



HILFSWERK

Hilfswerk
International
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020





HAND IN HAND – WORLDWIDE

Dear Reader!

For the first time in two decades, extreme poverty is on the rise again worldwide. Never-ending conflict hotspots, global political instabilities and extreme climatic conditions therefore require our commitment against poverty, hunger, and injustice even more.

In 2020, the Corona pandemic has kept the world in suspense. In the Hilfswerk International project countries, existing difficulties and inequalities became even more apparent. Many project activities could not be implemented in the usual way due to lockdowns. And in some regions, the Corona pandemic remained only the smallest problem.

In many of our project regions, such as Syria, running water as we know it is not a matter of course. Hilfswerk International installs water systems and educates the population on hygiene issues. In Mozambique, the focus was on the fight against mother-child mortality. Meanwhile, Lebanon is in

its biggest crisis in decades, driving more than half of the families into poverty, at least since the explosion in the port of Beirut. In Colombia, we are protecting the Amazon rainforest and indigenous groups, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina we are helping the elderly and people in need of care.

As you can see, our aid activities in 2020 were diverse. But one common thread runs through it all: We stand by people in need. **And that would not be possible without your help.** Thanks to your help, we save lives, help children, and accompany entire regions into a self-determined, stable future.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that. **And we still have a lot of plans!** Because we will not give up as long as children are starving, and our planet is being destroyed.

I would be delighted if you would continue to stand by our side in the years to come!

In this annual report, I would like to show you what we were able to achieve in 2020. We give you an insight into the diversity of our aid measures and the resulting development opportunities for children and adults - and entire regions.

Best regards,
Your

Stefan Fritz
Managing Director
Hilfswerk International



Hilfswerk International is an Austrian organisation for development cooperation and disaster relief. We help people in war and crisis regions and are particularly committed to helping children in need. Our projects are diverse. They range from fighting hunger through agricultural support to promoting small businesses and helping children with disabilities. What always remains the same, however, are our principles:



EMPOWERMENT

We empower people worldwide so that they will soon no longer be dependent on outside help. We recognize existing potential and, together with the population on site, create the conditions for these potentials to develop (again). By helping people to help themselves, our projects leave their mark - and have an impact for generations.



CHILDREN IN FOCUS

Children are extremely vulnerable and deserve special protection. Therefore, children have a special place in all our activities. We invest in the education of children and young people so that they can help shape a good life for all in the future. Because whoever promotes children promotes the future.



RESPECT

We respect people, their dignity, culture, history, and traditions. Our projects are implemented jointly and at eye level with the local population from development to completion.



STRENGTHENING WOMEN

Poverty is still female. Hilfswerk International is therefore particularly committed to the empowerment of women and gender justice. This includes the equal participation of women and men in political and public life, the prevention of violence and ensuring reproductive health.



17 goals for a better world

If our children and grandchildren are to have a future worth living, we must act now. The 17 global goals for sustainable development set by the United Nations set the pace. With its aid projects, Hilfswerk International contributes to achieving these goals and making a good life possible for all.

“ Hilfswerk International is committed to helping families in need with passion and problem-solving expertise. Through years of experience, we initiate future-oriented improvements for children, adults, and entire regions worldwide. It is particularly important that our worldwide aid measures have a long-term effect. This is achieved through listening, know-how, patience, and the serious will to help people in the long term. The insights on the following pages confirm that the international Hilfswerk activities are bearing fruit. ”

Christian Domany
President Hilfswerk International





HELP ON SITE

2020 was a particularly difficult year for **Lebanon**. The worst economic and financial crisis in decades plunged more than half of the entire population into abject poverty. Inflation is rising rapidly, and the middle class has virtually disappeared overnight. Countless Lebanese families live in poverty. In addition, there are around 1.5 million Syrian refugees who were already struggling to survive daily before the crisis. The explosion in the port of Beirut in August gave Lebanon the rest: in addition to the dead and injured, 130,000 people directly lost their jobs, 31,000 small businesses were destroyed, infrastructure and housing in Beirut suddenly laid in ruins. As always, children suffer the most under these horrendous conditions.

Hilfswerk International has been active in Lebanon since 2006 and supports Lebanese and Syrian families through emergency aid and long-term development cooperation.



“ In Lebanon, the suffering of Syrian refugees and the host community is enormous. Our livelihood, education, health, and social stability projects bring important support to the needy population. Hilfswerk International runs emergency projects and development projects that aim to strengthen people's knowledge and skills to live in dignity. Sustainability is at the forefront: all our activities are tailored to have a long-term impact. ”

Mireille Karaky
Head of Hilfswerk International Libanon

Beirut: Emergency aid at eye level

To overcome the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon and ensure the livelihoods of families, we provide emergency aid at eye level: we empower people who have become acutely unemployed in the health and social sectors, who can use their qualifications to support needy families during the crisis. This not only gives people an income, but also ensures that socially vulnerable, sick, and help-seeking women and men are cared for during the crisis.



“ Thanks to Hilfswerk International, I can teach our neighborhood children who lost everything in the explosion. It is so important that children have something to hold on to after the traumatizing event in the middle of the corona pandemic. Something to distract them from the difficulties. I come to the neighbor's family every day and give the children just that: space to learn, to grow, to play. With the income, I can now also repair my flat, which was damaged in the explosion. ”

Eva, 32, teacher in Beirut



With this project, we create temporary employment opportunities for people who, in return, help other families. In addition to income, we also help people to be reintegrated into the labor market in the long term. That is how...

- » we achieve a **multiplier effect**,
- » we preserve the **dignity of people**,
- » we strengthen **social cohesion**,
- » we promote people's **ability to make decisions** and
- » take a **holistic approach**.

EMERGENCY AID 2020

- Employment and remuneration of **31** trained people who have become unemployed and who, in turn, support
- **639** people in need in the areas of education, care for the elderly, psychosocial help, and neighborhood assistance.

Training for the future

Youth unemployment is depriving young adults of prospects for the future in the midst of these challenging times. In Salhieh in southern Lebanon, we are therefore training young people in the metal and steel sector. We are updating the knowledge of the teaching staff and upgrading the industrial sector in Lebanon by adapting the curricula. For the young people, this means a sound education, the chance of employment, income, and an independent future.

TRAINING 2020

- Intensive training in the metal and steel sector for **47 young people**
- Entrepreneurship training for **58 trainees**
- Start-up funding for **23 trainees**
- Training of **94 teachers**
- Information campaign on technical professions for **326 young people**

Women's and children's health in crisis

Women and children are at particularly high risk of violence and vulnerability in times of crisis. Syrian refugee women in Lebanon often have no access to adequate care during pregnancy and do not know where to seek help. In West Bekaa near the Syrian border, a huge informal refugee camp has formed where health care cannot be provided. In addition, many Syrian and Lebanese women have no basic education and can neither read nor write. This leads to fewer chances of finding employment.

Help for woman and children

We assist women and children at the Hawsh Harimi medical center near the large refugee camp in West Bekaa. In addition to health care, we also provide education and psychosocial support.

