



HILFSWERK

Hilfswerk  
International

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2022**



Dear Reader!

In 2022, war in Europe kept the world on tenterhooks. The Ukraine war brings only losers, and no winners. The suffering of people in **Ukraine** and its neighboring countries is enormous. Hilfswerk International has been on the ground since the beginning of the war and is helping people in Ukraine quickly and reliably (p 4).

The consequences of the war are also fatal worldwide. For example, after decades of decline, the prevalence of malnutrition is on the rise again for the first time. In addition, there are various sources of conflict, global political instability, and extreme climatic conditions. In Hilfswerk International project countries, existing difficulties and inequalities became even more apparent.

But there are also positive things to report, and these are the fruits of our work. Seeing them is our daily motivation to continue helping people in need. Like women who have had to flee **Syria** and have been enduring with their families in refugee camps for more than 10 years, learning to write, enabling them to stand up for themselves (p 14). More than 650,000 people know Hilfswerk International in **Mozambique**. There, we have been able to assist mothers with healthy births and help them to help themselves in food security (p 24). In addition, the families in our partner countries are doing their utmost to protect the environment. After all, from a global perspective, they are the ones who feel the effects of the climate crisis daily. We are helping

them to protect the environment in Mozambique and **Colombia**: We are protecting the Amazon rainforest and the mangrove forests in Mozambique - with very good results.

In addition to acute emergency aid in war and crisis zones around the world, our aid activities in 2022 were (and still are) diverse. But there is a common thread running through all of them: We stand by people in need. None of this would be possible without your help. Thanks to your help, we are saving lives, helping children, and guiding entire regions toward a self-determined, stable future.

For this, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. And we still have a lot of plans! Because we will not give up as long as children are starving, and our planet is being destroyed. I would be delighted if you would continue to stand by our side in the years to come!

In this annual report, I would like to show you what we were able to achieve in 2022. We will give you an insight into the diversity of our aid activities and the resulting development opportunities for children and adults - and entire regions.

Best regards,



**Stefan Fritz**  
Managing Director  
Hilfswerk International

# HILFSWERK INTERNATIONAL

“Hilfswerk International is an Austrian organization for development cooperation and humanitarian aid and implements development projects since 1978. Our projects are needs-based and solution-oriented and thus lead to noticeable and long term improvements of living conditions for people worldwide.”

**Christian Domany**  
President Hilfswerk International



## Hand in Hand - worldwide

With its aid projects, Hilfswerk International helps to ensure that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are achieved and that a good life is possible for everyone. Our ways to get there are diverse. However, what always remains the same are our principles:

### RESPECT

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

### CHILDREN AT THE CENTER

Children are extremely vulnerable and deserve special protection. That is why they have a high priority in all our activities. We invest in the education of children and young people so that they can help to shape a good life for everyone in the future. After all, promoting children is promoting the future.

### EMPOWERMENT

We empower people worldwide so that they will soon no longer be dependent on outside help. We recognize existing potential and together with the population we create conditions that this potential can be developed. By helping people to help themselves, our projects leave their mark - and have an impact for generations.

### STRENGTHENING WOMEN

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










“Without Hilfswerk International, my son would not have received any medical care.”

Since 24 February 2022, the lives of the people in Ukraine have been turned upside down. The unsteady dynamics of the war kept bringing new problems for the population:

- At the beginning of the war, supply chains collapsed. Since then, people have lacked sufficient food and hygiene products.
- The massive flow of refugees led to a high demand for shelter especially in the Western parts of the country.
- Medical care is difficult in times of war.

#### Hilfswerk International in UKRAINE

-  Emergency aid packages for people on the front line
-  Shelter and food for refugees
-  Warmth through winter aid and electricity generators
-  Medical care and psychosocial support
-  Support for children

## EMERGENCY AID IN WAR

- Some people are severely traumatized and need psychosocial care.
- The attack on critical infrastructure leads to power and heating failures. People were afraid of the winter season without heating.

Hilfswerk International has been supporting the people in Ukraine with great flexibility since the beginning. Our activities have always been adapted to the needs of the population.

### Life-saving incubator

Andrej's first weeks of life were a struggle for survival. Not only because he was born in the middle of the war, but also because he was born far too early. Shortly before his birth we gave an incubator to the children's hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk. Andrej survived thanks to this incubator and is now eight months old.

“I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without Hilfswerk International I would not be able to hold my son in my arms“, his mother Sophia tells us with tears of joy in her eyes.



### This is what we achieved in 2022

- We reached **1,700 refugees** in Ukraine in our **9 emergency shelters**.
- We supported **58,500 people** by distributing food and hygiene packages.
- We provided medical care for **80,000 children** by delivering drugs and medical equipment to the children's hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk.
- Twice as many children live in the Malatko orphanage in Ternopil as before the war. We support the **80 orphans** with food, clothing and medical care.
- Psychosocial care enabled **1,173 people** to gradually come to terms with the suffering of war.
- **3,000 families** at the front received winter-kits with warming blankets and clothing.
- **50 power generators** provide electricity to **264,786 people** and also keep water supplies, hospitals and refugee shelters running.



