

Strengthening resilience through aerospace capabilities

Impact stories from the Airbus Foundation's global partnerships in 2025

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Logistics Cluster personnel unloading humanitarian aid in Fada, Chad.
Photo: AWIPLAY – Brunel Ouangraoua.

Welcome

From environmental degradation to humanitarian displacement, the global crises of 2025 show that today's challenges cannot be met by any single sector acting alone. The traditional models of international development are facing an inflexion point, compounded by fast-shrinking funding streams.

At the Airbus Foundation, we view this shift not as a deficit, but as a call to build more intentional and self-reliant systems. For almost two decades, we have strived to be a technical catalyst to our partners.

By listening to them and sharing our unique aerospace resources, including high-resolution satellite data, logistics expertise and advanced technology, we aim to ensure that our contributions have a long-term impact.

In the following pages, you will find five stories that reflect this ethos:

- **NGOs** leveraging precision data to develop, lead and grow their conservation and humanitarian missions
- **Local experts** building the self-sustaining infrastructure needed to deliver life-saving aid and healthcare
- **Educators** using interactive tools to empower a new generation with critical thinking skills to navigate a complex world.

Success for us is not only measured by the reach of our actions, but also by the strength of the systems we help to build. We look forward to continuing this journey of collective resilience with our partners throughout 2026.

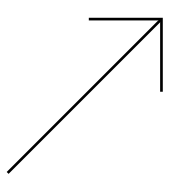


Hania Tabet |
Managing Director of the
Airbus Foundation &
Head of Airbus Social Value



The Airbus Foundation helps to address some of the world's most pressing challenges by putting Airbus' unique strengths – including aerospace products, skills, people and funding – to work.

We collaborate with partners to deliver humanitarian and environmental programmes, and we provide high-quality educational resources informed by and designed for educators.



Our year at a glance: 2025 activity highlights

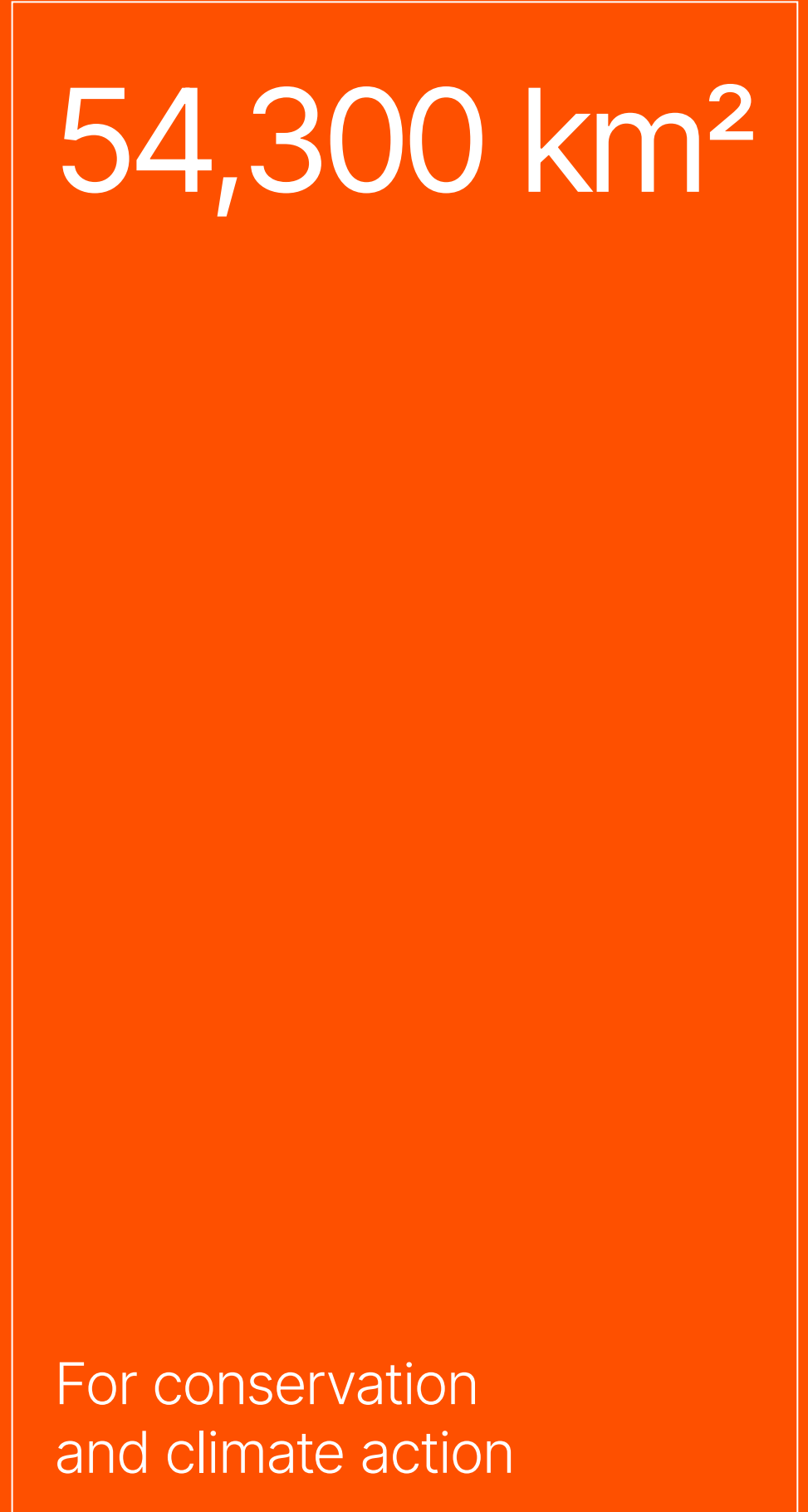


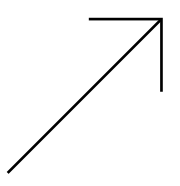
missions across
16 countries



562 tonnes
of aid delivered

Breakdown of satellite imagery provided





10

humanitarian partners, supporting a network of 54 humanitarian organisations



15

biodiversity conservation organisations equipped with very high-resolution satellite imagery

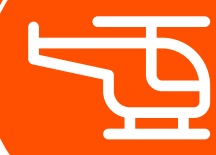
2025 highlights



Our partnership with Airlink scaled airlift capacity, **enabling NGOs to safeguard their resources** for life-saving aid in protracted crises in Sudan and Afghanistan



The Connected Conservation Foundation Ecosystem Insights Hub was launched, providing crucial earth observation data to **enable sector-wide knowledge sharing** on biodiversity



The World Food Programme-led Logistics Cluster received **official government recognition** for regular and frequent helicopter missions in Burkina Faso, strengthening the case for long-term humanitarian solutions

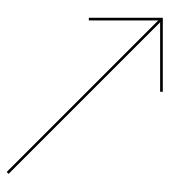


Our interactive education series FAIR ENOUGH won the **Ecsite 'Mariano Gago Excellence in Science Engagement Award'** for creative, bold, impactful thinking that engages the public and helps to meet today's global challenges



Healthcare capacity in Mongolia was strengthened through Helicopter Emergency Medical Services training in operational impact and crisis management, in partnership with the Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine





Flexible funding to boost airfreight capacity with Airlink



World Food Programme personnel delivering boxes of humanitarian aid following Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka.
Photo: Airlink via World Food Programme in Sri Lanka.

Bringing stability and flexibility to the humanitarian sector

We provided...

