



**REPORT ON
ACTIVITIES 2018**



SUMMARY

It is one thing to start a project, but it is another to guarantee its continuity and sustainability.

When we left the Beqaa Valley at the end of 2017 after a tough but very promising pilot phase, we did not know yet whether we would be able to return and continue our *A ROLLING ROCK* project. We were low on funds, the team was dissolved, and winter was coming.

“Never give up” – one of our core messages – became our own mantra, and slowly but steadily, through hard work, help from unexpected sources, and a good amount of luck, our project got back on track. We revived our operation in the Beqaa Valley in April with a new team of volunteers. We expanded our reach geographically and were also able to increase the number of sessions and participants. In the middle of the season, the project management was successfully handed over into local hands. In October, the first Beqaa Bouldering Competition marked the end of a sometimes rough, but undoubtedly very rewarding season. Ultimately, we managed to reach a total of 750 children, teenagers, and young adults.

Meanwhile, the *MaXiFamily* project received incredible support in Switzerland and expanded to new climbing gyms in Winterthur, Näfels, Biel, and Bern. In average, every day

there was a climbing session organized by a team of more than a 100 volunteers.

Perseverance proved to be a crucial factor determining the faith of *MaXiFamily*. Limited mobility of our participants and limited access to gyms, as well as structural reforms in asylum policies kept posing challenges that required creative solutions and constant adaptability. Our long-term goal: to establish a *MaXiFamily* in every major city that has a climbing gym, so the participants lost due to transfer would be able to continue in a new location.

All of this would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, the generous support of our donors, partners and ambassadors, as well as the professional expertise of the many people who shared their knowledge with us.

Danke, merci, shukran, thank you, grazie, gracias, spasibo, mersi, tesekkür, shukria, dhan-yabad, nandril, dhonobad kittää!



A ROLLING ROCK

ClimbAID addresses the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon with its project *A ROLLING ROCK* – a self-built climbing truck.

Through ClimbAID's activities, socially disadvantaged and often war-disabled Syrian youth get a new perspective, train their perseverance and acquire new skills valuable in everyday life. Through climbing, we foster not only physical strength, but also their mind and community.

PROJECT CONTEXT

Lebanon is a Middle Eastern country counting 4 million Lebanese and an estimation of 1.5 million Syrian and 0.5 million Palestinian refugees. These figures make Lebanon the country with the highest concentration of refugees per capita worldwide: one out of three people is a refugee.

Amid reports that the situation in Syria is improving. However, the Syrian refugees are staying in Lebanon because of the still precarious security situation and destroyed livelihoods. It is especially seen among the young Syrian men who fear facing prison, torture, and forced army recruitment once back in Syria.

Furthermore, a severe decrease in funding for humanitarian aid in Lebanon is worsening the living conditions, affecting the poor Syrians and Lebanese, and aggravating the current crisis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Projects like ours that bring together youth from mixed political and sectarian backgrounds and contribute to their cognitive, social and physical development are more necessary than ever.

In about 200 sessions, with an average of ten participants each, we reached about 750 children, teenagers and young adults. The majority participating on a weekly basis.

Our objectives to expand geographically to North Beqaa, reach more people, and make our project more sustainable – by hiring a local manager and registering the vehicle locally – were also achieved. The construction of a permanent climbing wall will begin in the spring of 2019.

CLIMBERS UNITE!

All in all, nineteen people from six countries decided to share their passion and spent in average one month with us on our project in the Beqaa Valley.



Our volunteers in 2018: Anne Ahrendt (Germany), Alexander Tchikine (Russia), Andrew McKay (Canada), Antonia Sieler (Germany), Céline Caudron (France), Daniel Hasel (Germany), Daria Shorova (Russia), Evi Höck (Germany), Joany Désaulniers (Canada), Lucas De Jesús Martín (Spain), Markus Sollner (Germany), Marleen Hoffmann (Germany), Maryam Kebbi Beghdadi (Switzerland), Linda von Hofacker (Germany), Pascal Würsch (Switzerland), Reto Affentranger (Switzerland), Sebastien Houlon (France), Timo Elony (Germany) and Vicky Chen (Australia).