# EMERGENCY AID IN WAR: INTERVIEW WITH UKRAINE EXPERT

Heinz Wegerer is Emergency Relief Coordinator at Hilfswerk International. His hands-on mentality is reflected in his many years of experience as an aid worker in war and crisis zones such as Iraq, Yemen and Syria. Today, together with his team, he focuses on emergency aid in Ukraine. In the interview, he reviews the year 2022 in Ukraine.

## You were in Ukraine several times in 2022. Where did your project trips take you?

I was both in the west, where we run several emergency shelters for refugees, and in the east, right on the front line in Nikopol and Kharkiv.

## How has Hilfswerk International supported the people in Ukraine?

Apart from our 9 emergency shelters, we also distribute emergency packages, deliver medicines and medical equipment to hospitals, support an orphanage, provide psychosocial care and procure electricity generators.



## What is the frontline like?

There are bombardements and black-outs every day. Nevertheless, people are trying to move on with their lives. They don't want to let war get them down and they want to deal with the situation in the best possible way.

## What emotions have you encountered most often during your travels?

The solidarity is huge. I was able to feel that people absolutely want to help each other. Nevertheless, there was always a certain fear. However, during the conversations on site, I heard again and again that the people have hope because of the support from Hilfswerk International. That moved me.

## What has been the biggest challenge for Hilfswerk International in humanitarian aid in Ukraine so far?

The dynamic context. It is very difficult to predict how the situation will develop. The team has always had to adapt very flexibly and quickly to changes. That was not always easy.



## What challenges does the population face?

That also fluctuates. What is always on their minds is meeting their basic needs - so apart from food, having decent shelter and access to education.



## What does the future look like for Hilfswerk International in Ukraine?

We will continue to help the people in Ukraine and we will adapt to their needs just as we did in 2022.



## HOPE IN EUROPE'S POOREST COUNTRY

In 2022, we reached a total of **4,000 refugees**.

### Opportunities for children with disabilities

Children with disabilities have a hard time in Moldova. They rarely receive adequate support. In our therapy centres Blue Bird Hîncesti and Soul Drops Pripiceni, children with mental and physical disabilities are lovingly cared for. In addition to active leisure activities, they receive therapies and hot meals. Educational opportunities promote social inclusion and give the children and their families a long-term perspective.

Our special thanks goes to our ambassador for children in need: **Jeannine Schiller**. For years, she has been working on behalf of Hilfswerk International for children with disabilities in Moldova. 2022, her tireless commitment enabled:

- **53 children** to visit our centres every day
- and **120 children and their families** to be part of special therapies and counselling



Ewa is one of the children in our therapy centre in Pripiceni. For over a year she has been cared for here. Her mother Marina is a single parent. The older Ewa got, the more difficult it became for Marina to keep the lively girl balanced:

“Thanks to Hilfswerk International, Ewa is in good hands. She is kept busy and moved. I can finally work again and she is finally really tired in the evening”, Marina says happily.

### Hilfswerk International in MOLDOVA 🇲🇩

- 👥 Help for refugees
- 🏠 15 refugee shelters
- 👧 Children with disabilities
- 📄 Two therapy centres



“Thanks to Hilfswerk International, Ewa is in good hands. I can finally work again.”

In Europe's poorest country - Moldova - lacking resources lead to major problems, especially for vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities or refugees. State support cannot provide adequate assistance to all people in need.

For more than 20 years, Hilfswerk International has been helping people in Moldova. Our two therapy centres in Hîncesti and Pripiceni offer a variety of services for children with disabilities and their families.

In 2022, we also faced the challenge of providing assistance to the countless refugees from Ukraine in Moldova.

### Help for refugees

Almost 200,000 people have fled from the war in Ukraine to the neighboring country of Moldova. The country cannot cope with the mass of refugees and cannot take care of all of them. Therefore, we at Hilfswerk International help the refugees with:

- the support of 15 refugee shelters
- providing urgently needed equipment such as mattresses and blankets
- the distribution of food and hygiene articles
- psychosocial support



“I am grateful to Hilfswerk International for creating this space for us.”

**Georgia: Health in old age**

People in Georgia are getting older. Young people leave the country in the hope of a better future. As a result, elderly relatives are often left behind without care. The state offers too little affordable options of care for the elderly.

With our "Houses of Support", we have created islands of care for the elderly. Here we train highly qualified care professionals and offer mobile care services for people in need of care. The centers are also a popular meeting place for the older generation. The daytime activities reduce loneliness in old age.

