



Impact Report 2021

a pivotal year

June 14th, 2022



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Chair's message

Gary Shaughnessy

Saying that 2021 was an extraordinary year understates the reality. The phrase “before COVID” has rapidly become normal but the consequences are anything but that. The wider impact of the pandemic across the planet, the accelerating vulnerability of communities to climate change, and the less visible but no less dramatic impact of uncertainty and inequity on the mental well-being of our societies and the confidence of the youth of the world in particular, are all too big for just one organization to change. The appalling crisis in Europe has brought with it scars that will drive down even further a generation’s trust and confidence in our future.

Against this darkening backdrop, I am incredibly proud of the actions that the Z Zurich Foundation (the Foundation), the people of Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) and the charitable organizations we work with are taking. Individual actions can and do make real and lasting difference to the vulnerable in our society. They also create momentum for society-wide change. Today, there is widespread recognition of the need for action to protect our planet and its people. The early activists were not always popular or listened to but their legacy is felt every day.

We took early action to focus in 2021 on the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable. Globally, our campaign supported UNICEF’s efforts for the COVAX Facility, aiming to deliver COVID-19 vaccine doses to those who were particularly disadvantaged, was the right action undertaken rapidly. Working in about 50 countries across the world, we have responded to the incredible humanity of Zurich people committed to making a real difference to the communities in which they live and work. We also continued to support the charities we work with so they could focus on the needs of their beneficiaries safe from immediate financial challenges.

The outstanding Foundation management team, led so well by Gregory Renand, ensured that we didn’t lose sight of the long term change we can effect, for example through preventative work on floods. In fact, we have accelerated this work and its impact rapidly – in 2021 we helped 300 communities in 21 countries put themselves in control to protect themselves from the ravages of flooding and supporting stability for 600,000 people, 90%

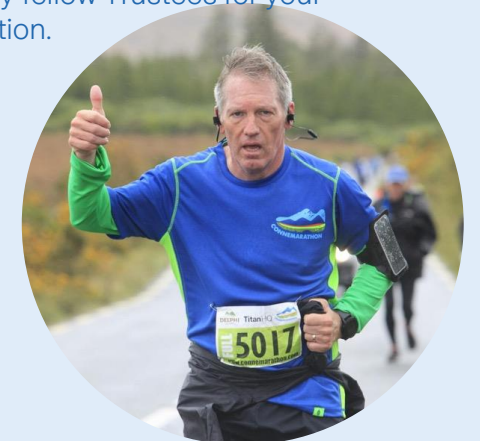
more than last year. The program in Peru has been a key contributor to this increase. The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is now globally recognized and responded to by governments. Likewise, we have pushed forward with more programs in more countries than ever that support mental wellbeing and deal with social exclusion and inequity. Programs like Tackle your Feelings and collaborations like those with the Forge Foundation and Junior Achievement are having even more impact and last year, through our country programs alone, we were able to make a difference for 925,000 people in 28 countries across the world.

As we turned to 2022, Zurich people and the Foundation showed their humanity once more, this time providing support and homes for those fleeing the horrors of Ukraine. At the same time, we committed to a coalition of the willing to help the mental wellbeing of the youth of the world. By reducing stigma and taking early and preventative action we have already seen that change can happen but it needs society wide commitment to make this happen.

Thank you to the Foundation Team, champions and volunteers across the world, the charities we collaborate with for the impact delivered, my fellow Trustees for your commitment and Zurich for your support to the Foundation.



Gary Shaughnessy
Chair of the Z Zurich Foundation
2016-2022



Head's message

Gregory Renand



What 2021 taught me is that despite the challenges, together we can move mountains. Indeed, 2021 was a pivotal year for the Z Zurich Foundation. A year where we again saw people joining forces.

An amazing example was the fundraising campaign the Foundation launched to support UNICEF's efforts to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries. Zurich employees, customers, suppliers, and distributors answered the Foundation's call to action to ensure vaccine equity. This was the biggest fundraising campaign in the Foundation's history. A true example of activism in action and how, when we join forces, we can create brighter futures for the most vulnerable people.

The ability we all have to inspire each other gives us robust foundations to be there in time of crisis, while also delivering on our ambition to make a difference in the lives of 11 million people by 2024.

In 2021, we have made exceptional progress in the execution of our strategy. We positively impacted 3,770,000 people worldwide (18% year-on-year increase). In parallel, we strengthened our capacity and ability to accelerate our impact further, with the development of more multi-year strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations.

Thank you to all the activists among you who have embarked on this impactful journey with us. I look forward to continuing our work together.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, reading "Gregory Renand".

