

Annual Report 2025



DOING IT TOGETHER

Students of a Life Skills class in Tanzania

Table of Contents

Page 2	IBC at a Glance
Page 3	Message from the President and GS
Page 4	Story from Tanzania
Page 6	A Holistic Approach to Prevention
Page 7	Closing One Chapter, Opening Another
Page 8	Global Unity in Action
Page 10	IBC's Global Impact
Page 11	Volunteer Engagement Worldwide
Page 12	Abridged Version of the Financial Statements
Page 14	Audit Report/Tribute to Donors
Page 15	Board & General Secretariat

2



IBC at a Glance

Who We Are

IBC is a Christian value-based, politically independent non-governmental organisation. The roots of today's organisation lie with the Blue Cross Movement in 1877. The international umbrella organisation was founded in 1886, currently comprising 37 national Blue Cross organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. This vast organisational network tackles alcohol- and other drug-related health-, 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.

Our Vision

People live dignified and healthy lives in a world where societal structures and services enable a life free from addiction as well as alcohol- and other drug-related harm.

Our Mission

Prevent and reduce the harmful use and dependency of alcohol- and other drug-related harm, especially among the most vulnerable people. Engage Blue Cross organisations worldwide to promote the mission, with a holistic view of the human being as a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual, and social wellbeing.

Our Values

Love • Solidarity • Excellence • Respect • Empowerment • Inclusiveness • Good Governance

Key Strategic Focus 2021-2028

- Promoting a life free from alcohol and other drugs
- Strong member organisations
- Christian value-based approach

Message from the President and General Secretary

Dear friends and members of the International Blue Cross,

The year 2025 has been an important year for the International Blue Cross. After nine years, we were able to gather again for the General Assembly.

The meeting demonstrated the commitment and resilience of Blue Cross organizations worldwide. Even under challenging circumstances, local organizations have continued their work and, in many cases, further strengthened their impact within communities. The exchange of ideas and strategic reflections during the Assembly helped our shared vision and direction. We are grateful to our hosts, Blue Cross Togo, whose hospitality enabled the success of this gathering.

In collaboration with the newly elected Network Committee the General Secretariat continues to strengthen collaboration and capacity across the movement. Through initiatives such as the IBC Academy, members have benefited from increased opportunities

for learning and joint working.

At the same time, the global burden of non-communicable diseases remains a major challenge. For example in Europe, approximately 70% of deaths related to NCD's are considered preventable, yet only about 3% of public funding is directed towards prevention. This imbalance highlights the urgent need for stronger investment in preventive approaches and policies.

Financially, the International Blue Cross has maintained stability despite a changing funding environment. We are encouraged by the unity and dedication demonstrated across our donors and networks. The commitment of staff, NC, volunteers, and member organizations at national and local levels create safer communities around the world.

A special thanks goes to our good God, who has answered many prayers so that we can experience so much unity and see such positive developments. Thank you to all who are engaged at

the national and local levels in the member countries.

We wish you all strength, courage, and success!



Reinhard Jahn -
President



Anne Babb -
General Secretary



"I feel capable, empowered, and independent"



Fatuma Ramadhani: "I no longer feel stuck; I feel capable, empowered, and independent."

Fatuma Ramadhani is 37 years old and a single mother of two children living in Arusha, Tanzania. In 2025, she joined the Blue Cross Tanzania Life Skills project. After completing three days of Life Skills and entrepreneurship training, she received a small seed funding grant of

100 CHF – capital that she did not have to repay and could invest in the way she felt was best. She continues to receive ongoing mentorship and follow-up visits from Blue Cross Tanzania. IBC spoke with her about her experiences and the changes the project has brought to her life.

Before receiving training and seed funding from Blue Cross, what challenges were you facing in your business and daily life?

Living with and caring for my child with a disability has been one of the greatest challenges of my life. After my child was born with a disability 15 years ago, my husband left our family. From that moment on, I had to carry everything alone. My child cannot take care of himself and depends on me for almost everything. Every day requires patience, strength, and constant attention.

I tried to earn a living through a small charcoal business. Because I had very limited capital, I could only afford to sell one bucket of charcoal at a time. The income was extremely low and not

enough to meet our daily needs. I struggled to provide proper care for my child with a disability while also supporting my other child, who is attending school.

