

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



We are the humanitarian assistance agency of the **Protestant Churches** in Germany with headquarters in Berlin.

In 2019 we were active in Countries in Africa, Asia, America and Europe.

In 205 Projects we provided emergency relief, supported people with reconstruction and carried out disaster risk reduction.

For this 41 million we spent 4 euros

About 130 Employees 15 Locations around the world

Worldwide assistance in case of



CONFLICT



DISPLACEMENT



DROUGHT



EARTHQUAKE



STORM



FLOOD



TSUNAMI



EPIDEMIC

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Regaining a future following emergency relief

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF DIAKONIE KATASTROPHENHILFE CORNELIA FÜLLKRUG-WEITZEL

A major natural disaster in Mozambique, prolonged conflicts in Syria and Yemen and an international community that has difficulty in speaking with one voice in demanding humane responses – 2019 was a year of major challenges for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. But even in the face of such suffering, the president of the humanitarian aid agency, Professor Doctor h.c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, is able to recognise signs of common humanity and hope.

Miss Füllkrug-Weitzel, what proved particularly challenging for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2019?

When we decided in 2018 to launch a relief programme in response to the crisis situation in Yemen, we were aware of how difficult this would be. The complex conflict situation, the blockade imposed on the country and the fact that we had not previously worked in Yemen and, hence, had no existing partnership structures, but, initially, had to find trustworthy, effective partners - all this was especially challenging. The aim of our initial projects was to protect the local population against cholera by improving their hygiene situation and supply of water. Today, I am proud that my colleagues succeeded in achieving this goal, and that we managed to expand our support in Yemen in 2019, even in the face of extremely difficult conditions.

And although refugees were no longer the focus of German public attention in 2019, the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees remained one of our major concerns. The situation of the predominantly poor 79.5 million refugees – most of them in neighbouring countries – and the 45.7 million IDPs throughout the world, certainly did not improve in 2019 and, indeed, remained precarious. As, for example, the situation facing over 11 million displaced Syrians, which remains hopeless. In Bangla-



▲ Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel

desh, over 700,000 Rohingya are still stuck in refugee camps. And the national crisis in Venezuela has forced over four million of its inhabitants to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

More than 2.6 million people from regions in Nigeria, Niger and Chad surrounding Lake Chad have fled to neighbouring regions to escape conflict and drought. In these and many other countries, we and our partners were, and still are, meeting the challenge of providing support and work-



▲ To combat hunger and malnutrition, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe launched an emergency relief project in Yemen to improve the population's food situation.

ing to secure better protection for these people. This is something we not only do in our projects, but also in our political work, for example through our participation in major international conferences on Syria, Venezuela and the Global Refugee Pact. The current COVID-19 pandemic has perhaps meant that some of last year's achievements in humanitarian aid, to which we were able to contribute, have been forgotten. But there were genuine successes, too, for example in containing the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019, despite the many regional and local conflicts and difficult infrastructure. The hygiene and educational measures carried out by local actors were key aspects of this and something we supported as best we could. Combating Ebola is a good example of the vital role played by local organisations in humanitarian assistance: often overlooked and undervalued at international level by the public and politicians alike, they are in fact firmly rooted in local society - as the churches are - and vitally important for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. They also usually enjoy enormous trust among the population and - church partners, especially - are able to have a positive influence on the cultural norms and behaviour of the population, in situations, for example in the fight against Ebola, where this is vital for survival. They are also in the best position to know what kind of support the people need and how to give it to them. International organisations such as Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe can thereby, be confident that their projects are geared as well as possible to meet the actual need.

We are deeply concerned about the growing pressure imposed by state and quasi-state actors and regimes on the fundamental values of humanitarian assistance – especially on neutrality, independence and strictly needsbased orientation. How can we, as humanitarian organisations, focus exclusively on people's needs when access to humanitarian assistance is restricted, when banks no longer risk transferring funds for humanitarian projects in countries, in which a



 Cyclone Idai destroyed large parts of the north of Mozambique in March 2019. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided initial emergency aid on site with a long-term partner.

handful of people are on sanction lists or individuals or groups involved in conflicts seek to dictate who is eligible to receive help and who is not. In view of these many challenges, I am delighted that the 'Centre for Humanitarian Action', which we set up together with Caritas international and Médicins Sans Frontieres - initially as part of the Maecenata Foundation has, in its second year, already played such an active role in analysing these challenges, providing information and offering political decision-makers constructive criticism and practice-based proposals for the improvement of humanitarian assistance.

And one aspect cannot be emphasised enough: without the support of our donors, we would not have been able to help so many people in the past year, support our partners so effectively or carry out such important political work to improve the effectiveness of our humanitarian assistance. For this, I would like to offer all donors my heartfelt gratitude.

On 13th March 2019, the devastating Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique: what did Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe do and what did it achieve?

As a result of the tropical storm, over three million people were left with nothing: their homes had been de-

stroyed, and their livelihoods, too - in Mozambique, alone, crops covering an area equivalent to more than one million football fields were destroyed! People lost their basic food sources. And over 6,500 people became ill after contracting malaria or cholera. In Germany, the willingness to help was enormous: we received more than eight million euros from our donors. Colleagues from our office in Nairobi, Kenya, travelled quickly to the devastated areas and, in collaboration with our local partner organisations and the global network ACT Alliance, analysed the need for assistance and initiated co-ordinated relief measures. Since the spring of 2019, major relief programmes have been running for the benefit of more than 70,000 people in Mozambique and in Malawi and Zimbabwe, which were also affected. Initially, the main priorities were distributing food, sleeping mats and hygiene articles to provide protection against illness. We then began to help with the step-by-step reconstruction, seed distribution and the resumption of crop-growing. Then, out of the blue, relief measures were dealt a severe blow: in the middle of joint efforts with our Mozambican partner organisation, Comité Ecuménico para o Desenvolvimento Social (CEDES), its director, Venancio Nhandime, died of a heart attack. Despite this, the organisation's staff continued to work flat out. And, since the start of the Corona pandemic, we have also been jointly assessing how our measures may have to be adapted to address the new challenges.

As a result of the climate change impacts, providing preventive and humanitarian assistance as quickly as possible has become increasingly important. How is Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe achieving this?

Climate change affects people in a variety of ways. We have to recognise that extreme weather phenomena are increasing in frequency and strength and have an ever-growing potential to cause extensive damage.

Floods and storms can develop suddenly and hit with enormous force. But it is also evident that climate change is also leading to other changes that are slowly, but surely, becoming a threat to human life and livelihoods. Changes, for example, in normal weather patterns, the annual seasons or rainy and dry seasons that are vital for agriculture and livestock farming. But other changes, too, in-

cluding long periods of drought, melting glaciers (for example in the Himalayas) and, ultimately, the rising sea levels that cause arable land and wells near the coast to be contaminated by salt or completely inundate small islands and coastal regions. As Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, our working commitment focuses on the sudden onset disasters and - in co-operation with local partners - take immediate action on the ground. Since many regions are affected on a regular basis, we also believe it is important to take account of the longer-term perspective and, during reconstruction, of preventive measures. That is why we support endangered communities, for example, through measures reducing the risk of damage. Infrastructural adjustments and other protective measures prepare local populations as much as possible for the 'next' disaster - and save lives. These climate adaptation measures should actually be paid for by those causing the emissions. Unfortunately, that is still not the case, today, and the struggle to achieve this goal will require all our political skills and influence. We also believe that another

key aspect of preventive support is calling – again and again – for the people displaced by climate change to be granted legally protected status, which, up to now, has never existed – neither in the Geneva Refugee Convention nor the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees. In the – otherwise outstanding – refugee protection work, 'climate refugees' is almost entirely overlooked.

