



HILFSWERK

Hilfswerk  
International  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
**2019**





**Much obliged!**

As you can see, our auxiliary activities are diverse. But there is a red thread running through them: We help people in need. And this would not be possible without your help. Thanks to your support, we save lives, help children and accompany entire regions into a self-determined, stable future.

**For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.** We still have a lot to do! Because we won't give up as long as children have to grow up in poverty.

I look forward to having you at our side in the coming years as well!

In this annual report we would like to show you what we were able to achieve in 2019. 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



## 30 YEARS OF HELP FOR SELF-HELP

Dear Reader!

The motto for 2019 was **30 years of Hilfswerk International - 30 years of help for children in need.** When I think back to the last three decades, I have mixed feelings. On the one hand, I am saddened by the fact that children and adults are still suffering from hunger, do not have enough to survive, and that existing potential is not (or cannot be) used.

594 million people are today affected by extreme poverty. Never-ending sources of conflict, global political instability and extreme climatic conditions make it difficult for us to combat poverty, hunger and injustice. On the other hand, I am proud that Hilfswerk International together with you is strengthening families, supporting children and stabilizing regional structures every day despite these grievances.

Everything began 30 years ago. Immediately after the fall of the Iron Curtain we organized our first

Christmas aid for 10,000 children in Poland. Since then, we have promoted potential, alleviated need and helped people to help themselves in more than 80 countries. Remember for example

- ... the reconstruction after the Bosnian war in the 90s,
- ... the opening of the first children's cancer clinic in Minsk in 1997,
- ... disaster relief after the terrible earthquake in Iran in 2003 or after
- ... the tsunami in Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka the following year?
- In 2010 we stood by the victims of the earthquake disaster in Haiti and
- 2013 the people after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The following years were marked in particular by our assistance on the ground in the Middle East. And unfortunately our emergency aid was also in demand in 2019 when our partner country Mozambique was hit by Cyclone Idai. Read more about our disaster relief in Mozambique in 2019 on page 17.



**17 goals for a better world**

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



*“ For 30 years Hilfswerk International has been committed to helping families in need with passion and problem-solving expertise. Through years of experience we initiate future-oriented improvements for children and adults in war and crisis regions. It is particularly important that our worldwide aid measures have a lasting effect. This is achieved by listening, competence, patience and the serious will to help people in the long term. The insights on the following pages confirm that the international Hilfswerk aid activities are bearing fruit. ”*

**Christian Domany**  
President Hilfswerk International

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# HAND IN HAND – EMPOWERMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE WORLDWIDE

Hilfswerk International is an Austrian non-profit organization providing long-term international development assistance and humanitarian aid. We provide 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 of the most vulnerable populations.

Hilfswerk International projects are as diverse as the countries we work in but human rights, empowerment and capacity building are cross-cutting themes which are incorporated into all of them. While we work in many different sectors, our programs and projects can be categorized into the following three main focus areas:

## 1) ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE PROTECTION

The 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. Examples of our work in this focus area comprise:

**Reforestation**, protection of the **natural resources** and promotion of **sustainable renewable energy** in Mozambique

**Protection** of the **rainforest**, **water sources** and sustainable **food security** in Colombia

**Sustainable ecosystemic climate**, smart rural and **agricultural development** in Mozambique

**Renewable Green Energy systems** and income-generation sources for minimizing social and economic hardship in rural Armenia

**Higher Education** for sustainable environmentally friendly food systems and **standards** including organic standards in Central Asia



## 2) GENDER EQUALITY

Hilfswerk International is committed to promoting gender equity as well as avoiding and eliminating all forms of harassment and discrimination between individuals based on gender in all of its activities. Examples of our work in this focus area comprise:

**Commercialization** of dried and fresh fruits and vegetables to support female farmers and cooperatives in Central Asia (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

**Healthcare, psychosocial support, education and job-training** for Syrian refugee women and girls in Lebanon

**Training** in environmentally friendly, sustainable and efficient **agricultural practices** for rural women in Georgia and Armenia

**Eduction of maternal-child mortality** and improvement of health care services in Mozambique

**Food security** and economic development for women in Mozambique and Zimbabwe



## 3) INCLUSION

Everyone has the right to be treated in dignity and shall not be excluded from any access to social services or resources. Thus we promote social inclusion and non-discrimination for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in all of our activities. Examples of our work in this focus area comprise:

### **Interculturalism**

Promote rights and inclusion of indigenous people in Colombia

### **Action against ageism**

Promotion of human rights for elderly in Bosnia and Herzegovina through combating ageism and discrimination

**Education and Psychosocial Care** for Syrian refugees in Lebanon

**Job-training, reintegration and resocialization** of detainees and persons on probation in Georgia

**Support strong civil society and stable democracy** through active engagement of young people and first-time voters in Moldova

**Integration** through sports in Tunisia and Lebanon

**Social Housing and reintegration** of Roma families in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia

**Healthcare** for children with disabilities in Moldova

**Income & employment generation** and business creation for young people in disadvantaged regions in Tunisia

**Training of persons with disabilities** in maintenance of water and renewable energy systems in Mozambique

**Support and promotion of social work** in Southern Caucasus

## ACTIVITIES 2019



**Exchange of knowledge** at a large conference under the motto "The rights of the elderly are our rights of tomorrow". Experts from Austria, Serbia and Croatia met and developed strategies for protection against age discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Production of **brochures** with tips for older people