What is the most significant change you have experienced since joining the Blue Cross project?

The most significant change in my life has been the growth of my businesses and the confidence I gained after receiving Life Skills and entrepreneurship training and seed funding from Blue Cross. Before I was working with very little capital and earning less profit. Through the entrepreneurship training and financial support I received, I learned how to grow my business.

Today, I run several businesses. I sell charcoal, meals, and clothes. I expanded my charcoal business, began earning a real profit, and even started saving money. I no longer feel stuck; I feel capable, empowered, and independent. I am better able to care for my children and meet our daily needs. This support has given me hope and confidence for a more secure future.

At times, my neighbours have shown trust in me because of the income I earn, which has led people to recommend me for cooking jobs, including preparing meals for construction workers building houses in my neighbourhood.

You mentioned that neighbours now trust and recommend you for jobs. What does this recognition mean to you personally?

This recognition means a lot to me because it shows that my community trusts me and respects my integrity. They have chosen me as the chairperson of our Village Community Banking group, trusting that I will manage our savings honestly and responsibly. Because I now have my own stable source of income, they believe I will not misuse their money.

How has this change influenced your goals for the future, for yourself and for your family?

I have always dreamed of becoming a successful businesswoman and a caring mother who could fully provide for and



protect my children. Today, my livelihood has improved by more than 20 percent compared to before. I am now able to pay house rent, meet my child's school requirements, care for my child with a disability, provide food for my family, and contribute to our Village Community Banking savings group.

Fatuma's story is just one among many we continue to hear. Across several communities, women who receive training and seed capital gain self-confidence and greater recognition within their communities.

A Holistic Prevention Approach

International Blue Cross places life skills education and peer-led prevention at the heart of its work. Our life skills programme in Congo, Chad, Ghana, Tanzania and Togo targets vulnerable youth in public schools in neighbourhoods affected by drug trafficking, poverty and violence. Through structured sessions delivered by trained facilitators, young people strengthen **protective factors** such as self-confidence, decision-making, communication and coping skills. Selected students are trained as peer educators and supported to establish life skills clubs in their schools, creating safe spaces for extracurricular activities and positive peer influence. This is complemented by training for teachers and parent engagement activities.

Many young people remain vulnerable beyond the school setting. Some stay connected to the project after graduation but lack the financial means to pursue further education. Others re-engage because of past experiences with drug use or social

exclusion. **Poverty is a major barrier to long-term wellbeing. While life skills education strengthens resilience and personal responsibility, these competencies alone are often insufficient when economic insecurity limits opportunities. Poverty and exclusion increase vulnerability to alcohol and other drug use.** To address this, International Blue Cross complements prevention with vocational skills training in areas such as WiFi installation, cosmetics production and other income-generating activities, helping young people build livelihood opportunities and greater economic independence.

International Blue Cross has also strengthened its work with families by introducing a seed funding approach targeting mothers of project participants and other vulnerable women. Participants receive training in budgeting, basic accounting and entrepreneurship, as well as non-repayable seed grants to invest in their small businesses.



Nadège from Congo Brazzaville with one of her four daughters

By combining practical income-generating skills with life skills development, participants gain both the technical and social competencies needed to build stable livelihoods. This approach is currently being implemented in Togo, Tanzania and the Republic of Congo, where participants report increased confidence and improved income stability.

Closing One Chapter, Opening Another

In May 2024, we concluded our Life Skills-based prevention projects in Poland and Romania, implemented in collaboration with our Polish and Romanian Blue Cross partners. As IBC's first Life Skills prevention intervention in Europe, the projects revealed considerable prevention needs in both countries. Building on these insights, we are currently exploring opportunities to continue this work in Romania – the experience has opened perspectives for possible future engagement.

At the same time, IBC has launched a new Life Skills education project in Ghana in close collaboration with Blue Cross Ghana. The project team will work in schools and communities to strengthen prevention, resilience and supportive relationships in children's everyday lives.

While schools are important places for prevention, protection and hope, project activities extend beyond the school gate: Alongside school-

based prevention, the project will also contribute to alcohol policy advocacy, helping to raise awareness that protecting children and young people requires not only education, but also stronger public measures to reduce easy access and exposure to alcohol. In this way, the project connects community-level prevention

with longer-term policy change for healthier and safer environments for young people in Ghana.



