



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe

With our partners in 36 countries in 2024

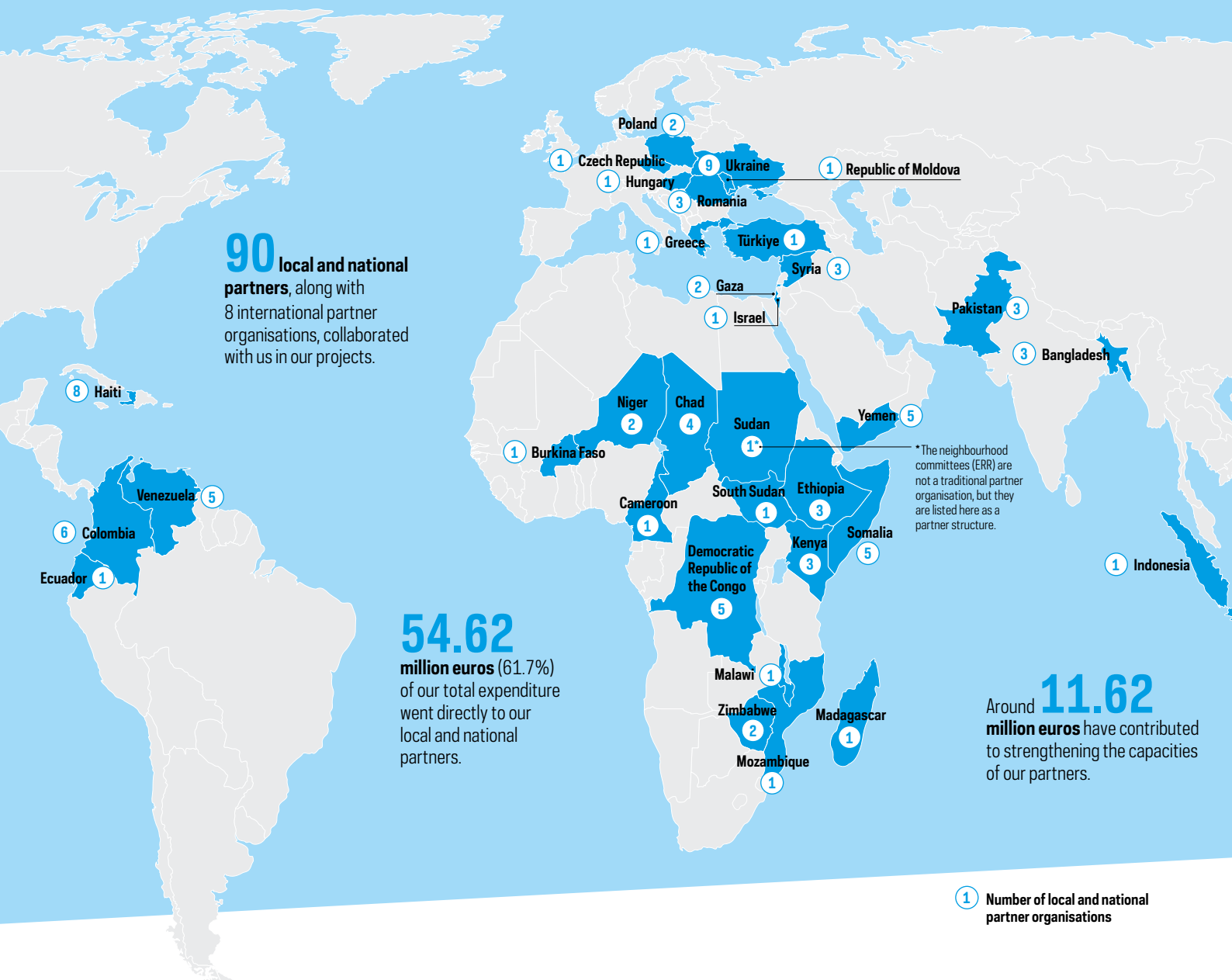


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Dr Dagmar Pruin,
President Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Dear friends of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe,

Solidarity and togetherness can work worldwide only if we globally agree on common approaches. Humanity is the driving force behind our daily activities as an aid organisation, as well as the dominant humanitarian principle that we must never give up anywhere in the world. But humanitarian assistance is under pressure. Universally recognised values and principles are increasingly being disregarded. Assistance is being linked to national interests, conditions or “deals”. Together with my colleagues and our partners, I am vehemently opposed to this.

When our partner organisations in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine or Haiti provide help under the most difficult and dangerous conditions, they demonstrate humanity. They need our support to do so. I am very pleased that we were able to continue providing assistance in these and many other countries in 2024. Partners in Ukraine are improving the everyday lives of people living in a war situation. Rebuilding social structures is an important contribution to human security in that process.

I am particularly impressed by the commitment of our partner organisation in Sudan. Hundreds of neighbourhood committees are flexibly organising the very help that their fellow human beings need at this time. I am very pleased that we have been able to support these committees across the country. They know best what people need locally. I wished that this kind of extensive support had also been possible in the Gaza Strip, but blatant violations of international humanitarian law by the warring parties have temporarily prevented any assistance. Since the beginning of the war, we have been calling for the protection of the civilian population on all sides as guaranteed by international law and for the release of hostages. What we have witnessed, however, is a constant disregard for human dignity in this war.

We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that principled aid remains possible and is adequately funded, as crises and conflicts are increasing at an alarming rate worldwide. The international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering in the world. That is all the more reason for me to thank you, dear donors, for continuing to keep an eye on the crises around the world together with us and for providing reliable support in great numbers. This is not a given in today's world. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours, Dr Dagmar Pruin

Report from the Executive Board

Funding for humanitarian assistance is shrinking worldwide, while demand for this assistance continues to rise. That means the challenges for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to continue its work in many crisis regions under difficult conditions are also increasing. Help for survival is more necessary than ever and remains possible with local partners if we respect and defend humanitarian principles together.

Helping is at risk: In 2024, it became particularly clear that the financial resources for humanitarian assistance are decreasing. In Germany, the federal government had already cut funding and was even planning to halve it again for 2025. The premature end of the coalition in autumn 2024 initially halted these plans, but the new government is continuing with the massive cuts. International funding for humanitarian assistance also continues to decrease. The Trump administration's radical decision to phase out the development agency USAID is alarming and confirms the trend.

What does this mean for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe? We have to adapt our structures, attract other donors and find new ways to uphold our work in numerous crisis regions. This is urgently needed, as the number of destitute people contin-

"Direct and locally led aid alleviates affliction and saves lives."

ues to rise. According to the UN, more than 300 million people worldwide are now in need of humanitarian assistance. Although there were no major natural disasters in 2024, devastating wars continued unabated. The armed conflict in Sudan has developed into the largest humanitarian crisis in the world – at the end of 2024, more than 20 million people were starving there alone.