Many crises are 'forgotten disasters', largely overlooked by the public. What can Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe do in such situations, which receive little donor support?

Unfortunately, in spite of the dramatic combination of years of drought and bloody conflict, the situation in **Lake Chad Basin**, in recent years, has gone largely unnoticed. The region around the lake has become a focal point of the conflict between state security forces and the Boko Haram militia. At the same time, the region has been experiencing extreme climatic conditions: long, repeated periods of drought are suddenly broken by severe flooding during the rainy seasons, which, in turn, leads to conflict over





 Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is involved in several projects in Haiti. A dedicated project office co-ordinates the support and capacity-building of local partner organisations.

the resources, which have become increasingly scarce - water and fertile land.

Our work in the region focuses on providing food and emergency relief for the forcibly displaced and those, who through the conflict, are cut off from the outside world. The distribution of seeds and agricultural tools is intended to enable displaced people in their place of exile to become self-sufficient, establish their own livelihoods and become independent of humanitarian assistance.

Similarly, the situation in **Haiti** has also been largely overlooked. In recent years, the Caribbean island nation has been repeatedly hit by natural disasters that have wreaked extensive damage. The devastating earthquake of 2010 was followed by a series of fierce hurricanes and periods of drought. These cyclically recurring disasters deprive people of their livelihoods, forcing them to move to the cities' slums to join the ranks of so many others living on no income. To make matters worse, Haiti has been hit by a series of cholera epidemics, while two out of every five Haitians are facing starvation. But, thanks to the close co-operation with our international and local partner organisations from the global network ACT Alliance, we have been able to make a

difference on the ground - especially with respect to disaster risk reduction and improving lives and livelihoods. One of our other major concerns last year was the political, social and economic crisis in Venezuela and its damaging humanitarian consequences. The crisis had been looming for some time, but at the end of 2018, beginning of 2019, large sections of the population had great difficulty in gaining access to affordable food, clean water, education and medical care. Around seven million people in Venezuela are dependent on humanitarian assistance. Many have moved to neighbouring countries, to border towns, which themselves, for many years, have been experiencing major economic and social problems. Together with our Colombian partners and, in some cases, with host communities - we helped these people settle in their new surroundings.

One particularly difficult aspect of this situation was that both sides in the political conflict tried to instrumentalise humanitarian assistance for their own propaganda purposes. They hindered the flow of relief goods into the country, using the people dependent on this aid as pawns in their political games. Alongside many other humanitarian organisations, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe publicly

and uncompromisingly called for humanitarian assistance to be co-ordinated in a politically neutral and independent manner. The attempts to misuse and instrumentalise humanitarian assistance by national politicians and their supporters has a dramatic impact on its reputation and that of the international support it requires, since it diminishes the credibility of, and trust in, that aid. Although we did manage to carry out a needs-based, politically neutral operation, we received little support in the form of donations for the Venezuelan refugees. What is vital for our support in crises that are not the focus of public attention or where the public is unsure about the political situation and, thus, reluctant to make any commitment, are the non-earmarked donations we receive. Even though I understand that many of our donors are keen to provide specific support to people in a particular humanitarian crisis, I would still urge everyone to donate to our worldwide support - this money can then help in the very places where there are no cameras and we, in co-operation with our partners, are in a position to provide independent, vital support!

Something you have mentioned a couple of times: the partners of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are the key to successful support. The humanitarian assistance agency has done a lot to establish a stable support network. How did this develop in 2019?

In most cases, it is the local, civil society and church aid organisations that provide the most effective and sustainable humanitarian assistance. Local partner organisations are the 'first responders', ensuring the survival of those affected - often days before international aid arrives. They are part of their country's civil society and firmly rooted at community level, are trusted and accepted and are familiar with the social structures. They have unique access, know the language and have useful local political contacts and networks. They, thereby, function as an important bridge between the affected population and the state and international humanitarian actors.



▲ A woman receives food at a distribution point in a health clinic in the DR Congo.

For many years, we have been campaigning politically to ensure that the key role played by local aid organisations in humanitarian assistance is taken seriously, that they are given a more prominent role in the international humanitarian aid system, and allocated sufficient resources.

In practical terms, this means that we develop long-term partnerships with aid organisations in countries in the Global South, with which we have long-standing co-operation, since they carry out good quality work, share our values and have similar working approaches - this applies particularly to other members of the ACT Alliance, a worldwide network of over 135 church aid organisations. It is important for us to co-operate with them in carrying out risk analyses, developing preventive systems and measures and building their institutional capacities so that, in the future, they can function as highly effective humanitarian actors in their own countries and regions, and enable them to access the UN system to articulate their own views and concerns.

For us, the purpose of local organisations is not to merely assist us and implement our plans. We believe they could - and should - articulate their own views and function as independent actors, with whom we jointly plan our aid measures. In theory, there has

been official recognition of the vital role played by local actors since the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. This summit also recognised the need to support local actors in their fulfilment of this role. In practice, though, virtually no international UN or private organisation involved in humanitarian assistance has any real interest in doing so, since, in the long run, this would diminish their own role. But Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe stands by this mandate. We invest in the potential of local organisations to help their own people.

In many places, international humanitarian law is still ignored. What can Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to remedy this?

Violation of international humanitarian law is one of the main problems not only for the people caught up in violent conflict, but also for aid organisations. We have been following this development with great concern. And, actually, this is relatively straightforward, based, as it is, on universally recognised values: it promises civilians, the wounded and prisoners unconditional protection and humane treatment as well as essential support when they are affected by conflict. However, these principles are being flagrantly disregarded, for example, when hospital wards in Syria are bombed; when rape is instrumentalised as a weapon of war

as in the DR Congo or Nigeria; and when conflicting parties or politicians deny the access of aid workers and relief goods to disputed areas, as is currently happening in Yemen. This is sometimes achieved directly through roadblocks or the bombing of aid convoys, but also in more subtle ways, for example through international 'anti-terror legislation'.

We are working to ensure that international law is upheld and point out where deficiencies need to be addressed. But here, too, we are keen to avoid being used as pawns in a political game of guilt and innocence. If we were to do this, we could no longer credibly support the people in need of help – irrespective of their political or ethnic background.

This was the tightrope, on which we, again, had to maintain our balance in 2019 - in dialogue with parliaments and the German Government, with expert committees for humanitarian assistance and in discussions with local decision-makers.

What future challenges do you see for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe?