Participating Ukrainian children in Sibiu, Romania



Project participants in Sibiu, Romania

Global Unity in Action: Highlights from the IBC General Assembly Week in Lomé

In October 2025, the International Blue Cross (IBC) General Assembly was held in Lomé, Togo, bringing together delegates from 31 member organisations. This first in-person General Assembly in nine years marked an important moment of reconnection and reaffirmed the shared commitment of IBC members to the prevention of alcohol and other drug-related harm, policy and advocacy work, and strong organisational leadership and governance based on IBC values.

8

Discussions during the Assembly reflected both the urgency of current global challenges and the responsibility of IBC to respond collectively. With a forward-looking perspective, members engaged in dialogue around priorities for the coming four years, building on proven approaches in treatment, prevention, policy and advocacy, membership development, and leadership grounded in Christian values. Delegates emphasised that in order to reach change we need evidence-based methods, lived experience, and openness to learning from diverse



General Assembly Family Portrait

national and cultural contexts.

The meeting also addressed the growing impact of the commercial determinants of health worldwide. Members highlighted how alcohol, other drugs, gambling, gaming, mobile phones, and social media contribute to addiction and harm, and urged action as these problems can be prevented

with the right interventions. Members placed an emphasis on behavioural change approaches at the individual and policy levels, access to brief interventions and treatment, and the importance of comprehensive support services such as self-help groups, accommodation, employment opportunities, and community support. The diversity of approaches across Blue



Board member Grace Thudi from Botswana during a workshop

Cross organisations was recognised as a key strength.

A key element of the programme was the networking and knowledge-exchange sessions led by member organisations through thematic stations. Participants shared practical experiences and best practices related to advocacy processes, youth programmes, community-based

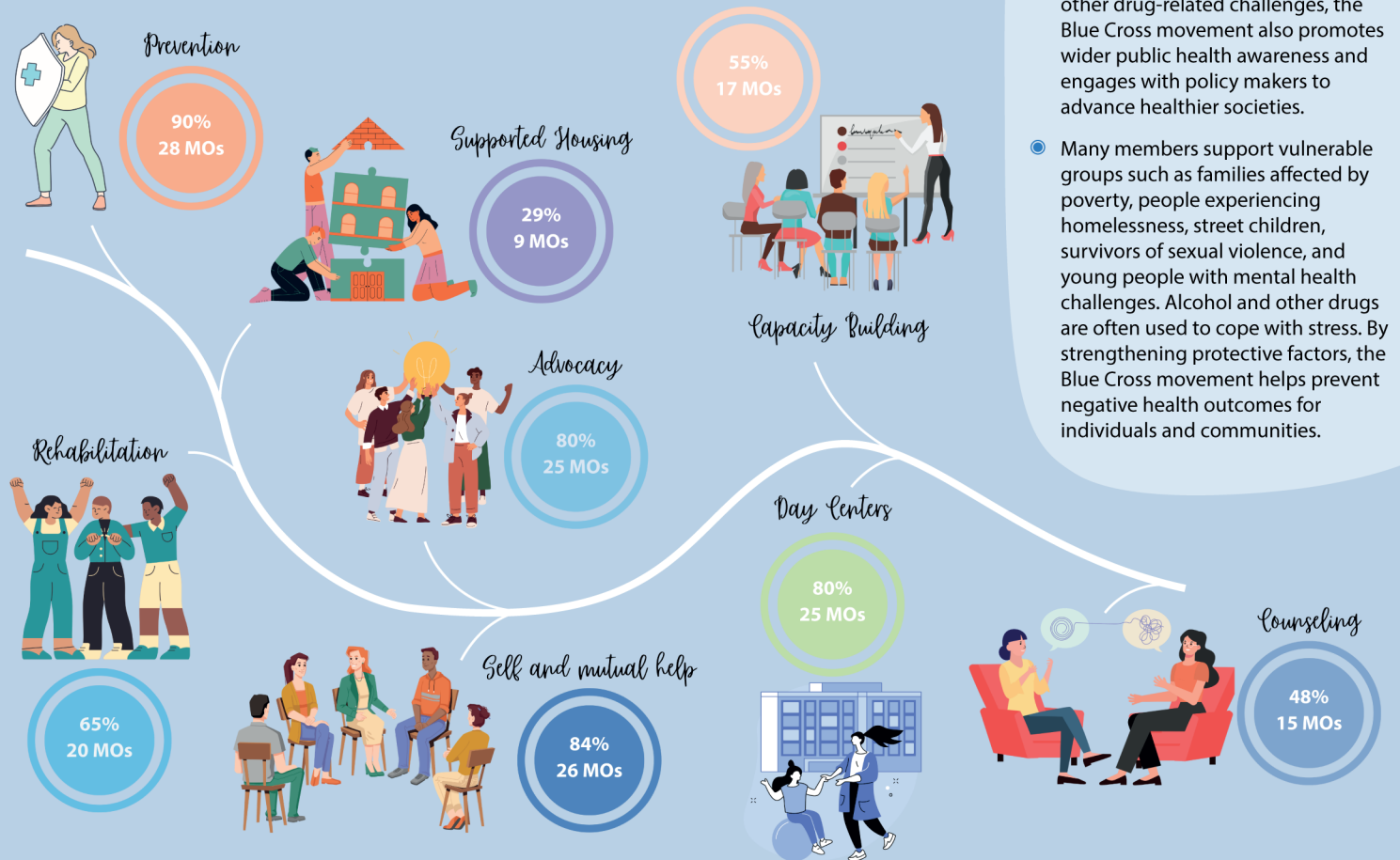
prevention, family support, responses to behavioural addictions, and using faith as a resource in professional work. These sessions highlighted the strength and diversity of the Blue Cross network and fostered mutual learning, inspiration, and concrete opportunities for future cooperation.