HEALTH 2020

- Free medical care and counselling for **1,499 women** and **2,191 children**
- **1,587 participants** in discussion groups on family planning, reproductive health, nutrition during pregnancy, corona prevention, etc.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to **2,180 women**
- Literacy courses for **180 women**
- **48 women** received vocational training as seamstresses





WATER SUPPLY IN IDLIB

Life without drinking water: hardly imaginable for us, but a sad reality for families in **Syria**. Especially in the north of the country, in Idlib, there is not enough water for drinking, cooking or personal hygiene. The consequences for health are fatal – and particularly affect women and children. The ongoing conflict in Syria, the conditions under which mainly internally displaced persons in Idlib live, and the Corona pandemic further exacerbate the water crisis in large parts of Syria.

"The situation for IDPs (internally displaced people) in Idlib is a nightmare. People spend about a fifth of their income on water, and it is not even drinkable. When something as basic as clean water is missing, it is not only people's personal health that is at risk, but also that of the entire community," report our Hilfswerk International colleagues on site.

Scarce drinking water, lack of knowledge around hygiene, lack of access to hygiene products and a lack of information about contracting diseases are big challenges for families in Syria in particular.

“ I fled with my family from Damascus to Orm el Joz. But there was no water here. At least none that we could drink. I did not even want to give my children the water to wash, it was so dirty. Then I heard on the radio that you should wash your hands to protect yourself from Corona. But how, when all the water we have is brown and dirty? ”

Aabid, 29 years from Syria



10 years of war in Syria

The 10 years of war in Syria have left deep wounds. The sad result is that the country lies in ruins today:

- 80 % of the people live below the poverty line.
- More than 13 million people are dependent on outside help - that is more inhabitants than Austria has.
- 4.7 million of these are children.

While media coverage of the war in Syria is diminishing, the suffering remains constant. Since 2011, the conflict has claimed over 400,000 lives and almost 6 million people have fled Syria, mainly to neighbouring Lebanon and Jordan. In addition, 6.7 million Syrians had to leave their homes and found refuge in other regions of Syria.

Inhuman living conditions for internally displaced persons

The situation is particularly difficult for these internally displaced persons. Many have already been displaced several times and have had to leave their new place of residence many times in the last ten years. In the north of Syria, in Idlib, informal settlements have formed with particularly large numbers of internally displaced persons. The tents and emergency shelters are overcrowded, the living conditions dramatic. The families are dependent on clean drinking water, which, however, is not sufficiently available.

The lack of access to sanitation and the poor hygiene conditions in these settlements have already led to diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, meningitis, hepatitis, measles, and diarrhea in the past. The IDPs have faced and continue to face life-threatening diseases without water.

The conflict in Syria has further exacerbated humanitarian needs for water, sanitation, and hygiene. Especially for women and girls, as they have special needs related to menstrual and reproductive health. If these needs are not met, the health of women and children, expectant mothers and babies is at risk.

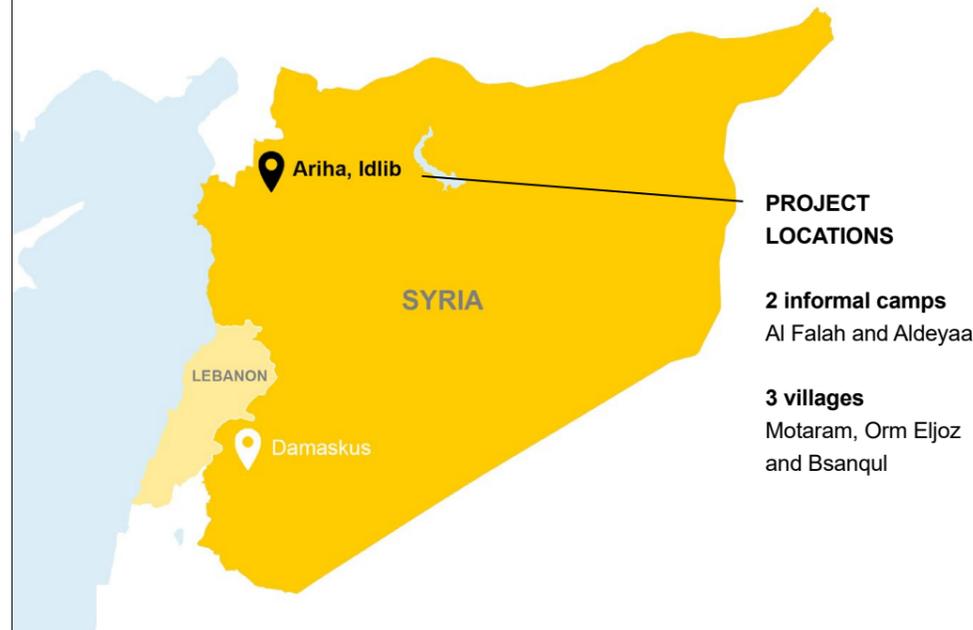


Clean water as the basis for reconstruction

That is why we at Hilfswerk International are providing Syrian families in Idlib with clean water. Not only are we improving people's health, but we are also helping this particularly fragile region to contain the spread of Covid-19.

In this project, we ensure that water tanks in settlements are filled with high quality water and that all who need it can access it. The quality of the water is checked continuously. At the same time, we distribute hygiene kits containing, among other things, disinfectant, soap, feminine hygiene products and face masks.

However, distribution alone will not bring about any noticeable improvement. Therefore, we additionally strengthen the families in awareness-raising workshops on topics such as Covid-19 prevention, the protection of risk groups and the prevention of other diseases.



SYRIA 2020

- » Distribution of **4,920 hygiene kits** to families
- » Conducted **732 awareness-raising workshops** on hygiene practices for **5,069 people**: Specially trained coaches provide information in workshops on Covid 19 infections, preventive measures, hygiene in the private sphere (delousing, use of toilets, waste disposal...)
- » Supply the population with **29,520 m³ drinking water**
- » **29,520 people** have access to clean water as a result

In doing so, we are teaching new hygienic behaviours and practices, as well as new knowledge about the prevention of the Covid19 virus, to reduce the risk of disease and thus save lives. In addition, access to clean, tested water suitable for human consumption will improve the overall quality of life for families in Idlib.

"I took part in the Hilfswerk International workshops with my two children. I really learned a lot. But the best thing is that there is now clean water here in Orm el Joz! We can wash our hands and have enough to drink for the three of us," Aabid says happily.





CREATING PERSPECTIVES ON SITE

In southern **Tunisia**, high unemployment is a major problem. Young people and women suffer particularly: almost every second young person has no employment opportunity.

“ I always tried hard at school and got good grades. I finished my studies in record time. But here in Tunisia it is so hard to get a job, even with a good education. It is hard to feed your family. Unemployment makes us all so tired and takes away the joy of living. We want to provide for our families, we want to contribute to the community ...

Unemployment not only weakens the entire region, but it also leads to a grueling lack of prospects. And this is terrible for the young adults and their families, because the outlook for the future is bleak.