For this reason, we took an unusual and hitherto new step in our cooperation with partner organisations. In Sudan, the Emergency Response Rooms were our first means of direct support for local neighbourhood committees that did not have any conventional organisational structures. With little administrative and personnel effort, we were able to provide aid in regions where international aid organisations were barely able to work for security reasons or due to a lack of resources.

Today we are convinced: The confidence in this approach is justified, and the decision was correct and logical. Direct and locally led aid alleviates affliction and saves lives. The Emergency Response Rooms in Sudan were even nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize! This has encouraged us to follow the path of localised aid, which we have been pursuing with our local partner organisations for many years.

Aid workers are increasingly at risk

Helping is dangerous: We are very concerned about the increasing danger to aid workers worldwide we have observed. Since the Second World War, never have so many of them lost their lives in the line of duty as in 2024. Because Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe works exclusively with partners in around 40 countries, we must increasingly advocate for those who risk their lives every day – whether in refugee camps in Sudan, during evacuations in Ukraine or during food distribution in Gaza. According to figures from the Aid Worker Security Database, hundreds of aid workers, mostly local staff, lost their lives in 2024. We must not accept this.

The developments in Gaza, where a particularly large number of aid workers lost their lives, were especially shocking. The dangerous disregard for international humanitarian law has gradually become normalised through the regular bombardment of civilian infrastructure and residential areas, the continued hostage-taking and the withholding of aid. This jeopardises the lives of many people in Gaza and Israel, and it will also be a danger in future wars: Disregard for the law today paves the way for brutal conflicts in the future. Obligations under international law must be respected during armed conflicts such as those in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza. This is what Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is committed to as a principle-orientated aid agency.

Supporting hope for a new beginning

In 2024 there were also developments that gave us hope. After 14 years of civil war, the people of Syria are now facing



From left to right: Rüdiger Schuch, Chair of the Executive Board, President Diakonie Deutschland; Dr Dagmar Pruin, Deputy Chair of the Executive Board, President Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe; Maria Loheide, member of the Federal Board of Social Policy at Diakonie Deutschland (resigned 31 December 2024); Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt, Chief Executive Finance, Human Resources and Law.

an uncertain future following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad, but it is a future with more freedom and without a ruler who was responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths. The Syrians now hopefully have a chance to take their fate into their own hands, united and without violence.

The global community must support them on the basis of values and principles; individual regional and national interests must not be allowed to dominate. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was actively involved in helping people with our partners in Syria throughout the civil war. We want to continue providing this support so that a new start and reconstruction of the country can succeed.

Safeguarding the right to protection during flight

The political debate on migration and flight in Germany was and is closely linked to Syria. Just a few days after the fall of Bashar al-Assad, there were calls in Germany for the rapid return of Syrian refugees despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis. We believe that the fundamental right to asylum must be protected. It is an achievement that resulted from two terrible world wars. Providing help for people seeking protection in their countries of origin, transit and destination, their

guaranteed human rights and the reception of asylum seekers in Germany are therefore also important tasks performed by Diakonie Deutschland, Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Addressing the situation of refugees in their countries of origin and transit is part of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe's mission: For example, we support refugees in Bangladesh, Chad and Colombia. And the number of people fleeing their homes continues to rise. According to the United Nations, more than 120 million people worldwide were displaced in 2024. Around two thirds of them were seeking refuge in their homeland or neighbouring countries. Anyone fleeing has a right to safety - everywhere and at all times. This is another reason why the issue of displacement will remain a focus of the work carried out by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partners in numerous countries.

“The fundamental right to asylum must be protected.”

The largest humanitarian crisis of our time

By the end of 2024, almost one million people had fled from the war and hunger in **Sudan** to neighbouring **Chad**. While partners of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe improved sanitation for refugees there, well-connected neighbourhood groups received support in Sudan.

The war in Sudan became the world's largest humanitarian crisis in 2024. At the end of the year, more than 21 million people were starving, and 14 million were displaced. A famine was confirmed for the first time in the Darfur region and caused many people to die every day. "Hunger doesn't fall from the sky. It is man-made, and we have to overcome it together," said Dagmar Pruin, President of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, expressing her alarm. It is almost unbearable that so many people are cut off from sufficient food, that civilians are being shot at and killed and that houses and shops are being looted. In addition to more aid money, more diplomatic will is needed, and civil society actors need to be included who help people on a daily basis at enormous risk.

Self-help ensures survival

This primarily referred to the approximately 600 emergency aid committees that provided people with foodstuffs at neighbourhood level throughout the country, evacuated families from combat zones or provided health centres with medicine. Since mid-2024, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has provided financial support amounting to 1.5 million euros to the Emergency Response Rooms (ERR) in Sudan. What was special about this situation was that the partners were not established humanitarian aid organisations, but rather community-based initiatives run by volunteers. "We don't provide help for others, but for ourselves. For all of us," explained Hajooj Kuka, representative of the ERR. "Our volunteers work in community kitchens because they get to eat themselves. They work in hospitals because they themselves will need their medical services at some point. That's how we keep things going."

The ERR thus fulfilled a function that is otherwise performed by international aid organisations. In many regions, however, accessing people was not possible. Attacks on refugee camps and blocked roads made international aid impossible in many places. "We see ourselves as a strong partner within the humanitarian aid system. The only way to overcome this crisis is together," emphasised Hajooj Kuka. Localised aid should therefore not be interpreted as a lucky coincidence, but as a complementary part of humanitarian aid in future crises. The ERR were nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize for their voluntary and risky commitment.

Fleeing is the only way out

The fierce power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claimed up to 150,000 lives in 2024 according to estimates by observers. Around 750,000 people were threatened by famine at times. The suffering was particularly enormous in the western part of the country, which is largely controlled by the RSF and where the militias had carried out numerous massacres of the civilian population. For thousands of families, the only option was to flee.

Only a crooked stone in the sandy ground marks the inconspicuous border between Sudan and Chad, between war and protection. The small border town of Adré has become a transshipment centre for goods that have been missing in the Sudanese region of Darfur for months. And Adré is the first point of arrival for refugees who have managed to escape the horror. Thousands of people were killed on the supposedly safe route to Chad because they were Black or did not belong to the ethnic groups allied with the RSF.

Lack of prospects after fleeing to Chad

More than a dozen refugee camps were set up in Chad after the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan, and they were barely able to accommodate the enormous number of refugees. 54,000 people held out in the remote town of Arkoum – around three hours' drive from the border. A year after their flight, most of the residents lacked prospects and sufficient supplies. “We can't farm in the surrounding area or be economically active. We are condemned to do nothing,” Sadia Issa lamented. She is particularly worried about young people, as they could turn to crime or drugs.

