



**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**

COUNTRY PROFILES

2023





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Although we have offices in 59 countries, we only have projects and programmes implemented in 56 of those. The Country Profiles are for the countries with programmes and therefore do not include Canada, Germany, or the US.

CONTENTS

AFRICA	6	MYANMAR	36
BURKINA FASO	7	NEPAL	37
CAMEROON	8	PAKISTAN	38
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	9	PHILIPPINES	39
CHAD	10	TÜRKIYE	40
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	11	EUROPE	42
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	12	FRANCE	43
ETHIOPIA	13	ITALY	44
KENYA	14	MOLDOVA	45
LIBERIA	15	POLAND AND ROMANIA	46
LIBYA	16	SOUTH CAUCASUS	47
MADAGASCAR	17	SPAIN	48
MALI	18	UKRAINE	49
MAURITANIA	19	UNITED KINGDOM	50
MOZAMBIQUE	20	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN	52
NIGER	21	COLOMBIA	53
NIGERIA	22	GUATEMALA	54
SENEGAL	23	HAITI	55
SIERRA LEONE	24	HONDURAS	56
SOMALIA	25	NICARAGUA	57
SOUTH SUDAN	26	PERU	58
SUDAN	27	VENEZUELA	59
TANZANIA	28	MIDDLE EAST	60
UGANDA	29	IRAQ	61
ZAMBIA	30	JORDAN	62
ZIMBABWE	31	LEBANON	63
ASIA	32	OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	64
AFGHANISTAN	33	SYRIA	65
BANGLADESH	24	YEMEN	66
INDIA	35		

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

OPERATING SINCE 2008

Since 2019, Burkina Faso has suffered the violent fallout of conflict between radical armed groups and state armed forces, resulting in the deaths of more than 10,000 people. As of 31 October 2023, 2.1 million people were internally displaced; 2.3 million people were food insecure; and nearly 400,000 children aged under five years were suffering acute malnutrition.

In response to this situation, Action Against Hunger has stepped up its rapid response mechanism (RRM-FRONTLINE), in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council, Solidarités International, and Humanité & Inclusion. The consortium responded to the urgent needs of displaced and host populations by distributing basic items and food rations, as well as providing water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure.

In addition, Action Against Hunger continued to provide emergency primary

health care through its mobile clinics, support existing health centres and providing psychological support to people affected by the conflict.

In terms of longer-term development programmes, Action Against Hunger continued to implement the PREPARE programme, funded by USAID in collaboration with PATHFINDER, which aims to strengthen the quality of reproductive health services, maternal, neonatal and child health, nutrition and water and sanitation infrastructures in health centres in the Centre-Nord, Sahel, and East regions.

Finally, the YERETALI cross-border programme with Côte d'Ivoire, financed by Agence Française de Développement, continued to support community recovery and resilience in relation to climate-related shocks and population movements.

CAMEROON

OPERATING SINCE 2014

In 2023, Cameroon continued to be affected by multi-faceted crises, with armed violence in the country's far north and in the English-speaking regions, and climatic shocks making 1.5 million people either internally displaced or refugees. In 2023, 4.7 million people needed humanitarian aid and 3.2 million were food insecure.

To help combat malnutrition, Action Against Hunger continued to strengthen the health system, supplying medicines, training health care staff, and making health care free of charge. Where health structures were not operational, Action Against Hunger deployed mobile clinics to provide care and psychosocial support, with a particular focus on supporting pregnant women, and children.

Action Against Hunger also worked to promote food and nutritional security,

as well as the resilience of populations affected by inter-community conflicts – mainly through cash transfers, support to cooperatives to develop value chains; support to farmers to adopt sustainable agro-pastoral practices through farmer field schools; and support for equitable management of natural resources.

At a country level, Action Against Hunger remained actively involved in the National Response Plan on Food Insecurity.

At a local level, as part of the decentralisation process, Action Against Hunger collaborated with three communes in the northern areas of Tokombéré, Koza and Mora to draw up their crisis and disaster response plans and build up emergency stocks.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

OPERATING SINCE 2006

Despite an overall improvement in the security situation, pockets of instability, poverty, climate shocks, inflation, and a lack of functioning basic services left 3.4 million people (56 per cent of the population) in need of humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic in 2023.

Action Against Hunger delivered emergency support to displaced, repatriated and/or crisis-affected populations, mainly by improving access to healthcare and nutrition for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women in Basse-Kotto and Ouham-Pendé. Malnourished children and their caregivers also received psychological support.

As part of its rapid response mechanism, Action Against Hunger also provided basic household kits, water, sanitation and hygiene support, food aid,

and mental health care to affected households in Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadéï. We also worked to strengthen the food security and mental health of populations living in Basse-Kotto and throughout the west of the country.

And in Basse-Kotto, Ouham and Ouham-Pendé, Action Against Hunger also improved access to water and sanitation facilities (including in health centres) and promoted good hygiene practices.

In addition, we continued to implement our longer-term projects, including a collaboration with the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Pédiatrique de Bangui and the University of Bangui to treat severe acutely malnourished children and provide psychosocial support for their caregivers, and train doctors and health workers.

CHAD

OPERATING SINCE 1982

In 2023 Chad experienced several crises, with continued insecurity in the Lake region, inter-community violence, an early and acute dry season in the Sahelian strip, a weak economy and a large influx of Sudanese refugees. Chad now hosts approximately one million refugees, the majority in the east of the country. More than 2.1 million people were food insecure, and 388,000 children aged under five years suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Action Against Hunger acted to strengthen the health system, provided primary and secondary health care, referral, and management of SAM cases with complications, and responded to paediatric and obstetric emergencies. In the health structures supported, we systematically included WASH interventions. At a community level, we provided access to safe water and

sanitation, and promoted hygiene practices. In the north of Kanem, we implemented a large WASH infrastructure project.

We also supported the most vulnerable people through food aid, support for pastoralism, and livelihood and agricultural development assistance – for example, through market gardening and rain-fed agriculture. These programmes helped communities cope with the lean season, while strengthening their resilience to shocks. In the face of climate change, we piloted drip irrigation to improve market garden production and water management.

Finally, in Sila and Ouaddaï, we opened two bases to meet the health, nutrition, mental health, water, hygiene, and sanitation needs of the new Sudanese refugees and host populations.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

OPERATING SINCE 2002

In 2023, northern Côte d'Ivoire – an area already vulnerable to food insecurity and water stress – saw the arrival of tens of thousands of refugees from Burkina Faso. Action Against Hunger launched an emergency operation to meet the pressing needs of vulnerable communities. In the Bounkani region we provided food and non-food assistance to communities, while the YERETALI cross-border programme with Burkina Faso (financed by the Agence Française de Développement) supported community recovery and resilience in response to climate-related shocks and population movements.

In the Tchologo region we continued the ACT Femmes project (funded by Global Affairs Canada), and implemented programmes with two national partners, the Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire and the Amazoons du Web. This project aims to empower women and adolescent girls, with particular emphasis on their health and rights.

The Confluences 2 programme (co-funded by Agence Française de Développement) continued to contribute to the nutritional security of vulnerable populations by developing

preventive actions and proposing appropriate public policies. The Comité Interministériel d'Aide Alimentaire also renewed its support for Action Against Hunger for a nutritional assistance programme and nutrition-sensitive social actions for vulnerable populations, in partnership with the World Food Programme.

The M3EAU project, co-financed by Agence Française de Développement and the Loire-Bretagne Water Agency, worked to improve the governance and transparent management of drinking water in Haut Bandama, while UNICEF supported community nutrition activities and the elimination of open defecation through the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach in the sub-prefectures of Kombolokoura and Dassoungboho.

And in Abidjan, Action Against Hunger supported the PROSSAN 2 programme, which aims to strengthen health services and practices among women, men, and adolescents in Abidjan's most marginalised neighbourhoods, in collaboration with the NGO Mission des jeunes pour l'Education, la Santé, la Solidarité et l'Inclusion.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

OPERATING SINCE 1997

In 2023, 25.4 million people were food insecure in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and over 6.7 million suffered from acute malnutrition, mainly children under the age of five years. The resurgence of conflict in eastern DRC and in Mai Ndombe led to massive population displacements, while the Western Provinces continued to record exceedingly high rates of acute malnutrition.

In DRC, Action Against Hunger continued to respond by improving people's access to basic services and fighting malnutrition through tackling its underlying causes, while integrating gender and protection.

In North Kivu we set up mobile clinics and mentoring activities to provide healthcare and mental and psychosocial health services to people affected by the conflict in Masisi and around Goma. And at sites catering for internally displaced people, we built emergency sanitation facilities and distributed hygiene kits.

In Ituri, in addition to the treatment of severe acute malnutrition and support for the health system, 18,000 households received food assistance and 6,000 households received support for agricultural recovery through the distribution of vegetable seeds.

In Kasai, Kasai Central and Maniema, we contributed to community resilience by treating severe acute malnutrition, strengthening the health system, and carrying out community nutrition activities, including during measles and cholera epidemics.

In Kasai Oriental, we implemented an agricultural recovery project to improve household nutritional security.

Action Against Hunger also opened a base in Kwamouth, in the province of Mai Ndombe, to meet the needs of people affected by recently intensified inter-community conflicts.

ETHIOPIA

OPERATING SINCE 1985

In Ethiopia – Africa's second most populous nation – more than a third of children under the age of five years are stunted, 21 per cent are underweight, and 7 per cent are acutely malnourished. One in four people are food insecure.

In 2023, an estimated 28.6 million people in Ethiopia needed humanitarian assistance. The country faced simultaneous crises: armed conflicts, disease outbreaks, climate disasters including both drought and flooding, and economic shocks marked by high inflation rates. Limited funding and disruptions in food assistance programmes exacerbated already dire needs.