The General Assembly also fulfilled its

statutory governance responsibilities. Delegates reviewed and approved the reports for 2021–2024, approved the audited financial statements, and endorsed the strategic vision and implementation plan for 2025–2028, making some updates to the IBC statutes. Finally the new Network Committee was elected for the next 4 years, including: Reinhard Jahn (Germany) President, Hans Eglin (Switzerland) Vice President. Torbjoerg Aalborg (Norway), Patrick Adjei Acheampong (Ghana), Ewa Duda (Poland), Rolf Hartmann (Brazil), Dan Kofoed Månsson (Denmark), Grace Tshegofatso Thudi (Botswana), Mawouena Komlan Bohm (Togo). The Assembly also expressed gratitude to outgoing Committee members for their dedicated service and celebrated the united spirit of working together with all member organisations of the International Blue Cross.

Stronger Together!

Global Impact of IBC's 37 Member Organisations



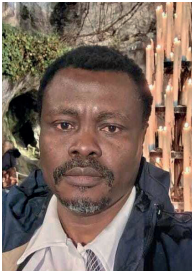
- Our members deliver services that reach people across all age groups. Alongside our core work supporting individuals affected by alcohol and other drug-related challenges, the Blue Cross movement also promotes wider public health awareness and engages with policy makers to advance healthier societies.
- Many members support vulnerable groups such as families affected by poverty, people experiencing homelessness, street children, survivors of sexual violence, and young people with mental health challenges. Alcohol and other drugs are often used to cope with stress. By strengthening protective factors, the Blue Cross movement helps prevent negative health outcomes for individuals and communities.

IBC Volunteers: Worldwide Engagement



Isabelle

Since the beginning of the refugee crisis in 2015, I felt the importance of solidarity, which led me to humanitarian work. IBC's insight into development co-operation work inspired me to continue in a similar field. I value the exchange with our partners and the sense of shared purpose via support for the self-help project development in Nepal. At IBC, I came to understand that volunteering is most rewarding when it creates value for everyone involved.



Nestor

I am a Togolese professional interpreter living in France. I have been volunteering with IBC for over a year, contributing as a translator and interpreter for the organization of the IBC International General Assembly. Here I discovered the tragedy of alcohol and substance abuse and the urgent need to fight it. Volunteering has helped me to develop new insights, and it is my contribution to making the world a better place.