**What we achieved in 2022:**

- Our mobile care services reached **240 older people** in need for care
- **140 older people** participated in the day activities
- **30 caregivers and 20 volunteers** were trained at the House of Support
- **30 young volunteers** got involved in intergenerational exchanges with **50-60 older people**
- **30 families** in need were supported by active pensioners

**HELP FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED**

**Leaving loneliness behind**

Since his retirement and due to the pandemic, Grishna has felt lonely. That's why, at the age of 84, he regularly rides his bike five kilometres to spend time at our House of Support. Here he finds social connection again:

“The greatest joy for me are the creative workshops and a games of chess with my new friends. I am grateful to Hilfswerk International for creating this space for us.”

**Armenia: Social cohesion**

The social system in Armenia is far from catching everyone. One of four lives below the poverty line. Only about one third of these people receive state support. Hilfswerk International is working in the regions of Shirak, Tavush, Armavir and Syunik to redistribute social benefits by introducing quality standards. We are also expanding services by promoting social support services. Our goal is to strengthen civil society organizations and associations in order to establish a stable network for social services in the long term.



**In 2022, we reached ...**

- **80 local representatives of associations**
- **100 active citizens**
- **120 representatives of the administration** (e.g. education, social or youth departments)
- **40 regional government representatives**
- Members of the **15 – 20.000 socially disadvantaged households** in the target communities









“I was a little insecure using the tablet. Volunteers explained everything to me. Learning keeps my mind sharp. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn so many new things online.”




Hilfswerk International has been helping the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1996. However, the difficulties in the Western Balkans go beyond the country's borders. That is why we also accompany people in Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro on their way to a better future.

In 2022, we reached almost 71,000 people with our activities, thus improving the living conditions of countless families.

### Hilfswerk International in WESTERN BALKANS

-  BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
-  SERBIA
-  NORTH MACEDONIA
-  MONTENEGRO

In 2022, we focused on:

-  Healthy ageing
-  Migration and refugees
-  Help for Romnja and Roma

## CROSS-BORDER-HELP

### Healthy ageing

The population in the countries of the Western Balkans is getting older. There are hardly any affordable options for care. In 2022, we have counteracted this tendency with our activities for the elderly population:

- Our training for mobile care workers enables older people to stay in their own homes and be cared for there for as long as possible.
- We have launched the digital platform “Virtual is vital, too!”. Three times a week, gymnastics sessions, creative workshops and psychosocial lectures for older people are offered online. We provided tablets for interested people without any appropriate technical equipment.

### Refugees and migration

The countries of the Western Balkans face the challenge of large numbers of refugees passing through the region on their way to Europe. In 2022, we supported the region in dealing with this situation in a purposeful way:

- In the Lipa refugee camp, we increased the living and health conditions of 1,000 refugees through the provision of drinking water.
- By strengthening migration-related structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro, we promote better cooperation in dealing with refugees in the region.

### Help for Roma and Romnja

Romnja and Roma are one of the largest minorities in Europe. They suffer from poverty, discrimination and social exclusion. We support them in the Western Balkans:

- Sustainable housing solutions for Romnja and Roma promote social inclusion.
- We strengthen access to education for Romnja and Roma to give children a good future.





“Without Hilfswerk International, my children would never learn to read and write either.”

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon is problematic. In relation to its population, the country has taken in more refugees from neighboring Syria than any other. Extreme inflation and a high unemployment rate make life complicated for the people. In addition there was an outbreak of cholera in 2022, which means there is a high health risk for Lebanon's population.



### Hilfswerk International in LEBANON

We at Hilfswerk International have been helping the people of Lebanon since 2006. In 2022, our focus was on:





-  help for refugees
-  mother-child health
-  strengthening women
-  education
-  poverty reduction

## LEAVING THE CRISIS BEHIND

### Help for refugees

Growing up in the Al-Marj refugee camp in West-Bekaa is difficult. Many refugees from Syria live here under weak conditions in tents or selfbuilt huts. Medical care is poor and access to education low. There is only a small chance of survival for newborns.

For this reason, we support mother-child health and adequate education in the refugee camp. In 2022, we were able to:

-  give access to medical care to **2,639 women and 3,307 children**
-  reach **2,282 women** through workshops on topics such as child health
-  distribute **500 hygiene kits** in the refugee camp
-  teach **325 women** to read and write, so they can pass on the new knowledge to their children
-  provide psychosocial support for **90 women**

Rahil lives with her three daughters in Al-Marj. She has been attending our literacy classes since spring 2022. Every success strengthens her self-confidence:

“The first time I signed a document with my name, I felt incredibly strong. Now I do the exercises from the course with my daughters. Without Hilfswerk International, they would never learn to read and write either.”