Corona has kept the world in suspense since the start of 2020 - and is posing huge challenges to all of us, including our partners throughout the world: health structures that are either non-existent or entirely inadequate; the non-availability of protective equipment and medical treatment; the lack of water points and soap, especially in overcrowded slums and refugee camps in many parts of the world - all this is leaving responsible governments in Africa, Asia and Latin America no other choice but to impose strict curfews and lock-downs, in the attempt to, at least, limit the spread of the pandemic. For millions of people, who are living from hand to mouth, with no steady job and no social security system to turn to and no national bailout to protect them from the worst of fates, this, in turn, has plunged them into extreme poverty and hunger. Even now, there are clear indications that Africa, especially East Africa, which is already afflicted by war and a vast plague of locusts, is heading for a major hunger crisis in the not too distant future. The num-



Not yet an issue in 2019: Corona prevention measures, as here in India, are now presenting major challenges to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe partner organisations.

ber of people throughout the world, who are severely undernourished and who, without humanitarian assistance, will starve to death, will double in the coming months.

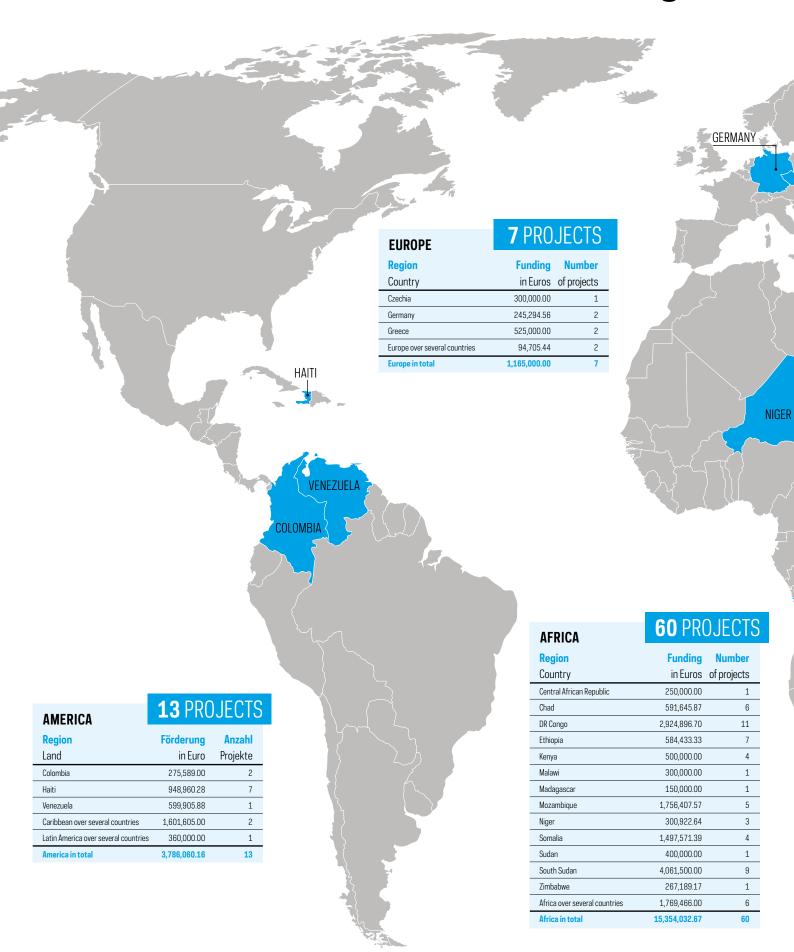
At the moment, we can only hazard a guess as to the kinds of social and political upheaval that may be triggered by the pandemic, or whether conflicts will flare up as a result of stigmatisation and marginalisation or over the distribution of scarce resources. Since the corona pandemic has led to an even more dramatic increase in need, there will be a greater need for us to mobilise more public funding and raise more donations. However, against a background of dwindling public coffers, unemployment and short-time work, as well as the financial difficulties facing trades-people and the self-employed, this will be a considerable challenge. A global recession represents a formidable existential threat, not only to millions of people, but also to civil society organisations in general and humanitarian organisations in particular throughout the world. Many will not survive the economic difficulties, and all of

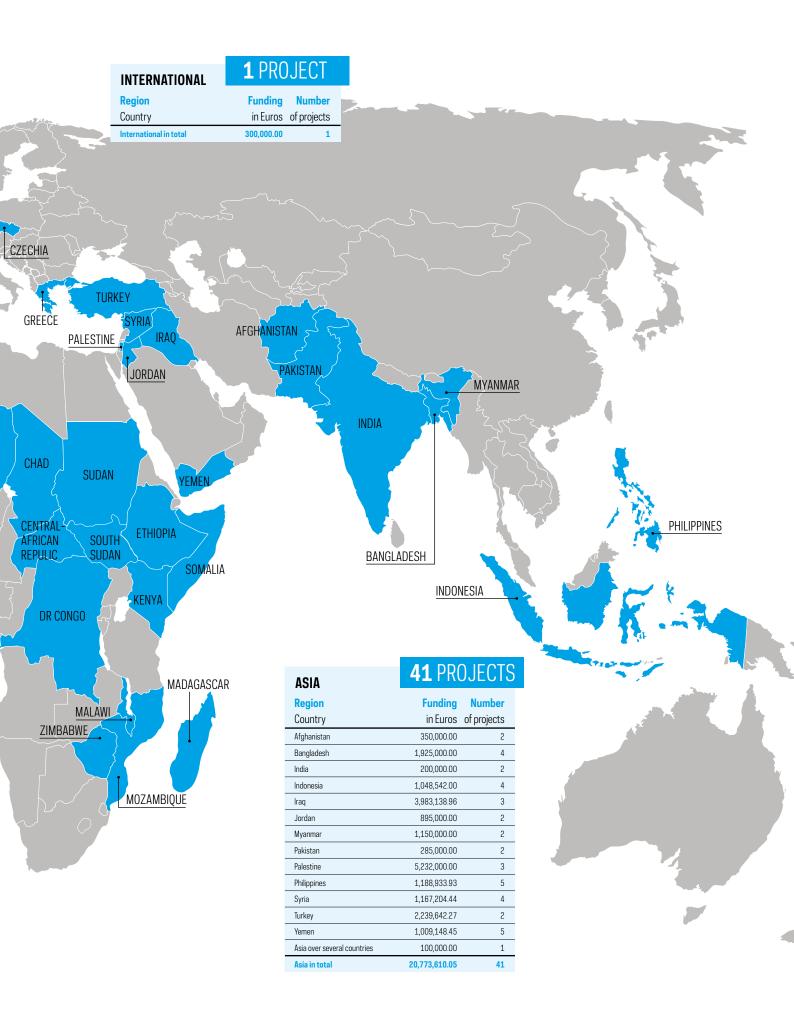
us - especially in a comparatively wealthy nation like Germany - will have to appeal to our fellow citizens' sense of solidarity and humanity: please do not let us and our worldwide partners down, in this difficult global economic situation, when we will have to help greater numbers of people to survive! This year, more than ever, we will be most grateful for any demonstration of solidarity and generosity in support of our work. For, as well as providing support in response to the dramatic impacts of the pandemic in 2020, we also, of course, want to fulfil our 'regular' humanitarian mandate and help meet the urgent needs of the hungry, the war victims, the refugees and internally displaced people in so many conflict regions. And, hand in hand with our partners and local populations, we will also try to ensure that we are as prepared as possible for sudden natural disasters.

Part of this is ensuring that refugees find protection and can take their first tentative steps towards the future. We must work together to ensure that when people do lose their livelihoods they are not only given food to satiate their hunger, but given the opportunity to get back on their feet. We also want to continue our dialogue with political and social leaders and remind them of the humanitarian impacts of their actions.

