



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Figures from 2023

111 local and national partner organisations

worked with staff members to implement projects worldwide.
We invested 3.1 million euros to increase their capacities.

Of our total expenditure, **55.5%** went directly to our local and national partners.

In addition, 15 international partner organisations also received funding.

More than **7,700** staff members were employed by the partner organisations of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe worldwide.

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Dear friends of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe,



When I travelled to South Sudan in early 2023, there was no way to foresee what lay ahead for the region as a whole. I met staff and partners endeavouring to make it easier for displaced people and refugees to return to their homeland — through peace work, the improvement of economic prospects and humanitarian assistance. At the same time, vast areas of the country were under water or inaccessible due to the ongoing violence there. A multi-faceted crisis that presented an immense challenge for the local people and for humanitarian assistance workers, and that was exacerbated by the outbreak of armed conflict in neighbouring Sudan in April.

Hundreds of thousands of people sought protection in South Sudan and Chad. Humanitarian assistance is urgently required in these countries to prevent the devastating conflict in Sudan from destabilising the whole region. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was able to help Sudanese refugees in Chad.

Help of this kind must remain reliable and has to keep pace with growing needs. Cuts to state funding for humanitarian assistance send the wrong signal, as the number of crises worldwide has increased.

In Autumn 2023, an earthquake in Morocco was followed just a few days later by floods in Libya, the flight of tens of thousands of Armenians from Azerbaijan and a series of earthquakes in Afghanistan. However, the massacre by the terrorist organisation Hamas in Israel on 7 October marked a particularly dark day. More than 1,200 people were brutally murdered, countless women were raped and more than 250 people were abducted and taken hostage. What followed with the war in Gaza was one of the biggest

challenges with regard to international humanitarian law in recent times. Hundreds of thousands starved, bombs fell on inhabited areas in Gaza and extensive aid was denied to the civilian population for too long.

But even here I see light in the darkness: local partner organisations managed to provide help despite the devastating situation. They distributed fruit, vegetables and hygiene products to families in the Gaza Strip. Another partner provided support for the overloaded healthcare system in Israel. These measures involve local civic organisations acting with one shared aim: to reduce suffering.

Likewise in the severe earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, which caused more than 56,000 deaths, we were once again able to count on our partners. In the shortest of time they were there to distribute tents, clothing and mattresses. This was made possible by the deep sense of solidarity shown by our donors, who continue to provide immense support despite the ongoing war in Ukraine and the many crises we face. For that I am deeply grateful. It gives us — our staff and our partners — the courage and strength required to keep doing what we do. We are presenting a small part of the work we do around the world for you in this 2023 annual report.

Yours, Dr Dagmar Pruin
President of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

A humanitarian response to crises and conflicts

The year 2023 was marked by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, the conflict in Sudan and the war in Gaza. Alongside the ongoing war in Ukraine, they posed a real challenge to the humanitarian system. In armed conflicts in particular, gaining access to the people who require humanitarian assistance is becoming more and more difficult. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is able to help thanks to its local partners and networks.

The **war in Ukraine** is set to continue for some time and poses a huge challenge to all humanitarian actors. That was made abundantly clear in late 2023, as Ukrainian infrastructure increasingly became the focus of Russian attacks. The effects of destroyed power plants, electricity networks and industrial plants were felt by the civilian population above all, who often had to go without electricity and heat for days on end during the third winter of the war. Inhabitants of areas in the east of Ukraine that had previously been occupied were still suffering the consequences of the war months later, and from the fear that it would return to their door.

Working with our partners in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe managed to continue providing its vital assistance, which is unprecedented in scope. Mothers and children, older people and refugees were a particular focus of our attention, as they are the most vulnerable in society. Alongside material and financial aid, the role of psychosocial support became and more and more important as a vital means of overcoming trauma. To ensure we can provide assistance in Ukraine in the long term, we have opened an office in Kiev. Our team of more than ten staff members there works to coordinate and expand on the assistance provided in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries. The German Federal Foreign Office provides financial support for our cross-border aid programme. That sends an important signal of our intent to work together to ensure humanitarian assistance for the hundreds of thou-



Emergency assistance in the earthquake zone in Türkiye: employees from our partner organisation Hayata Destek (Support to Life – STL) distributing aid to those affected.

sands of people affected, who do not see any end to the war on the horizon. Even though the donations for aid to Ukraine are only a fraction of what we received in 2022, the willingness to help in Germany is still high – especially in view of the many other crises and catastrophes.

Precautionary measures to reduce the consequences of catastrophes

Such catastrophes include the severe **earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria** in February 2023. On the one hand, they have shown how vulnerable even developed countries such as Türkiye can be to natural disasters, when buildings in villages and towns cannot withstand severe earthquakes. Disaster provisions and earthquake-resistant construction are essential to preventing deaths and injury. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has therefore made disaster preparedness a focus of many of our projects worldwide.

On the other hand, the earthquakes have shown how the interplay between conflict and natural disasters puts people at even more risk. In Northern Syria, it was very difficult to get the appropriate assistance to victims of the earthquakes. The war that has been raging in Syria for years now meant that aid supplies and vehicles to help clear the rubble were delayed in reaching the affected regions, where the areas of power and influence are reminiscent of a patchwork quilt. An effective response to the emergency was made possible thanks to our experienced local partners in the area and the collaboration within the worldwide church-based network ACT Alliance. In total, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe managed to help more than 164,000 people in the earthquake zone, and will continue doing so in the years to come.

Biggest refugee crisis in Sudan

A new crisis region suddenly emerged in April of last year, where fighting broke out between the army and the paramilitary *Rapid Support Forces* militia in **Sudan**. The armed conflict did not just awaken reminders of previous fighting and atrocities in the Darfur region; it also brought the potential for catastrophe to the entire region. Fighting across the country brought death and displacement. Practically every month, the number of refugees in Sudan increased by around one million people, who in many places were cut off from any kind of help. Millions of inhabitants fell into destitution, and the armed conflict had a destabilising effect in neighbouring countries such as Chad and South Sudan, which themselves were facing internal political tensions and humanitarian crises.

The arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees in Chad was almost impossible for one of the poorest countries in Africa to manage. South Sudanese refugees were forced to return to their homeland, which can barely cope with its own displaced peoples itself.

Working together with the Lutheran World Federation, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was able to help refugees and their host communities in Chad. In South Sudan, we and our many partners continued our work to establish better basic living conditions for displaced South Sudanese people and those returning after having sought protection in neighbouring African countries.

Helping through alliances and partnerships

The series of catastrophes and crises that occurred in autumn 2023 have shown how vital our strong alliances and partnerships are to tackling them. Alongside severe flooding in Greece and Libya, a huge earthquake destroyed a large number of villages in Morocco. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe helped our partners from Caritas international to provide emergency aid on location. The decades-long conflict between Armenia and

Azerbaijan around the region of Nagorno-Karabakh also flared up once again during this period. More than 100,000 people sought protection in Armenia in a matter of days, having been cut off from the outside world and humanitarian assistance for months. Local church partners were able to act quickly and provide many of the refugees with vouchers. They are also helping people to make a new start in Armenia in the medium term. Following the harrowing terror attacks by Hamas in Israel on 7 October and the subsequent months of fighting in **Gaza**, one of the most devastating humanitarian catastrophes has developed in the region. At the end of 2023, the United Nations warned of the risk of famine among the 2.2 million inhabitants of Gaza. They were unable to leave the coastal strip, while the fighting continued unabated and Hamas continued its shelling of Israel. Far too little aid reached Gaza and many of the people providing assistance lost their lives. Thanks to our long-term partnerships, we were able to take quick action – albeit to a small extent.

Restructuring in its final phase

We continued to make progress with our regionalisation in 2023: Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe opened its third regional office at the end of 2023. Adding to our offices in Nairobi in Kenya and Amman in Jordan, the office in the Senegalese capital Dakar will manage our work in Western and Central Africa in the future. Unstable political conditions and deepening humanitarian crises require major commitment from us and a local presence. The office in Dakar will serve these purposes. It will also be responsible for our project work in Haiti. The challenges there are similar to those in Western and Central African countries: the threat of famine, the loss of state control and escalating violence affect the vast majority of the Haitian civil population, who are in urgent need of help.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has broadened its base on a technical level too: a team of seven experts advises our offices and partners on matters including specific project strategies such as the implementation



An employee of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe inspects a destroyed living space in Ukraine. Our partner's teams of craftspeople are working hard to repair thousands of homes.

