



**GLOBAL IMPACT  
REPORT 2022**



**ACTION  
AGAINST  
HUNGER**

# 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.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is of a world free from hunger.

## HOW WE WORK

We lead through action  
We work in collaboration  
We move and mobilise with determination  
We drive progress through innovation.

## 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 also have country offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2022, we had 61 offices in 58 countries with 8,990 staff around the world. We ran 856 projects in 55 countries and assisted over 28 million people.



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# STATISTICS ON HUNGER

**828M**

people don't have enough food.<sup>i</sup>

**1/10**

people go to bed hungry every night.<sup>ii</sup>

**3B**

people can't afford healthy diets.<sup>iii</sup>

**45%**

of deaths among children aged under five years are related to undernutrition.<sup>iv</sup>

**3.5M**

10 years from now 3.5 million children under 5 will die each year.<sup>v</sup>

**1/2**

More than half of all undernourished people (418 million) live in Asia; more than a third in Africa.<sup>v</sup>

**21%**

In 2022, the sharpest rise in undernutrition was in Africa, where an estimated 21% of the population is undernourished.<sup>vii</sup>

**1%**

Less than 1% of global aid focuses on nutrition.<sup>viii</sup>

**13%**

In 2022, world food prices surged at the fastest pace ever, jumping nearly 13% to a record high.<sup>ix</sup>

**49M**

The number of people teetering on the edge of famine is 49 million in 43 countries.<sup>x</sup>

# THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2021-25

## Working effectively in a shrinking humanitarian space

The environment in which we operate has changed and evolved over the past 40 years, in good ways and bad. The diversification of funding sources, emergence of new players, and increasing shift in resources and decision-making power to the Global South create a welcome opportunity for international NGOs to fundamentally rethink their roles.

While it is too early to estimate how deeply the COVID-19 pandemic will reshape our ecosystem, we know that it will affect every aspect of our sector: from our ability to operate in this new context, to how we raise funds and attract talent. These considerations further underscore the need to reassess and adapt our role.

We are also seeing an erosion of multilateralism, international norms and legal frameworks; growing politicization of humanitarian assistance; and increasing access restrictions and targeting of humanitarian workers. These contribute to a shrinking humanita-

To address our mission of creating a world free from hunger, the Action Against Hunger global network has developed an International Strategic Plan for 2021-25 (otherwise known as ISP3), which is summarised above.

This Global Impact Report summarises the main achievements of the global network for 2022, provides progress stories and case studies on our work, and provides

mobility and access. This is both due to constraints imposed by national governments, as well as fear, or reduced acceptance, of humanitarian actors. In some cases, these have hampered our ability to provide the life-saving assistance that protects vulnerable communities, and at times posed a risk to the safety and security of our staff.

Therefore, even as we explore new approaches over the next five years, we will continue to **ensure the safety and security of our staff, while upholding our core principles in everything we do.** We will never waver in our commitment to **defend humanitarian principles and norms**, and to protect the independence and neutrality of all humanitarian actors.

## Introducing the ISP3 priorities for 2021-2025

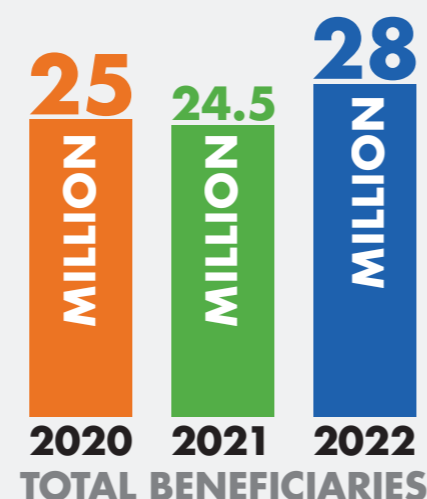
To address these complex and escalating humanitarian needs while increasing our impact, we need to adopt a new mix of interlinking approaches alongside our proven technical expertise. Our commitment to this approach

information on each of the countries in which we work.

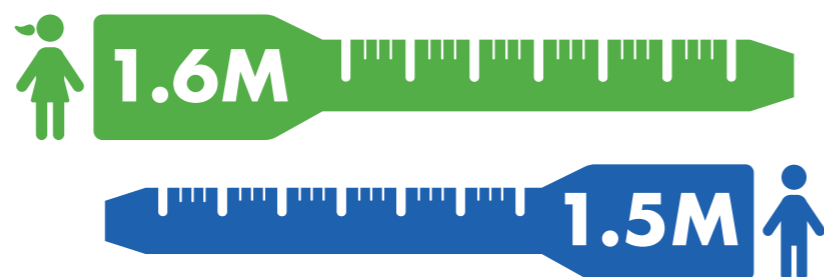
We know that life-threatening hunger and malnutrition have multiple causes – the main five of which are poverty, inequality, conflict, climate change and natural disasters.

While all these causes of hunger are sadly on the increase, we can highlight areas where we have made progress in all of them.

# IMPACT SUMMARY

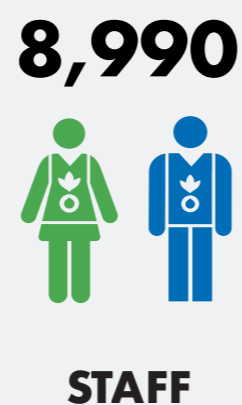
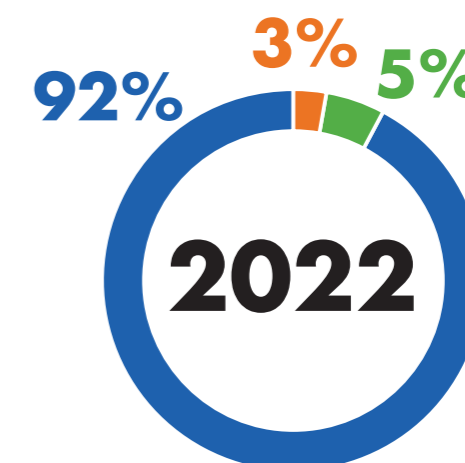


**3.1M**  
**TOTAL CHILDREN UNDER 5 SCREENED FOR MALNUTRITION**




## EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY


- PROGRAMMES
- COMMUNICATIONS & FUNDRAISING
- MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE



# WHERE WE WORKED 2022



 Country office only.  
No active programmes

 Country office with  
active programmes



# THEMATIC DATA AND NARRATIVE



# EMERGENCIES

## ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORK IN 2022



Emergency response continues to be central to the identity of Action Against Hunger. As part of the ISP3, we continued our commitment to 'use and share our experience to save the lives of people during disasters and in times of crisis', in particular utilising our rapid response capabilities. One of our core principles is to ensure that affected populations have access to the assistance they need. To achieve this, we work closely with first responders, community volunteers, local populations, local governments, and partners to strengthen their response capacity.

In 2022, we responded to 45 emergencies around the world. Of these, six aligned with the UN determination of a Level 2 or Level 3 emergency that is made based on scale, urgency, complexity, and capacity of the country affected by the crisis. As with the previous year, the most common types of emergencies we responded to were caused by conflict and extreme weather (floods, droughts, and cyclones). Additionally, we responded to several emergencies caused by disease and responded to more contexts where issues such as protracted famine were present.

Our 45 emergency responses were in 33 countries and across five continents. Just

over half (54 per cent) of these countries were in Africa. A major change from 2021 was the increase in responses in European countries. This was largely due to the emergency response to the war in Ukraine that started at the end of February, where we provided support in four countries (Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova).

The average duration of our emergency responses delivered in 2022 was 191 days. For 54 per cent of our emergency projects, staff from our emergency teams were deployed to the country, either to establish a new operation, or to assist our existing team in the country. For example, we did not have a presence in Ukraine or the surrounding countries at the time that the Russian invasion occurred. In this case, emergency staff were deployed to four different countries to set up offices, establish a team and begin aiding those in need.

However, we did not just also respond to large-scale crises such as the conflict in Ukraine, our emergency team was deployed, for example, to Bangladesh to support an existing team to manage the extra assistance required because of flash floods.

There were multiple categorisations of emergencies that we responded to, most of

## MAP OF REGIONS WHERE WE RESPONDED TO AN EMERGENCY IN 2022



which were considered either 'rapid onset' or 'slow onset'. Rapid onset emergencies occur quickly with a significant loss of life or threat to life, usually because of a single event such as an earthquake or cyclone but can also include an outbreak of violence that prompts large-scale displacement. In 2022 we responded to rapid onset emergencies, such as the flooding in Pakistan, the storm/cyclone in Madagascar, and the earthquake in the Philippines.

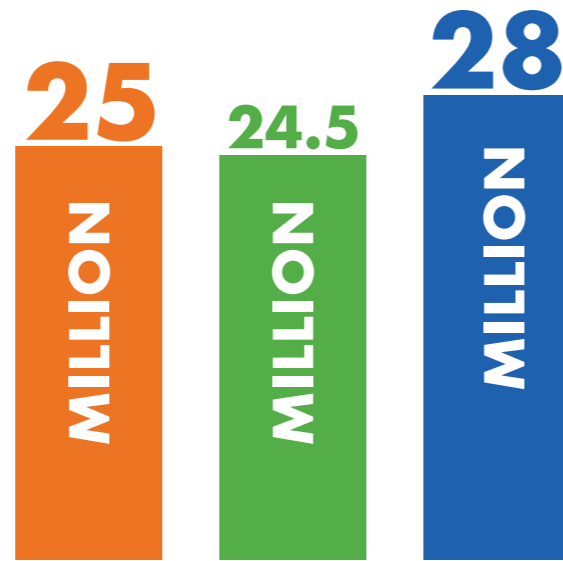
We also responded to several slow onset emergencies, which have evolved gradually over several years, such as ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Yemen.

As well as responding to emergencies, we have continued to develop our Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans. Emergency teams have worked with 12 country offices to develop these plans at country level. This included the development of new plans for our Bangladesh, Iraq, and Niger operations. This has been further supported by our team in Spain which has been developing digital solutions to support emergency responses. Included in these digital solutions are the development of emergency response performance indicators, and the initiative to collect data through a digital, rather than paper-based, approach during the first stages of an emergency.

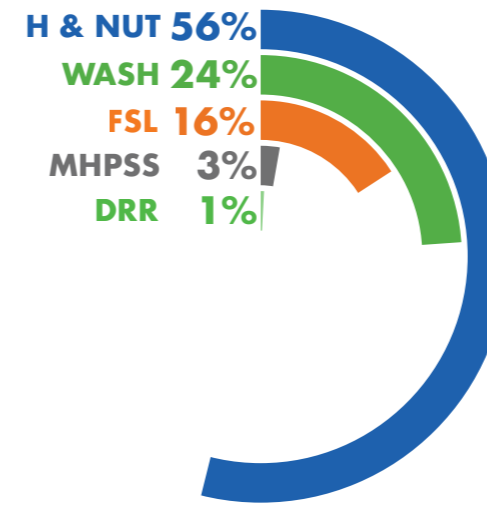
# PROGRAMMES

## TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

In 2022, Action Against Hunger delivered assistance in 55 countries across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. We supported 28 million people through 856 different projects. This was an increase from 2021, where we supported 24.5 million people with 686 projects.