Gregory Renand
Head of the Z Zurich Foundation

Impact in 2021



2021 in numbers

3,770,000 lives at least *positively impacted* *

1,700,000 people received two doses of COVID-19 vaccines as part of our global campaign to support UNICEF's efforts to ensure vaccine equity worldwide

Adapting to climate change: **602,000** people, whereof **578,000** transformed lives



Improving mental wellbeing: **243,000** people, whereof **3,300** transformed lives



Enabling social equity: **90,000** people, whereof **17,800** transformed lives



Matching of Zurich** employee donations and smaller engagement grants: **270,000 lives**

CHF 31m invested in community grants in 2021, in line with 2020, and **CHF 13m** worth of new and extended multi-year grants were approved



17 new local grant programs to support projects under the Foundation's strategic areas

56% of Zurich's employee* base volunteered**, in addition to providing other innovative forms of engagement during this exceptional year. Employee fundraising was slightly below 2020 levels

CHF 2.4m+ of Zurich employee*** donations (up 88% compared to 2020)

16 Community Hero Awards presented to recognize Zurich employees, who are going above and beyond to support their communities



* Positively impacted & transformed numbers from local grants reporting in July 2020 and 2021 in January. 2021 beneficiary impact of grants reporting on an academic year cycle (July) will be accounted as part of the 2022 impact report

** Zurich Insurance Group Ltd and its subsidiaries (Zurich)

*** Excluded are employees of the Farmers Exchanges. Zurich Insurance Group has no ownership interest in the Farmers Exchanges. Farmers Group, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Zurich Insurance Group, provides certain non-claims services and ancillary services to the Farmers Exchanges as attorney-in-fact and receives fees for its services

Our impact in 2021

Context: SDGs and alignment with Zurich

We are at the heart of Zurich Insurance Group's (Zurich) ambition to be one of the most impactful and responsible businesses in the world.

We work alongside Zurich employees and other stakeholders as well as with governments and NGOs in pursuit of a future where people can thrive in the face of increasing climate hazards, where those of us feeling the stresses of life are empowered to speak up, and where the marginalized in our society can reach their full potential.

We believe the key to creating a fairer, more open and sustainable society is by forging connections.

Our work aligns with the UN Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) and especially: SDGs 3, 4, 8, 11 and 13.



Adapting to climate change

Focus on adaptation and prevention



Improving mental wellbeing

Focus on youth and prevention



Enabling social equity

Focus on youth education



Our impact in 2021

On our way to deliver on our 5-years strategic goals

By 2024, we aim to:

- Create transformative change in the lives of more than one million vulnerable people and positively impact the lives of 10 million others. At the end of 2021, we are about almost a year ahead to reach these targets
- Have more than 50 percent of Zurich employees actively engaged in community programs and activities. In 2021, the level of volunteering was 56 percent.
- Have 100 percent of Zurich employees feeling proud of the work of the Z Zurich Foundation. In 2021, the level of pride was equal to 95 percent.
- Have more than 90 percent of the charities we work with see us as a more than a mere financial partner and recommend working with us

We are confident with the effectiveness of our approach to deliver on this strategic cycle. We are developing stronger strategic partnerships to address challenges with a multi-year view to ensure long-term and sustainable outcomes for the most vulnerable.

Total 2021: at least 3'770'000 lives positively impacted (+18% YoY)

2021 long-term impact: 925'000 lives →

327'000 positively impacted and 598'000 transformed

The long-term impact delivered in 2021 is nearly 5 times higher than in 2020.¹

2021 short-term impact: 2'835'000 lives

- Covid-19 response: 2'565'000 positively impacted lives (1.7m people from UNICEF's efforts through the COVAX Facility)
- Small grants: 270'000 positively impacted lives

Progress against 5 years' impact on beneficiaries after 2 years



ZZF Impact in 2021 - Strategic Pillars



602'000 lives

- 24'000 positively impacted
- 578'000 transformed



238'000 lives

- 235'000 positively impacted
- 3'000 transformed



85'000 lives

- 68'000 positively impacted
- 17'000 transformed

For each of our pillars, we have defined specific impact personas to clarify our definitions of "positively impacted" and "transformed." In a summary way:

- A person has been "positively impacted" if we observe some substantive improvement in their lives as a result of the activity
- A person is "transformed" if we observe an enduring change in their circumstances as a result of the intervention

Dedicated support when crisis hit

Largest fundraising campaign in 48 years of the Foundation's history to support vaccine equity worldwide

In 2021, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic remained critical. We have continued to support the most vulnerable by providing tailored grants to support local disaster relief initiatives identified by Zurich's business units.