Establishment of a group of volunteers working for the human rights of older people



Raising awareness among the population of the rights of older people



## LIVING INSTEAD OF SURVIVING

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

“ For more than 24 years, *Hilfswerk International in Bosnia and Herzegovina stands for living instead of survival, home instead of homelessness, economic security instead of poverty, jobs instead of hopelessness and respect instead of human rights violations. Seeing that our daily work helps so many people is what drives us to keep on going.* ”

**Suzana Jasarevic**

Country Director Hilfswerk International in Bosnia and Herzegovina



### Long-term consequences of the flood disaster

Do you remember the flood disaster in May 2014? At that time it affected a quarter of the country's surface and about one million people. The flood destroyed more than 100,000 houses and large parts of the infrastructure.

Although more than 610,000 people were supported immediately after the disaster, 12,000 families at particular risk of poverty are now dependent on aid. More than 1,200 families are still living in temporary housing and 10,800 low-income households are still suffering from the economic impact of the disaster.

Impoverishment, homelessness and extreme mould in dwellings are just some of the long-term consequences, and above all exacerbate the problems of the poorer population. And without a regulated housing situation, it is not possible to find work and feed one's family.

### A roof over your head

We help particularly vulnerable families in six communities with a roof over their heads. We are renovating 43 destroyed homes and building 76 new homes for flood victims who are in urgent need of assistance.

**In 2019, 105 families have already been able to move into their new homes.** Marjan is one of the proud new owners of his own apartment. Marjan has not had an easy life so far: both his sister and his wife suffer from a walking disability. Marjan has selflessly cared for them for many years.

“ *The flood destroyed our already dilapidated apartment. We didn't know where to go. In June Hilfswerk International gave us the keys to our new apartment. I am so speechless. I can't believe our luck. Everything's finally going to be okay.* ”

**Marijan from Srebrenik**

### Action against ageism

In 2050, the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be the fourth oldest in the world, with an average age of 53. The country is hardly prepared for this. Many young people emigrate. As a result, older people are often left on their own - without a family or sufficient help from the state.

To protect older people, we are committed to sustainable improvements. To ensure that these improvements have a long-term effect, we work closely with 22 ministries, municipalities and associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Varja is one of the volunteers who has supported our activities from the beginning.



“ *I am 73 years old and feel every day how hard it is here as a woman my age. Older people like me have no access to information or activities. Accessibility is virtually non-existent. There is hardly any support. I volunteer for this project because I believe it is high time to fight age discrimination and also to integrate older people into society.* ”

**Varja, 73 years**

## HELP FOR ROMA FAMILIES

Together with our partners in **Serbia**, we are improving the living conditions of Roma families in ten communities. Our main task is to advise the Serbian authorities with our many years of experience with Roma communities in the area of housing.

We also form "mobile Roma inclusion teams", which are a trusted point of contact for Roma groups and promote their social integration into the communities. The teams consist of representatives of Roma living in the communities, health experts, educators, social workers and job coaches. In addition, we help a civil society organization founded by Roma by providing tailor-made training. This mix of activities enables the long-term inclusion of Roma families in society and their psychosocial well-being - especially that of children.





# DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

## PEACEBUILDING

The decades of the bloody conflict in Colombia are over, at least in theory. But especially in the south of the country the wounds are still deep. After more than 50 years of human rights violations and massacres that have claimed a quarter of a million lives, comprehensive solutions are needed to secure the basic human rights of the people and to build a peaceful future.

Hilfswerk International has been active in the department of Guaviare in the Amazon catchment area since 2000. Our overall goals are democratic, peaceful coexistence and rural development. Our cross-cutting activities include:

- protection of the environment and the Amazon rainforest; the habitat of indigenous peoples, fauna and flora,
- income creation for marginalized families,
- protection of the traditions and cultures of indigenous groups,

- involving of all different population groups in Guaviare including indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups, farmers and former FARC combatants

- promotion of education to ensure sustainability.

### Sustainable agriculture in harmony with the environment

We help young companies in Colombia that operate in an environmentally friendly, economically profitable and socially inclusive manner. This includes, for example, a young start-up that makes ice cream from the fruits of the Amazon rainforest, or one that produces and sells hot sauces using products from traditional, indigenous cultivations. All stakeholders, including indigenous groups are integrated into the production chains in an equitable manner from the very beginning.

### Learning from each other

We organize regular exchange

meetings between the different population groups in Guaviare. During these meetings knowledge is exchanged, experiences and best practices shared and lessons learned discussed on eye level.

The best possible use of agriculture and livestock farming is discussed here particularly frequently. Proper cultivation keeps the soil fertile and allows the use of various types of fruit and vegetables. This improves the nutritional status and income opportunities of farming families. Many farms are arranged according to the example of indigenous farming experiences.

Because these have always been at home in the Amazon they know the land, the soil and the agricultural conditions very well. Managing farms with the knowledge of the indigenous groups increases environmental compatibility, ensures self-sufficiency and, by selling surplus produce, also creates stable income generation for the farmers in Guaviare.

In Guaviare, many children do not go to school. The school system is outdated, the individual needs of girls and boys are hardly being met in the schools. But social problems also cause children to stay away from school: On the one hand, the distances to school are very large, and on the other hand they need to help with the harvest at home.