### Network against poverty

Poverty now affects more than 80% of all households in Lebanon. Our goal is to give people a perspective again. In 2022 we achieved this by:

- Connecting unemployed people in the health and social sectors with needy families and
- employing women who produce traditional soap for SABUN - the good soap.

We pay these people a fair income and enable them to feed their families. In 2022, we reached **866 families**, or about **3,890 people**, through this network.



# SABUN - THE GOOD SOAP

Being a refugee is not always easy - especially not in Lebanon, where the economic situation is already bad. There are 1.5 million refugees from neighboring Syria living here. The majority of them are women and children. They often live in tents or makeshift huts and rarely have a way to earn money for their living.

Our soap project helps Syrian and Lebanese women in Lebanon. They produce traditional soaps from pure Lebanese olive oil for SABUN - the good soap. We support them with selling the soap in Austria and pay them a fair income. This enables them to provide for their families.



**Order SABUN - the good soap now:**

- [www.dieguteseife.at](http://www.dieguteseife.at)
- [office@dieguteseife.at](mailto:office@dieguteseife.at)
- +43 1/4057500-112



## The soap

The good soap is handmade by the women. Midia is one of them. What Midia and her three colleagues are particularly good at is making traditional traditional, handmade soap. Hilfswerk International sees this as an opportunity to help the women sell the soap in a sustainable way. Anyone who buys "SABUN the good soap" enables them to live in self-determination and dignity.

“Soap production is the livelihood of my family. I am happy to be part of this project.”

**Midia – mother of three and soap maker**



## Good for Midia & Co.

Midia fled to Lebanon with their families to escape the war in Syria. The soap project gives her hope and a stable and fair income. She is proud to be able to provide for her family and offer her children a good future through selling the soap.