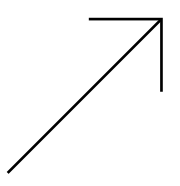


MASkargo plane being loaded with aid following the Myanmar earthquake, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Photo: Airlink via International Federation of Red Cross in Malaysia.



It has never been more important to ensure shrinking NGO budgets stretch as far as possible. In countries like Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan – experiencing long-standing, complex crises – securing funding and resources has been especially hard. Equally, previously reliable rapid responses to natural disasters and conflicts have been put at risk, as the impact of humanitarian aid cuts sets in.

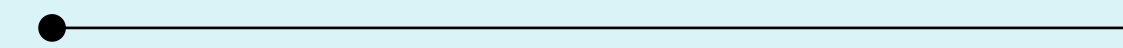
At this critical time for private and non-profit sector collaboration, 2025 saw the first full year of our partnership with Airlink. Across 15 humanitarian missions together, we rapidly and efficiently provided flexible funding to release additional airfreight capacity, leaving NGOs better able to allocate their resources to life-saving aid.



Our partnership with Airlink in 2025:

1.15m

crisis-affected
people reached



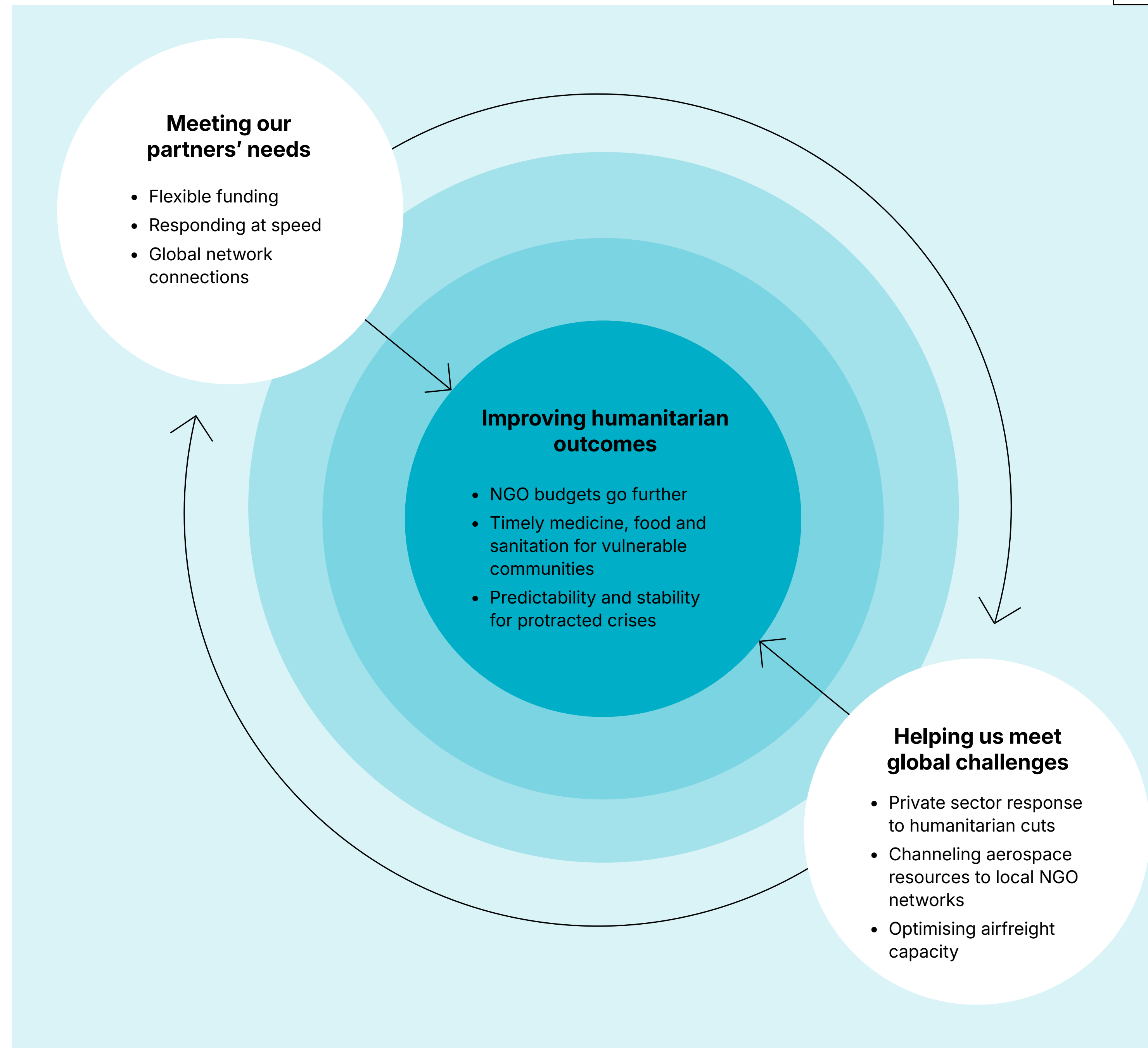
\$ 3.21m

transportation savings for NGOs

Collaborating to enhance NGO outcomes

Airlink works with over 50 commercial and cargo airlines and more than 200 national and international organisations to transport humanitarian aid to both long-term crises and rapid-onset disasters. We have committed € 7.5 million over four years to support their missions, helping to provide stability and continuity for the humanitarian sector.

Combining our flexible support with Airlink's network coordination, we were able to scale our collective impact, boosting capacity and freeing up more of NGOs' limited financial resources.



Our partnership with the Airbus Foundation allows us to respond in new and creative ways. It might be coordinating a \$ 300,000 charter flight or securing \$ 10,000 of spare commercial aircraft capacity. Together, we ensure all available capacity benefits the NGOs we work with.

Bethany Holland | Associate Director, Humanitarian Programs at Airlink, Inc.

The multiplier effect of flexible funding

In recent years, there has been a growing need for resources for long-term, often-forgotten crises. Airlink is one of the partners we work with to support organisations working in countries facing these challenges. Bethany explains: "Many of Airlink's NGO partners have had to either downsize or pull out of these protracted crises. But with the Airbus Foundation's support, we made sure that we could continue supporting the movement of supplies."

The scale of the crisis in Sudan was – and remains – unimaginable. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 6.8 million people across Darfur alone are experiencing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity. We worked with Airlink to transport 78 tonnes of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) so the International Medical Corps (IMC) could provide for people in urgent need.

Normally, a shipment of this size would cost \$700,000 - a price so high that IMC could only afford to send 20% of the required supplies. By partnering with Airlink, we turned that around. Airlink used its industry partnerships to secure over \$420,000 in free shipping and storage, while we covered the remaining transport at just a third of the usual market rate. Together, we ensured that 100% of these life-saving supplies reached Sudan.



Local community member with aid provided by INTERSOS, ShelterBox, and Action Medeor in Sudan. Photo: Airlink via INTERSOS, ShelterBox and Action Medeor in Sudan.

Over

913,000

people provided with medicine and 260,000 with nutritional aid through \$ 1.5 million of transportation savings



The shipment's success meant that over 7,000 children under five received food essential for their survival. As Bethany says: "I can't overstate the importance of the Sudan missions, where people are fleeing from unimaginable atrocities and clinics have run out of urgently-needed supplies."

Shipments to Afghanistan were similarly time-critical, as communities faced ongoing displacement, conflict and the devastating effects of recent earthquakes, floods and droughts. This year, our partnership generated \$ 1.5 million of transportation savings for three NGOs, providing more than 913,000 people with medicines and 260,000 people with nutritional aid.

