swiss minor. sports culture & integration.
together for great goal
Oberer Quai 32A, 2503 Biel/Bienne, 077 913 37 82
www.swissminorsci.ch
HR Registration Nummer: CHE-185.758.904

Swiss Minors Activity & Financial Report 2023

Message from President



Swiss Minors believes in creating an environment in which migrants can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. The children and the youth are the real wealth of Nations. We work to expand the choices of migrant youth and children to lead lives that they value and are interesting to them.

Despite the challenges we migrants face, it's heartening to see an apathy in the migrants' constituents, thinking that their efforts will not yield the desired results because of racism. However, the lack of a unified progressive vision on "our side" poses a challenge we must address as we move forward. Maybe our messages are not heard enough. Maybe we speak with too many small voices, divided thus weak.

The year 2023 also marked a new chapter for Swiss Minors. We have a collaboration with Christ Covenant Ministry in Biel/Bienne. Our resilience had been tested since 2012 when we faced years without enough direct or indirect funding. With majorities of our members having financial constraints, the President is obligated to provide credits to keep our Association afloat. Our strength only grew in 2023, after the COVID 19 when we renewed our membership with United for Intercultural Action, FARE network, attended Summer Retreat of ENAR in Bonn Germany and successfully organized Football Tournament for Asylum seekers and Refugees. These give me and the management hope and a base to operate and even, grow. We are not getting comfortable and will intensify our activities and seek more funding.

We, therefore, entreat migrants specially those of African descent to join Swiss Minors to find solutions to our common problems. Swiss bilateral relations with the EU for example, has opened the boarders to European citizens to work in Switzerland. I am not losing sight that, with European culture being similar, African migrants' risk being pushed over in competitive bidding.

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Collaboration with Christ Covenant Ministry (CCM)



We chalked a milestone by collaborating with Christ Covenant Ministries (CCM) led by Apostle Charles Ibekwe in picture. We blend integration through culture and sports with moralized upbringing as Jesus Christ taught and lead us to do. During Sundays we teach the Bible to bring its good values to be applied in our daily lives. Plans are underway to campaign monthly in the city to promote our African cultural and Christian moral values of love and sharing.



WhatsApp Video 2024-08-02 at 16.48.



"Ferien Pass" School Holiday Program, City of Biel.

The School Administration of the City of Biel offers school holiday program for children whose parents and guidance are not available to take care of them. This program is called in German as "Ferien Pass" or in French "Passeport vacances".

Swiss Minors has a place or the opportunity to teach African Culture to both African and Swiss Children. The name of our Program is called the African week. During this time, we teach the children many of whom have not been in Africa how the African children improvised their toys of play because they cannot afford to buy, or those toys are found mainly in the Cities and in urban areas. This is to teach the African children especially, to value what they get in Switzerland, take the chances to learn during their formative years.



We will rejuvenate 16. June African Child Day when South African children were killed for demonstrating for better teaching and in their native language.

Some of our attractions during the "Ferien Pass" are Oware, Ampe, Azonto and Jerusalem dances as well as folklore music like Kyekyekule, Pete Pete and Shakira Waka Waka Kids dance https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj9NA3flLoI






Ferien Pass is one of the ways we raise funds for our activities.

Postcheckkonto IBAN CH74 0900 0000 1537 1519 9

Project Collaborators

MULTIMONDO BASPO contakt-citoyenneté Biel Bienne network fare ACRO Ghana SWISSLOS Sportfonds Kanton Bern

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„Oware“ Afrikanisches Mathematikspiel für alle.

In collaboration with Youth for Human Rights International, we campaigned on Human Rights. ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS. We distributed tracks and explained with videos what Human Rights are. https://www.youthforhumanrights.org.



We used Oware as the point of attraction. Oware is one of the most played games in the Mancala Family of pit and pebbles games. It is the National game of Ghana and the word "Oware" means "He She Marries". The mythology behind the name is believed by many to be the result of a man and a woman falling in love for the Game and played continuously that ended both agreeing to marry that, they do not stop playing to look for partners. The dowry (represented by fields (pits) and seeds. Basically, you're playing for fruitful paddocks.

The game played in Ghana is a social event and is commonly played on the street. Heckling, banging the fist and mocking are all allowed. The game is also used in education among children for the development of mathematics skills.