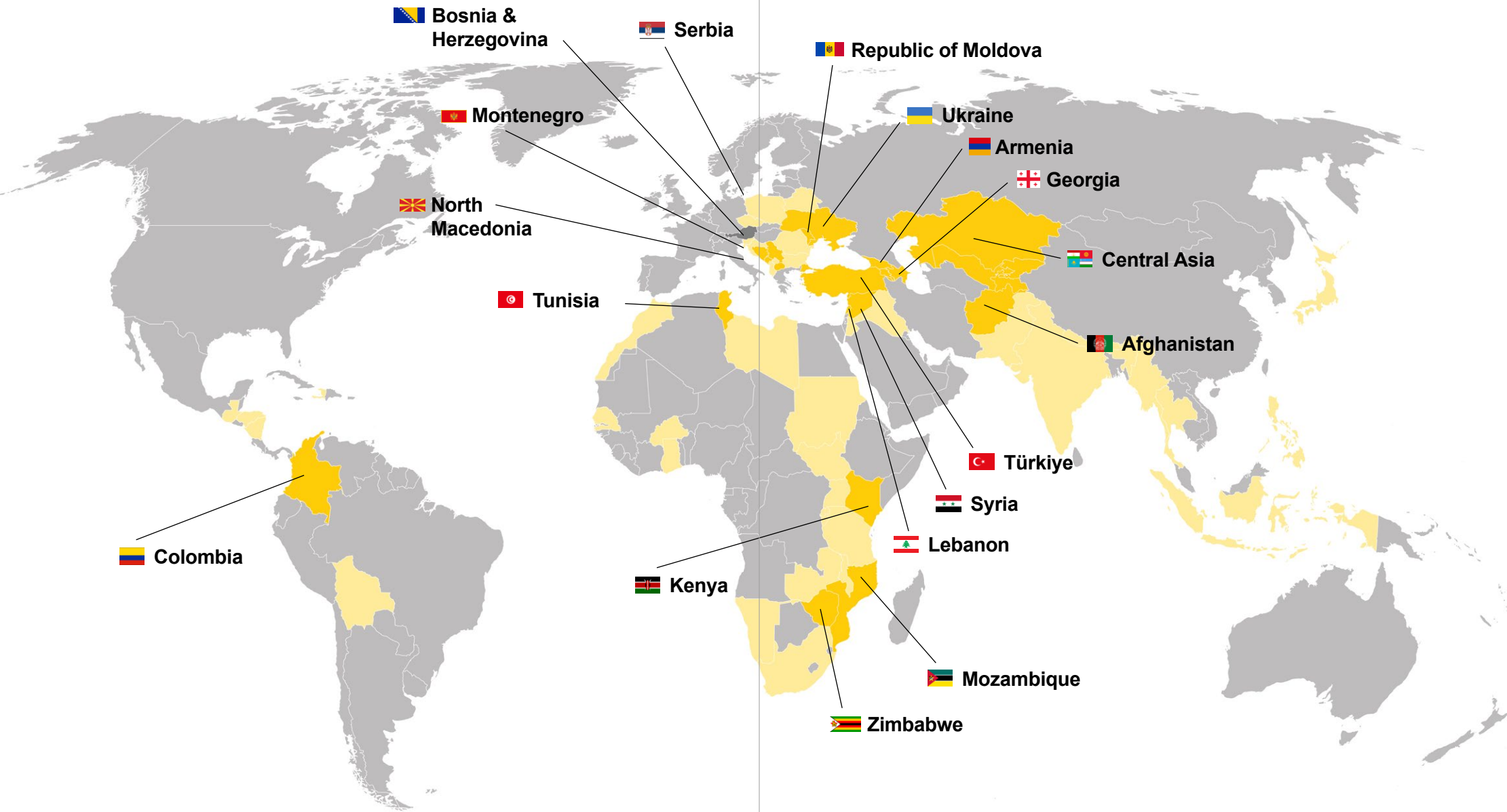
## Good for the skin

The special thing about the good soap is that it is completely free of additives. It only consists of pure Lebanese olive oil, soap suds and water. This means that it is particularly gentle on sensitive skin.



## Good for the environment

The handmade soap is cold-pressed. This means that the manufacturing process requires hardly any energy. The use of local, Lebanese resources reduces the environmental impact.



The project countries marked in yellow correspond to a snapshot in the year 2022. The world map also shows all countries in which we have been active so far in light yellow.

## CREATING PROSPECTS

### Cohesion through sport

The everyday life in Ettadhamen puts children under pressure. Poverty and frustration lead to a lack of perspective. In our sports project, we create a space for the children where they are able to feel free. Pedagogically guided training sessions in mixed groups enable disadvantaged children in the region to relieve stress, make friends and experience moments of success.

### Entrepreneurship as an opportunity

Well educated, but without a job. This is the reality of many young people in Tunisia. The economy does not create enough jobs for the high number of young people entering the labor market. In addition, the education of many graduates does not fit into the current demand on the labor market.

We therefore help young entrepreneurs in Tunisia through workshops in schools and universities and strengthen the institutional framework to give a chance to bright minds with innovative ideas.







### Supporting visions

Ahlem is one of our participants, whom we supported through intensive mentoring and coaching. With her company "IMA-Design", she has found a creative solution for recycling the masses of palm waste from date production.

She makes decorative pieces for private and commercial use. Her sustainable and environmentally friendly approach led to her being named Entrepreneur of the Year in Arts and Crafts in Tunisia in 2022.

“Without the support of Hilfswerk International, I would never have won this award. Thank you for making it possible,” says Ahlem, thanking our Tunisian colleague Heythem Ferjani.

### Hilfswerk International in TUNISIA

-  Promoting entrepreneurship
-  Strengthening the labor market
-  Social Cohesion
-  Children and youth



“I like it when we play as a team and stick together.”

Most of the young people in Tunisia have to cope with poverty and unemployment. Especially in the south of the country the situation is devastating. Here, almost every fourth person is without a job. Families are frustrated by the lack of prospects. Children grow up in a hopeless environment.

Hilfswerk International has been supporting the people in Tunisia since 2012. For 2022, our goal was to reduce hopelessness. We achieve this by:

- promoting young entrepreneurship,
- strengthening the institutional entrepreneurial ecosystem and
- preventing conflicts through sport-programs for disadvantaged children.

Our project regions are primarily Tataouine, Medenine and Kébili in the south and Ettadhamen near Tunis in the north of Tunisia.





“The nice thing about school is that I see my friends every day and get good food.”

In 2022, Hilfswerk International expanded its activities into a new country: Kenya. Almost 40% of the people here live below the poverty line. In our project region Kamobo (Kapsabet) in western Kenya, most families have to live with less than 5.000 KES per month (approx. 40 Euros).

Education is one factor that could counteract poverty in Kamobo - but it is not affordable for everybody. Public schools are free of charge in theory, but in practice there are high costs for compulsory school uniforms, books or teaching materials. Public schools are often overloaded, which has a negative impact on the quality of education.

Private schools are not an option for low-income families.

Without good education, it is likely that socially weak children will remain trapped in poverty. Hilfswerk International therefore fights for educational justice and against poverty in Kenya.



## EDUCATION AS A HUMAN RIGHT



### A dream comes true

For years, ten-year-old Faith has wanted nothing more than to go to school. Her mother works as day labourer on a tea plantation, which is typical for the region. Faith has two siblings. There was never enough money for Faith to attend school.

When we told Faith the news that we were fulfilling her dream of going to school, tears of joy welled up in her eyes. She has been attending Arbing School Kamobo for four months now. The lively girl is really blossoming here.