In 2020, we also want to finalise our new strategy for the coming five years: alongside the priority of adapting our working procedures to meet the new challenges - for example digitalisation - our work will focus on hunger and nutrition, compliance with the universal protection rights of people affected by crises and conflicts as well as the preservation and restoration of their livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction. Because of the enormous sense of responsibility I feel for the people, for whom we work, I believe it is important that we are extremely serious in our approach to all this. The challenges we face are highly complex and I mentioned some of them above. But, one of my own personal concerns is that Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe will continue to grow in its role and remain a strong, recognised player in the humanitarian aid landscape.

Humanitarian assistance in figures





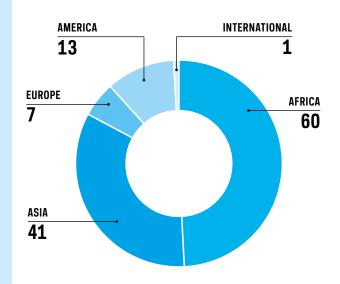
How are we financed?

FINANCES 2019 + + Facts and figures at a glance



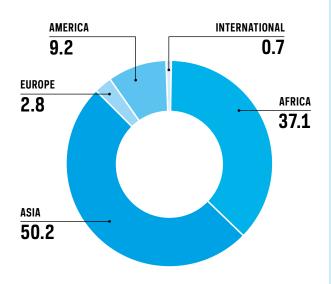
NUMBER OF PROJECTS PER CONTINENT

(122 PROJECTS IN TOTAL)



Project Funding

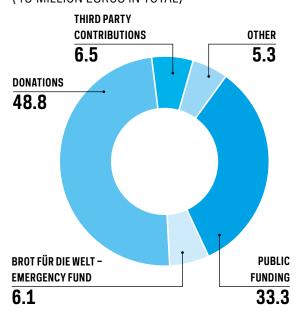
APPROVED FUNDS ACCORDING TO REGION IN PERCENT (41.4 MILLION FUROS IN TOTAL)



Income

ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF FUNDS IN PERCENT

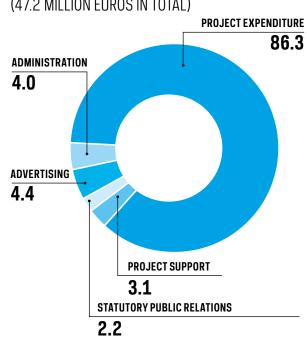
(49 MILLION EUROS IN TOTAL)



Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ACCORDING TO TYPE OF EXPENDITURE IN PERCENT

(47.2 MILLION EUROS IN TOTAL)



Notes on income and its sources

The annual accounts of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are extracted from the audited annual statement of the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development) and the Protestant Central Office for Development Assistance.

Total income

Total income in 2019 amounted to 49.0 million euros - 1.3 million euros (or 2.6 percent) more than in 2018. This increase is primarily due to a substantial rise in income from investments (1.4 million euros), a slight increase in donations (0.3 million euros) and other third-party contributions (0.5 million euros).

Compared to 2018, public funding fell slightly by 1.0 million euros (5.7 percent). The slight fall in funding from the German Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (DG ECHO - Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) can be set against an increase in funding from the United Nations (UN WFP - UN World Food Programme).

The money transferred by the BMZ concern, in equal measure, the BMZ budget for church-based projects and its special initiatives, 'A world without hunger' and 'Tackling the root causes of displacement', amounting to a total approved sum of 4.7 million euros. This was augmented by 1.7 million euros from the BMZ fund for transitional assistance.

Income from investments rose by 1.4 million euros from the previous year, particularly as a consequence of a sharp increase in statutory depreciation of securities.

Donations

Compared to 2018, there was only a marginal change in donations received in 2019. In 2019, donations received amounted to 23.9 million euros, very slightly more than in the previous year (23.6 million euros). There was a slight fall of 1.2 million euros in non-earmarked donations but a rise of 1.5 million euros in earmarked donations.

Earmarked donations were received primarily for aid projects following Cyclone Idai (8 million euros) in Mozambique and the neighbouring regions and countries as well as for the humanitarian disasters in the Middle East, especially in Yemen. In 2019, disaster-related donations increased by almost 1 million euros from the 2018 level. Donations were once again disappointingly low for forgotten crises and protracted conflicts including those in the DR Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Chad.

Brot für die Welt - Emergency Fund

To enable it to respond immediately to forgotten disasters and reconstruction projects, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe receives donations funding from its sister organisation, Brot für die Welt – the same amount in 2019 as in 2018.

Interest

Income from interest comes about because donations are not immediately allocated in full to project partners, but in instalments in accordance with project progress. Until this funding is disbursed, the approved project related funding is invested in secure investments with the lowest possible risk and bearing interest in line with current interest rate levels. Investments in stocks are subject to strict internal guidelines. The resulting income from interest as well as from capital gains and share price gains is ring-fenced and contribute to covering

costs for project support, advertising and administration.

Compared to 2018, interest from income was substantially higher in 2019, in equal parts due to net interest income and appreciation in the value of securities and, in large measure, to a decrease in the depreciation of securities, which, in 2018, had had a considerable negative impact on income from investments

Public funding and third-party contributions

In 2019, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received subsidies amounting to 17.3 million euros from the German Government, DG ECHO and the UN for publicly funded projects – a fall of 2.3 million euros (or 11.7 percent) from the previous year (19.6 million euros). Funding from the AA remained virtually unchanged, while the volume of funding from the BMZ and DG ECHO fell marginally (-0.7 and -0.5 million euros respectively). We received only a slight increase in funding from the UN for a project in the DR Congo.

The priorities of the AA funding of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe projects in 2019 were as follows:

- o.9 million euros for projects related to the Syrian crisis (2018: 1.0 million euros)
- 3.3 million euros (2018: 4 million euros) for projects supporting victims of forced expulsion, displacement and drought in East Africa;
- further funding was provided for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh (1.2 million euros).
- The BMZ funded projects were in Palestine (5 million euros), Iraq (2.5 million euros), Myanmar (1 million euros) and in South Sudan (0.3 million euros). Of this amount, 2.8 million euros were provided from the special initiatives 'A world

Annual accounts

2019 in euros 60,780,646.38			
		2018	
CO 700 C/C 20	in %	in euros	in %
		56,781,694.42	
10,464,495.57		5,550,901.81	
71,245,141.95		62,332,596.23	
23,937,183.31	48.8	23,637,168.15	49.
0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
56,597.82	0.1	44,373.91	0.:
3,000,000.00	6.1	3,000,000.00	6.
1,534,418.72	3.1	100,735.26	0.
1,931,251.48		996,201.35	
396,832.76		895,466.09	
16,315,723.02	33.3	17,308,693.42	36.
	<u>-</u>	,,	
6,961,890.41		7,734,871.03	
1,930,000.00		2,484,288.21	
1,048,728.86		228,389.39	
0.00		0.00	
3,190,482.61	6.5	2,731,574.42	5.
351,349.08		33,042.58	
35,000.00		50,000.00	
408,492.43		0.00	
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2,293,641.10		2,363,531.84	
1,003,122.35	2.0	939,386.75	2.
49,037,527.83	100.0	47,761,931.91	100.
40,689,922.86	86.3	36,700,826.61	83.
0.00	0,0	100,000.00	0.
	3.1	1,485,783.65	
1,482,511.66			
1,056,723.71	2.2	1,142,579.74	2.0
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without hunger' and 'Tackling the root causes of displacement' and 2 million euros from the specific BMZ budget for church-based projects. Direct funding from the BMZ budget position 'Development-oriented structural and transitional aid' amounted to 4 million euros in 2019, in contrast to 2018 when no funding was provided.