The distribution of food began just weeks after the start of the war in Gaza. Sanitary facilities were built in emergency shelters and water was distributed. In Israel, a partner organisation provided assistance for the healthcare system, which was overloaded in places, and helped those affected by the terror attacks to access medicine.

of the “triple nexus” (see page 9 for more), the further localisation of humanitarian assistance and providing adequate protection against gender-based violence. This lets us integrate the latest methods into our projects, which are shared worldwide and further developed to help us consistently improve the quality of our work.

Help following earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria

Severe earthquakes shook the south-east of Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February 2023. More than 56,000 people lost their lives, and many towns and villages were reduced to rubble. Local partners of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe managed to provide assistance within days.

The disaster struck in the middle of the night. “I looked to my left and a house fell down. I looked to my right and another house collapsed”, says Vildan Halvaci, one of the survivors from the Turkish province of Hatay, describing the moment that the first earthquake struck. She said she had felt that something was going to happen and could not sleep. That was how she managed to get to the safety of the outdoors quickly, where she immediately began rescuing people

particularly vital in the cold and damp winter nights. Latrine blocks, water tanks and shower units were then provided for around 30,000 people. STL also organised mobile laundry facilities: washing machines, dryers and water tanks were installed on large trailers. That meant many families in Hatay who had not gone to an official camp or were unable to find space at them could wash their laundry on specific days of the month. It was another

as the war in their homeland had grown steadily worse. In the Turkish village of Bozhöyük, Ali found work as an agricultural labourer. “We didn’t have any problems with the community until the earthquake”, he explains. His wife, four sons and six daughters had survived unscathed, but they had to leave the village shortly after as tensions rose. Suddenly many Turkish families were also homeless and reliant on help. The family began to perceive discrimination against people from Syria.

As the emergency shelter in the backyard of the village school became more and more crowded, and after his youngest son was beaten while food was being distributed one day, the family decided to leave the village together with other Syrian refugees. “We didn’t want to be a burden on anyone”, explains Ali. The owner of a farmstead gave them permission to live there, together with around 50 other people from Syria, spread out among the fields. One of the sons contacted STL, who had helped them many years earlier after they had fled Syria. Through the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe aid programme, the families were then given six tents, a shower unit and a WC cabin to improve their hygienic conditions. “Along with the mayor of Bozhöyük, STL was the only organisation we could reach and that helped”, says Ali, who hopes to live a normal life alongside others again one day, without any discrimination or prejudice against Syrian people.



Mobile laundry facilities in an informal camp: Huge numbers of families were able to wash their laundry here.

from damaged houses and rubble. “I lost a young woman in my arms on the way to hospital”, remembers Halvaci. The family as a whole had to mourn 70 relatives that day. Hayata Destek (Support to Life – STL), a Turkish partner organisation of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, led the emergency assistance in several Turkish provinces in the days following the earthquakes. First, those affected were provided with blankets or tents, which were

piece in the jigsaw of extensive aid that the people would have to rely on for many months to come – particularly the Syrian refugees.

Difficult conditions for Syrian refugees

The family of Ali and Suphiye Khalid were living on a secluded property in rural Hatay, Türkiye. The two had spent ten years living and working in Hatay. They had fled from the Syrian city of Hama in 2013,



Staff from our Syrian partners on the rubble left by the catastrophic earthquake.

A slow rebuild

By the end of 2023, most of the ruins had been torn down and the mountains of rubble had been removed. What remained were mental scars and an acute need for living space: “In the provinces of Adiyaman and Hatay, which were particularly badly affected, extensive reconstruction work was still in the early stages”, reports Umutcan Yüksel, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Programme Coordinator for Türkiye. In Hatay alone, around 300,000 people were still living in temporary emergency accommodation consisting of thin-walled containers and tents at the turn of the year. “The ongoing distress was clear to see in the faces of the people I spoke to nearly one year after the catastrophe. Many of them were suffering from depression and anxiety”, explains Umutcan Yüksel.

With that in mind, STL deployed specialist psychosocial teams to help the affected Syrian and Turkish people overcome the trauma suffered. At the same time, they helped the people with their search for stable accommodation. Syrian refugees especially were living in container camps with poor facilities, or in informal settlements. Around two million refugees had sought protection from the civil war in their homeland within the Turkish earthquake zone, but then the natural disaster hit there too, in an environment they had thought to be safe.

Inflation and armed conflict made conditions difficult in Syria

In Syria, the earthquake was especially devastating for people weakened by years of civil war in the country. Food prices doubled within months. Partners of Diakonie

Katastrophenhilfe provided cash assistance and distributed vouchers to hundreds of families to bridge the greatest need and support the local economy. “Cash for Work” programmes helped in many regards: for instance, our partner organisations trained some of the victims in tailoring, and then they received an income from the winter clothing they sewed during their training. The partners then distributed the clothing produced, especially to children. The initiative provided more than 20,000 people with warm clothing.

Subsidies for rental flats

Working with our Syrian partner organisation GOPA-DERD, we were also able to renovate and refurbish around 150 flats for use by families. Many of the families received subsidies so they could pay for a roof over their heads. Like in Türkiye, the focus also shifted to psychosocial help in Syria, to ensure that people did not have to suffer alone with the traumatic toll of civil war and earthquakes, even those in remote regions. As part of the earthquake aid for Türkiye and Syria, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received nearly 22.5 million euros in donations in 2023. In total, the aid measures reached more than 164,000 people in the two countries. In Türkiye, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is also putting an emergency assistance project into action with financial support from the European Union (ECHO).

More information about the earthquake relief:

Adapting to climate extremes

Many of the regions in East Africa typify the calamitous interplay of climate extremes, conflicts and dwindling livelihoods. In 2023 the El Niño climate phenomenon brought above-average precipitation. While the rain ended a long drought in some regions, deluges and flash flooding caused suffering elsewhere. We took a holistic approach to the provision of assistance for communities seeking a way out of the crisis.



The water treatment systems in Somalia were able to supply around 6,000 people with clean water every day.

Where weeks before the hilly landscape had been characterised by parched soil, luscious green meadows and fields of vegetables were growing by the end of November. “We used that moment to put all our resources into farming. That lets us build up stocks of food and seeds”, explains James Nwongio. All or nothing: this rule applies to him and many other farmers in the Kenyan county of Laikipia. After all, farmers understand very well that normality looks a lot different now. Years of drought had caused water sources to run dry and fields to become arid. Pastures and agricultural areas have been falling in number for many years now – and are therefore in demand. This has resulted in an increase in conflicts related to land and resources such as

water as needs grow. “Groups from even drier regions in the north came here. There were many years of bloody conflict. They stole our cattle and crops”, remembers James Nwongio. Whereas previously droughts were only to be expected every ten years or so, a lack of rainy seasons is now a regular occurrence. In particular, tens of thousands of people died in Somalia as a result of food shortages and malnutrition caused by drought. According to the United Nations, more than 62 million people in nine East African countries were at risk of hunger at the end of 2023.

Out of the frying pan, into the fire

The years of drought were followed by devastating downpours. In Somalia,

more than 2.4 million people were affected by flooding. Working with its community partners in the vicinity of the Shabelle River, Diakonische Katastrophenhilfe assisted with securing the supply of water. “This vital lifeline breaches the banks regularly, but rarely as destructively as it did last year”, explains Alfred Taban, Head of the Diakonische Katastrophenhilfe Office in Somalia. One reason: the water did not seep away because the ground was too dry and sandy. There was flash flooding, with fields and huts on the banks of the river washed away. “The residents barely have any options. Either they try to preserve their only livelihood by the river, or they flee to a region controlled by an armed militia”, says Taban. “Wherever there are

people, their lives are hanging by a thread.”

Two water treatment systems that had been supplied by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe as a precautionary measure were in constant operation. Every day they treated river water for around 6,000 people in the districts of Belet Weyne and Jowar, because springs and other water sources had been contaminated by the floods. Secure access to clean water does not just prevent the spread of diseases such as Cholera. It also stops people from fleeing, thus preventing conflicts.