### School for everybody

The non-profit school "Arbing School Kamobo" aims to provide quality education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Hilfswerk International supports this project:

- We enable 50 children between the ages of 6 and 12 from low-income backgrounds to attend school at Arbing School Kamobo.
- Teaching materials, books and uniforms, which normally have to be paid for by the families, are provided by us.
- The children receive warm meals at school every day, which additionally relieves the family income.

“The nice thing about school is that I see my friends every day and get good food. My favourite subject is mathematics. When I grow up, I want to become a teacher.”

### Hilfswerk International in KENYA

-  Education for children from disadvantaged families
-  School attendance for 50 children
-  Hot meals daily
-  Poverty reduction



“The drinking water well is only seven minutes away from my home. My whole village finally has water.”

For more than 20 years, Hilfswerk International has been helping people in Mozambique, which ranks seventh to last in the Human Development Index. In close cooperation with local authorities and the population in our project regions, we improve the quality of life for more than 650,000 people in Mozambique.



**Mother-child health**

Childbirth in Mozambique often means death for the mother or the baby. There is a lack of adequate medical care. We have been addressing this problem for years. Our long experience on how to effectively strengthen mother-child health in Mozambique is now being passed on in a medical course. The main contents are:

- Early care for newborns
- Management of pregnancy and birth
- Treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS

# HELP ON MANY LEVELS

- Family planning
- Nutrition of pregnant/breastfeeding women, babies and children.

In 2022, this reached **106,515 people, 4 nursing schools and 2 universities.**

**Food security and health**

The Capo Delgado region in northern Mozambique has extremely high levels of food insecurity. There is also a lack of clean water and sanitation, which leads to major health problems for the people. Therefore, Hilfswerk International supports the people

- with food packages that reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among women and children.
- by constructing sanitary facilities and drinking water wells.
- with training in agriculture to secure food diversity and increase income opportunities.

By that, we were able to help **168,000 people** in 2022.



**Good for people & the environment**

Climate change brings increasingly severe weather extremes to Mozambique: cyclones, floods and drought lead to crop failures and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure. The risk is particularly high in riverine and coastal regions. Malnutrition and undernourishment are the order of the day here. Along the two rivers Pungwe and Búzi, we help people to counteract these tendencies:

- We strengthen the farmers through training in resistant cultivation methods.
- We are reforesting the river basins and the surrounding mangrove forests in cooperation with the population.

These activities improved the food situation of **384,040 people** in 2022, protect the sensitive ecosystem and create income.

**Hilfswerk International in MOZAMBIQUE** 🇲🇵

- 📦 Mother-child health
- 📦 Food security
- 🌱 Environmental protection



“We no longer have to save meals. I can't tell you how happy this makes me.”

Climate change is manifesting itself in Zimbabwe through increasingly long periods of drought and frequent weather extremes. The results are crop failures and 5.7 million people suffering from acute food shortages.

Hilfswerk International has been assisting the people of Zimbabwe since 2010. Together with the local population, our goal is to improve agricultural resilience to climate change and the food situation in the country.



**Clever farming methods**

We at Hilfswerk International work closely with farmers in our project regions of Lupane, Matobo and Insiza. We focus on the cultivation and marketing of drought-resistant crops such as amaranth and quinoa.

On the one hand, this provides important alternative sources of income for the local population. On the other hand, it also favours the protection of natural resources. In this way, we accompany the people of Zimbabwe into a strong future without hunger.

# FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER

**We help in Zimbabwe**

In 2022, we reached a total of **6,400 people** through...

- training smallholder farmers in the cultivation, refinement and marketing of drought-resistant crops (mongongo, amaranth, castor, quinoa)
- distributing seeds and mixed fertiliser
- joint planning of hygienic processing
- training for "agricultural ambassadors" on climate-friendly agriculture. They then pass on what they have learned to other families involved in agriculture
- workshops where families learn how to process nutritious crops and exchange recipes with each other
- strengthening cooperation between smallholder producers and private sector companies.



**End for hunger**

Mavis runs a small farm in Lupane with her husband John. The last few years have been difficult for the family of four because the soil has become increasingly dry, making cultivation extremely resource-intensive. The expenses exceeded the income. The family could no longer provide for themselves adequately.

Since Mavis took part in our trainings and switched to growing amaranth, her harvest is much more productive. There is enough money again to feed the family:

“We no longer have to save meals. The children can go to school. I can't tell you how happy this makes me. Thank you Hilfswerk International” says the mother of two, full of joy.

**Hilfswerk International in ZIMBABWE**

- Food security
- Sustainable agriculture
- Income diversification



“Our approach ensures the long-term effectiveness of our work and improves the lives of countless families.”

The Amazon rainforest is the largest CO2 reservoir in the world and thus essential for a healthy climate on earth. It provides a home for many different (indigenous) population groups. However, fires and exploitation are destabilising the sensitive ecosystem of the rainforest and by that the habitat of thousands of people, countless animals and many plant species. The food security of the local population is at stake. The climatic impacts are enormous.