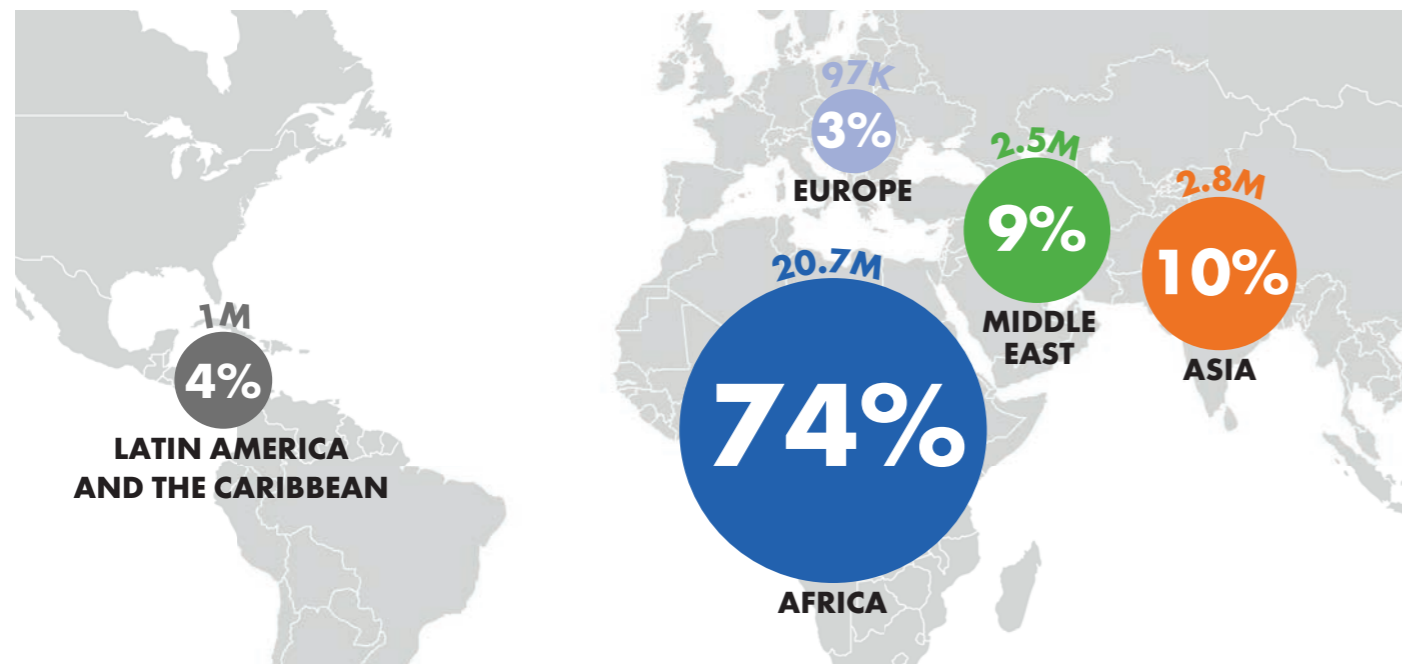


## NUMBER & PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY SECTOR IN 2022



**HEALTH AND NUTRITION: 15.6M**  
**WASH: 6.8M**  
**FSL: 4.4M**  
**MHPSS: 969K**  
**DRR: 268K**

## NUMBER & PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY REGION



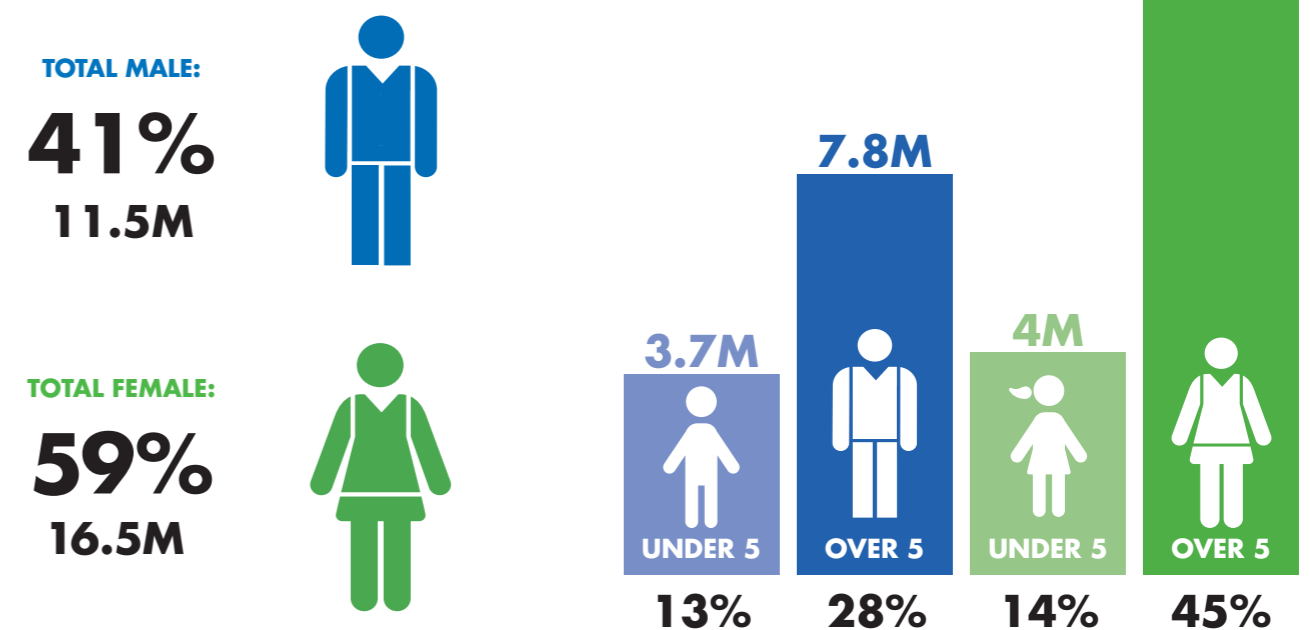
Like 2021, most of our support was to people in Africa. A significant difference from recent years was the increase in people supported in Europe, this figure was 48,600 in 2021 but 967,300 in 2022. This is primarily due to the conflict in Ukraine and

expanding our work into an additional four countries – Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. But also, because head offices are increasing programme work in their own countries, with projects tackling hunger in France, Italy, Spain, and the UK.

Our work is delivered through several different sectoral focuses. These consist of nutrition & health, food security and livelihoods (FSL), water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and mental health and psychosocial

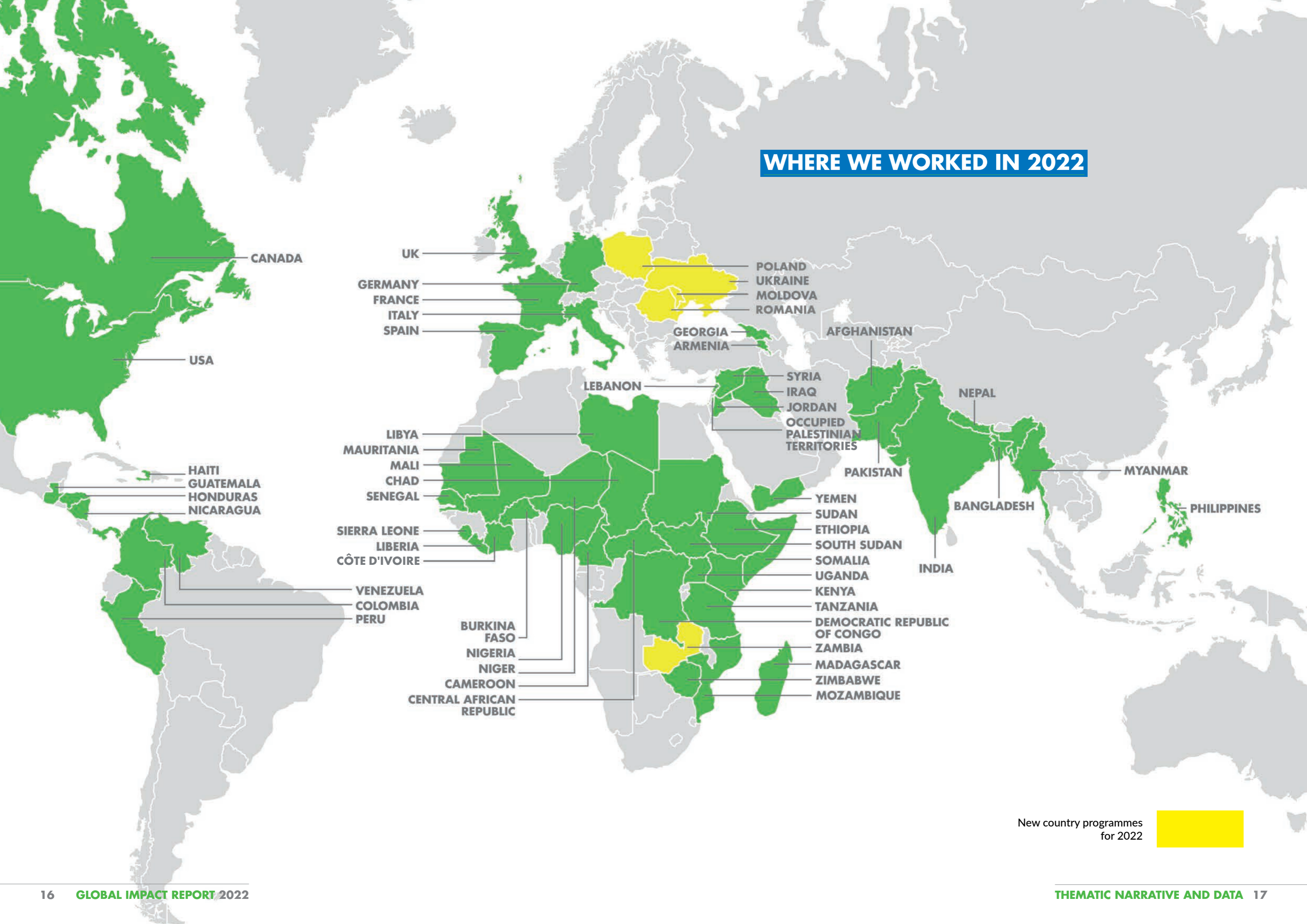
support (MHPSS). Our most common activities relate to nutrition and health, with the majority (56 per cent) of the people we support receiving such assistance. This highlights our focus on the fight against malnutrition across the globe.

## NUMBER & PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY GENDER





# WHERE WE WORKED IN 2022



CANADA

USA

HAITI  
GUATEMALA  
HONDURAS  
NICARAGUA

VENEZUELA  
COLOMBIA  
PERU

UK  
GERMANY  
FRANCE  
ITALY  
SPAIN

LIBYA  
MAURITANIA  
MALI  
CHAD  
SENEGAL

SIERRA LEONE  
LIBERIA  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

BURKINA FASO  
NIGERIA  
NIGER  
CAMEROON  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

POLAND  
UKRAINE  
MOLDOVA  
ROMANIA

GEORGIA  
ARMENIA  
AFGHANISTAN

LEBANON  
SYRIA  
IRAQ  
JORDAN  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

PAKISTAN  
YEMEN  
SUDAN  
ETHIOPIA  
SOUTH SUDAN  
SOMALIA  
UGANDA  
KENYA  
TANZANIA  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
ZAMBIA  
MADAGASCAR  
ZIMBABWE  
MOZAMBIQUE

INDIA  
BANGLADESH  
NEPAL  
MYANMAR  
PHILIPPINES

New country programmes for 2022

## LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Localisation is a key priority for the humanitarian and development sector, including Action Against Hunger. As a first step to review its mandate and role as an international NGO, Action Against Hunger has worked to strengthen its approach to working with local partners.

Based on a review conducted in 2019-2020, and extensive discussions with its external Local Partnership and Localisation Advisory Board in 2022, Action Against Hunger developed a Local Partnership Policy that commits the organisation to partnering with local and national actors wherever safe and possible. The policy helps local partnerships become a stronger part of Action Against Hunger's way of working, moving the organisation toward a more localised way of working that acknowledges and respects the local capacity, leadership, and systems already in place. The policy is built on seven principles that guide Action Against Hunger's partnership approach:

1. **Complementarity and added value**
2. **Trust, respect, and flexibility**
3. **Diversity and mutual learning**
4. **Shared purpose**
5. **Inclusiveness and shared leadership**
6. **Transparency and accountability**
7. **Neutrality**

Recognising the differences across contexts, the policy commits the organisation to reviewing its approach in each context on a regular basis. This shall ensure that we are: doing no harm; supporting and not competing with local and national actors; reinforcing and not dismantling local and national structures; and always adding value to the humanitarian and development work already present in that context.

The policy was reviewed and discussed with the Local Partnership and Localisation Advisory Board in a two-day workshop in Madrid in October 2022. The Board consists of eight local civil society representatives, including ones that have or are currently working in partnership with Action Against Hunger across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. This Advisory Board has been key to assure that those who are affected by this policy are also included in the development of it.

A quote from one Advisory Board member makes clear the direction they wish Action Against Hunger to move – away from implementing alone or “through” local actors and more towards complementarity and recognising the capacities local actors have:

*“I believe our shared humanity comes alive when we link the local and national to the international, and that meaningful partnership between local and international is built on our different strengths, capabilities, and resources. Let this be a transformational and empowering journey to leave no one behind.”*

Francis Iwa  
Co-founder & Executive Director  
CAFOMI, Uganda

In the next year, Action Against Hunger will focus on rolling out the Local Partnership Policy to all relevant actors in the global network along with the revised Local Partnership Toolkit. The training of staff and the monitoring of uptake will be key for the organisation, as a policy is nothing when stuck on paper, but has true potential when built into organisational culture.



## NUTRITION

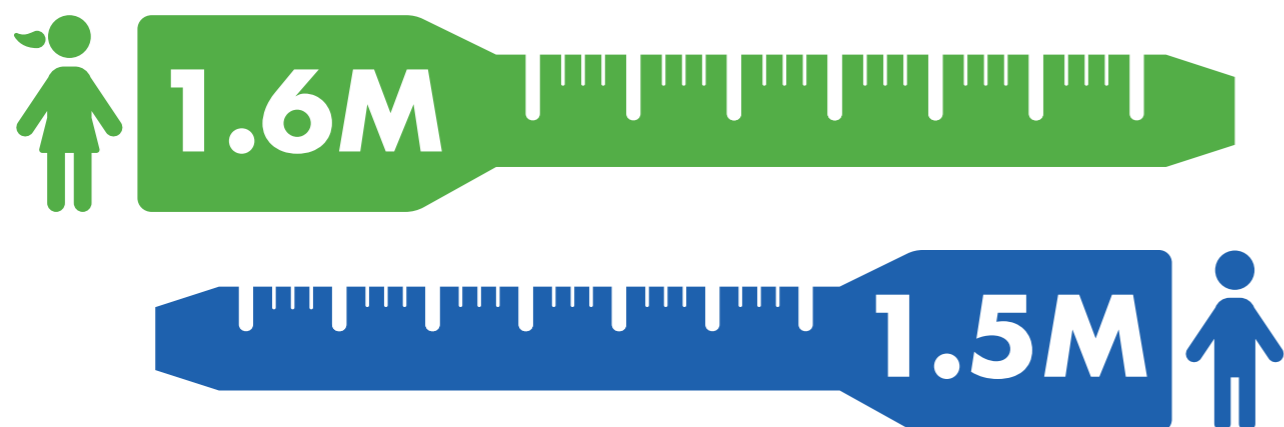
At the core of our nutrition work is the screening of children under five to detect malnutrition early in a child's life so that they can be cured more easily. This screening happens at several levels in hospitals, health centres and communities but also in the households themselves as we are training parents and caregivers to identify malnutrition in their own children.

In 2022, we screened children under five 3.1 million times globally<sup>1</sup>. Of these children, 787,435 were admitted into severe acute

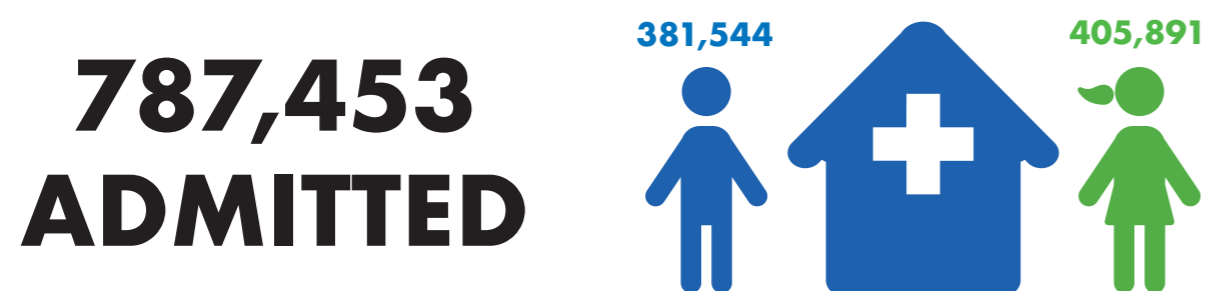
malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment in areas supported by Action Against Hunger. Over 303,000 boys and girls were discharged as cured from SAM and 260,000 boys and girls were discharged as cured from MAM.

<sup>1</sup> Note that the same children may have been screened more than once at different level of the health system (dedicated teams, Community health Workers, Health Workers at health centre level, etc....)

### NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE SCREENED FOR MALNUTRITION



### NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED FOR MALNUTRITION



## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO DESIGN AND LEAD SOLUTIONS TO MALNUTRITION IN SENEGAL

In Senegal, malnutrition in all its form is a chronic public health problem that affects nearly one in five children. In northern regions of Senegal, such as Louga, 28 per cent of children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition. Hunger is expected to increase with the reduction in production stocks, increased climate shocks and the consequent rise in prices of the main staple foods and energy products (gas, fuel, etc.), thus increasing household vulnerability.

To address this, Action Against Hunger is committed to saving lives in an effective and inclusive manner, while also supporting people and communities' resiliency to endure future shocks, mitigate climate change and address gender inequality in the fight against hunger. In Louga, Action Against Hunger is implementing a community-led prevention of malnutrition programme called 'Boolo Xeex Xibon' (BXX) to identify the causes and solutions of acute malnutrition.