You kept the ROCK rolling!

LEBANESE CITIZENSHIP FOR THE ROCK

THE ROCK avoided deportation and officially became Lebanese. We deregistered our vehicle in Switzerland, pushed it through Lebanese customs (USD 6'000), and registered it in the name of our partner *Arcenciel*

HAND OVER

Another important milestone was the handover of the project management from the founder Beat Baggenstos to Mohammad Hamoud. First volunteering with the project, it quickly became clear that Mohammad would bring the necessary dedication to a job with putting in the working hours and responsibilities that often require self-sacrifice and continuous adaptability.

NINA IS BACK

Our ambassadress Nina Caprez visited Lebanon for a second time. This time she was accompanied by the journalist Dominik Osswald, who wrote an article for the [Tage-sanzeiger](#) and shot video footage that was later screened at [Sport Panorama](#) for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

REAL ROCK

The discovery of boulders in the Ammiq and Jdita allowed us to take our participants climbing outdoors. Exploring these sites brought our participants closer to nature and showed them the importance of taking care of our environment.



1ST BEQAA BOULDERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

We closed the season with a bouldering competition. More than forty highly motivated climbers competed and showed positive attitudes, fairplay, and team spirit.



We are extremely proud and feel inspired by this young energetic climbing community of the Beqaa!

THE ROLLING ROCK STAYS

Unlike last year, *THE ROCK* stayed in the Beqaa Valley during the winter. On sunny days we took it out for nice bouldering sessions. This kept our positive energy levels high during the cold and rainy days.

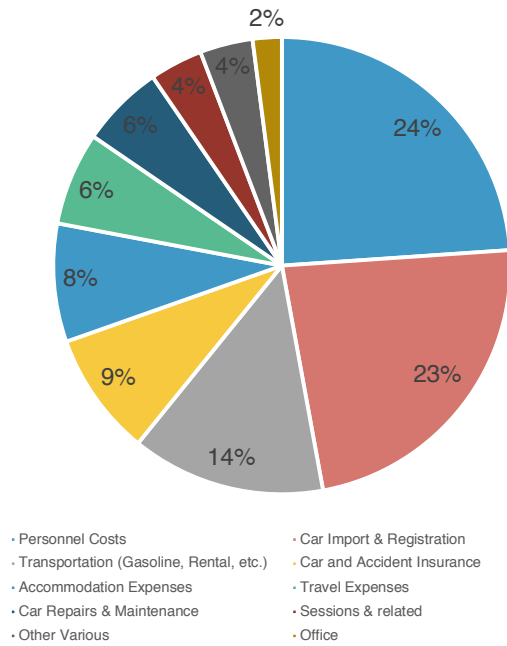
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

We continued and deepened our collaboration with *Salam LADC* and *Al Caravan*. In collaboration with *Caritas Lebanon* we completed twelve interventions in Northern Beqaa. Furthermore, we extended our network and started working with *Sonbola*, *Crossing Lines*, *Keen International* and *Kayany Foundation*.



PROJECT COSTS

The project expenditures amounted to CHF 38'426 in 2018. Apart from the costs related to the hiring of a new project manager in Lebanon, it is actually the importation and legalisation of THE ROCK that resulted in the substantial costs of the project in absolute and relative terms. Transportation costs were the third highest cost factor. These three expenses represent almost two thirds of last year's annual project costs.





MAXIFAMILY

The *MaXiFamily* is a fast-growing network of volunteers and climbing gyms in Switzerland that brings young asylum seekers and the local climbing community together.

Our participants can exercise and work off their energy in a relaxed atmosphere, make new contacts, and practice their freshly acquired German language skills. At the same time, the positive effects of sport can be observed: self-confidence is built, problem-solving skills are trained, and physical and mental health are fostered.

PROJECT CONTEXT

The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration reported 123'379 asylum seekers and recognised refugees by the end of 2018.

Compared to 2017, only 15'255 applications (-16%), the lowest number since 2007, were filed. According to the Swiss Refugee Council this decrease can be attributed to Europe's stricter isolationist and deterrence politics.