Solidarity instead of hostility

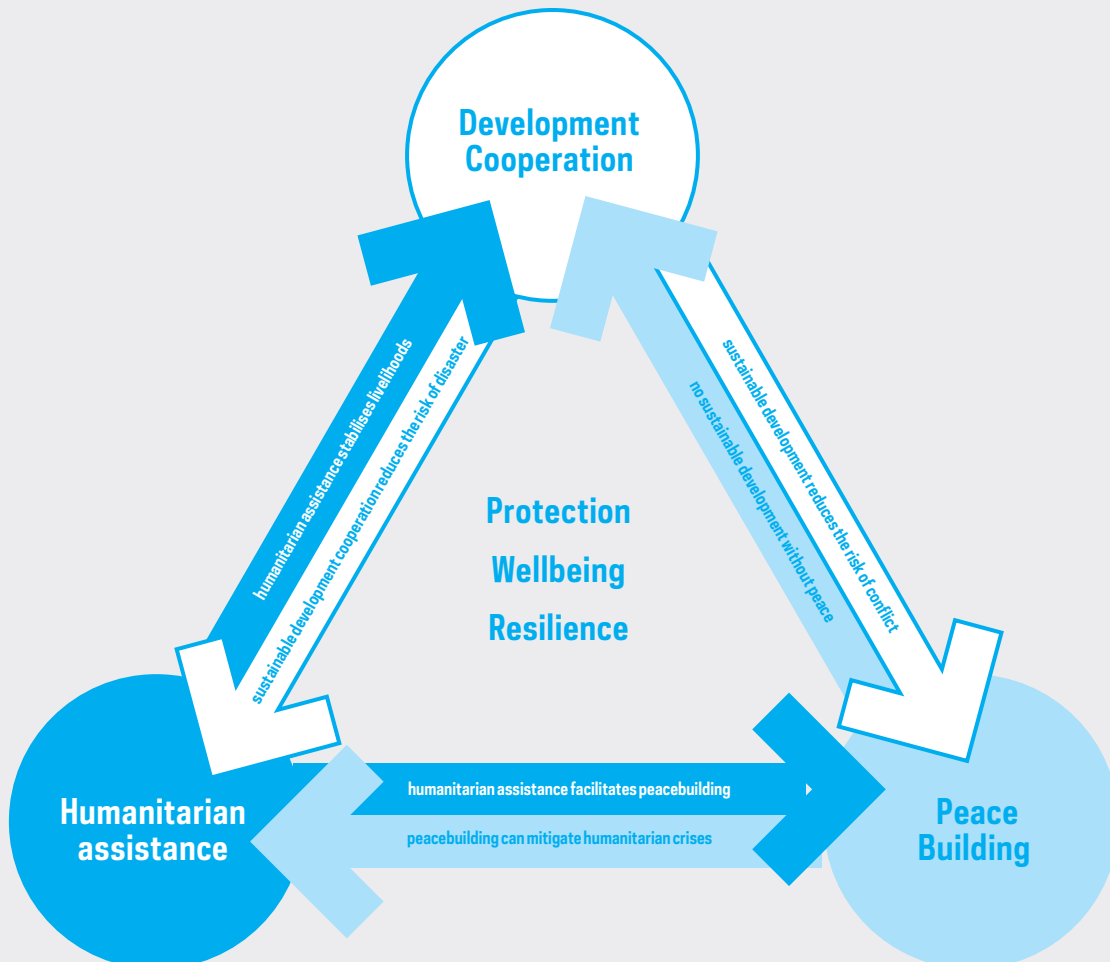
Traditional ways of life often collide in such circumstances, when farmers are forced to defend their lands and crops against livestock-herding nomads. The loss of livelihoods

affects both sides and makes everyone a loser in the end. “In this context, humanitarian assistance and the development of livelihoods must be accompanied by measures to promote peace, to break the vicious circle of cause and effect”, says Katrin Jullien, Regional Director of the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Office in Kenya. “Only then can people steel themselves for future droughts or torrential rains. There is no room for conflicts.”

One example of this concept in action can be found in the community of James Nwongio in Kenya. With the support of a partner organisation, the people in the region repaired springs and installed community-run reservoirs to counter the lack of water. At the same time, peace and disaster prevention committees provide mediation in conflicts. Where just a few months previously farmers and

cattle breeders took up arms against each other, peaceful solutions are now sought through dialogue. More and more cattle breeders are switching to agriculture. They receive support for the use of drought-resistant seeds, to help them establish a livelihood for the long term. Disaster prevention committees track climatic trends and provide advance warning of new droughts or extreme weather. These long-term development processes empower people to learn to trust their own capabilities, develop their own economic, social and ecological resources and assert their own rights. It gives them tools to counter the growing challenges they face.

Interconnected assistance: a triad of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding



Continuing to provide reliable assistance for Ukraine

In the second year after the large-scale invasion by Russian troops, the east of Ukraine in particular felt the consequences of the ongoing war. Large areas had been mined, and daily artillery and rocket bombardment put the lives of those inhabitants that had remained at risk. Partners of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe were there to provide help for them and for refugees in other parts of the country and neighbouring regions.

“We hear the air sirens nearly every day and people have to stay in the air-raid shelters for hours”, says Andrij Waskowycz, Head of the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Office in Kiev, describing the situation at the end of 2023, after Russia had intensified its attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. “The people cannot afford to become weary of the war, and we must not become weary of helping”, says Waskowycz.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe continued its largest aid programme worldwide, working alongside a large number of partner organisations. Within Ukraine, teams from our partner EAST SOS repaired damaged houses near the front line, to make them habitable and ready for winter again. In particular, they evacuated older people so they could be housed in specially erected emergency accommodation. Our partner, the Child-Well-being Foundation, focussed its efforts on providing psychosocial support and financial aid. It was able to cover the most urgent needs through cash cards and vouchers. Around 14 million people were reliant on humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

For successful integration into host countries

More than six million people were forced to leave Ukraine due to the war. Partner organisations in the neighbouring countries of Romania, Moldova and Poland provided refugees with advice on legal matters, facilitated language courses and helped them search for somewhere to live so they could integrate better into their new surroundings. In Germany too, diaconal associations continued to provide refugees with their



Following the partial destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, our partner organisation EAST SOS began evacuating those affected from the flood zone.

support. In total, the aid measures provided by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partner organisations in 2023 reached more than 112,000 people. “Despite the strain they face daily, the people in Ukraine continue to show their solidarity. That builds on the international solidarity shown, which sends a signal that should not be underestimated and must not be allowed to diminish”, says Andrij Waskowycz. While the donations received for Ukraine in 2022 amounted to more than 68 million euros, this number fell back to 4.6 million euros in 2023. “That is still a good result and underlines the fact that the position the people in Ukraine find themselves in is very close to the heart of many of our donors”, says Martin Kessler, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Risks posed by landmines and the trauma of war

Many people will not be able to return to their homelands for a long time due to the growing risk posed by landmines.

Mines have been laid in an area half the size of Germany. “I have met villagers who have had to freeze over the winter because they were unable to enter the woods near their house and chop firewood due to the risk of landmines”, reports Martin Kessler. Our partner organisation DanChurchAid is providing local people with vital information to help with this crisis. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the mental health of ten million people in Ukraine was at risk or adversely affected at the end of 2023. Constant air sirens, worries about relatives and atrocities experienced have left deep marks that are externalised through trauma and anxiety attacks. The financial support provided by the German Federal Foreign Office has made it possible to focus more intensely on the provision of vital psychosocial help and the clearance of landmines since 2023.

Unchecked violence against civilians in Israel and Gaza

The terror attack by the radical Islamist group Hamas in Israel on 7 October was above all a targeted attack on civilians. The subsequent military offensive by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip resulted in nearly 20,000 people losing their lives by the end of 2023. Two partners of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe managed to help by providing food and water.

One Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe project was directly affected by the fighting. A projectile exploded on the site of Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City in mid-October, killing dozens of displaced people who had sought protection there. A cancer diagnosis centre that was scheduled to go into operation was damaged in the explosion.

Over the subsequent months, hospitals were repeatedly shot at or stormed because Hamas fighters were suspected to be hiding within them. “Both sides failed to follow international humanitarian law at many points and from the outset”, criticises Martin Kessler, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. “Instead of ensuring sufficient protection for the civilian population and allowing aid to arrive, dozens of people died

every day, including many of those providing help.” In no other conflict in the world have so many humanitarian assistance workers been killed in such a short period of time.

Food in Gaza, medication in Israel

Despite these circumstances, two local partner organisations managed to distribute food and water to families there. To begin with, the products were procured from the stocks of traders or on local markets. As a first step, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe made one million euros available for humanitarian assistance. Of that, 200,000 euros went to a project in Israel that helped supply medication for those affected by the attacks and the subsequent war. The healthcare system in Israel was overloaded in

places due to the tens of thousands of people fleeing their homes. In Gaza, our partners deployed the resources available to them as necessary in the emergency situation. “Medium-term project planning was completely impossible, it was just taking action on sight. Our partners put small partial projects into action: they distributed food packages in camps, installed sanitary facilities and handed out hygiene products”, explains Ahmad Safi, Program Leader for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in the region.