As a community-centred project, BXX has two main objectives. First, the project aims to support the people in four village to independently understand, self-identify, design, and implement their own solutions to malnutrition. More broadly, BXX is evaluating whether community-led tools, or activities driven by the community in a collective manner, prove to be an effective and sustainable approach to our programmes and can be used in other contexts.

The BXX project was launched in 2022. With the support of a community mobiliser, community members learned about malnutrition and subsequently used this knowledge to identify and map the different factors that influence malnutrition in their village. In less than 3 months of implementation, community members, administrative and health authorities

expressed praise of the project's innovative participatory and inclusive approach to the community.

Action Against Hunger staff are also seeing results including greater ownership and strong commitment from individuals to complete project activities in the long term. Community members report they have gained practical knowledge on the linkages between climate change, water and sanitation, and other areas that affect malnutrition. Furthermore, these community members are developing skills in problem identification and solving, essential to tackling malnutrition in the long term.

In 2023, local community members will design and lead potential solutions to the causes of malnutrition they identified. They will create a plan to roll out these solutions and monitor the progress and impact of the designed activities. Action Against Hunger will facilitate and guide these groups through these steps and implementation.

People should be at the centre of all of Action Against Hunger's work. The BXX project is helping build resilience in our communities to future shocks, and understand the causes of, and solutions to, malnutrition. Individuals are connecting and mobilizing their collective knowledge to create community-led initiatives to prevent increases in malnutrition. Importantly, BXX has the potential to demonstrate the success of a community-led approach and provide key evidence to how these tools can be used widely across the global network, in other contexts and in every sector. It brings to life the evidence of our nutrition assessments such as Link NCA and the lived experience and knowledge of the communities with whom we work.



## CASH AND IN-KIND ASSISTANCE

In 2022, we provided €60 million worth of cash, goods and vouchers to people and communities.

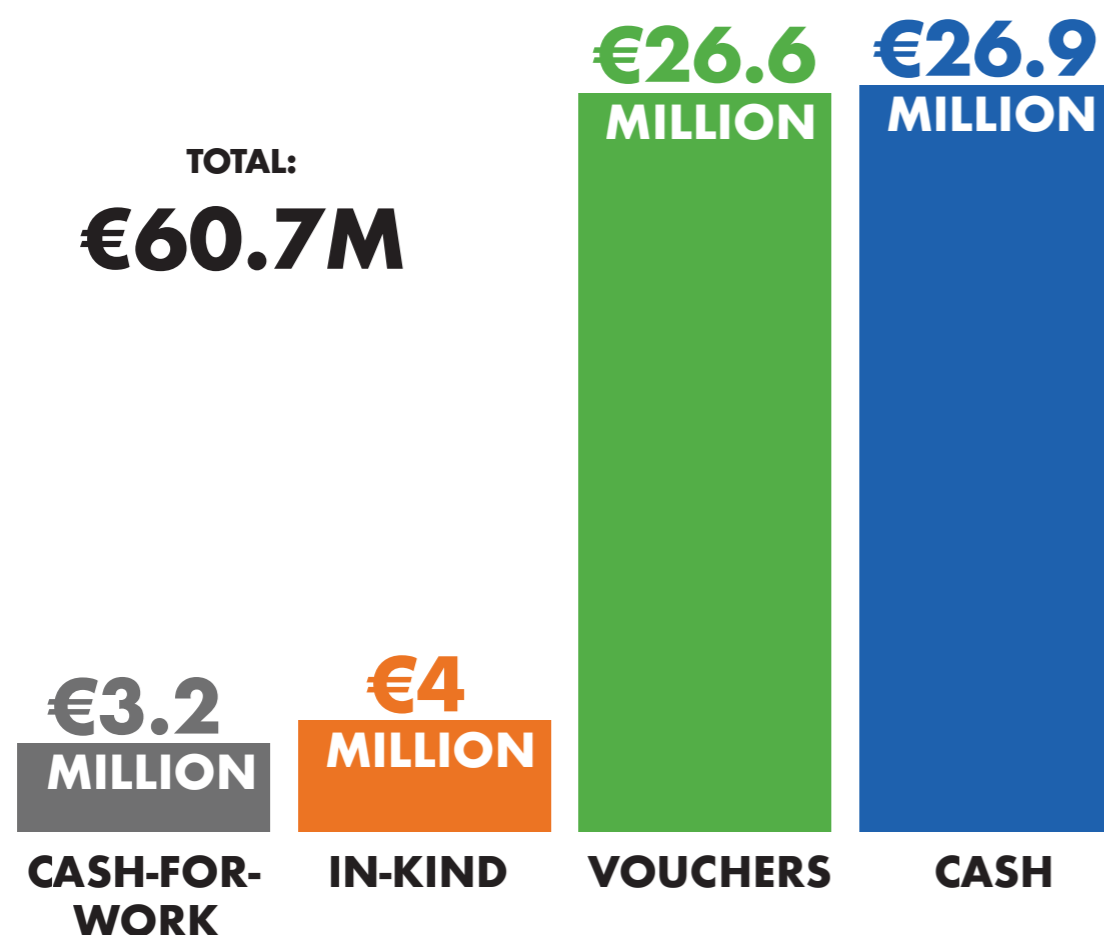
We distribute cash directly to people and communities as cash can achieve better outcomes for people and communities as they can decide for themselves what their needs are and how they can be met. Cash can also be distributed at a lower cost than goods and services.

In 2022 we distributed, €30 million worth of direct cash, through a variety of modalities:

- **Multipurpose cash:** cash that the recipient can spend on what they choose
- **Conditional cash:** cash that the recipient can spend on specific things such as food or sanitation items
- **Cash for work:** cash provided to the recipient for completing work

In the absence of a functioning market, we provided specific items to people, rather than cash. In 2022 we provided €2.8 million worth of food and €1.2 million worth of non-food items.

### VOLUME IN EUROS OF CASH, IN-KIND AND VOUCHER SUPPORT IN 2022

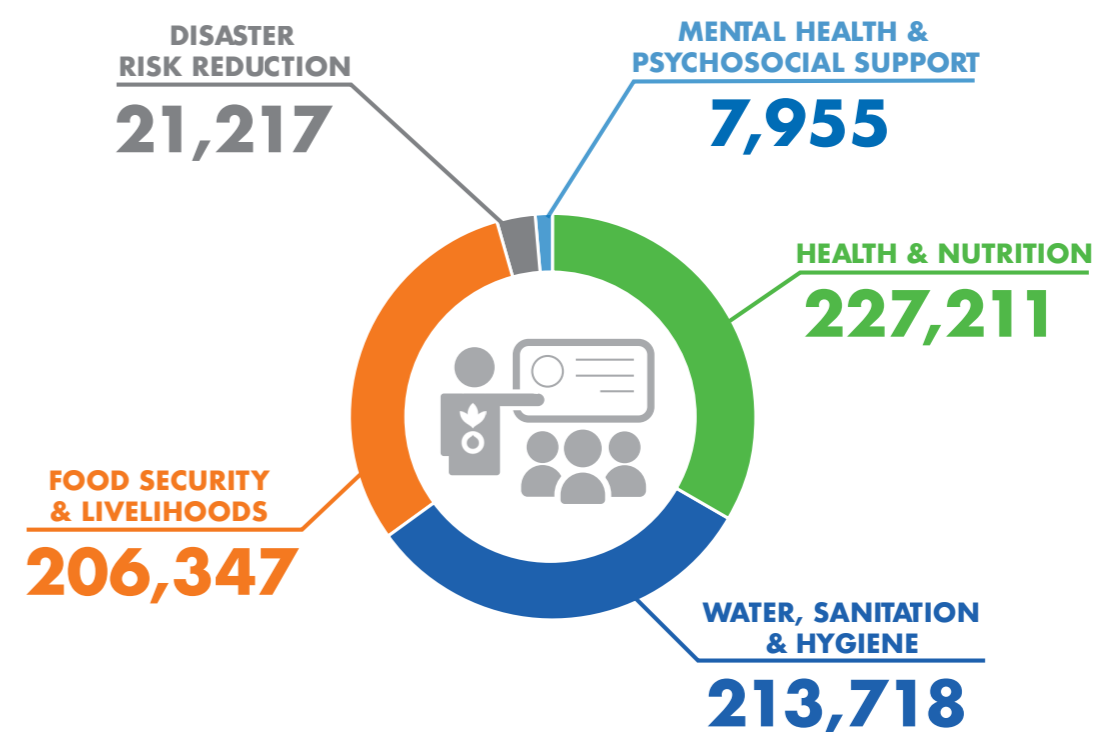


## TRAINING

While much of the work we do involves the transfer of cash, goods, or the delivery of services to communities, we also provide training to health actors, government authorities and community members to strengthen local capacities and adapt

community behaviours. In 2022, we trained 676,000 people across a range of different topics. The most common training was in health and nutrition, followed by WASH and FSL.

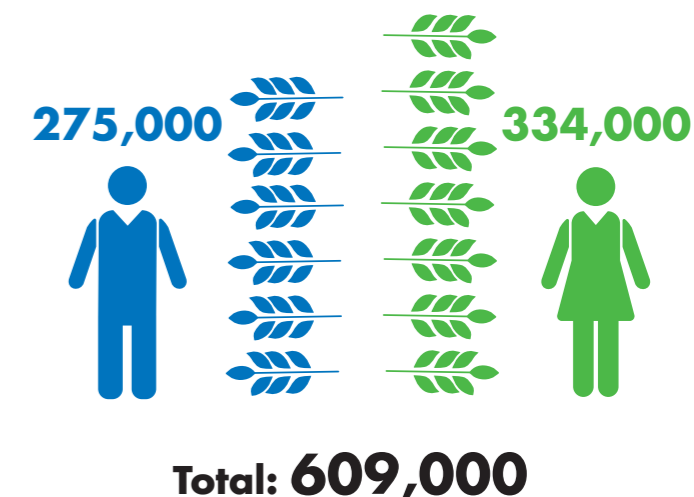
### NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED BY SECTOR



## AGRO-PASTORAL SUPPORT

As part of our strategic priority to build resilience in individuals and communities, we provide support to help further develop agricultural practices, with the aim of enabling households to become self-sufficient. In 2022, we provided agro-pastoral support to 275,000 men and 334,000 women.

### NUMBER AND GENDER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH AGRO-PASTORAL SUPPORT



# INCREASING BIODIVERSITY AND SMALLHOLDER INCOMES IN ZIMBABWE

Pollination is one of the most important functions in maintaining and promoting biodiversity, securing agricultural production and food security. Animal pollination accounts for fertilisation of around 75 per cent of food crops globally. However, current trends in agricultural production threaten habitats and survival of pollinators through high use of insecticides, unsustainable monoculture cropping, and deforestation.

Although biodiversity and pollination habitat are essential for agricultural production, many smallholder farmers lack awareness, motivation, or affordable techniques to employ conservation approaches alongside their existing agricultural practices. To increase knowledge and demonstrate the potential of approaches that simultaneously boost agricultural livelihoods and protect biodiversity, Action Against Hunger is running the “Farming with Alternative Pollinators” (FAP) project in Zimbabwe’s Midlands Province.

Action Against Hunger is working alongside its partner Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) with technical support from Environment Africa, and in collaboration with local government ministries, to implement the FAP project. The project is testing a cost-efficient and practical approach for smallholders to increase crop cultivation and subsequently income, whilst also protecting biodiversity and habitat.

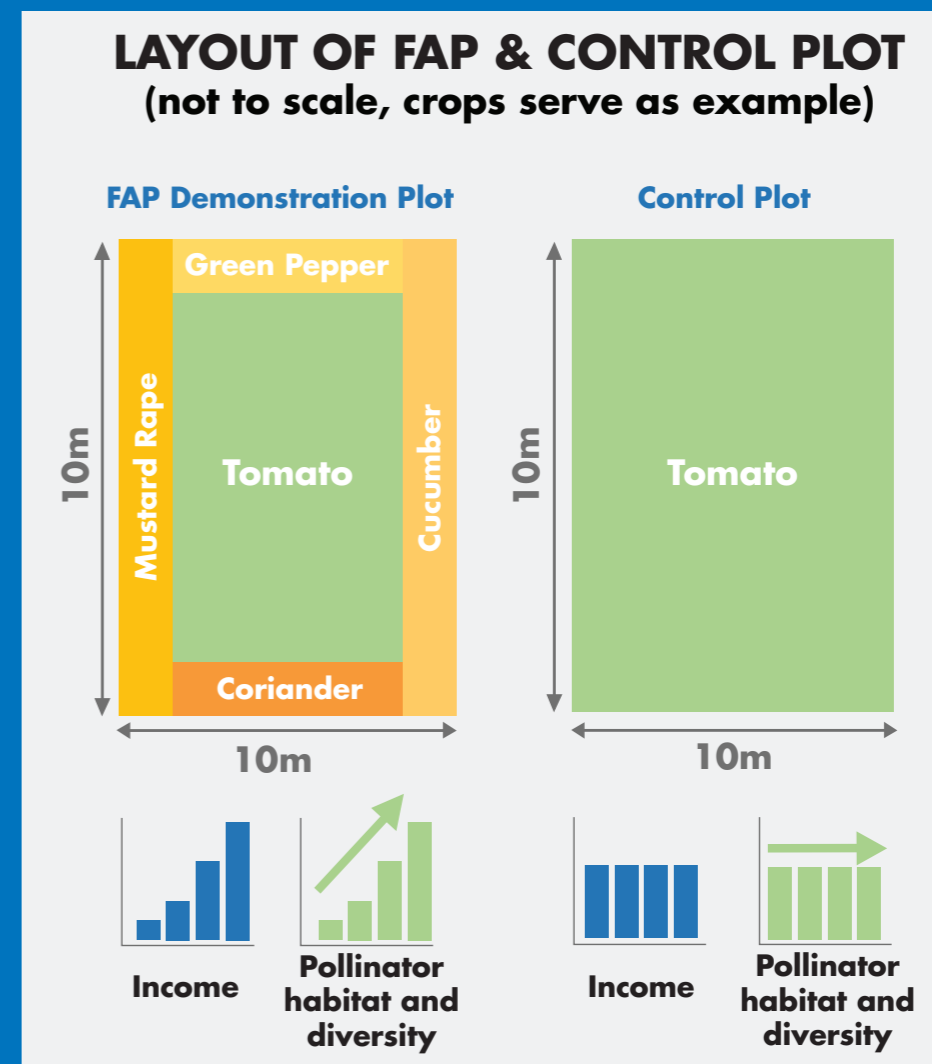
In the project, farmers are planting a border strip of pollinator plants, such as rapeseed, peppers, and coriander, around a 300m<sup>2</sup> plot of a main crop (in the image on the right). In contrast to monocropping - as shown in the control plot - this planting

arrangement promotes natural fertilisation, which can reduce the use of expensive, environmentally damaging pesticides and boost the harvest of crops.