Our decades of experience in Colombia have taught us one thing: protecting the Amazon rainforest can only be achieved through cooperation with its inhabitants. We are convinced that education is also

an important key to success. That is why in 2022, in our project region Guaviare we focused on implementing an educational concept for rainforest protection in schools.



# PROTECTING THE RAINFOREST

## Education and environmental protection

The Guaviare region is diverse. Former FARC-fighters, farmers and indigenous population groups live side by side here. Due to historically grown prejudices, there is little exchange between them. Our central concern is to mobilise all population groups to actively work together to protect the rainforest:

- With representatives of all population groups, we have developed a holistic education concept and brought it into the schools together with the local government.
- Our approach combines environmental protection with education and transcultural exchange.
- This promotes the development of the region, strengthens social cohesion and protects the rainforest.




In this way, we reached **67 educational institutions, 166 teachers and 2,676 students** from all population groups.



“Cooperating with the population in Colombia is very important. From the very beginning, we bring all stakeholders together and engage in exchange. This is the only way we can understand the problems on the ground and solve them sustainably. This approach often requires a lot of patience, because many different points of view come together. In the end, however, this approach ensures long-term effects and improves the living conditions of countless families. This fact motivates me and my team.”

Dr. Fredy Rivera, Programme Director  
Hilfswerk International

### Hilfswerk International in COLOMBIA

-  Environmental protection
-  Education
-  Transcultural exchange





“The food we get from Hilfswerk International is enough for several months. It makes life much easier for my family.”

Since the Taliban took power in August 2021, the suffering of the people in Afghanistan has been increasing rapidly. The economy has collapsed because the global market is withdrawing due to the unstable situation. There is hardly any work. Poverty pervades the entire country, leaving people in need and hunger.

41 million people live in Afghanistan. Around 46% of them can no longer feed themselves adequately - and the number is growing. Due to the Taliban's oppression of women, hunger and malnutrition particularly affect women and female-headed households.



In addition, extreme weather conditions such as flood or drought worsen the situation in the country. They lead to crop failures and thus to enormously high food prices. The harsh winters are particularly challenging.

Badakshan province in north-eastern Afghanistan measures temperatures as low as -30°C in winter. Without adequate food and clothing, the chances of survival are small, especially for children. In 2022 we at Hilfswerk International have supported the people of Wakhan district in Badakshan with food and winter parcels.

# WINTER AID FOR AFGHANISTAN

## 2022: Our activities

We distributed a total of 423 food packages, 366 blankets and 4,758 square metres of floor insulation. With this we reached:

-  141 vulnerable households with food parcels and
-  another 122 households with winter packages containing warm clothes, thermofur, blankets and floor insulation material.

By that, we helped 1,841 people through the cold season.




## Support for women

Reaching women directly in Afghanistan is difficult due to the strict regime. Nevertheless, we were able to ensure that some of the households we support are headed by women.

Zarah is one of them. She is a mother of three children. Her husband died because of pneumonia four years ago. Since then, she has been solely responsible for her children.

“I have to be careful as a woman in public. I don't have a job. Sometimes I ask my neighbours if they need help and earn a little money or get food from them. But it is never enough to feed everyone. First the children get to eat, then me. The food I get from Hilfswerk International is a supply for several months. It makes life much easier for my family.”

**Hilfswerk International in AFGHANISTAN** 

-  Winter aid
-  Food security
-  Support for women





“Ever since I was a kid I sewed with my grandmother. Since then I dreamed of having my own tailoring business. Thanks to Hilfswerk International I am now living this dream.”

Young people in Central Asia face a high risk of poverty and unemployment. They need prospects. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have to promote regional development accordingly. Hilfswerk International supports the region in this project with an innovative, sustainable and comprehensive programme. In this way, we accompany the youth in Central Asia into a stable future.



**Hilfswerk International in CENTRAL ASIA**

-  KAZAKHSTAN
-  KYRGYZSTAN
-  UZBEKISTAN
-  TAJIKISTAN

-  Promotion of youth
-  Economic development
-  Entrepreneurship
-  Agricultural sector

# FUTURE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

## Economic development for stability

Economic growth counteracts poverty. Important traditional economic sectors in Central Asia are fruit and vegetable production and livestock breeding. Our goal is to use the region's existing potential. Therefore, our focus is on promoting the agricultural sector. Furthermore, strengthening young entrepreneurship ensures positive economic development in the long term.

## 2022: Our achievements in Central Asia

- We have provided 3,370 young entrepreneurs with training on entrepreneurship, gender equality and strategic planning.
- Trained experts have implemented systems and standards for quality, environment and occupational safety in 30 companies.
- We supported four producers' associations in their establishment. We helped them prepare for registration of their products as geographical indications. These markers of origin are used for targeted marketing of the products.

