

Activity report

2025

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President's message

2025 took place in a particularly challenging context for humanitarian action. Amid ongoing geopolitical instability and a globally strained environment, one reality stands out : needs continue to grow, while available resources are becoming increasingly scarce.

On the ground, this situation translates into heightened vulnerability for people forced into exile. Their numbers are increasing, yet paradoxically, they are increasingly left on the margins of traditional humanitarian aid systems; due to limited capacity, restricted access, or a lack of political will.

In this context, Van for Life has remained steadfast in its commitment, staying true to its founding principles. We focus our efforts on the most exposed and least visible populations. Those who do not, or only insufficiently, benefit from existing aid mechanisms, and for whom targeted intervention is more essential than ever.

Despite the challenges faced throughout the year, we have maintained our capacity to act, prioritizing a direct, flexible approach closely aligned with the realities on the ground.

More than ever, Van for Life remains determined to pursue its mission, responding, within its means, to the growing needs of the most vulnerable. Because human rights are not conditional.

We act for them. We continue thanks to you.

Thank you for your support



**Scan to
support us!**



[Website](#)



Dimitri Montanini
President of Van for Life

Van for Life
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1290 Versoix (Switzerland)

Public-benefit organization
(donations are tax-deductible)

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2026 outlook



IN UKRAINE

Sustain and strengthen existing activities :

- Increase the frequency of humanitarian convoys
- Expand and strengthen the local network, particularly medical partners
- Extend coverage to isolated rural areas



IN GREECE

Strengthen our presence and coverage :

- Replace the ageing vehicle
- Improve coverage of remote refugee camps
- Increase human and financial resources



IN SWITZERLAND

Expand the integration programme for refugee minors (URMs) :

- Strengthen the outreach and identification of host families
- Increase the frequency of inclusive activities (outings)
- Raise awareness among the local population on integration challenges



IN SPAIN

Establish a mobile support unit for migrant women :

- Set up a medico-legal support team
- Acquire a vehicle adapted to hard-to-reach areas
- Prevent and respond to violence and health risks

2025 highlights



IN UKRAINE

- 4 humanitarian convoys
- 177 local distributions
- 42 training sessions
- 1'100 participants

+ 20'000
beneficiaries

80 tons
of aid
delivered



IN GREECE

- Launch of the partnership
- Delivery of a field vehicle and medical equipment

3422
patients
treated

53
training
sessions



IN SWITZERLAND

- Identification of host families
- Organisation of outings
- First professional placements

21
young people
supported

3
outings
organised



IN SPAIN

- Exploratory mission
- Funding of emergency aid for local organisations

1
exploratory
mission

1
emergency
aid action



Who we are

Van for Life is a non-profit humanitarian organization based in Geneva, **primarily composed of volunteers**. It provides **direct assistance to people affected by forced displacement**, regardless of political, religious or ethnic considerations.

We operate in crisis situations, delivering **first-line assistance** by **working directly with affected populations** to **identify priority needs** and **respond quickly and effectively**.

Our work is based on strong **logistical expertise** and **close collaboration with local partners**, ensuring **targeted and coordinated support**. In Switzerland, our actions also extend to **supporting reception and integration**.

Our interventions aim first and foremost to **preserve the physical and psychological integrity** of the most vulnerable, in full respect of fundamental human rights.

Our mission

1

In crisis areas : provide **direct assistance** to vulnerable populations.

2

Along migration routes : deliver **targeted and responsive aid** to displaced people

3

In host countries : support **social and professional integration**.





Areas of intervention



The year 2025 marks a new milestone in the development of Van for Life, with the expansion and consolidation of several areas of intervention.

We have continued our operations in **Ukraine**, where needs remain more critical than ever.

A mobile medical unit was launched in **northern Greece**, providing support to thousands of refugee patients.

In **Switzerland**, a pilot integration programme for unaccompanied refugee minors was successfully implemented.