In order to improve the situation of the refugees, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partners from the Lutheran World Federation and the local aid organisation Shakal built twenty latrines in Arkoum and educated people about hygiene. The next step is to improve the self-sufficiency of refugees in various refugee camps. Seeds and tools will then enable refugees to grow their own food. Cash assistance gives them more freedom to cover their supply gaps or to start their own business ideas with start-up capital. This is also important in order to reduce tensions with the host communities.



In order to improve the situation in the refugee camps in Chad, twenty latrines were built, and people were educated about hygiene.

Absorbing negative effects on communities

“Since the refugees have been here, our lives have become more difficult,” says 62-year-old Mahamud Mahammad. He is the deputy mayor of Arkoum. “We have a similar culture and have nothing against the refugees. But today we have to pay three times as much for grain and flour. The price of meat has even increased sixfold. We used to eat three times a day, but now we only eat twice,” says Mahammad. This is because the camp was built on land that the villagers of Arkoum had previously cultivated. Where they now grow crops, the refugees' livestock is destroying their harvests. In the end, prices rise, and that harms everyone.

According to Regis Jabo, head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in the region, this is a situation that needs to be resolved: “There are good examples of and experiences with how integrating refugees into communities can work. And integration has to work, because many of the refugees will not be able to return for many years, if at all,” says Jabo. That is why it is important to always consider and include the host communities in the aid projects, as is planned in the activities.

1.5

million euros

were provided for emergency aid in Sudan in 2024. That made it possible to reach over **140,000 people** and provide them with vital aid since mid-2024.



As part of the WASH committee (water, sanitation and hygiene), the hygiene promoters in the Arkoum refugee camp educate people about hygiene measures and thus prevent diseases.

Education against sexual violence

In **Colombia** women and girls are exposed to a high risk of gender-specific violence and sexual exploitation. This primarily affects migrants from Venezuela. The partner organisations Fundación Halü Bienestar Humano and Fundación Mujer y Futuro stepped up their prevention work in 2024 to counteract the rising number of cases and protect those affected.

Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans have sought refuge in neighbouring Colombia in recent years. But instead of better living conditions, many find only a place in the margins of society or in the middle of areas controlled by armed groups. Cases of domestic and gender-based violence and forced prostitution are on the rise. The result is illness and unplanned pregnancies, especially among young girls and teenagers. This is not a local problem, but a global threat to refugees and migrants, especially in conflict zones.

Women and girls are exposed to conflict-related sexual violence

According to UN figures, more than 60 million displaced or stateless women and girls worldwide are at high risk of gender-based violence. In 2023, reports of conflict-related sexual violence increased by 50 per cent compared to the previous year, with 95 per cent of confirmed cases involving women and girls. Colombia is no exception: The country has still not been able to resolve a decades-long armed conflict.

If violence can hardly be contained, its consequences must be minimised. That is why Karol Rios, a doctor at a basic health centre in Uribia, says, “Education is the most important!” “I can help a lot of women, but everything would be so much easier if they knew more. Sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancies – so many of them could be avoided.” Women often come just shortly before the birth because they live far away or don’t know about existing services. Migrant or refugee women often have limited access to contraceptives and medical care. According to a study in the Colombian health sector, maternal mortality rose by 36 per cent in 2023, particularly among young Venezuelan women. Only 49 per cent of pregnant migrant women received adequate prenatal care, which has led to an increase in serious complications.

Knowing what to do through networking

This is precisely where a Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe project that promotes the support network for prevention work and knowledge transfer comes into play. “Women need to learn how to protect themselves better. That is the only way we can reduce teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and violence against women as well,” Dinaluz Mendoza is convinced. She is involved in a network with 15 members in the Tancaman community in the small town of Uribia near the Venezuelan border.

Every week, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe’s partner organisation holds workshops on health issues, contraceptive methods, prenatal care, gender-based violence and human rights in the community. She also knows that working in the area of gender-specific violence is the most difficult. “It’s like a fog that envelops the victims,” says Dinaluz Mendoza. This makes cooperation all the more important: “The training sessions create a platform that allows the whole community to learn together. What has empowered me is the knowledge of the supply routes and the right steps to take. Now I finally know what I can do if someone in my community is affected.”

The project was financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office in 2024.



“Education is the most important!”

Karol Rios, a doctor at a basic health centre in Uribia



Martin Keßler, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, visited Gaza and Israel in March of 2025. While there, he experienced the dramatic plight of the civilian population at first hand.

“International law was fundamentally disregarded in the Gaza war”

In the war between **Israel** and the terrorist organisation Hamas, the weapons were not silent for a single day in 2024, and many hostages were still being held by Hamas in 2025. Above all, the civilian population in **Gaza** has been displaced several times due to the fighting and dangers. At times, there was a threat of famine because aid supplies did not reach the people despite international efforts. Martin Keßler, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, was in Gaza and Israel in March of 2025 and reports on his impressions in an interview.

Why did you travel to the Gaza Strip, Mr Keßler?

There was a lot of reporting on Gaza last year, but not from Gaza. Only a few people were able to enter it, and almost nobody came out. It was very important for me to gain my own impression of the humanitarian situation and to support our long-standing local partners in their important work on site.

What did the partners say?

Our two partner organisations in the Gaza Strip organised survival help shortly after the massacre in Israel by the

terrorist organisation Hamas and other actors on 7 October and the subsequent invasion by the Israeli army. They themselves had to take care not to become victims of one of the conflicting parties in this war. The ceasefire was a brief respite for them to look after their homes and families without the constant fear of bombs and shelling. When, during my visit, the Israeli government announced that the electricity would be switched off, the staff just shrugged their shoulders because there had been no electricity or water for 16 months. They accepted the situation with a certain amount of sarcasm.

How was providing help even possible under these circumstances?

The local staff, many of whom are volunteers, have run soup kitchens and distributed hygiene parcels or vegetables, for example; they have always helped with whatever was still available locally. I visited a makeshift bakery – a small tent where bread was baked for breaking the fast. Its furnishings were quite simple. That was very touching.

What was your impression of the people?