Famine at the gates of Europe

At the end of 2023, the United Nations warned of the risk of famine among the 2.2 million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip for the first time. Only a small number of the original 500 trucks per day had reached Gaza since the start of the war. International efforts changed nothing with regard to the major supply deficit in Gaza. Calls for humanitarian ceasefires regularly failed at the negotiating table. Small children and young people in particular died as a result of acute malnutrition and a lack of medicine. Leaving the Gaza Strip was not an option. “The situation in Gaza should show us all that respect for international humanitarian laws must never be disregarded. Without such laws, war knows no limits and there is no protection for the people who are not involved in it”, says Martin Kessler.



Distributing condensed milk for newborn babies and infants in a refugee camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Projects worldwide

Our assistance in the regions

Afghanistan: Emergency assistance following earthquakes

More than 2,500 people lost their lives in the devastating earthquakes in Afghanistan in October 2023, with many more severely injured. Hundreds of families were suddenly made homeless. The disaster occurred in a completely impoverished nation, where roughly 15 million people were at risk of hunger. Our partners on location repaired the water supply in two villages in the earthquake zone, with engineers deploying mobile water treatment systems to ensure the provision of drinking water. In addition, hygiene packs were distributed to prevent the spread of disease.



Our partners provided emergency aid that was vital to survival following the dramatic earthquake in Afghanistan.

Sudan/ Chad: Help for refugees

On 15 April 2023, a struggle for power broke out between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Millions of people have been displaced since then, with 18 million people no longer having enough to eat. The provision of humanitarian assistance was impossible due to a lack of access in many regions. Large numbers of people fled to neighbouring Chad. Together with the Lutheran World Federation, we assisted more than 10,000 refugees in the border region,

drilling boreholes for drinking water and building latrines and handwashing stations. We focussed our efforts on people who were at risk such as pregnant women, nursing mothers and people with disabilities.

Mozambique: Disaster mitigation saves lives

Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar: Tropical Cyclone Freddy raged for more than a month in the south-east coast of Africa, and was deemed to be the longest-lasting cyclone since weather records began. The storm made landfall twice in Madagascar and Mozambique and ravaged Malawi, claiming the lives of more

than 500 people. The precautionary measures taken by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partners in recent years managed to mitigate the consequences of the storm to some extent: trained community committees warned people before the storm hit Mozambique and distributed plans, bicycles, tools and water treatment products. The transnational disaster mitigation project was developed together with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Flooding in the Ahr Valley: Long-term help through residential area projects

The consequences of the flooding in July 2021 are still devastating years later. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Rheinland and Westphalia-Lippe (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe RWL) is making more than four million euros available to support the social reconstruction of villages and communities by 2025. To ensure a more effective response to future catastrophes, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe RWL also strengthened social communities in

the area in 2023, with residential area projects being developed at a total of ten locations throughout the flood zone. The residential area management system places a greater emphasis on disaster mitigation and adapting to climate change. The important thing is for people to know what to do in the event of a disaster in the future.

Armenia: Help for refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh

Since the military offensive in Azerbaijan on 19 September 2023, more than 100,000 Armenians have left their homeland in Nagorno-Karabakh to seek refuge in Armenia. Their situation was catastrophic: following months of blockades in Nagorno-Karabakh, the people were physically and mentally exhausted. There was a lack of essential resources such as drinking water, food and secure accommodation. Together with our partners on location, we made 500,000 euros available for emergency aid for those displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and the people in their host communities. We were able to provide emergency assistance through a one-time aid-in-cash of 115 euros per



Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe RWL is strengthening solidarity among the people in flooded regions with projects related to sustainability and environmental protection.

person. Another part of the total amount is also being used for longer-term aid.

Lebanon: Medical assistance for mothers and children

The public healthcare system in the Lebanon has been severely underfunded for decades; half of the population is reliant on the external supply of medicine. Alongside economic and political crises, the coronavirus pandemic and the

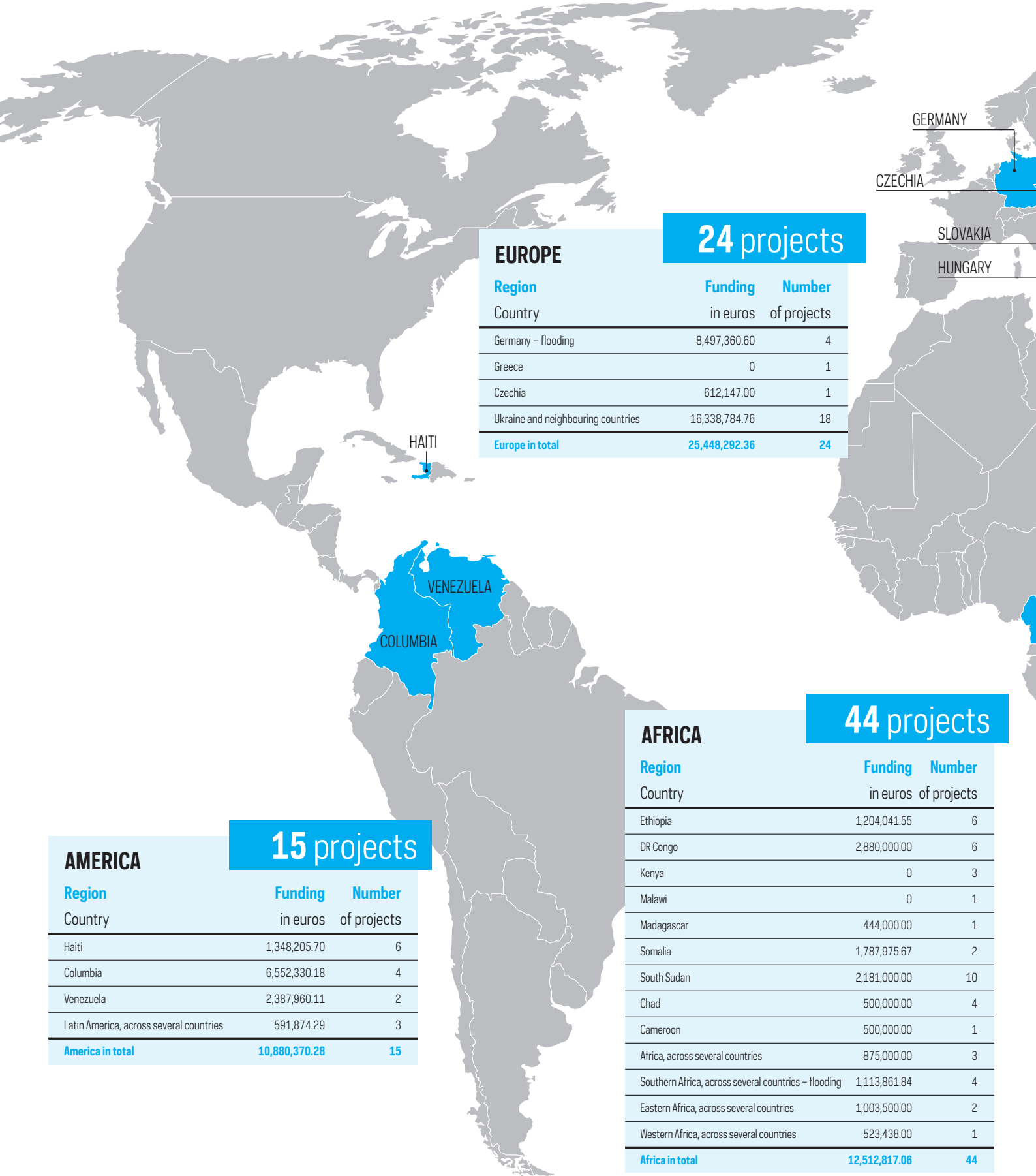
catastrophic explosion in the Port of Beirut in 2020 placed extra pressure on the ailing healthcare system. In addition, more Syrian refugees are being hosted in Lebanon than in any other country in the world. The severely weakened healthcare system was even further overloaded in these regions. Babies, infants and nursing mothers in particular were reliant on help. Together with our partners at the location, we equipped the local healthcare centres with medical devices, improved the water supply, installed a vaccination system and subsidised a range of medical testing. In addition, an emergency aid fund was established to provide rapid help in the event of emergencies, enabling aid projects to be started within two days.



The healthcare centre in the Lebanon lets families such as Elias Jabbour El Khoury and his son receive free physiotherapy treatment.

