



# **Swiss Paraplegic Group 2019 annual report**

Short version

**Our vision is a world where  
people with spinal cord  
injuries live independent lives  
in the best possible health.**

[Read more](#)



Swiss Paraplegic Group at a glance	4
Message from the President	7
<b>Group companies</b>	
Swiss Paraplegic Foundation	9
Benefactors' Association of the Swiss	
Paraplegic Foundation	11
Swiss Paraplegic Centre	13
Swiss Paraplegic Research	15
Swiss Paraplegics Association	17
Active Communication	19
SIRMED Swiss Institute of Emergency Medicine	21
ParaHelp	23
Orthotec	25
Hotel Sempachersee	27
Key financial figures	28
Annual reports	30

# 2019 in figures

**1.8 m**

members make up the Benefactors' Association of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation.

**87 m**

Swiss francs came from contributions from members and income from donations.

**23.8 m**

Swiss francs went directly to people with spinal cord injuries in the form of benefactor benefits and direct financial aid.

**30.6 m**

Swiss francs was the net income for the financial year. More than half of this amount came from capital gains.

**1827**

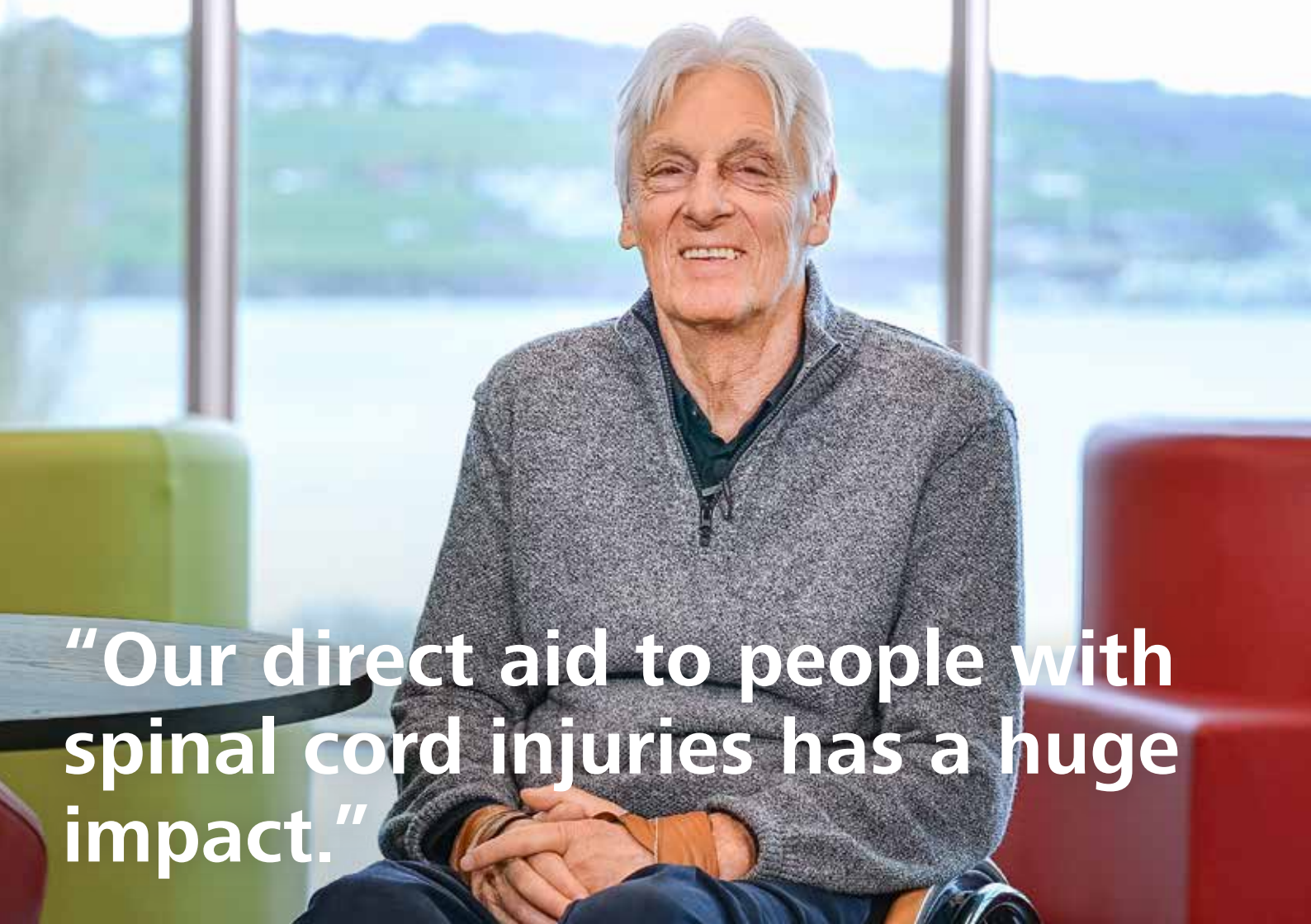
employees work for the Swiss Paraplegic Group.