On the one hand, people were happy to be able to breathe a sigh of relief after many months, but on the other, there were already signs that the ceasefire was coming to an end. The fear of new fighting was palpable. Unfortunately, that is what happened, and Gaza was cut off from any external aid for weeks. Prices rose again many times over as a result. A bag of 25 kilograms of rice, which might last a week for a family, cost up to 500 euros during the war months. The price of salt had

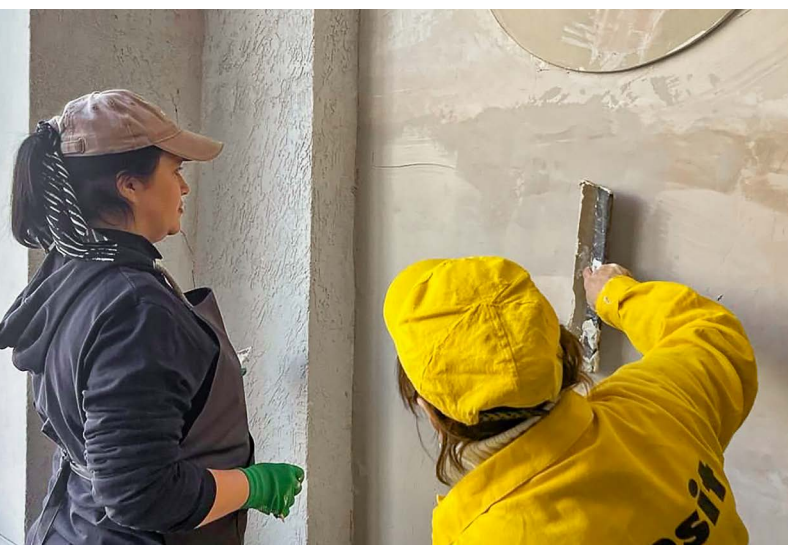
increased three hundredfold! Markets had completely collapsed, which makes the emergency situation so clear.

What does the war in the Gaza Strip mean for international humanitarian law?

After one and a half years, it must be clearly said that international humanitarian law was fundamentally disregarded in the Gaza war. Neither were the remaining hostages released after more than a year of torture and insecurity, nor was the civilian population in Gaza adequately protected from hunger, displacement and bombs. The lives, rights and dignity of civilians were blatantly instrumentalised by the conflicting parties and too often deliberately violated. In the Gaza Strip, I have observed the targeted destruction of residential areas. These violations of fundamental norms of international law will continue to occupy us for a long time after this war. Every past war forms a basis for how conflicting parties will act in future wars.

From survival to reconstruction

The war is changing the lives of everyone in **Ukraine**. However, it hits women the hardest. Many have had to flee and have lost their homes, their jobs and even family members. Instead of giving up, many of them want to help with the reconstruction work. A project helps them develop new career prospects.



In addition to theory, the women carry out practical exercises. The training programme in construction trades at the vocational college lasts three months.

“Typical male professions have ceased to exist in Ukraine ever since the war has kept the country in suspense. Women are taking the place of men, for example in the construction industry. We want to prepare them well for this and give them a hopeful new start,” says Andrij Waskowycz, head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in Kyiv. The Ukrainian economy, especially the construction sector, is suffering from a significant labour shortage because many men are fighting on the front line.

For more strength and self-confidence

That is why a special project was launched in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro in 2024 on the initiative of the Ukrainian authorities and with support from Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. It retrains women for work in the construction industry and is carried out by the partner organisation “Plich-o-Plich” (“Shoulder to Shoulder”).



Both displaced women from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and local women from Dnipro who lost their jobs as a result of the Russian invasion are taking part in the retraining programme.

The project is not just about vocational training, but also about emotional and psychological healing. It allows women who have lost almost everything to regain strength and self-confidence, as most of them come from embattled border regions, destroyed towns and villages.

Zoya, a mother of two children, fled from occupied Popasna to Dnipro. She was trained as a hairdresser but never got a chance to work in this field. “When I heard about the construction courses, I wanted to participate. It’s a useful skill, and in the future it will help me rebuild my city and my home and support others,” says Zoya.

Starting their own companies

Yulia, another participant, came from Sievierodonetsk, where she and her husband ran a small construction business. When the war reached the city, Yulia initially fled to Ternopil in western Ukraine. Since her husband was called up for military service, Yulia was left alone with her children and faced an uncertain future. “After my mother managed to escape the Russian occupation and settle here in Dnipro, I moved in with her,” explains Yulia. Now she is learning drywall construction and tiling, and she realises that she can do much more than

she imagined. “I would like to work with a company here or maybe team up with other women to start our own business,” she adds.

In addition to construction training, the three-month programme also offers financial education workshops and the opportunity to apply for a grant for a small business. “In February, I was able to present the first 30 women, all of whom had a unique story to tell, with their state-recognised certificate of craftsmanship,” says Andrij Waskowycz. “This programme makes it easier for them to return to social and professional life. It’s about helping Ukrainian women regain their strength, self-confidence and independence.” The programme is continuing in 2025 as well.

We have been able to help **892,935** people since the beginning of the war in 2022 by providing **83.2 million euros of support for 37 projects**. Together with our partners, we are working on developing prospects – despite the war.

Projects worldwide

Our assistance in the regions

Approvals of initial and additional funding, projects and accompanying measures in 2024



Staff from the partner organisation ORRAH run workshops on the prevention of gender-specific violence.

Haiti: Protection and help for women and children

Poverty, hunger, gang violence: In Haiti, the poorest country in Latin America, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line. This country, which has been severely affected by natural disasters, has been in a political crisis for years. The security situation has deteriorated since 2023, and gang violence escalated at the end of February 2024. Hundreds of thousands of people are on the run within the country, and the risk of sexual violence against women and girls has risen sharply. In addition to supporting small-scale farming families, we have therefore set up community centres together with our local partners. Women and children can find protection in those centres. Survivors of sexual violence receive psycho-social support, and local community representatives are trained in dealing with gender-specific violence. Art therapy workshops help children suffering from the consequences of gang violence come to terms with what they have experienced.



Our projects in America

Country	Support in €	Projects
Haiti	2,860,186.88	7
Colombia	1,789,473.69	1
Transnational	2,292,823.17	5
Total	6,942,483.74	13



Clean water can prevent diseases. A health adviser shows how to use water purification chemicals correctly.

Ethiopia: Quick assistance for children and pregnant women

In the Ethiopian region of Afar, the population has experienced several crises in recent years. Children's health in particular suffered from increasing food insecurity, limited access to medical care and the outbreak of diseases such as measles, whooping cough and malaria. We set out to improve the protection of children against infectious diseases together with our long-standing partner organisation. Over 7,100 children were fully immunised against ten preventable diseases – including polio, tuberculosis (BCG),

tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and measles. Health workers also treated common illnesses such as malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. We also screened around 13,500 young children for malnutrition – affected children received immediate medical care. Our work also focused on care for pregnant women, who received support during pregnancy and labour. In addition, we provided 3,000 households with hygiene products and water purification tablets to help contain the spread of disease.

Our projects in Africa

Country	Support in €	Projects
Ethiopia	517,180.33	2
Burkina Faso	250,000.00	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,639,491.00	3
Cameroon	1,108,394.00	1
Kenya	3,158,718.03	5
Madagascar	85,600.00	1
Senegal	682,000.00	1
Somalia	862,535.00	2
Sudan	650,000.00	2
South Sudan	741,737.00	1
Chad	1,428,591.02	5
Transnational	9,157,175.27	3
Total	21,281,421.65	27



Europe: Emergency aid after floods

In 2024, torrential rainfall caused enormous damage in Central and Eastern Europe and Spain. Numerous people lost their lives, entire regions were devastated, and thousands lost their homes in Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Romania.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided emergency aid together with partner organisations. In the Czech Republic, relief operations were running around the clock. 100 construction dryers were delivered to the Czech Republic and Poland to make it possible for people to return to damaged homes.