Global assistance in figures

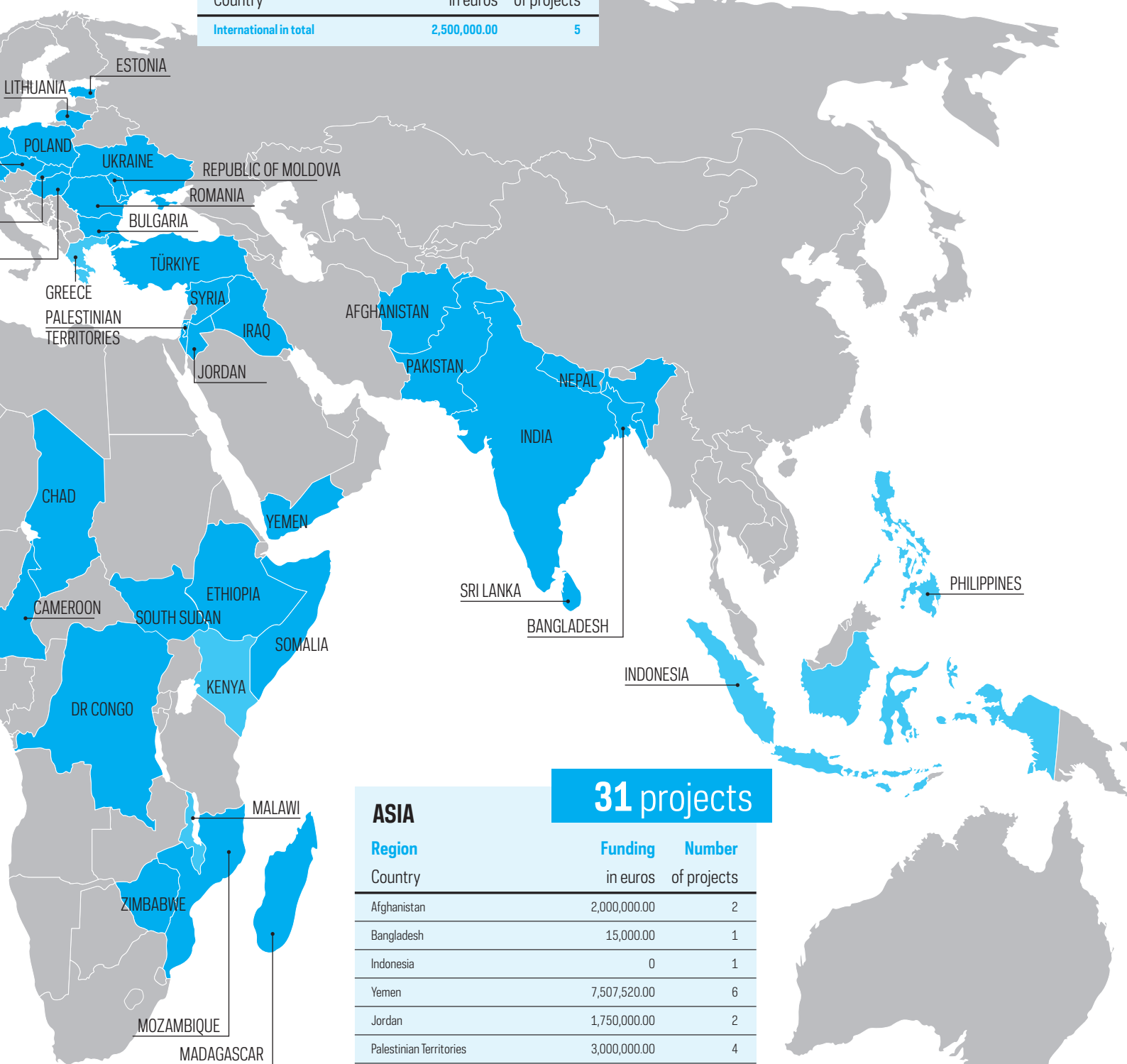
- Initial and follow-up approvals, projects and accompanying measures worldwide in 2023
- Countries with ongoing projects and approvals from previous years



INTERNATIONAL

5 projects

Region	Funding	Number
Country	in euros	of projects
International in total	2,500,000.00	5



31 projects

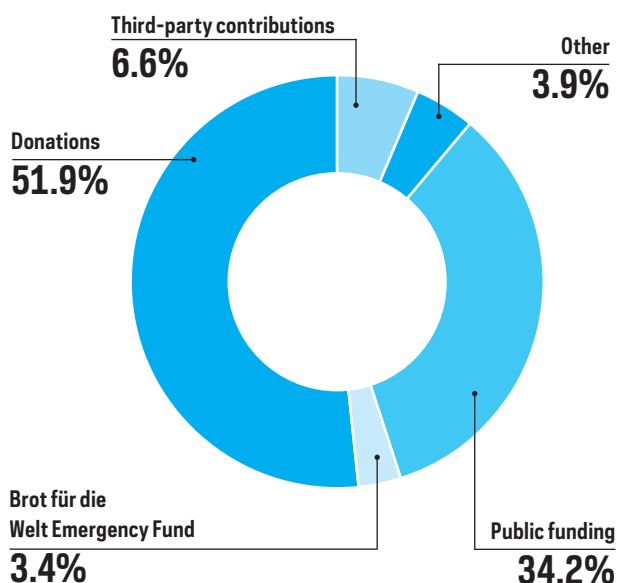
ASIA

Region	Funding	Number
Country	in euros	of projects
Afghanistan	2,000,000.00	2
Bangladesh	15,000.00	1
Indonesia	0	1
Yemen	7,507,520.00	6
Jordan	1,750,000.00	2
Palestinian Territories	3,000,000.00	4
Pakistan	517,403.00	2
Philippines	0	1
Syria	5,973,326.80	6
Türkiye	9,766,070.00	4
Asia, across several countries	1,008,000.00	2
Asia in total	31,537,319.80	31

Finances

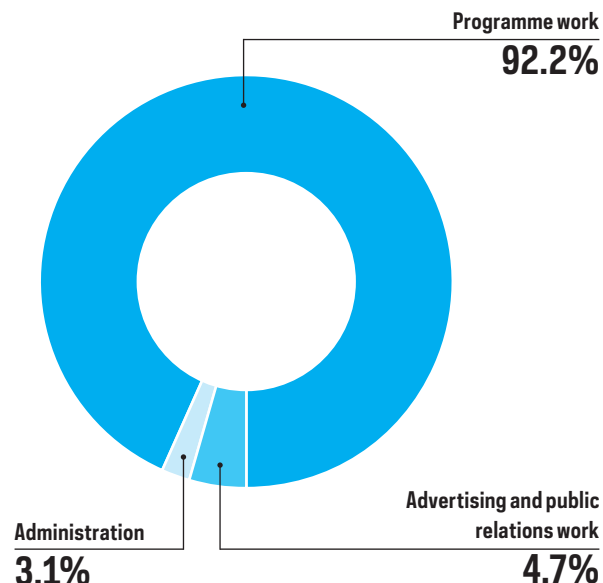
Income

According to source of funds in per cent
(95.1 million euros in total)



Expenditure

Expenditure according to types of expenditure in per cent
(105.4 million euros in total)



Expenditure in 2023 according to types of expenditure

Types of expenditure	Programme work in euros	Advertising and general public relations work in euros	Administration in euros	Total in euros
Project expenditure	92,556,248.11	0	0	92,556,248.11
Material expenditure	0	6,616.68	0	6,616.68
Human resources expenditure	3,207,510.25	799,838.42	1,683,761.18	5,691,109.85
Depreciation	155,339.34	38,274.89	81,878.26	275,492.49
Other operational expenditure	1,210,895.51	4,121,203.45	1,491,731.66	6,823,830.62
Taxes on income and revenue	0	0	57,699.51	57,699.51
Total in euros	97,129,993.21	4,965,933.44	3,315,070.61	105,410,997.26
as a % of the total expenditure	92.2	4.7	3.1	100
Previous year's total in euros	107,048,665.81	4,516,989.04	2,379,305.84	113,944,960.69

Explanatory notes on income and its sources

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

In the 2023 fiscal year, we switched finance and accounting systems to SAP S/4 HANA. As part of this change, the annual accounting was amended in line with the current applicable concept from the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) for advertising and administrative tasks. The previous year was adapted accordingly for reasons of comparability. Graphics were also adapted appropriately in comparison to the annual report from 2022.

Total income

Total income in the 2023 reporting year was 95.1 million euros, which was a significant decrease in comparison to the previous year (134.8 million euros). As the war in Ukraine has been less of a focus in the media compared to 2022, the volume of donations has fallen by around 39.7 million euros. We continued to receive donations for Ukraine in 2023, but to a much lower extent. The two earthquakes in northern Syria and south-eastern Türkiye at the start of the year, the first with a magnitude of 7.7 and the second shortly afterwards at 7.0, led to significant earmarked donations for these regions. In autumn 2023, the armed conflict in Israel and Gaza drew considerable media attention. This was the second major event in 2023 for which somewhat lower donation income was generated despite the humanitarian emergency. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe managed to respond to both events very rapidly, and deployed the donations for appropriate humanitarian purposes in the regions.