Action Against Hunger is a leading humanitarian organisation in Ethiopia, responding to nutrition emergencies and building multisectoral resilience since 1985. With eight operational bases and 17 sub-bases, the organisation operates in six major regions (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, Somali, Gambela and Benishangul Gumuz) and provides services in 52 districts and five refugee camps.

In 2023, our programmes directly reached 714,774 million people through integrated, multisectoral lifesaving and resilience interventions.

Our nutrition teams treated 25,274 severely malnourished children across 185 health centres and hospitals, in addition to providing supplementary nutrition to 126,113 moderately malnourished children and 109,546 malnourished pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

In Tigray, Action Against Hunger distributed \$7.9 million in emergency cash for food to 246,988 people in conflict- and drought-affected areas, supporting both displaced families and host communities.

Through our advocacy efforts, we achieved a major milestone in advancing the Nutrition-Centric Humanitarian, Development, and Peace – Triple Nexus Approach by leading the development and roll-out of new operational guidelines with the Federal Ministry of Health and collaborating partners.

KENYA

OPERATING SINCE 2006

Kenya faces recurring challenges including droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks, worsening the country's humanitarian crisis, particularly in the arid and semi-arid regions. In late 2023, El Niño caused flooding and displacement, impacting nearly 500,000 people.

An estimated 2.8 million people in Kenya face crisis (or worse) levels of hunger. Stunting and wasting rates are high, and micronutrient deficiencies are particularly prevalent among children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. Poor nutrition is compounded by factors such as inadequate healthcare access, regressive cultural practices, gender disparities, conflicts, poor infrastructure, and limited access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger operated in 14 counties prone to climate-induced disasters and where households were vulnerable to economic and other shocks, providing direct services, delivering vital supplies, and responding to emergencies, particularly floods and droughts.

We supported health centres in order to increase access to primary health care and nutrition services, and trained and

built capacity among community health workers, health staff, and volunteers. Our teams improved access to clean water by providing water treatment and rehabilitating water systems, and promoted healthy hygiene practices through household visits, community forums, and in health facilities.

To reduce food insecurity, we promoted livestock and climate-smart farming initiatives, resulting in increased adoption of innovative technologies, diversified food production, and improved harvests and access to food. We prioritised gender interventions and integrated gender equality and protection across all projects. Our teams also conducted research to better anticipate and predict acute malnutrition.

We also significantly advanced our partnership efforts to synergise programming and mobilise resources. To deepen collaborations with governments, we signed Memorandums of Understanding with Mandera, West Pokot, and Isiolo Counties to facilitate joint efforts, establish communication channels for information exchange, and enable technical, financial, and institutional collaboration to end hunger.

LIBERIA

OPERATING SINCE 1990

Despite recent progress, Liberia's socio-economic situation remains fragile. Several years of economic recession followed the Ebola and Covid-19 epidemics, putting Liberia's public services to the test, and in 2023, Liberia ranked 177th out of 189 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index.

This year Action Against Hunger – alongside consortium partners Concern Worldwide and WaterAid – led the Liberia WASH Consortium and implemented the fourth year of a multi-sectoral programme funded by Irish Aid. The project tackles undernutrition and chronic malnutrition in Montserrado (Rural) and Grand Bassa counties by improving livelihoods and access to safe, varied, and nutritious food, and ensuring sustainable access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. It also continued to build the capacity of community health workers to deliver quality basic services and implement strategies to prevent stunting.

Also, Action Against Hunger continued the PROSSAN 2 programme,

strengthening health services and practices among women, men, and adolescents in Montserrado's marginalised neighbourhoods.

As Liberia is chronically vulnerable to flooding, Action Against Hunger – with funding from the Start Network – helped support the National Disaster Management Agency to strengthen the flood early warning system and provide more accurate rainfall forecasts and timely alerts to communities to help them prepare for and anticipate potential damage.

We also prepared the start of our new “Better Health Outcomes for Liberians” health project funded by the Agence Française de Développement. This involved launching a series of preparatory studies in Montserrado, Margibi and Nimba counties, including environmental impact and medical waste management, gender and protection, and mental health analysis.

LIBYA

OPERATING SINCE 2020

Since the signing of the UN-brokered ceasefire between the Government of National Accord and the Libyan National Army in October 2020, Libya has made considerable progress towards stability. However, sporadic clashes between armed groups persist, and despite the slow return of displaced people, their needs are great because of damage to their homes and a lack of access to public services. Meanwhile, global price rises for basic commodities have affected the most vulnerable households and raised concerns about the country's food security.

This situation has been further compounded by natural disasters, and with protracted conflicts depleting resources, Libya faces a lack of capacity for effective disaster response nationally and locally.

Action Against Hunger has ongoing and integrated operations targeting internally displaced populations, returnees and host communities in Tripoli, Sabha and Ubari. These are providing health, mental health and psycho-social support, and WASH.

This year we supported seven health centres by training medical teams, supplying medicines and equipment, and rehabilitating hygiene and sanitation infrastructures, waste management and installing solar panels. We also supported local authorities to set a range of reproductive health services and oversaw the implementation of these services through training and mentoring health staff. Action Against Hunger also supported the creation of care pathways to specialist services, particularly for women victims of gender-based violence.

In addition, in the south of the country, Action Against Hunger has supported local farmers, especially women, to adopt nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart, and agro-ecological farming practices tailored to their changing environment through capacity-building and direct in-kind support. Finally, we deployed an emergency response to address the basic needs of populations affected by floods through the distribution of emergency and hygiene kits, as well as conducting psychosocial support sessions.

MADAGASCAR

OPERATING SINCE 2011

South-east Madagascar was severely hit by cyclones Batsirai and Emnati in February 2022, and by cyclone Freddy in March 2023. And although the 2023 agricultural season brought a slight improvement in the situation, the country faced a new drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon. More than 450,000 children under five were expected to be at risk of acute malnutrition in the Grand Sud and Sud-Est regions by 2024.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger and its partners implemented an emergency strategy in south and south-east Madagascar, including setting up mobile health teams to treat cases of acute malnutrition and childhood illness, providing psychosocial support (including for cases of gender-based violence), and support for the Intensive Nutritional Recovery Centre in district hospitals.

We also provided emergency food assistance for vulnerable communities via cash transfers (benefiting over 100,000 people), supported agricultural recovery for the next agricultural season and provided drinking water by tanker trucks and through the rehabilitation of existing infrastructures.

Action Against Hunger continued to support the CONFLUENCES 2 project, co-financed by the Agence Française de Développement, by strengthening the health system in the Grand Sud. In collaboration with health authorities and local partners, it successfully contributed to the adoption by the Ministry of Public Health of Action Against Hunger's methodology - the Health System Strengthening approach - at national level.

MALI

OPERATING SINCE 1996

In 2023 Action Against Hunger implemented 16 projects in Kayes, Gao, Ménaka, Timbuktu, Ségou and Sikasso to improve the food and nutritional security and hygiene practices of women and children under five.

We also worked to improve data on humanitarian access constraints; equitable access to sexual reproductive, maternal, neonatal, infant, and adolescent health services through mobile teams; and advanced strategies and support for health structures.

Neonatal, Infant and Adolescent Health (SSRMNIA) was provided through mobile teams, and we developed advanced strategies and support for health structures, strengthening the resilience of communities in the face of shocks through GSAN strategies, mother and father schools and TJ (Teriya Jèkulu approach).

We also strengthened the management and treatment of malnutrition through

the Wash in Nut approach, improving water supply systems, rehabilitating, and building water points in communities, and promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices.

We supported livelihoods through economic recovery initiatives and temporary job creation via labour-based work carried out using Cash-for-Work; supported agricultural work through market gardening, rain-fed crops, livestock and animal health programmes and fish farming. This helped contribute to the empowerment of women in terms of decision-making, access to resources, workload reduction and capacity-building.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger Mali also provided food assistance to 121,271 internally displaced households in the regions of Gao, Ménaka, Kayes, Koutiala, Sikasso, San and Ségou.

MAURITANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2007

Mauritania faced significant challenges in 2023, with malnutrition reaching critical levels and more than eight per cent of the population experiencing food insecurity. Sanitation remained a nationwide concern, exacerbating health and nutrition challenges. Humanitarian needs in the southern and easternmost regions grew steadily due to environmental, health, human and security-related crises. And in the last months of 2023, more than 50,000 refugees from Mali arrived in the Hodh ech Chargui region, facing dire humanitarian needs and straining local access to essential services and resources.

Action Against Hunger was the first organisation to roll out an emergency response, providing life-saving assistance to the refugees despite operational challenges. This ECHO-funded project responded effectively to the unfolding humanitarian crisis by supporting 12,000 people, focusing on access to water, hygiene, shelter, food, and essential

items to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable communities.

Action Against Hunger also implemented development projects alongside its emergency response. These interventions included nationwide malnutrition management programmes for over 4,900 malnourished children under five and strengthening the capacities of local structures to foster resilience, offer support for livelihoods, and enhance local capacity to respond. To alleviate the effects of multiple crises, the focus was on improving access to basic needs through food assistance, capacity-building for healthcare systems, and the construction or restoration of WASH infrastructure.

Action Against Hunger also continued to work as part of the European Union-funded Karama project to improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations.

MOZAMBIQUE

OPERATING SINCE 2021

Despite its rich natural resources, Mozambique ranks 83rd out of 191 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index. The country is also vulnerable to climatic shocks (cyclones, floods, and drought), severely affecting the rural population that depends mainly on agriculture and fishing. Since 2017, the north of the country, and more specifically the province of Cabo Delgado, has faced attacks by insurgent groups. These attacks displaced almost 950,000 people at the height of the crisis and damaged villages and public services.