In 2022, 50 FAP plots and 30 control plots were planted with tomatoes, rapeseed, coriander, cucumbers, and green peppers. Working collaboratively with NAZ and the Government’s department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (Agritex), farmers were trained in agricultural techniques such as working with alternative pollinators. This pilot and the overall FAP approach were presented in several symposiums and sectoral exchanges within Zimbabwe.

Working collaboratively with agricultural advisors, farmers are monitoring the development of pollinator diversity and the overall performance of their crops in the plots. During the first crop cycle, farmers reported increases in the number of fruits per plant. One individual excitedly shared that his customers were shocked his tomatoes from the FAP plot were locally grown. The tomatoes appeared much larger and colourful compared to usual harvests in the area. Local households, not included in the pilot, are also adopting these practices within their own gardens after seeing the success of the first crop cycle.

In 2023, the FAP project will continue testing the approach with other crops selected by local farmers. Outreach activities with stakeholders including the UK Government’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), research institutions and Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, will share evidence on whether



the FAP approach increases income, overall harvest levels and local biodiversity. If the approach proves successful with a variety of food crops, this farming technique has the potential to increase household access to a diversity of local food sources and support conservation efforts in the community.

Importantly, FAP enables vulnerable communities to implement nature-based farming in places such as Zimbabwe in an accessible way. In this method, few additional resources are needed for

implementation beyond the purchase of pollinator seeds or seedlings. FAP also visibly shows immediate and tangible results to households through increased crop yields. As a result, this biodiversity and nature-based approach is drawing the attention of other community members and stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture.

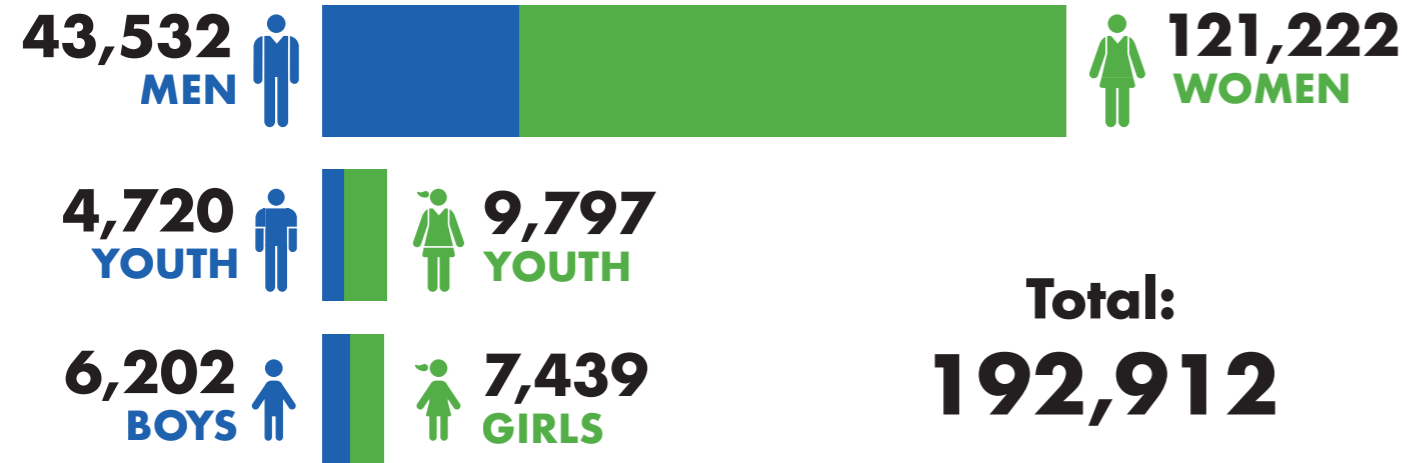
Together with its partners, Action Against Hunger is supporting community efforts to build resilience against future shocks.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

We conduct our work in very hostile and challenging contexts which can often affect the mental well-being of local people. Over the last few years, it has been clear that supporting people affected by poverty, conflict or climate impacts requires a holistic approach that supports physical and mental well-being.

For this reason, mental health and care remain an important component of our support to people and communities. A significant part of this work in 2022 was the provision of focused mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 192,912 individuals. This was a significant increase from 110,300 in 2021.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH MHPSS CARE



# RESEARCH

## NUMBER OF RESEARCH PROJECTS, PARTNERS AND PUBLICATIONS



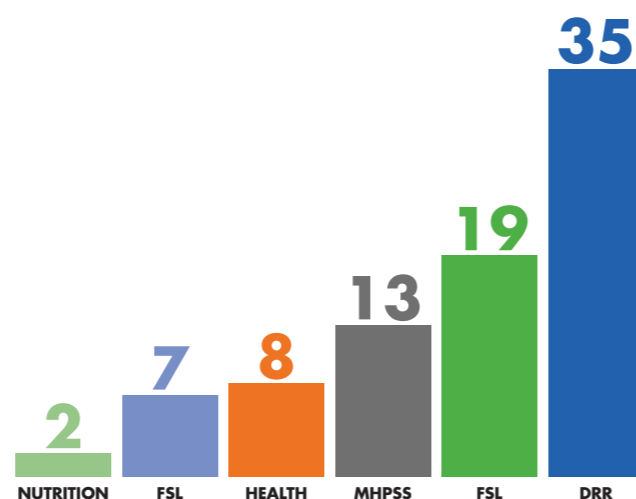
One commitment in the ISP3 is to ‘create and share knowledge’. Our aim is to be innovative in the fight against hunger, and this requires research and learning to further explore current and new approaches. In 2022 we conducted 43 research projects, slightly less than the 55 projects in 2021, with an overall budget of €20 million. Our projects span our operational sectors and countries, where we collaborate with a variety of donors and partners to produce the results needed to deliver evidence-based interventions. Our research projects were conducted in 19 of our operational countries, with the most frequent being Mali (four projects), Senegal (six projects), Somalia (four projects) and South Sudan (four projects).

The vast majority (81 per cent) of research projects included a component related to nutrition. For example, we are conducting an innovative research project in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR) and Ghent University, that is assessing the effectiveness of localised solutions to treating acutely malnourished children. We also continue to conduct nutrition causal analysis, referred to as LINK-NCA, in multiple countries, aiming to explore the risk factors for acute malnutrition in each

context. Our work also focused on several other sectors alongside nutrition, with just over half (51 per cent) of our research focussing on more than one sector at a time. Other focuses of our research were on health, mental health and care practice, WASH and food security and livelihoods.

While our research aims to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our own work, we also aim to be collaborative in our research, and to support the wider humanitarian effort. In line with this, a total of 23 research publications were made externally available. In addition, we worked with 43 different partners, the majority of which were academic/ research organisations.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS BY SECTOR



© Photo credit





# ADVOCACY

## NUMBER OF ADVOCACY INITIATIVES



Advocating for policy changes aiming to reduce global hunger remain a key part of our work. In our International Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (ISP 3), we commit to ‘mobilise against indifference, and we will never stop advocating for governments, international organisations, and institutions to take greater collective action against hunger’.

In 2022, we conducted 187 advocacy initiatives (e.g. papers, meetings, and campaigns) across the globe. These were conducted by both our head offices and in-country teams. Of our advocacy

initiatives, 46 were conducted at head office level, intending to change or influence a government policy to end hunger. In the countries in which we work, 141 initiatives were led at national level, and these worked closely with national/local CSOs and authorities to advocate for increased financial commitments to ending hunger, and to adapt government policy frameworks to coordinate efforts between climate change, women and girls’ empowerment and nutrition

Across these projects, 258 products were produced and disseminated. These included statements, analysis pieces, briefs, and events. Additionally, we held 406 workshops and meetings at country level through bilateral or collection action. We were able to directly link all the work mentioned above to 42 reported changes in policy. This included the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2664 calling for humanitarian exemptions in UN sanctions regimes, and the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act in the United States.

## NUMBER OF POLICY CHANGES, PRODUCTS AND MEETINGS



## WE ADVOCATED FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR NUTRITION

One focus of our advocacy work is to encourage donors to provide greater funds for global nutrition assistance, as well as greater focus on nutrition by governments in the countries where we operate.

In 2022, as Co-Chair of the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN) UK, we played a leading role in cross-sector advocacy that drove a new commitment of £1.5bn in UK Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for nutrition over seven years. In addition, the UK Government pledged to adopt the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) policy marker for nutrition when designing programmes across FCDO, a key recommendation of ICAN UK. These financial and policy commitments demonstrate an ambition from FCDO to encourage greater integration of nutrition objectives into non-nutrition programmes.

Additionally, we pushed for the inclusion of nutrition in national health policies across West African countries. Consultations were conducted with the communities we work with across the Economic Community of West African States, Mali, Niger, and Mauritania together with the World Bank, the EU, and Governments. The advocacy initiatives employed during this process led to increased investment in and uptake of preventive and treatment protocols in the region. This was further complemented by an Agence Française de Développement (AFD)-funded project which aimed to contribute to nutritional security by improving the care of people suffering from under-nutrition, through developing preventive actions and proposing adequate public policies.

## WE AMPLIFIED VOICES OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

To increase our impact and ensure that communities play a central role in driving global change, we’ve worked collaboratively with youth and parliamentary advocates to promote our localisation agenda.

In the Horn and Eastern Africa, we trained Youth Nutrition Champions, who have been instrumental in voicing the climate impacts that young entrepreneurs face in food systems. We helped form East African Parliamentary Nutrition Caucuses and engage Kenya’s First Lady to elevate nutrition advocacy and domestic resource mobilisation.

We also partnered with the Indian government to bring attention to the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. We facilitated conversations with the Government of India’s policy think tank NITI Aayog and local administrations to pilot the use of the SAM Photo App. This application can increase the screening and treatment of SAM led by community health workers (see progress story on SAM photo app on page 31).

## WE ADVOCATED FOR URGENT ACTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Action Against Hunger has continued to put pressure on governments and international institutions to take climate action by attending and leading events at the 27th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27).

## ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP27

Every year the United Nations hosts the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP). The year 2022 marked the 27<sup>th</sup> year of COP. Taking place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this year's event was referred to as the 'African COP.' Action Against Hunger participated in the event to advocate for climate action to reduce hunger, while raising the voices of local stakeholders.

To advocate for more coordinated responses to the long-term transformation of food systems, we organised a side event during COP27. This event titled, *Climate and hunger crisis: governance and solutions*, showcased different funding for West and Central Africa (ROWCA) and advocacy partners from local civil society organisations (CSOs). Importantly, this event elevated African voices at an African COP, including a panellist from Egypt.

Additionally, in collaboration with local partners, we presented evidence and testimonies from the communities we work with and further built our advocacy on climate change. COP27 served as an important opportunity to remind the international community that urgent actions on climate change must be taken. And to illustrate that climate change and hunger are inextricably linked.

During COP 27, we monitored negotiations of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) to make sure the interests of the people and communities primarily affected by hunger and malnutrition were central to the negotiations. We further discussed the outcomes and our analysis on the KJWA negotiations through the Climate Action Network agriculture working group, giving us broader influence. Significantly, our position on agroecology was taken up by EU negotiators and by the World Health Organisation (WHO). We were able to advocate in several bilateral meetings and briefings on a vision for the future of KJWA, to ensure the Koronivia decision aligns with our ambition to end hunger.

In the coming years, Action Against Hunger will continue its advocacy work on climate change and hunger. We hope to influence other negotiators' groups, such as the Group of 77 (G77) – an alliance of 134 developing nations within the UN - and the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), for the work on agriculture under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to result in transformative action on food systems.



# COMMUNICATIONS

The ISP3 states that one of our key priorities is to “Connect and mobilise”. It also states that “Achieving meaningful results in the fight against hunger requires wide-ranging collective action. That is why we aim to become a better convener, bringing people together to collaboratively develop new and shared solutions to reduce and prevent hunger.”

Furthermore, ISP3 highlights the need for Action Against Hunger to “work with our allies to mobilise against indifference” and to “never stop advocating for governments, international organisations, and institutions to take greater collective action against hunger.” In order to do this, the Communications teams in the network work closely with Advocacy teams and Ops departments to recruit supporters and campaigners so that they donate to our emergency appeals and long-term development projects and participate in campaign actions.

We raise awareness of life-threatening hunger and malnutrition and the work of Action Against Hunger by collecting content from our projects and through our websites, social media, emails, and work with the press. Working with our advocacy colleagues, we also develop and promote campaigns demanding action from national and international authorities to address hunger and malnutrition.

Our Communications teams in the head offices worked hard to promote our visibility to generate engagement with our organisation and its work. In 2022, we produced 14,607 pieces of media coverage across the globe, with 28 billion opportunities to view.

## MEDIA COVERAGE ACHIEVED IN 2022 – HEAD OFFICES ONLY



## COVERAGE

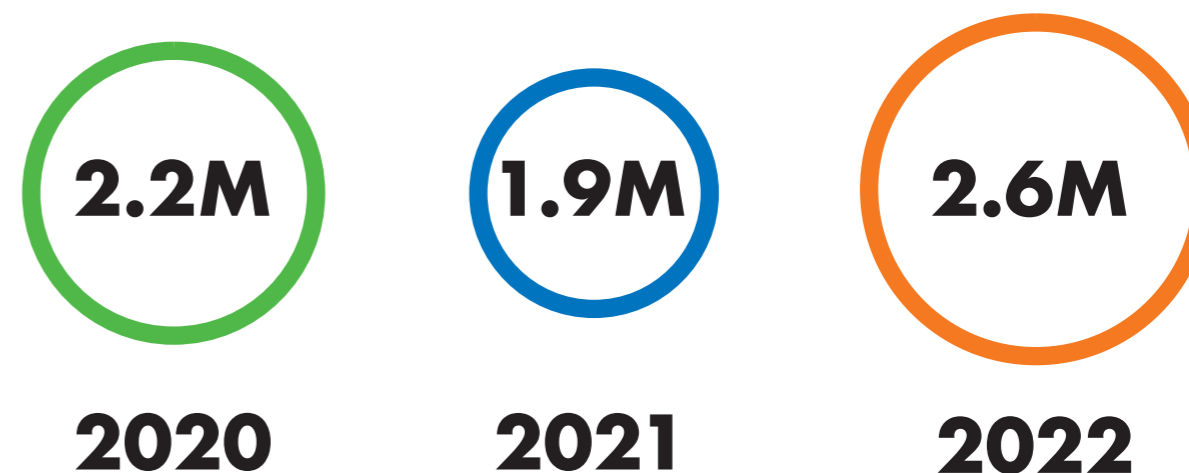
The ISP3 also states that “We will increasingly strive to act as a facilitator, connecting a wide range of stakeholders – including donors; actors at the global, regional, and local levels; communities and individuals – to foster greater communication and collaboration to achieve our common goals. This includes a focus on collaboration along both a North–South axis (e.g. connecting local partners and communities with international donors) and a South–South axis (e.g., connecting communities with local public and private actors to develop local solutions), for more sustainable outcomes.”