From DG ECHO we received funding amounting to 3.2 million euros (2018: 3.7 million euros) for a project for Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as for a project for people affected by the crisis of Venezuela. With the help of funding from the German Government and the EU, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was, thereby, able to support important projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, for which insufficient earmarked or non-earmarked donations were available.

Other third-party contributions

From the ACT Alliance we received funding amounting to 0.4 million euros and a further 0.2 million euros from the Norwegian Refugee Council to support the people affected by the crisis of Venezuela. Other welcome funding came from various regional protestant churches and diaconal agencies amounting to approximately 210,000 euros (0.6 million euros in 2018) for projects in Yemen, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as well as the victims of the tsunami in Indonesia and the cyclone in southern Africa. From Austria, in 2019, we received 102,000 euros (around 0.3 million euros in 2018) from our sister organisation, Diakonie Austria, but no funding from the Neighbours in Need Foundation. The money received was allocated to aid projects in the Middle East, Somalia, Mozambique as well as South and Southeast Asia.

Miscellaneous income

In comparison with 2018, miscellaneous income rose slightly from around 0.9 million euros to approximately

1.0 million euros. Miscellaneous income came primarily from tax refunds, the dissolution of a tax-related provision in business premises overseas and merchandising sales.

Notes on expenditure and its allocation

Total expenditure

In 2019, the expenditure of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, amounting to approximately 47.2 million euros, was slightly higher than in 2018 (43.8 million euros). This rise was primarily the result of increased project expenditure amounting to 40.7 million euros, which was 4 million euros more than in 2018 (36.7 million euros). This rise is primarily the result of an increase in funding for acute disasters and crises, especially in Mozambique and in the DR Congo.

Statutory expenditure on relief projects, project support and statutory public relations in 2019 amounted to almost 43.2 million euros (39.4 million euros in 2018) and, thus, 91.6 percent of total expenditure (90.1 percent in 2018).

Project expenditure

The biggest recipients of the total expenditure on projects of around 40.7 million euros in 2019 were countries affected by the crisis in Syria (6.8 million euros), the DR Congo (6 million euros), South Sudan (3.5 million euros), Iraq (2.4 million euros), West Africa – particularly Chad and Niger (2.1 million euros), as well as the countries of Mozambique and Malawi affected by the cyclones Idai and Kenneth (2.1 million euros). A further 2.1 million euros was provided for projects in Venezuela and bordering regions.

Project support

Alongside personnel and administration costs, project support includes 'upstream' and 'downstream' project activities. Suitable projects must be prepared and selected, applications scrutinised and partner organisations trained. Expenditure on monitoring and revision as well as on impact monitoring and evaluation are also included. Compared to 2018, expenditure on project support fell marginally by 3,271.99 euros, or 0.2 percent. Higher personnel costs were offset by substantially lower depreciation costs and lower miscellaneous operational costs.

Statutory public relations

Expenditure on campaigns, educational and awareness-raising activities amounting to 1.1 million euros in 2019 helped raise public awareness for humanitarian aid concerns. It encompasses public relations, educational work and lobbying. Major areas of expenditure in 2019 were the national church day event in Dortmund and funding for a film on the growing significance of cash-transfer projects. In this kind of humanitarian projects, beneficiaries receive support in the form of cash transfers or vouchers, allowing recipients to be flexible in how they spend this money to meet their most urgent needs including food, sanitary articles, health care or education.

Advertising and administration

Compared to 2018, there was a marginal fall of around 50,000 euros (2.9 percent) in expenditure on advertising in 2019. The major areas of expenditure were donor mailings (1.0 million euros), telephone and online marketing (approx. 320,000 euros) and billboard advertising (36,000 euros). Substantially more was invested in telephone marketing in 2019 than in the previous year. The cost of donor mailings fell slightly, since fewer disaster-related mailings were sent out.

Compared to 2018, administration costs fell significantly by 353,000 euros. The main reasons for this substantial fall were lower personnel costs and a reduction in miscellaneous operational costs.

Notes on expenditure and its allocation

Personnel costs

The increase in personnel costs is primarily a result of an average rise of 3 percent in grade-related salaries from 1st April 2019.

Other operational costs

The substantial decrease in these costs was partly a result of the structural adjustments of the entire organisation and partly of the adjustments necessitated by the implementation of the new DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) advertising and administration concept valid from 2019 onwards.

Write offs

Write offs decreased substantially, since our project administration software has now been entirely written off.

Taxes

The pronounced increase is a result of higher advance payments for corporation and commercial taxes related to the sale of merchandising. This aspect of our work is not tax-exempt.

Interest expenses

The procedure for the distribution of interest expenses to the three agencies - Diakonie Deutschland, Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe - was adjusted in 2019, to enable more precise calculations. Moreover, the structural adjustments of the entire organisation also contributed to the increase in interest expenses. However, total costs for all three agencies fell marginally.

Expenditure on advertising and administration as a proportion of total expenditure fell from 9.9 percent to 8.4 percent in 2019. This decrease is primarily a consequence of lower personnel costs and miscellaneous operational costs. In absolute terms, these costs fell from 4.3 million euros in 2018 to 3.9 million euros in 2019. As a proportion of the total volume of expenditure, this, in accordance with the criteria of DZI, is categorised as very low.

The auditor's certificate for the annual financial statements of the legal entities, the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. and EZE, as well as the auditors' certificate for the annual financial statement will, after completion of the audit, be available on our German website: www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/ ueber-uns/jahresbericht

BREAKDOWN OF AVAILABLE FUNDS ACCORDING TO LEGAL ENTITY

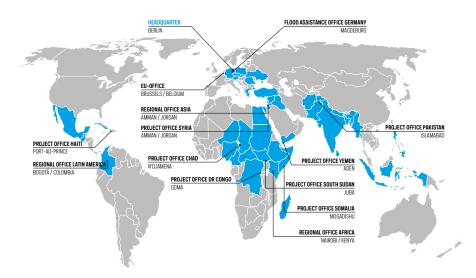
	Donations organisation Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (incl. EZE)	Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V.*	Protestant Association for Co-operation in Development e. V. (EZE)*	
Total available funds at 31.12.2019	72,546,340.54	63,868,530.77	8,677,809.77	
approved project funds	33,238,266.83	24,560,457.06	8,677,809.77	
free reserves	4,420,483.68	4,420,483.68	0.00	
earmarked project fund reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	
free project fund reserves	3,612,853.30	3,612,853.30	0.00	
available for future approval	31,274,736.73	31,274,736.73	0.00	
Total available funds at 31.12.2018	71,245,141.95	62,647,231.93	8,597,910.02	
approved project funds	33,921,530.10	25,323,620.08	8,597,910.02	
free reserves	4,420,483.68	4,420,483.68	0.00	
earmarked project fund reserves	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00	0.00	
free project fund reserves	3,612,853.30	3,612,853.30	0.00	
available for future approval	27,990,274.87	27,990,274.87 27,990,274.87		

^{*}only the figures from the donations organisation Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe from the overall financial statement of the respective legal entity are shown here

BREAKDOWN OF RECEIVABLES FROM PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES IN EUROS 31.12.2019 31.12.2018 State funding 8,677,809.77 8,597,910.02 Church funding 1,211,230.78 1,866,585.55 Total receivables from project funding sources 9,889,040.55 10,464,495.57

Where are we based?