Reaching more countries with rapid-response emergency aid

As well as supporting missions that responded to protracted crises, we remained ready to work with Airlink in response to rapid-onset disasters. On 28 March, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar. "This was the first major test for aid organisations following the dissolution of USAID," explained Bethany. We collaborated with Airlink to mobilise a charter flight carrying 51 tonnes of aid for an estimated 55,000 people in need.



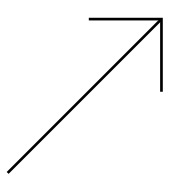
Local community member with aid distributed by Samaritan's Purse Canada following the Pakistan floods.
Photo: Airlink via Samaritan's Purse Canada in Pakistan.

Our partnership with Airlink in 2025:



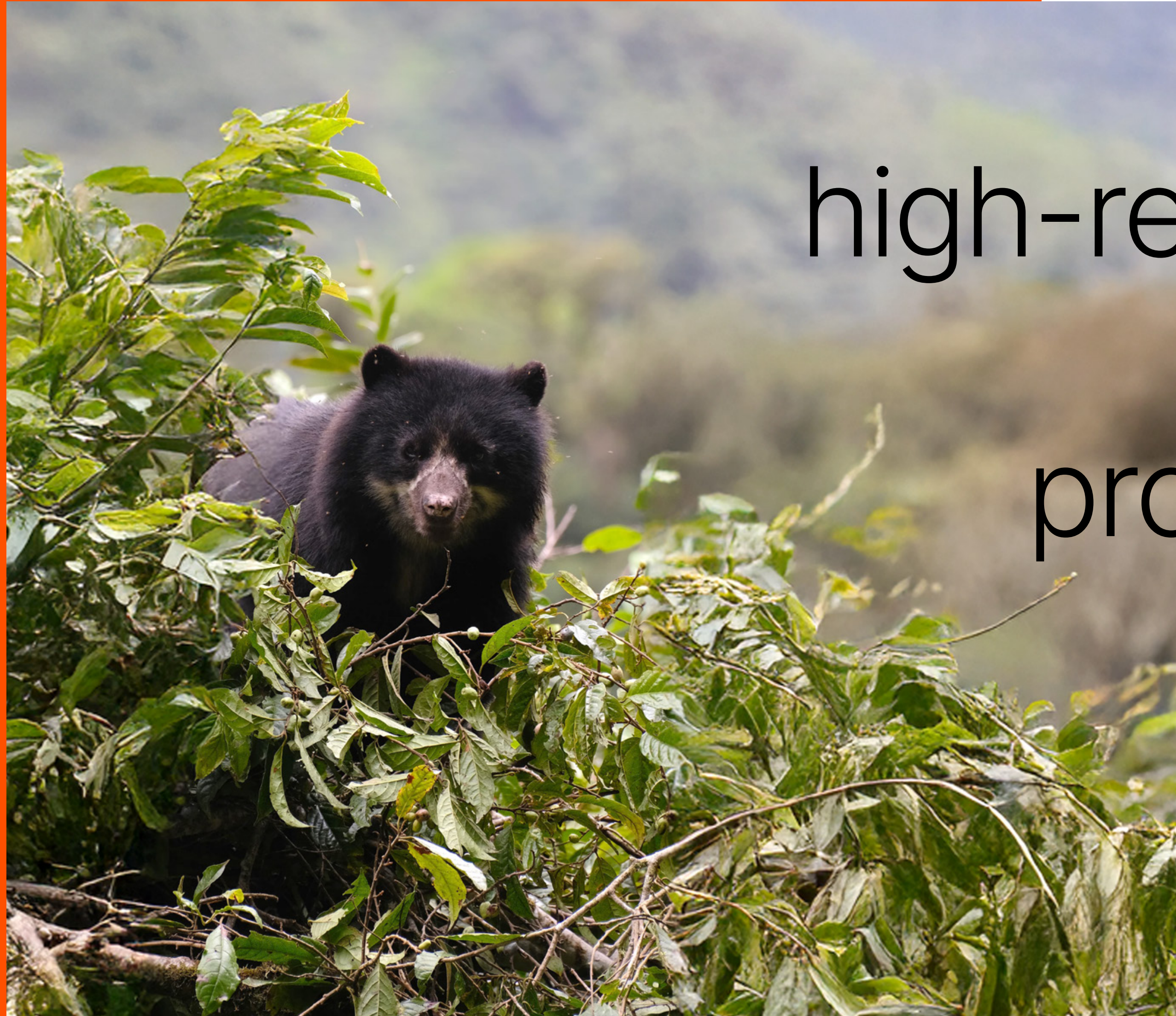
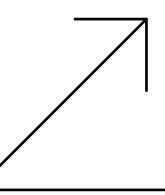
When Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October, damage to the island's ports put sea freight routes out of action, driving airfreight prices beyond the reach of most humanitarian organisations. We reacted on the same day, using Airlink's network to secure a discounted charter flight that delivered the first World Food Programme batch of aid.

In November, Cyclone Ditwah hit Sri Lanka, bringing heavy rain and widespread flooding, displacing millions of people and depriving them of food, their livelihoods and essential infrastructure. Many communities became totally inaccessible by road. We responded by supporting an Airlink mission through funding and connections with airline and helicopter customers. This enabled the transport of water, sanitation, and essential nutritional and medical supplies.



Supporting the conservation of natural ecosystems with the Connected Conservation Foundation





Providing very high-resolution satellite imagery to help protect biodiversity

We provided...



Satellite imagery



Skills and knowledge



Funding



Capacity building

For an elephant, 30 centimetres might feel like an insignificant distance – it barely covers one of its footprints. But for a conservationist urgently trying to save elephants from extinction, 30 centimetres makes a critical difference.

Standard resolution Earth observation capabilities are available for free or at a low cost. They map the Earth at 10-30 metres per pixel, providing limited information. However, by using very high-resolution (VHR) satellite imagery with 30-centimetre pixels, conservationists can determine precisely what draws elephants to particular habitats. These insights can lead to improved land management practices and reduced conflict between elephants – and other endangered wildlife – and humans.

Through our partnership with the Connected Conservation Foundation (CCF), we provide VHR satellite imagery to environmental NGOs. Together with the CCF, we run the unique Satellites for Biodiversity Award, which gives organisations access to precision Earth observation technology, AI and ground data that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive.

It is a powerful way to leverage aerospace technology to help conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystems under threat, while strengthening community knowledge and resilience. Now in its fourth year, the programme has enabled 19 organisations to benefit from 18,446 km² of VHR satellite imagery.

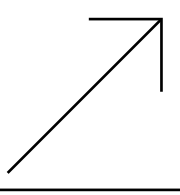


19

organisations
benefited from
18,446 km² of VHR
satellite imagery
since 2022

The unique strength of the Airbus Foundation partnership is combining this VHR satellite imagery with on-the-ground field data – eyes in the sky and boots on the ground. With validation from the conservation teams working in the area and input from the local community, it's a truly holistic approach that's making an impact in the conservation sector.

Sophie Maxwell | Director of the Connected Conservation Foundation (CCF)



Combining earth observation, AI and field insights for improved conservation impacts



Elephants often find themselves at the forefront of human-wildlife conflicts. Roaming vast areas and competing with communities for scarce forest resources, they can ruin crops and damage livelihoods. As Japheth Kimeu, Geographic Information System (GIS) & Data Science Specialist at the CCF, says, “VHR imagery means we can look closely at elevation, slope, water sources and vegetation. We can see where elephants have broken down fences to enter farmland, and we can create safer ‘elephant corridors’ for them to pass through.”

