

**ASF-SWITZERLAND'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024**  
**- "in a nutshell" -**

For ASF-Switzerland, the **year 2024** was mainly characterized (i) by its financial contribution to an international project aimed to help, as much as possible, the on-going ambitious project ("La Médecine par les Airs") of **ASF-Belgium** in cooperation with **AeroMedico** to reach (and transport food and medicine to) remote populations in **Madagascar** and (ii) by the on-going success and expansion, in French-speaking Switzerland, of its programme "Les Ailes du Sourire", with the use, for the second year in a row, of **hot air ballons**.

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Since its inaugural launch in 2019, **approximately 200 persons** with disabilities took part in the programme "Les Ailes du Sourire" (a Swiss replica of the well-known French project of the same name) and were given the opportunity to discover the many facets of Aviation, thanks to our strong and long-lasting partnership with flying school and air carrier **AéroFormation B. Hanhart SA** in Lausanne.

While airplanes<sup>1</sup> will most probably continue to work as "backbones" of the "Ailes du Sourire" programme, ASF-Switzerland has explored the use of hot air ballons, in partnership with the

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<sup>1</sup> Including, perhaps, in the future (that is when the technology will be sufficiently mature), electric planes.



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local and well-known carrier **Les Ballons du Léman Sàrl**<sup>2</sup> (a project involving paragliding could also see the light in 2025-2026).

The first such flight (ballon) took place in September 2023, offering a truly unique experience simultaneously to ten (10) persons with disabilities and four (4) accompanying persons, apart from the pilot<sup>3</sup>. Les Ballons du Léman and ASF-Switzerland have continued their cooperation in earnest by adding one flight in 2024 and intend to intensify their close collaboration in 2025 in order to expand if possible the number of such flights and experiences<sup>4</sup>.

At the same time, we took some successful steps with the view to gradually **enlarge the circle** of the beneficiaries of "the Ailes du Sourire" programme, to also include young people encountering serious difficulties in their daily life and taken care of at home. A possible expansion of the Programme beyond Suisse romande is also being considered.

In 2024, ASF-Switzerland has continued to receive financial contributions from **private persons** (on an individual or on a collective basis), either spontaneously wishing to support our activities or after being so requested by our NGO.

In 2025, ASF-Switzerland will pursue its efforts to raise money for the benefit of **foreign projects** initiated, executed and supervised by ASF (ASF-International and/or sister sections,

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<sup>2</sup> Be kindly reminded that ASF-Switzerland finances the flights **but do not operate them itself** (as always made clear to the participants before the flights, by planes or balloons).

<sup>3</sup> To give the reader an order of magnitude: one such flight costs around CHF 4'500.00 to ASF-Switzerland.

<sup>4</sup> One other flight (ballon) had unfortunately to be canceled in 2024 due to the weather. It is planned to take place this year (2025).



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ASF-Belgium and ASF-France in particular), with the help of its local partners.

Among them, we can cite those, **all in remote and/or hardly accessible areas**, by way of air transport:

- relief to sick and wounded persons;
- forwarding of medical material and medicines;
- transport of healthcare professionals;

As well as renovation works of air transport infrastructures;

Etc.

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In 2024, **Mrs Stéphanie Siouffi-Vareilhes**, IATA Global Head of Program Management Office, the last Member to join ASF-Switzerland's Board, was extremely active in preparing for and realizing a successful fund-raising exercise for the benefit of ASF-Switzerland and "Les Ailes du Sourire".

Also, in 2024, ASF-Switzerland has received the extremely valuable support of **two new members** who have generously accepted to join the circle of the women and men pioneers, adventurers, innovators, business owners, professors and a lot more that form ASF-Switzerland's exceptionally rich list of **Ambassadors**:

**Prof. Sophie Bacq**, Chaired Professor in Social Entrepreneurship at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Social impact expert and also Speaker.

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**Mr André Schneider**, former CEO at Genève Aéroport and experienced leader with an important experience in developing and implementing strategies, especially towards sustainable development.

We are most grateful to both of them for accepting to wear high the colors of ASF-Switzerland with their co-ambassadors.

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*† ASF-Switzerland feels deep sadness as the year 2024 marks also the loss, on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, of Jean-Luc Subilia, founding member of ASF-Switzerland and member of its Board, Dr of law, attorney-at-law for more than 50 years and former ICRC delegate in Gaza, beloved father of our President Julien.*

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We wish you all, our committed and generous members, donors, ambassadors, partners and sponsors, and friends of ASF, a happy and peaceful Year 2025 and we look forward to continuing this Journey with all of you.

With our deep gratitude, we send you our very best regards,

For ASF-Switzerland  
and its Steering Committee

Morges - Genève, February 2025

*J. SUBILIA*

*Charles†Veterian*

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