**71 %**

of people with spinal cord injuries in Switzerland live largely or completely independently.

# Effect of solidarity

Since its establishment, the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation has pursued its vision of comprehensive rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries. This comprises services ranging from medical and therapeutic treatment to professional reintegration and lifelong assistance. Many services are only possible due to membership fees and donations. Comprehensive rehabilitation helps smooth the path back to family, work, and society for people with paraplegia and tetraplegia. Everyone benefits from this – those living with spinal cord injuries and local communities.



**“Our direct aid to people with spinal cord injuries has a huge impact.”**

# Necessary in human terms and expedient in economic terms

Dear Reader

This year is the first in which we are able to report on the impact of the bundled services for people with spinal cord injuries. The research results from Nottwil show that a higher percentage of wheelchair users are in employment in Switzerland than anywhere else in the world. Four out of five people with spinal cord injuries state that the direct financial aid from the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation has a huge impact on their independence.

The Paraplegic Foundation is only able to do what is necessary in human terms and expedient in economic terms thanks to its 1.8 million benefactors, its more than 1800 employees who do their utmost every single day to carry out a challenging task, and everyone who is committed to the needs of people with spinal cord injuries at a state level or in public and private companies.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them for their commitment and for everything they have helped us achieve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Joggi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. sc. tech. Daniel Joggi

President of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation





**28%**

**of all membership fees and donations received went directly to people with spinal cord injuries in the form of benefactor benefits and direct aid.**



# Swiss Paraplegic Foundation

In 2019, the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation updated its strategy to ensure that it remains equipped to meet the future needs of people with spinal cord injuries. The solidarity network used a members' campaign to gain new benefactors. The fund-raising efforts were very successful, despite the high level of competition to attract donations. Services for people with spinal cord injuries were also expanded during the year under review.