While the pandemic's long-term impacts are hard to foresee, the economic downturn in 2020 had severe repercussions on women, youth, the poor, the informally employed, and those who work in low-income sectors. With the partial recovery in 2021, we saw new needs emerging, such as vaccination equity. In April 2021, we committed to support UNICEF's efforts to deliver COVID-19 vaccine doses to the most vulnerable. Zurich's offices, employees, customers and distributors joined the race to end the pandemic and participated in the biggest fundraising campaign driven by the Foundation since its establishment in 1973. The campaign raised enough funds for UNICEF to deliver two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to more than 1.7 million people.



“We thank Z Zurich Foundation and its global network for their generous contributions in support of global vaccine equity,” said Carla Haddad Mardini, Director of UNICEF's Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division. **“All sectors need to join hands to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. Because this will not be over for any of us, until it is over for all of us.”**

“There is a global movement to ensure everyone has a chance to be protected from COVID-19 and we applaud everyone who has been supporting it, through our own initiative or others. Every commitment counts to provide equitable access to vaccination,” said Gregory Renand, Head of the Z Zurich Foundation. **“The race is not over yet and 2022 will be an important year for the world to strengthen its resilience against COVID-19.”**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6878624773132443648>



Increased levels of support to humanitarian relief efforts

To respond to an intense set of natural catastrophes which took place over the summer, the Foundation provided support to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Haiti, the U.S. and Canada. We have also seen incredible fundraising efforts from Zurich offices and employees to support relief efforts.

In addition, we have also responded to the refugee crisis following the worsening situation in Afghanistan by donating to the emergency appeal of the International Rescue Committee, a leading charity supporting refugees, to help provide mental health and integration support as people look to the future.



Impact built on strong foundations

We have been working on Climate Change Adaptation since our first collaboration with Zurich in 2013, when we jointly founded the [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#) (the Alliance). This multi-sector global collaboration is focused on finding practical ways to help communities strengthen their resilience to floods. The Alliance approach not only works directly with communities, but also uses the community experience, and bespoke research, to advocate for changes at a system level.

During 2020, the Alliance was able to report having an initial impact with around 315,000 people – largely through the community-level program work. 2021 though, has seen a step-change in the impact that the Alliance is having with 24,000 people positively impacted through the community programs, and around 578,000 lives transformed largely through scaling.

It has been a long-term effort that has led to this significant jump in the numbers. For example, most of the transformed numbers come from work that is happening in Peru. Here we started to work in 2013 with the first phase of the flood resilience program.

By working in communities over the past eight years, testing ideas and building credibility for those solutions, Alliance partner Practical Action has been able to develop its relationships with the national government. This has resulted in the national weather service adopting their low-cost weather stations as part of a country-wide Early Warning System. The numbers represent the impact of that scaled operation.

It is this long-term foundation that will see increasing impact as the program progresses in the next 3 years. And in 2021 we added even more to that base by extending community work further. From around 75 communities in 2019, we have quadrupled that number to over 300 across more than 20 countries including in Africa for the first time.

At a global level, the evidence coming from the community work and our research continues to be used to encourage others to increase their funding commitments to adaptation/resilience building. In 2021, the Alliance influenced a further USD 74.4 million, taking the total influenced to date to USD 420.5 million (around 42% of the program target).



Scaling-up *climate change* adaptation

Gita is a 29-year-old woman living in Nangapur, a village in western Nepal close to the Karnali River. She is an entrepreneur, managing a small fast-food restaurant, a Community Disaster Management Committee member, active in the community's First Aid Task Force, and the mother of a small child. How has Gita's fast-food restaurant in Nepal enhanced her and her family's Flood Resilience?

→ Read more from Alliance member Practical Action:
<https://floodresilience.net/blogs/livelihood-diversification-for-flood-resilience-nepal/>

Gita's Story

<https://youtu.be/M3UtyXNwXCg>

Shaping a global movement to improve mental wellbeing of young people

2021 was also the year of the launch of our first global program in the mental wellbeing space. Building on a strong set of award-winning local projects in Australia, Ireland, Turkey and the Isle of Man, we have launched a three-year global strategic partnership with UNICEF to promote young people's mental wellbeing. The partnership aims to initially equip 400,000 adolescents and 150,000 caregivers in seven countries (Vietnam, Mexico, Indonesia, Nepal, Colombia, Ecuador, and the Maldives) with information, skills and strategies on how to care for their own and each other's mental wellbeing.

As part of this partnership, the Foundation is supporting with expertise, resources and amplification

capabilities #OnMyMind, UNICEF's public engagement campaign targeting young people and other key audiences on mental health promotion and prevention.