Achievements in this area include the organisation of a two-day conference by Action Against Hunger USA in Washington in October 2022, which brought together activists, philanthropists, and policymakers around the world to “re-evaluate and reboot the fight against hunger”. We also ran a participatory photography project in Senegal, which gave local people the opportunity to define in their own words and images what hunger means to them and how they can tackle it. For further information on this project, see the participatory photography section on page 38.

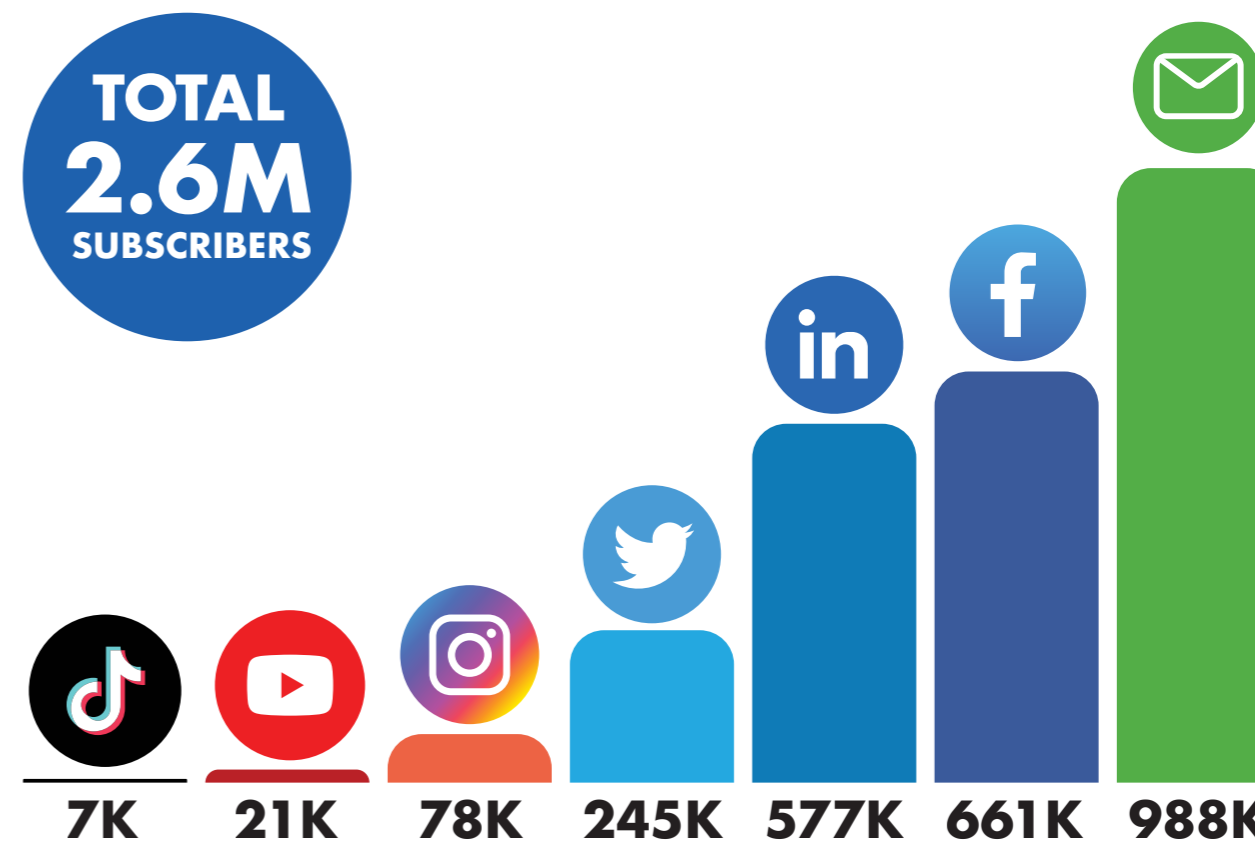
In addition to providing direct funds, a further 2.6 million people supported us in 2022 by subscribing to our emails and YouTube channels and by following us on social media. Additionally, 535,000

people attended and participated in various fundraising events, such as community events, school runs, challenges, or gala dinners.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS FROM 2020 TO 2022



## SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS ACROSS ALL HEAD OFFICES



## PARTICIPATORY PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

In ISP3 we remain committed to keeping communities and people at the centre of our work. We work collaboratively with these communities to better identify, develop, and implement effective solutions to hunger. Our Participatory Photography Project in Senegal is one example of how communities are actively contributing to communicating about the realities of malnutrition in Toubras Séras.

Toubras Séras is a small village in northern Senegal. Here, extreme droughts, heat waves, and the dry climate limit agricultural production. People are reliant on buying straw to feed their livestock due to lack of grass and vegetation. Without the ability to farm crops, and few other employment opportunities, community members have resorted to searching for recyclable materials among a growing rubbish field to sell to buy food. These impacts of climate change, unemployment, poor sanitation, and limited agricultural production all contribute to rising rates of acute malnutrition in the town.

To capture the lived experience and personal documentation of community members in Senegal, Action Against Hunger organised a participatory photography project. Ten women and men were given digital cameras, taught how to use the device, and prompted to take photographs and videos to capture the presence and impact of malnutrition in their community. Each person was given the chance to paint a picture of what hunger means to them and their life.

Dié, a community health worker, shared her perspective of being a grandmother and helping to support her grandchildren while their parents are away earning an income. Mama and Aissatou highlight the impact that health centres can have in treating malnourished children struggling with a variety of diseases. Mame, a community health volunteer, photographed and identified the waste as a key contributor to malnutrition.

A video compiled by the participants showcased the troubling effect of a growing rubbish field, challenges in growing their businesses, and difficulties expanding their kitchen gardens without proper resources. The accounts highlight ways in which people in the community support each other and find solutions to the challenges they face. Health workers identify signs of malnutrition and treat children early, grandmothers provide extra caring responsibilities, and women's cooperatives teach each other how to prepare healthy meals. The photographs and video give a glimpse of a struggling but resilient community.

Projects, such as the Senegal Participatory Photo project, are fundamental in capturing and elevating the voices of community members in the places in which we work. These stories help Action Against Hunger raise the alarm and need for additional support for communities like Toubras Séras and ensure people remain at the heart of our mission.



# SECURITY

Action Against Hunger operates in many challenging contexts, including active conflict zones, natural disaster-prone areas and regions under the control or influence of authoritarian groups. We work in places where the world's most vulnerable people live. These contexts present a risk to our operations and most importantly to the staff, volunteers, and local partners with whom we work. The mitigation and management of security incidents that have the potential to harm Action Against Hunger staff are a priority for the network. This is highlighted in our ISP3, where we highlight that we will 'ensure the safety and security of our staff, while upholding our core principles in everything we do'.

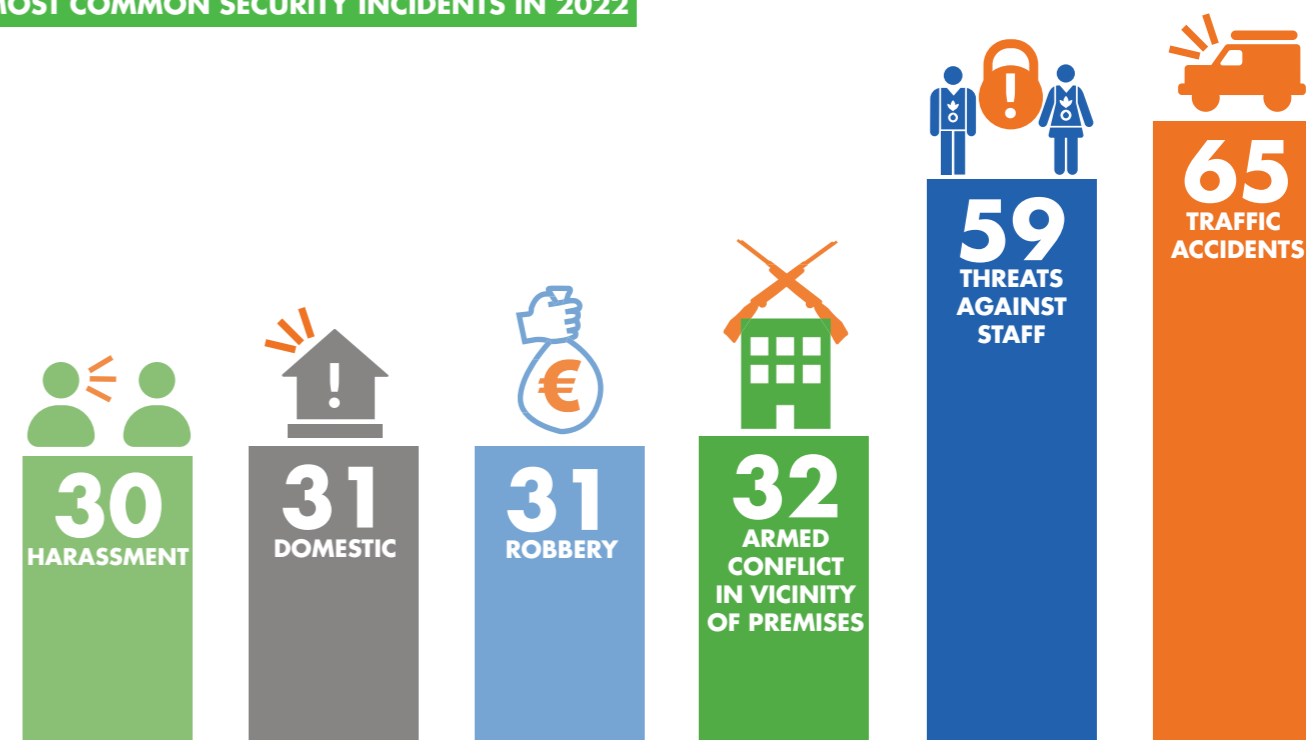
In 2022, 382 incidents were experienced by Action Against Hunger, this is a reduction from 432 in 2021. The countries that faced the most incidents were DRC (25), Ethiopia (53), Lebanon (58) and Somalia (23). The high numbers in Lebanon were due to the economic and financial crisis in the country. In Ethiopia, our team is working in a context dealing with an increase in widespread violence, especially across the Tigray region.

As with the previous three years, traffic accidents were the most common category of incidents occurring 65 times. The majority of these took place in DRC (eleven), CAR (seven), Niger (seven) and Lebanon (five). Traffic accidents are particularly common in the areas where we work due to poor road surfaces and weak regulatory framework regarding road safety. Since 2021, the Action Against Hunger global network has been undertaking a Road Safety Campaign during the latter months of each year, however it is expected to take time before having an impact.

Threats against our staff were the second most common category of incidents, with 59 such incidents occurring. A large part of these happened in areas where intra-country violence was frequent, such as in Ethiopia, Haiti, and Lebanon. To mitigate this, we are increasing our work with communities to ensure that we are a trusted actor and that we limit the chances of our staff facing these threats.

Other common security incidents related to armed conflict in the vicinity of our premises (32 incidents), robbery (31 incidents), domestic accidents (31 incidents) and harassment (30 incidents).

## MOST COMMON SECURITY INCIDENTS IN 2022



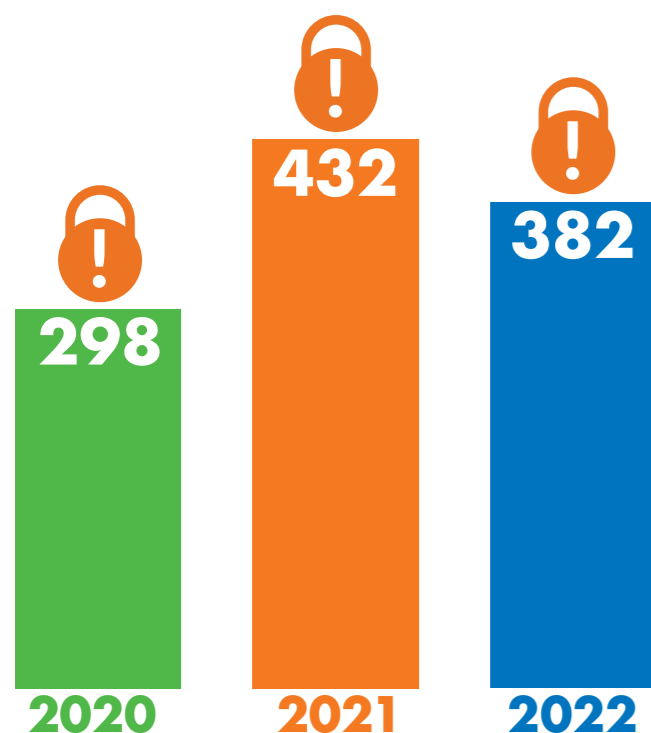
The threat levels in Haiti, Somalia and Syria were classified as extreme according to our security classification. While Syria and Somalia were also considered extreme in the previous year, Haiti was upgraded to this level in 2022 due to severe shortages of fuel, water, and food, which has resulted in heightened tensions and gang violence. A further 16 countries were categorised as having a very high threat level (including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya). According to our ranking of individual incidents, four critical cases were faced by our staff in 2022, two of which were in Syria and two of which were in Ethiopia, although this was a reduction from ten in 2021.