Many see migration to Europe as the only way out. But the way there is often dangerous. In addition, the expectations of life in Europe are rarely fulfilled.

... I wanted to emigrate. The labor market situation here was just too hopeless. But then I heard about the Hilfswerk International project ...

Yosr, 26 years from Tunisia



Getting to the root of the problem

We at Hilfswerk International developed a program in 2012 that has since created prospects for the local young population and promoted economic stability. This program consists of

-  the strengthening of small Tunisian businesses through training,
-  the improvement of economic understanding and management know-how, and
-  the creation of meaningful jobs.

We pay special attention to supporting young people, women, and disadvantaged groups.

Hope at last

... I have always had a fascination for traditional Tunisian coffee houses. With the help of Hilfswerk International, I decided to set up my own business. I learned a lot about entrepreneurship in the last year. Today I have my own little coffee house in the middle of Tataouine. People come here from far away because everyone knows my traditional coffee house, Al Maqam. But the most important thing is I have an income. I can provide for myself and my family. I have been able to hire five employees in the meantime. I am not thinking of leaving. ”

Strengthening potential

Yosr's example shows that aid is successful when existing ideas and potentials are taken up and supported. This is how development cooperation has a particularly sustainable effect.

Hilfswerk International's focus in Tunisia is the long-term strengthening of families through economic development, training, and job creation. Since 2019, we have also been assisting people in the northwest of Tunisia. Here, children in particular suffer from poverty as well as the economically and socially tense situation.



Children suffer from poverty

The situation is tense in north-west Tunisia. The province of Jendouba is close to the Algerian border. The region is characterized by great instability, high unemployment, and below-average salaries. Poverty is widespread. The everyday life of children and young people is determined by a lack of perspective, from which they can hardly escape.

Even school education in Jendouba is not up to the level of the country. Many children are taken out of school to go to work and support their parents financially. All this makes it difficult for the children to pursue child-friendly leisure activities, to make friends and to relieve stress.

Hilfswerk International strengthens children

We support 100 girls and boys aged six to eleven at three schools in Jendouba through weekly ball game trainings. In these two hours, the children can play together, train and then talk about their problems in group discussions with trained coaches. In 2020, we trained three coaches on the topics of violence prevention, acceptance, tolerance, interculturality and trauma management.

Through the pedagogically guided training in mixed groups, stress and frustration are reduced, friendships are built, and moments of success are experienced. Cultural and social differences become unimportant when playing together. They learn to value and respect each other, to integrate into groups and to work together to achieve a goal. The joint training sessions lead to fun, cohesion and offer an escape from the dreary daily routine.



IN 2020 WE ...

- » supported **82 Start-ups** in Tataouine, Medenine and Kebili during and after their establishment
- » trained **208 young entrepreneurs** (in business management, strategy & finance, sales & marketing, internal and external communication)
- » trained **32 teachers** in workshops. They can now teach entrepreneurship to the young students.
- » secured **306 jobs**
- » supported **100 children** between six and eleven through weekly ball game training sessions at three schools
- » trained **3 sports coaches** in violence prevention, interculturality and trauma management.





HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Since 2000, Hilfswerk International has been committed to helping the people of **Mozambique**, the fifth poorest country in the world. Mother-child health, food security and environmental protection are our priorities in the province Sofala. Our motivated team on site knows the challenges well. Together with our colleagues, local authorities, schools, and communities, we have designed and implemented development models that work. Our activities focus on children and newborns as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Mother-Child Health

The high mortality rate of mothers and their babies is a major problem. On average, 489 out of 100,000 women die in childbirth and 68 out of 1,000 children die in their first year of life. That is why we train health workers and support pregnant women. Adequate nutrition, clean drinking water and training on risk prevention contribute significantly to improving mother-child health. In cooperation

with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique, we build maternity homes and equip state health posts with wells for running water, solar energy, and medical supplies.

We have ...

-  built and equipped **15 mother houses:** Pregnant women can meet there days before giving birth. They are well looked after and can exchange information. When the birth begins, they receive the necessary medical support in the health posts, which are right next to the mother houses.



-  constructed **10 wells.** This way we can ensure running water in the health posts.
-  equipped **9 health posts** with renewable energy.
-  organized more than **2,000 lectures** on water hygiene.
-  done repair work and installed rainwater collection systems as well as renewable energy at several schools.

In this way we were able to

- » increase the number and quality of births in health posts,
- » reduce the risk of complications during birth,
- » reduce the risk of infections through improved hygiene and
- » improve the hygiene conditions at schools, especially for girls.

Agriculture and food security

In Sofala, farmers are clearly feeling the effects of climate change. In the interior of the country, drought on the one hand and floods on the other are causing problems for the farming families.

Hilfswerk International supports the farming families in cultivation and marketing of products such as moringa, sesame, peanuts, and onions. We help introducing new technologies in agriculture and reforest river basins. This improves the food situation and generates income. With this income, the families also pay their children's school fees.

Disaster relief

The effects of Cyclone Idai in 2019 are still clearly felt. The Corona pandemic was also the reason for emergency aid in Sofala, Mozambique, last year. As part of our emergency response, we were able to...

-  distribute **3,290 food parcels** and **1,764 hygiene kits**
-  equip **100 women** with hygiene kits
-  examine **18,857 children** and **14,690 pregnant and breastfeeding women** on their nutritional status

 significantly improve the condition of **two-thirds of malnourished children and women** through our medical nutrition support



“ My son Dajan was born in the health center. Unfortunately, there were some complications during the birth. Without the help from Hilfswerk International, neither of us would have survived. ”

Malou, 26 years from Mozambique



CLIMATE MIRACLE MANGROVES

Did you know that mangrove forests, next to rainforests and coral reefs, are the largest oxygen suppliers in the world? In addition, they provide food and medicine for the population in the coastal areas of Sofala. Due to slash and burn, deforestation and overfishing, the mangrove population is endangered. Not only are food sources being lost, but the flora and fauna are also threatened with extinction. Hilfswerk International protects this sensitive ecosystem, reforests the mangroves, sensitizes the population to the importance of the mangroves and promotes sustainable agriculture.

CO2 balance: excellent

In an external evaluation of the Hilfswerk International mangrove project in Mozambique, our activities received the climate rating excellent:

The reforestation of one hectare of mangrove forest in Mozambique as part of the Hilfswerk International project causes a total of 280 kg of CO2 equivalents. Per tree planted, this means around 0.1 kg of CO2 equivalents."

 **1 hectare = one football field**

 **0.1 kg CO²**

In terms of one hectare, the emissions caused by one person travelling around the world 80 times could theoretically be compensated. In terms of the project, this would even mean 22,000 times around the world by car."

 = **80x** 

 = **22.000x** 



LIFE WITHOUT HUNGER

The people of **Zimbabwe** are clearly feeling the effects of climate change. Periods of drought are getting longer, and extreme weather conditions are becoming more frequent. Temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius are not uncommon. In 2020, too, there was almost no rain. The consequences are major harvest losses for farming families. And associated with these losses, hunger. Almost 70% of Zimbabwe's population live on the countryside and depend on their harvest.