In November 2023, in Cabo Delgado, around 850,000 people needed emergency food assistance and 53,000 children under the age of five were predicted to suffer from acute malnutrition by March 2024.

Since the reopening of its permanent national office in Mozambique in 2021, Action Against Hunger has focused on the north of the country and has

intensified its emergency interventions. The emergency strategy focuses on many activities, including a rapid response mechanism to raise alerts about mass movements of people (and respond to their initial urgent needs, including distribution of basic necessities and food rations); food assistance in-kind or as cash transfers (which reached over 16,000 people); revitalising agriculture and fishing and diversifying livelihoods; rehabilitating destroyed drinking water and sanitation infrastructures; and providing primary healthcare, including psychosocial support for people with no access to healthcare through mobile health brigades.

In 2023, in collaboration with Handicap & Inclusion (HI) and with the support of The Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, we scaled up access to health and nutrition services in emergency responses by implementing mobile brigades and by strengthening health system capacities in Macomia district.

NIGER

OPERATING SINCE 1997

Niger continues to face an acute and complex humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by insecurity. Food insecurity, epidemics and floods continue to weigh heavily on the population. Almost 2.3 million people needed immediate assistance in 2023, with more than 3.2 million people vulnerable during the lean season in June, July, and August. This situation highlights the scale and complexity of the humanitarian crisis in Niger, requiring an urgent and coordinated response from humanitarian actors and national and international authorities.

The results of a nutritional survey in 2022 revealed that acute malnutrition stood at 12.2 per cent with 2.4 per cent of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition – prevalence that places the country above the WHO alert rate for malnutrition and that constitutes a permanent risk to children's survival as well as their physical and cognitive development.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger in Niger provided food assistance to over 50,000 people; this included children under the

age of five years receiving nutritional supplements in the form of enriched flour; and survivors of disasters receiving assistance in the form of food kits. A further 90,000 people received kits with washing, sanitation, and hygiene products, and other non-food essential items.

In Niger, Action Against Hunger concentrated efforts on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Maradi, Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery, where conflict or environmental challenges were greatest.

Overall, the projects implemented in 2023 by Action Against Hunger in Niger reached over 500,000 people. In addition, we ran a six-month digital campaign on nutrition; produced advocacy notes to alert people to the shrinking of humanitarian space; organised a press conference on the hunger gap; produced a study on people's access to basic social services; and produced information bulletins on our interventions and press articles on our work.

NIGERIA

OPERATING SINCE 2010

With over 3 million people internally displaced due to insecurity and banditry, climate shocks and inflation, nutritional insecurity worsened in Nigeria in 2023, leaving 4.41 million children acutely malnourished in northeast and northwest Nigeria. In the northeast, 8.3 million people were in need of humanitarian aid.

Action Against Hunger continued its nutrition and health interventions in 2023, running screening, treatment, and health education activities for severely malnourished children, and ensuring quality healthcare, mental health, and psychosocial support services in health facilities in Borno, Yobe and Sokoto States.

Action Against Hunger provided food aid to displaced people and host communities and strengthened their livelihoods. In

Jigawa and Kano, we provided technical support to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the state government's social protection policy and programme.

We also rehabilitated and constructed new water and sanitation infrastructures, promoted effective hygiene practices in the three states, and continued our advocacy. And as part of the rapid response mechanism for population displacement, we provided WASH services and cash transfers to populations displaced by violence and flooding in all our intervention areas.

SENEGAL

OPERATING SINCE 2012

Senegal's Sahel region suffers frequent droughts and increasingly scarce rainfall, as well as a growing number of crises (fires, floods, etc) that affect food and nutritional security. Recent data from the 2023 Demographic and Health Survey show that 18 per cent of children under the age of five are stunted or chronically malnourished, while 4 per cent are severely stunted. At the same time, wasting affects 10 per cent of children, one per cent of them severely. As a result there was a deterioration in food security during the period from October to December 2023.

In this context, Action Against Hunger's interventions in 2023 targeted the departments of Matam, Podor and Louga to tackle the consequences of malnutrition and address its root causes, including limited access to basic services and food insecurity. These initiatives are part of a multi-sectoral approach involving nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and income generation and building the resilience of communities to cope with these shocks,

particularly women and young people. In 2023, Action Against Hunger's work in northern Senegal included the Integrated Food and Nutritional Resilience Support Project to strengthen market-garden production at village level using a nutrition-sensitive approach and agro-ecological techniques.

Action Against Hunger continued its pastoral surveillance project in the Ferlo area, and a GIZ-funded project to improve employability and entrepreneurship in the dairy, fish farming and beekeeping value chains for women and young people from rural households in the Podor department.

Action Against Hunger's 2023 projects in Senegal helped reduce the food vulnerability of over 11,000 people in the Sahel region of Senegal. It also produced evidence of the fight against hunger, which was presented as scientific results in four international forums and in articles submitted for publication.

SIERRA LEONE

OPERATING SINCE 1991

In November 2023, an estimated 1.5 million Sierra Leoneans were living in or facing situations of food crisis. The country's health situation is alarming, with Sierra Leone ranking fifth in the world for under-five mortality. The economic context has been particularly weakened by the global economic situation, and by October 2023, inflation had reached 54.59 per cent – one of the highest levels in the world. Sierra Leone also faces the consequences of climate change, leading to the disappearance of fishery resources, and changes in rainfall patterns that affect farming activities and community resilience.

In 2023 Action Against Hunger implemented several projects linked to climate change to help small farmers

adapt through sustainable land management – in particular through agro-ecology training and awareness-raising, access to better meteorological information, and mangrove restoration.

We continued our Irish Aid-funded multi-sectoral project in collaboration with the NGO “Movement Towards Peace and Development Agency-Sierra Leone” to improve the nutritional status of communities in the Bonthe district.

We continued to implement the PROSSAN 2 project in Freetown, Bonthe, and the rural western district, improving health services and practices, with a focus on the health of young people and adolescents.

SOMALIA

OPERATING SINCE 1992

Conflict and climate shocks continued to affect Somalia throughout 2023, resulting in two major humanitarian consequences: forced displacement and acute food and nutrition crises. Oscillating between climatic extremes, the year started in severe drought and closed with extreme flooding. Triggered by the El Niño weather pattern, deadly floods impacted more than 2.5 million people and displaced over 1.2 million.

Across the country, the global acute malnutrition rate decreased from 15.9 per cent in 2022 to 12.4 per cent in 2023, but pockets of significant hunger and humanitarian needs remained. In Hudur, for example, Action Against Hunger's surveys found that acute malnutrition increased from 23.7 per cent in early 2023 to 26.2 per cent in early 2024.

Action Against Hunger worked in 28 districts across Somalia delivering health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, and food security and livelihoods interventions. In 2023, we directly reached 1.3 million people with lifesaving assistance, including 1.2 million reached through health interventions and

722,000 through nutrition services. Our teams also repaired 51 water points and our water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes benefited 219,000 people. Additionally, we provided food security and livelihoods support to 137,000 people.

In 2023, the World Bank funded our Improving Healthcare Services in Somalia programme, enabling Action Against Hunger and our partners to work with the Ministry of Health to deliver essential health services in South Central Somalia. We are now the second largest Ministry of Health partner in Somalia, directly supporting service delivery in 112 health units, working with 1,133 health staff and 361 community health workers across the country.

Action Against Hunger also led the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia consortium, a five-year project that works to ensure that communities in disaster-prone rural Somalia have sufficient social, financial, and environmental assets to cope with shocks and stressors and are able to adapt to the effects of climate change.

SOUTH SUDAN

OPERATING SINCE 1985

In South Sudan, an estimated nine million people, including refugees and returnees from Sudan, will experience critical humanitarian needs in 2024. An estimated 7.1 million people will require food assistance, with children at critical risk of malnutrition. An estimated 1.6 million young children are at risk of acute malnutrition.

The conflict in Sudan has resulted in the arrival of vulnerable people who require assistance, driving up market costs and further stretching coping capacities. Women and girls remain at risk of gender-based violence. People across South Sudan suffer violence, displacement, and high levels of poverty, along with lack of livelihoods, and limited access to basic services. To compound the situation, South Sudan has been hit hard by climate crises, with parts of the country experiencing prolonged dry spells and others experiencing flooding.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger strengthened our approach to reinforce connections between our humanitarian, development, and peace-building interventions. We strengthened our research and monitoring systems and practices to enhance knowledge and evidence generation. Our teams worked with lawmakers, youth champions, ministries, national and state authorities, and grassroots leaders to advocate for policy change and address hunger and climate change.

Action Against Hunger's nutrition teams conducted ten surveys to deepen

understanding of the hunger situation in South Sudan. We also scaled up our work with care groups to improve child nutrition and health, which included working with men to increase their involvement in childcare.

Our teams integrated primary health care services within nutrition through our mobile health teams. We worked to improve WASH services and infrastructure management. To address climate-driven hunger, we scaled up programmes such as our rice growing project in Fangak, to enhance community resilience. Additionally, our team completed gender-based violence risk mitigation research and conducted two gender analyses. These studies will help to design and deliver safe programmes across all sectors.

Our programme has also focused on the intersection of gender-based violence and hunger. For example, after conducting risk mitigation research, we have recruited additional female staff at nutrition sites so that women feel comfortable coming in for malnutrition treatment. We've also piloted referral services for women suffering from gender-based violence, offering psychological and medical first aid. The women are also eligible for cash and food assistance for their families during medical or psychological treatment since women are also responsible for feeding other members of their households.