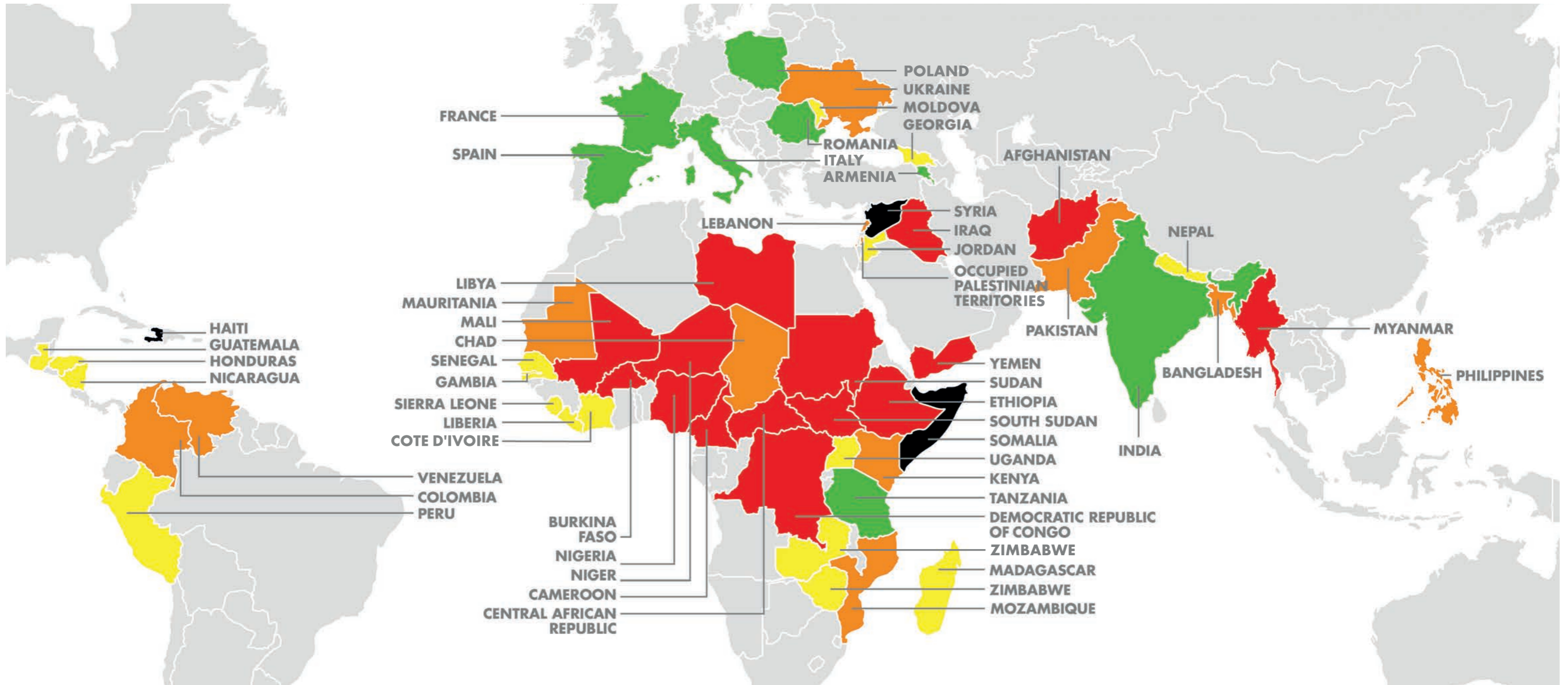
One incident category that increased compared with 2020 and 2021 was arrests/illegal detention of our staff. One example of this increase was in Afghanistan,

as anticipated since the arrival of new authorities following the takeover by the Taliban. We also faced similar issues in Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mozambique, Myanmar, and Yemen. In such contexts, we rely on our level of trust and acceptance with communities and existing authorities to mitigate the risk of incidents occurring, and to manage them in case they do occur. Utilising this acceptance in Afghanistan we were able to secure the release of colleagues within a few hours (four cases out of five).

Considering the security risks faced by staff, we are committed to providing widespread internal security training. Last year we trained 3,508 staff on security, accounting for 40 per cent of all our employees. This was a significant increase from the previous three years, including double that of 2021.

## NUMBER OF SECURITY INCIDENTS FROM 2020 TO 2022





**GREEN:** operations are possible without any special security measures; low level of threat.

**YELLOW:** intervention possible with appropriate security measures; medium level of threat.

**ORANGE:** activities are sometimes locally led in difficult conditions; high level of threat.

**RED:** the type of operations is prioritised according to needs and security management is very strict; very high level of threat.

**BLACK:** the conditions are so hostile that the operations, if maintained, are limited to life-saving activities with very strict security management protocols; extreme level of threat.

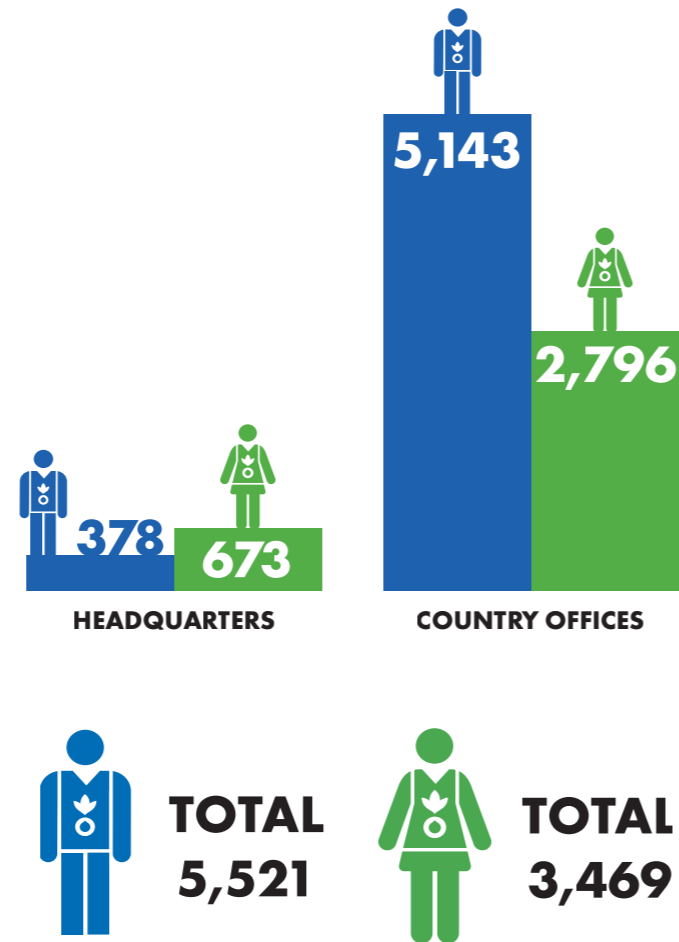
# HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2022, Action Against Hunger has over 61 offices in 58 countries with a total of 8,990 staff members working worldwide. 1,051 (12 per cent) of these staff members worked in our head offices and 7,912 (88 per cent) worked in our country offices.

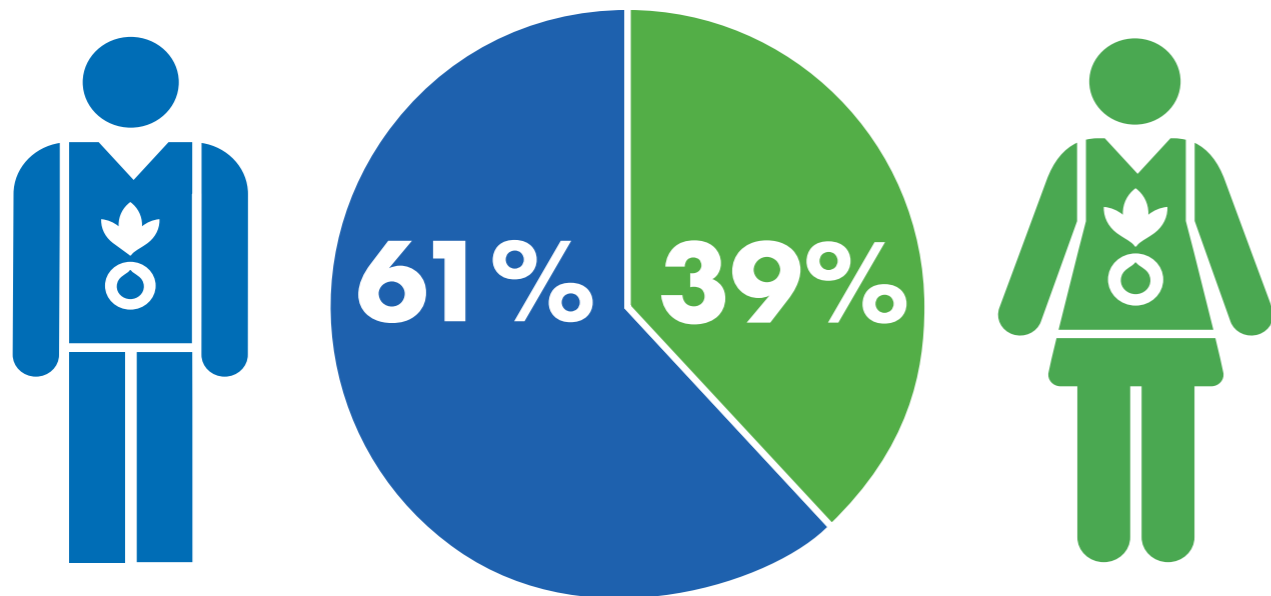
In our ISP3, we committed to “Systematically integrate gender equality throughout our organisation, in all our activities and strategies, and develop a gender-transformative approach institutionally and in our programming.”

At an organisational level, we are tracking the gender profiles of our staff to ensure that we support women in the workplace and into decision-making positions. Globally almost 40 percent (38.5 per cent) of our staff are female. This is a two percent increase from 2021. A greater number of female staff work in head offices, where approximately 64 percent of staff are female. In contrast, only 35 percent of personnel in country offices were female.

## NUMBER OF OFFICES AND STAFF IN 2022



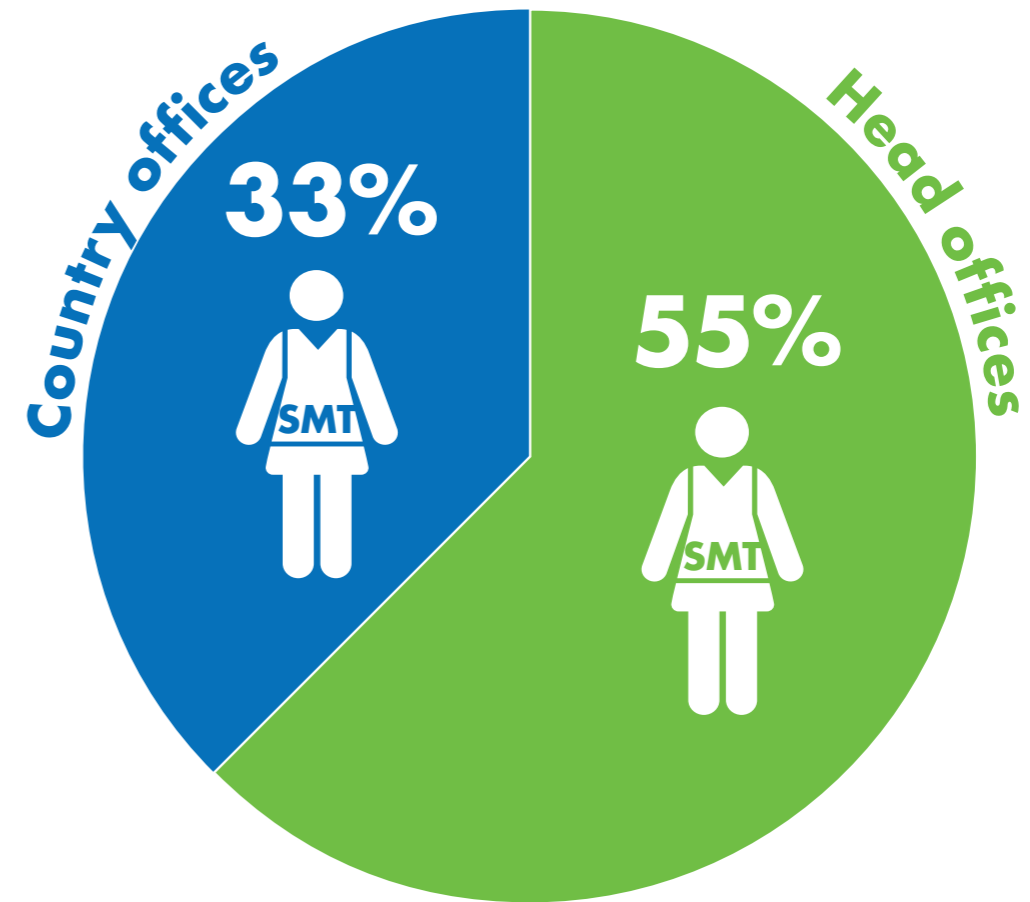
## STAFF BY GENDER



In general, women are more likely to be in leadership positions at the head office level than in country offices. On average, 55 percent of the Senior Management Team

(SMT) or Executive Committee are female at the head office level. In contrast, only 33 percent of leadership positions were filled by women in country offices.

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS BY GENDER



## STAFF ENGAGEMENT

In 23 offices, staff were asked for feedback regarding working at Action Against Hunger. Overall, staff responded positively about working for Action Against Hunger. 94 per cent of respondents agreed with the statement "I would recommend Action Against Hunger as a good place to work" (or a similar statement). 88 per cent of individuals reported "In general I feel that my specific needs, whether related to gender identity, race, sexual orientation or

disability, are not an obstacle when working at Action Against Hunger" (or similarly worded statement). Staff retention was higher in country offices compared to head offices. On average, 20 percent of our total staffing voluntarily left their position in head offices. In contrast, staff retention is higher in country offices. In 2022, only four percent of staff at a country level voluntarily resigned.



## INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY POLICY

Many underlying causes of malnutrition can be linked directly and indirectly to gender inequality. To ensure our efforts contribute to transforming these inequalities, Action Against Hunger rolled out the International Gender Equality Policy (IGEP) in 2022.

The IGEP developed Action Against Hunger's commitment to use a gender transformative approach in our work. Through this approach, we commit to go beyond acknowledging overlapping forms of oppression and inequality, and instead take measures to transform these social structures and norms to achieve more equitable power dynamics for women and girls globally.

To support the roll-out of this approach, the International Gender Unit (IGU) facilitated interactive sessions and provided support to projects and programmes across the network. This included a series of workshops with over 145 participants (95 of whom were women) to present the policy and discuss its application across the global network.

Recognising that an in-depth approach was needed to transform gender relations and norms, the team led train-the-trainer workshops, provided 121 coaching sessions with feminist leaders, developed technical guidance and toolkits, and co-facilitated gender transformative training across the organisation. Furthermore, the team piloted a feminist leadership approach as an avenue to expand our gender transformative policy into our organisational structure and culture.

### Feminist leadership

Feminist leadership principles integrate a collaborative, horizontal and non-hierarchical process that enables a team to focus on mental health and wellbeing while also redistributing power towards inclusion and equality. To explore its applicability to Action Against Hunger, the IGU implemented a horizontal management structure and a peer-to-peer accountability process. The team created safe spaces for transparent sharing of information and led meetings with reflection, and mental health check-ins. Through this process, IGU ensured care and wellbeing was at the centre of their work. The shared decision-making approach supported higher quality work and a sense of collective power.

The year 2023 will bring a continuation of the important work completed in 2022. An essential part of the Gender Transformative Approach is the decentralisation and further integration of gender transformative principles into Action Against Hunger's work. The IGU will design a strategy to structure the implementation of the IGEP.

Additionally, a new mechanism called the Gender Transformative Standards will be piloted between June and September as a new method of tracking the network's progress in gender equality and inclusion. These standards will inform each office where they are located on the gender equality continuum and present key action items for our offices to further improve our gender transformative work.





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# FINANCE

## TOTAL INCOME FROM 2015 TO 2022



In our ISP3, Action Against Hunger committed to increase investment and overall revenue by approximately 5 per cent annually and reach 600 million euros by 2025. We set out to grow our private revenue streams and push for more flexible funding to support long-term solutions to malnutrition and food insecurity. In 2022, we exceeded several of these goals, and continued to expand our work with donors, partners and civil society organisations around the globe.