Over the duration of the program, this global communication campaign aims to engage 30 million people and promote positive conversations and connections that increase awareness, knowledge and action around mental wellbeing. In 2021, #OnMyMind already reached 211.5 million people.

One moment, one conversation, one question can change everything. Watch the Hero Film [\[One question can change everything | UNICEF – YouTube\]](#)

As part of this partnership, we are building a [Global Coalition for Youth Mental Well-being](#), officially launched on April 7th, 2022. The coalition is seeking to bring together public and private sector actors who are willing to take action to promote the positive mental well-being of young people. We aim to positively impact 30 million people by 2030 in 30 countries.



Changes come *from within*

If we can help break down the social stigma around mental health, then more people who are suffering will feel able to speak out about it. At the Z Zurich Foundation, we are coming together to help people take control of their wellbeing.

→ Discover all the charitable organizations we work with in the mental wellbeing space: <https://www.zurich.foundation/mental-wellbeing>



<https://youtu.be/3dbIP8v9JB0>

Tackle Your Feelings (TYF)

Our award-winning programs continue to positively impact Australian and Irish communities with online activities, webinars and face-to-face interventions, enabling also the programs to reach different locations.



Fit minds kick goals (Australia)

In 2021, the [Tackle Your Feelings](#) program was delivered to more than 4000 in every Australian state and territory, from 359 clubs via 16 participants' workshops. Watch a recap video of the year [here](#) and read more about the program on its [dedicated website](#).



Take control (Ireland)

2021 was a journey of continuous improvement. The [campaign](#) has reached millions of people, through its dedicated app, advertisement, [ambassadors' stories](#) and its school and workplace programs who were well received by the audiences.

The campaign also won an Award for Excellence in [PR for Best Long Term Campaign](#) alongside the team at Wilson Hartnell.



Meet Nathan Buckley (Australia)

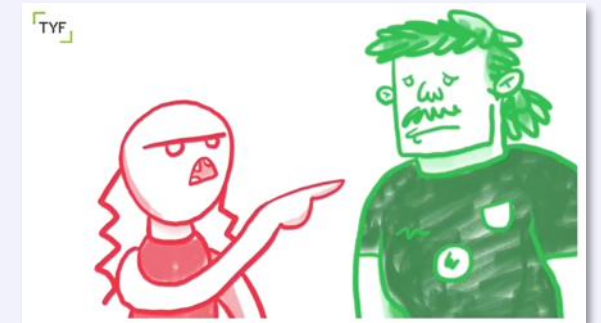
Former Collingwood Football Club captain and coach Nathan Buckley experienced a journey of personal development and growth throughout his 498-game playing/coaching career in the AFL.

TYF Australia welcomed Nathan onboard as an ambassador and he shared his story here:

<https://vimeo.com/583715641>

Be kind online (Ireland)

During the final stages of the Guinness Six Nations in 2021, the Tackle Your Feelings campaign had encouraged people to 'be kind' online with a series of animated videos. It focuses on toxic abuse relating to player performance, trolling, highlighting racism and sexism on social media with the videos' content voiced by children, reverse role-modelling. The animations were created using real tweets that have been directed at Irish rugby players.



Learn more here:

<https://www.tackleyourfeelings.com/be-kind-online/>

Create an equitable society

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many vulnerabilities in our society, and unfortunately increased social inequalities. All components of human development (education, health and living standards) were negatively impacted*. Needs are growing and, therefore, support should too. One important way the Foundation acts is by empowering young people to take better control of their future.

We collaborate with Zurich business units across the world in tackling local issues to promote and deliver social equity.

*COVID-19 and Human Development: Assessing the Crisis, Envisioning the Recovery | Human Development Reports (undp.org) <
<https://hdr.undp.org/en/hdp-covid>>

Example in Canada – empowering the next generation to succeed

In March 2021, we have started a five-year grant to help students build resilience and take control of their finances and career paths with Junior Achievement (JA).

Through three programs, volunteers from Zurich Canada are inspiring students in grades seven to 12 by delivering JA programs focused on money management, work-readiness and entrepreneurship. Working with approximately 200 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students, Zurich employees are participating in JA work-readiness programs over two school years. These students will take part in several programs and events that focus on critical thinking, communication, collaboration, career options and more. Students also have the opportunity to win one of five post-secondary scholarships.

In 2021, 73 Zurich Canada employees volunteered with JA. The three programs reached over 2,400 students in more than 60 schools across the country.