Extreme rainfall also had dramatic consequences in Spain: Over 200 people died, entire villages were flooded, and many households were left without electricity, clean water and food. Our local partner provided emergency aid.



100 construction dryers were delivered to the Czech Republic and Poland.

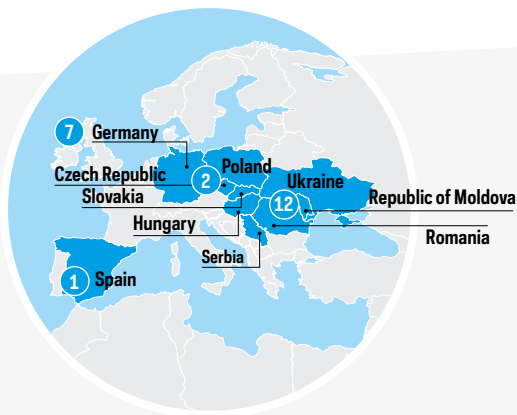
Türkiye: Life after the earthquakes

The earthquakes in February 2023 shook large parts of Türkiye. The dramatic consequences were still being felt a year later. Over 780,000 people were still living in temporary accommodation and struggling with a lack of medical care, inadequate protection from the rain and cold and insufficient infrastructure.

Immediately after the disaster, we focussed on emergency aid – a year later, in addition to further emergency aid measures such as targeted cash aid (for heating materials, for instance), we also focused on psychosocial aid. Those affected received psychological counselling, took part in workshops on coping with stress or were referred to specialist offices. Particularly vulnerable groups – such as victims of domestic violence or women and children at risk of early marriage – were prioritised for support.



Over 780,000 people were still living in temporary accommodation one year after the earthquake.



1 Number of projects

Our projects in Europe

Country	Support in €	Projects
Flooding in Germany	2,342,000.00	7
Flooding in Europe	77,305.38	2
Flooding in Spain	270,000.00	1
Ukraine and neighbouring countries	16,299,302.99	12
Total	18,988,608.37	22

Bangladesh: Protection for children and young people in the largest refugee camp in the world



Carefree learning and playing: The partner organisation ASD carries out measures to protect children and young people.

From supplying drinking water to repairing latrines and organising hygiene workshops – together with our local partner organisation, we have been providing emergency aid near Cox’s Bazar, the largest refugee camp in the world, for years. We recently focused on protecting children and young people in particular. To this end, we have set up four protection centres – safe places where children can play, learn and receive psychosocial support. The wide range of offers also has programmes for adults: There are over 150 courses and training sessions, including numeracy and education programmes, as well as information on topics such as gender-specific violence, drugs, abuse, personal safety and nutrition. In addition to the work done in the centres, the project team visited 426 households to encourage parents to send their children to the safe spaces to learn and play.

Our projects in Asia

Country	Support in €	Projects
Afghanistan	500,000.00	1
Bangladesh	220,000.00	2
Iraq	13,754.61	1
Israel	1,185,700.00	2
Jordan	2,231,665.00	2
Pakistan	1,917,271.16	3

Country	Support in €	Projects
Palestinian territories	1,769,146.68	2
Syria	2,449,534.04	3
Türkiye	6,475,594.43	5
Yemen	1,400,000.00	2
Transnational	400,000.00	1
Total	17,376,965.92	24

International projects
 € 587,859.52 of support
 in 3 projects



1 Number of projects

Finances

Explanatory notes on income and its sources

The annual accounts of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are derived from the audited financial statements of Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. (EWDE) and Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. (EZE).

Total income

Total income in the 2024 reporting year was 68.6 million euros, which was a significant decrease in comparison to the previous year (95.2 million euros). This is mainly due to the decline in donations relating to the war in Ukraine. Because it has been less of a focus in the media compared to previous years, the volume of donations has fallen by 19.3 million euros. Most of the donations we received were for Ukraine, but they were much lower. The flood disasters in Germany and the neighbouring European countries Spain, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania have led to an increase in donations earmarked for Europe. The armed conflict in Israel and Gaza has increased the need for comprehensive humanitarian aid, especially in the Gaza Strip. Donations received for it were moderate, which can be explained, among other things, by the political dimension of the conflict and the resulting restrained level of donations.

Income from public third-party donors decreased slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year. Payments from the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU – The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Development) decreased to 26.5 million euros (compared to 32.5 million euros in 2023). The financial result mainly results from the sale and valuation of shares and fixed-interest bonds, the investment of which is subject to strict ethical criteria. At 1.5 million euros, the financial result for 2024 was slightly below the previous year's figure of 2 million euros. This development was primarily the result of lower gains on disposal.

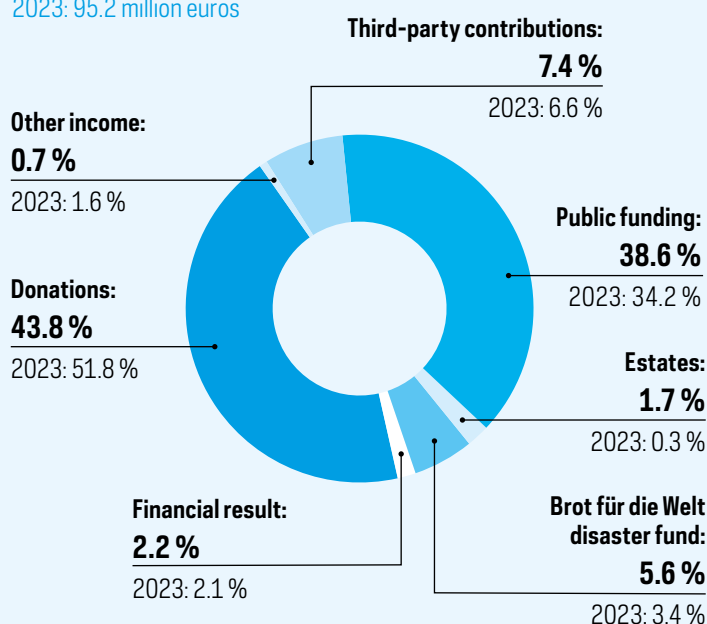
Donations

Donations in 2024 amounted to approximately 30 million euros and fell in comparison to 2023 (49.3 million euros). This development is not unusual for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, especially following earlier major occurrences with a significant media presence. Earmarked donations make up a high proportion of the overall donation income in years with major events.