- In June 2022, we organised a food presentation with tasting of high-quality Central Asian agricultural products. This was a good opportunity for producers to present their unique products to Austrian buyers from supermarkets, wholesalers and food processing companies.
- Six study visits to expert countries such as Austria, Latvia, Poland and Sweden enabled 150 teachers from four Central Asian universities and 26 representatives from the agricultural sector to expand their knowledge.
- Six curricula including teaching materials were modernised. 210 students have already been taught in the pilot phase. As a result, the agricultural sector is experiencing a long-term transformation.

## Successful young entrepreneur

One young entrepreneur we supported is Karomathkom. Through our training, she was able to create her own business plan and develop real leadership skills. With our support, she was able to procure sewing machines and successfully opened her own tailoring studio.



# HAND IN HAND: EMPOWERMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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

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

## Environment and climate protection

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

## Gender Equality

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

## Inclusion

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

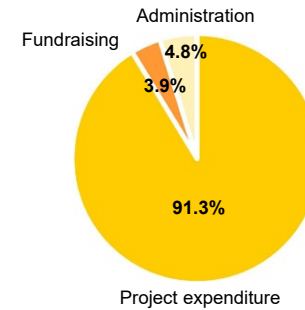
### DONATIONS ACCOUNT

Hilfswerk International  
IBAN: AT71 6000 0000 9000 1002  
SWIFT: BAWAATWW

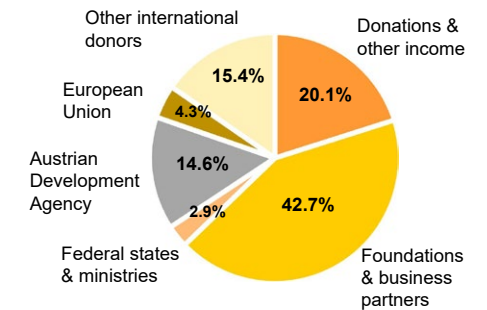
## Hilfswerk International in figures

We ensure that the funds we receive are used effectively and are committed to strict accounting controls by independent auditors. In 2022, the total expenditure of Hilfswerk International was 8,162,456.00 euros. Of this, a total of 91.3% was used for project work, 3.9% for fundraising and 4.8% for administration.

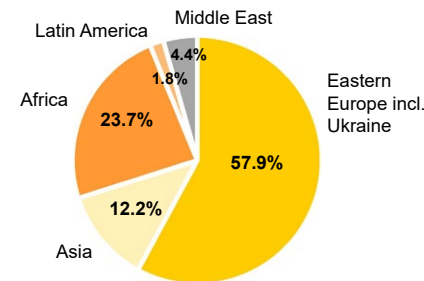
### Application of funds € 8,162,456



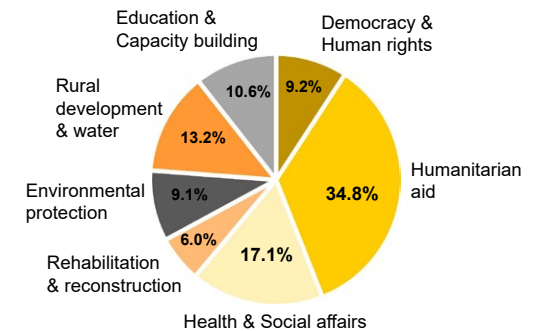
### Sources of funds € 8,162,456



### Regional breakdown € 8,162,456



### Sectoral breakdown € 8,162,456



### WE THANK OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

ADA - Austrian Development Agency | Foreign Trade Austria | BAMF - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Federal Ministry of the Interior | Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Public Service and Sport | Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection | EC - European Commission | Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation | Erste Holding | FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Society | Finance in Motion | GIZ - German Society for International Cooperation GmbH | IV - Federation of Industrialists | Kahane Foundation | State of Lower Austria | State of Upper Austria | State of Salzburg | State of Styria | Chamber of Agriculture | LBG Austria | LED - Liechtenstein Development Service | Linsi Foundation | Medicor Foundation | Neighbor in need | OENB - Austrian National Bank | City of Vienna | UNDP – United Nations Development Programme | UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization | Austrian Chamber of Commerce



“Without Hilfswerk International, my son would not have received any medical care.“

**Sophia from Ukraine**



“We no longer have to save meals. The children can go to school. I can't tell you how happy this makes me. Thank you Hilfswerk International”

**Mavis from Zimbabwe**



“Soap production is the livelihood of my family. I am happy to be part of this project”

**Midia from Lebanon**



“Cooperating with the population in Colombia is very important. From the very beginning, we bring all stakeholders together and engage in exchange. This is the only way we can understand the problems on the ground and solve them sustainably.”

**Fredy Rivera, Programme Director**

## CONTACT

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