Vinitha

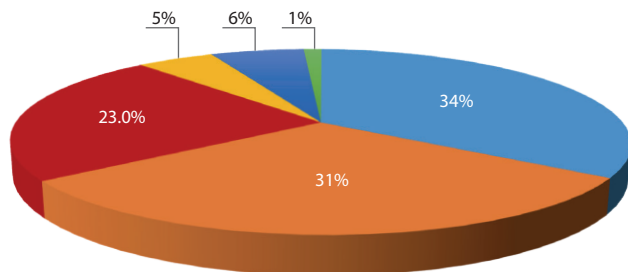
As a Christian, I have always tried to be involved in good causes but had limited time for volunteering. At IBC I helped with the self-help project budgets and verifying financial reports. Working closely with the General Secretary and seeing her passion and patience has been very inspiring! Providing support to stay away from addiction and creating awareness in the community will benefit everyone. Playing a small role in such a huge cause has been very fulfilling.

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

Assets	2025 CHF	2024 CHF
Cash and Cash Equivalents	580,350.18	661,575.52
Short-term Receivables	14,104.97	157,646.29
Accrued Assets	16,271.66	31,858.12
Total Current Assets	610,726.81	851,079.93
Financial Assets	439,939.92	420,265.55
Furniture and Equipment	1,415.02	1,397.68
Total Fixed Assets	441,354.94	421,663.23
Total Assets	1,052,081.75	1,272,743.16

Income

Foundations	34%	Blue Cross Organisations/ Societies	5%
Public Institutions	31%	Churches	6%
Membership Fees	23%	Private Donors	1%



Liabilities and Equity	2025 CHF	2024 CHF
Trade accounts payable	18,347.64	26,603.98
Deferrals	115,457.49	219,496.83
Total Current liabilities	133,805.13	246,100.81
Provisions	0.00	60,000.00
Total long-term liabilities	0.00	60,000.00
Chad	11,086.09	24,354.39
Congo Brazzaville	11,190.28	42,205.40
Brasil	3.42	721.44
Tanzania	11,303.41	0.00
Togo	11,602.54	25,635.80
Ghana	1,437.96	0.00
Romania	20,000.00	0.00
Eastern Europe	0.00	55,518.79
Denmark, Finland, Greenland	679.51	462.07
Lifeskills Program	5,879.65	5,879.65
Self help	1,391.98	0.00
Total Funds	74,574.84	154,777.54
Paid in capital	433.25	433.25
General reserve	10,000.00	10,000.00
Organisation reserve	315,249.67	315,249.67
Solidarité	331,300.66	331,300.66
Organisational Development	154,881.23	122,130.00
Result for the year	31,836.97	32,751.23
Total Equity	843,701.78	811,864.81
Total Liabilities and equity	1,052,081.75	1,272,743.16

	2025 CHF	2024 CHF
Income		
Membership contributions	218,399.30	205,245.17
Donations and contributions	432,997.53	713,336.99
Government grants	290,090.41	314,181.24
Other income	4,950.40	4,561.40
Total Income	946,437.64	1,237,324.80

Expenses

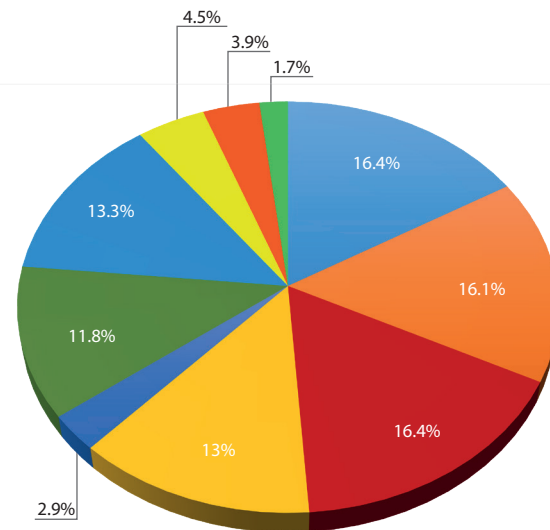
Project expenses	-826,705.96	-870,217.48
Fundraising expenses	-67,923.74	-67,036.02
Administrative expenses	-141,600.17	-148,124.65
Total Expenses	-1,036,229.87	-1,085,378.15

