

"My 13-year-old boy has been attending Blue Cross sessions for a few months. He often talked with me about Blue Cross, but I just listened without being too interested in it. One day when we were about to eat, I called him and asked him to go and buy me some Sodabi, which I used to take as an appetizer before eating. To my surprise, my child adamantly refused and told me: "You don't need to drink Sodabi as an appetizer before we eat. At the Blue Cross we were shown

pictures of people who got sick from alcohol, it's terrible. Alcohol is not good. If you want to continue drinking, do it without me." I was shocked at first, but realized the truth of what he was saying. Sometime later, he informed me of a parents' meeting at the Blue Cross headquar-

ters. I attended out of curiosity. At the meeting, we learned about the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs on health, and the issue of violence as a consequence of drug abuse. Following the meeting, I made a firm decision: Today I no longer consume Sodabi before eating, I am moved by the good influence of Blue Cross on my child and on me. I say a big thank you to Blue Cross."



Snapshots from Member Organisations

Eastern Europe – Czech Republic

The Blue Cross Czech Republic is a well-recognised organisation in the field of addiction services throughout the region, with six Counselling Centres open for people suffering from alcohol addiction. The Blue Cross CZ succeeded in establishing collaborations with local and national institutions and after five years of being financially supported by International Blue Cross's networks, Blue Cross CZ now operates independently thanks to financial support granted by the Czech Ministry of Social Affairs as well as assistance from various regions and cities.



General Secretary Jan Czudek is proud of the work his team has done over the past years and hopes to expand further throughout the country in order to offer better support structures and cover assistance in all regions of the country.

Northern Europe – Faroe Islands

Blue Cross Faroe Islands is a key organisation in substance use prevention and treatment services within a small population of approximately 50,000 people. In May 2020 the Blue Cross Faroe Islands opened its inaugural prevention center for youth suffering from substance abuse. Support services are also offered for the youth affected, as well as their loved ones, to meet with Blue Cross staff. A second-hand clothing store is also included in the house which helps to fund its activities. Convinced that mainstreaming prevention measures among young people is especially important, BC Faroe Islands offers outreach work at festivals and youth events. A shipping



container serves as a space for discussion. BC staff promote the concept of an "alcohol free summer" and encourage young people to participate (social media #RúsfríttSummar).

Being inspired by the comprehensive prevention approach of the IBC Life Skills programme, Blue Cross Faroe Islands supports IBC's activities in Chad and promotes the programme among government stakeholders in Faroe Islands.

Western Europe – Germany

In 2020, Blue Cross Germany concentrated its efforts on youth addiction prevention by implementing digitalisation in their communication. Virtual assistance is especially important in these times with Covid-19, in particular for those people affected by addiction.



The **blu:app**, a multiple award-winning "pocket coach" from blu:prevent, the addiction initiative by BC Germany, gives young people what they so urgently need. Benjamin Becker, Head of blu:prevent: "In Germany, more than 2.65 million children grow up in families affected by addiction problems. We would like to use digitalisation to build bridges across the socioeconomic spectrum". The Drug Commissioner of the Federal Government, Daniela Ludwig, supports the project: "Right now, people who are at risk of addiction need all the help they can get".

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, BC Germany also went viral on social media. Encouraging messages are posted under #gemeinsamechtstark (engl: #strongtogether). Jürgen Paschke, Federal Chairman of BC Germany: "With this creative campaign, Blue Cross wants

to encourage people suffering from addiction as well as their relatives to resist addictive substances in these difficult times".

Video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L23iSCv_PDs Information about blu:app: www.bluapp.bluprevent.de/ (In German)

East Africa - Kenya

As a founding member of the national Alcohol Control Policy Network in Kenya, Blue Cross Kisumu is a well-known stakeholder in the field of alcohol policy work in the country. As such, in 2020 the local team joined efforts to improve the implementation of the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act for the city of Kisumu. Although legal reform saw certain successes such as regulating the hours of alcohol sale and distribution in addition to the closing of shops selling alcoholic beverages in close proximity to schools, a lot of work still needs to be done. A central problem has been that certain funds appropriated for controlling alcohol harm have been reallocated to other sectors such as infrastructure.