Education is immensely important, especially now that the Colombian peace agreement is on shaky ground. For more than five decades, Guaviare was marked by conflict, violence and displacement. In order to support the shaping of a peaceful future, we must start with the coming generations.

### Teachers as multipliers of change

Therefore we focus on the core of development: education. Together with the Secretary for Education we are working on developing a holistic rural education model that strengthens local knowledge based on the education of values, interculturality, gender equality, peace and sustainable development:

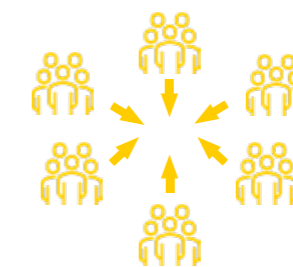
- Environmental protection
- Peacekeeping
- Food safety
- Innovation
- Culture

### Colombia



### Interculturality in schools

Change can only happen together. That is why we involve the many different population groups and interest groups: students, parents and teachers, ministries and communities, indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups, farmers and former FARC combatants who are being reincorporated in the communities.



### HILFSWERK IN COLOMBIA

- Peacebuilding
- Income generation
- Promoting intercultural dialogue
- Helping to design and implement local development plans
- Strengthening existing production capacities
- Working with indigenous communities
- Protect and strengthen victims of the conflict in Colombia
- Supporting communities
- Protecting the environment
- Empowering women



“ 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 our teachers teach interesting and important contents. I like our workshops on environmental protection best. Today we made flower pots from old plastic bottle caps. Not only does it look beautiful, but it also helps the environment! ”

Carmen, 11 from Guaviare





## (REFUGEE) AID ON SITE

“ Even before the Syrian war we had economic, political and social problems in Lebanon. And suddenly, eight years ago, in addition to the Lebanese, one and a half million registered Syrian refugees were dependent on housing, water, food, education and health. And this in a country where the inhabitants can hardly satisfy their own needs. ”

**Mireille Karaky**

Hilfswerk International in Lebanon

The Syrian war aggravated the already tense situation in **Lebanon**. Today, Syrian refugees and Lebanese from poor backgrounds in particular face difficult challenges:

“ I don't know if you can imagine how refugees live here. The tents in the informal refugee camps are without electricity and without water. Sometimes several families live in old shops or dilapidated apartments. Imagine what such living situations mean for children. The medical need is also enormous - especially for refugee families. ”

In addition, there are severe traumas of violence, war and flight. Children suffer the most under these horrendous conditions. That is why we have been active in Lebanon since 2006 and are committed to helping Syrian and Lebanese families.

### Pregnant on the run

Women are exposed to a high risk of violence and vulnerability during conflicts. During pregnancy, women often do not have access to adequate care and do not know where to seek help. It is not uncommon for women to be completely on their own during childbirth. In addition, many Syrian and Lebanese women in the West Bekaa region near the Syrian border have no basic education and cannot read or write. This leads to a high level of dependency and reduced chances of finding employment.



### Help for women and children

We assist women and children in the medical centre in Hawsh Harimi near the large refugee camp in West Bekaa:

- Free medical care and advice for women and children
- Help before and after pregnancy (prevention, workshops on nutrition and family planning)
- Distribution of hygiene kits (with toothbrushes, diapers, soap and shampoo)
- Child health (acute treatments, vaccinations)
- Literacy courses



“ I come from a remote area in Syria. I knew nothing about reproductive health. Everything I learn here I will pass on to my daughters. I want them to have a better life than I did and learn everything about family planning and pregnancy. ”

**Samia, 32 from Syria**

### We play for peace!

A child born eight years ago in Syria knows nothing but war and flight. Even in Lebanon, their safe haven, they are confronted with exclusion and impoverishment. We are committed to peaceful society and leisure time opportunities for children in Lebanon: Through weekly sports training sessions, children from different backgrounds get to know and understand each other. Prejudices and aggressions are reduced and friendships are made. When playing together, cultural and social differences fade into the background.



“ I've never missed a training. These are my happiest days. I've made friends and I'm not alone anymore. I don't care where anyone comes from. I just want to keep playing handball every week until I grow up. ”

**Safaa, 8, from Syria**

### Vocational training for youth

Almost a quarter of all young people in Lebanon are unemployed. In Salhieh in southern Lebanon, we therefore train young people in the metal and steel sector. We are updating the teachers' knowledge and upgrading the industrial sector by adapting the curricula. For the young people this means a sound education and the chance of employment, income and an independent future.



### HEALTH 2019

- ➔ Free medical health care for **1,282 women** and **2,039 children**
- ➔ **1,680 participants** in discussion groups on family planning, reproductive health, nutrition during pregnancy, etc.
- ➔ Distribution of hygiene kits to **502 women**
- ➔ Literacy courses for **140 women**
- ➔ Purchase of a new ultrasound machine for the outpatient clinic

### INTEGRATION 2019

- ➔ Training of **5 trainers** for violence prevention, conflict avoidance and community building
- ➔ Weekly trainings for **129 Syrian and Lebanese boys and girls**
- ➔ Group discussions after the training sessions with trainers and a social worker

### TRAINING 2019

- ➔ Intensive training in the metal and steel sector for **67 young people**
- ➔ **3-week internships** in the field of the metal- and steel industry
- ➔ English courses for **100 young people**
- ➔ Training of **124 teachers**
- ➔ Information campaign on technical professions for **500 students**



## YOUTH SHAPES THE FUTURE

Imagine there are elections and nobody votes. In the Republic of Moldova, many young people and young adults do not actually use their right to vote. For many know far too little about democracy and elections in their country.