"I don't think anyone can imagine what it's like to have nothing to eat. What it is like when the harvest just does not come. To have to watch your children get weaker every day. Every evening I assured my children that tomorrow would be better. And afterwards I always prayed that it would come true."

Fadzai, 32, farmer from Insiza

Together against hunger

We at Hilfswerk International work closely with small farmers in the project areas of Matobo, Lupane and Insiza to fight hunger and create new income opportunities.

Our sustainable development project focuses on special plants: those that can survive with very little water and under extreme conditions. These include amaranth, quinoa, mongongo or castor bean. With these plants, we are helping Zimbabwe step by step towards a self-determined future. A future without hunger.

- We train small farmers in the cultivation, refinement, and marketing of drought-resistant crops (mongongo, amaranth, castor, quinoa).
- We distribute seeds, mixed fertilizer, and tarpaulins for hygienic processing.

- "Farming ambassadors" receive training on climate-friendly agriculture. They then pass on what they have learned to other farming families.
- In workshops, the families learn how to process the nutritious plants. The farmers exchange recipes and experiences.



Fadzai has left hunger behind her

Fadzai is one of the female farmers who we were able to support in 2020. She is from Insiza, 32 years old and mother of two children. When the rain failed, so did her maize harvest. This meant not only hunger, but also a lack of income. Otherwise, she could always sell the surplus harvest in her village. In our project, Fadzai learned to grow amaranth. Together, we have worked out in training sessions how she can then bake nutrient-rich porridge, bread, and cakes from it. Now we are helping her to implement what she has learned:

"I used to grow maize. Together with Hilfswerk International, I switched to amaranth because it grows much better. For a few months now, I have been attending trainings and exhibitions, and I have already planted the first amaranth seeds. I know that soon my children will no longer have to go hungry. That is the most wonderful feeling a mother can have."

The Hilfswerk method against hunger

- Strengthening the resilience of families for times of drought
- Promoting more diverse, agricultural production
- Marketing opportunities for small farmers

Our help in Zimbabwe

- **short term help** through emergency aid in times of extreme drought. The distribution of nutritious mahewu porridge and rice with peanut butter to school children ensures the immediate survival of children in times of famine.
- **long term support** through the processing and marketing of drought-resistant crops to improve overall food security in Zimbabwe.

2020 BRIEFLY:

- » Training of **168 small farmers** for cultivation of castor bean seeds
- » Connecting farmers with strategic and **long-term buyers**
- » Income generation: farmers were able to sell **1,238 kg of castor seeds**
- » Registration of **2,877 additional smallholders** for the cultivation of amaranth
- » **Training** for amaranth cultivation
- » Distribution of **940 kg of amaranth seeds** to families
- » Training in harvesting and processing **mongongo nuts**
- » Cooking workshops for nutritious dishes from native plants for **110 participants**

MIRACLE PLANT AMARANTH

A real miracle weapon against hunger is amaranth. It is...



drought resistant

Amaranth's moisture requirement is much lower than other cereals and it persists even under adverse weather conditions.



nutritious

Its high fiber and protein content make amaranth a nutritious "pseudo-cereal".



profitable

Amaranth can be sold at a good price in Zimbabwe. This increases the farmers' family income. This is mainly invested in their children's schooling, medical expenses, and new seeds.



fast-growing

Amaranth is fast-growing and can be harvested several times a year.



LEBANON



- Humanitarian aid
- Health / Medical support
- Education

SYRIA



- Electricity / Water supply
- Education

TUNISIA



- Education
- Economic development

MOZAMBIQUE



- Humanitarian aid
- Reconstruction / Housing
- Agriculture / Food security
- Health / Medical support
- Education