The basic object of the game is to capture more seeds than your opponent. This is done by landing the last seed you are "sowing" in a pit on the opponent's side which already contains one or two seeds. Other rules allow multiple captures and the avoidance of "stalemates".

Swiss Minors was invited to participate in the World Oware Tournament in Cannes, France.

The world Campion is the one in Black Cap sitting second and playing with the Lady









In collaboration with Prof. Jean Retschitzki, formerly of University of Freiburg - CH, Christ Covenant Ministry (CCM) and Lema Plan International have participated in Swiss Museum of Games, Le Château de la Tour–de–Peitz. We teach the Game of Oware to the public, particularly children.

International meetings and conferences:

Fare network

The strength of the FARE network lies in the diversity of its members, including fan groups, NGO's and amateur clubs and grassroots groups, among others, who contribute with their expertise and act in a concerted effort to make discrimination in football a thing of the past.





Fare works across all levels of the game to advance social inclusion of marginalized and disenfranchised groups and to engage policy makers, key players and governing bodies in the anti-discrimination movement.

On 17.06.2023 Swiss Minors attended Fare members meeting at The Dom Pedro Lisbon, Portugal for General meeting amongst others to elect Board members for the next 3 year

Refugee Inclusion Through Football, tackling anti-Semitism in Football, Fundraising for Inclusion in Sport and Refugee Inclusion Through Football were group discussions held at the meeting.

We had high level representatives from FIFA and UEFA to lecture us on their policies and social intervention programs, particularly women in Football.

We attended FIFA Diversity Award in Milan, Italy as seen in the picture. It is an award given to organizations using Football as spelt in FIFA Football for Hope (FIFA FFH) concept to improve lives in communities.

ENAR

ENAR is the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe. The organisation was set up in 1998 by grassroots activists on a mission to achieve legal changes at European level and make decisive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States. Since then, ENAR has grown and achieved a great deal.



Swiss Minors had the opportunity to attend ENAR Summer Retreat in Bonn, Germany from 17 – 20 August 2023 through United for Intercultural Action, before we became a member in February 2024.



The ENAR's annual Summer Retreat brought together anti-racist activists to practice healing, wellbeing, and joy!

"This year we want to go beyond personal healing strategies and focus more on the power of community and connection in the healing process. We want to facilitate storytelling as a tool for resisting oppression, fostering healing, building a sense of community, and maintaining connectedness.

We want to:

- Create conditions for healing conversations that lead to individual and collective recovery and wellbeing.
- Provide tools for wellbeing that can be implemented within organisations and community spaces.
- Foster a more authentic sense of community and a sense of connectedness and solidarity across communities.
- Emphasize the core strengths and virtues we hold as communities to support organisational resilience." Says the ENAR's team of organizers
- Equip human rights activists with strategies and tools to prevent burnout, cultivate resilience and promote self-care" say the organizing team.

We encourage migrants, especially the children and the youth to register with Swiss Minors to take advantage of more learning about anti racism in Europe and how to combat it.

United

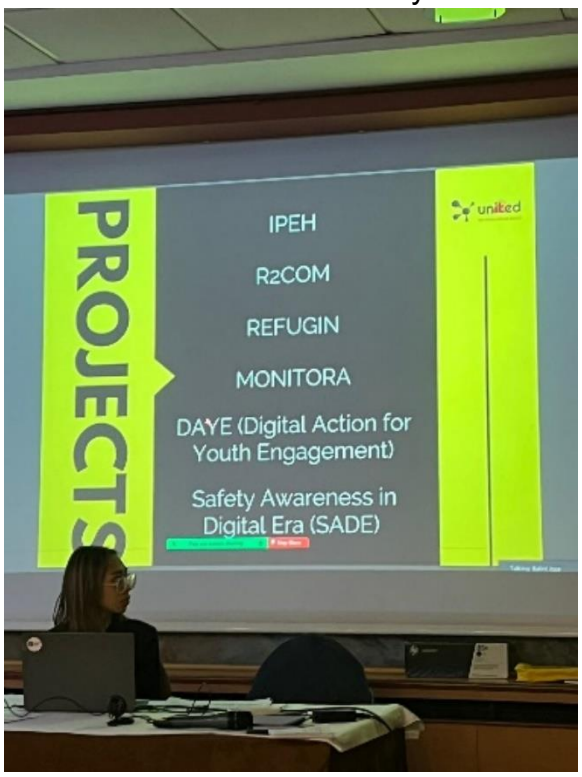
UNITED Conference RESIST RADICAL TOGETHER - Budapest 2023

Looking back at the year that was closing, UNITED shared with us all the main things that happened.