In 2022, we reached our 2025 target three years early with an income of €647m across

the Action Against Hunger global network. This was an annual increase of 22 per cent from €528.6m in 2021 and 8 per cent over our 2025 goal.

Our largest source of private income (67 per cent) is unrestricted. With this unrestricted income, Action Against Hunger can support its mission to fight life-threatening hunger, and deploy funds in an efficient, innovative and rapid manner.

Private restricted fundraising increased by 46 per cent from 2021 to 2022, with a total of €41.1m contributing to our income in 2022.

RESTRICTED PUBLIC INCOME FROM 2019 TO 2022

2019

€356.1M

2020

€409M

2021

€396.5M

2022

€503.4M

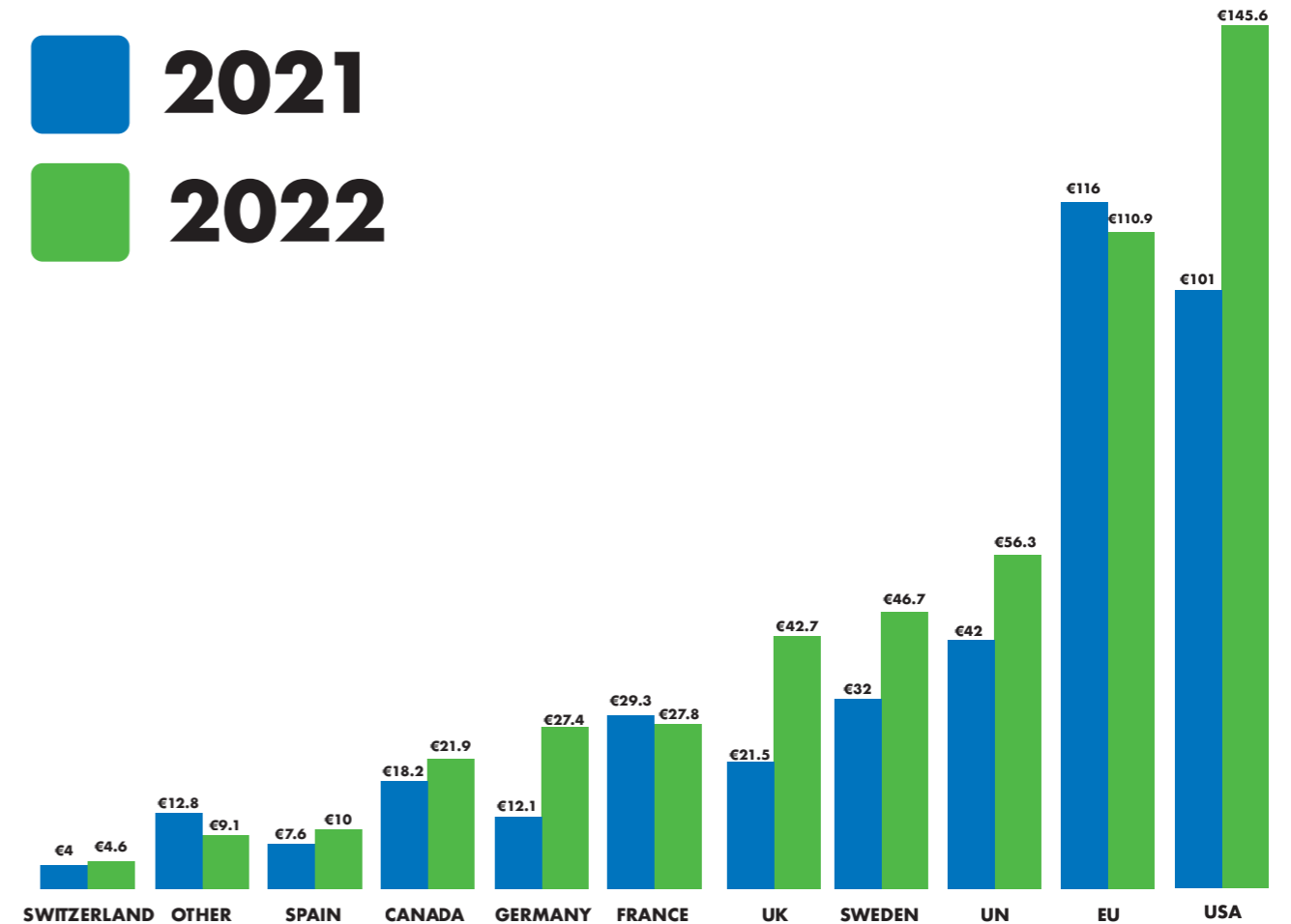
Action Against Hunger increased its revenue from public restricted funding by 27 per cent in 2022, with an income of €503.4m. The US Government, the European Union and the United Nations remain the most significant institutional donors in 2022. Collectively, these multilateral agencies contributed €312.9m.

Significantly, the US Government increased its provided revenue from 2021 by 44 per cent, becoming our largest public funding

source and contributing €145.6m to Action Against Hunger (from €101m in 2021). Similarly, the Swedish Government increased its funding by over 46 per cent (from €32.0m in 2021 to €46.8m in 2022). The UK and German Governments more than doubled their funding in comparison to 2021. The UK Government increased its funding by 103 per cent from €21.0m to 42.7m and the German Government increased its funding by 128 per cent from €12m to €27.4m.

RESTRICTED PUBLIC INCOME BY SOURCE IN 2021 AND 2022

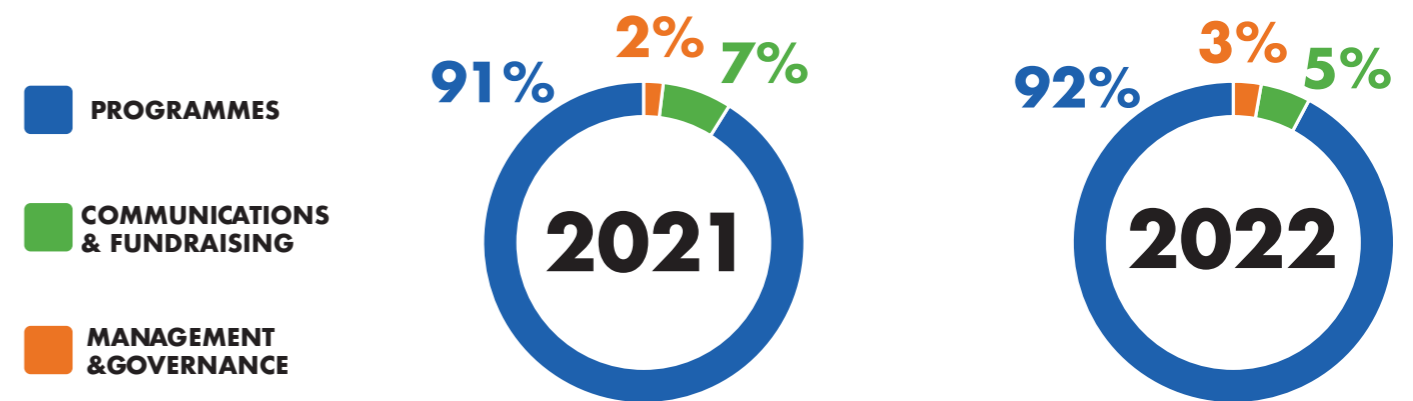
2021  
2022



With a higher revenue, Action Against Hunger implemented 856 projects in 2022. In fact, 92 cents of every euro spent was spent on programmatic activities. Management, governance and

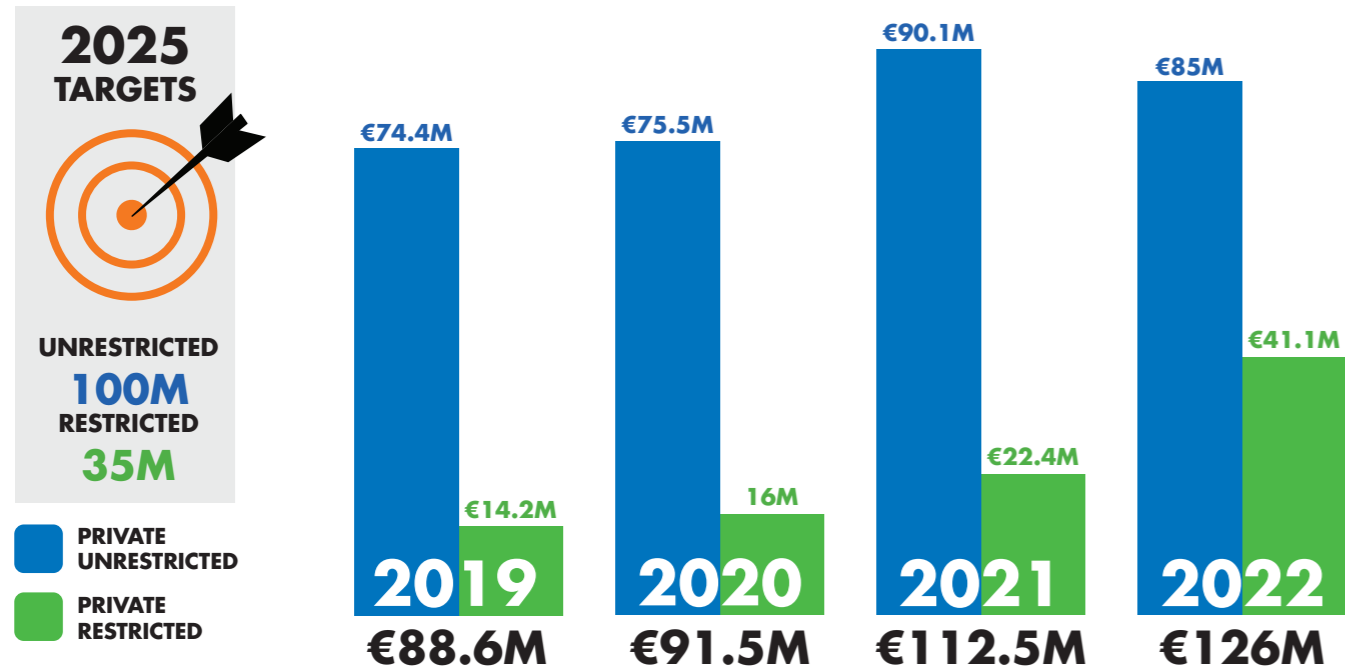
support services accounted for 3 cents per euro spent. Meanwhile, 5 cents for each euro contributed to fundraising and communications costs.

EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY IN 2021 AND 2022



# FUNDRAISING

## INCOME FROM PRIVATE SOURCES FROM 2019 TO 2022



In 2022, we raised €126 million from private sources, an increase from €112.5 million in 2021.

Of this, €109.5 million was raised through our fundraising activities, with just over three quarters of our private income (76 per cent) was from the generous support of 640,000 individual givers, who donated on average €123 over the year. Of these individual givers, 296,000 were regular donors.

The majority (82 per cent) of our private revenue was unrestricted; this enables us to rapidly respond to emergencies as and when they arise. While individual givers provide the majority of our private funds, we also benefit from the financial support through corporates partners and foundations and by running events. The corporate/foundation support accounted for 19 per cent, or €21 million, while events accounted for 5 per cent.

## PRIVATE INCOME SOURCES BY CATEGORY



All head offices mobilised from the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022. Our individual donors, corporate partners, trusts and foundations and institutional donors provided tremendous support to our emergency appeal for internally displaced people in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland, and Romania. More than 13 million euros were raised in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, and the US in just a few months.

As a member of the Disasters Emergencies Committee (DEC), Action Against Hunger UK received a record-breaking £9.8 million to support work in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Private funds allowed for the rapid start-up of emergency activities in food, hygiene kits and cash distribution, access to water and mental health activities. Action Against Hunger reached 480,716 people between February and December 2022.

# COUNTRY PROFILES AND CASE STUDIES



# AFRICA

## TACKLING MALNUTRITION IN EAST AFRICA

Thanks to the generous support of H.E. Sheikh Than Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani, Action Against Hunger provided humanitarian assistance to save the lives of nearly 170,000 malnourished children in Somalia and Kenya.

In 2022, countries across East Africa faced disaster, as a third successive year of drought threatened to cause famine in the region. Crops withered, livestock died of starvation and over 13 million people faced life-threatening hunger.

Kenya and Somalia were particularly badly affected. Action Against Hunger's East Africa Regional Director, Hajir Maalim, said: "The needs right now are higher than we have experienced in generations and the situation is becoming dire."

One of the methods Action Against Hunger uses to address malnutrition is to give ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to children under the age of five. This is a peanut-based paste, full of nutrients and packed with high concentrations of protein and energy. RUTF requires no preparation or refrigeration, so large quantities can be delivered to local health clinics for distribution to community health workers, parents, and care givers.

In the first few months of the project, we bought nearly 100,000 packets of RUTF and screened nearly 60,000 children under 5 for acute malnutrition, including two-year-old Hassan in Somalia.

Hassan had been ill for three months; he was coughing constantly, vomiting and suffering night fevers. His father sold his last three goats to hire a donkey cart to take his son on the 23 km journey to the nearest town for treatment. Once they reached Baidoa, they went to our Stabilisation Centre, which offers free medical care to severely sick and malnourished children.

On arrival, Hassan had no appetite, he was listless and barely able to sit, let alone walk. He was pale, his skin was peeling, his eyes were sunken and his whole body was swollen. He weighed just 4.6 kg – less than half the average weight of a child of his age.

We immediately admitted him to the acute phase section of the Stabilisation Centre due to the severity of his condition and started to treat him with therapeutic milk. Within three weeks, he was eating RUTF and had put on nearly one kilo in weight. He is now an outpatient and able to walk again.

This grant will help hundreds of thousands of children, like Hassan, to recover from life-threatening hunger and malnutrition.



© Photo taken by Action Against Hunger

## BURKINA FASO

OPERATING SINCE 2008

Burkina Faso's security crisis worsened during 2022, due to violence. As of 31 December 2021, 1,579,976 women, men, girls, and boys were internally displaced. The level of global acute malnutrition exceeded 10 per cent in the provinces worst affected by violence and at least 390 000 children under the age of five were suffering from acute malnutrition across the country.

In response, Action Against Hunger intensified its frontline rapid response mechanism - in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Solidarités International and Humanity & Inclusion. It met the needs of both displaced and host populations in terms of essential basic items, WASH, and food.

In addition, Action Against Hunger continued to provide primary health and nutrition care through mobile clinics and support to health centres, as well as providing psychological support to crisis-affected people through a trauma management protocol, which saw positive results in the mental health of 98 per cent of people taking part.

On the development side, Action Against Hunger continued the implementation of

the USAID-funded PREPARE project under the lead of the NGO Pathfinder, aimed at strengthening the delivery of quality reproductive health; maternal, new-born, and child health; nutrition; and WASH services in the Centre Nord, Sahel, and Est regions.