Over the last three years, winners of the Satellites for Biodiversity Award have used VHR insights to support the protection of elephants in countries such as Thailand, Namibia and South Sudan. Many other species have also benefited, including the giant pangolin, chimpanzee, Ethiopian wolf and Andean bear, through projects across Asia, Africa and South America.

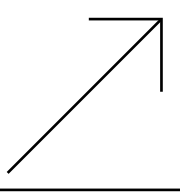
According to Sophie Maxwell, Director of the CCF, the pioneering use of technology has been a “game-changer” for conservation NGOs. “The unique strength of the Airbus Foundation partnership is combining this VHR satellite imagery with on-the-ground field data – eyes in the sky and boots on the ground. With validation from the conservation teams working in the area and input from the local community, it’s a truly holistic approach that’s making an impact in the conservation sector.”

Improving outcomes for wildlife and communities

International wildlife conservation NGO Fauna & Flora illustrated the scale of this impact with a project in South Sudan. Using satellite imagery provided by the Airbus Foundation, they produced the first AI-driven VHR land-cover maps for the Bangangai and Bire Kpatuos regions, mapping 1,855 km² of landscape.

Insights around emerging threats to forests and wetlands, such as crop encroachment and slash-and-burn agriculture, are now informing conservation planning, ranger patrol prioritisation and the design of community conservation buffer zones. Information from the project is also providing a critical baseline dataset to support future biodiversity monitoring and conservation investment in the region.





“

The VHR satellite imagery has provided insights on a scale we have previously been unable to achieve.

”

Harriet Branson | Technical Specialist,
Remote Sensing & GIS at Fauna & Flora

“It has provided insights on a scale we have previously been unable to achieve,” explained Harriet Branson, Technical Specialist, Remote Sensing & GIS at Fauna & Flora. “These lessons will be applied again and again in our other projects on the frontline of the biodiversity crisis.”

In the Manu Biosphere, Peruvian NGO Conservación Amazónica combined VHR satellite imagery with GPS data collected from the collars of six Andean bears – a species listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to habitat loss.

Analysing 953 km² of habitat, they identified human-wildlife conflict ‘hotspots’ where the bears encountered farmed livestock in shrubland and grassland areas. Outputs from the project now guide community conservation activities, with Indigenous women leading efforts to restore habitats and support the coexistence of bears and humans.

Building capacity for sector-wide knowledge sharing : The Ecosystem Insights Hub

As our partnership with the CCF grows, so too does our focus on building capacity. In his role as GIS & Data Science Specialist, which we co-fund, Japheth supports conservation partners to improve their knowledge of satellite image analysis and VHR-enhanced project design methodologies.

Each year, we see the widening impact of this knowledge sharing as more case studies are added to the Ecosystems Insights Hub on the CCF's website. The Hub has become a showcase for turning experimental approaches into mature, field-tested actions to conserve natural ecosystems.

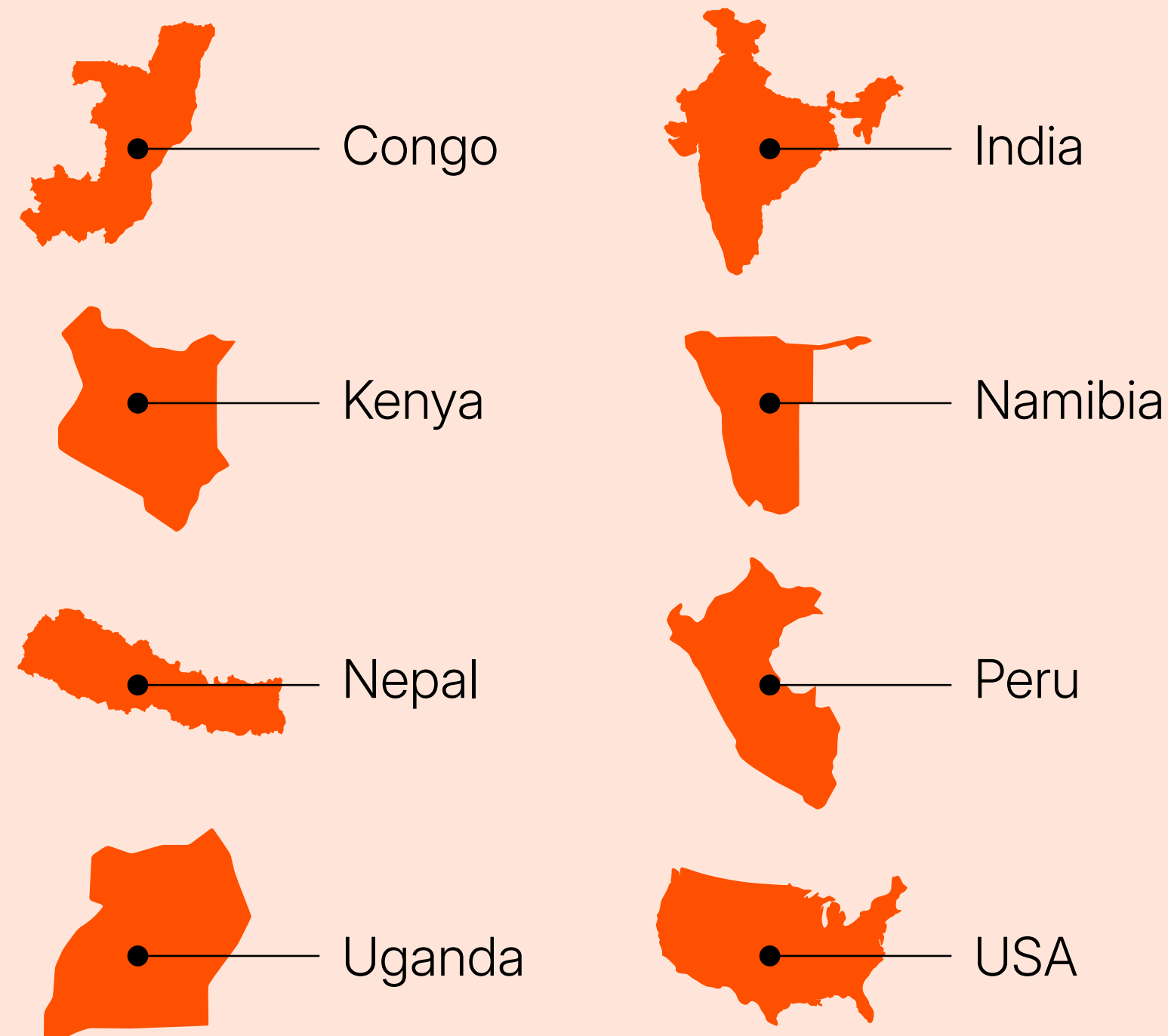
Each new entry helps break down technical barriers and increase knowledge – such as the Langland Conservation and the Pangolin Project in Nyakweri Forest, Kenya, which demonstrates a low-cost, replicable AI workflow that can be adopted by conservation organisations around the world.



Capacity building session with local conservation partner in Namibia.
Photo: Connected Conservation Foundation.