ZIMBABWE



- Agriculture / Food security

HAITI



- Humanitarian aid
- Health / Medical support

MOLDOVA



- Social support / Justice
- Education

SOUTH CAUCASUS



- Economic development
- Social support / Justice
- Health / Medical support

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



- Reconstruction / Housing
- Health / Medical support
- Social support / Justice

SERBIA



- Reconstruction / Housing
- Social support / Justice

CENTRAL ASIA

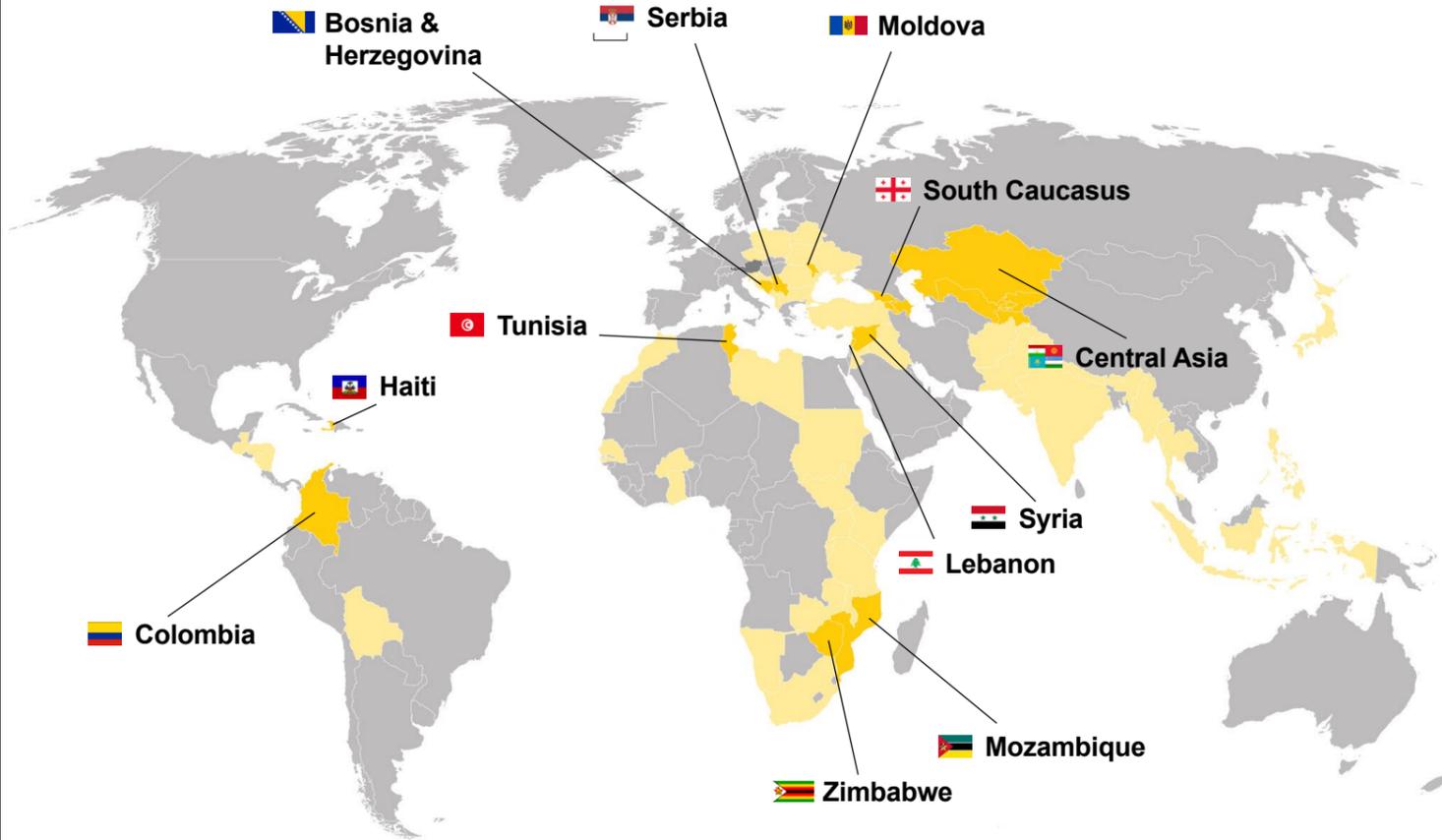


- Economic development
- Agriculture / Food security

COLOMBIA



- Agriculture / Food security
- Health / Medical support
- Education



The project countries marked in yellow correspond to a snapshot in 2020. The world map also shows all countries in which we have been active in light yellow.

OUR FOCUS

- Humanitarian aid
- Social support / Justice
- Reconstruction / Housing
- Education
- Agriculture / Food Security
- Economic development
- Health / Medical support
- Electricity / Water supply





YOUTH SHAPES THE FUTURE

Imagine it is election time and no-body takes part. In the **Republic of Moldova**, many young adults do not use their right to vote. This is because many know far too little about democracy and elections in their country. There are many reasons for this, most of which have their roots in poverty: in Europe's poorest country, there is only limited access to education. Many young people emigrate in the hope of a better life. The ongoing political and economic instability contributes to the fact that more and more young people distrust politics and do not participate in elections.

In recent years, Hilfswerk International has therefore worked intensively with schools in 22 municipalities in Moldova and raised awareness for democratic processes. We help young voters find their way through the bureaucratic jungle and motivate them to participate in elections.

Learning in simulated elections

One part of the project is mock elections where candidates stand for election. The young students then survey the problems in their class and present their "election program". The program includes solutions to existing problems in the community. We funded 24 of the ideas presented. This enabled the young adults' projects to be realized, including the following:



To school by bike

The Mesterul Manole school in Salcuta is difficult for the children to reach. Most of the students rely on their parents to bring them by car every day. Therefore, 17-year-old Ioan had an idea: We will build a bicycle car park for 25 bikes right in front of the school! In addition, he organized a bicycle marathon to encourage his fellow students to cycle more. His project was a great success.

“ I only come by bike! I save time, do sport and my parents no longer must take me to school every day. In addition, I am now also helping to reduce our carbon footprint. I am excited about Ioan's project! ”

Adriana, 17 years

Books for all

16-year-old Maria from Olanesti has noticed that there are only a few interesting books in the school library. No wonder so many young people have no real interest in reading. Therefore, Maria has upgraded the school library: there are now new, contemporary books as well as classics from all genres. Even a printer was purchased, which all students can now use. As part of her project, 450 children have read one book each.



“ We have become richer with Maria's project. Not financially, but in terms of our imagination and education. Books are such a beautiful tool to stimulate the imagination, to question critically or simply to relax. I think what Maria has put together is great! ”

Carolina, 16 years

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Artur is eight years old and was born with a physical limitation. He can hardly hear. He lives with his mother in a small flat in Hincesti. Artur is a very smart boy, but he cannot attend public school because of his disability. He is dependent on professional care. Therefore, his mother Mihaela has not been able to work since he was born. The two of them lacked everything, because there is no social system in Moldova like there is in Austria e.g.

When Artur got a place at the Hilfswerk Children's Center in Hincesti, the sun finally shone again for them. Here, the boy is lovingly cared for and he receives all the necessary therapies. Mihala knows her son is in the best of hands. She can now go back to work during the day and pay for the necessary medication.

“ Artur feels so comfortable here. He is among other children and learns a lot. I am happy because the caregivers at the children's center are well trained - and above all treat Artur with lots of joy and appreciation. ”

Mihaela, Artur's mother

Hilfswerk International has been helping children with disabilities like Artur for more than 19 years in the two children's homes in Hincesti and Pripiceni. There, children with severe and multiple disabilities are cared for like in a school or kindergarten. In addition to learning, handicrafts and exercise, the daily schedule also includes various forms of therapy that are adapted to the children's individual needs.



2020 AT A GLANCE

- » **3,300 young people** participated in democracy workshops.
- » **24 small projects** by the young people could be realized with financial support.
- » **92 young people** participated in municipal elections as election observers.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS 2020

- » **2 Centers:** Soul Drops in Pripiceni and Blue Bird in Hincesti
- » **53 children** visit the centers daily
- » **120 other children** and their parents come for special therapies and counselling.



Ambassador for children in need

Our heartfelt thanks go to our ambassador for children in need, **Jeannine Schiller**. Without her tireless commitment to children with disabilities in Moldova, the lives of these children and parents would be dreary and hopeless. Her passionate commitment gives them a life in dignity!





A SECOND CHANCE

In **Georgia**, there is a lack of supportive reintegration opportunities for former prisoners and people on probation. Vocational training in prisons or forms of care after release from prison do not exist, unlike in Austria e.g. However, training, and psychological support are enormously important to give people a chance for the future and to create a peaceful, safe coexistence.

A second chance

We at Hilfswerk International believe that everyone deserves a second chance. Together with Georgian authorities, we help (former) prisoners and their families through:

- » **Training:** Practical vocational training for (former) prisoners in carpentry, car mechanics, welding, cooking, gardening, and cosmetics.
- » **Support:** Establishment of a voluntary mentoring structure for the time after release from prison

- » **Help:** Complementary psychosocial and legal support, also for family members
- » **Communication:** Exchange between Austrian and Georgian authorities for sustainable effectiveness
- » **Start-up assistance:** career guidance, placement of internships and awarding of scholarships
- » **Promotion:** Financial support for the establishment of small businesses

SUCCESSSES AT A GLANCE

We have...

-  trained **492 people:** 65% of them now have a job and their own income
-  found **110 volunteer mentors** who now support and accompany former prisoners and their families
-  made **80 internships** possible
-  awarded **96 financial start-up grants** to sustainable small businesses



Start-up help for a self-determined life

We also support former prisoners and people on probation with financial start-up aid for their business ideas. Financial stability and independence provide the basis for a new start and help with reintegration into society.

The business areas are colorful: from a beauty salon to a tailor's shop to a glass house, (almost) everything is there. But one thing runs through like a red thread: The small businesses are run successfully and with motivation, giving people a second chance.