Income from public third-party donors increased in 2023 compared to the previous year. Payments from the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the

European Union (EU – The European Commission’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Development) increased significantly to 31.7 million euros compared to 2022 (27 million euros).

In comparison to the previous year (0.3 million euros), the financial result for 2023 was significantly higher at 1.9 million euros. This development was primarily the result of lower losses on disposal and write-downs in securities, which fell by 1.3 million euros to 0.5 million euros.

Donations

Donations in 2023 fell significantly in comparison to 2022. In total, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received approximately 49.3 million euros in donations in 2023, while the number in the previous year was 97.5 million euros due to the escalation of the war in Ukraine. This development is standard for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, especially following major events with a significant media presence. Earmarked donations make up a high proportion of the overall donation income in years with major events. The donation income in years with less media attention or lower-level disasters is commensurately lower. Most of the earmarked donations received by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2023 were for the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye (22.2 million euros), for supporting refugees from Ukraine (4.6 million euros), and for refugees and combating hunger in Africa (1.2 million euros). This was supplemented with major project-specific donations amounting to 2.0 million euros.

Brot für die Welt emergency fund

To enable us to take immediate action with forgotten disasters and rebuilding projects, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe receives donations from its sister organisation, Brot für die Welt. An amount of 3.27 million euros was made available, which is nearly 10% more than in the previous year. Forgotten disasters include events in countries that get little media attention and for which earmarked donations are only available to a lesser extent.

The aid from the Brot für die Welt emergency fund enables Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to put projects into action in such circumstances.

Public funding and third-party contributions

The German Federal Government and the European Union approved funds amounting to 15.2 million euros for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2023 – an increase of 1.0 million euros compared to the previous year (14.2 million euros). The only decline was in approvals from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). However, this decrease must be viewed against the backdrop of several high approval amounts in previous years, including the approval of major, multi-year projects. With regard to funding in the 2023 reporting period, the very significant increase in EU approvals in 2023 compared to the previous year is worthy of attention. An increase of 2.0 million euros to 7.4 million euros is to be noted here. Funding from the AA also increased significantly to 16.4 million euros (from 12.7 million euros in the previous year). A summary of the most significant funding streams given by the AA and BMZ to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2023:

- 5.2 million euros for Africa, particularly South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia (AA)
- 3.4 million euros for Ukraine (AA)
- 1.22 million euros for Lebanon (BMZ)
- 1.05 million euros for Columbia (BMZ)

From the EU, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received 3.2 million euros for the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye and 4.2 million euros for Columbia.

Other third party contributions

From the worldwide church-based network for humanitarian assistance and development ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received funds amounting to nearly 65,800 euros for a project in

Annual accounts

Annual accounts for 2023

	2023		2022	
	in euros	in %	in euros	in %
Source of funds				
Donations	49,308,987.44	51.9	97,452,490.31	72.3
Fines	19,911.00	0.0	54,545.00	0.0
Charitable bequests	264,796.97	0.3	905,055.73	0.7
Brot für die Welt Emergency Fund	3,274,000.00	3.4	3,000,000.00	2.2
Financial results	1,940,680.41	2.0	255,256.68	0.2
of which financial income	2,548,829.80		2,358,612.35	
of which financial expenditure	608,149.39		2,103,355.67	
Public funding				
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	7,771,292.14	34.2	12,168,621.31	20.0
German Federal Foreign Office (AA)	16,475,956.05		12,752,054.72	
Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (EU)	7,469,700.00		2,046,091.29	
Other	801,209.70		0.00	
Third-party contributions				
Brot für die Welt project cooperation	6,307,227.50	6.6	5,649,795.26	4.2
Brot für die Welt project cooperation	2,953,132.34		1,855,017.83	
ACT Alliance	65,825.98		145,225.50	
Diakonie Austria	745,000.00		540,000.00	
Other third-party contributions	2,543,269.18		3,109,551.93	
Other income				
Other income	1,486,820.52	1.6	471,233.26	0.3
Total for source of funds				
	95,120,581.73	100.0	134,755,143.56	100.0
Use of funds				
Programme work	97,129,993.21	92.2	107,048,665.81	93.9
Project expenditure	92,556,248.11		103,674,822.63	
Material expenditure	0.00		1,419.52	
Human resources expenditure	3,207,510.25		2,750,405.27	
Depreciation	155,339.34		76,387.90	
Other operational expenditure	1,210,895.51		545,630.49	
Advertising and public relations work				
Advertising and public relations work	4,965,933.44	4.7	4,516,989.04	4.0
Material expenditure	6,616.68		-7,958.44	
Human resources expenditure	799,838.42		414,345.49	
Depreciation	38,274.89		14,929.89	
Other operational expenditure	4,121,203.45		4,095,672.10	
Administration				
Administration	3,315,070.61	3.1	2,379,305.84	2.1
Material expenditure	0.00		568.38	
Human resources expenditure	1,683,761.18		1,172,770.16	
Depreciation	81,878.26		183,485.77	
Other operational expenditure including taxes	1,549,431.17		1,022,481.53	
of which taxes in the amount of 57,699.51 (prev. year: 44,840.62)				
Total for use of funds				
	105,410,997.26	100.0	113,944,960.69	100.0

Mozambique. Our sister organisation Brot für die Welt made 2.9 million euros (previous year: 1.8 million euros) available to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

The funds were primarily used for projects in Türkiye.

At over 0.7 million euros, slightly more funds were transferred from our Austrian partner Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Österreich than in 2022 (0.5 million euros). The largest proportion, amounting to 405,000 euros, was for a project related to the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye; the remaining funds were used for projects in Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan and Greece.

Our alliance partner Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. from Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (Development Helps Alliance/ BEH) provided Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe with around 670,000 euros for a project in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The numerous donations from the German regional churches and diaconal agencies were particularly valuable, amounting to 256,600 euros for the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye and projects in Ukraine. Depending on the earmarking, the grants from the various German regional churches and diaconal agencies may be merged and implemented in one collective project. Alternatively, existing projects may also receive additional funding based on these grants, to enable additional humanitarian assistance. From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany (Nordkirche), Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe received donations amounting to 100,000 euros for projects in Türkiye, Syria, Somalia and for the Middle East conflict.

Other income

Other income increased by 1.0 million euros to 1.5 million euros in 2023. As part of the merger of Evangelisches Entwicklungsdienst (EED) and Diakonischer Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (DW.EKD) with Brot für die Welt to form Evangelischen Werk für Diakonie und

Entwicklung (EWDE) in 2012, participation in the German Federal supplementary pension fund was cancelled. This resulted in additional entitlements that had an increasing effect on the other operational revenues in the report year.

Explanatory notes on expenditure and its use

Total expenditure

The total expenditure of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in the report year was approximately 105 million euros, which was a decline in comparison to 2022 (114 million euros).

Project payments declined overall but continue to be at a high level.

Programme work

In addition to project expenditure, the expenditure on programme work also includes human resources and material expenditure arising for the monitoring and reviewing of projects. The expenditure on programme work remains relatively constant at 97.1 million euros.

Advertising and public relations work

This expenditure helps to draw public attention to issues of humanitarian assistance. It includes public relations, educational and lobbying work, mailing, online marketing and telephone fundraising.

The expenditure for advertising and public relations work in 2023 increased by 0.4 million euros in comparison to the previous year, to roughly 5 million euros.

Administration

Compared to the previous year, administrative costs increased from 2.4 million euros to 3.3 million euros. This increase was due in particular to the human resources costs for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, which were significantly higher overall, and other operational expenditure in 2023. Due to the increase in the number of positions at Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to take into account the growing demands in the project work, there is also a higher proportional weighting for positions. The stipulations for the project work have increased continuously in recent

years. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is staying abreast of these developments with an organisational process, and strengthening the organisation in Germany. It will also increase the proportion of jobs to meet the needs with regard to human resources and the professionalisation of humanitarian assistance in general.

As a percentage, the proportion of expenditure for advertising, public relations and administration to total expenditure in 2023 increased slightly in comparison to the previous year, from 6.1 percent to 7.8 percent. According to the criteria of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI), the advertising and administrative expenditure is rated as "low", as was the case in previous years. This rating serves as an indicator of the economical and frugal use of funds. In turn, this means Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe achieves the best possible rating assigned by the DZI.

Auditor's report

The auditor's report, the annual financial statements for the legal entities EWDE and EZE and the audit certificate for the annual financial statement will be published on our website at www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/material/jahresabschlussse following the completion of the audit.