Hear from JA student Connor, as he shares his experience as a young entrepreneur:
<https://twitter.com/JACentralON/status>

Volunteer spotlight - Sameer, Zurich Canada
<https://www.jacentralontario.org/about-us/meet-our-volunteers/volunteer-spotlight-sameer-zurich-canada/>



Actions for a fairer future

The stands we make and actions we take together today can shape the lives of those inheriting the world. But we can't change our society for the better without the help of this upcoming generation, embracing differences and diversity. By empowering young people and giving them the tools and resources to take control of their future, we believe we can have a more significant and long-lasting impact on both them and society at large.

→ Discover all the charitable organizations we work with in the mental wellbeing space: <https://www.zurich.foundation/social-equity>



<https://youtu.be/nvDQnBIRQ-k>

Capitalizing
on skills and learnings
to increase impact



Capitalizing on skills and learnings to increase impact

From the work done within our *Adapting to Climate Change* pillar since the launch of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (the Alliance), we have extracted some important learnings and insights that can be transferred across all our activities, starting with replicating success in one country to the other 20 countries where the Alliance is active. We also apply these learnings in the new urban climate resilience pilots we decided in 2021

Another example in our *Improving Mental Wellbeing* pillar: we have started our first global program launched in collaboration with UNICEF. This partnership reflects a common vision: a world where every young person is supported to improve mental wellbeing. One of the ways we aim to achieve this is by building a Global Coalition for Youth Mental Wellbeing. Through this coalition, we are seeking to bring together public and private sector actors who are willing to take action to promote the positive mental wellbeing of young people—including by scaling up the programs piloted as part of our partnership—and to support global and local advocacy on the importance of investing in mental health promotion and prevention for adolescents.

This coalition aims to engage members to:

- Advocate and communicate: leveraging the channels, reach, expertise and influence of its members to advocate for change.
- Invest and support: presenting opportunities for investment in mental wellbeing which can achieve significant impact
- Learn and share: offer cutting-edge insights, peer-to-peer exchange and learning opportunities on relevant topics.



© UNICEF/UN0591955/Bhardwaj



**Global Coalition for
YOUTH MENTAL WELL-BEING**

Spotlight – Why 2021 was a pivotal year for the Alliance

At community level, our interventions have lasting impact. These are largely made up of improvements in human and social capital (knowledge, skills and social structures), often delivered as multiple interventions in communities.

Their scaling and replication is the first indication that our focus on driving systems change is also bearing fruit. There is a lot of government interest in the Zurich Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) approach and data. Examples include government take-up and replication of interventions, such as community brigades in Mexico, and funding additional scale in Peru. As programs embed and are adopted by governments, the potential to scale up increases. Therefore, we are very confident to have further success to report in coming years.

The potential scale-up from Nepal reflected in initial reach numbers suggests that we will have further success to report in coming years.



Playing the Long Game – *The Peru Principles*

Cultivating long-term impact – The Peru Principles

What is happening in Peru, through the work of the Alliance, is a great example of how impact increases and multiplies over time. In addition to impact, looking at long-term programs is also essential to change the system. The established programs help to strengthen foundations, support advocacy strategy and reinforce relationship building with local actors, creating more opportunities to engage and encourage others to contribute and invest resources.

When COVID-19 struck, many organizations had to stop their community-program. It was not the case for the Alliance which successfully adapted the work and continued to deliver impact.

The Alliance will shortly publish its learning report where you will find more info on the work done in Peru and its overall progress and impact in 2021.



Engaging Zurich employees and our wider stakeholder group across the world

At the Z Zurich Foundation, we believe there is an activist in all of us. For us, activism could be a Zurich employee volunteering for a local charity event or encouraging others in their team to stand up for issues in their communities. And it could be uniting organizations and governments to bring policy-level changes that benefit the many. We take pride in redefining what a corporate foundation can be by getting fully involved with the causes we champion, on the ground, day after day.

Our fundraising campaign to support UNICEF and the COVAX Facility to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to the most vulnerable worldwide was one example of how our stakeholders mobilized their network to impact and help those most in need. In 2021, we have continued to open our engagement initiatives to focus on Zurich employees and provide opportunities for other like-minded people and organizations to help us maximize charitable impact.

In support of  **unicef** | for every child



<https://youtu.be/R47OibWPEgk>



Engaging Zurich employees and our wider stakeholder group across the world

Hackathon in LATAM

In September 2021, in collaboration with [NEXT](#) and with support from [Rigou Consultores](#), we launched our first Hackathon across the Latin America region with the aim of gathering Zurich employee volunteers and inviting them to use their skills and passion to help local charities tackle some of their challenges and perform capacity building. About 40 participants participated in three days of activities, working alongside five NGOs who had identified fundraising as a major need in different organizations interviewed across the region.