» *I have wanted to open my own sewing shop for a long time. After my time in prison, I could not find work. My wife encouraged me to apply for the start-up grant from Hilfswerk International to follow my dream. She herself is a designer. Together we developed a business plan on how we would run the sewing shop together. I can hardly believe it, but today this dream is a reality. My wife and I not only work together in the sewing shop, but we also work on finding each other again personally. The physical closeness in everyday life helps us to do that.* »

Nikoloz from Kutaisi

Mentoring: Together instead of alone

People who are (or have been) in conflict with the law often lack role models. They are not even aware of their professional, but also private possibilities. And loneliness is not a good companion for the time of reintegration. Therefore, we provide these people with mentors from different professional backgrounds. The mentors support the people on probation or after their time in prison in all possible areas of life.



» *My mentee and his family are like my own family today. This relationship is so special, and I know it will never end.* »

Govi from Samegrelo



» *I am so grateful to have been accepted into this mentoring program. My mentor is my best friend.* »

Elene from Samegrelo



» *I have found hope. My mentor helps me every day.* »

Koba from Imereti

DIGNIFIED CARE IN OLD AGE

The people in **Georgia** are getting older and older. The younger generations often migrate from their home villages in the hope of a better future. Older people are then left alone and without support. There are hardly any state structures for the care and support of elderly people. There is a lack of uniform care standards and the nursing staff is usually not sufficiently qualified. "Ageing with dignity" is hardly possible.

Mobile care based on the Austrian model

In 2020, Hilfswerk International therefore started to set up mobile care services for elderly people in Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (p. 20). For this, we are drawing on the long-standing expertise of our colleagues from Hilfswerk in Austria. Soon the preparatory period will be completed and the sustainable, loving, and professional care for older people in the Georgian communities of Dmanisi and Gori can begin.





LIVING INSTEAD OF SURVIVING

Hilfswerk International has been active in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** since 1996. At the beginning, the focus was on reconstruction after the Bosnian war. Since then, we have been helping socially disadvantaged families, children, Roma, and elderly people on their way to a better future.



“For 25 years, *Hilfswerk International* in Bosnia and Herzegovina stands for life instead of survival, home instead of homelessness, economic security instead of poverty, jobs instead of hopelessness and protection instead of human rights violations. Seeing our projects make a big difference for so many people is what motivates us every day.”

Suzana Jasarevic,
Regional Director *Hilfswerk International*
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dignified care in old age

"When my parents got old and sick, there was no other option: I had to take care of them.", says 36-year-old Sandra. Many relatives of elderly family members or those in need of care in Bosnia and Herzegovina feel the same way as Sandra. A care system like the one in Austria does not exist in her home country. At the same time, the population is ageing rapidly: in just 30 years, the population here will be the fourth oldest in the world. Many young people are migrating from their hometowns. Mobile health care as we know it is not available in many places, and if it is, the quality is often poor. The elderly are left behind, left to fend for themselves.

Leave no one behind

To provide adequate care for the elderly and people in need of care in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Hilfswerk International* is developing a model for mobile care to enable people to age with dignity. This way, people

who need help in old age or due to illness can be supported - and at the same time, relatives are relieved.

To achieve this goal, *Hilfswerk International* is developing a training program in mobile care and adapting it to the local needs of the elderly. In this training, we teach job-seeking people and volunteers with and without previous experience. One of them is Sandra, who now turns her vocation into a profession:



Actions against Ageism

In Austria, *Hilfswerk* is an expert on the rights and needs of the population over 65. This expertise is also urgently needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where there is a lack of awareness and institutionalized precautions against poverty in old age.

Together with ministries we promote the active participation of older people in community life. In this way, we create a social environment that enables dignified ageing.



“Being able to help other people is a privilege. Especially in our country, there is a lack of comprehensive care services. Elderly people are often left to fend for themselves. With this *Hilfswerk* training, I am turning my vocation into a profession. After graduating, I can lovingly and professionally care for elderly people who need help and want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.”

Sandra, 36 years

2020 BRIEFLY

We have ...

- » developed a **training program** for nursing staff in close cooperation with experts from *Hilfswerk* in Austria
- » trained the first **15 nurses**



A ROOF OVER THE HEAD

Do you remember the flood disaster in 2014? At that time, it affected a quarter of the country and about one million people. The flood destroyed more than 100,000 houses and large parts of the infrastructure. Even today, thousands of families are still suffering from the consequences of the disaster and live-in temporary shelters. Impoverishment, homelessness, and mould in homes are just some of the long-term consequences and further exacerbate the problems of the low-income population.

We help particularly vulnerable families in Tuzla, Kalesija, Srebrenik, Gracanica, Orašje and Zavidovici with a roof over their heads. **In 2020, we were able to build 80 new flats and renovate 43 destroyed flats.**

Fatima is one of the proud new owners of her own flat. She used to live with her mother and daughter in a small shed.



“We have our own flat! My daughter has a room where she can study for school in peace. I can't put our gratitude into words.”

Fatima from Kalesija

HELP FOR ROMA FAMILIES

With our partners in **Serbia**, we improve the living conditions of Roma families. Our main task here is to advise the Serbian authorities with our many years of experience with Roma communities in housing. We form "mobile inclusion teams", which are a trusted point of contact for Roma groups and promote their social inclusion in the communities. *Hilfswerk International* also supports a Roma-founded civil society organization through tailor-made trainings. This mix of activities enables the long-term inclusion of Roma families in society and their psychosocial well-being - especially of children.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS A WAY OUT OF POVERTY

People in Central Asia are suffering from slow economic development and high unemployment. This is even though **Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan** have promising potential – and this lies in the food sector. Traditional economic sectors in these countries are namely fruit and vegetable production as well as milk and meat production. The development of the agricultural sector can therefore contribute to overcoming poverty and unemployment.

CANDY*: Reducing poverty by integrating Central Asia into the world economy

Since 2008, we have been implementing a project called CANDY. In 2020, we started the fifth phase of the project. We apply a holistic approach. Therefore, the first key to success is bringing together all stakeholders in the food sector. This includes farmers, small and medium-sized

enterprises, consulting companies, state authorities and universities or research institutes.

4 pillars for development in Central Asia

Even though the four countries differ in their economic development, the action considers the common interest and demand of the private and public sectors in enhancing:

- Commercial quality and volume,
- Food safety and its traceability,
- Promotion and market access of regional agricultural products, including Geographical Indications; and
- Clustering

CANDY 2020

- » With the aim to contribute to ensuring food safety for local consumers and enhancing competitiveness of Central Asian food products on traditional and new markets by guaranteeing traceability:
- » Public-private partnerships (PPP) have been established in three project countries.
- » These PPP started creating the prerequisite for national legislation to be harmonized with international food standards.
- » Our project supports the development of national reforms to ensure food safety
- » Thanks to our project, a national program for the implementation of good agricultural practices was adopted by the Republic of Tajikistan

Geographical Indications (GI) as a success factor

- » More than **100 local experts and stakeholders have been trained** in the GI conception, methodology and management.
- » **12 products** from Central Asia (including Tajik lemons, melons from Kazakhstan or white honey from Kyrgyzstan) were identified in the **20 online workshops**. For these products 12 feasibility studies are being now carried out regarding their potential for GI registration.
- » **4 of these products** with the highest potential will be selected and piloted in a further step



Simplified customs procedures

- » To simplify the export of agricultural goods from Central Asia, the acceleration of the improvement of export and transit procedures was achieved in **4 round tables**.