SUDAN

OPERATING SINCE 2018

Since April 2023, civil conflict in Sudan has left almost 24.7 million people in need of assistance and protection, and damaged or destroyed infrastructure, health facilities, schools, power and water sources, and telecommunications. Over 20 million people (42 per cent of the population) experienced high levels of food insecurity and global acute malnutrition was estimated at 13.6 per cent. Over 14.7 million people lacked access to life-saving primary health care and 15 million people needed WASH assistance. A surge of all forms of gender-based violence affected 6.7 million people – especially women and girls.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger worked to collect and disseminate key early warning data/indicators and raise additional funding and enhance our operational capacity to address the crisis. Following the conflict, uninhibited access to people we support became a huge challenge, so we focused on maintaining operations in all intervention areas, regardless of which armed group was in control.

Action Against Hunger's health and nutrition interventions reached over 180,000 people with nutrition supplies, essential medicines

and equipment, emergency kits and community-based management of acute malnutrition, and primary health services across 44 health facilities and seven hospitals. In order to cover the most urgent needs in the most hard-to-reach areas of the country, measures were put in place to provide our team in Central Darfur with medical equipment, essential medicines and ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF).

Cash assistance was delivered enabling people to purchase nutritious food, and agricultural inputs distributions (seeds and tools) were given to over 4,000 people in White Nile, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan states.

Water, sanitation services provision, hygiene promotion and non-food item distribution restored dignity and reduced the impact of water-borne diseases for people in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and White Nile. Gender and protection interventions assisted 11,461 individuals, 41 community-based protection networks were restructured, and 2,800 community members participated in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

TANZANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2015

In Tanzania, agriculture is the nation's economic backbone, employing 70 per cent of the population in around eight million households, mostly in rural areas. An estimated 27 per cent of Tanzania's population lives below the poverty line, and 8 per cent live in extreme poverty. According to the 2023 Global Hunger Index, hunger levels in Tanzania are serious, though there have been improvements in the last 20 years. An estimated 20 per cent of families are unable to afford enough food, and 59 per cent cannot afford a nutritious diet. About 30 per cent of children in Tanzania are stunted, and 3.3 per cent are acutely malnourished.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger's WASH interventions helped to bring about significant improvement in school hygiene for students in the Mpwapwa District. We constructed improved toilets and trained pupils and teachers on how to make sanitary pads – skills that have since been passed on to other children.

We educated people on healthy nutrition, screened children for malnutrition, and provided nutrition and health education and counselling in Singida and Dodoma regions.

Through our therapeutic feeding units in Iramba and Mpwapwa, more than 200 children with severe acute malnutrition were successfully treated. We also trained more than 500 community health workers across Singida and Dodoma to provide health and nutrition services to their communities.

Action Against Hunger continued to partner with Global Affairs of Canada to implement the Gender Equitable Nutrition project to improve nutrition for the poorest and most marginalised people, focusing on women, adolescent girls, and children. We also partnered with Buddhist Global Relief to promote community-based responses to food and nutrition needs and with the Eleanor Crook Foundation to accelerate national responses to wasting.

UGANDA

OPERATING SINCE 1995

Uganda is home to 1.6 million refugees and asylum-seekers – Africa's largest such population. But it is also the third most nutritionally vulnerable region in East Africa, with a global acute malnutrition rate of 20.2 per cent and significantly high anaemia rates. Children under five are particularly vulnerable. Acute food insecurity is also a pressing concern, impacting 5.4 million people.

In 2023 Action Against Hunger continued to provide lifesaving interventions to strengthen nutrition, food security, livelihoods, resilience, and water, sanitation, and hygiene in several refugee-hosting districts. We tackled malnutrition through comprehensive programmes, offering treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition and promoting breastfeeding and proper child feeding practices. Our teams also trained health staff and parents to detect and prevent malnutrition. In 2023, we supplied 58 health facilities with nutrition staff, essential medicines, and supplies to identify and treat malnutrition.

We also worked with communities to increase their self-reliance and build

resilience to future shocks, scale up modern agricultural practices and systems to mitigate climate change, and to improve food production through innovative technologies, climate-smart agroecological approaches, and support for farmers.

We also built capacity, helped people build their skills in farming and other income-generating activities, developed value chains, and strengthened markets for high-value crops. Action Against Hunger also established and supported village savings and loans programmes and established solar irrigation systems to benefit 65,000 families.

In addition, we promoted irrigation and innovative handwashing solutions, constructed latrines to reduce open defecation, and provided sanitation and hygiene kits. And our advocacy team worked to influence the development of policies on nutrition, water and sanitation, and food security and livelihoods to reduce hunger and vulnerability for refugees and Ugandans.

ZAMBIA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

In 2023, Zambia faced a complex humanitarian situation marked by challenges such as malnutrition, food insecurity, and inadequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Climate change has caused the country to experience more extreme weather events including intense rainfall, floods, and droughts, coupled with elevated temperatures, which have major impacts on agriculture, water resources, human health, biodiversity, energy, and infrastructure.

Two million people in Zambia are expected to face crisis or worse levels of hunger in 2024. Food insecurity is primarily driven by high poverty rates, economic instability, and shocks and hazards such as prolonged dry spells, pests, and diseases.

Amidst these challenges, Action Against Hunger successfully launched new programmes in 2023 to address the root causes of poverty, hunger, and biodiversity loss. Our multifaceted approach reflects our commitment to sustainable impact and collaboration with local partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Zambia-based NGOs.

In 2023, we supported local organisations to build their capacity to better manage water sources and irrigations systems and prepare for disasters. We also worked to help farmers implement climate-smart

strategies to improve the moisture and fertility of soil, leading to better harvests despite repeated droughts.

In the Western Province, Action Against Hunger is building a climate-smart network that will help farmers grow drought-resistant crops like cowpeas (also known as black-eyed peas). In 2023, we partnered with the University of Zambia and the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute to understand the cowpea value chain, the nutritional composition of cowpeas, nitrogen rates in soil, and microbial biomass calculations. A nutrient-dense legume, cowpeas are full of essential vitamins such as iron and potassium, and they provide numerous health benefits such as reducing the risk of heart disease.

In Zambia, and many parts of the world, women typically eat last and least, and many experience violence or abuse at home. Zambia has some of the highest levels of gender-based violence reported in the world, with over 42 per cent experiencing physical or sexual violence from their partner in their life, and over 25 per cent experiencing the same in the last year alone. Last year, we discussed peer-based women's support groups as a safe space for women to discuss gender inequity at home and gender-based violence.

ZIMBABWE

OPERATING SINCE 2002

Zimbabwe's economy slowed in 2022 due to hyperinflation, as well as the aftermath of droughts that affected agricultural production. The war in Ukraine exerted further pressure, driving up fuel and food prices. Following government measures to stem the rapid depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar, inflation slowed in 2023, but the country's debt still stands at 66 per cent of GDP, and inequality and poverty remain. The country is also facing a cholera epidemic, with over 13,000 suspected or confirmed cases, and over 150 suspected or confirmed deaths as of November 2023.

This year Action Against Hunger continued to run projects in collaboration with two NGOs, Africa Ahead Zimbabwe and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe, to meet the urgent needs of populations affected by prolonged drought and cholera and to restore and strengthen livelihoods and basic services in affected communities. The "Stabilisation of Vulnerable Households Affected by the Crisis in Mwenezi and Chiredzi Districts" project, funded by

USAID's Office of Humanitarian Affairs, supported over 4,000 farmers and 3,000 poultry breeders, over 1,000 women and men via conditional cash activities, and 3,000 men and women in microfinance groups. The project also built or repaired 26 boreholes and seven mini water systems and reached over 19,000 people via a behaviour change strategy to promote adequate hygiene and sanitation practices.

In the same area, a project financed by the Comité Interministériel de l'Aide Alimentaire provided support through cash transfers during the lean season to households with a malnourished child and supported the detection and referral of acutely malnourished children. It also provided support for family farmers to ensure a diversified, nutritionally sensitive diet.

Finally, in 2023, Action Against Hunger began an intervention to fight the ongoing cholera epidemic in Bulawayo, thanks to funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

OPERATING SINCE 1995

Afghanistan's humanitarian situation is characterised by an economic crisis, decades of war, and natural disasters (including floods, earthquakes, drought, and disease) – all exacerbated by a large humanitarian funding gap and constrained humanitarian space. By 2024, 23.7 million people, more than half of Afghanistan's population, were predicted to need life-saving assistance.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger's programming was impacted by the ban on women working with NGOs, which required us to adapt our activities. We continued to reach the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in Ghor, Helmand, Daykundi, Badakhshan and Kabul provinces, keeping women as our primary target. Through eight integrated mobile health and nutrition teams, seven therapeutic feeding units (TFUs) and 40 sub-health centres, we provided primary health care and treatment of acute malnutrition for children under five years, and pregnant and breastfeeding women,

With ECHO funding, Action Against Hunger opened additional TFUs in Badakhshan, Daykundi and Ghor, in total admitting 2,000 children aged under five years for treatment of severe acute

malnutrition (SAM), with more being treated for SAM plus complications. We also provided over 20,000 primary healthcare consultations for children under five.

Our integrated food and nutrition security approach included cash-for-food, food baskets, cash-for-work, agricultural and livestock packages, greenhouse construction, multi-purpose cash assistance, and food vouchers for children discharged from the TFUs. In total we reached 1,300 households covering over 10,000 individuals with cash-for-food assistance in five districts of Badarshan. The post-distribution monitoring report estimated that 83 per cent of the targeted households achieved an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) - an index that measures a household's food security - following the project's support.

In addition, four women-friendly spaces (two in Ghor and two in Helmand) were integrated in health facilities, and a hotline providing mental health and psychosocial support to men and women suffering psychological distress was established. WASH services were also implemented within health facilities.

BANGLADESH

OPERATING SINCE 2007

Bangladesh is one of the world's most vulnerable countries, mainly because of repeated natural disasters, acute and chronic food security situations, and malnutrition. Nearly nine million people across Bangladesh are experiencing elevated levels of acute food insecurity. In 2023, Action Against Hunger's SMART Survey identified alarming rates of malnutrition, notably a high prevalence of malnutrition across the whole of the Cox's Bazar District – results that indicate urgent need for action.