An exploratory mission in **Spain** laid the groundwork for a project supporting migrant women, planned for 2026.

Greece : mobile medical unit

Greece is one of the main entry points for migration into Europe, where **limitations in the healthcare system** and the **reduction of reception structures** make access to care increasingly difficult. People in exile, often living in precarious conditions, face **multiple barriers to accessing basic healthcare**.

In response, **Van for Life** launched a mobile medical unit in January 2025, **in partnership with the NGO Med'EqualiTeam**, which has been providing medical support in northern Greece since 2023. The objective is to **address primary healthcare needs for populations living in isolated and underserved areas**.

This partnership is grounded in a **fundamental principle** : **access to healthcare as a basic human right**.



Van for Life's expertise in humanitarian logistics has **strengthened the existing system** by providing targeted support while avoiding duplication of activities. At the same time, **Med'EqualiTeam's** medical field experience ensures the delivery of **free, high-quality care to the most vulnerable**.

Our contribution materialized through the **provision and management of a dedicated van, which has become a central component of the programme**. It enables the **transport of medical teams, medicines and equipment**, while facilitating **access to hard-to-reach areas** and ensuring the **regularity of consultations**.

By covering operational costs and managing the logistical component, **Van for Life** allows medical teams to **fully focus on patient care**, while sustainably **strengthening** the project's **capacity and impact**.

Objectives & areas of intervention



Improve access to healthcare



Reduce barriers to healthcare access



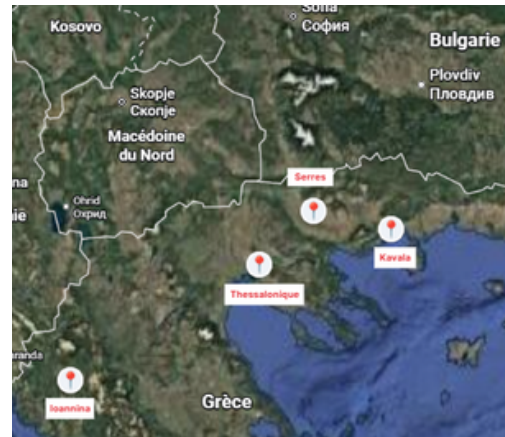
Strengthen local capacities & develop a coordinated network

Activities are implemented in **partnership with several local NGOs**, which **provide space within their community centres**, ensuring direct access to beneficiaries in safe and familiar environments. In a **process of continuous adaptation**, areas of intervention evolved throughout 2025 to better respond to needs identified on the ground (Lagadikia was replaced by Serres in the second half of the year).

Local partners



- **Thessaloniki** : Wave Center
- **Ioannina** : Habibi.Works & BAAS
- **Lagadikia** : IHA
- **Serres** : Lifting Hands International



Map of clinics 2025

Medical activities are carried out by a team of **5 to 8 volunteer healthcare professionals**, supported by **three coordinators** and supervised by a **general practitioner**. **Interpreters** are present during consultations to ensure appropriate care. Van for Life is responsible for the **logistical management** of the mobile unit and supports **fundraising efforts**.



Medical care & health education program

Staying **as close as possible to field needs**, the project combines **emergency medical response with long-term capacity building** by integrating mobile healthcare, health education and first aid training.

Consultations & treatment



- Quality, adapted medical care
- Accessible to all
- Special focus on women and children
- Interpretation provided on-site (volunteer refugees) or remotely
- Triage system in place



Health education



- Target groups : **community members** and field **volunteers**
- **Topics defined with beneficiaries** : women's health, mental health, basic medical advice, hygiene, etc.
- Implemented in **partnership with 5 local NGOs**

First Aid Training



- Target groups: **community members** and field **volunteers**
- **Two-level training adapted to local contexts**
- **Life-saving skills, including adult and pediatric CPR**
- Implemented in **partnership with 9 local NGOs**





