



[25th anniversary of the International Cooperation Programme](#)

"la Caixa" Foundation's international action has reached more than 16 million people over the past 25 years

- The organisation's International Cooperation Programme, launched in 1997, celebrated this milestone with an event focused on discussing future challenges. The debates brought together many leading names in international cooperation and development, including Graça Machel, Chris Elias, Pedro Alonso, Seth Berkley, Gillian Triggs, Ashok Khosla and Peter Simons.
- "la Caixa" Foundation celebrates 25 years of partnerships and synergies with more than 800 national and international associations and organisations. These efforts have helped to transform the lives of more than 16 million people through projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Over the last 25 years, the Foundation has established alliances with different international bodies and foundations, cooperating in more than 660 projects in 65 countries and sharing knowledge and resources in order to maximise impact and transform the lives of thousands of people.

Barcelona, 1 July 2022. At CosmoCaixa today, "la Caixa" Foundation celebrated the 25th anniversary of its International Cooperation Programme in an event that brought together top-level speakers and representatives from leading institutions in the field of development aid on a global scale. The celebrations were also attended by Antonio Vila Bertrán, General Manager of "la Caixa" Foundation.

Since its launch in 1997, "la Caixa" Foundation's International Cooperation Programme has supported a total of **663 projects** in **65 countries** in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all with the aim of creating opportunities and combating inequality among the most vulnerable groups within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on **work focused on meeting**

the most urgent needs and thanks to its alliances with **more than 800 partners and collaborators**, the Programme has reached **more than 16 million people**.

At today's event, **two round tables** on the themes of **global health and development** were organised in order to discuss the present and future of international cooperation. The debates centred, above all, on the great challenges and priorities for the coming years. All this, with a common goal: to continue transforming lives.

Speakers



Graça Machel
Founder of Graça Machel Trust.
Founder of Foundation for Community Development



Chris Elias
President of the Global Development Division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



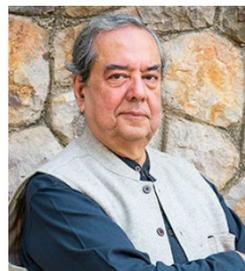
Pedro Alonso
Professor of Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and consultant at the Department of International Health, Hospital Clinic-University of Barcelona



Seth Berkley
CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance



Vincent Cochetel
Special Envoy for the Central and Western Mediterranean Situation
UNHCR



Ashok Khosla
President of the Development Alternatives Group and World Future Council member



Peter Simon
CEO of WSBI-ESBG since 2021

The moderators at the round tables were: **Jaime Sepúlveda**, Distinguished Professor of Global Health and Executive Director of the University of California's Institute for Global Health Sciences in San Francisco; and **Delphine Moralis**, Executive Director of the Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea).

The master of ceremonies was the journalist **Cristina Villanueva**.

Overview of the first 25 years

During these 25 years, the organisation has learned many **lessons** and shared many **challenges**. The lessons learned include, particularly: the importance of joining forces and building networks in the countries where work takes place on the ground; the need to invest in research and innovation, which are key to development and humanitarian action, while always prioritising people; transparency as a means of building trust; the generation of knowledge to increase impact; and the vital importance of involving society, business, philanthropic circles and volunteers in all initiatives.

The milestones reached over this period include: the establishment of **calls for proposals** to provide support for development cooperation projects and humanitarian action; the opening of the **Washington DC office** to increase the organisation's international presence and promote cooperation with the leading international organisations and foundations; and the creation of more than 11,000 jobs through the **Work4Progress** project, which generates new employment opportunities for women and young people by establishing open social innovation platforms in India, Mozambique and Peru.

Other notable achievements include the **Child Vaccination Programme**, implemented in cooperation with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, **helping to vaccinate more than 8 million children**, and the alliances with ISGlobal and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to contribute to the fight against malaria. Another is the MOM project, which combats **child malnutrition** in collaboration with UNHCR and has provided care for **more than 620,000 children** under the age of 5. To this must be added the **612 CooperantesCaixa volunteers** mobilised by the organisation. These volunteers have **provided technical assistance in 23 countries**. Finally, donations worth **18 million euros** have been received and **14 exhibitions** and activities have been organised, attracting more than 2 million visitors. In recognition of all this, the organisation has received **17 international prizes and awards**.

Recently, the International Cooperation Programme has also contributed to the response to the **humanitarian crisis** caused by the war in **Ukraine**. To this end, "la Caixa" Foundation has joined forces with UNHCR and UNICEF, strengthening the action of these humanitarian organisations through total donations of **2 million euros**.

"la Caixa" Foundation Communication Department

Neus Contreras: 619 743 829 / ncontreras@fundacionlacaixa.org

Press Room: <https://prensa.fundacionlacaixa.org/es/>