Breakdown of available funds according to legal entity

	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe donation organisation (incl. EZE)	Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. (EWDE)*	Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e. V. (EZE)*
Total available funds on 31/12/2023	148,022,285.14	139,209,736.46	8,812,548.68
Approved project funds	95,418,733.44	86,606,184.76	8,812,548.68
Free reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Free project fund reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Available for future approval	52,603,551.70	52,603,551.70	0.00
Total available funds on 31/12/2022	164,624,139.61	154,509,468.63	10,114,670.98
Approved project funds	88,291,049.06	78,176,378.08	10,114,670.98
Free reserves	4,420,483.68	4,420,483.68	0.00
Free project fund reserves	3,612,853.30	3,612,853.30	0.00
Available for future approval	68,299,753.57	68,299,753.57	0.00

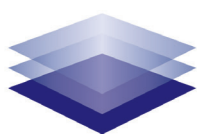
*The table shows only figures related to the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe donation organisation from the overall financial statements of the applicable legal entities.

Breakdown of receivables from project funds in euros

Funding source:	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
State funding	22,218,813.68	27,919,200.65
Church funding	660,206.90	1,181,218.29
Other funding sources	4,338,185.42	4,428,226.00
	27,217,206.00	33,528,644.94

Creating trust through transparency

Transparency lets us show our donors what we do in our work and helps reinforce our trustworthiness. That is why Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a voluntary signatory of the "Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft" (transparent civil society initiative).



**Initiative
Transparente
Zivilgesellschaft
(Transparent Civil
Society Initiative)**

The initiative has laid out ten points of information that every civic organisation should make available to the public. For instance, it should publish the sources and use of financial funds, the name and functions of the main decision-makers and the company shareholdings. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has voluntarily signed this commitment.

For more information and to see all the relevant points, see www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/about-us

Globally active

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is the humanitarian assistance agency of the Protestant churches in Germany. Since 1954, whether in response to wars and conflicts, flight and displacement, droughts, earthquakes, storms, floods or epidemics, we have been providing humanitarian assistance where it is needed most.

We help: people who have become victims of natural disasters, crises and displacement and are unable to deal with their predicament without assistance. We also provide support in response to the “forgotten crises” that receive little media or public attention. We focus primarily on the people who are weakest and most vulnerable: refugees, children, women, the elderly, the sick and people with disabilities. Our assistance is unconditional.

We provide food, clean drinking water, blankets, tents, clothing, building materials, medicine and cash assistance to people in crisis situations. Where possible, we procure relief items locally – saving time and transport costs and boosting the local economy.

Our partners: We work together with the people in need and local partner organisations – on equal terms, not from a position of superiority. Our partners are experienced organisations, firmly rooted in their communities. They know the language and culture and understand the economic, political and social contexts. This means that we are already there on the ground when help is needed.

We implement some projects in cooperation with state-based institutions, churches, networks and alliances. We are a member of the worldwide church aid network ACT Alliance, which enables us to provide support in countries where we do not have partner organisations or our own offices.

Our principles: Respecting human dignity is our overriding principle. Our support, targeted exclusively to meet the needs of the people affected, is rooted in the Christian commandment to love one’s neighbour as oneself. In conflict regions, we maintain strict neutrality. We adhere to the international principles of humanitarian assistance.

Our pledge: We provide help irrespective of religion, skin colour or nationality – quickly, reliably, effectively and transparently. We remain as long as our presence is required. We support those affected with everything from emergency relief and reconstruction to disaster risk reduction.

Together with Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is part of the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development (Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V.).

This cooperation ensures the transition from helping those in acute need to long-term development: Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provides emergency relief, while Brot für die Welt provides sustainable support.

Our core guiding principles are set out 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 precedence.
2. Humanitarian assistance is provided irrespective of the skin colour, religious affiliation or nationality of the recipient and with no exclusion whatsoever.
3. Humanitarian assistance 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.



There on the ground with our experienced partner organisations, wherever help is required.

Networks, alliances and public donors

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is part of a broad network of national and international partners. Within networks and alliances and in cooperation with institutions, we co-ordinate our work, give a voice to people in need and campaign for humanitarian issues at political and church level. We also receive public funding, for example from the German Government and European Union.

Networks and alliances

Member of **actalliance**

The worldwide church-based network for humanitarian assistance and development ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), with 150 members, is one of the world's largest church-based networks for humanitarian assistance and development. Many of our partner organisations are also ACT members. Our director, Martin Kessler, is a member of the administrative board. ACT has access to around 30,000 staff and volunteers in over 127 countries. Its aim is to improve the co-ordination of the churches' global humanitarian assistance and, through shared quality standards, make it even more effective.



In the **Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe** (Action Alliance for Disaster Aid), Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has joined forces with Caritas international Germany, the German Red Cross and Unicef Germany. In the event of major disasters, they make joint appeals for donations on the German television channel ZDF. Donations raised are distributed equally among the organisations. In 2023, the alliance passed on 10,412,132.03 euros in donations to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

In Germany, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe works closely with **Caritas international**, the Catholic Church's agency for emergency

and disaster relief, commissioned by the German Bishops Conference. It supports social projects for children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

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

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is actively involved in other important alliances and associations, including: **CHA** (Centre for Humanitarian Action), **Charter4Change**, **Difäm** (German Institute for Medical Mission), **VOICE** (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies), **VENRO** (Association of German Development NGOs).



Public funding

The **German Federal Foreign Office (AA)** subsidises and coordinates the humanitarian interventions of German aid organisations. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a member of the Humanitarian Aid Coordinating Committee and can apply for subsidies for emergency relief projects in response to natural

disasters, in conflict areas or for disaster risk reduction. For Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, the ministry is one of the most important providers of public funding.



The **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** allocates earmarked project funding upon application. With respect to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, the BMZ primarily promotes measures from its budgets for transitional assistance, infrastructure and crisis management and for church-based initiatives.



We also apply for funding for humanitarian assistance projects from the **European Union** (The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid). Upon application, the EU provides funding for projects in the areas of emergency and disaster relief and reconstruction. To be eligible to apply for EU funding, the applicant must be certified by the EU Commission. We were awarded this certification in 2021. This recognises the eligibility of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to receive funding and its suitability to implement humanitarian assistance measures in accordance with the EU Commission's Terms of Reference.

Well placed throughout the world

Locations and responsibilities

Around 204 staff are working at our 20 locations throughout the world. Alongside our head office in Berlin, we have three regional offices in Africa and Asia, 15 worldwide project offices and an EU office in Brussels.

In our Berlin head office, we had a total of 44 staff (37 full-time, 7 part-time) in 2023. Staff remuneration was as follows: in remuneration group EG15 – 6,718.70 euros; in EG14 – between 5,938.33 and 7,159.84 euros; in EG13 – between 4,881.55 and 6,282.72 euros; in EG11 – between 4,200.48 and 5,414.66 euros; in EG10 – between 3,724.51 and 5,284.21 euros; in EG9B – between 3,573.79 and 4,145.18 euros; in EG9A – between 3,319.50 and 3,319.50 euros. These are gross monthly salaries, excluding employer's statutory contributions and pension payments. The Director's income is not published on data protection grounds.

As of 31/12/2023, our 18 overseas offices employed a total of 160 local staff and one seconded employee.

A staff member in Brussels represents our concerns at EU level and supports our efforts to secure EU funding. In 2023, 16 temporary consultants were also working overseas on our behalf.

The work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is coordinated by a President, a Director and the three department heads for Finance and Procedures, Programmes and Communication and Fundraising. The Finance and Procedures department manages the finances and is also responsible for budgetary control, tax matters, third-party funding audits, controlling and reporting.

The Programmes department, through our three regional offices in Africa and Asia, the 15 project offices throughout the world and our Berlin-based specialist consulting and technical unit, oversees projects from application to evaluation, submits applications for third-party funding and supports local partners with planning and implementation. In addition, the staff support the local strategic work and partner structures, know the local language and culture and are familiar with the economic, political and social contexts in the countries within the regions. The Communications and Fundraising department has responsibility for the statutory public relations and advertising work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. This also encompasses fundraising, for example, online and telephone marketing as well as donor mailing campaigns.

You can find further information about department activities and an overview of our service providers at:

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

Quality assurance

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

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

Executive board and committees

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

Executive board

Evangelische Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. and its three brands Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Diakonie Deutschland are led by a full-time executive board. Its members are appointed for a six-year term by the Supervisory Board. The current members are Rev. Dr Dagmar Pruin (Chairperson; President of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt), Rev. Rüdiger Schuch (Deputy Chairperson; President of Diakonie Deutschland), Maria Loheide (Social Policy) and Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt (Finances, Human Resources and Law). Evangelische Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. has committed itself to a Corporate Governance Code, which includes the disclosure of the total annual remuneration of the Executive Board members of all three brands. In 2023, Rev. Dr. Dagmar Pruin received 141,349.66 euros

(plus 105,166.85 euros in Verka insurance and pension contributions); Rev. Ulrich Lilie received 181,777.35 euros (plus 84,477.84 euros in pension contributions). Ulrich Lilie was President of Diakonie Deutschland up to 31 December 2023); Maria Loheide received 132,940.31 euros (plus 8,997.77 euros in EZVK insurance contributions); Dr. Jörg Kruttschnitt received 141,976.16 euros (plus 9,891.56 euros in EZVK insurance and occupational pension contributions).