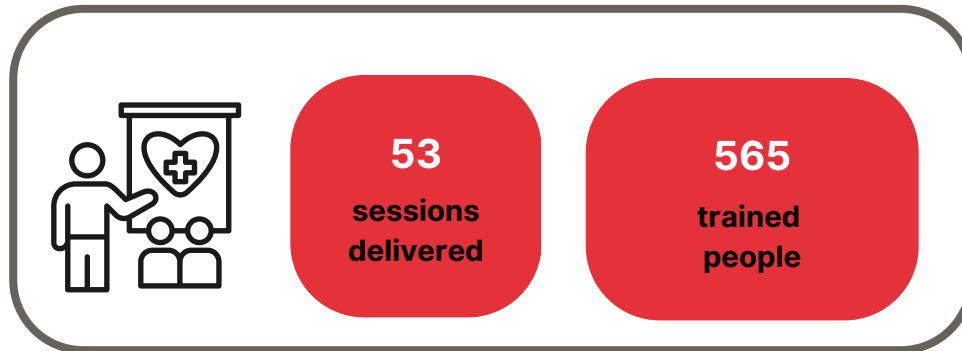
Results & impact

Consultations & patients



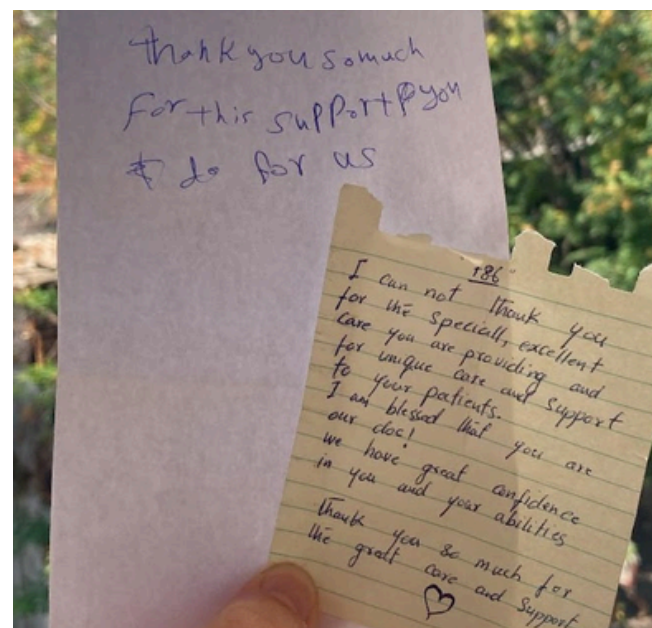
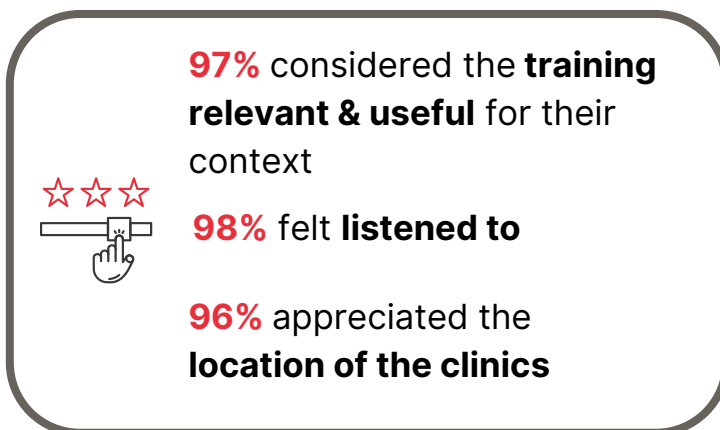
Among our patients, **38%** were **women**, **24%** were **minors**, and **9%** were **under 4 years old**.

Health education program



31 sessions dedicated to **First Aid trainings** ; **19** to **health education** ; **3** to **focus group**. A total of **324** vulnerable individuals and **241** field volunteers were trained. These sessions were conducted across **9 partner centres**.