Another consequence of the conservative political shift is the reduction of social benefits and integration programmes for refugees. As a result, participation in daily life and leisure activities become unaffordable and integration becomes more difficult. In such an environment, the civil society fills important gaps where government fails. Because opportunities to meet and participate into Swiss civil society become rare, initiatives like ours are more important than ever.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2018, the *MaXiFamily* continued to grow. We started families at the *GLKB Boulderhalle* in Näfels, *6a Plus* in Winterthur, *Crux Bouldering* in Biel, and at *O'BLOC* in Bern.

In numbers, we had an average of six climbing sessions with each six participants and two to three volunteers every week. This was possible only due to the dedication of more than 100 volunteers.



MAXIMINIMUM (ZURICH)

The cancellation of social benefits for temporarily admitted asylum seekers and closure of homes for minor refugees created a challenging environment in the canton of Zurich for our project.

In order to adapt to all these changes, we partnered with *Halle 9*, *Zentrum Juch* and *MNA Zentrum Zollikon* and organised between two to three sessions every week at *Minimum* bouldering gym.



While we had to cancel our sessions with minor refugees at the end of the year, our Wednesday group was growing, becoming stronger, and increasingly integrated into the local climbing community.

MAXICITY (KRIENS)

Our *MaXiFamily* home at *Cityboulder* bouldering gym thrived in 2018 and kept attracting participants from all over the canton of Lucerne.



An absolute highlight was the organisation of two mountain-sport days in cooperation with the *Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts* as part of a practical training. On the first day, *MaxiCity* climbed a via ferrata and on the second day our participants were able to learn the basics of sport climbing in Melchsee-Frutt.

MAXIPLUS (WINTERTHUR)

March 2018 marked the beginning of *MaxiPlus* at *6a Plus* climbing gym in Winterthur. We did not establish relationships to the surrounding asylum centres yet. However, we were able to maintain a steady group of participants coming individually to Winterthur from different locations.



Participating in a fun partner boulder competition and enjoying a Saturday trip to the outdoor bouldering area in Murgtal contributed to the team spirit of *MaxiPlus*.

MAXILINTH (NÄFELS)

In the beginning of 2018, we started doing bouldering sessions in the new bouldering gym of Näfels. At the kick-off session we welcomed a large group of asylum seekers and gave them a first taste of the sport and community. Afterwards, *ClimbAID* held a presentation about their work and we finished the evening with music and food from around the world. Many of the new participants instantly

liked the sport and joined us in the weekly sessions from then on.



As the participants began to bring friends along, *MaxiLinth* grew bigger. Today *MaxiLinth* includes strong climbers who found a place to get in contact with other climbers and other cultures.

MAXICRUX (BIEL)

In cooperation with the bouldering gym *Crux-Bouldering* and the asylum centre *Büren an der Aare*, *MaxiCrux* was founded in February. The weekly sessions were attended regularly by a group of two to six people until transport from the centre was discontinued.

Efforts to cooperate with other asylum centres in the region have not yet born fruit. The opening of the new climbing gym in spring 2020 could be a chance to start another attempt and establish a *MaXiFamily* in Biel.



MAXIBLOC (BERN)

In July, the *MaXiFamily* received a new member in Bern: *MaxiBloc*!

We started weekly sessions at *O'BLOC* climbing gym with a motivated group of twenty volunteers and reached out to several collective accommodations for refugees. Some of the highlights were the daily sessions during the

co-opera project week which we organised with the *Schweizerische Arbeiterhilfswerk* (SAH) in September.