There are many reasons for this and most of them have their roots in poverty, says Natalia Mihailov, our local colleague:

“ In the Republic of Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, access to education is limited. Communication between youth organisations and public institutions is weak or non-existent, and many young people emigrate in the hope of a better life. Continuing political and economic instability is contributing to a growing number of young people distrusting politics and not participating in elections. ”

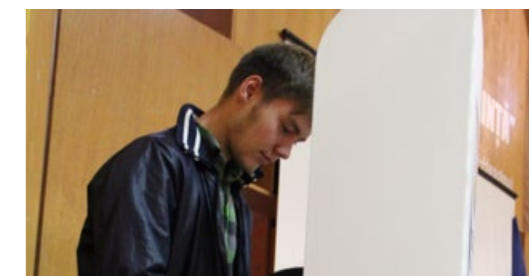
**Natalia Mihailov**  
Head of Hilfswerk International office  
in the Republic of Moldova

Sergiu is one of the young people who had little access to political information. He was surprised to learn that the 18-year-old will be allowed to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Young people like Sergiu often lack the awareness that they have a say in political and social developments and that they can actively shape society through their participation in elections.

Hilfswerk International is therefore raising awareness of democratic processes among young voters in Moldova. We help young adults to find their way through the bureaucratic jungle and motivate them to take part in elections.

To ensure that the efforts have an impact beyond the project duration, we work closely with local NGOs, election authorities and schools and pass on what we have learned and tested.



“ By participating in the project I learned how important it is to be informed about political events in your country and to make use of your right to vote. I learned that if we want to change the future, we have to shape it! ”

**Sergiu, 18 years**

## HELP FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Catalina is six years old and cannot move. She was born with spinal muscular atrophy and severe motor disorders. She lives with her mother in a small apartment in Hîncești, Moldova. Catalina is a very smart girl, but she cannot attend public school because of her disability. She is dependent on care around the clock.

Therefore her mother Olga could not work since her birth. The two of them were missing in every nook and cranny. A stable social system as we know it in Austria does not exist in Moldova.

When Catalina got a place in the Hilfswerk children's center in Hîncești, the sun finally shone again for the two of them. Here the girl is not only lovingly cared for, but also receives all the necessary therapies. Olga knows she is in best hands. She can now go back to work during the day and pay for the necessary medication.

“ Catalina is so comfortable here. She's with other children and she's learning so much. I am happy because the caregivers in the children's center are well trained - and above all, they meet Catalina with so much joy and appreciation. ”

**Olga, mother of Catalina**

Hilfswerk International has been helping children with disabilities in the two children's centers in Hîncești and Pripiceni for more than 18 years. There, children with severe and multiple disabilities are cared for in a manner similar to school or kindergarten. In addition to learning, handicrafts and exercise, the daily schedule includes various forms of therapy adapted to the individual needs of the children.

### Ambassador for children in need

Our sincere thanks go to our ambassador for children in need, **Jeannine Schiller**. Thank you for your untiring commitment to the Children's Centers for Children with Disabilities in Moldova. Your passionate commitment gives the children a life in dignity.



### CHILDREN'S CENTERS 2019

- 2 centers:** Soul Drops in Pripiceni and Blue Bird in Hîncești
- 53 children** visit the centres daily
- 120 more children** and their parents come for special therapies and consultations

### 2019 AT A GLANCE

#### EDUCATION

- **4,100** young people took part in information campaigns in schools.
- **22** information corners on democracy and elections were set up in youth centres and school libraries.

#### SUSTAINABILITY

- **720** municipal representatives, association representatives and teachers are working with us to promote more democracy in Moldova.
- **310** young democracy experts were trained.





**Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Social housing projects and income generating measures for families in need



**Serbia**

Improving the living and housing situation of Roma families



**Republic of Moldova**

Development opportunities for children with disabilities and promotion of democratic understanding among young people



**South Caucasus**

Strengthening of reintegration and vocational training of the socially disadvantaged in Georgia



**Central Asia**

Access to international markets for local small and medium-sized enterprises in the food sector in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

The project countries marked in yellow correspond to a snapshot in 2019. The world map also shows all countries in which we have been active in the past in light yellow. More detailed information on our activities can be found on the individual country pages.



**Colombia**

Agricultural support and peace-building measures



**Haiti**

Disaster relief and construction of a hospital with a focus on mother-child health



**Tunisia**

Vocational training and job creation for young people



**Zimbabwe**

Food and income security through drought-resistant crops



**Mozambique**

Improving mother-child health, food security and environmental protection



**Lebanon / Syria**

Education and training, psychological support, integration programmes and health measures





# DISASTER RELIEF AFTER CYCLONE IDAI

In March 2019, cyclone Idai kept us in suspense. We watched it for some time until we had sad certainty: Idai will hit our project area Sofala with full force.