Relevance of activities



Ukraine : humanitarian corridors

Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the humanitarian situation has remained critical, with more than **14 million people in need of assistance (2025)**. Over **6.3 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, while 3.7 million remain internally displaced**. Regions close to the front line, particularly in the east, continue to face the most urgent needs.

Van for Life **continues its operations from its hubs in Kyiv and Kharkiv, supported by a fleet of five vehicles**. Kharkiv, heavily exposed to hostilities, remains a major reception area for displaced populations, while Kyiv plays a key role in redistributing aid to the most affected regions. In this context, **priority is given to isolated rural areas**, which are often underserved.

In 2025, due to reduced financial capacity, Van for Life focused its efforts on **transporting humanitarian aid from Norway**, through **strong partnerships** providing access to **high-quality equipment**, particularly medical and first aid supplies. **Van for Life financed and organized the transport** to its distribution hubs in Ukraine.

This **logistics chain** enables fast and targeted distribution of essential goods, **supported by local teams** and a **dedicated vehicle fleet**, facilitating access to the most vulnerable areas.

Objectives



Strengthen emergency response capacities



Support stabilization and rehabilitation centres



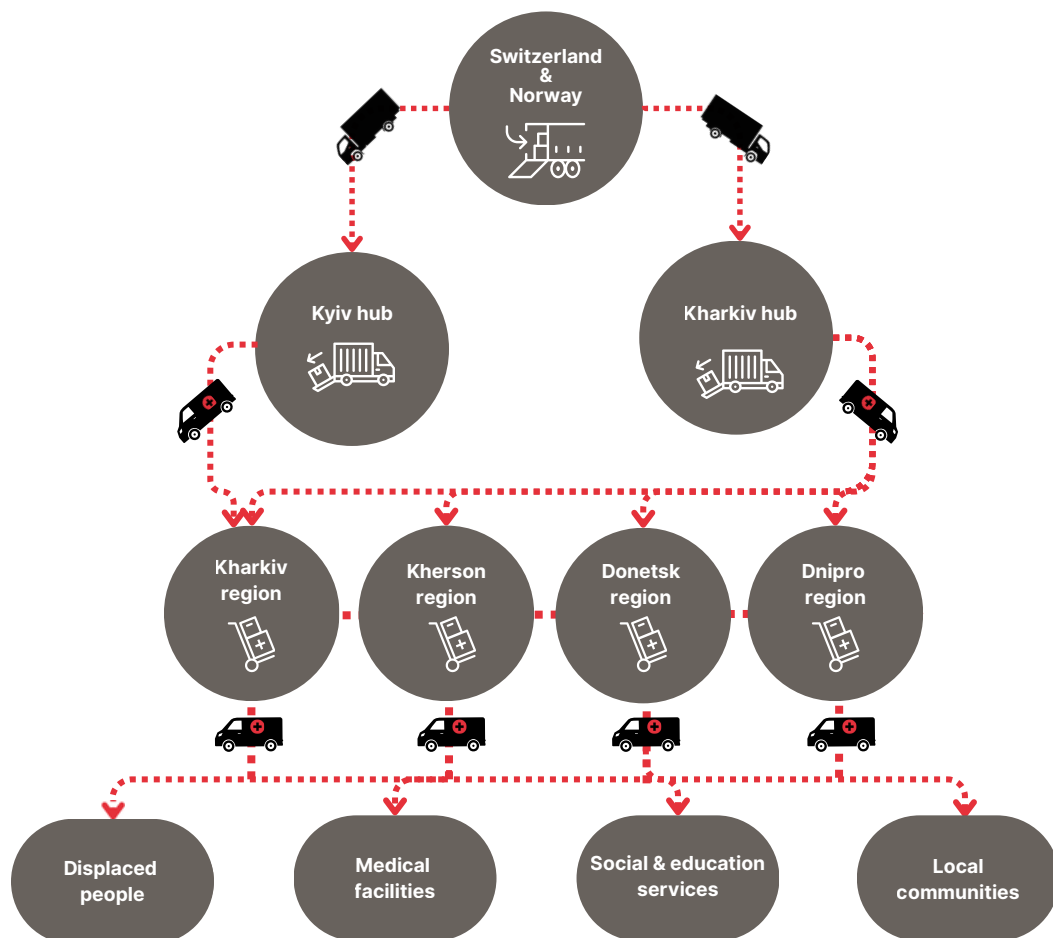
Address the essential needs of vulnerable populations