Operating result	-89,792.23	151,946.65
Financial income incl. foreign exchange profit	45,987.84	32,333.93
Financial cost incl. foreign exchange loss	-4,561.34	-5,063.41
Financial result	41,426.50	27,270.52
Operating result before changes in funds	-48,365.73	179,217.17
Allocation to project funds	-692,453.68	-990,386.04
Withdrawal from project funds	772,656.38	843,920.10
Funds result	80,202.70	-146,465.94
Result before allocation	31,836.97	32,751.23
Allocation organ. development fund	-31,836.97	-32,751.23
Result for the year	0.00	0.00

Expenses

CHAD - Life Skills	16.4%
CONGO - Life Skills	16.1%
TOGO - Life Skills	16.4%
TANZANIA - Life Skills	13%
GHANA - Life Skills	2.9%
POLAND/ROMANIA - Life Skills	11.8%

Knowledge transfer / Sensitization MO's	13.3%
Alcohol Policy	4.5%
Self Help Uganda, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Nigeria, Ghana, Madagascar, Rep. Congo, Nepal, Brazil	3.9%
General sensitization	1.7%



Audit Report 2025

The 2025 Financial Statements have been prepared according to Swiss GAAP FER, in particular standard 21 regarding "Accounting for charitable non-profit organisations". BDO AG, as statutory auditor, has examined the Financial Statements of International Blue Cross. 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.

Tribute to Donors and Partners

Among our current partners and donors are:

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA)
- Aussenministerium der Färöer-Inseln – Regierung der Färöer-Inseln

FOUNDATIONS & SOCIETIES

- Foundation Widmer et Creux
- Foundation Jugendsozialwerk BK Baselland
- Foundation Solidarität mit der Welt
- Däster-Schild Foundation
- Starr International Foundation
- Foundation Global Giving
- Interaction – StopArmut
- KoGe Kooperationsgemeinschaft
- Blaues Kreuz Zürich
- Blaues Kreuz Ostermundigen
- Blaues Kreuz Schweiz (Sie helfen, wir helfen)
- Blaues Kreuz Deutschland
- Blaues Kreuz Dänemark
- Blaues Kreuz Finnland

CHURCHES

- Association of Churches (Partnerwerke) Zurich
- Evang. Ref. Church of St. Gallen
- Evang. Ref. Church of Horw
- Evang. Ref. Parish Köniz
- Evang. Ref. Parish Zug
- Evang. Ref. Parish Rapperswil-Jona
- Evang. Ref. Parish Schwarzenburg
- Evang. Ref. Parish Luzern

- Evang. Ref. Parish Frieden Bern
- Evang. Ref. Parish Bern Nord
- Evang. Ref. Parish Goldach
- Evang. Ref. Parish Bümpliz
- Reformed Church Belp-Belpberg-Toffen
- Reformed Church Vechigen
- Association of Ref. Parishes Winterthur
- Roman Catholic Church Langenthal
- Catholic Church of the city of Zug
- Catholic Church Lausanne
- Catholic Parish Office St. Josef

MUNICIPALITIES & CANTONS

- Swisslos Fund Canton Aargau
- Swisslos Fund Canton Glarus
- City of Burgdorf
- City of Rapperswil-Jona
- Municipality of Risch Rotkreuz