Firstly, was UNITED Conference in Budapest, the first in person conference after the break caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

“It's been a bliss from the start until the end, a great opportunity to reconnect, to assess and to commit together to the next steps of our Network, for our UNITED future”. Say the Director.It's difficult to summarise all the conference in few sentences, but we are happy to share with you some of the images and moments, that you can find in



UNITED Facebook album
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.345192508205515&type=3&rdid=IrtDFp0Cb8hPZX9R&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2Fmrhdba2VY1TqpdQH%2F
and in Instagram stories highlight.
https://www.instagram.com/s/aGlnaGxpZ2h0OjE3OTk2NDgyNjAxMzQyMTgw?igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA%3D%3D

Youth Asylum Centers in Kanton Bern Football Tournament, Biel/Bienne, November 2023.

On 15. November 2023, 8 Youth Asylum Centers in Kanton Bern namely, Wiedlisbach 1, Weier Wohnheim Bern, Oeschberg, Stiftung Zugang B ATZ, Wohnheim Zäziwil, Wiedlisbach 2, Hip Hop Huttwil, and ORS Bellelay met in Biel/Bienne to play a Football Tournament to Win the Cup of Swiss Minors + CCM, FARE Football Tournament, Biel/Bienne 2023.





Adu & Charles pose behind the Trophies and Medals.

The Tournament had the following expected results or impact.

- To make Refugees Children and Youth happy
- To let them feel and think they are loved and belong to the community where they live.
- To learn and reduce the unwanted potential side effects of participation in Football, such as Violence, Exclusion, Racism, Gender Equality.
- To Increase participation of Asylum applicants' representation of minorities and to empower girls in football.
- To motivate parents with migrant background to understand the need for their children to participate in sport as part of the integration process.
- To expand our network outside FARE to other known or unknown partner Institutions.
- Promote an inclusive approach - without any age or gender discrimination - towards fun-based activities.

- Encourage sport activities to improve physical and mental health.



The background had been Promoting behavior that instils the positive values of Football in society. In the right circumstances, sport can make an important contribution to society by fostering integration processes and the healthy development of the People.

Swiss Minors runs integration, Human Rights campaigns, inclusion of Asylum seekers of which these Events are part, to raise awareness of the issues of Exclusion, Racism, Gender Equality, and Networking which in this Social Media age cannot be overemphasized.



International migration is one of the defining attributes of recent decades. It has had a marked effect on the social and economic development of numerous countries. Efforts are under way by Authorities and Civil society groups at both the national and international level to meet the challenges migration poses for the people and countries concerned. Migration influences practically every area of life to a greater or lesser extent.

Roughly a quarter of the Swiss population of 8,740,472 (2022) is of migrant origin. SEM received 9 583 more asylum applications than in the previous year – an increase. of 64,2%. The increase is due to several reasons. For one thing, travel has become easier again, after the lifting of pandemic-related measures. In addition, the pandemic has weakened many of the economies in those countries of origin and transit from which asylum seekers traditionally come. What is more, the situation has been further exacerbated

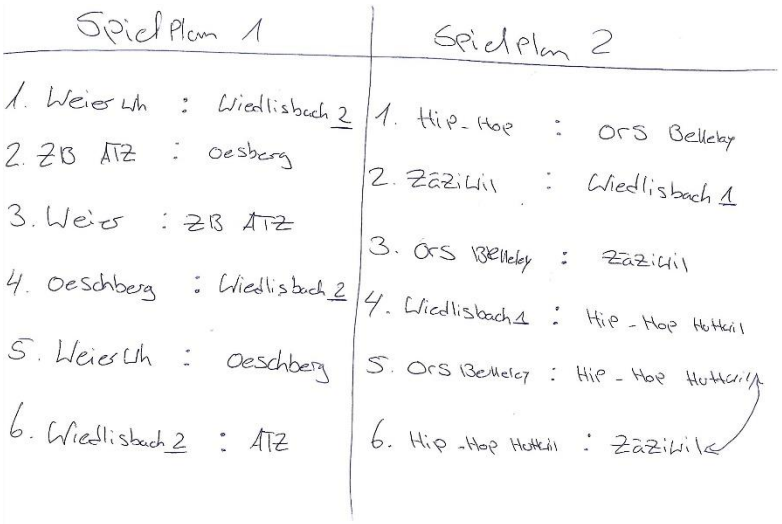
by rising prices because of the war. These circumstances have increased the pressure on the native and migrant populations of the countries affected to migrate.