Maintain access to education and social services

Supply chain

Van for Life relies on a structured logistics chain, enabling the rapid transport and redistribution of aid to the most affected areas.



4 major convoys



- Medical and hospital equipment
- Rehabilitation equipment
- Firefighting equipment
- Essential goods
- IT and communication equipment
- Water drainage and pumping equipment

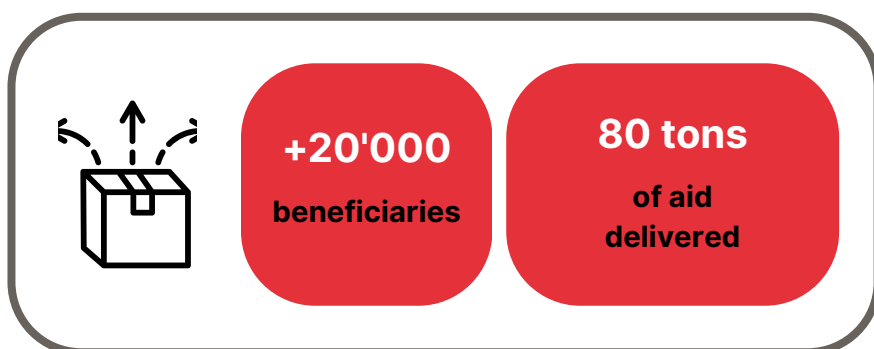


Results & impact

Despite a constrained reduction in its activities, Van for Life maintained a **strong level of intervention in 2025**, with over **80 tons of humanitarian aid delivered**, including 20 tons of firefighting equipment, thanks to a **well-established supply chain and the commitment of its volunteers**.

At the same time, the organization continued its efforts in **mine risk awareness**, building on activities carried out since 2023. **Awareness sessions** were conducted for professionals, local communities, and civilians.

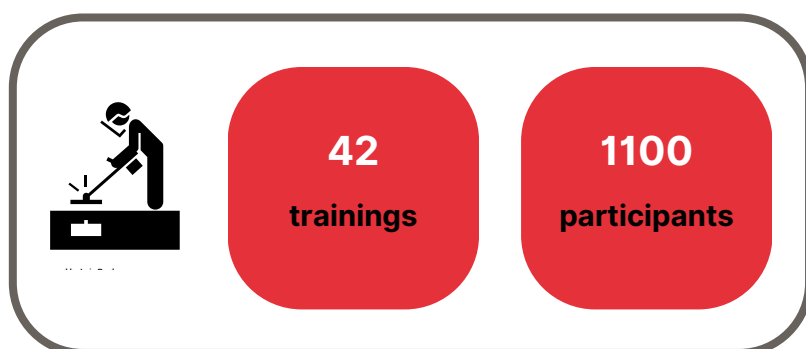
Local distributions



Thanks to our **fleet of 5 vehicles** and the **mobilization of 23 volunteers**, **177 deliveries** were carried out across 5 regions in need, representing a total of over **CHF 1 million in humanitarian aid**.

This aid was distributed to **11 stabilization centres** and **29 social and community structures**, while **12 facilities** were equipped with **firefighting equipment**.

Trainings



3 volunteers delivered training sessions across **13 regions** of the country.



Switzerland : integration of URM_s

Each year, hundreds of unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs), aged 15 to 18, arrive in Switzerland alone after long and often traumatic migration journeys. Upon arrival, they face **significant social isolation, disrupted education, and major challenges in integrating**. Reception structures and public institutions play a key role in their support, but must operate with **limited resources** while addressing **multiple and specific needs**.