Integrated systems for quality, environment, and occupational safety

- » Food buyers and consumers have the right of food safety and compliance with environmental and social standards.
- » In a training program, **20 people** were trained and certified in Quality Management, Environmental Management, Occupational Health & Safety Management, and Integrated Management Systems.
- » These international standards are now being introduced in 16 small and medium-sized enterprises in the food sector.
- » In this way, product quality and compliance with standards can be ensured for consumers.

Training for young adults

 **90 students** from Tajikistan were chosen for internships in companies in the food sector.

 In the next two years, students will be trained in the following areas during the internship:

- Management (methods, tools, etc.);
- Human resource management;
- Means of communication;
- Food safety and quality standards,
- Quality control and
- Marketing

“ I have learned a lot about food safety and geographical indications over the past year. Not only does this new-found knowledge help my colleagues and me personally, I can also pass it on to our customers in small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in Tajikistan. This makes them much more competitive. I find it particularly important that all components aim to improve the working conditions of women. In the long run, these activities help not only the individuals we work with, but the entire economic region of Central Asia. ”

Musabbeh Kamilova
Employee at CANDY
project partner MIS



GOALS

- Economic development of a region, suffering from unemployment and poverty
- Promoting the integration of Central Asia into the world economy
- Creating new sources of income and jobs

This is how many people have directly benefited in 2020

- » **100 employees** from state and private companies in the food sector
- » **20 people** trained as internationally certified experts in quality, environmental and occupational health, and safety.
- » **90 students** from Khujand Polytechnic University and the University of Economics and Trade in Tajikistan with internships

*CANDY: Regional Integration and Capacity Building to Boost Agribusiness MSMEs Competitiveness and Trade Promotion in Central Asia



ENSURE PEACE

The decades-long, bloody conflict in **Colombia** is theoretically over. But especially in the south of the country, the wounds still run deep. After more than 50 years of human rights violations and massacres that claimed a quarter of a million lives and displaced seven million people, the overall goal is to build a peaceful future.

Hilfswerk International has been active in the Guaviare province in the Amazon catchment area since 2000. Our overall goals are democratic, peaceful coexistence and rural development. In interlocking activities, we

- protect the **environment** and the Amazon rainforest, the habitat of indigenous peoples, plants, and animals,
- provide **food security** for the people,
- **create income** for marginalized families and **economic prospects** for young people,

- protect traditions and cultures of **indigenous groups**,
- include all the different population groups and
- promote **education** for ensuring sustainability.

We protect the green lungs of the earth

The Amazon rainforest is the largest CO2 reservoir in the world: it stores billions of tons of carbon. In addition to the oxygen produced, from which people benefit worldwide, the



Amazon is also home to many medicinal plants. And above all: habitat for many (indigenous) groups. The destruction of the Amazon harms humanity, as well as individual indigenous groups and farmers who lose their habitat. Therefore, all our activities in Colombia have a special environmental focus.

Learning from each other

Many different population groups live in Guaviare: Various indigenous tribes, farming families, Afro-Colombians, internally displaced persons, but also former FARC fighters. That is why we organize regular intercultural exchange meetings. There we listen to each other, give tips, but also clarify disagreements.

Participants frequently discuss the best possible use of agriculture and livestock. Proper cultivation keeps the soil fertile and enables the use of different types of fruit and vegetables. This improves the nutritional status and income opportunities of the families.

The knowledge of the indigenous population plays a key role in all agricultural activities. They have always been at home in the Amazon. They know the land, the soil, and the agricultural conditions very well. Farming with the knowledge of the indigenous groups increases environmental sustainability, ensures self-sufficiency, and creates an income for the farming families in Guaviare through the sale of surpluses.

Children at the center

The school system in southern Colombia is partly outdated and not adapted to local conditions. Schools hardly consider the individual needs of girls and boys or the cultural and ecological diversity of the region. But social problems also cause children to stay away from school: On the one hand, the distance to schools is very long, and on the other hand, children often must help with the harvest at home.

And yet, especially now that the Colombian peace agreement is on shaky ground, education is immensely important. For more than five decades, Guaviare was marked by conflict, violence, and displacement. To shape the future peacefully, we must start with the younger generations. We combine this educational approach with environmental protection.

Children protect the rainforest

Change can only happen together. That is why we involve many different population groups and stakeholders: students, parents and teachers, ministries, and communities, indigenous and afro-colombian groups, farmers, and former FARC fighters who need to be reintegrated into the community. Together we have developed an education model that focuses on environmental protection, peace-building, food security, innovation, and culture, directly in schools. The entire education model is based on the vision that education is the best way to develop an environmentally conscious, sustainable, and peaceful society.

» *A lot has changed at our school. We now learn more about our region, other cultures here in Guaviare and how we can create a peaceful coexistence together. Our director and teachers are teaching interesting and important content. I think it is great to learn more about the indigenous groups. They know so much about the rainforest and we can really learn a lot from them. I think it's good that we are now learning more about the traditions of our neighbours at school!* »

Daniel, 10 from Guaviare



2020 BRIEFLY:

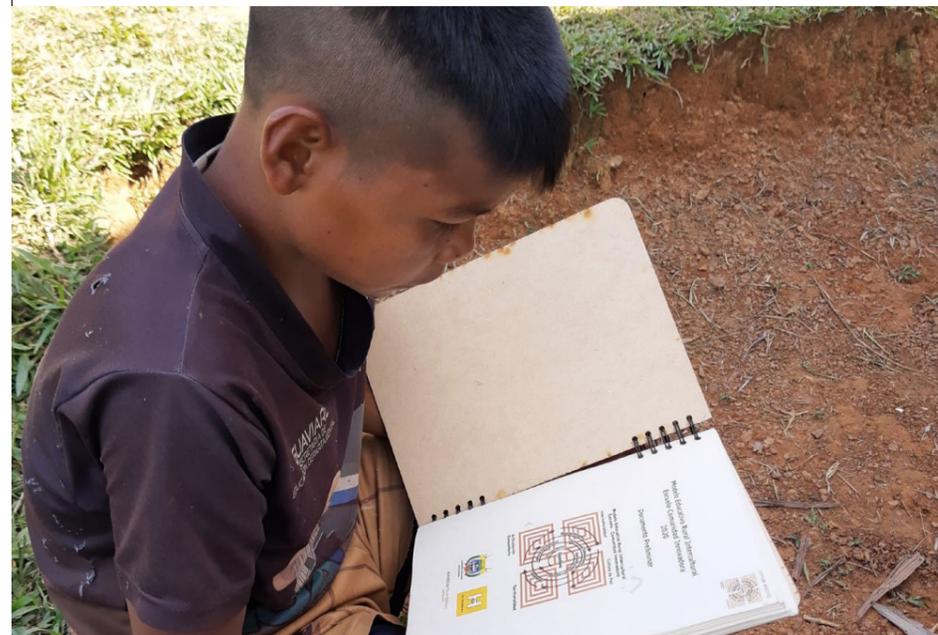
» **Sustainable impact:** Our education model has been recognized by the Ministry of Education of the Department of Guaviare as a reference model for rural school education.