When all contact with our team was cut off for 48 hours on March 13, 2019, the seconds felt like hours. Then we could slowly begin to see the damage:

The floods that lasted for days were particularly dramatic for the fields: After the cyclone destroyed the crops, the floods robbed the soil of its fertility.

Our office in Vienna was in great concern for days. We were worried about our program director Fredy Rivera, who was on site, about our team and the 1.8 million people living in Sofala. And worried about our health centers, agricultural and environmental projects.

Idai destroyed everything in his path. He left hundreds of dead, orphans, massive damage to infrastructure (roads, schools, hospitals), and destroyed hundreds of thousands of hectares of productive areas. After Idai had moved on, floods followed, cutting off entire regions from the outside world.

Cholera, water shortages and hunger followed. This accompanies us until today.

Because of our broad network of activists and embeddedness in the communities in Sofala, we could start our emergency aid right away:

## HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

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



### Mother and child health

The extremely 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 in their first year of life. Therefore we train health workers and help pregnant women. Adequate nutrition, clean drinking water and improved quality of training and health care services make a significant contribution to improving mother-child health. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique, we are building waiting houses for new mothers and equipping health posts with wells for running water, solar energy and medical supplies.



### Environmental protection






Next to rainforests and coral reefs, mangrove forests are the largest oxygen suppliers in the world. In addition, they provide food and medicine for the people living in the coastal areas of Sofala. Due to slash-and burn, deforestation and overfishing, the Mangrove forests and other vital natural resources are endangered. Not only are food sources lost, but the flora and fauna of this unique ecosystem is also threatened with extinction. HWI promotes re-forestation, sensitizes the population, promotes sustainable agriculture and the protection and preservation of the natural resources.



### Food security

In Sofala, farmers are clearly feeling the effects of climate change. Long periods of drought, soil degradation and floodings are problematic and cause hunger and food insecurity. Hilfswerk International supports farmers the cultivation, marketing and processing of drought resistant nutritious plant species. We promote an ecosystem approach through capacity building, income diversification and the introduction of green technologies for sustainable climate smart agriculture.

### DISASTER RELIEF 2019

-  Distribution of
  - 1,600 food packages with rice, beans, peanuts, flour and oil
  - 65,300 Water purification bottles
  - 2,600 hygiene kits
  - 16,000 kg sweet potato seeds
-  Examination of the nutritional status of **41,774 children and 21,914 pregnant and breastfeeding women** and treatment against malnutrition
-  Treatment of **21,004 children** with medication
-  **1,660 workshops** on food security, water purification and appropriate hygiene measures
-  Reconstruction of **32 water sources and pumps**



“ On the night of Idai I went into labor. The storm was so strong that trees were flying through the air. I walked for four and a half hours to the nearest health post. The birth was turbulent. Two midwives and a nurse barricaded themselves in the health post. But they did not leave the side of the patients and expectant mothers, all night long. I wouldn't have known what I would have done without them. And when Idai left, João was born. ”

Juliana from Sofala



## LIFE WITHOUT HUNGER

The people of **Zimbabwe** are clearly feeling the consequences of climate change. Periods of drought are becoming longer and extreme weather conditions are becoming more frequent. Temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius are not uncommon. Even in 2019 there was almost no rain. The consequences are large harvest losses - and thus hunger. Almost 70% of the Zimbabwean population lives in rural areas and depend on their crops.

“ I don't think anyone can imagine what it's like not to have anything to eat. What it's like to have your entire crop ruined. Watching your children get weaker every day. Every night I reassure my children that tomorrow will be better. And afterwards, I always pray that it is true. ”

**Sekai, 26, mother from Lupane**

### Together with farmers against hunger

We at Hilfswerk International work closely with small farmers in the project areas of Matobo, Insiza and Lupane 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 extremely unfriendly conditions. These include Amaranth, Quinoa, Castor beans, sorghum, cowpeas and pearl millet.

With these plants we are helping Zimbabwe step by step into a self-determined future - without hunger:

- We train small farmers in the cultivation, grafting and marketing of drought-resistant plants.
- We distribute Amaranth, Quinoa, Castor beans, sorghum, cowpeas and pearl millet, mixed fertilizers and tarpaulins for hygienic processing to small farmers.
- Training of Trainers - Agricultural extension officers 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 amaranth. Recipes and experiences are exchanged. Amaranth cookies, bread, porridge and yoghurt are particularly popular.



### HUNGER IN ZIMBABWE



**More than half** of all people in Zimbabwe suffer from hunger.



**Every third child** suffers from stunting (growth retardation) due to hunger.



**5 out of 100 children** die before they reach their fifth birthday.



### We help in Zimbabwe...

- on the one hand, in the short term 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 famine.
- on the other hand, to improve Zimbabwe's long-term food security through the processing and marketing of drought-resistant crops and general food security.

### Sekai has left hunger behind

Sekai is one of the farmers we were able to support in 2019. Sekai comes from Lupane, she is 26 years old and mother of two daughters. When the rain stopped, her maize harvest also failed. This meant not only hunger, but also a lack of income. She could always sell the surplus in her village. In our project, Sekai learned to grow amaranth. In training sessions we worked out together how she could use it to bake nutritious porridge, bread and cakes. 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. I have been attending training courses and exhibitions for a few months now, and have already planted the first amaranth seeds. I know that my children will soon no longer have to starve. This is the most beautiful feeling a mother can have. ”

### Amaranth, the wonder plant

Amaranth helps families not to go hungry even in times of drought. It is...