Our partnership with the Connected Conservation Foundation in 2025:

8 countries



covered with
12,204 km² of
VHR imagery to
support effective
ecosystem and
biodiversity
actions

More widely still, this credible visual and landscape-scale data is being used to unlock funding, inform policy discussions and support meaningful engagement with governments and communities. Highlights from the Hub include:

- The elephant-human relations project that is supporting the expansion of corridor conservation initiatives in collaboration with Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.
- The Sai Yok National Park project, whose habitat-risk maps and predictive models are now being shared with conservation organisations and government stakeholders to inform conservation planning.

SOLARIMPULSE
FOUNDATION

SPACE4GOOD

A new call for nature-based solutions

Working with the CCF to build capacity among conservation NGOs has helped us learn more about how to channel aerospace expertise to meet global conservation priorities. In 2025, these insights helped us launch a new Airbus Foundation call for projects on the theme, 'Harnessing aerospace capabilities for nature-based climate resilience: enhancing life on land and water.'



The seven winning entries showed outstanding ambition to address a range of challenges, such as mitigating and adapting to climate change, reforestation, protecting and restoring ecosystems, enhancing food security and improving human wellbeing. They will receive € 10,000, access to VHR satellite imagery, helicopter flight hours, expert guidance and promotion through global networks.

The awards are a partnership with the Solar Impulse Foundation, experts in promoting nature-based projects that deliver efficient and scalable environmental impact, and Space4Good, a team of impact-driven scientists, remote sensing and GIS experts.

Providing helicopter capacity to deliver humanitarian aid with the Logistics Cluster



Supporting locally-led programmes in Burkina Faso's long-term crisis

We provided...



Helicopter capacity



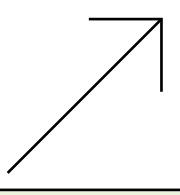
Logistics Cluster personnel offloading humanitarian aid supplies from a helicopter in Fada, Chad.
Photo: AWIPLAY – Brunel Ouangraoua.



Logistics Cluster personnel unload boxes of humanitarian aid in Dori, Burkina Faso.
Photo: AWIPLAY – Brunel Ouangraoua.

2025 marked the 11th year of conflict in Burkina Faso, with over 2.7 million people in need of food and more than 466,000 people experiencing severe acute malnutrition. Many of those affected are children under five, pregnant women and new mothers. In this protracted crisis, there is an urgent, ongoing need for therapeutic food and essential healthcare items, such as vaccinations and women's hygiene kits. But many hard-to-reach communities find themselves cut off from supply routes for several months at a time.

This year, in partnership with the World Food Programme-led Logistics Cluster, we supported four helicopter missions in Burkina Faso, transporting 67.8 metric tonnes of essential medical and nutritional aid across 17 local communities. Together, we helped 23 organisations – 80% of whom were national NGOs close to communities in need – ensure that people continued to receive health and nutritional supplies amid the uncertainty of war.



Our partnership with the Logistics Cluster in Burkina Faso in 2025:

4

predictable helicopter missions,
enabling NGOs and communities
to plan ahead



67.8

tonnes of aid transported, reaching
more than 94,000 people in need

Coordinating to reach communities in need

The 'cluster' approach enables multiple organisations to work together efficiently and effectively in response to crisis-hit regions. The United Nations System appoints different United Nations agencies and civil society organisations to oversee areas such as health, food and shelter. The World Food Programme is responsible for logistics, optimising its supply chain expertise and global operational footprint.

The Logistics Cluster is a community of over 1,040 humanitarian actors working behind the scenes to ensure life-saving assistance reaches people in need, on time and in the right place. We collaborated with them to ensure our helicopter capacity met a pressing demand among local organisations in a predictable and coordinated way.

Due to impassable or unsafe roads and the remote locations of communities in need, helicopters are often the only viable means of transport in humanitarian situations. In Burkina Faso, helicopter deliveries are lifelines for hard-to-reach communities. But due to funding shortages and a lack of availability, NGOs simply cannot access them.

Meanwhile, infrequent and unpredictable road convoys can leave crisis-hit communities without urgently needed food and medicine for long periods. For Bess Cisse, the Logistics Cluster Coordinator based in Burkina Faso, helicopter transport is critical for local organisations to achieve their missions: "We always ask, 'How can we support local partners so they can respond to the need themselves?' With access to Airbus helicopters, we give partners the means to deliver aid reliably and predictably to communities."



Logistics Cluster personnel carry boxes of humanitarian aid to local communities in Fada, Chad. Photo: AWIPLAY – Brunel Ouangraoua.

We always ask, 'How can we support local partners so they can respond to the need themselves?' With access to Airbus helicopters, we give partners the means to deliver aid reliably and predictably to communities.

Bess Cisse | Logistics Cluster Coordinator based in Burkina Faso

The impact of supporting locally-led humanitarian aid

Enabling locally-led humanitarian activities is a Logistics Cluster priority – and a strategic objective of the UN's 'humanitarian reset' response to severe cuts to global aid. "The local partners are closer to the communities, they are accepted by them and have access. They know the community leaders and understand how to ensure the aid reaches the people who need it most," Bess explains.

By providing regular, predictable heliborne transportation, we support the Logistics Cluster in ensuring that local partners can continue to plan and respond rapidly, efficiently and effectively for priority needs they identified.

In 2025, our missions:



Ensured the continuity of healthcare by providing essential medicines, nutritional supplements and laboratory reagents used to prevent malnutrition and control malaria



Facilitated child vaccinations and support for women in maternal care



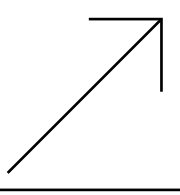
Supported food distribution that ensured vulnerable households received sufficient nutritional intake, reducing the risk of acute malnutrition in children



Supplied school canteens so students could receive daily meals, restoring adequate learning conditions and re-establishing schools as points of stability in crisis-hit communities



Supported the distribution of vegetable seeds to enable self-sufficiency through local food production



What if no helicopter capacity existed in Burkina Faso?

In a humanitarian crisis like this one, the difference between intervention and no intervention can be a matter of life and death. But measuring long-term impact is difficult due to people being displaced and challenges with data management.

On the next page, you can read the Burkinabe Red Cross Society's own account of what happened with Airbus helicopter support, and what would have happened without it.

Burkinabe Red Cross Society impact story

Burkinabe Red Cross Society is a humanitarian organisation (part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement) supporting people in crisis since 1961, and works in blockaded areas to ensure access to water, food, shelter, and medicines.



Building advocacy for long-term change

The provision of transport and delivery of food supplies to Pensa for school canteens was officially recognised by the High Commissioner of Sandbondtenga Province in 2025. This government recognition was a key milestone for the Airbus Foundation-Logistics Cluster partnership. Not only is it a powerful endorsement of work supporting the distribution of daily meals to students and fostering optimal learning conditions, it also helps to build advocacy and create more long-term, self-sustaining systems for humanitarian activities in Burkina Faso.

Our partnership with the Logistics Cluster in Burkina Faso in 2025:

23
organisations supported

20%

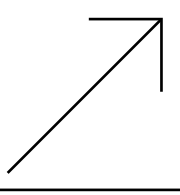
of cargo for international NGOs

80%

of cargo for national NGOs

Using an award-winning AI resource to inspire young people's critical thinking





How the interactive series FAIR ENOUGH led to better outcomes for students and educators

We provided...



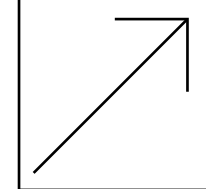
Skills and knowledge

Last summer, a group of teenagers in a socio-economically vulnerable area of France examined how artificial intelligence (AI) affects their lives. They developed a research question, "Can artificial intelligence replace our friends?", and ultimately created a podcast that explored the ethical issues and opportunities of this new technology.