In Cox's Bazar, Action Against Hunger provided life-saving care for the most vulnerable households (refugees and host communities) affected by the crisis and multiple disasters through an integrated approach. This involved health and nutrition interventions that directly benefited 105,299 people, including through severe acute malnutrition treatment for 1,091 children aged under five years, and infant and young child feeding counselling sessions benefiting 10,233 caregivers.

Action Against Hunger also provided a multi-sectoral recovery response to flood

affected communities in Sylhet division. This focused on providing food, nutrition, mental health support, WASH facilities and menstrual hygiene materials.

In disaster-prone areas, Action Against Hunger supported 2,752 households affected by disaster and chronic food insecurity through immediate food assistance with a multi-purpose cash grant, voucher, and cash-for-work initiatives. With local partners and through the STEP project, Action Against Hunger worked to strengthen forecast-based early actions in cyclone-prone coastal regions.

In early 2023, the G-STAR project provided both home-based food production training for women and income-generating activities, and vocational training support for youths, which equipped them with the skills to generate income and improve their livelihoods. And our Soneva project continued to provide a nutrition-sensitive approach to strengthening households and community capacity for climate adaptive and resilient livelihoods in the southern and coastal areas.

INDIA

OPERATING SINCE 2010

According to the National Family Health Survey for India (2019-21), 37.3 per cent of children aged under five years are stunted; 19.5 per cent are wasted; and 33.8 per cent are underweight.

Action Against Hunger is one of the few NGOs in India focusing specifically on maternal and child health, using various nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. Our teams engage with communities in remote and hard-to-reach areas, identifying and addressing nutritional challenges among children. We empower mothers and families with knowledge and awareness, so they can see their children grow up strong, and whole communities prosper.

Action Against Hunger India works mainly on nutrition and health, WASH, and food security and livelihoods. Our multidisciplinary programmes cover Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

In 2023, we reached 477,507 people in 1,272 villages. We screened 66,498

children under the age of five years for malnutrition, and 9,697 of these children were identified as malnourished and were treated. We also reached 51,592 pregnant and breastfeeding women and conducted 98,595 home visits.

This year our new projects included Project Shubharambh, which focused on preventing anaemia among adolescent girls in Sanand, Gujarat. We also launched Project Sampurna in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, which included conducting a robust baseline assessment, anaemia screening among adolescent girls, and screening for malnutrition among children.

And 2023 also saw the launch of the Kangaroo Mother Unit (KMC) at HBT Medical College and Dr R N Cooper Municipal General Hospital, in collaboration with Cooper Hospital in Mumbai. Our aim was to combat malnutrition and improve the nutritional status of children – and specifically to provide support to premature and low-birth-weight infants and their mothers.

MYANMAR

OPERATING SINCE 1994

In 2023, political instability, conflict, persistent population displacement, economic hardship, rising inflation and limited access to essential services continued to create a humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, accompanied by soaring food prices, falling agricultural production, and deteriorating livelihoods. Approximately 12.9 million people in Myanmar are now food insecure – nearly 25 per cent of the population.

The Rohingya population in Rakhine State remained particularly susceptible to these shocks, further intensified by the impact of Cyclone Mocha in May 2023. Displaced populations in Kayah State and Sagaing Region faced increased risks of violence, exploitation, and rights abuse. In 2023, 5.2 million people in Myanmar lacked access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services, while ongoing political unrest and ethnic conflict continued to drive a mental health crisis.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger implemented a lifesaving, integrated and multi-sectoral approach across Rakhine and Kayah States and in Sagaing Region through integrated nutrition centres and community outreach services. These

provided nutrition and health services for malnourished children aged under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding women. We also provided essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services and provided technical assistance to local partners on the “Baby WaSH Social and Behaviour Change” approach to infant hygiene.

Teaming up with local partners, our food security and livelihood activities (including the “Food Always in the Home” programme) targeted hunger and undernutrition, coupled with life-saving food distribution, income-generating activities, integrated homestead seed storage and food production training. At the same time, mental health and psychosocial support and protection efforts addressed the psychological impact of hunger, supporting children and caregivers.

Our teams also supported a Rapid Need Assessment after Cyclone Mocha: providing Aquatabs to over 3,000 households in Sittwe and reconstruction of the integrated nutrition centres destroyed by the cyclone, which included rebuilding the water and sanitation facilities at these centres.

NEPAL

OPERATING SINCE 2011

The agriculture sector engages around 66 per cent of Nepal’s population and contributes one-third of the nation’s GDP. However, inadequate agricultural investment, poor infrastructure and low productivity using conventional farming practices have left the country food insecure. This situation is compounded by recurring natural disasters including floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, and disease outbreaks.

The Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022 revealed that 25 per cent of children under the age of five years are stunted, 19 per cent are underweight and 8 per cent are wasted. Moreover, 43 per cent of children aged 6–59 months are anaemic, as well as 34 per cent of women of reproductive age. The same survey revealed that only 20 per cent of the population has access to limited or unimproved sanitation services, while 7 per cent practice open defecation. Only 61 per cent of women can wash and change in privacy and use appropriate materials during menstruation.

In Nepal, Action Against Hunger is known for pioneering treatment for severe acute malnutrition and supports the Ministry of Health and Population to scale up

integrated management of severe acute malnutrition programmes in various parts of the country – notably supporting health system strengthening and research and generating evidence for management of severe acute malnutrition in development and humanitarian contexts.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger supported a moderate-wasting initiative and started the Reinforcing Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition programme in all seven provinces and at central level. We also launched a project to promote production of nutritious, climate-resilient, and underutilised crops, strengthening livelihood and community resilience, particularly for the benefit of women.

In the Trishuli river basin, Ville de Paris is financing a comprehensive WASH project to improve the functionality and sustainability of the local water supply and promote hygiene. This included installing a “one tap one house system” for 1,718 households. Six reservoirs and water treatment plants have been constructed and six distribution systems have been rehabilitated. This project will continue into 2024.

PAKISTAN

OPERATING SINCE 1979

Pakistan's malnutrition situation currently constitutes a humanitarian crisis, with acute malnutrition affecting 2.14 million children and over seven million people requiring nutrition services. Analysis of 32 districts in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh reveals that 23 per cent of registered children are critically malnourished. Economic struggles, rising food prices, political instability and natural disasters have exacerbated the situation, putting a strain on the country's health system and water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. In addition, in 2023, 4.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan needed humanitarian.

Action Against Hunger Pakistan actively tackles malnutrition. In flood-affected communities, Action Against Hunger has provided services such as screening services for severe and moderately acute malnutrition, medical camps, and ready-to-use therapeutic food. In Balochistan and Sindh provinces, 143,380 people benefitted from nutrition and health activities. In 2023, 37,806 women and 25,792 men benefitted from water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives, including hygiene kits, latrine construction, and infrastructure rehabilitation.

In addition, food security assistance was provided to 22,812 people across both provinces, offering multi-purpose cash assistance, agriculture and livestock toolkits, and food aid. These interventions were critical in alleviating malnutrition and enhancing community resilience.

We also successfully implemented the ECHO-funded "Integrated Humanitarian Support to Afghan Refugees and Host Population" project in Pishin, Qilla Saifullah, and Quetta, Balochistan, to enhance the resilience of Afghan refugees and host communities, focusing on health and nutrition services.

During the project, 23,508 people received primary health care consultations. The project provided mental health and psychosocial support to 12,179 people, predominantly women, through individual counselling, awareness sessions and referrals. Additionally, water, sanitation and hygiene activities included rehabilitating infrastructure, installing solar energy sources, and conducting hygiene awareness sessions. This project significantly improved the lives of beneficiaries, addressing critical needs and building resilience within the communities.

PHILIPPINES

OPERATING SINCE 2000

According to the Global Risk Index 2023, the Philippines is the most disaster-prone country in the world. Against a backdrop of formidable climate challenges, it faces a persistent battle against hunger. High dependence on natural resources for livelihoods further exacerbates the hunger situation, with 12.6 per cent of Filipino households experiencing hunger in the final quarter of 2023. In addition, this year the Philippines had to contend with the onset of the El Niño weather pattern, localised conflict in Mindanao, and the prospect of heightened tensions in the run up to the 2025 elections.

In this complex landscape, Action Against Hunger's work employs a multi-sectoral approach. Our WASH in Emergencies framework ensures a swift and effective response during crises, encompassing the rehabilitation of vital water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. We also provided community health workers with essential equipment and coordinated mobile health missions to reach remote areas. We facilitated malnutrition identification and treatment, enabling access to food assistance, alongside mental health, and psychosocial care for disaster-affected communities.

Collaborating closely with local partners, we implemented targeted programmes to bolster community resilience and mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters. In anticipation of these, we continued providing support in developing anticipatory action protocols for droughts and dry spells in collaboration with local government agencies, while actively monitoring climate trends affecting water sources.

Throughout 2023, Action Against Hunger achieved significant milestones, including expanding local partnerships, and enhancing emergency response capabilities. From addressing displacement resulting from armed conflict to providing critical assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters like Super Typhoon Doksuri, the Sarangani earthquake, and the Samar flooding, our interventions exemplified resilience and technical expertise.

Furthermore, our commitment to diversity and preparedness materialised in the establishment of a new base office in Siargao, with plans underway for further expansion into Tawi-Tawi by 2024.

TÜRKIYE

OPERATING SINCE 2023

Action Against Hunger began working in Türkiye in 2023 following the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the country in February, affecting 11 of Türkiye's poorest provinces. Since 2015, Türkiye had hosted more than four million Syrian refugees (around half of whom are thought to be minors) and was already experiencing a deep economic crisis. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war and the earthquake itself, almost a third of the Turkish population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with the price of a basic food basket exceeding the minimum wage and increasing the likelihood of hunger.