- **drought-resistant:** the moisture requirement of amaranth is much lower than that of other cereals and can withstand adverse weather conditions.
- **fast growing:** Amaranth is fast growing and can be harvested several times a year.
- **nutritious:** Its high content of fiber and protein make amaranth a nutritious cereal substitution.
- **profitable:** amaranth can be sold in Zimbabwe at a good price. This increases the farmers' family income. The extra income is invested in the education of their children, medical expenses and new seeds.



### 2019 AT A GLANCE

- 📖 **1,398 farmers** reached with training and seed distribution
- 🌱 **2,098 kg** cereal seeds distributed
- 👩 **Cooking workshops for 394 women and men**
- 🗣️ **80 agricultural extension officers trained**



## A SECOND CHANCE

“ I had no education and was pregnant when Besik went to prison. Then my daughter Julia and I were on our own. I thought that was the end. Suddenly I had to pay all the bills alone. Financially Besik and I were never well. But now I had no money at all. The fear was great. The only thing bigger than my fear was hope. ”

Mariam had the resources to overcome only a year. Day after day, a fight. When Besik was released from prison, he was a different man. He received an education in enamel processing in Ksani prison and was determined to take good care of his family from now on.



“ Besik saw how much we had to fight without him. When he was out, he wanted to make up for everything. And then Hilfswerk International came. Since then, I remember only vaguely that difficult time. Today we are stronger than before. We have a job. A vision. We are happy. We can give Julia what she needs to grow. The help from Hilfswerk International has changed our lives. ”

### Step by step back into society

Georgia lacks supportive reintegration opportunities for former prisoners and people on probation. Unlike in Austria, there is no vocational training in prisons or forms of care after release from prison. However, training and psychological support are enormously important in order to reduce the relapse rates.

### Trainings and Support

Together with the Georgian authorities, we help (former) prisoners and their families in Shida Kartli, Samegrelo and Imereti:

- **Training:** Practical vocational training and training programmes for (former) prisoners in carpentry, car mechanics, welding, cook and hairdresser
- **Support:** Establishment of an honorary official mentoring structure for the period after release from prison
- **Help:** Additional psychosocial and legal support, also for family members
- **Communication:** Exchange between Austrian and Georgian authorities for sustainable effectiveness
- **Start-up aid:** career guidance, arranging internships and awarding scholarships

### 2019 AT A GLANCE

- 426 people were trained
- 77 voluntary mentors support and accompany former prisoners and their families
- 83 internships made possible
- 50 financial start-up aid



### Jump-start for a self-determined life

We also support former prisoners and persons on probation with financial start-up assistance for their business ideas. This start-up aid was the focus of our activities in 2019. Financial stability and independence provide the basis for a new start and help to reintegrate into society.

So far we have been able to promote 79 business ideas. The business fields are colourful: from a beauty salon to a tailor shop to a glasshouse, the business ideas cover (almost) every branch. There is one thing that runs like a red thread through them all: The small businesses are managed successfully and motivated, and have given people a second chance.



“ My father is a beekeeper. Even as a child I always helped him. When he went to prison, I quit my job as a cleaning lady and took care of the bees. My father got out of prison soon, and was so happy that I took care of his hives for him. Together we then applied for a start-up grant from Hilfswerk International. We actually won and with the money we could buy more bee colonies and equipment. My father and I are now merging beekeeping and are successful with it. We have an income and I see how this gives him hope again. ”

Gvantsa from Narazeni

“ For a long time I had the desire to open my own sewing shop. After my time in prison, I couldn't find work. My wife encouraged me to apply for a start-up job with the relief organization to follow this dream. She herself is a designer, and together we developed a business plan on how we would like to run the sewing shop together. I can hardly believe it, but today this dream has become reality. My wife and I not only work together in the sewing shop, we are also working on finding our way back to each other personally. The physical proximity in everyday life helps us to do this. ”

Nikoloz from Kutaisi



“ I am a carpenter and love working with wood. In January I got a jump start and was able to buy more tools for my workshop. I feel like new born. As if I had gained a second life. I can now produce even better quality. The project enabled me to continue living my life and to solve my personal problems legally. ”

Givi from Gori





**Entrepreneur of the Year**

One of the young entrepreneurs supported by Hilfswerk International is Imen Sayyar. Imen has a Bachelor's degree in ceramics. But even with this degree she could not find work. However, her passion and talent lies in craftsmanship, which is why she registered for our business training courses. And with success: she developed a creative business plan that involves firing clay in specially designed electric kilns. Through Hilfswerk International her dream became reality: She founded a company and has had a secure income ever since.



In May 2019, Imen was awarded the prestigious "Tunisian Entrepreneur of the Year" award (La Femme Entrepreneur de Tunisie).

“Hilfswerk International believed in me. That is why I was able to make my passion my profession. I am independent and can finally take care of myself and my family.”

**Imen Sayyar**  
entrepreneur of the year Tunisia

**CREATING PERSPECTIVES ON SITE**

High unemployment is a major problem in southern Tunisia. Young people and women are particularly affected: almost 50% of young people have no job opportunities.