Committees

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

The **Diakonie and Development Conference** is the supreme decision-making body of the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development. Its 112 members make decisions on fundamental policy issues. They approve the budget and annual financial statement and discharge the Supervisory Board and Executive Board. Its Chairperson is Dr. Johanna Will-Armstrong, Executive Board member of the v. Bodelschwingh Institutions Bethel.

The 22 members of the **Supervisory Board** oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Diakonie and Development Conference, appoint the Executive Board and oversee their work. Its Chairperson is Bishop Dr Beate Hofmann, Evangelical Church of Hesse-Waldeck (Evangelische Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck).

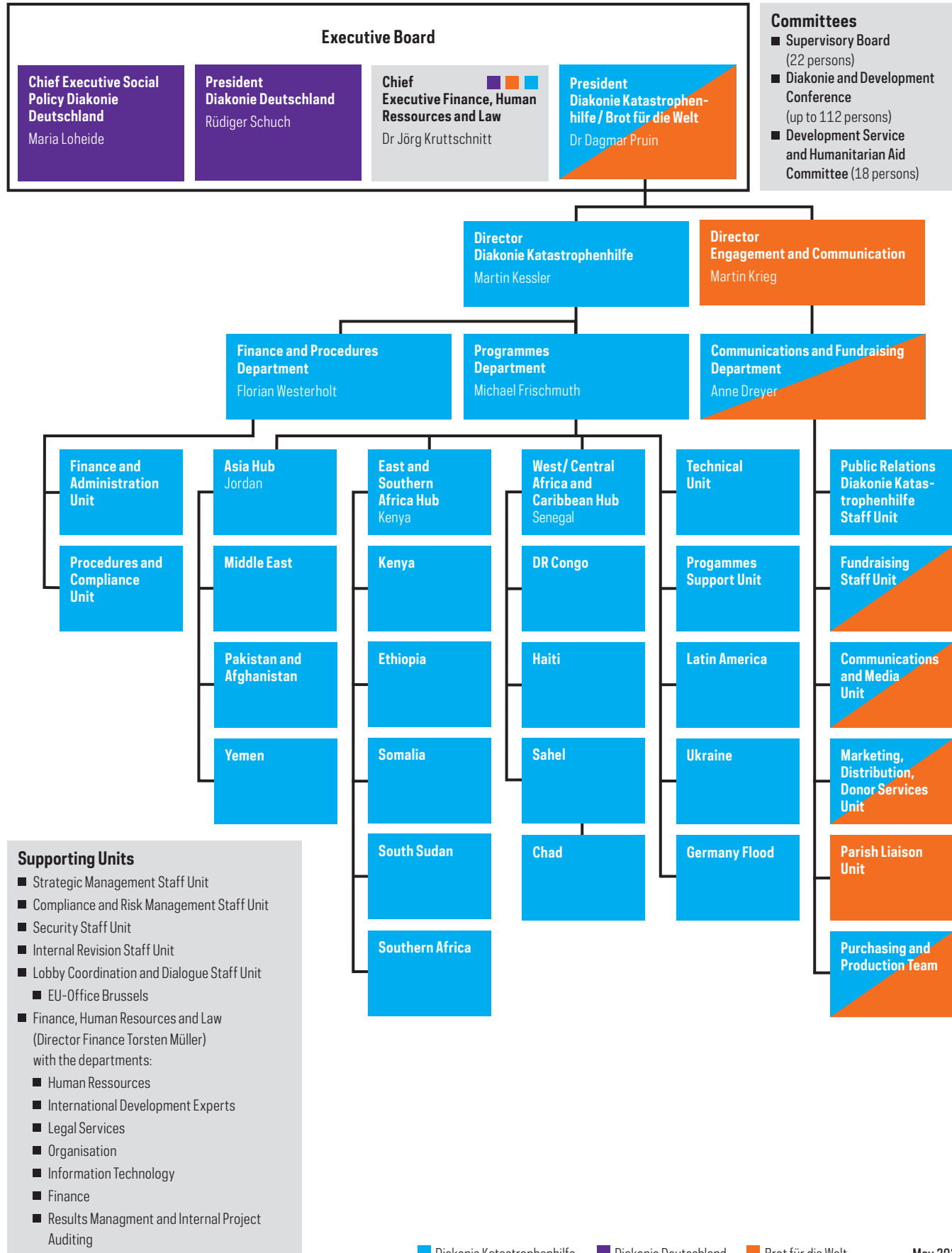
The 18 members of the **Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee** (Ausschuss Entwicklungsdienst und humanitäre Hilfe) advise the management of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt on issues concerning development and funding policy, humanitarian assistance, communications, fundraising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



Our President Rev. Dr Dagmar Pruin and Director Martin Kessler in discussion with refugees from Ukraine on a project visit.

Organigramm

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe at Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V.



What are our plans?

Outlook: issues and challenges



More than a year ago, Russian troops launched their invasion of Ukraine. No one knows how long the war will last.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe immediately launched emergency relief measures in February 2022, not only to support the people in Ukraine but also in neighbouring countries and in Germany itself. Around 14 million people were forced to abandon their homes, many of whom had to flee to another country.

Our support efforts continue. Thanks to the huge amount of private donations, we are in a position to implement one of the biggest relief programmes in the history of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. Since the situation on the ground is so unclear and unpredictable, we have to continually adapt our relief measures to local requirements. When and where can reconstruction begin? How long will acute emergency relief measures be required? These questions and many more continue to occupy us.

The impacts of the war are complex and no one yet knows their global dimension. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine war, the dramatic worldwide rise in inflation is having a major impact on the work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. A number of planned projects had to be adjusted, their budgets increased or, at worst, cut back. The situation is exacerbated by the continuing lack of financial resources to support the people affected. Inflation is having a severe impact on most of our project regions, and the very people who are already living in extreme poverty can barely cope, if at all, with price increases.

These global developments have led to a further increase in hunger and the number of people starving throughout the world. Like Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, other humanitarian assistance organisations have also initiated a range of programmes to combat hunger. Yet, these programmes lack sufficient funding. In 2022, the “funding gap” was 43 percent. In other words, according to the United Nations, 43 per cent of global needs with respect to hunger were insufficiently financed. In numerical terms, this amounts to around 20 billion euros. It is highly likely that this gap will widen in 2023.

As food and energy costs increase significantly, the impacts of inflation are also being clearly felt by people in Germany. And it is understandable that, for many people, making a donation has become increasingly difficult.

Nevertheless, the generosity of German donors has been exceptional in recent years, not only for the people

affected by the Ukraine war but for the victims and survivors of the floods in Germany in 2021 or the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye in 2023. We are extremely grateful for such enthusiastic generosity!

However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to finance “minor” disasters or those receiving little media attention and are, thus, less widely known. One example was the flooding in Pakistan in 2022, a disaster of historic proportions. Unfortunately, our emergency relief project received insufficient funding. Yet, given the relentless advance of climate change, we have to recognise that such disasters will occur with increasing frequency.

For many years now, we at Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe have been investing in local capacities, thereby empowering our partner organisations in the different countries and regions. In the event of a disaster, support can be provided quickly and sourced locally. This reduces costs and disaster vulnerability while increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. Our long-term focus is to continue supporting our local partners, with the explicit goal of integrating them into the global humanitarian system.

In future, this will enable them to apply for funding from emergency relief funds directly themselves and to participate in the organisation of emergency relief. Because our local partners know best what they need.

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

Martin Kessler
Director
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

A snapshot that moved us

Flight from Ukraine



Shortly after Russia's large-scale invasion, the photographer Frank Schultze spent some time with refugees at the Polish/ Ukrainian border for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, where he took this powerful photograph of a tired young boy. The photo was the winner of the renowned PR-Bild Award from news aktuell in 2023. You can read more about how it came about and on journalistic photography in general in the interview with Frank Schultze on our website (available in German only): www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/interview-pr-award

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German Central
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Trust Mark

Since 1993, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been awarded the seal of approval from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) for its prudent use of donations. In doing so, this independent institute certifies the responsible use of funds in line with statutory requirements and compliance with the strict DZI guidelines. The seal has to be re-applied for each year.



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