WELL-PLACED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Berlin

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe co-ordinates its humanitarian aid projects from its headquarters in Berlin. In 2019, a total of 38 staff members were working here full-time. Remuneration for: heads of section - between 5,451.94 and 6,754.65 euros; officers - between 4,685.32 and 5,208.26 euros; project workers - between 3,457.10 and 5,451.94 euros; assistants - between 2,718.89 and 4,203.93 euros (gross monthly salaries in euros, excluding employer's statutory contributions and pension payments). The remuneration for the Director was 8,693.64 euros. The programme department is divided into three regions: Africa, Asia / Europe, Latin America / Caribbean. The staff, led by a management team of three, co-ordinate projects from application to evaluation and support local partners' planning and implementation. The staff team also includes a specialist in cash transfers, another dealing with issues relating to flight and violent conflict, one responsible for co-ordination in the Syria crisis, while another, responsible for policy issues relating to humanitarian aid, carries out political lobbying and advocacy. The department for finances, administration and controlling co-ordinates the finances of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and deals with budget control, tax issues, review of

third-party funding, controlling and reporting. Working areas such as communications, human resources and finance administration are the responsibility of specialist departments within the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. A proportion of these costs is borne by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Overseas offices

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe implements its projects in co-operation with experienced, local partner organisations and members of the global network ACT Alliance. Three regional offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America support the strategic work and partner structures in the regions. We also currently have ten temporary project offices. Altogether, our overseas offices employ 67 local staff and 15 others posted from Germany. A member of staff in Brussels represents our concerns at EU level and supports our efforts to secure EU funding. In 2019, we also had eight temporary consultants.

Risk management

We support our project partners and local staff through capacity building and training, for example, in general issues relating to finance management and the financial execution of projects, but

1. Headquarters

Director: Martin Kessler, 38 staff members

2. EU-Office

Representative: Michael Hansmann, 1 staff member

3. Regional Office Latin America

Head of office: Marino Jansen, 10 staff members

4. Regional Office Asia

Head of office: Rita Szekely, 14 staff members

5. Regional Office Africa

Head of office: Katrin Jullien, 12 staff members

6. Project Office Haiti

Head of office: Charlotte Green, 8 staff members

7. Project Office Chad

Head of office. Christelle Perraud, 9 staff members

8. Project Office DR Congo

Head of office: Guido Krauss (until June 2020) Angélique Michon (since July 2020), 10 staff members

9. Project Office Pakistan

Head of office: Rita Szekely, 1 staff member

10. Project Office South Sudan

Head of office: Bernd Serway, 4 staff members

11. Project Office Somalia

Head of office: Jürgen Feldmann, 8 staff members

12. Project Office Syria

Head of Office: Vera Voss (until July 2020), 1 staff member

13. Project Office Mozambique, Maputo

Head of office: Mathew Masinde (since January 2020), 2 staff members

14. Project Office Yemen

Head of office: Loek Peeters, 4 staff members

15. Flood Assistance Office Germany

Head of office: Lena Bledau, 3 staff members

(of October 2020)

also examining the guidelines of national and international donors. All aspects of this work are analysed in auditor's reports and at local level. In response to security risks, especially in conflict regions, we provide staff training. Before each working visit, we evaluate the up-to-date security situation and specify rules of conduct and / or mandatory reporting procedures. In addition, HSS plans (Health, Safety and Security) are now available in all offices. A specialist in Berlin deals with security issues.

Who supports us?

EFFECTIVE NETWORKING + + OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has a comprehensive network of national and international partners. As part of diverse alliances, we co-ordinate our work, give a voice to people in crisis situations and campaign for humanitarian issues at political and church level.

International Partners

The **ACT Alliance** (Action by Churches Together), with 135 members, is one of the world's largest church-based networks for humanitarian assistance and development. Many of our local partner organisations are also members of ACT. Martin Kessler is a member of the administrative board.

ACT has around 30,000 staff members and volunteers working in over 120 countries. Its aim is to improve the co-ordination of the churches' global humanitarian aid and, through compliance with shared quality standards, make it even more effective.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe also works in close co-operation with the Catholic humanitarian organisation Caritas international and with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria and the Diakonie in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, as well as with AIDRom in Romania.

Member of actalliance

Public funding

In addition to donations and church collections, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe also receives public funding, especially for 'forgotten crises'. The **German Foreign Office (AA)** subsidises emergency relief projects in response to natural disasters, in conflict regions and for disaster risk reduction. We are

a member of the Humanitarian Aid Co-ordinating Committee of the AA. The **German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ)** supports projects promoting developmental and structural transitional assistance.

We can apply to the **European Union** (**DG ECHO - Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations**) for funding for humanitarian aid projects.



Associations and alliances

85 European NGOs are members of Voluntary Organisations in Co-operation in Emergencies (VOICE), which engages in dialogue with the EU on issues relating to emergency relief, disaster risk reduction as well as the principles and quality of humanitarian aid.

The Action Alliance for Disaster Aid (Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe) brings together highly experienced humanitarian organisations including Caritas International, the German Red Cross, Unicef Germany and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to make joint appeals for donations on the TV channel ZDF in the event of major disasters. Donations raised are distributed equally among the participating organisations. In 2019, 1,676,862.69 euros was passed on in this way from the Action Alliance to the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Centre for Humanitarian Action (**CHA**): Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is one of three constituent members of the first German think tank for humanitarian aid. It focuses on inde-

pendent analysis, critical discussion and raising the public's awareness of issues relating to humanitarian aid. The Association of German Development NGOs (VENRO) is an alliance of around 100 German private and church-based agencies involved in development co-operation, emergency relief and development-related educational work, public relations and lobbying. The aim of the alliance is to raise awareness among the general public and politicians for their joint goals.



European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Private Donors

Private donations are the most important source of financing for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. They enable us to provide quick, immediate humanitarian aid in the event of disaster. When private donations are not earmarked, they can be allocated wherever they can provide support, where it is most needed.

On the ground

As local as possible - this is the goal of the Charter4Change initiative, to which 33 humanitarian aid organisations have now signed up. Their aim is to empower local actors and eliminate the obstacles that hamper equal participation in the humanitarian system. The signatories have committed themselves to ensuring that local civil society partners acquire better, direct access to available resources - not only as part of project implementation but also for the capacity building of their own institutions.

How do we help?

GLOBALLY ACTIVE + + OUR SUPPORT AND PRINCIPLES

For 66 years, now, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been providing humanitarian aid, where it is needed most throughout the world. We support people, who have become victims of natural disasters, war and forced displacement and who are unable to deal with their predicament without external assistance. We provide this assistance irrespective of religion, skin colour or nationality, and do so in a quick, non-bureaucratic, reliable, effective and transparent manner.