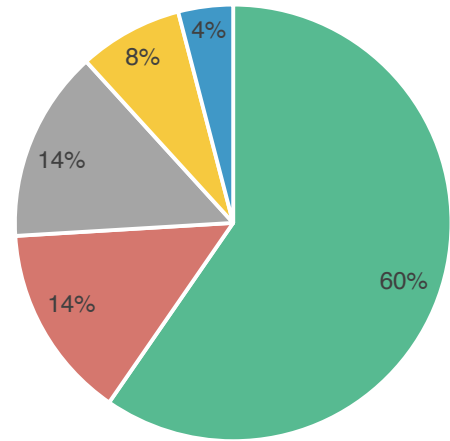


OUR VOLUNTEERS

Adriana Berwert, Aliakbar Soleimani, Andreas Streiff, Anita Kolettu, Anita Landolt, Anja Enghardt, Anouk Caviezel, Arian Bastani, Arianna Mantovani, Arnau Casanas, Aude Comets, Beat Baggenstos, Beatrice Bodenmann, Beatrice Oberli, Carla De Pouplana, Chantal Bleiker, Charizze Wong, Christian Auer, Christian Rueger, Christine Moos, Damian Berwert, Daniela Hilfiker, Dario Küffer, Dave Kennel, David Bürgisser, Dino Lappert, Elena Leuzinger, Elisabeth Papazoglou, Evi Hock, Fabian Zberg, Fabienne Zeller, Flurina Hauser, Franca Schmid, Gabriel Bühler, Gabriela Gnehm, Gian-Reto Valentin, Gianina Costa, Gina Stüssi, Hansjörg Temperli, Hilde Schaeffler, Isabelle Schultheiss, Jan Kleffmann, Jan Weber, Jana Von Freyberg, Jasmin Schläpfer, Joane Steiner, Jonas Kohler, Jonathan Summerfield, Karin Bachmann, Karin Steinbach Tarnutzer, Kathrin Aeberhard, Katrin Ehlert, Kevin Keller, Kim Bodmer, Lara Stengle, Laura Lurati, Lea Bossi, Lea Gutschner, Lena Jenny, Livia Hochstrasser, Luca Cavadini, Markus Kossmann, Martina Zahno, Matthias Frommelt, Matthias Zimmermann, Melanie Hunziker, Miriam Kofel, Mirjam Schmid, Mirjam Schmid, Mortimer Chen, Muriel Schön, Muriel Zeller, Nadine Gierak, Nathalie Flückiger, Nathalie Triches, Nina Landolt, noel laurent, Pascal Würsch, Patrick Kämpfer, Rahel Ammann, Rahel Baumann, Rahel Kuonen, Rebecca Boesiger, Rebecca Würsch, Regula Senn, Reto Kaufmann, Richard Schmassmann, Roberto Pisano, Sandro Gygli, Sandro Mächler, Sarah Germann, Sebastian Ulli, Sergio Gemperle, Sibylle Oberli, Simon Brühlmann, Simon Frei, Sophie van Geijtenbeek, Stela Prodanovic, Tabea Nydegger, Tamara Strasser, Tendai Fleck, Thomas Stadelmann, Tina Furrer, Valentin Nussli, Vanessa Wirz

PROJECT COSTS

Total expenditures for 2018 was CHF 2'522. The purchase of climbing shoes was the biggest expense as well as the ones related to our outdoor activities.



- Equipment (Climbing Shoes)
- Office
- Food & Beverages
- Activities
- Travel Costs

ORGANISATION

We successfully managed to achieve our funding goals and raised about CHF 92'000 in 2018. Due to the non-payment of the budgeted salary for our founder Beat Baggenstos, the year resulted in a surplus of CHF 40'355.93.

NEW BOARD & REVISION OF STATUTES

At the end of 2018, a fundamental institutional revision of ClimbAID was put into place with the goal to establish an independent board and extend membership rights.

The following people have accepted to serve on the board of ClimbAID:

- Anita Kolettu (new)
- Lucas Beck (new)
- Markus Sollner (new)
- Adi Schiess (new)
- Katharina Hornschuch (existing)
- Raphael Bussmann (existing)

ClimbAID's founder, Beat Baggenstos, will step back from his function as president in order to assume the role of a managing director.

In a further step, the new statutes of the association will allow its active volunteers to execute voting rights at the annual assembly of the organization.

TAX-EXEMPTION

Due to its charitable purpose, ClimbAID has been exempted from cantonal and national taxes.

FUNDRAISING

2018 started with very little money left in our pockets. We were relieved and mostly grateful for all the private donations we received as a result of our social media campaign in January. Also, two of our most important supporters from 2017 – Peka Metall AG and Fischer Reinach AG – donated again each USD 2'500. The funds gathered with both the donations from various project presentations in climbing gyms and a fleamarket gave us the confidence to start focussing on the continuation of the project in the following spring.