Out of National Foreign population of 2,241,854 (December 2022), Kanton Bern has 172,900 Foreigners holding Permits: L 1,547; Permit B 61,730; and Permit C 109.623. Also note that, those who have not be given Refugee status are not included in the statistics. That means those we are considering are more than the 1,547 in the statistics. The current population of Switzerland is 8,796,669 an increase of 0.64% from 2022. In Kanton Bern, where Swiss Minors is headquartered has a total Refugees of 10,831, 14.21 % out of the National Refugee population of 76,195. Migrant population is very diverse, and not all pay sufficient heed to this diversity. Swiss Minors take advantage of this, to enrich and strengthened the Society.





START of the match. With the support of the Supervisors who brought the Teams from the various Centers, the Start Play Plan was generated as seen below.



The all round play group started with euphoria around 10:30 Hours with Teams doing all to move to the next stage.



Before then, Adu, the President of Swiss Minors franked by the Co-organizer Charles welcomed the Participants to Biel/Bienne, the host City in Kanton Bern and thanked them as well for making it from their various homes to honour the invitation. In Adu's welcome address he emphasied that, God loves us all, we also want you to know that, you are loved.The reason with our sponsors, Reformed Church Bern, Jura Solothurn and the City of Biel have organised this tournament to make you happy inspite of the situatons you found yourselves at the various homes within the Kanton.



Nontheless, there are many opportunities offered to us all by Kanton Bern authorities as well as the Swiss citizens, he said. We need to take advantages of them to improve our lives, no one can do anything to satisfy another more than the persons themselves. Instead of lamenting on bad situations or unfulfilled expectations, take the least chances to make yourselves happy and generate the needed energy to solve your problems, and where needed, ask for support if it is beyond your capacity or competence.



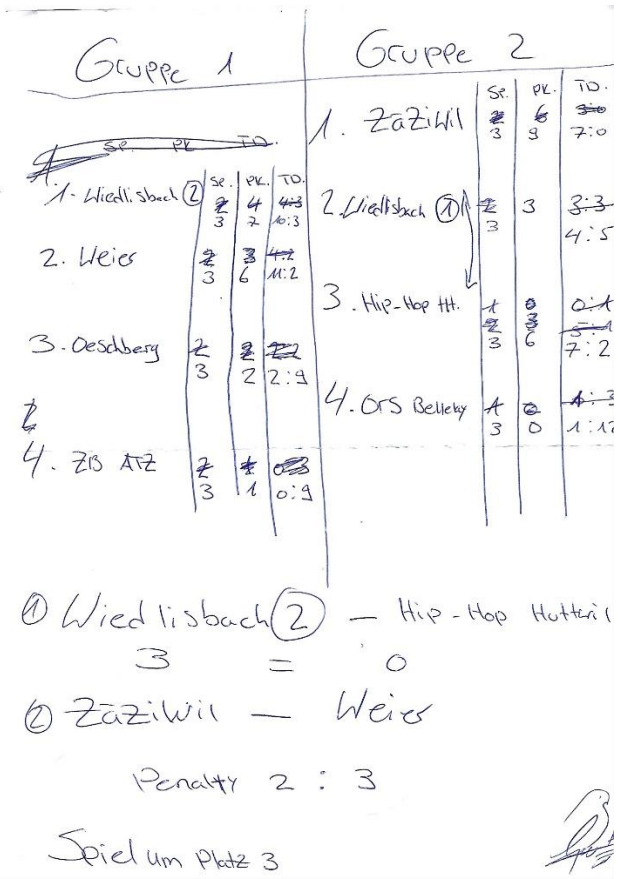
Lastly, Adu advised that, it is a fun Football Tournament and we go by the UEFA Fair play priciples, not to injure ourselves as we all have various duties to perform afterwards and it would not be wise if any of us is found at the Hospital during or and after the Tournment.