Most of the earmarked donations received by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2024 were for supporting Ukrainian refugees (3.3 million euros), the floods in Germany and Europe (2.9 million euros) and humanitarian assistance for Israel and

Income by source of funds in 2024: 68.6 million euros total

2023: 95.2 million euros



Gaza (2.1 million euros). This was supplemented with major project-specific donations amounting to 2.8 million euros. The majority of these funds were used for projects in Sudan and the famine crisis in East Africa.

Brot für die Welt emergency fund

To enable us to take immediate action with forgotten disasters and rebuilding projects, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe receives donations from its sister organisation, Brot für die Welt. 3.9 million euros were made available in 2024, which is 0.6 million euros more than in the previous year. The aid from the Brot für die Welt emergency fund enables Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to put projects into action in contexts that receive little attention and for which otherwise no or only very limited financial resources are available.

Public funding

In 2024 Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received 26.5 million euros from German federal and European Union funds. This means that we received around 6.1 million euros less in grants compared to the previous year (32.5 million euros). While the funding from the BMZ (5.4 million euros) and the EU (3.4 million euros) decreases in 2024, the funds given by the AA are noteworthy. They increased by 1.2 million euros to 17.7 million euros (previous year: 16.5 million euros). The approval of two major multi-year projects in Ukraine was a key factor in this regard.

Source of funds	2024 in euros	in %	2023 in euros	in %
Donations	30,041,454.79	43.8	49,308,987.44	51.8
Fines	10,300.00	0.0	19,911.00	0.0
Charitable bequests	1,158,224.08	1.7	264,796.97	0.3
Brot für die Welt emergency fund	3,860,000.00	5.6	3,274,000.00	3.4
Financial results	1,468,246.38	2.2	1,997,021.68	2.1
of which financial income	1,962,499.91		2,548,829.80	
of which financial expenditure	494,253.53		551,808.12*	
Public funding	26,474,071.46	38.6	32,518,157.89	34.2
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	5,393,996.91		7,771,292.14	
German Federal Foreign Office (AA)	17,676,235.00		16,475,956.05	
European Union (EU - The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Development)	3,403,839.55		7,469,700.00	
Other	0.00		801,209.70	
Third-party contributions	5,074,321.35	7.4	6,307,227.50	6.6
Brot für die Welt project cooperation	1,159,196.47		2,953,132.34	
ACT Alliance	190,486.45		65,825.98	
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria	924,471.18		745,000.00	
Other third-party contributions	2,800,167.25		2,543,269.18	
Other income	511,811.58	0.7	1,486,820.52	1.6
Total for source of funds	68,598,429.64	100.0	95,176,923.00	100.0

* The previous year's figure has been adjusted as interest is shown in the corridors.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has claims against funding organisations (e.g. the German Federal Foreign Office, European Union) totalling 25.8 million euros of committed funds that have not yet been retrieved. The claims are broken down by funding organisation as follows:

Project funds claims by funding organisation as of 31.12.2024: 25,829,189.45 euros total

2023: 27,217,206.00 euros

German federal funding:

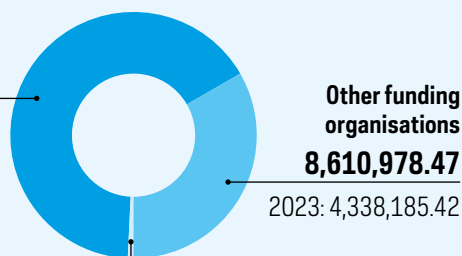
17,025,981.88

2023: 22,218,813.68

Church funding:

192,229.10

2023: 660,206.90



A summary of the most significant funding streams given by the AA, BMZ and EU to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2024:

- 9.5 million euros for Ukraine (AA)
- 3.3 million euros for Yemen (AA)
- 1.9 million euros for Niger (AA)
- 2.0 million euros for Syria and Türkiye (EU)
- 1.4 million euros for Venezuela and Colombia (EU)
- 1.0 million euros for Venezuela and Colombia (BMZ)
- 0.8 million euros for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (BMZ)
- 0.7 million euros for Lebanon (BMZ)

Other third-party contributions

The alliance partners of Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft e.V. (project cooperations) made 1.2 million euros available to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (previous year: 3.0 million euros). The funds were primarily used for the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria (2023) and the migration crisis in Colombia. At over 0.9 million euros, more funds were transferred from our cooperation partner Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria than in 2023 (0.7 million euros). The largest share of these funds, totalling 437,000 euros, went to two projects in Ukraine, followed by Türkiye/Syria, Gaza and Pakistan.

The donations from various regional churches nearly doubled and totalled 487,000 euros (previous year: 256,600 euros) for projects in Sudan and Syria, which was particularly pleasing. From the worldwide church-based network ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received funds amounting to nearly 191,000 euros for projects in Gaza and Somalia. Thanks to smaller grants, existing projects also received additional funding to enable additional necessary humanitarian assistance.

Other income

In 2024, other income fell from 1.5 million to 0.5 million euros and is therefore back at the level of 2022. Last year, other income was characterised by non-recurring income from claims resulting from termination of participation in the supplementary pension fund.

Explanatory notes on expenditure and its use

Total expenditure

The total expenditure of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in the report year was approximately 88.6 million euros, which was a decline in comparison to 2023 (105.5 million euros). Programme work accounts for the lion's share of the total costs at 90%, followed by a total of 10% for advertising, public relations and administration.

At 74.7 million euros, project expenditure was considerably lower than in the previous year (92.6 million euros) by 17.9 million euros. This is due in particular to the decline in disbursements for projects subsidised with public funds. In addition, donations have decreased compared to 2023, which also impacted the amount of project funds payments.

Programme work

Programme work includes not only direct project costs but also the expenses for personnel and material resources required for the professional support and evaluation of the projects. Last year, the share of project expenditure fell from 92.6 million to 74.7 million euros, while personnel expenditure rose from 3.2 million to 3.7 million euros. Overall, the total expenditure for programme work fell from 97.2 million euros in the previous year to 79.7 million euros.

The largest recipients of the approximately 74.7 million euros in project expenditure in 2024 were the countries affected by the earthquake, Syria and Türkiye (9.9 million euros); Germany and the neighbouring European countries, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania (8.05 million euros); Ukraine (5.8 million euros); Gaza, which was affected by the Middle East conflict (3.3 million euros) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.2 million euros).

Advertising and public relations work

This expenditure helps to draw public attention to issues of humanitarian assistance. Among other things, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe uses postal mailings, email and online marketing, its own website and social media channels, telephone marketing with an external service provider, advertisements, posters and appeals in the church sector to solicit donations.