The outcomes demonstrated that, with the right tools and approaches, students facing significant challenges can be supported to think critically about AI, structure arguments and express themselves across a range of topics.



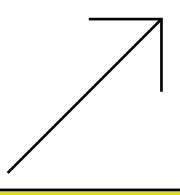
Examples of the FAIR ENOUGH interactive series on a smartphone.



Collaborating to enhance learning experiences

The research and podcast centred on a collaboration between the Airbus Foundation and Lecture Jeunesse, a French NGO dedicated to encouraging teenagers to read and write. As Amélie Vinçon, Development Manager at Lecture Jeunesse, puts it, “We like to focus on what teenagers are interested in. We propose projects that connect them with their cultural practice, make them feel proud, comfortable and realise that reading isn’t only for the good students – it’s for everyone.”

The project in question was part of Lecture Jeunesse’s Cortex programme at the Jacques Duclos Secondary School in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Over 12 sessions, a group of 13- and 14-year-olds researched, developed, produced and evaluated a podcast on a topic they chose – in their case, whether AI could ever replace their human friends. To help the students, their teachers incorporated FAIR ENOUGH, an award-winning educational resource from the Airbus Foundation designed to help young people better understand the role of AI in today’s world.



“FAIR ENOUGH provided the link for these students to reconnect with teachers at the same level of knowledge.”

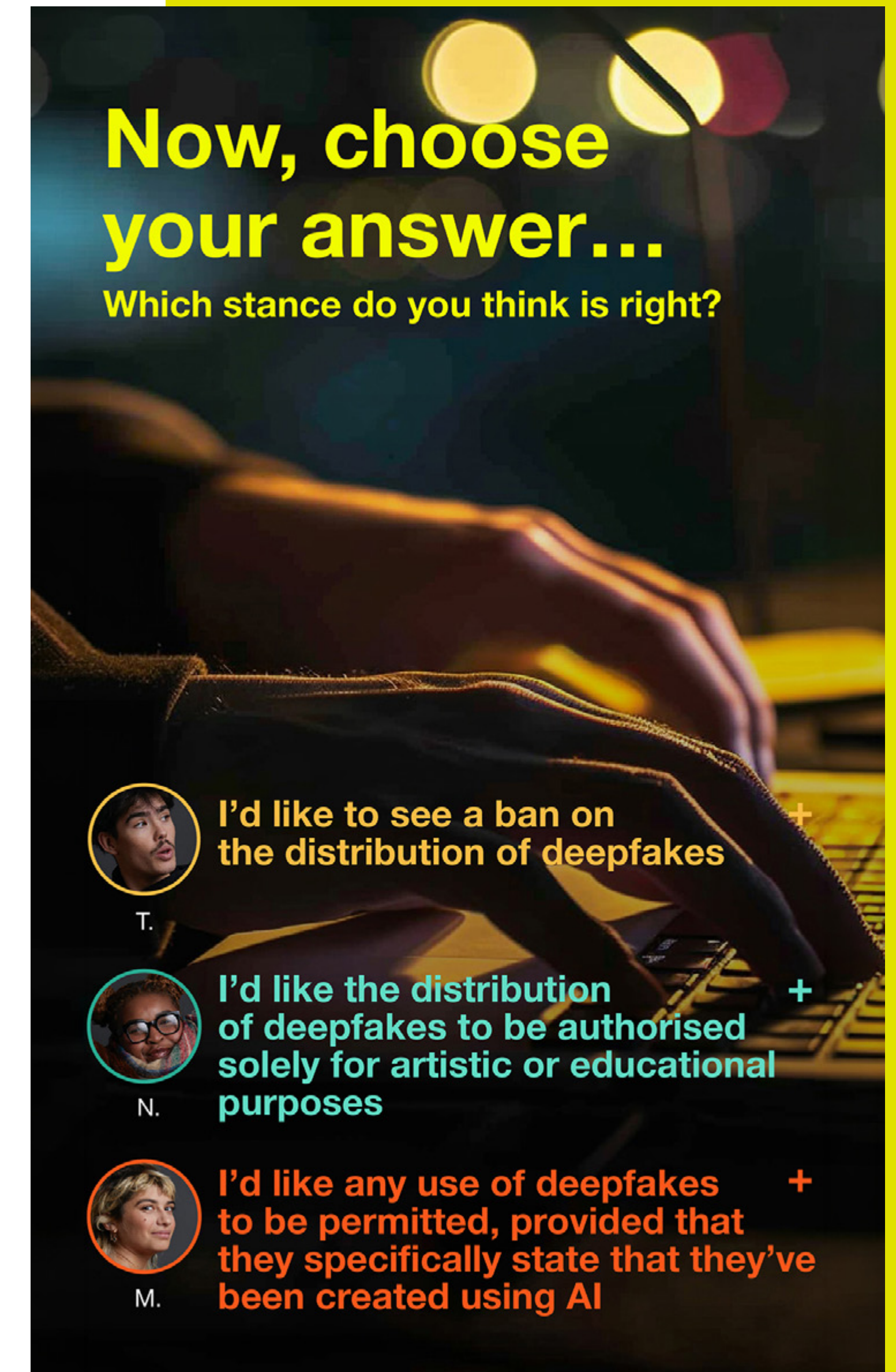
Amélie Vinçon | Development Manager at Lecture Jeunesse

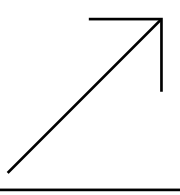
FAIR ENOUGH and the power of relatable teaching tools

Informed by Airbus AI experts and designed in consultation with teachers and teenagers, FAIR ENOUGH is well-suited to initiatives like the Cortex programme. It is an online interactive series of eight stories about AI told through text messages shared between four teenage characters: Noor, Mila, Yu and Tiago. The stories cover topics such as deepfakes, health, sport, jobs, education, creativity, emotional machines and driverless vehicles. The series is freely available as a web-based application in five languages with no download or registration required.

Rather than delivering top-down lessons, FAIR ENOUGH meets young people on their terms. With a recognisable text-message format, relatable characters and a game-like interactive structure, it invites users to make choices, and form and share their opinions. For the students at Jacques Duclos, the series proved transformative.

By engaging with the characters' stories and interactions, the students revealed their capacity for critical thinking about technology and society. Their reading, writing and oral expression skills improved, and the teachers benefited too. As Amélie describes, "FAIR ENOUGH provided the link for these students to reconnect with teachers at the same level of knowledge."





Building bridges between educators and vulnerable students

Jacques Duclos is designated 'REP+', meaning it is a school in a severely disadvantaged area where many students have learning challenges. Increasingly a part of young people's studies, communications, entertainment and creativity, AI has widened the gap between students' habits and behaviours and teachers' understanding of them. But teachers lack the resources to confidently incorporate AI into classroom teaching.

FAIR ENOUGH provides a solution. Channelling expert knowledge from within Airbus, especially on AI and disinformation, it builds bridges between educators and students who are typically excluded from grade attainment and classroom discussions.

Alongside supporting students, these horizontal learning patterns provide educators with transferable skills. In the Cortex programme, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of their students' interests and capabilities, teachers expanded their professional development, equipping themselves to identify and raise awareness of current AI-related challenges among young people.

Completing the learning triangle, the Airbus Foundation gained insights from the Cortex project too. With a deeper understanding of young people's needs, we could apply learnings as we grow our open-access digital resources for 8-18-year-olds, sparking new and important conversations between educators and students.