Here, I thank all our colleagues who translated into various languages spoken by many of the Participants and our colleague who worked on the play plan.

As we continue the matches, the "all play all" ended around 12:45 to make way for the Lunch Break.

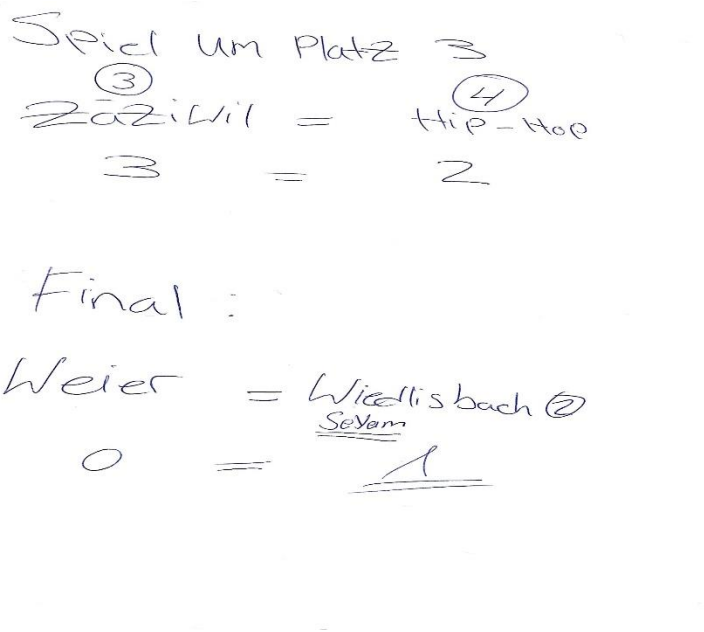
Playing for the last 4 with results started after the Break, see Play Plan.





Next playPlan showed who the Winner of the Swiss Minors, Christ Covenant Ministries, Football Against Racism in Europe Tournament, Biel/Bienne 2023 was.







The final whistle was blown at 16:30 Hours with Wiedlisbach 2 with the lone goal of the Match from Seyam lifted the Trophy. Weier took the 2. Position whilst Zäziwil placing 3. Hip Hop, despite their brilliant performance could not overcome Zäziwil making them occupied the 4. Position.

Swiss Minors team in collaboration with CCM thanked all the participants after they were handed over their hard-won Trophies.

Interest of the Tournament generated further discussions. To organize another event during the summer holidays of which there would be a meeting soon. If we can conclude early, we would ask the City of Biel to give us Tissot Arena where we can play many games at the same time. The follow up calls to the Heads of the various institutions represented at the Tournament were also positive, and that is the motivation, our work has been appreciated, an appreciation we give back to the City of Biel, The Reform Church of Bern, Jura, Solothurn, and all those who made this a success.

Resource and Expenditure Statement for the period ended 31. December 2023

Resource

Stadt Biel – Sports	450.00
Reform Church BJS	2,000.00
Member Subscription	150.00
ENAR, United, FARE	645.11

Total Resources raised	**3,245.11**

Expenditure

Information & Teaching	97.70
Website & Hosting	1,509.48
Football Tournament	2,503.37
Monthly Kids Activity	436.60
European Associations Dues	49.70
Swiss Minors Registration (Handel register, Kt. Bern)	698.60
Office & Administration	296.30
Meetings & Seminars (Europewide)	874.35
Post Charges	166.73

Total Expenditure	6,632.83
Deficit of Resource over Expenditure	**(3,387.72)**

Balance Sheet as at 31. December 2023

Assets

PostFinance	304.53	
Total		**304.53**

Represented by:

Current Creditors:		
Finanzverwaltung des Kanton Bern	419.20	
Local Search Billing Website	865.83	
Total Current Creditors	**1,285.03**	
Long Term Creditor - Adu	13,092.23	
Total Creditors	**14,377.26**	
Own Capital	1,024.30	
Total available Funding		15,401.56
Total Accumulated Deficit to date	-11,709.31	
Deficit of Expenditure over Resource 2023	-3,387.72	
Total Deficit Financing		-15,097.03
Total Capital		**304.53**