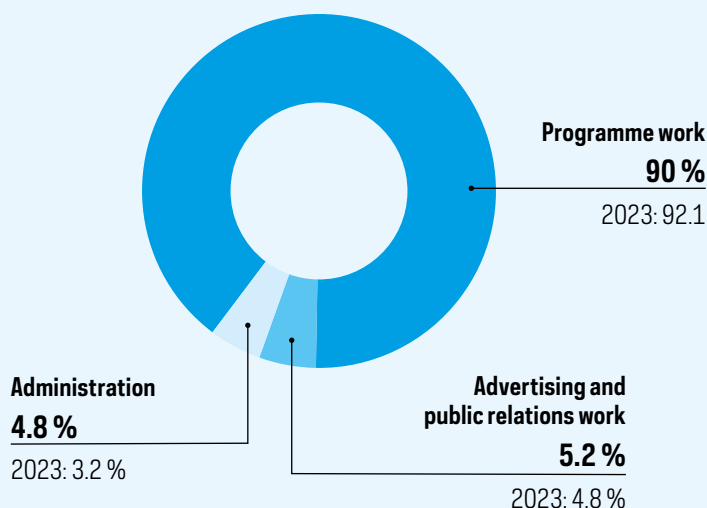
The expenditure for advertising and public relations work in 2024 decreased by 0.4 million euros in comparison to the previous year to roughly 4.6 million euros.

Administration

Compared to the previous year, administrative costs increased from 3.3 million euros to 4.3 million euros. This increase was due in particular to the human resources costs for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, which were higher overall, and other operational expenditure in 2024. As a result of the increase in the

Expenditure in 2024 according to types of expenditure: 88.6 million euros total

2023: 105.5 million euros



number of positions at Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to respond to the growing stipulations for project work from third-party donors, there is also a higher proportional weighting for positions. The stipulations for project work have increased continuously in recent years. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is addressing these developments with a comprehensive organisational development process and strengthening its structures in Germany. In addition, a higher number of positions ensures that the increasing stipulations in human resources and the ongoing professionalisation of humanitarian aid are met.

As a percentage, the proportion of expenditure for advertising, public relations and administration to total expenditure increased slightly in 2024 in comparison to the previous year, from 7.9 percent to 10 percent. Measured against the decrease in total income, this is still low and is categorised as “appropriate” according to the DZI’s criteria for advertising and administrative expenditure. This rating serves as an indicator of the economical and frugal use of funds.

Auditor's report

The auditor's report, the annual financial statements for the legal entities EWDE and EZE and the audit certificate for the annual financial statements will be published on our website once the audit has been completed:



<https://www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/material/jahresabschluesse> (in German)

Use of funds	2024 in euros	in %	2023 in euros	in %
Programme work	79,738,670.01	90.0	97,158,598.96	92.1
Project expenditure	74,652,880.30		92,556,248.11	
Human resources expenditure	3,740,113.54		3,207,510.25	
Depreciation	157,584.09		155,339.34	
Other operational expenditure	1,148,683.00		1,210,895.51	
Interest	39,409.08		28,605.75	
Advertising and public relations work	4,574,413.26	5.2	4,973,283.32	4.7
Material expenditure	6,021.56		6,616.68	
Human resources expenditure	933,184.07		799,838.42	
Depreciation	38,200.90		38,274.89	
Other operational expenditure	3,586,881.07		4,121,203.45	
Interest	10,125.66		7,349.88	
Administration	4,259,217.02	4.8	3,335,456.24	3.2
Human resources expenditure	2,547,335.53		1,683,761.18	
Depreciation	112,077.37		81,878.26	
Other operational expenditure including taxes of which taxes in the amount of 51,997.35 (prev. year: 57,699.51)	1,571,719.59		1,549,431.17	
Interest	28,084.53		20,385.63	
Total for use of funds	88,572,300.29	100.0	105,467,338.53	100.0

Breakdown of available funds according to legal entity in euros

	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe donation organisation (incl. EZE)	Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. (EWDE)*	Evangelische Zentralstelle für globale Entwicklung e. V. (EZE)*
Total available funds on 31/12/2024	126,660,397.94	123,118,666.06	3,541,731.88
of which:			
Approved project funds	89,633,284.77	86,091,552.89	3,541,731.88
Free reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Free project fund reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Available for future approval	37,027,113.17	37,027,113.17	0.00
Total available funds on 31/12/2023	148,022,285.14	139,209,736.46	8,812,548.68
of which:			
Approved project funds	95,418,733.44	86,606,184.76	8,812,548.68
Free reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Free project fund reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Available for future approval	52,603,551.70	52,603,551.70	0.00

* The table shows only figures related to the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe donation organisation from the overall financial statements of the applicable legal entities.



Martin Keßler,
Director Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Outlook: Issues and challenges

Some of the articles in this annual report have made it clear that crises are becoming more complex and that major geopolitical upheavals and budget cuts by donor countries are widening the gap between need and relief. At the beginning of 2025, 300 million people were dependent on humanitarian assistance – an all-time high!

The current shifts in the humanitarian system are epochal: How will the discussions about the role of the United Nations develop? Which donor countries continue to assume global humanitarian responsibility, and which ones are increasingly concentrating on defending their own country? Are smaller humanitarian organisations going under due to a lack of financial resources, or are large international organisations more affected? What the end result will be is completely uncertain.

We are currently keeping a particularly close eye on the handling of international humanitarian law. It is increasingly being broken in the wars and conflicts in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip, Sudan and Myanmar. In addition, the rights of civil society and independent reporting are being increasingly restricted. This is why Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is continuously campaigning for the observance of international humanitarian law and the four humanitarian principles in discussions with donors and at political level. Because only where humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are maintained can help be provided according to the level of need.

To achieve this, we at Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe must position ourselves strategically as a whole in order to be able to face the future in an efficient and sustainable manner in terms of our programme, finances and structure. We want to continue to effectively support people in need in a new humanitarian system and listen carefully to our various target groups. We are convinced that we can achieve this only together with local people. Local partners and communities play a key role as they are on the ground before, during and after a disaster. These local structures are indispensable for providing fast, targeted and sustainable aid.

In Germany, too, it is clear how important local structures are in the event of a disaster. In an international comparison, Germany is less well positioned today than it was a few decades ago. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe brings experience from the Global South to Germany because disasters don't only happen "somewhere else". The war in Ukraine, combined with the general geopolitical shifts and major natural disasters such as the floods in the Ahr valley, have recently made this painfully clear to us.

The global challenges are overwhelming, and yet they also offer opportunities for new solutions and ways of working. Supported by the critically important donations and alongside our global partners, together we can help to ensure that aid gets to where it is most urgently needed – today and in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Keßler'.

Martin Keßler

Well placed throughout the world

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is the humanitarian assistance agency of the Protestant churches in Germany, and its head office is in Berlin. Since 1954, whether in response to wars and conflicts, flight and displacement, droughts, earthquakes, storms, floods or epidemics, we have been helping people in need.