» **Courses:** 103 teachers have successfully completed the diploma course on this education model.

» **Empowerment of indigenous groups:** Thanks to the education model, indigenous communities now see themselves as being able to take responsibility for educational content in schools. Their worldviews are better integrated into the classroom and the revitalization of their culture is promoted.

» **Promoting dialogue:** The cooperation between former FARC fighters, local farmers, and indigenous people in the development of the education model promotes the dialogue between different groups, which is important in the peace process.

» **Empowering women:** In all areas, we pay special attention to the empowerment of women and girls.





HAND IN HAND - EMPOWERMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Hilfswerk International was founded in 1978 and has been implementing projects worldwide ever since, working in Africa, Central Asia, (South-)Eastern Europe, Latin America, as well as the Middle East. Hilfswerk International provides sustainable help for self-help in accordance with international development goals to promote social, economic, democratic and ecological development with a focus on long-term capacity development in the most vulnerable populations.

Our projects are as diverse as the countries and regions we work in but human rights, empowerment and capacity building are built into all of them as guiding principles. While Hilfswerk International works in many different sectors, our programs and projects can be categorized into these three main cross cutting themes:



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE PROTECTION

People in the poorest countries of the world are worst affected by environmental destruction and the loss of natural resources. Hilfswerk International has a special responsibility to set positive examples of managing and conserving environmental resources.



GENDER EQUALITY

Hilfswerk International is committed to promoting gender equality as well as avoiding and eliminating all forms of gender-based harassment and discrimination between individuals in all of our activities.



INCLUSION

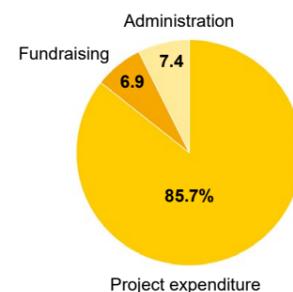
Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and no one should be excluded from access to social services or resources. Thus we promote social inclusion and non-discrimination for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in all of our activities.

HELP THAT BEARS FRUIT

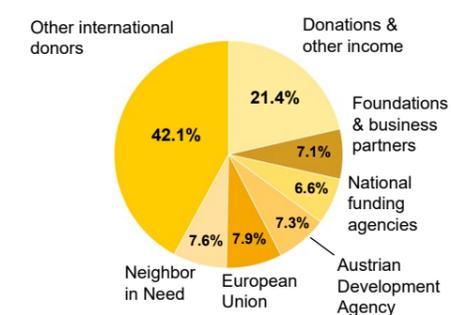
We ensure that the funds we receive are used effectively and are committed to rigorous accounting controls by independent auditors.

In 2020, Hilfswerk International's total expenditure was 4,302,916 euros. Of this, 85.7% was spent on project work, 6.9 % was used for fundraising and 7.4 % for administration.

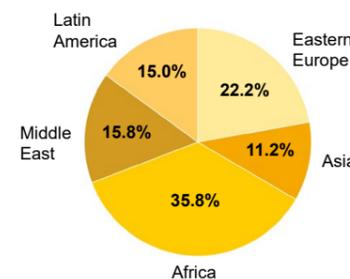
APPLICATION OF FUNDS



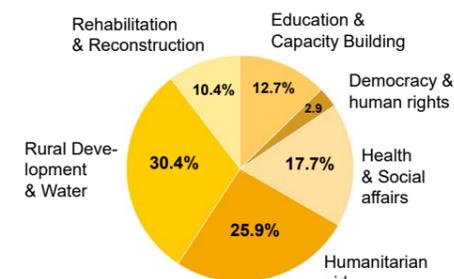
SOURCE OF FUNDS



REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



SECTORAL BREAKDOWN



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- LBG Austria
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- Medicor Foundation
- Neighbour in need
- OENB Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- Office for Foreign Affairs
- Liechtenstein
- OFID - OPEC Fund for International Development
- OSF - Open Society Foundation
- State of Lower Austria
- State of Salzburg
- State of Styria
- State of Tyrol
- State of Upper Austria
- UNDP - United Nations
- Development Programme UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNWG - United Nations Women's Guild
- VAMED Voestalpine AG



” The biggest financial and economic crisis in Lebanon is causing unbearable suffering for so many people here. Lebanese families and Syrian refugees in Lebanon have become extremely vulnerable so quickly. Projects on livelihoods, education, health, and social stability bring noticeable relief to the population in need. Hilfswerk International implements not only emergency aid but also development projects focusing on improving the knowledge and the skills of beneficiaries to live throughout this crisis in dignity. Sustainability is one of our main concerns in all project aspects. Therefore, all Hilfswerk activities in Lebanon are tailored in a way to last durably. ”

Mireille Karaky, Head of Hilfswerk International Lebanon

” There is a high need for a more sustainable and inclusive economic growth model in Central Asia, overcoming main challenges connected to governance, connectivity and export promotion, access to finance and skill gaps. Hilfswerk International has been a driving force for quality, safety, and promotion of agriproducts. We have solid experience in empowering business intermediary organizations, small and medium organizations and relevant state agencies through capacity building, regional integration, and innovation. By facilitating regional public-private partnerships on clustering, Geographical Indications, commercial quality standards and food safety we foster the recognition of Central Asian agriproducts and the image of Central Asian countries in the global economy. ”



Umed Aslanov, Head of Hilfswerk International Central Asia



” 25 years of permanent actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in support to thousands of people and being a part of their lives' improvements make us proud. Establishing a new institution in support to elderly in Bosnia and Herzegovina at their homes using know-how from Austria is our new way of making reality better. ”

Suzana Jasarevic, Regional Director Bosnia & Herzegovina

” In Mozambique and Colombia, Hilfswerk International develops entire development models together with the population, and we also implement them together. From the small-scale farmers to regional governments, all stakeholders are involved from the beginning. We take the time to understand the problems' roots and solve them in the long term. Although this is often complex, it ensures the effectiveness of our work. This approach brings improvements to so many families which is a great motivation for me and our team. ”



Fredy Rivera, Program Director Hilfswerk International



” Tunisia has been globally praised for its peaceful transition to democracy. However, the country remains a relatively fragile democracy facing unprecedented daunting unemployment rates, an economic stagnation, and huge deficits. Hilfswerk International focus since 2012 has been to empower vulnerable communities and Youth to combat unemployment, social injustice, and poverty whereby sustainability has been the backbone of all HWI's initiatives in Tunisia. Our ultimate objective is to leave behind resilient communities that are empowered, filled with hope, and equipped with the necessary technical tools to overcome any economic challenge. ”

Heythem Ferjani, Head of Hilfswerk International Tunisia