All volunteers considered that participation in the Hackathon contributed to the development of skills that they can use in their workplace. All the NGOs involved considered that the aim of their participation in the Hackathon was fulfilled to a very high degree.

“An extremely interesting process to go through, and the result was excellent: in three days we did what would have taken us months. The volunteers, in addition to their enthusiasm, contributed personal skills that added (a lot) to the development of the project. The people whom we had the opportunity to interview were extraordinary.”

Anabella Maudet, Fundación Integrar.

[Watch Anabella's testimony](#) and [listen to Diego Hernández](#), Z Zurich Foundation champion in Colombia and volunteer

Following the success of this pilot, we are conducting similar initiatives in 2022 in Asia Pacific, Europe Middle East and Africa, and North America and Bermuda.



Offsetting our digital event

To offset the environmental impact of the activity, we measured its carbon footprint. During the Hackathon, emissions were quantified from the computers of 37 volunteers, nine representatives of NGOs and five facilitators. Total emissions were 0,0496485 tnCO₂eq and will be offset by the Foundation.

What would you highlight about the experience?

“Visualize the strength of collaboration between companies and social organizations. Ability to collaborate with transformation”

Zurich employee in Argentina

“Meet people with big hearts”

Zurich employee in Ecuador

“Collective empathy, respect for diversity of opinions, trust in collaborative work”

Zurich employee in Argentina

“The opportunity to find solutions to problems, the humanization and the heart put into it”

Zurich employee in Colombia

Engaging Zurich employees and our wider stakeholder group across the world

Bringing activism opportunities closer to Zurich employees with the launch of *MyImpact*

MyImpact is a volunteering and fundraising digital platform that the Foundation launched in April 2021. Throughout 2021, and continuing in 2022, we are rolling out this tool to support Zurich employees in their personal activism journey. This platform is currently available in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States, and is empowering Zurich employees to create a positive impact in their local community. The charities we support as well as other organizations can use this platform to connect with Zurich employees for different types of volunteering, such as skill-based. We also use this platform to launch large fundraising campaigns.

"MyImpact is an excellent platform that enables us to make donations which are automatically dollar matched by the Z Zurich Foundation, to donate tax-effectively through payroll giving and importantly, to find and create volunteering opportunities. We aspire for MyImpact to become the 'one stop community shop' in Australia." Vanessa Kredler, Community Project Manager, Customer and Corporate Affairs Zurich Financial Services Australia



Community Hero Awards

Our Community Hero Awards recognize Zurich employees who make significant contributions in their communities. Employees can nominate colleagues for activities, including fundraising, volunteering and campaigning. Each winner receives a one-off donation of CHF 25,000. In 2021, we awarded 16 individuals or teams for going above and beyond to support their local communities. Zurich Group's CEO Mario Greco and the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Management Team presented the awards at a virtual ceremony in November.

Video from Antonio Bico, Zurich Portugal CEO, who won the Outstanding Leadership Award:
<https://youtu.be/8SJQV0goE6c>

Spotlight on Zurich's Pro Bono Committee:

In 2021, the Zurich North America Legal Services Pro Bono Committee received the Foundation's Community Hero Award. The committee also celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Last year, nearly 70 percent of legal professionals across Zurich North America provided a broad range of volunteer services, such as advising nonprofits, representing individuals in immigration proceedings and fielding intake calls for Equip for Equality, which works to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities in Illinois. Since 2012, Zurich pro bono team members have donated more than 1,800 hours to Equip for Equality's Special Education Helpline. As part of the Community Hero award, the pro bono team split its prize equally between the Chicago Bar Foundation and Pro Bono Ontario in Canada. Separately, in honor of the pro bono team's anniversary, we also donated USD 10,000 to Equip for Equality. Zurich Group Legal function is now expanding this pro bono program globally.

Scaling-up
to help more people



How do we approach the next years

In 2021, we aligned our brand to our DNA. Our brand concept “a human touch” reinforces our willingness to connect to what is essential to us: people. The Foundation is all about the people we impact and those who help us create a brighter future for the most vulnerable.

The strong foundations we put in place in 2021 are setting us up well for the future. Over the years, the Foundation Management team, together with the charitable organizations we support and with the passion and commitment of Zurich employees, have responded to several challenges and humanitarian crises, sometimes rebalancing our focus while keeping sight of our end goal: **creating a positive impact and transforming lives.**

Combining resources is crucial to deliver scaled-up sustainable impact and create mutual value. Impact is a measure of change, and that change cannot happen if people – from volunteers and private and public sectors to governments and those in most need of help – do not engage and act. Through this journey, we continue to learn from our programs and our experts. We also develop our infrastructure and create new partnerships with like-minded organizations in order to involve others in local, regional and global projects.