In this context, it is essential to **complement existing systems**, in close collaboration with field actors and by **listening to the young people themselves**.

Integration relies on both the **creation of social reference points** and **access to professional opportunities**. Two inseparable dimensions for building a stable and sustainable future. The needs expressed clearly highlight this **dual expectation** : creating connections with the local population and accessing the labour market, which remains a primary priority.

Van for Life develops an integrative approach aimed at **strengthening socio-professional opportunities**, placing **exchange at the core of its actions** : with the local population, businesses, and reception institutions.

Objectives



Foster social integration through the creation of lasting connections with the local population



Facilitate access to professional opportunities



Promote the discovery of the host country in order to strengthen reference points & the sense of belonging



Complement existing systems by addressing specific unmet needs

Our activities

Our activities respond to a **dual need expressed by the young people** :

- **Building connections** with the local population
- **Accessing concrete professional opportunities**

They aim to support their integration by helping them **build reference points**, **strengthen exchanges**, and **engage sustainably** within their host society.

Professional integration



- Discovery of professions and work environments
- Support in finding internships and apprenticeships
- Guidance with administrative procedures



Social connections & host families



- Identification and placement of host families
- Organisation of initial meetings and follow-up of relationships
- Activities fostering informal exchanges

Discovery & integration



- Cultural, sports, and professional outings
- Participation in local events and community gatherings
- Group activities promoting cohesion



Results & impact

The actions **strengthened social and professional integration** by creating opportunities to connect with the local population and access the labour market. They also helped **reduce isolation and support sustainable integration** ; **benefiting both the young people and their host society.**

These activities have been **implemented entirely on a voluntary basis.** **Feedback has been very positive so far**, from the young people themselves as well as from social partners, businesses, and the local population. This strong engagement **confirms the relevance of the project** and reinforces the ambition to further develop these actions, notably through the first financial support secured at the end of 2025.

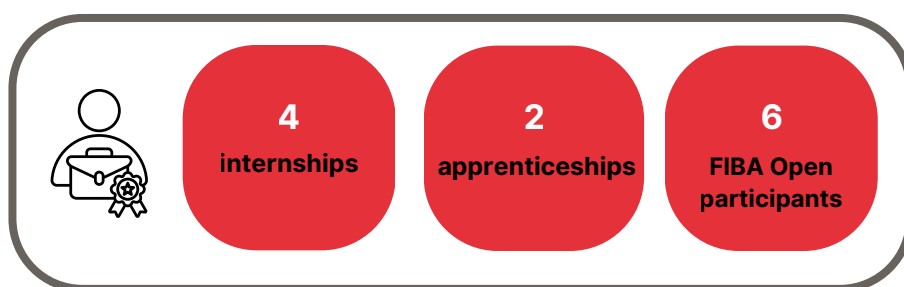
Social integration



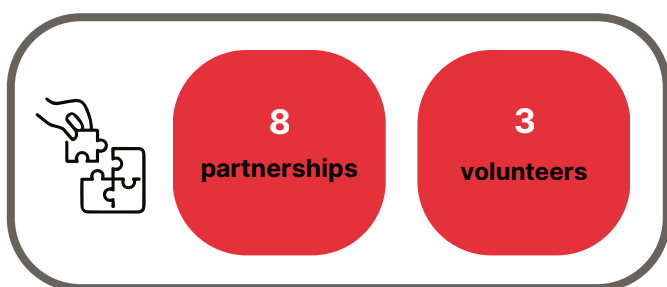
9 host families were identified in 2025, benefiting an equal number of young people. **3 social and team-building activities** were organized. **40 young people** were supported during the **relocation of their accommodation** to Versoix.