Whether in response to earthquakes, storms, drought, floods, wars or conflicts - since 1954, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is to be found, where it is needed, especially in supporting people caught up in the 'forgotten crises' that receive little media or public attention. Our primary focus is on the weakest and most vulnerable: refugees, children, women, single parents, the elderly, the sick and people with disabilities. Our assistance is unconditional. And we work in collaboration with our partner organisations and the people in need - not from a position of superiority.

Our partners are experienced local organisations, firmly rooted in their own society. They speak the language, know the culture and are familiar with the economic, political and social contexts. This means that, even in places that are difficult to access, we already have a presence on the ground, when help is urgently needed - and we stay as long as our presence is required. We implement some projects in co-operation with other institutions. This also enables us to provide support in countries, where we have no partner organisation or project office. Our support is targeted exclusively to meet the needs of the people affected. Respecting human dignity is our overriding principle and, in conflict re-

gions, we maintain strict neutrality.

Our support is provided in a way that



▲ Humanitarian aid also includes building toilet blocks, as here in Bangladesh.

promotes reconciliation.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is the humanitarian assistance agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany. Together with Brot für die Welt, it is part of the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. This co-operation guarantees the transition from helping those in acute need to subsequent long-term, post-disaster support.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provides immediate emergency relief, while Brot für die Welt provides sustainable development assistance. We help people caught up in crisis situations by providing what they need: food, clean drinking water, blankets, tents, clothing, building material and medicine. We usually purchase relief items locally, thus saving time and transport costs and boosting the local economy. As well as emergency relief, we are involved in reconstruction and disaster risk reduction. Our humanitarian engagement is rooted in the Christian commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself, and adheres to the international principles of humanitarian aid. The guiding principles of our work are set out in the 'Common Statement by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Caritas international' and in the 'Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief'.

Our principles

- **1.** The humanitarian mandate has priority.
- 2. Humanitarian aid is provided irrespective of the skin colour, religious affiliation or nationality of the recipient and with no exclusion whatsoever.
- **3.** Humanitarian aid is not used to promote any specific political or religious standpoint.
- **4.** We ensure that we are not instrumentalised for the foreign policy of governments
- **5.** We respect culture and customs.
- **6.** We attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
- **7.** We ensure the participation of programme beneficiaries in the implementation of support measures.
- **8.** Our emergency relief seeks to reduce future disaster vulnerability and fulfil basic needs.
- **9.** We are equally accountable to the beneficiaries of our assistance and to the providers of our relief resources.
- **10.** In our information, public relations and advertising activities, we depict disaster victims as partners with human dignity and not as objects of sympathy.

How effective is our support?

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPACT

Quality within humanitarian aid plays a decisive role. That is why we comply with internationally recognised standards. Multi-phase project management comprises detailed planning, support, monitoring and evaluation of all relief measures.

Needs assessment and project planning

Assessment of needs reported by local partners, followed by the planning and financing of support measures in Berlin.

Project approval and co-operation agreement

Support measures, with specific stipulations, are approved. A co-operation agreement is drawn up with the project partner organisation, specifying rights, duties and quality standards.

Project implementation and supervision

Regular progress reports submitted by partners. Review, appraisal and adjustments carried out by project officers in Berlin.

Evaluation and development

A final report analyses project implementation and outcomes. External experts regularly examine and evaluate projects.

Project monitoring

Project staff and the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe controlling department constantly monitor the finance reports to ensure proper use of project funds and adherence to budget provisions.

External audits

Independent external auditors regularly assess projects, regional and project offices and partner organisations. As part of the annual audit, external German auditors conduct spotchecks on projects.

Public donors, including the German Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union, also inspect the projects they (co-) finance.

Preventing and addressing corruption

In many countries, in which Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe operates, corruption, fraud and embezzlement are widespread. We do all we can to curtail the risk of corruption, embezzlement or misconduct, and comply with the following codes of conduct.

- the Diaconic Corporate Governance Code (DGK): this transfers the German corporate governance system to the diaconal context and incorporates standards and recommendations for good, responsible corporate governance;
- mandatory guidelines for the prevention of corruption: these apply to all employees (Code of Ethics and Anti-Corruption Guidelines);
- standards for project management and directives for the procurement and awarding of contracts with regulations to prevent corruption at the earliest stages;
- the joint statement of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Caritas international;
- the code of conduct of the global network ACT Alliance compliance is a key element of the employment contract for staff posted overseas;
- the SCHR code of conduct; the ACT Alliance code of conduct for the prevention of the sexual abuse of dependents, abuse of power and corruption within humanitarian aid; the SPHERE Humanitarian Charter;

- Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe 'Voluntary Commitment for More Transparency and Good Governance', through which we are committed to compliance with specific principles and rules to ensure openness and transparency across all operational levels;
- the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. Child Protection Strategy and Conduct Guidelines as to how to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace.

Where irregularities occur and suspicions are raised, we respond immediately and consistently, with measures ranging from investigating cases of suspicion, conducting extraordinary audits, blocking payments or demanding repayment, as far as terminating contracts.

Ombudsperson

The suspicion of irregular or unethical conduct can be reported to an ombudsperson - also anonymously. This external, independent function is currently being fulfilled by a lawyer in Berlin. As a lawyer, he is bound by an obligation to confidentiality. He is not permitted to reveal the identity of the whistle-blower (also to us), without the approval of the individual concerned. The ombudsperson examines the evidence and determines the next step to be taken. A whistle-blower system is also in place, as well as a complaints mechanism with several channels, through with complaints can be submitted.

Who bears responsibility for our work?

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is the humanitarian assistance agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany. It is part of the Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). Its president is Reverend Professor Doctor h.c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel. The Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. is headed by a remunerated Executive Board. Its members are appointed for a six-year term by the supervisory board. The current members are Reverend Ulrich Lilie (Deputy Chairperson; President of Diakonie Deutschland), Reverend Professor Dr h.c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Chairperson; President of Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe), Maria Loheide (Social Policy, Diakonie Deutschland), Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt (Finances, Human Resources and Legal Affairs). The Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. has committed itself to a Corporate Governance Code, which

includes the disclosure of the board members' annual remuneration. In 2019, Reverend Ulrich Lilie received 129,915.25 euros (plus 80,095.18 euros in pension contributions and allowances); Reverend Professor Dr h.c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel 127,458.85 euros (plus 63,379.64 euros in pension contributions and allowances); Maria Loheide 124,991.17 euros (plus 6,530.39 euros in pension contributions and provident fund payments); Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt 134,833.70 euros (plus 13,887.12 euros in assorted pension payments).

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 Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. Its 112 members make decisions on the agency's fundamental policy issues. It approves the budget and annual accounts as well as

discharging the Supervisory Board and the Executive Board. Its chairperson is Angelika Weigt-Blätgen, Managing Director of the Evangelical Women's Association in Westphalia. The 22 members of the **Supervisory Board** oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Diakonie and Development Conference, appoint the Executive Board members and oversee their work. Its chairperson is Dr Dr h.c. Markus Dröge, emeritus Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Oberlausitz. The 18 members of the **Development** Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee advise the management of Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe on issues concerning development and funding policy, humanitarian aid, communications, fundraising and education. Its chairperson is Professor Dr Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Baden.