Not only does unemployment weaken the entire region, it also leads to a demoralizing lack of prospects. And this is terrible for young people and their families, because it makes their future perspective little promising

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


**Getting to the root of the problem**


In 2012, we at Hilfswerk International developed a programme that has since been creating prospects for the young local population and promoting economic stability. This programme consists of


- the strengthening of Tunisian small enterprises through training,
- the promotion of newly established small enterprises through financial start-up aid,
- the improvement of economic understanding and management know-how and
- the creation of meaningful jobs.

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

**IN 2019, WE COULD...**

 provide training for **300 young people** (in marketing, business planning, accounting, etc.)

 support the **creation of 82 start-ups**, and thus

 create and secure **306 jobs**.



**Who strengthens, helps twice**

Imen's example shows that help is successful when existing ideas and potentials are taken up and supported. In this way, development cooperation has a particularly lasting effect. Hilfswerk International's priorities in Tunisia are the long-term strengthening of families through economic development, education and job creation.

Since 2019 we have also been helping people in the northwest of Tunisia. Here, children in particular suffer from poverty and the tense economic and social situation.

**Children suffer from poverty**

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

Even the school education in Jendouba does not correspond 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 have the opportunity to conduct leisure activities suitable for them, to make friendships and to reduce stress.

**Hilfswerk International strengthens children**

We support 100 girls and boys from six to eleven years in Jendouba through weekly ball game trainings. During the two hours the children can play together, train and afterwards talk about their problems in group discussions with trained coaches.

The pedagogically guided training in mixed groups reduces stress and frustration, builds friendships and brings moments of success. Cultural and social differences become unimportant when playing together. You learn to appreciate and respect each other, to integrate into groups and to work together to achieve a goal. The joint trainings lead to fun, cohesion and offer a way out of the dreary everyday life.





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCOME GENERATION

People in Central Asia suffer from slow economic development and high unemployment. To overcome this the food sector offers a promising potential in the countries of **Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**. A traditional economic sector in these countries is the fruit and vegetables production and processing. This sector can contribute to income generation and therefore forms the focus of Hilfswerk International activities in Central Asia.

### OBJECTIVES

- **Economic upturn** in a region marked by poverty
- Promoting the integration of Central Asia into the **world economy**
- Creating new sources of **income and jobs**

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

Since 2008 we have been implementing a project called CANDY. In 2019 we completed the fourth phase of the project. Our key success factor is the integrated approach we apply also in all our projects - to bring all stakeholders involved in the food production and industry together. Therefore, the first key to success is to bring together all those involved in the food industry. This includes farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises, BIOs (business intermediary organizations), government authorities and universities or research institutes.

- In **training courses** we improve production processes and food standards. We also work together to develop innovative business ideas that help the region develop economically and socially.

- We introduced internationally recognized **standards** and certifications for food (organic, fair trade, Global G.A.P.), which give local producers the chance to be involved in premium market supply chains with prospect of better profit margins.
- Agricultural enterprises are connected with marketing and export companies in order to make the **value chains** sustainable.
- We work closely with consulting organisations that play an important role in Central Asia in mediating between agricultural enterprises and export companies.

In addition to direct assistance, we are also ensuring an expansion of support programmes for companies in the food sector at **state level**. Moreover we were able to adapt the UNECE standard for dried apricot considering the interest of Central Asian local producers.

These activities not only help the people, but also strengthen the entire region sustainably.

### An excerpt from our successes:



#### NETWORK

We have set up a network that now includes 15 BIOs from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and links them with companies from the EU.



#### TRAININGS

of 119 persons from 13 BIOs. These can now help small and medium-sized enterprises to introduce international food safety standards.



#### STANDARDS

22 cooperatives, farmers' groups and farms (550 people in total) can introduce international standards (Global G.A.P., organic and fair trade).



#### HIGHER EDUCATION

To introduce and maintain standards for food export in Central Asia, Hilfswerk International is modernizing courses of study in food production and processing at four universities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.



#### WORKING GROUP

We established and coordinate a regional working group for the promotion of quality and commercial standards of agricultural products in Central Asia. This working group has already major achievements:

- A new international quality standard was introduced for dried melon.
- The UNECE standards for onions, persimmons and plums have been reviewed, and the standard for prunes and walnut kernels were revised.
- The Central Asian countries' policy on agricultural product quality standards has been coordinated.



“ My employees have learned a lot about the application of food safety certifications. We are currently putting what we have learned into practice. This is how we improve the quality of our apricots. This will help to improve the image of Tajik fruit and vegetable production and promote economic development in our region. ”

**Daler Dustmatov**  
Director of a Tajik apricot company

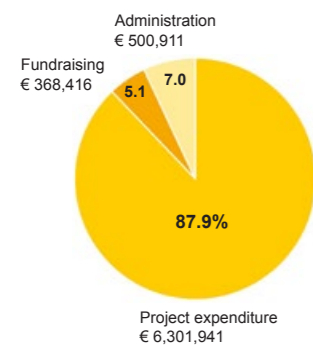
\*CANDY: Advanced Support Programme to Central Asian Business Intermediary Organisations – Specialised and Integrated Services for Export-Oriented Food Processing SMEs

# HELP THAT BEARS FRUIT

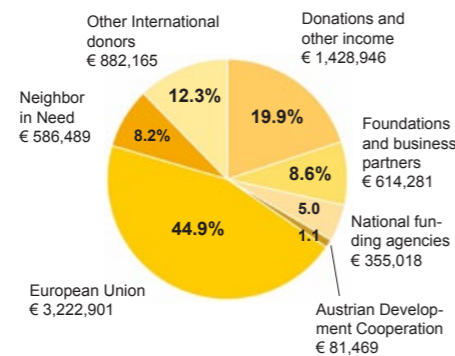


In 2019 the total expenditure of Hilfswerk International amounted to 7,171,268 Euros. Of this amount, a total of 6,301,941 Euros were spent on project work, about 5 % on fundraising and 7 % on administration.