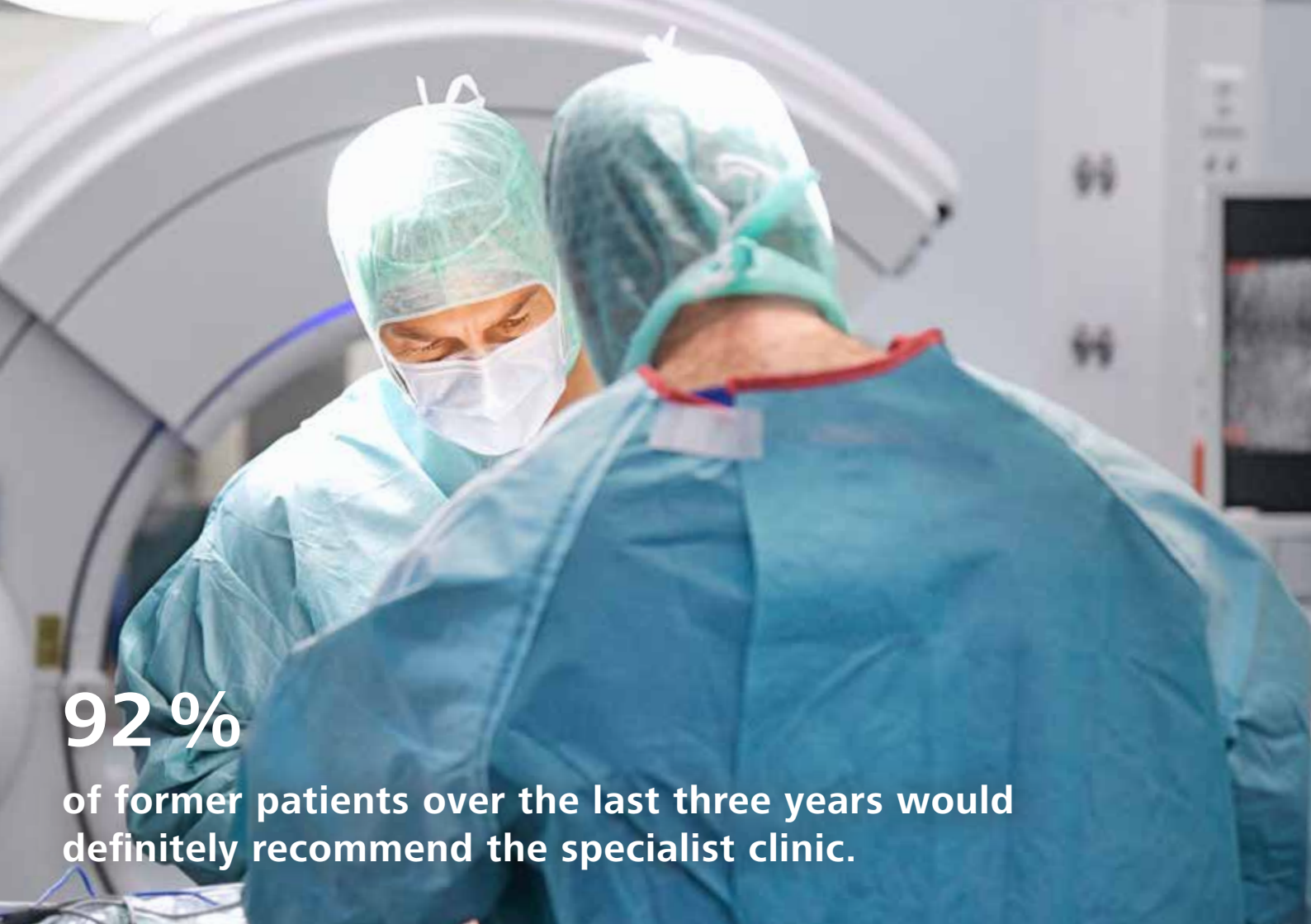


**1.8 million**

people support the unique network of services for people with spinal cord injuries as benefactors.

# Benefactors' Association of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation

The Benefactors' Association has maintained its strong membership base. While annual memberships decreased slightly, a pleasing number of people decided to conclude life memberships. Thirty-seven members who had an accident received benefactor benefits in the reporting year.



**92%**

**of former patients over the last three years would definitely recommend the specialist clinic.**

# Swiss Paraplegic Centre

The large-scale 'Change' project that has been ongoing for several years at the Swiss Paraplegic Centre is approaching its conclusion. This includes the construction project to extend and modernise the clinic. The focus of the project as a whole is on better medical provisioning and care for people with spinal cord injuries, for people with back problems, and for people in medically complex ventilation situations as they are weaned off the ventilator.



# 131 research papers

were presented at national and international congresses and conferences.

# Swiss Paraplegic Research

Swiss Paraplegic Research plays a pioneering role in rehabilitation research. Its research work has made an important contribution to Switzerland's international position as a research location. In addition, the research institution from Nottwil is committed to promoting young scientists. In 2019, Swiss Paraplegic Research summarised its impact measurement insights in the form of an impact report. This means that for the first time it is also possible to show the social dimension of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation's activities.





**445 events**

were organised by the umbrella organisation for people with spinal cord injuries, including numerous national and international sporting events.

# Swiss Paraplegics Association

The reporting year saw the implementation of far-reaching changes and successful innovations at the Swiss Paraplegics Association. At the same time, the services of the umbrella organisation for people with spinal cord injuries again received very positive ratings from its members. The Swiss Paraplegics Association was able to continue to offer many of its services for people with spinal cord injuries free of charge or at a greatly discounted price.



**29,436 hours of advice sessions**  
were provided to supply children and adults with a  
disability with electronic aids.

# Active Communication

Active Communication can look back on a successful year with pride and satisfaction. After years of restructuring, the specialist for assistive technologies has set trends for the future in a wide variety of areas in its 20th anniversary year. Active Communication has, among other things, increased its services for customers and now supports a total of more than 2100 people with disabilities.





**10,175 course participants**

attended a wide range of educational events in first aid  
and emergency and rescue medicine.

# SIRMED

SIRMED, the Swiss Institute of Emergency Medicine, is now owned equally by Switzerland's two largest benefactor organisations: Rega and the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation. The formation of this alliance in 2019, a customer-oriented expansion of its educational offer, and record participant numbers mean that SIRMED can look confidently towards a promising future.



**880 people  
with spinal cord injuries**

**of all ages from all over Switzerland used advice services  
in their own homes.**



# ParaHelp

ParaHelp was increasingly confronted with complicated advice situations requiring additional time per client visit. At the same time, ParaHelp managed to initiate a wealth of innovative projects to improve everyday situations for people with spinal cord injuries. Two main projects were guided care for the coordination of all involved service providers and the initiation of a supervised shared apartment for young adults with spinal cord injuries.