The work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is coordinated by a President, a Director and the Finance and Procedures, Programmes and Communication and Fundraising Departments.

The Finance and Procedures department manages the finances and is also responsible for budgetary control, tax matters, third-party funding audits, controlling and reporting. Through our regional offices in Africa and Asia, other Project Offices throughout the world and our specialist consulting and technical unit, the Programmes Department oversees projects from application to evaluation, submits applications for third-party funds and supports local partners with planning and implementation. The Communications and Fundraising Department has responsibility for the statutory public relations and advertising work. This also encompasses fundraising, for example, online and telephone marketing as well as donor mailing campaigns.

Overarching areas such as finances, human resources and legal affairs or administration are the responsibility of specialist departments within the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development (Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V.). A proportion of the costs for human resources and materials is borne by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and accounted for in our annual financial statement.

Quality assurance

Quality, impact and evaluation play a decisive role in humanitarian assistance. That is why we comply with internationally recognised standards. Our multi-phase project management comprises detailed planning, monitoring and evaluation of all relief measures. In risk management, we support project partners and staff through training courses and capacity building on such issues as financial management, the financial administration of projects and guidelines for funding providers. We address security risks in training courses and through codes of conduct, reporting obligations and security plans (HSS). Security issues are the responsibility of staff in each local office.

In many countries, corruption, fraud and embezzlement are widespread. To curtail the risk of corruption, embezzlement of funds or misconduct, we comply with a range of codes of conduct. Where irregularities occur and suspicions are raised, we respond immediately and consistently. Any suspicion of illegal or unethical behaviour can be reported to an ombudsperson. An internal whistleblower system is also in place through which complaints can be submitted.

Staff and remuneration

In 2024, 212 people worked temporarily, part-time or full-time for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe at our 20 locations around the world. In our Berlin head office, we had a total of 53 staff (45 full-time, 8 part-time) in 2024. A total of 127 local and one seconded employee worked at the global locations (excluding Berlin) as at 31 December 2024. In 2024, 31 temporary consultants were also working overseas on our behalf.

Remuneration structure*

Position	Pay grade	Min. (in euros)	Max. (in euros)
Directors	B3	9,749.48	9,749.48
Department heads	15	8,016.26	8,016.26
Unit heads	14	6,239.93	7,553.12
Programme Officers	13	4,998.20	6,494.21
Project workers	10–11	4,410.41	5,991.52
Clerks	8–9A	3,711.93	4,192.97

* Gross monthly salaries, excluding employer's statutory contributions and pension payments



You can find further information about these topics and an overview of our service providers at: <https://www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/en/about-us>

Executive board and committees

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is the humanitarian aid agency of the Protestant Regional and Free Churches in Germany. It is part of the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development (Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. – EWDE). The President of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is Rev. Dr Dagmar Pruin.

Executive Board

Evangelische Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. and its three brands Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Diakonie Deutschland are led by a full-time executive board. Its members are appointed for a six-year term by the Supervisory Board. The current members of the Executive Board are Rev. Rüdiger Schuch (Chair; President Diakonie Deutschland), Rev. Dr Dagmar Pruin (Deputy Chair; President Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt), Maria Loheide until December 2024 (Social Policy) and Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt (Finances, Human Resources and Law).

EWDE has committed itself to a Corporate Governance Code. It includes the disclosure of the total annual remuneration of the Executive Board members of all three brands.

The total gross remuneration for the four board members – Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin, Rüdiger Schuch, Maria Loheide and Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt – amounted to 577,328.21 euros in 2024, as well as 221,255.98 euros in pension contributions and contributions to complementary pension funds. Due to the small number of people involved, no presentation per person is made in order to protect personal rights.



You can find our organisation chart here (in German):
<https://www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/organigramm>

Committees

Three committees determine the work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. Their members work on a voluntary basis with no remuneration:

The **Diakonie and Development Conference** is the supreme decision-making body of the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development. The conference consists of 112 members. Its Chairperson is Dr Johanna Will-Armstrong, Executive Board member of the v. Bodelschwingh Institutions Bethel. The 22 members of the **supervisory board** oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Diakonie and Development Conference, appoint the executive board and oversee their work. Its Chairperson is Dr Beate Hofmann, Evangelical Church of Hesse-Waldeck (Evangelische Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck).

The 18 members of the **Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee** (Ausschuss Entwicklungsdienst und humanitäre Hilfe) advise the leadership of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt on issues concerning development and funding policy, humanitarian assistance, communications, fundraising and education. Its Chairperson is Bishop Dr Christian Stäblein, Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia (Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz).

Globally active

We help: people in need, who are impacted by natural disasters, crises and displacement and are unable to deal with their predicament without assistance. We also provide support in response to the “forgotten crises” that receive little media or public attention.

Our partners: We work together with local partners from the respective country and are a member of the global church aid network ACT Alliance with over 140 organisations. This means that we are already there on the ground when help is needed.

Our principles: Respecting human dignity is our overriding principle. Our support is targeted to meet the needs of people. We work according to internationally recognised standards and principles such as the Humanitarian Principles, the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross/Red Crescent, SPHERE or the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS).

Our pledge: We provide help irrespective of religion, skin colour, gender and nationality – quickly, pragmatically, reliably and effectively. We remain as long as our presence is required.

Well networked and strong in the alliance

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is strongly networked worldwide in order to be able to provide rapid and coordinated assistance in the event of a disaster. Close cooperation with strong partners and public donors such as the German Federal Foreign Office and the European Union makes it possible to support people in crises quickly, efficiently and sustainably. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) also supports measures in the areas of transitional aid, infrastructure and crisis management in particular.

Together with its partners in Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe (Action Alliance for Disaster Aid) – Caritas international, the German Red Cross and UNICEF Germany – Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe calls for donations in the event of major disasters with the support of the German television channel ZDF. The funds are divided equally – in 2024 alone, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received 677,557.12 million euros.



AKTIONSBÜNDNIS KATASTROPHENHILFE

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In addition to the Aktionsbündnis, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is also active in other important networks. This includes the ACT Alliance, one of the largest church alliances for humanitarian assistance worldwide, to which many of its local partner organisations belong. It is also involved in professional and political associations such as the Centre for Humanitarian Action, Charter4Change, the German Institute for Medical Mission, VOICE and the development policy umbrella organisation VENRO.

In Europe, we cooperate with Caritas international, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria, the Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania, AIDRom in Romania, the Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia and the Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in the Czech Republic.



Further information on the networks, alliances and institutions can be found at
<https://www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/en/about-us/our-partners-and-supporters>



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Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1

10115 Berlin, Germany

Do you have any questions? Our service team are happy to help!

Phone +49 (0) 30 65211 4722

Fax +49 (0) 30 65211 3333

service@diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de

<https://www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/en>