COMPANIES

- Black Gazelle



**Thank you for enabling change by
DOING IT TOGETHER with us!**

IBC Network Committee



Reinhard Jahn
President IBC
Blue Cross Germany
Board Member since 2008



Hans Eglin
Vice President IBC
Blue Cross Switzerland
Board Member since 2016



Grace Tshogofatso Thudi
Blue Cross Botswana
Board Member since 2025



Rolf Hartmann
Blue Cross Brazil
Board Member since 2008



Mawouena Komlan Bohm
Blue Cross Togo
Board Member since 2025



Ewa Duda
Blue Cross Poland
Board Member since 2021



Torbjørg Aalborg
Blue Cross Norway
Board Member since 2025



Dan Kofoed Mansson
Blue Cross Denmark
Board Member since 2025



Patrick Acheampong
Blue Cross Ghana
Board Member since 2021

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Anne Babb
General Secretary



Katrin Schmidt
Finance Officer



Flavia Ganarin
Program Manager



Julian Sterling
PR/Fundraising Officer



Mirjam Schmitz
Program Officer



Anna Schwaller
Administration- & Project Assistant



Sonja Pönisch
Administration & Responsible
Members



Ediom Nelson
Alcohol and other Drug Policy
Advocacy Officer

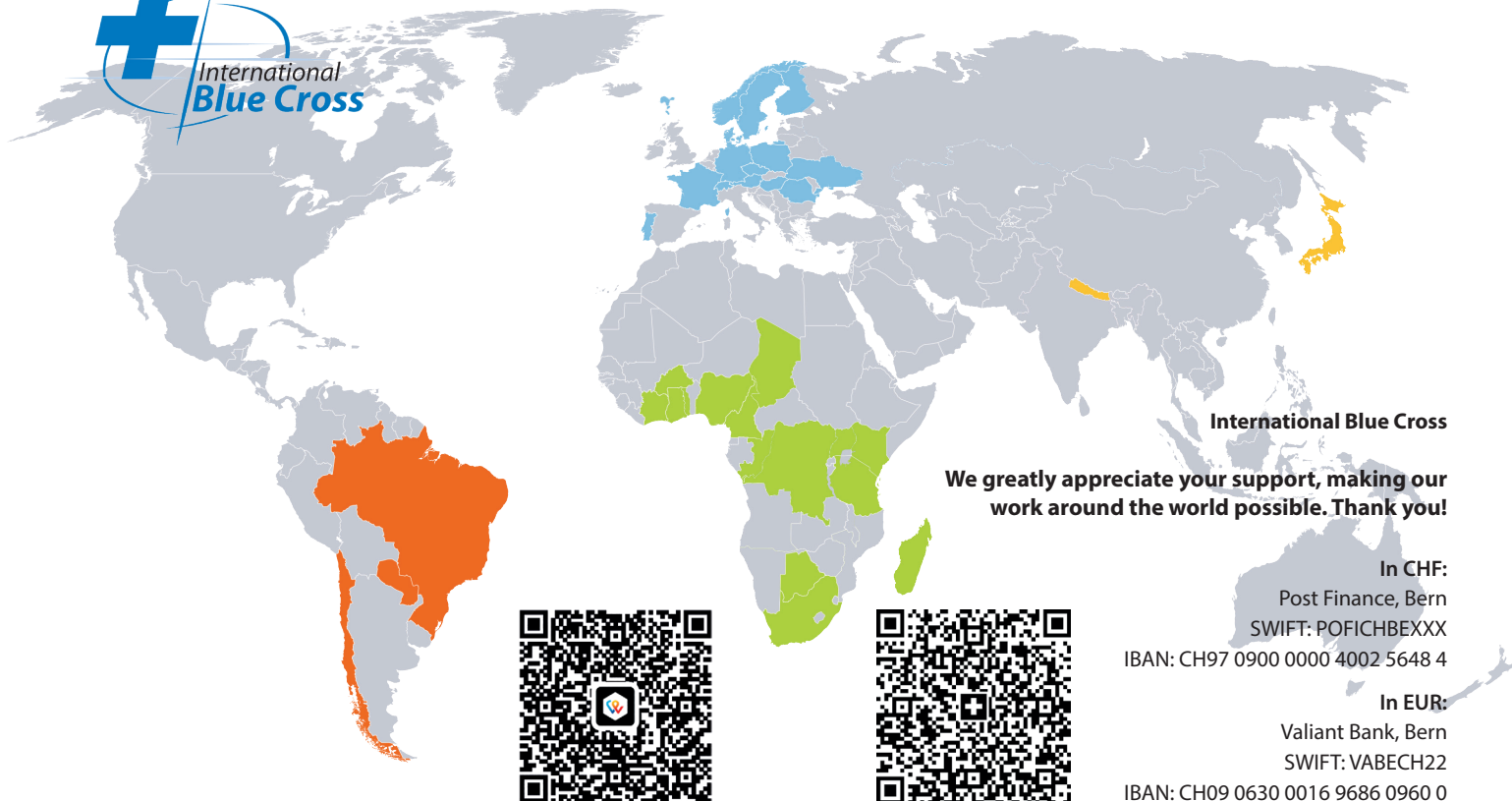


Anna Lozko
Administration, PR & Communication
Officer



Jonas Graf
Fundraising & Communication
Assistant

The Network Committee extends a warm Thank You to all supporters, partners and above all its volunteers who have dedicated in total 1,700 hours of their time to IBC in 2025.



International Blue Cross

We greatly appreciate your support, making our work around the world possible. Thank you!

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

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