The earthquake caused more than 50,000 deaths, injured nearly 110,000 people, and destroyed more than 260,000

buildings. It affected more than nine million people nationwide, including four million children. Action Against Hunger therefore focused its efforts on relieving the effects of the disaster, mainly in the regions of Hatay, Kahramanmaras and Adiyaman, working with local partners to make a first approach through rapid needs assessments in order to respond in the most effective way.

During 2023, Action Against Hunger addressed the most urgent humanitarian needs assisting more than 80,000 people through a programme to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene; distributing over 100,000 hot meals; setting up mother-baby friendly-spaces for the nutritional care of newborn babies and their mothers; and providing psychosocial support to more than 9,000 affected people.



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OPERATING SINCE 2020



More than nine million French people live below the poverty line and food is often the item to suffer when it comes to household expenditure. This year was marked by high inflation, reaching 15 per cent for food products and driving a rise in the number of people turning to food aid organisations for help.

In the Ile-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regions, Action Against Hunger has worked for over three years alongside those involved in access to food and the fight against precariousness and exclusion. The aim is to better cover the essential needs, including food, of those who are furthest from services.

We worked with partners to measure and document food insecurity, its causes, and the affected population. We supported other actors to develop participatory approaches enabling project participants to feedback on their situation and the impact of the aid they receive.

We also lead pilot projects in partnership with others, and tested and documented new methods that could be better

suited to meeting the needs of the most precarious populations – for example, the Passerelle project in Montreuil and the Territorial project in Marseille to promote access to sustainable food.

Action Against Hunger co-produced and shared multi-actor studies on precariousness, and access to rights and to food, such as the operational research project ISSimars (ItinéraireS et Situation de vie en squat) in Marseille, dedicated to people living in precarious accommodation.

Finally, at national level, Action Against Hunger advocated for access to sustainable food for all through the active participation in different national networks and discussions such as Réseau Action Climat, Collectif ALERTE or Collectif Nourrir. Based on its field work, its expertise and the collaboration with such networks, Action Against Hunger advocated for the effective implementation of the right to food in France, with policy changes enabling dignified access to sufficient healthy and sustainable food for all.

ITALY

OPERATING SINCE 2022

In Italy, 10 per cent of people live in poverty, and 25 per cent are at risk of poverty. Families, especially single-parent families, are exposed to increasing social and economic vulnerability. Poverty also affects the employed and pensioners, due to inflation-reduced purchasing power, especially for essentials such as food. And there are new forms of poverty, including food poverty. In Italy there are 2.6 million people who are forced to ask for help with food – a number that is expected to increase.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger Italy implemented a project with 150 families in Milan and Naples (in total 500-550 people) to reduce food insecurity and help participants find employment – thereby improving their long-term independence.

The four-month programme contributed to weekly food shopping for immediate nutritional support, limited to the duration of the programme; provided nutrition training to encourage a change in purchasing habits and the adoption of a healthy, balanced diet; and provided training to find employment.

The results in 2023 were very encouraging: nutrition had improved; 60 per cent of the participants involved reported drinking more water; 54 per cent reduced their daily sugar intake, and 40 per cent found work or returned to education. In 2024, the project will reach 200 families in Milan and Naples.

MOLDOVA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

For the past two years, Action Against Hunger has worked in Moldova – one of the poorest countries in Europe. Moldova has struggled economically in recent years, with Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine crisis on the northern and eastern borders, and in 2023, rising inflation (above 27 per cent) and energy costs continued to worsen living conditions. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), more than 13 per cent of Moldovans live on less than €5 a day, and about a quarter of its total population meet absolute poverty rates – a scenario where the threat of food insecurity is a daily reality.

By 2023, Moldova had the most refugees per capita in Europe. With just over 2.5 million inhabitants itself, more than one million Ukrainian refugees have crossed its borders, and about 120,000 have decided to stay. The vast majority are in host communities which, in many cases, were already in need of assistance.

Focusing on the areas of Chisinau, Balti, Stefan Voda, Otaci, Giurgiulesti and Ungheni, Action Against Hunger has implemented cash assistance, hot food distributions, nutritional support, maternal and childcare assistance, and support for access to water, sanitation, and waste management services. Nearly 80,000 people received food assistance and more than 20,000 food kits were distributed to Ukrainian refugees, in addition to more than 6,000 multi-purpose cash assistance packages. In addition, more than 10,000 people have benefited from the water, sanitation, and hygiene programme.

Since the beginning of the war, almost 18,000 refugees have received cash assistance and currently 2,300 refugees are hosted in Refugee Accommodation Centres. We provided legal assistance and collaboration with local bodies has allowed us to design and develop programmes that will have a lasting impact after international humanitarian actors leave the country.

POLAND AND ROMANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

Poland and Romania have played a crucial role as transit and destination countries for war-displaced Ukrainians since 2022. Despite the challenges of integration in their new environments, nearly 1.5 million refugees have been welcomed in Poland, and around 100,000 in Romania. However, continuing insecurity in Ukraine is prompting many of these refugees to consider staying in their host country.

Since March 2022, Action Against Hunger has provided assistance through programmes implemented directly or in collaboration with local partners, both for refugees and the community that hosts them. The focus has been on mental

health support through psychosocial and psychological support, recognising the fundamental importance of these aspects to overall well-being.

In addition, Action Against Hunger has provided monetary assistance to refugees to enable them to meet their basic needs. Activities are carried out along the Ukrainian and Moldovan borders, as well as in the two capital cities, Warsaw, and Bucharest. Action Against Hunger will close its programmes in Romania and Poland in May 2024 because funding is scarce, and the refugees have been progressively integrated in the social systems of the host countries.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

OPERATING SINCE 2018

Vulnerabilities in the South Caucasus region remain high because of political instability, climate change, lack of structural development and decentralisation, lack of economic diversification, and social inequalities. The region also faced fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war and the 2023 conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, which displaced over 100,000 people to Armenia.

In 2023, our work in Armenia was scaled up to help refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh. Together with local partner organisations we provided essential support and services, in particular for children and their caregivers, older people, people with disabilities and those in remote and border-area communities.

Over 13,290 refugees benefited from the distribution of vouchers, 1,217 received multi-purpose cash support, and another 157 highly vulnerable people benefited from distribution of food and hygiene assistance to cover their basic needs. We also provided mental health and psychosocial support through our local partners to 750 refugees who had experienced a high degree of stress and trauma in the run-up to their displacement in September to Armenia. Work on awareness raising and education on unexploded ordnance and mine risks for children and young adults continued in Armenia.

In Georgia, 886 highly vulnerable Ukrainian refugees received food and hygiene items and three volunteer organisations received capacity building support to improve their services for refugees experiencing trauma, lack of income, difficulties finding affordable accommodation and accessing health services.

In Georgia and Armenia, we continued to provide technical assistance to state agencies to help them enhance the employability and entrepreneurial skills of participants in their programmes. Meanwhile in Georgia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia, our work on community-led local development focused on environmental initiatives, women's empowerment and leadership, and youth participation. This resulted in financial support for projects to improve community infrastructure, access to basic services, and job creation.

Also in Abkhazia, winterisation support and agricultural livelihood training increased the self-reliance of vulnerable families, while vocational training in carpentry, plumbing and metal work was provided for young people. Our multi-year WASH in Schools project provided 5,202 children with access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities during the year.

SPAIN

OPERATING SINCE 2013

Around 25 per cent of people in Spain are at risk of social exclusion and more than 10 per cent of households lack access to adequate quantities and quality of food – a situation that affects vulnerable groups, such as children. Action Against Hunger tackles the problem by offering employment and training programmes for people at risk of social exclusion and by providing financial aid to families at risk through our food card programme. In 2023, our programmes in Spain reached more than 5,000 people, with a budget of €8.8 million, 15 per cent above the initial implementation budget target.

This year we presented the results of research that highlighted the relationship between healthy lifestyle habits and improved employability. Based on this evidence, we redesigned the model of social and labour insertion itinerary by integrating the healthy lifestyle approach.

The European Projects unit has raised one million euros for innovation projects. And The European Innovation Network for Inclusion, which we lead, has improved its visibility both at European and national levels.

In the area of food security, we achieved three milestones in 2023: we launched an innovative project to create a food insecurity observatory in the community of Madrid; we sold a nutritional sensitisation programme to a supermarket chain; and we piloted a new system of monetary transfers by card. In addition, we were certified in the quality standard ISO 9001:2015, which demonstrates that our processes follow quality criteria.

We successfully renewed our grant from the European Social Fund for €24 million over the next six years to continue with our national inclusion and youth employment programmes.

In addition, €2.5 million was granted under the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (Next Generation Funds) to support the digital transformation of the organisation during 2023. This injection of funds has allowed us to carry out new digital projects within the office and through digital services to our project participants in the country.

UKRAINE

OPERATING SINCE 2022

According to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 17.6 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian aid and 14.6 million need medical care, particularly in areas close to the frontline, where only 4 per cent of aid is being delivered. Some eight million people have fled the country and five million are internally displaced. Access to basic services remains a major challenge, with a third of the population facing food insecurity.

Violations of international humanitarian law have grave consequences: 170,000 square kilometres of the country are contaminated by explosive ordnance. Stabilisation of the frontline and new conscription raises fears of a protracted war, exacerbated by winter threats to energy infrastructure, which are likely to increase humanitarian needs and create further mass displacement.

Action Against Hunger worked in Ukraine from 2014 to 2018 and resumed operations in February 2022.