Professional integration



From a professional perspective, **4 young people** secured **internships**, and **2** entered into **apprenticeships** (3-year programmes). An additional **6 young people** were involved in the **organization of the FIBA Open.**



These results were made possible thanks to the commitment of **3 dedicated volunteers (one at 50% and two at 30%)**, as well as the support of our partners: the **Hospice général of Geneva, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)**, and various local companies.

Spain : exploratory mission

Andalusia, particularly the provinces of Almería and Huelva, is one of the main agricultural hubs in Europe, often referred to as the “**sea of plastic**” due to the vast expanse of greenhouses. This **intensive production** model relies heavily on a **migrant workforce, often in highly precarious situations and often without legal status**. In the absence of adequate housing solutions, many workers live in **informal settlements** (“chabolas”), under **extremely poor conditions**. This situation highlights a high level of vulnerability and a lack of structural responses from public authorities.

Van for Life conducted an **initial analysis in partnership with local organizations** to identify priority areas for intervention. An exploratory mission was then carried out in both provinces, allowing teams to meet field actors, observe living conditions and territorial disparities, and assess needs.

Key findings

- **Extremely precarious living conditions** : lack of access to drinking water, electricity, and sanitation; makeshift shelters highly exposed to environmental and fire risks
- **Severe economic and administrative exploitation** : abusive working conditions, very low wages, and fraudulent practices limiting access to fundamental rights
- **Isolation of settlements** : remote locations and lack of transportation, restricting access to essential services (healthcare, food, social support)
- **High health risks** : prolonged exposure to agricultural chemicals, lack of waste management, spread of diseases, and deterioration of mental health
- **Increased vulnerability of women, particularly in Huelva** : higher concentration of women in settlements, exposure to gender-based and sexual violence, reliance on survival strategies (including prostitution), and very limited access to sexual and reproductive healthcare





Actions & outlook

During the mission, **material support was provided** to **address the most urgent needs** and relieve pressure on local actors.

Discussions with partner organizations highlighted a **critical lack of logistical resources**, significantly limiting their ability to operate in isolated and hard-to-reach areas.

In this context, **Van for Life's approach, based on direct and complementary logistical support, proves particularly relevant** in addressing gaps on the ground and strengthening the capacities of local actors.

The use of a dedicated 4x4 vehicle represents a key operational asset : facilitating the delivery of essential goods, enabling access to remote settlements, and, most importantly, supporting the deployment of a mobile medico-legal unit for women in a safe and confidential setting.

Given the particularly alarming findings, **Van for Life has decided to launch a project in 2026**, focused on the province of **Huelva**, where the **vulnerability of women is especially critical**.



Our team

Committee members



Dimitri Montanini
President



**Guilherme
Cintra Januario**
Treasurer



Alma Montanini
Secretary

Board members

Coordination team

- **D. Montanini** : head of operations
- **A. Montanini** : overall project coordination & emergency actions
- **J. Pesse** : Switzerland project coordination
- **V. Pavlova** : Ukraine project coordination

Support team

- **E. Ceccato** : fundraising & organizational management
- **N. Radwan** : editing & translation
- **J. Pagès** : IT & web management
- **T. Gunawan** : communication & networks



Since spring 2025, Van for Life has **strengthened its internal structure** by engaging a part-time staff member (50%) responsible for fundraising and administrative management; both essential to the organization's operations.

Our volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of Van for Life's activities.

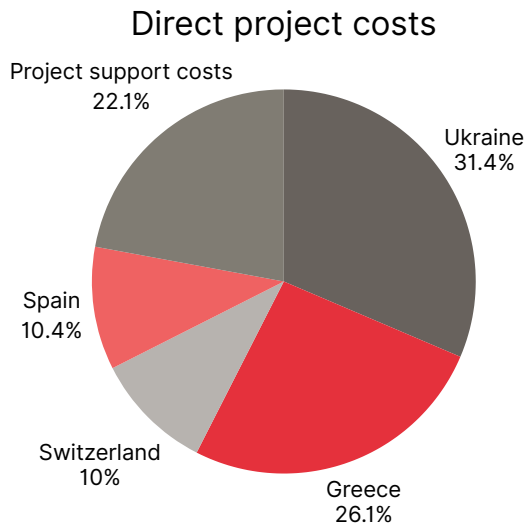


As an almost entirely volunteer-based organization, our ability to act relies on their commitment, both in Switzerland and internationally. Whether in logistics, fundraising, field operations, administration, or communication, their contribution is essential.