Adapting to climate change

Building resilience in communities positively affects the lives of millions. Expanding on expertise developed with the Alliance, the Foundation has also started work on urban resilience by committing support to three new programs:

1. In the United States, in collaboration with Zurich North America and Resilient Cities Network.
2. In Ecuador, working with Zurich's local office and Alliance member Plan International on flooding issues (on the ground in early 2022).
3. In Colombia, together with Zurich's local office and the Colombian Red Cross and IFRC (on the ground in early 2022).

While the latter two programs focus on flood resilience in an urban context, the American pilot is also integrating heatwaves and a social component.

The 'North America Climate Resilience Program' is our first climate program looking at urban resilience. This multi-year program will initially work in specific neighborhoods of Houston and Boston, seeking to develop actions and implement projects that address climate risks, social inequities and resilience. A cornerstone of the program will be adapting the Zurich Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities [link to <https://floodresilience.net/frmc/>] diagnostic approach from focusing solely on floods to additionally considering heatwaves, all in an urban context.

Read [the full announcement](#) and discover more about the [North America Climate Resilience Program](#)'

New commitments



“This program is a unique opportunity to tackle the complex and interrelated challenges brought on by multiple, cascading climate-related concerns,” says Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network.

“This initiative will enable us not only to address climate change adaptation challenges, but also to engage with and impact underserved communities,” says Kristof Terryn, CEO of Zurich North America and member of Z Zurich Foundation's Board of Trustees. **“Prioritizing resilience building actions for the most vulnerable populations will contribute to a more equitable future within and across communities.”**

Improving mental wellbeing

During 2021, in addition to the launch of our global partnership with UNICEF, which will start in seven countries < <https://www.zurich.foundation/mental-wellbeing/global-program-with-unicef> >, we have pledged funds to support three new multi-year programs at a local level. We also co-funded a nationwide survey on the state of Swiss adolescents' mental health.

A school ecosystem mental health development program in Brazil

In collaboration with [Instituto Ânima](#) and Zurich Minas Brasil Seguros S.A., we will shape a program together with mental health and education experts to inform and raise awareness about mental health issues among students, educators and the whole school community as well as to provide them with appropriate tools to develop self-awareness and self-care. Over the three years of the program, we aim to transform over 200,000 young students' lives and positively impact a further 100,000 over the next three years.

Taking mental health education into New Zealand's schools

In collaboration with Zurich Financial Services Australia Limited in New Zealand and the [Sir John Kirwan Foundation](#), we have pledged a two-year grant to improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary and intermediate students through a school-based education approach called [Mitey](#). Mitey is being rolled out to schools in Auckland and Southland and is set to go nationwide reaching thousands of students and positively impacting the lives of tens of thousands of people (teachers, students and their families). Over the initial two years of Mitey, our grant aims to transform over 11,000 young students' lives and positively impact a further 31,000.



New commitments

Promoting mental health and preventing risk behaviors in Portugal's schools

We have committed funding to support Zurich in Portugal with a first local grant, run in collaboration with its long-term charitable partner [Associação EPIS-Empresários pela Inclusão Social](#). This program will be piloted in approximately 30% of the schools in Portugal. It will seek to increase awareness and readiness in identifying risk situations and promoting mental health and will focus on empowering students and school staff in terms of emotion regulation skills, in order to promote mental health and prevent risk behaviors. We estimate that this grant will benefit close to 45,000 students, over 2,000 families, and 800 teachers.

Enabling social equity

In 2021, we approved funding for four new multi-year grants starting in 2022.

A new program in Ecuador

To facilitate high-quality education for vulnerable communities, we are teaming-up with Zurich Seguros Ecuador S.A and [Unidos por la Educación](#). We estimate that this program will impact over 8,950 people. The program will initially run over 38 months with the ambition to gradually become self-sustainable under the management of the community itself.



New commitments

A first grant in France

A three-year grant to support [Télémaque](#) to fight social determinism and promote equal opportunities in education, in collaboration with Zurich Insurance PLC in France.

This grant will aim to support more than 400 young people per year from fragile territories who have the desire to succeed but lack the keys and the means to achieve their ambitions, by facilitating social success and access to employment, through support courses, English coaching and help with professional integration; self-confidence, through an innovative personal development program "I develop my potential"; social ties and socio-cultural openness, through cultural outings, company visits and educational workshops; discovery of the professional world, through digital meetings with Zurich employees who will present their jobs.