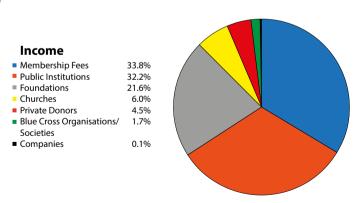
Together with the Alcohol Control Policy Network, BC Kisumu organised a stakeholder's forum that resulted in the submission of a petition to the Kisumu Country Assembly to highlight the need to reinforce the Act, to control funding and to create an Alcohol Control fund to be used for raising awareness and the building and running of rehabilitation centres. At the forum government departments, non-governmental organisations, rehabilitation homes and community-based organisations active in the field of prevention and treatment of alcohol harm were involved. Hopes are high to have the petition accepted and to take another step forward in the mission to legally protect people from being harmed by alcohol in Kisumu!



Stakeholder forum – organised by Blue Cross Kisumu, Kenya

Abridged Version of the Financial Statements based on Swiss GAAP FER 21

Assets	2020 CHF	2019 CHF
Cash and cash equivalents Short-term receivables Accrued assets	764,289.62 56,455.54 19,110.16	1,139,007.36 40,655.49 24,454.16
Total Current assets	839,855.32	1,204,117.01
Financial assets Furniture and equipment	297,175.93 2,041.76	0.00 1,376.13
Total Fixed assets	299,217.69	1,376.13
Total Assets	1,139,073.01	1,205,493.14



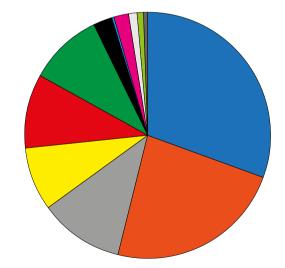
Liabilities and equity	2020 CHF	
Trade accounts payable Deferrals	30,258.33 52,031.33	35,522.44 30,772.27
Provisions	30,000.00	0.00
Total Current liabilities	112,289.66	66,294.71
Provisions	20,000.00	50,000.00
Total long-term liabilities	20,000.00	50,000.00
Chad Congo Brazzaville Brasil Togo Eastern Europe Denmark, Finland, Greenland Life Skills Programme Burkina Faso Botswana Tansania Knowledge / Skills Transfer, Sensibilisation Music Groups Alcohol Policy Self-Help	70,651.15 0.00 269.41 7,994.61 8,347.06 2,275.08 76,287.50 13,502.68 0.00 0.00 28,817.94 3,840.02 5,773.70 1,264.65	74,724.63 5,450.00 0.00 21,800.00 8,247.06 237.21 145,216.45 11,843.11 744.59 16,350.00 22,345.00 5,450.00 0.00
Total Funds	219,023.80	312,408.05
Paid in capital General reserve Organisation reserve Solidarité Organisational Development Retained earnings Balance from prior year Result for the year	433.25 10,000.00 315,249.67 331,300.66 130,775.97 0.00 0.00	433.25 10,000.00 315,249.67 331,300.66 119,806.80 0.00 0.00
Total Equity	787,759.55	776,790.38
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,139,073.01	1,205,493.14

Income	2020 CHF	2019 CHF
Membership contributions Donations and contributions Government grants Other income	222,386.45 223,376.90 212,177.98 4,438.45	221,033.27 190,551.98 307,921.30 4,379.80
Total Income	662,379.78	723,886.35
Expenses		

Project expenses	-587,328.60	-506,371.73
Fundraising expenses	-53,829.35	-51,647.48
Administrative expenses	-107,915.16	-163,996.33
Total Expenses	-749,073.11	-722 015 5 <i>4</i>
iotai Expenses	-/43,0/3.11	-/22,013.34
a I.	04 400 00	4 070 04
Operating result	-86,693.33	1,870.81
Financial income incl. foreign exchange profit	10,851.63	2,192.98
Financial cost incl. foreign exchange loss	-6,573.38	-6,641.52
Financial result	4,278.25	-4,448.54
Operating result before changes in funds	-82,415.08	-2,577.73
Allocation to project funds	-402,429.73	-479,422.16
Withdrawal from project funds	495,813.98	429,602.16
Funds result	93,384.25	-49,820.00
Result before allocation	10,969.17	-52,397.73
Allocation to organ. Development fund	-10,969.17	0.00
Withdrawal from organ. development fund	0.00	52,397.73
Result for the year	0.00	0.00