# 720 wheelchairs

were adapted to customer specifications for people  
with paraplegia and tetraplegia.

# Orthotec

Orthotec has undergone a process of change at an organisational, procedural, and cultural level and has positioned itself with a new and clear brand message. It has consistently shifted perception away from aids and towards people and their possibilities. The reporting year was a good one from a financial perspective and the orthopaedic aids specialist is now well equipped to tackle the increasingly tough market situation.



**44,243 overnight stays**

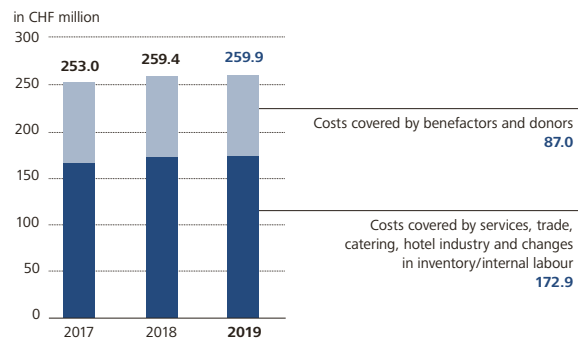
**were booked by guests in one of the one hundred and fifty hotel rooms and in the accessible infrastructure.**

# Hotel Sempachersee

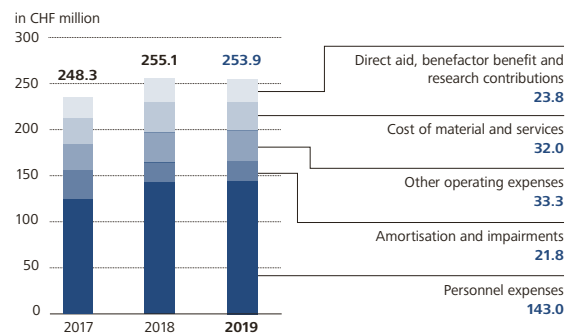
Hotel Sempachersee started the reporting year under new management and with a comprehensive restructuring programme. Existing business segments were strengthened and additional segments were acquired in new markets. Employee and guest satisfaction increased, despite a shortage of skilled labour. Hotel Sempachersee received a four-star hotel rating and entered into new partnerships with regional suppliers.

# Key financial figures

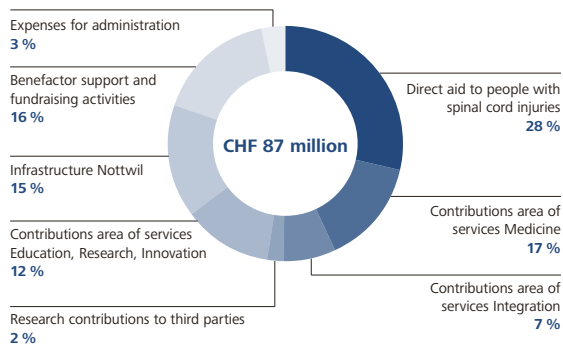
## Development of revenue



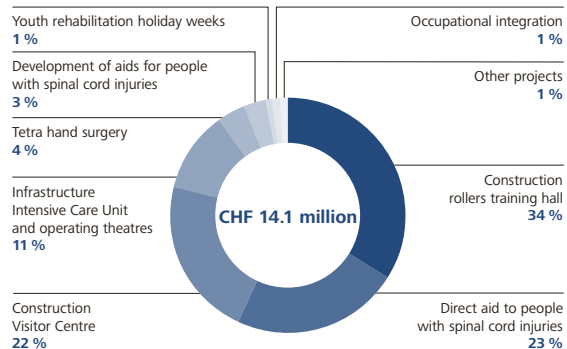
## Development of operating costs



## Utilisation of membership fees and donations



## Utilisation of earmarked donations





# Annual reports

Since 2019, the activities of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, its subsidiaries, and closely related organisations have been documented in detail in the Swiss Paraplegic Group's on-line annual report. The on-line annual report is published in French and German.

The German on-line version is legally binding. This printed short version provides a compact summary of the main information and figures from the reporting year.

[Comprehensive on-line annual report in German](#)



[Comprehensive on-line annual report in French](#)



Annual report of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation,  
its subsidiaries, and closely related organisations

**Editor**

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Nottwil

**Concept/Editorial team**

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Corporate Communications

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Finances and Controlling

**Image processing/Printing**

Abächerli Media AG, Sarnen

**Images**

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Corporate Communications

**Languages**

The printed short version will be published in English, French,  
German, and Italian; the German version is legally binding.

**Paper**

Printed on paper from certified production in accordance with  
FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Mix standards