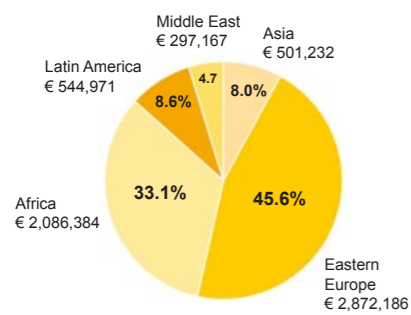
## Application of funds € 7,171,268



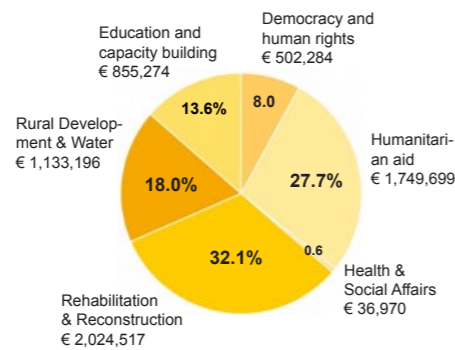
## Source of funds € 7,171,268



## Regional breakdown € 6,301,941



## Sectoral breakdown € 6,301,941



## OUR FOCUS

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

“ We ensure that the funds received are used effectively and are committed to strict auditing by independent auditors. ”

**Christian Domany**  
President Hilfswerk International

## We thank our strategic partners:

- ADA – Austrian Development Agency
- Office of Foreign Affairs Affairs Liechtenstein
- Advantage Austria
- Bundesministerium für öffentlichen Dienst und Sport
- EC – European Commission
- ECHO – European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department
- Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
- FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
- Fondation Ensemble
- IV – Vereinigung der Österreichischen Industrie
- Kahane Stiftung
- Land Niederösterreich
- Land Oberösterreich
- Land Salzburg
- Land Steiermark
- Landwirtschaftskammer
- LED – Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst
- Medicor Foundation
- Neighbor in Need
- OFID – OPEC Fund for International Development
- OSF – Open Society Foundation
- Stadt Wien
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
- UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Austrian Economic Chambers
- VAMED
- voestalpine AG



# WHEN HELP KNOWS NO BORDERS

## EVENTS

### Donor Conference

In 2019, our donor conference took place at the Galerie Franz Josefs Kai in the 1st district of Vienna, Austria. Linked to the initiative "The Other is Oneself" we focused on our help for Syrian refugees. Our colleague Mireille Karky from Lebanon reported first-hand about our projects and her personal experiences.

### Christmas Gala

Under the motto "30 years of Hilfswerk - 30 years of help for children in need", the renowned artist duo Christine and Camillo dell'Antonio created a pre-Christmas and entertaining evening. The two were accompanied by the Trio Sulzgruber. Bettina Kerschbaumer-Schrammek led the evening in a charming manner. We are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas gala on November 26th 2020!

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Omar Elfaraouk Bsais (p. 22 both)  
Aleksandra Pawloff (p. 24, p. 25 portrait)  
Free Vector Maps (all maps)

## Our events partners 2019





“ 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 Arboleda**  
Program Director

“ Since 1996, Hilfswerk International in Bosnia and Herzegovina stands for living instead of surviving, home instead of homelessness, economic stability instead of poverty, jobs instead of hopelessness and respect instead of human rights violations. Seeing that our daily work improves the live quality of thousands of people is what drives us to keep on going. ”

**Suzana Jasarevic**  
Country Director Bosnia and Herzegovina



“ In Lebanon, the Syrian refugees’ as well as the host community’s needs are huge. Projects on livelihoods, education, health and social stability bring important support to the population in need. Hilfswerk International implements not only emergency projects but also development projects focusing on improving the knowledge and the skills of beneficiaries in order to live in dignity either in Lebanon or once the refugees can return safely to Syria. Sustainability is one of our main concerns. Therefore our activities in Lebanon are tailored in a way to last durably. ”

**Mireille Karaky**  
Head of Hilfswerk International in 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 and safety of agriproducts, and has managed to unite the competence of all relevant stakeholders. We have solid experience in empowering business intermediary organizations and small and medium organizations through capacity building, regional integration and innovation. ”

**Umed Aslanov**  
Head of Hilfswerk International Tajikistan



“ Hilfswerk International in Moldova is specialized in providing support on democratic and economic development, provision of social services, civic engagement support to the community development as well as educational programs and the promotion of human rights. All our activities aim at fighting poverty and ensuring sustainable outcomes. Our beneficiaries in Moldova are socially vulnerable groups of people, with responsible, independent and motivated members wishing to make positive changes. ”

**Natalia Mihailov**  
Head of Hilfswerk International in Moldova