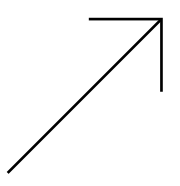




Europe-wide recognition for FAIR ENOUGH

The Ecsite 'Mariano Gago Excellence in Science Engagement Award' rewards creative, bold, impactful thinking that engages the public and helps to meet today's global challenges. In 2025, it was awarded to FAIR ENOUGH, recognising its innovative approach and shareability across the scientific engagement community.

**FAIR
ENOUGH**



Strengthening regional healthcare capacity with the Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine



Building capacity and driving systems change through heliborne medicine

We provided...



Skills and knowledge



Helicopter capacity



Funding



Capacity building



Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine capacity building helicopter exercise in action in Mongolia.
Photo: Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine.

More than

2,300

people trained
in 11 countries



The hour immediately following a severe traumatic injury is known to medical professionals as the 'golden hour'. It's not an exact measure, but it emphasises how critical the immediate aftermath of an incident is for survival and recovery rates. The sooner medical staff arrive, the greater the chance of preventing blood loss, keeping airways open and supporting patients' consciousness.

In hard-to-reach locations, the fastest way to reach patients is often via helicopter, but many countries lack the capacity or systems to deliver reliable heliborne emergency care. Since 2014, we have partnered with the Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine (FAM) on capacity building to support the delivery of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) training for more than 2,300 people in 11 countries – so local medical staff can provide timely care and save more lives, even in the toughest circumstances.

Systems-based interdisciplinary training for helicopter emergency medical services

Over the last 12 years, the HEMS programme has evolved from a series of clinical workshops to a more comprehensive international framework for health security. As FAM identified the need to build robust infrastructure to enable medical skills to be put into practice, a 'train the trainer' model was adopted to create self-sustaining systems.

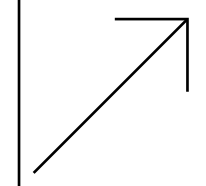
We provide logistics, financial support and access to rotorcraft knowledge and skills, and FAM designs and delivers training sessions and symposiums that meet the highest international levels of scientific, medical and educational excellence.

Training forums usually consist of two days of theoretical instruction and one day of practical training in the helicopter. Designed to ensure a diverse range of professionals can replicate the training in real-life situations, sessions might include general practitioners, nurses, anaesthetists, pilots, technicians and firefighters.

Every training mission centres on sharing knowledge across disciplines to achieve the best possible medical outcomes. As President of FAM, H el ene Dubrulle, said this year, "It's a unique pooling of skills and learning across aerospace and medicine."



Capacity building training session with a static helicopter.
Photo: Fondation de l'Acad mie de M decine.



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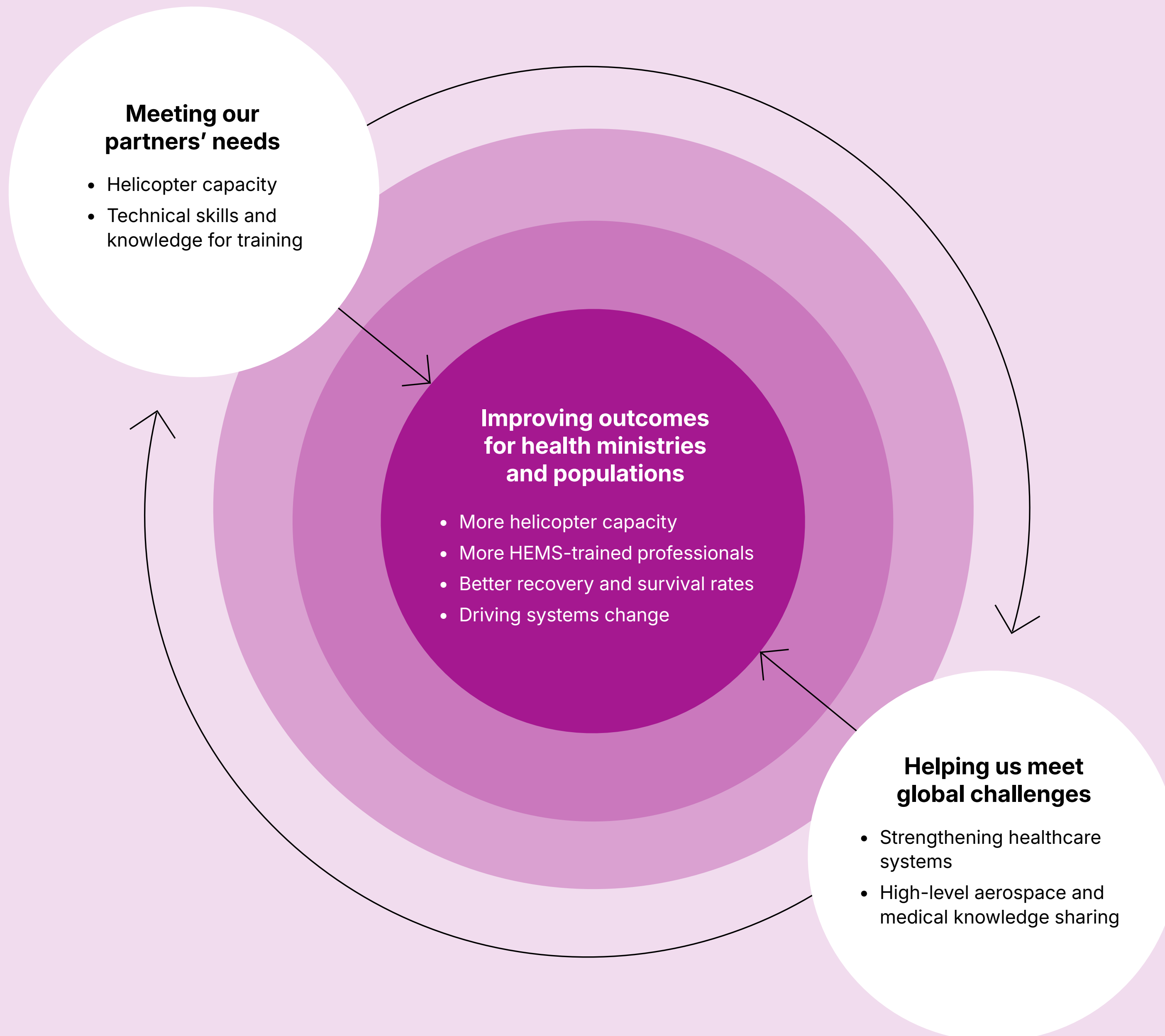
Hélène Dubrule | President of Fondation de l’Académie de Médecine (FAM)

Learning and improving critical care in tight spaces

At the heart of the training, professionals learn to evacuate patients and treat them within the limited space of a helicopter. "It's the exact opposite of a hospital ward, with all the staff, processes and controlled conditions," explained Guy Emanuelli, Helicopter Coordinator at the Airbus Foundation. "In a helicopter, there are maybe one or two people looking after the patient, and they must be in regular contact with the pilot who can advise them on sudden movements, vibrations and changes in weather. At the same time, they are typically dealing with patients in critical conditions."



Medical professionals learning how to treat patients within a helicopter.
Photo: Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine.



Together, these participants learn from the trainers and each other about how to collaborate and adapt their skills, so their countries can expand emergency response services.