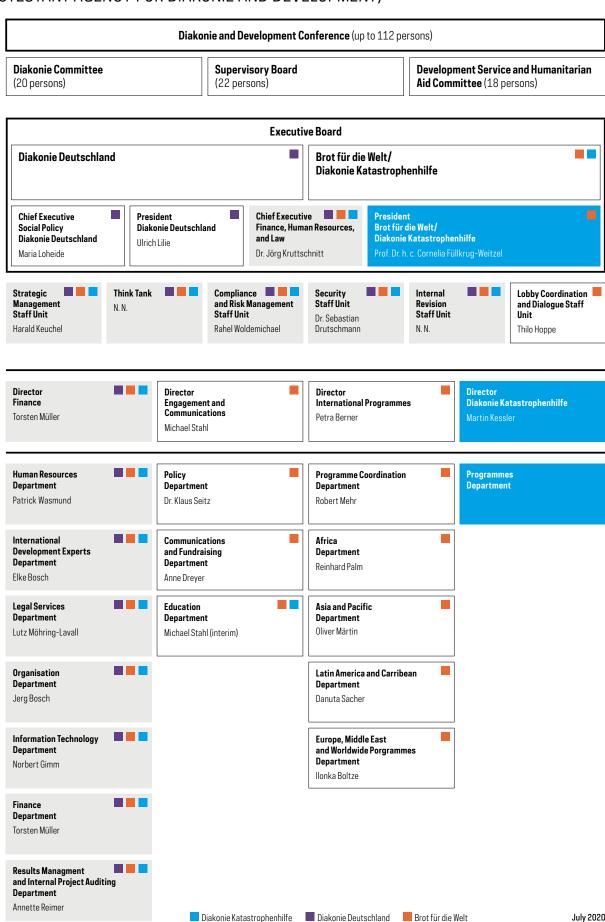
EXPENDITURE IN 2019 ACCORDING TO TYPE OF EXPENDITURE

Type of expenditure	Project expenditure in euros	Project support in euros	Statutory public relations work in euros	Advertising in euros	Administration in euros	Total in euros
Project expenditure	40,030,328.86					40,030,328.86
Material expenditure	88.51	365.14	173,710.57	1,288,312.75	380.44	1,462,857.41
Human resources expenditure	573,683.19	1,199,553.13	618,512.24	406,340.98	941,692.44	3,739,781.98
Depreciation	9,949.36	42,333.20	21,378.92	12,984.32	209,259.70	295,905.50
Other operational costs	67,326.74	204,660.54	226,316.56	344,907.22	638,306.27	1,481,517.33
Interest expenditure (Berlin Headquarters)	8,546.20	35,599.65	16,805.42	10,390.20	26,750.71	98,092.18
Taxes	0	0	0	0	52,390.96	52,390.96
Total in euros	40,689,922.86	1,482,511.66	1,056,723.71	2,062,935.47	1,868,780.52	47,160,874.22
As a percentage of total expenditure	86.28	3.14	2.24	4.37	3.96	100,0
Previous year's total in euros	36,800,826.61	1,485,783.65	1,142,579.74	2,112,449.58	2,221,340.37	43,762,979.95
As a percentage of total expenditure	84.09	3.40	2.61	4.83	5.08	100.0
Change from previous year in euros	3,889,096.25	-3,271.99	-85,856.03	-49,514.11	-352,559.85	3,397,894.27
Percentage change from previous year	2.19	-0.26	-0.37	-0.45	-1.11	

Organigram

EVANGELISCHES WERK FÜR DIAKONIE UND ENTWICKLUNG E. V.

(PROTESTANT AGENCY FOR DIAKONIE AND DEVELOPMENT)



What are our plans?

OUTLOOK + + ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The 2019 annual report of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is intended to give you a brief insight into our work, which, thanks also to your support in the past year, we were able to carry out. In 2020, we and our partners are committed to continuing our provision of humanitarian aid that gives people the effective support they need. This includes not only prevention and preparation and disaster relief, itself, but also, just as importantly, measures that, for many people, may be their first steps towards a better future. What will be our priorities?

Unfortunately, there is little hope that major conflicts, including those in Syria and Yemen, will be resolved in 2020, and that violence against populations, civil institutions and hospitals will end. Unfortunately, too, there is no indication that safe solutions will be found to enable refugees and the internally displaced to return home. This means that millions of people will continue to live in places, where they are prohibited from working and denied access to health care and education, and where tensions with local populations persist.

There are also already indications that a combination of failed states, violence, climate change and a vast plague of locusts will lead to a major hunger crisis in Africa, especially East Africa. The number of people throughout the world, who are suffering from extreme hunger and who, without humanitarian assistance, will starve to death, could double in the near future. At the end of 2019, we could not have foreseen what would hit the whole world with such dramatic force at the end of March 2020 - the COVID-19 crisis will have an enormous impact on people's lives in 2020 and, consequently, also on humanitarian assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic will probably dominate all of our activities in 2020. Even if the situation at this early stage is still unfolding, it is clear that the pandemic is posing challenges that go



▲ Martin Kessler

well beyond its impact on actual health care.

The fact that many people cannot and will no longer be able to - earn a living, will have grave consequences for food security and educational opportunities. While the weak and disadvantaged are subjected to exclusion and violence, the crisis is also exacerbating humanitarian crises and destroying the development gains made in recent years. The crisis is also affecting humanitarian staff and workers i.e. working for our partner organisations and us: they, too, are being restricted in their movements, they, too, can fall ill and they, too, are experiencing a lack of resources.

But we are not entirely unprepared: in recent years, both we and our partners have gained valuable experience in providing humanitarian assistance in response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the DR Congo, which we can now put to use, especially with respect to prevention. In a global situation, in which borders are being closed and curfews imposed in many countries, it is also to our advantage that, along with our sister organisation, Brot für die Welt, we have established connections with local partners and communities. But I also believe that alongside its enormous challenges, the pandemic could also provide substantial impetus for much-needed changes in humanitarian aid provision - something, for which we have been long

campaigning: a strengthening of the role of local civil society actors and communities in humanitarian aid and - we would hope - greater financial flexibility!

This, then, is also a good moment for our new strategy, which we want to adopt in 2020 for the 2021-2025 period. As part of this process, we had intensive discussions with many people in 2019 to enable us to tailor our goals to actual need and the demands on us and our work.

We are well aware that climate change will have an increasingly significant impact on people throughout the world. We are greatly concerned that the fundamental principles of humanity and rights will continue to be blatantly disregarded in conflicts and crises. Hunger and the lack of future prospects will remain central challenges. We want to continue working in partnership with others, and expect new technologies to play an even more significant role in our work. And because our work and that of our partners requires as much acceptance and support as possible, we want to be even better at providing information about that work. We should remain committed to our goal of providing people with support that has their dignity at heart - encompassing not only their immediate survival, but also their future prospects. All of us - you and I, are already feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, I hope that you will not let us and our worldwide partners down, when more people than ever before need our support to help them survive this difficult global economic situation! This year, in particular, we will be most grateful for any demonstration of humanitarian solidarity and support for our work!

Martin Kessler

Director

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

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