Expenses

■ CHAD – Life Skills	30.8%
CONGO – Life Skills	23.3%
■ TOGO – Life Skills	11.1%
TANZANIA – Life Skills	8.3%
Knowledge transfer/Sensibilisation MO's	9.8%
Alcohol Policy	9.6%
■ BRAZIL – KIDS support	2.4%
BURKINA FASO	0.4%
Self-Help UGANDA, BOTSWANA, NIGERIA, GHANA	2.0%
Sensibilisation general	1.0%
Life Skills Manual	0.9%
■ Music Groups	0.4%



Audit Report 2020

The Financial Statements 2020 have been prepared according to Swiss GAAP FER, in particular standard 21 "The accounting for charitable, social non-profit organisations". BDO AG, as statutory auditor, has examined the Financial Statements.

The examination was conducted in accordance with the Swiss Standard on Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that the examination is planned and performed to identify material misstatements in the Financial Statements.

Based on the limited statutory examination, nothing has come to the statutory auditor's attention that causes him to believe that the Financial Statements of International Blue Cross do not give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations, and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER or do not comply with Swiss law and the association's article of incorporation.

Thank You to our Donors and Partners

Among our current partners and donors are:

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The Foreign Service of the Faroes Government of the Faroe Islands

FOUNDATIONS & SOCIETIES

- Foundation Widmer et Creux
- Foundation Jugendsozialwerk Blue Cross Baselland
- Foundation Third World Solidarity
- Foundation Carl und Elise Elsener-Gut, Victorinox, Switzerland
- Global Giving Foundation
- Top-Six Foundation
- · Bread for All
- Blue Cross Ostermundigen
- Blue Cross Zurich 4 + 5
- Blue Cross St. Gallen-Appenzell
- Blue Cross Krummenau-Nesslau
- Blue Cross Switzerland (You help, we help)
- Interaction

CHURCHES

- Evang. Ref. Church of the Canton of Fribourg
- Evang. Ref. Parish Köniz
- Protestant Ref. Church Canton St. Gallen
- Turun Mikaelin Seurakunta Church, Finland
- Reformed Church Canton Zug

- Reformed church Liestal-Seltisberg
- · Reformed church Vechingen
- Reformed church Seuzach-Thurtal
- Reformed church Kirchberg

MUNICIPALITIES & CANTONS

- Municipality of Bottmingen
- Municipality of Risch Rotkreuz
- Municipality Pfeffingen
- Lottery Funds Canton Bern
- Lottery Funds Canton AargauLottery Funds Canton Glarus
- City of Zug
- Stadtverband Zürich

COMPANIES

· Black Gazelle



Thank you for making a difference in our lives!

IBC Network Committee

Dr. Albert Moukolo, Switzerland



Managing Director of foundation Jugendsozialwerk Blue Cross BL Board member since: 2016



Ingalill Söderberg, Sweden ournalist & municipal commissione Board member since: 2012









Fanja Rasolomanana, Madagascar Pastor & Programme Coordinator a

Substitute members



Project Coordinator Blue Cross



Rolf Hartmann, Brazil

IBC Secretariat Staff



Anne Babb



Katrin Schmidt







Anja Tuchtenhagen





Ediomo Nelson





International Blue Cross (IBC), is a Christian value based, politically independent non-governmental organisation founded 1886, currently comprising 38 national Blue Cross organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The IBC network comprises expertise in tackling alcohol and drug related

International Blue Cross – Donations

Please feel free to make contributions on our website or by using one of the following accounts:

In CHF:

Post Finance, Bern SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

IBAN: CH97 0900 0000 4002 5648 4

In EUR:

Valiant Bank, Bern SWIFT: VABECH22

IBAN: CH09 0630 0016 9686 0960 0

health and social and development issues through advocacy, prevention, treatment and aftercare programmes. IBC promotes this approach through a joint global voice and enables exchange and learning between Blue Cross Organisations around the world.



Due to Covid-19, in 2020 our programmes have been adapted to the requirements of the pandemic. To ensure the safety and health of our project beneficiaries in Africa, your support is more than ever needed!