Renewed commitment to two Spanish local grant programs

Over the years, Z Zurich Foundation's relationship with Zurich Insurance PLC in Spain (Zurich Spain) has become stronger. In 2021, the Z Zurich Foundation committed additional funding to support the expansion of the successful Zurich Spain's Dual Vocational Training (DVT) program in the Andalusia, Extremadura, Galicia, and Valencia communities. Already rolled out in Catalonia and Madrid, DVT aims to tackle the high unemployment rate of young people. We have also decided to expand the other local grant, 'Z-Shake,' running with Junior Achievement Spain. Z-SHAKE 5.0 is also oriented to support those communities of young people with vulnerable backgrounds to foster social equity and diversity. We expect to impact more than 82,000 people with these programs in Spain. Our renewed commitments toward these two programs are strongly backed up by Zurich Spain's leading role in the sustainability space and its work to support local communities.

Board Members' reflections on 2021



Jack Howell

Member – 2016-2022

I am continually thankful for and inspired by the hard work and dedication of the Foundation team and all of the members of our Zurich community who support the goals of the Z Zurich Foundation. In the face of a very difficult external environment, they have protected our existing initiatives, launched new programs, and seamlessly pivoted to respond to new challenges. We have a responsibility to improve society and the Foundation is a clear example of how we continually strive to deliver.



Conny Kalcher

Member – 2020-2023

I take great pleasure in supporting the Z Zurich Foundation as they improve people's lives around the world together with our excellent partners. The year's highlight was supporting the team in bringing the purpose and focus on people and impact to life with a brand new Z Zurich Foundation logo and Visual identity. The fresh new look not only helps us get our message across in a more warm and human way it looks contemporary and appealing at the same time.



Alison Martin

Member – 2019-2022

As we see the devastating impacts of extreme weather events around the world increasing, the importance of building resilience and supporting climate adaptation has never been higher. I am immensely proud of the amazing step change in impact that the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance has achieved in 2021; broadening its reach into vulnerable communities to be able to positively impact or transform more than 600,000 lives.

Board Members' reflections on 2021



Sylvia Martinez

Member – 2018-2024

We underestimated the power the grant in Ecuador would have. The objective was to build six new schools for underprivileged children in violent remote areas of the country through Unidos por la Educación. After Z Zurich Foundation's commitment, other large companies decided to enter this project, creating a coalition of the willing to broaden the program from education to a comprehensive pilot first of its kind in the country. It includes nutrition and health critical for the success of children in schools."



Laurence Maurice

Member – 2021-2023

Thanks to the drive of the Foundation team and our business units' engagement, the Z Zurich Foundation was very proactive to adapt the programs to the environmental and health 2021 challenges to support vulnerable communities all over the world.



Tulsi Naidu

Member – 2021-2023

It has been a real privilege to join the Board of Trustees for the Z Zurich Foundation to observe the effectiveness of the Foundation close up - in mobilizing rapidly to play a key role in securing vaccine equity working with UNICEF through the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing development of the Foundation's strategic pillars and in making local grants to causes round the world.

Board Members' reflections on 2021



Kristof Terryn

Member – 2021-2023

As a first year Board member, I was impressed by the quick and decisive action of the Z Zurich Foundation in supporting low- and middle-income countries gain access to the vaccine against COVID-19.



Kathleen Savio

Member – 2011-2023

Part of a favorite African proverb '... If you want to go far, go together' is one way to describe how the Z Zurich Foundation together with the Zurich team is making a difference in our world. More than half of Zurich's people volunteering, record amounts of fundraising, the establishment of new relationships with community partners ... these and many other actions demonstrate the power of engaging together for meaningful impact."



Yilmaz Yildiz

Member – 2018-2024

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to create substantial social and economic inequalities. The power of the Foundation's network and the agility of its team have been vital in helping address medium- and long-term needs.

About Z Zurich Foundation

The Z Zurich Foundation works alongside Zurich Insurance Group employees and other stakeholders as well as with governments and NGOs in pursuit of a future where people can thrive in the face of increasing climate hazards, where those of us feeling the stresses of life are empowered to speak up, and where the marginalized in our society can reach their full potential.

The Z Zurich Foundation is a Swiss-based charitable foundation established by members of the Zurich Insurance Group. It is the main vehicle by which Zurich Insurance Group delivers on its global community investment strategy.

Visit the Z Zurich Foundation's website to learn more about its work: <https://zurich.foundation>. Follow Z Zurich Foundation on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Additional information

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