Our coordination is currently based in Kyiv, with activities focused on western Ukraine (Tchernivtsi), primarily aimed at supporting displaced people and host communities; and on eastern Ukraine (Dnipro and Kharkiv), with activities focused on assisting highly vulnerable populations directly affected by the conflict in Zaporizhia, Sumy and Donetsk. This assistance is provided both directly by Action Against Hunger and through humanitarian partners already working in the region.

We also expanded our intervention to the southern regions of Odessa and Mykolaiv, prioritising the distribution of food and non-food items. This expansion underlines our commitment to reaching vulnerable populations across Ukraine, addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts. By extending operations to new regions, we aim to increase our impact and reach more vulnerable communities, contributing to the overall humanitarian response in Ukraine.

UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATING SINCE 2020

Food insecurity is increasing in the UK. According to the Food Foundation, during 2023, nine million adults (17 per cent of households) reported reducing or skipping meals as they could not afford or access enough food; three million adults reported not eating for an entire day; and more than 20 per cent of households with children reported that their children had experienced food insecurity.

While food insecurity is not a new challenge in the UK, it has received increased media attention in recent years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the resulting cost-of-living crisis. Weekly food shops have become unaffordable for many. The Food Foundation's Basic Basket tracker indicated that the average cost of food baskets increased by 25 per cent between May 2022 and April 2023 alone.

Since 2020, Action Against Hunger has supported partners in Lewisham in

southeast London and in Sandwell in the Midlands to run community food pantries. These are community-run shops where food-insecure households can access a wide choice of foods on a weekly basis for a small fee. During 2023, six community food pantries received £30,000 to continue their activities.

This enabled the projects to support more than 560 individuals every week for six months.

The UK food programme team also provided technical support to Somerset County Council with the set-up and roll-out of a network of local pantries in the county. During 2023 this included providing guidance and support to community partners for the set up and running of local pantries and producing a short video about the pantry network in Somerset. They also contributed their expertise to building food resilience in rural communities.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN

COLOMBIA

OPERATING SINCE 1998

In Colombia, conflict, migration, and climate variability drive humanitarian needs, including food insecurity. Fifteen million people (30 per cent of the population) suffer moderate or severe food insecurity, while armed conflict restricts the movement and access to basic services of 539,000 people. In addition, Colombia is home to 2.89 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees – the largest number of any host country.

Action Against Hunger's programmes on health and nutrition, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster management cover 75 per cent of the country, and in 2023 reached more than 100,000 people. This broad territorial reach allowed us to understand the diversity in vulnerabilities, needs and capacities, and thanks to our Information

and Knowledge Management Unit, we were able to effectively articulate this humanitarian work, generating valuable knowledge as a contribution in the fight against hunger.

Some of the most outstanding actions in 2023 were our maternal and child health work in the Darien region and the multiple humanitarian responses carried out through the emergency response mechanism (MIRE+). We also developed a labour inclusion programme – the Active Economic Recovery component of the ADN-Dignity project – which supports the socio-economic integration of more than 4,200 migrants and Colombians, strengthening their business and labour skills, with an investment of more than US\$1.5 million in seed capital.

GUATEMALA

OPERATING SINCE 1996

Between September 2023 and February 2024, 2 per cent of the Guatemalan population (323,000 people) was predicted to be at the highest level of food insecurity, with more than 2.7 million (16 per cent of the population) at the second-highest level.

In coordination with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, Action Against Hunger helped the most food vulnerable people in Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, and Alta Verapaz to access basic services provided by mobile health and nutrition brigades, a multi-sectoral intervention focused on the prevention and reduction of chronic malnutrition and the detection of acute malnutrition.

In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health, we initiated nutritional care for the “mobile population” (ie migrants, returnees,

asylum seekers and refugees) in the municipality of Esquipulas, Chiquimula, through mobile teams, while responding to the food security needs in Chiquimula and Huehuetenango thanks to European funds (ECHO).

In the department of Sololá, through a programme financed by the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation of the Spanish Cooperation, we provided water and sanitation services, achieving improvements in 13 municipalities, 120 communities, 71 schools and 25 health services.

In addition, Action Against Hunger conducted multi-purpose cash transfers and economic recovery activities as part of a shared project between Guatemala and Honduras, funded by the US humanitarian assistance agency BHA.

HAITI

OPERATING SINCE 1985

Since March 2023, Haiti has witnessed a notable surge in violence and organised crime, particularly in the Port-au-Prince region, where criminal groups engage in murders, kidnappings, and sexual assaults. The humanitarian situation in Haiti is deteriorating, with aid organisations struggling to match the escalating needs.

Half of Haiti’s population is reported to need humanitarian assistance, with 45 per cent living in areas facing severe food crises, a situation exacerbated by economic paralysis due to violence. A quarter of children are suffering chronic malnutrition. Action Against Hunger’s programme focuses on the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations and aims to help families

and communities cope with successive shocks, including gang violence, natural disasters, and climate change.

Our team addressed malnutrition and its root causes through food distribution to disadvantaged families, screenings and treatment for malnourished children, psychological support for traumatised people and survivors of sexual violence, and income-generating activities.

We also collaborated with local authorities to strengthen health systems and build community-level resilience. In response to cholera outbreaks, our rapid response teams installed water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, and enhanced community-level reporting systems.

HONDURAS

OPERATING SINCE 1996

In 2023, as part of the LIFE-Honduras Consortium, we reached 68,050 people with protection activities, 13,955 people with nutrition and food assistance, 177,618 people with water, sanitation, and hygiene activities and 12,400 children with educational initiatives.

Action Against Hunger also responded to the changing humanitarian needs of people on the move (ie migrants, returnees, refugees, and asylum seekers) in Honduras by providing water, sanitation and hygiene services, temporary shelter, and multipurpose cash transfers to families in extremely precarious situations.

During the year we supported communities that face annual evacuation because of extreme weather events such as floods caused by tropical storms, and who thereby suffer human and economic losses. We worked to meet their basic household needs, in particular food

and non-food items, and contributed to the restoration of these communities' livelihoods. In this way we were able to assist (with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA) communities in San Manuel, Villanueva, Potrerillos and La Lima, in the department of Cortés.

We also developed nutrition actions for the prevention and recovery of children with acute malnutrition in eight departments of the country, in which we supported the updating and development of normative guidelines for the care of acute malnutrition in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (SESAL) and UNICEF. Through the Climate Resilience Agreement of the Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), we also contributed to the fight against climate change and the empowerment of 800 women in seven cooperatives, by strengthening women's participation and leadership in cooperatives.

NICARAGUA

OPERATING SINCE 1996

Nicaragua faces many environmental and socio-economic conditions that make people vulnerable – not least climate change. Currently, Action Against Hunger works in Madriz and Matagalpa, located in what is known as the “dry corridor.” Here we have developed our Climate Resilience Programme led by Rural Women, based on women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and cooperativism.

We also worked on the northern Caribbean coast, addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable groups (children, youth, indigenous peoples, and women) affected by weather events such as drought, floods, and hurricanes. This year we worked to build resilient homes capable of early recovery and/or adaptation. And along the Coco-Waspam River, our activities helped stabilise access to food through food assistance, nutrition, and protection interventions in vulnerable

households, promoting behavioural changes, and psychosocial care.

In communities in Bilwi – where there are lots of different ethnic groups - we supported young people by reinforcing their skills, knowledge and practices to create small businesses that allow them to develop their community while respecting cultural diversity.

And in Matagalpa and Madriz, northern Nicaragua, we contributed to the empowerment of rural women and community cooperatives by promoting agro-meteorological monitoring, with actions aimed at climate resilience with a gender focus, working with 13 cooperatives and 753 individuals. This involved a gender analysis to better understand gender-specific roles and needs to be incorporated into the programme, thus aiming to increase the participation and capacity of women in climate resilience initiatives.

PERU

OPERATING SINCE 2007

Peru endured extreme weather events in 2023, including Cyclone Yaku and El Niño Costero. As a result of the emergency situation in more than 50 per cent of Peru's districts and across the northern regions of Piura, Tumbes and Lambayeque, a national state of emergency was declared. Citizens faced heavy rainfall, water shortages, food emergencies, and health emergencies due to an outbreak of dengue fever, while districts in the capital were also declared to be in a state of emergency due to citizen insecurity, with the armed forces intervening.

In this emergency context, 13 out of 24 regions saw inflation of more than 10 per cent on food and beverage prices, which particularly affected those on low incomes, who spend on average 50 per cent of their income on food. Action Against Hunger focused on responding to the flood emergency in the north of the country, supporting the indigenous population and promoting employment and entrepreneurship through marketing networks.

Our strategy in Peru addressed both rural and urban areas, on the coast, in the highlands and in the jungle. We worked closely with the Autonomous Territorial Government of Awajún, in Amazonas, to build the population's capacity to implement preparedness and rapid response mechanisms in the event of oil spill emergencies.

In the Andean region, our food security and livelihoods programme prevented anaemia and malnutrition by 20 per cent in the districts of Sancos and Carapo in Ayacucho. In Cusco, cheese producers from the Sumac Ausangate Association and corn producers from Huaró were able to revive their economy and increase job opportunities through the marketing and sale of these products. In Lima, we helped improve access to quality health care and the prevention of gender-based violence among migrants and refugees.

VENEZUELA

OPERATING SINCE 2018

After a decade of economic contraction resulting in a 75 per cent reduction in GDP, the Venezuelan economy experienced slight growth during 2021 and 2022, but this did not benefit the most vulnerable people. In the first half of 2023, inflation and loss of livelihoods severely affected the quality of life of the population, with low incomes and lack of social benefits making access to basic foodstuffs such as meat, milk, and cereals difficult. Around 60 per cent of women had poor dietary diversity, with high consumption of cereals, fats and sugars, and low consumption of proteins.

In response to this situation, in 2023 we implemented activities in health, nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and protection. Through our interventions, we improved lives through primary health care, nutritional recovery, food security, access to safe water,

basic sanitation, and hygiene, as well as ensuring the right to protection and a life of dignity for all people.