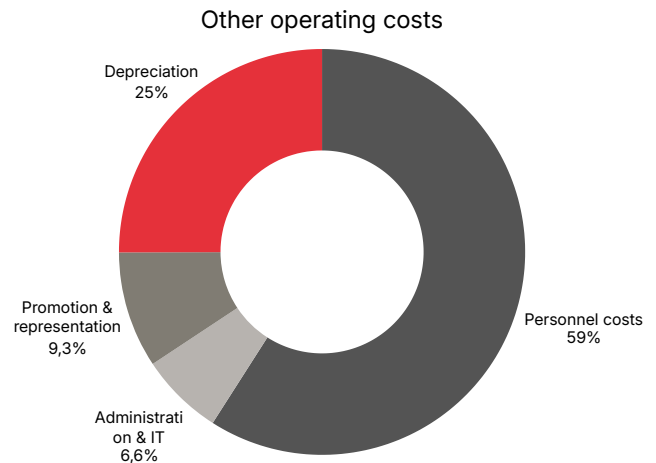
We extend our sincere thanks to all our volunteers for their dedication and commitment throughout the year.

Income statement

Costs 2025



Total project costs = CHF 42'770



Total other costs = CHF 22'526

Total of expenses in 2025 = CHF 65'296

Incomes 2025

In-kind contributions	CHF 151'854
Expenses covered by in-kind contributions	CHF 151'854
Donations	CHF 10'290
Long-term provisions	CHF 18'967
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	CHF 29'257

With a financial result of CHF 148, **Van for Life's net result for 2025 amounts to CHF 36'187.**

Access our 2025 annual accounts



Financial statement

Balance sheet

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	CHF 17'102	Accrued liabilities	CHF 1'450
Prepaid expenses	CHF 1'264	Total external funds	CHF 1'450
Total current assets	CHF 18'366	Retained earnings	CHF 75'664
Tangible fixed assets	CHF 22'560	Net result for the year	CHF 36'187
Total non-current assets	CHF 22'560	Total equity	CHF 39'477
TOTAL ASSETS	CHF 40'926	TOTAL LIABILITIES	CHF 40'926

Organizational development

2025 was a pivotal year for Van for Life, marked by a **dual dynamic** : the **continuation of field activities** and a phase of **internal consolidation**.

The organization worked to **strengthen its structure**, notably through the integration of a **part-time staff member** and an in-depth **reflection on its development strategy**.

In response to a decline in donations, efforts focused on **diversifying funding sources** (partnerships and grant applications), as well as **consolidating existing activities**.

Activities were maintained thanks to the **strong commitment of volunteers** and **in-kind contributions**, reflecting the **strength of the network** while highlighting the **need to further structure** the organization for the long term.

Acknowledgments

We would like to **warmly thank** our **technical and financial partners**, as well as all **our donors and volunteers**, for their support, without which none of this would be possible !



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Your support. Our action.

Supporting Van for Life means taking concrete action. Van for Life was born from a citizen-led initiative : women and men who **refused to remain passive** in the face of **humanitarian emergencies**. From our first convoys to Ukraine to the operations now expanding to other countries where people are in need, every action has been made possible through this **collective commitment**.

Your support is our strength : it allows us to act quickly, to reach places others cannot, and to respond where needs are most urgent.

Make a donation : every contribution, no matter how small, has a direct impact on those who have lost everything.

We act together.
We do it for them.
We do it with you.



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Vanforlife