After the sessions, the various professionals take their new knowledge and experience back to their day-to-day work, so the training outcomes are felt across hospitals and services. "We also involve the local authorities, medical authorities, hospitals, universities and ministries of health," Guy explains, "so we're enhancing knowledge of heliborne technology more widely." Airbus learns too, implementing improvements to its helicopter capabilities to meet the latest demands of heliborne emergency medicine.

Adapting HEMS training for local needs

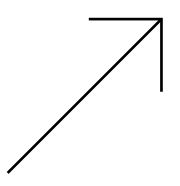
In 2025, our partnership with FAM flexed to deliver tailored training that addressed specific country needs.

Four years ago, Mongolia's first-ever dedicated aerial search and rescue unit was created through a partnership between the French and Mongolian Civil Defence authorities. Mongolia is roughly three times the size of France and home to just 3.5 million people, with many spread across challenging, mountainous terrain – so building HEMS capacity is critical to strengthening the national healthcare system.



In June, we supported FAM in delivering the first in-country training symposium for 122 participants across a range of disciplines. Beyond these individual outcomes, the event signalled a strategic move by the Mongolian Government to build a centralised command structure for natural disasters.

The second in-country training programme in India took place in Rishikesh, a perilous, mountainous region in the north. While the case for heliborne medicine has been gaining ground, the country still lacks a national public HEMS provision.



Our partnership with the Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine in 2025:

The HEMS training for 59 people, including 23 doctors and 36 paramedics was designed to help save more lives during the critical golden hour, but also strengthen the case for building more HEMS capacity across India.

The HEMS training in South Africa was the first carried out by FAM on the African continent, forming part of the inaugural International Symposium on HEMS in Africa. The University of Johannesburg already has advanced technical facilities, including mock-up helicopters for training, so the training focused on building continuity and efficiency.

Highlights included introducing the South African HEMS Activation Screen, a clinical decision-making tool that reduces the financial waste of 'over-triaging' and increases survival rates in remote areas. In Chile, we focused on leveraging FAM's expertise to improve an existing HEMS system.

4 countries with increased capacity to integrate HEMS capabilities

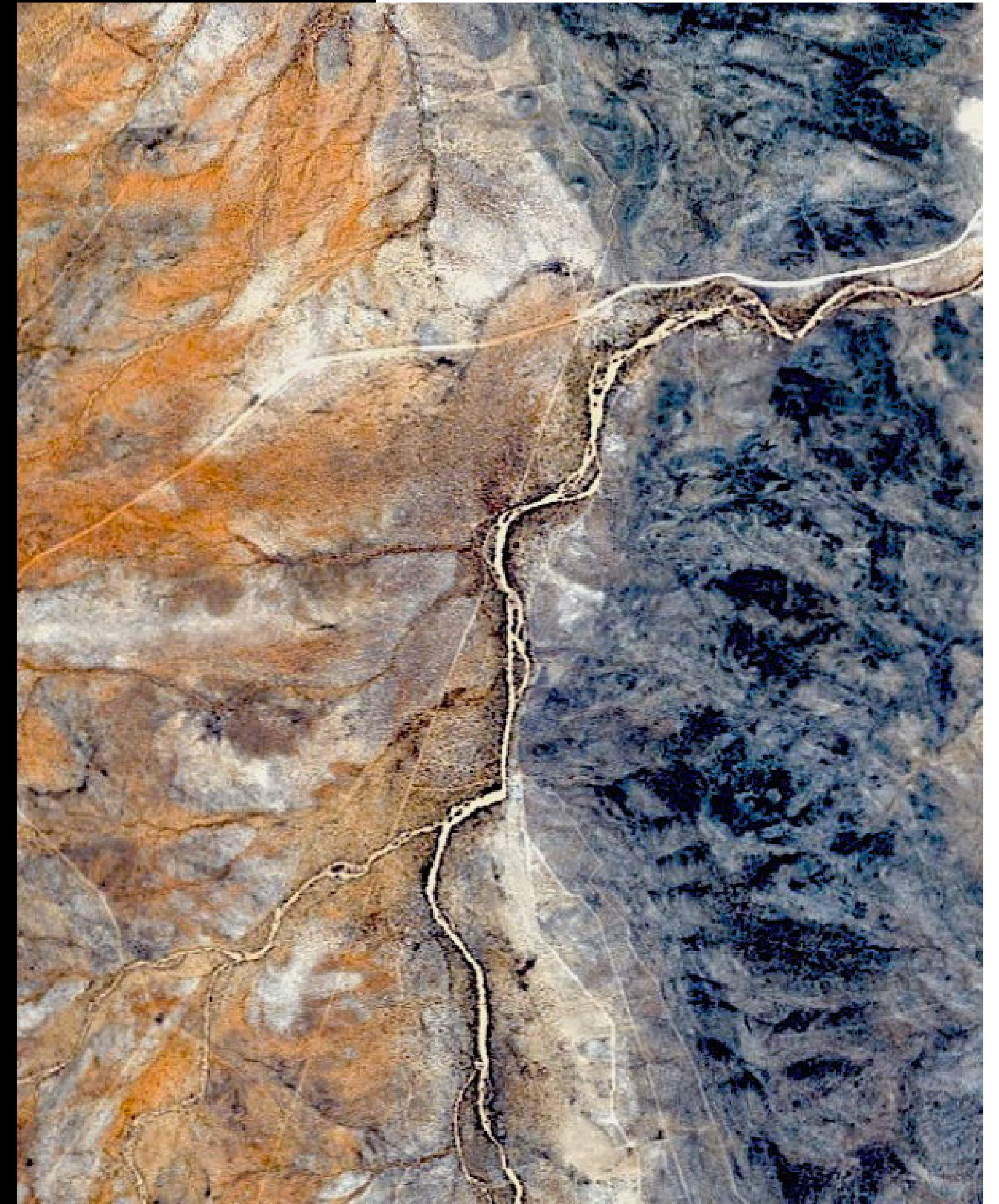
353

medical professionals trained

Looking ahead

As we enter 2026, the Airbus Foundation is enhancing its role as a collaborative partner to one of actively catalysing collective action.

In a global landscape defined by 'polycrises,' geopolitical instability often compounds the devastating effects of climate change, conflict and poverty.





Student participating in a STEM workshop with TRACES at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris. Photo: Airbus Foundation.

The need for unconventional thinking has never been more urgent. We recognise that as international development funding shrinks, we have a unique responsibility to use our resources not just to provide immediate relief and support, but to unlock long-term solutions. We aim to provide the initial stability and evidence required to attract broader support for humanitarian, environmental and educational challenges.

Together with our partners, we are strengthening our focus on long-term capacity building that can contribute to systems-level change. Our goal is to create a multiplier effect, where the innovative models we support – from nature-based climate resilience to humanitarian response – are replicable, scalable and resilient.

We are strengthening our core alliances to ensure that technical innovation and expertise translates into tangible, real-world impact. By combining our international reach with local knowledge, we are dedicated to reducing the duplication of global efforts and avoiding the dilution of resources among conservation, humanitarian and education organisations. For us, success is not measured by the number of countries we operate in, but by how we are growing, learning and strengthening the solutions at a systems level.

We will continue to share stories of collaboration as we work with our partners to respond to the world's most pressing challenges.

If you have any enquiries about the Airbus Foundation you can reach out to us using the following details:

Camila Orozco Quintero

External Communications

Phone: +49 160 715 8152

Email: maria-camila.orozco-quintero@airbus.com

Airbus Foundation

Email: corporate.foundation@airbus.com