In 2023 we worked in states such as Amazonas, Bolívar, Guárico, Miranda, Portuguesa, and Zulia, where rates of acute malnutrition were high. We collaborated to build local strengths through knowledge transfer, accompaniment, and the provision of equipment and various inputs in community facilities and health centres. We also supported the development of livelihoods in vulnerable households led by women, particularly through the creation of home gardens and capacity building to create small enterprises.

All our activities had a gender-transformative approach, seeking equal opportunities and the prevention of violence.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ

OPERATING SINCE 2013

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Decades of sanctions, conflict, political instability, and social unrest have eroded Iraq's governance capabilities and the country's ability to withstand shocks. Formerly the breadbasket of the Middle East, Iraq now relies on imports for over 50 per cent of its food. The effect of global crises such as Covid-19 and the Ukraine conflict, coupled with the devaluation of the Iraqi Dinar, have disproportionately affected the purchasing power of the most vulnerable communities, contributing to food insecurity, particularly in the southern region.

This situation has been compounded by rapid returns of displaced people to their homes, recurring cholera outbreaks, and the escalating effects of climate change, including declining agricultural production and falling levels in rivers and reservoirs, threatening Iraq's food security, and in turn the country's stability.

This year Action Against Hunger worked in Sinuni, Mosul, Ninewa and Basra, reducing vulnerability to climate risks at community level, supporting farmers to develop climate-smart and sustainable livelihoods while simultaneously advocating for improved water resource management practices.

We also supported equitable access to food and resilience against malnutrition in climate change-affected areas, particularly for women and youth, by establishing poultry rearing and kitchen gardens, as well as food basket provision.

Action Against Hunger also provided support to communities and local authorities in preparing for cholera outbreaks by offering training and supplying kits to bolster rapid response capabilities.

JORDAN

OPERATING SINCE 2014

More than a decade after the Syrian crisis began, around 660,000 Syrian refugees are now registered in Jordan. Related factors including slow economic growth and Covid-19 which have depleted resources in general and created a surge in unemployment – 25 per cent of the working population was unemployed, with Jordanian women comprising only 14 per cent of the labour force because of gender barriers that deter them from finding work. Over 80 per cent of Syrian refugees live below the poverty line, with limited access to the job market.

Action Against Hunger's programme focused on food security, livelihoods, mental health and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives in Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Madaba. We worked to improve the

self-sufficiency of vulnerable refugees and host communities by combining financial assistance and responding to the mental health needs of the population by strengthening referral channels and local capacity to meet their needs.

In addition, we helped improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable populations through comprehensive livelihood interventions, offering short-term employment opportunities to vulnerable Jordanian and refugee households. We supported the connection of vulnerable households to public water networks and contributed to the adoption of good hygiene practices and sustainable water management techniques. In Azraq camp, we improved hygiene and the maintenance of private latrines through community involvement.

LEBANON

OPERATING SINCE 2006

Lebanon's economic crisis, the protracted Syrian refugee crisis, a cholera outbreak, and political deadlock have led to growing humanitarian needs in the country. Lebanon faces significant challenges in providing basic support to the 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 257,000 Palestinian refugees it is host to, in addition to the Lebanese population itself.

Over half of Lebanese households and 90 per cent of Syrian households live in poverty, with women experiencing higher unemployment rates. Public services are collapsing due to lack of investment, exacerbating poor water and sanitation conditions. These crises have resulted in an overall increase in malnutrition, with chronic malnutrition rates among Syrian refugees in informal settlements doubling over the past decade, and over 60 per cent of children with wasting coming from refugee populations.

In response to these challenges, Action Against Hunger focused mainly on providing assistance in healthcare, nutrition, WASH and food security. In 2023 we reached over 190,000 people.

Of these, 175,889 were supported with WASH initiatives, including hygiene kits and awareness programmes, and infrastructure rehabilitation to address water and sanitation emergencies. Feedback on our project to distribute water filters to Syrian refugees in Qaa-Hermel, a hard-to-reach area with high water contamination, indicated a significant improvement in water quality after using the filters. Moreover, 76 per cent of people reported spending less on drinking water, (highlighting the financial impact of the intervention) and feeling safer when accessing water sources.

Our health and nutrition support reached over 7,000 people, including counselling on infant and young child feeding, distribution of micronutrient powder, and childhood malnutrition screening.

Food security and livelihood support reached over 8,000 people, including cash-for-work initiatives and cash-based food assistance. Feedback revealed high satisfaction with cash assistance, with significant improvements in food consumption levels following the intervention.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

OPERATING SINCE 2002

In 2023, civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) faced their most severe humanitarian crisis with the start of unprecedented hostilities between Israel and armed groups in Gaza. Between October and December 2023, heavy bombardments and intense ground operations in Gaza led to acute food insecurity, lack of access to 90 per cent of normal water supplies, electricity, and communications blackouts, and 85 per cent of the population being displaced.

This year also saw the highest number of Palestinians killed and displaced in the West Bank since the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) started recording figures in 2005.

Following the start of the conflict in October 2023, Action Against Hunger launched a large-scale emergency response, reaching an estimated 5,000 people with food security and livelihood services in November 2023, and another 21,649 individuals in December 2023. Between October and December 2023, WASH services reached an estimated 307,845 households, through cleaning services, latrine and sewer repair, shelter

and hygiene kit distribution, solid waste management, water trucking, vacuum trucking, and handwashing facilities. Action Against Hunger also scaled up public and private advocacy to focus on the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and for a scale-up in timely, unimpeded humanitarian aid to Gaza.

In the West Bank, 1,264 incidents of settler violence and demolition of Palestinian property were recorded in 2023, reaching the highest point in any given year since OCHA began recording in 2006. An escalation in Israeli military occupation policies and settler violence further limited Palestinian access to water and sanitation services, negatively impacting almost 300 communities.

In 2023, Action Against Hunger carried out a variety of water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in the West Bank, including the installation and maintenance of water infrastructure and water distribution systems to connect unserved families and increase access to clean drinking water, reaching a total of 30,201 people.

SYRIA

OPERATING SINCE 2008

After 12 years of conflict, Syria faced another devastating blow when a series of earthquakes struck northern Syria and Türkiye in February 2023, resulting in nearly 5,900 fatalities, 12,800 injuries, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of families. This shock exacerbated the dire situation for Syrians already struggling with weakened infrastructure and economic instability, leaving 16.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Recurring disease outbreaks, waterborne disease, prolonged drought, and food insecurity contributed to rising premature death and illness rates, including heightened levels of malnutrition. Approximately 12.9 million Syrians needed food assistance, representing 50 per cent of the population, with the cost of essential food items doubling by October 2023. By November 2023, the Syrian pound had depreciated by half against the US dollar, significantly impacting the cost of living.

Inflation and the overall economic crisis further deepened poverty levels and reliance on humanitarian aid, leaving 90 per cent of the population living below the poverty line.

Action Against Hunger provided assistance, reaching more than 1 million people in 2023 across Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Hama, Idleb, and Lattakia. Focusing on health and nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and emergency response efforts (particularly targeting earthquake-affected communities), Action Against Hunger worked to revive existing community structures for sustainable, locally-led health services, to rehabilitate the food chain, introduce climate-smart agriculture practices for environmental resilience, and secure access to safe water for communities. In addition, we provided clean water daily to more than 200,000 people in Al-Hassakeh, northern Syria, where drought and multiple attacks on the Alouk water station had compounded suffering.

YEMEN

OPERATING SINCE 2013

Yemen's deteriorating economic situation, the depreciation of the Yemeni Rial, persistent fuel shortages, rising prices for imported food products, and the lack of a stable income have resulted in a humanitarian crisis. The minimum food basket is unaffordable for a substantial proportion of the population – 80 per cent of whom now live below the poverty line, increasing malnutrition levels, particularly among women and children (respectively two and five million people).

Moreover, extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and the collapse of basic services have reduced access to health and hygiene infrastructure and led to the resurgence of (particularly water-borne) diseases. Women face numerous risks, including limited access to reproductive health care and services addressing gender-based violence.

Action Against Hunger has worked in Abyan, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Khawkhah

and Lahj since 2013, improving the health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations by strengthening access to and the quality of primary health and nutrition services in health centres and through its mobile teams. This year we supported the provision of primary health care, reproductive health, and vaccination programmes, as well as the screening and treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition in children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

We also supported health centre teams by supplying medicines, medical equipment, and training; rehabilitating health infrastructure and medical waste management systems; and supporting the construction of community water sources to guarantee access to drinking water and sanitary facilities in health centres and vulnerable communities.





ENDNOTES

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- iv** A Review of the Impact of Social Disruptions on Food Security and Food Choice, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/fsn3.3752>
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- viii** UN Agencies Warn of Rising Hunger Risk in 18 'hotspots' | UN News. United Nations, United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1137127>
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- ix** <https://alnap.org/humanitarian-resources/publications-and-multimedia/communicating-humanitarian-learning-what-do-we-know/>
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- x** <https://www.cairn.info/revue-savoirs-2013-2-page-11.htm>
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- xi** The IPC is an innovative, multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making.

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ABOUT ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

We believe that everyone has the right to a life free from hunger, so we lead the fight against it by predicting, treating, and preventing its causes and consequences.

A GLOBAL NETWORK

Action Against Hunger is a global network with head offices in Canada, France, Germany, India, Spain, the UK, and the USA. We also have a fundraising office in Italy. Each Action Against Hunger member is legally independent but all members share a common mandate, values, operating principles, quality standards and strategy.

As well as having head offices, we have country offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2023, we worked in 59 countries with 8,987 staff around the world. We ran projects in 56 countries and assisted over 21 million people.