However, the real financial turning point came only weeks before the start of the season when the *Riders Hotel* in Laax donated the

funds raised at their end-of-the-season party – CHF 12'000 – to our cause. Shortly after, *Refugio Kalandraka* confirmed their donation of CHF 10'000. At the same time, *Minimum* bouldering gym became, the home of our first MaXiFamily and host of our first charity event in 2016, also donated CHF 10'000 as part of their 1% for a better world initiative.

Thank you *Kalandraka*, *Minimum*, and *Riders Hotel* for your financial support in this crucial moment of ClimbAID's activities and in our *ROLLING ROCK* project.

minimum
BOULDER BAR RESTAURANT

 **KALANDRAKA**
RODELLAR

 **RIDERS**
HOTEL

Thank you for supporting our project during 2018 financially or with equipment:

 **ZURICH**
FOUNDATION

 **peka**

 **fir**
GROUP



 **PETZL**
Fondation

 **KRUGER**

 **AWG**

 SPENDEN
SORTIEREN
VERPACKEN
VERLADEN

 **querfeldern**

 **aa**
plus
KLETTERHALLE
WINTERTHUR

 **lintharena**

 **EXPED**

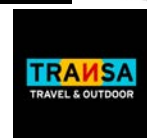
 **TO MAGIC WOODS**

 **EIP**



 **UNCARVED BLOCK**
CLIMBING
HOLDS

 **B'ACHLI**
BERGSport

 **TRANSA**
TRAVEL & OUTDOOR

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018

ASSETS	31.12.18	31.12.17
Current assets	54'316.84	11'879.59
Cash and cash equivalents	54'120.13	11'879.59
Accounts receivable	75.00	-
Other short-term accounts receivable	-	-
Trade goods	121.71	-
Prepaid expenses	-	-
Fixed assets	10'998.52	14'664.70
Vehicles	-	14'664.70
intangible assets	10'998.52	-
Total Assets	65'315.36	26'544.29
LIABILITIES	31.12.18	31.12.17
Short-term outside capital	-5'787.76	-7'372.62
Accruals and short-term provisions	-5'787.76	-7'372.62
Long-term outside capital	-	-
Organisational capital	-59'527.61	-19'171.67
Reserve, Profit/Loss current tax year	-59'527.61	-19'171.67
Total Liabilities	-65'315.37	-26'544.29

Remarks:

ClimbAID donated its mobile climbing wall "THE ROCK" to the Lebanese non-profit Arcenciel which registered it in their name. ClimbAID retains a usage right and the right to take the vehicle back into its property at any time. One fifth of the acquisition value is depreciated annually.

Income	31.12.18	31.12.17
Donations and Membership Fees	92'919.27	16'041.93
Trading revenues	250.00	-
Workshop	2'130.00	299.42
Exchange rate differences	53.15	-
		209.84
Total Income	95'352.42	16'551.19
Costs	31.12.18	31.12.17
Project costs	-40'947.74	-34'102.22
Costs of trade articles	-406.47	-
Workshop	-2'035.46	-
Total Costs	-43'389.67	-34'102.22
Administration expenses	31.12.18	31.12.17
Travel expenses	-695.38	-
Office rent	-2'750.00	-
Liability Insurance	-295.90	-258.70
Administration fees	-	-551.00
Administration expenses	-453.53	-319.70
IT expenses	-1'677.77	-7.14
Media advertising	-470.16	-258.04
Flyers, publicity material	-343.31	-649.35
Trade fairs, exhibitions	-123.22	-
Care and gifts	-346.32	-
Events	-216.05	-
Donations and Memberships	-120.00	-400.00
Depreciation on intangible assets (vehicle)	-3'666.18	-
Depreciation on vehicles	-	-3'666.18
Bank charges	-449.00	-28.87
Administration expenses	-11'606.82	-6'138.98
Total Costs for Service Provision	-54'996.49	-40'241.20
Operating Result	40'355.93	-23'690.01
Appropriation of the profit	31.12.18	31.12.17
Profit/Loss carried forward	-40'355.94	23'690.01
Profit / Loss	-	-