The EU-funded the PROGRESS project, aimed at strengthening the livelihoods and social cohesion of people affected by violence in the Est region, and the German Government's BMZ funded the Inclusive Food Security and Nutrition project in the Hauts-Bassins region. The year 2022 also marked the extension of the CONFLUENCES project, which contributed to the nutritional security of vulnerable people through strengthening health systems in the south-western part of the country.

At the end of 2022, Action Against Hunger launched the YERETALI project a cross-border programme with Côte d'Ivoire to support the recovery and community resilience to shocks related to the climate and displacement.

## CAMEROON

OPERATING SINCE 2014

In 2022, Cameroon continued to be affected by complex humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts and a refugee crisis involving one million internally displaced people and 48,100 refugees and asylum seekers from Central African Republic and Nigeria. In total, 3.9 million people in Cameroon were declared acutely food insecure in 2022.

In Cameroon, Action Against Hunger has implemented 12 projects, all of which integrate gender. In fact, the Cameroon country office has been gender certified.

Action Against Hunger worked with the health sector to help the health system be more prepared for emergencies. Mobile clinics provided primary and mental healthcare to affected communities located far from health facilities, while community health workers were trained to improve the management of childhood illnesses at community level. In addition,

psychosocial care was provided to trauma-affected adolescents, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers to prevent malnutrition. Furthermore, victims of inter-community conflicts received cash transfers.

Action Against Hunger also promoted agroecology, the professionalisation of agricultural cooperatives and the training of young people. Together with its local partners, Action Against Hunger helped develop the first National Plan to respond to food insecurity and supported the development of communal strategies for the concerted management of natural resources. Communal crisis and disaster response plans were adopted and contingency stocks put in place. And our integrated approach included a strong focus on ensuring sustainable exit strategies by focusing on local organisations.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

OPERATING SINCE 2006

In 2022, the security situation in some parts of Central African Republic (CAR) remained highly volatile despite an overall reduction in the incidence of armed clashes. However, more than half of the population remained in need of multisectoral humanitarian assistance, including 1.6 million requiring nutritional assistance.

In CAR, Action Against Hunger provided emergency support to displaced, returned and/or crisis-affected populations, improving access to healthcare and nutrition for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women in Basse-Kotto, Nana-Mambere, Sangha-Mbaere and Ouham-Pende. In Bangui and Alindao, malnourished children and their caregivers also received psychological support.

Within the framework of the rapid response mechanism for population movements, Action Against Hunger provided assistance in the form of essential household kits,

water, hygiene, and sanitation, as well as food assistance and mental health support to affected households in Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Nana-Mambere and Mambere-Kadei.

Interventions were carried out in Alindao, Mingala and Nola to improve access to water and sanitation facilities and to promote hygiene practices among the population. Sanitation facilities in health centres were also improved.

Action Against Hunger also implemented longer-term projects, continuing its collaboration with the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Pédiatrique de Bangui (CHUPB) and the University of Bangui to train doctors and health staff in the treatment of malnutrition. In Bossangoa, Action Against Hunger also supported the Centre de Formation Agricole Rural (Agricultural Training Centre) and the Beekeepers Cooperative in Ouham to improve livelihoods.

## CHAD

OPERATING SINCE 1982

In 2022, Chad was severely affected by the impacts of climate change, with an early and acute lean season in the Sahel zone, followed by historic flooding. Over 6.1 million people suffered from food insecurity – 2.1 million of whom were severely affected.

In Chad, Action Against Hunger continued to implement multisectoral responses across all its programmes. In relation to nutrition and health, the organisation implemented a combination of emergency, support and health system strengthening approaches. Projects were developed for urban and rural populations as well as for displaced persons through large-scale curative and preventive interventions.

When it came to food security and livelihoods, Action Against Hunger assisted the most vulnerable people with food programmes, support for pastoralism in the Sahel provinces, and support for livelihoods and agricultural development – for example, market gardening and rainfed crops (i.e., crops following the annual rainfall cycles).

These programmes helped communities cope with the pastoral and agricultural hunger gap (or lean season) while strengthening their resilience to shocks. In the supported health structures and at community level, Action Against Hunger continued to systematically include WASH interventions in its activities combatting malnutrition, providing drinking water and hygiene and sanitation interventions for communities and populations displaced by the security crisis in the Lake and South regions, inter-community conflict in neighbouring Cameroon, and floods. In the north of Kanem, Action Against Hunger also implemented a WASH infrastructure development project.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger trained 300 community leaders to provide psychological first aid to people affected and injured during crises. In addition, 30 nurses and three doctors were trained on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MHGAP) approach to better manage mental health disorders among populations in emergencies.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

OPERATING SINCE 2002

In the first part of 2022, Côte d'Ivoire was calm, though the number of security incidents rose significantly in the last quarter of the year, particularly on the northern border with Burkina Faso.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger's programme in Côte d'Ivoire continued through the ACT Femmes project, which worked to empower women and adolescent girls in the north of the country, with the main focus being on health and rights. Action Against Hunger also supported the PROSSAN programme (which was renewed for a second three-year period) aimed at strengthening health services and practices among women, men, and adolescent youth in precarious neighbourhoods of Abidjan.

Meanwhile, the M3EAU project aimed to improve the governance and transparent

management of safe water. And the innovative Young Entrepreneurs in Urban Agriculture (JEAUB) project trained young people in soilless agriculture, including cultivating on rooftops in the city of Abidjan.

In 2022, the Action Against Hunger emergency project - funded by the French Interministerial Food Aid Committee (CIAA) - was launched and aims to improve the nutritional security and resilience of vulnerable people in the Tchologo region through cash transfers and support for income-generating activities. Action Against Hunger also prepared to respond to the deteriorating context in the north of the country through the YERETALI project, a cross-border community resilience project covering both Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

OPERATING SINCE 1997

In 2022, a quarter of the population in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - over 26 million people - experienced severe and acute food insecurity, and more than 6.4 million people were acutely malnourished, mainly children under the age of five years. Eastern DRC continued to suffer from armed violence and saw new conflict-related crises emerge. In the rest of the country, the population continued to endure extreme poverty and poor basic services and infrastructure.

In the DRC, Action Against Hunger carried out multisectoral responses to several emergencies - including nutrition, health, WASH, and conflict - by providing

emergency food aid for displaced populations and people affected by insecurity in Ituri; and deploying emergency nutrition and health teams in areas of nutritional emergency throughout the country. In 2022 Action Against Hunger also responded to the measles epidemic in the DRC.

Action Against Hunger invested heavily in gender and protection mainstreaming through the implementation of an integrated Protection and Nutrition security programme and intensified its commitment to the prevention of sexual abuse and to the fight against fraud and corruption.



## ETHIOPIA

OPERATING SINCE 1985

Severe hunger and humanitarian crises, prolonged drought in the southern and south-eastern parts of the country; conflict in western Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, and in northern Ethiopia; and flooding in Gambella and parts of Somali region all contributed to growing food insecurity, displacement, and poverty in 2022.

Countrywide, 22.6 million people needed life-saving humanitarian aid, yet humanitarian funding did not keep pace with growing needs. By the end of the calendar year, the needs of only half of these people had been met. Across Ethiopia, acute malnutrition rates rose from 7 per cent in 2019 to 11 per cent in 2022, and stunting increased from 37 per cent to 39 per cent in the same period.

In Ethiopia, Action Against Hunger delivered humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected

and hard-to-reach areas, integrating nutrition, health, WASH, food security and livelihoods, and protection interventions for people in need.

In 2022, our teams reached 2.9 million people in 61 districts impacted by conflict and drought in Tigray, Amhara, Benishanguel Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Somali regions. Our reach increased by 45 per cent compared to 2021, with a growing funding portfolio and geographic footprint as well. Our interventions focused primarily on addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of hard-hit communities, especially among young children and mothers. At the same time, Action Against Hunger supported early recovery and resilience efforts in the country.

## KENYA

OPERATING SINCE 2006

Prolonged drought in Kenya has driven an increasingly severe food and nutrition crisis. Five consecutive failed rainy seasons have depleted pasture, reduced water and food availability, and increased resource-based conflicts.

The number of people facing hunger and in need of humanitarian assistance grew from 3.5 million to 4.4 million people in 2022 - 800,000 of whom are on the brink of famine. An estimated 970,000 children under five years and 142,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women were malnourished and in need of life-saving treatment.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger helped increase access to life-saving health and nutrition services for 74,070 people. We partnered with the Ministry of Health and other organisations to strengthen the health system, support community health volunteers, provide essential nutrition

treatment supplies and improve access to clean, safe water in drought-affected communities by repairing and upgrading water sources. Our teams also provided hygiene supplies and educated communities on healthy hygiene and safe sanitation. To prevent hunger in areas hit hard by the drought, we provided food assistance, cash vouchers, and protected livelihoods by supporting livestock health and treating sick animals. Our teams also trained more than 5,200 women in climate-smart agricultural techniques so that they could produce nutritious crops at home to feed their families and earn more income.

A programme to address life-threatening hunger and malnutrition in Kenya and Somalia was also started in 2022 - thanks to funding from H.E. Sheikh Than Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani. For further information on this project, see the case study at the beginning of this chapter on page 56.

## LIBERIA

OPERATING SINCE 1990

Liberia remained in a difficult socioeconomic situation throughout 2022, which saw the country ranked at 175 out of 189 countries in the UN Human Development Index. Food insecurity continued to worsen and almost 375,000 people were living in a crisis situation – a figure projected to rise to over 530,000 in 2023.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger's Covid-19 pandemic project was completed, which provided nearly 70,000 people with the means and information to protect themselves against the virus and supported 56 health facilities to improve prevention and infection control efforts in three counties (Montserrado, Margibi and Nimba). In parallel, the third phase of the PROSSAN project started in May, aimed at improving sexual and reproductive health behaviours and practices in the communities of Montserrado, especially among adolescents.

Action Against Hunger also started the second phase of the Working to Improve Nutrition at Scale project (WINS) in

eight out of 15 counties by supporting the implementation of direct nutrition interventions – such as the supplementation of micronutrients to children and pregnant and lactating women, and programmes on Infant and Young Child Practices and antenatal care.

By leading the Liberia WASH Consortium, Action Against Hunger also completed the second phase and started the third phase of a multisectoral programme to address the key drivers of undernutrition and reduce chronic malnutrition in two counties by improving livelihoods and access to safe, diverse and nutritious food, increasing sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices, strengthening community health workers to provide quality basic services, and by evidence-building on stunting prevention strategies. Private donors also supported the construction and rehabilitation of 43 water points in 40 communities in Montserrado County, as well as the training of water-point management committees.

## LIBYA

OPERATING SINCE 2019

Two years after the signing of the ceasefire agreement, the situation in Libya remained complex and fragile in 2022. The past conflict and protracted political crisis have had a significant impact on public services, particularly health, sanitation, and social protection services, and around 1.5 million people remained in need of humanitarian assistance. The return of displaced people to their home regions was hampered by the destruction of much of the water and health infrastructure and the lack of access to basic needs and income-generating activities.

Action Against Hunger supported seven health centres in Libya by training medical teams, providing medicines and equipment, and helping to rehabilitate hygiene and sanitation infrastructures, waste management, and the installation of solar panels. Local authorities were also supported

to create a set of reproductive health services – the implementation of which was strengthened through training and mentoring health personnel. Action Against Hunger also supported the setting up of care pathways to help vulnerable people access specialised services, particularly survivors of gender-based violence.

In Benghazi, hygiene, and sanitation infrastructure in four schools was rehabilitated, and awareness was raised among schoolchildren and teachers on good hygiene and water management practices. Action Against Hunger also implemented awareness-raising sessions on mental health and provided psychosocial support to help strengthen community dialogue and eliminate the barriers and stigma that often surround mental health issues.

## MADAGASCAR

OPERATING SINCE 2011

The nutritional and health situation continued to deteriorate throughout Madagascar during 2022, especially in the Grand Sud region. Between January and April, Madagascar was hit by six tropical storms and cyclones, and the southeast of the country was severely affected by Batsirai and Emnati cyclones. This, coupled with the consequences of a prolonged drought (the worst in 40 years) and inflation due to the global economic crisis, led to unprecedented levels of catastrophic food and nutrition insecurity in the south of the island. By the end of 2022, more than 2 million people were in Phase 3 (crisis) or Phase 4 (emergency) of the food insecurity classification and in July, 355,000 children under five were suffering from acute malnutrition.

Following Tropical Storm Ana and cyclones Batsirai and Emnati, Action Against Hunger and its national partner ASOS mounted a multisectoral emergency cyclone response focusing on health, WASH, and unconditional cash transfers to meet the needs of nearly 39,000 people in the southeast of the country.

In parallel, Action Against Hunger continued its humanitarian and development assistance. Mobile health and nutrition clinics were deployed to address health and nutrition challenges in the most remote areas of Grand Sud through emergency funding. Thanks to the CONFLUENCES project, the health team continued supporting the strengthening of the health system (through diagnosis and programming) in Atsimo-Andrefana in collaboration with the health authorities and local partners.

Action Against Hunger continued to provide emergency trucked safe drinking water to crisis-affected populations and to rehabilitate or construct wells. We also provided unconditional cash transfers and supported livelihood recovery through the provision of agricultural inputs to farmers.

In vulnerable urban areas of Antananarivo, Action Against Hunger continued to support communities through a multisector programme aimed at providing social protection, nutrition, mental health, sanitation, and income-generating activities to the most disadvantaged urban dwellers.

## MALI

OPERATING SINCE 1996

Mali faces multiple crises, including political instability, the widespread presence of local and international non-state armed groups, weak public services, natural disasters, and increased costs and reduced availability of basic commodities, and population displacement. As a result, 5.9 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 2.2 million in acute need.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger successfully tested and extended a community-based approach to detect and treat malnutrition, in close collaboration with the government, national NGOs and other stakeholders. We also developed dynamic partnerships with national and

decentralised authorities and coordinated with other international and national organisations to maximise our impact.

Action Against Hunger continued to promote holistic interventions in WASH, health and nutrition, food security and livelihoods, integrating cross-cutting sectors of gender, climate, protection, and inclusion to increase our impact. We also generated and shared scientific knowledge (simplified protocol) with all stakeholders to better fight and prevent undernutrition. This is the research protocol that will improve the quality of malnutrition management in Mali and thus reduce malnutrition-related mortality and morbidity.

## MAURITANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2007

In Mauritania, Action Against Hunger responds to needs by strengthening systems to help them become more resilient and by helping communities to secure greater opportunities for inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development. As a result, the most vulnerable people have access to continuous and quality basic services.

Our beneficiaries are also our partners: we mobilised communities to better define and implement our projects. We built the capacity of local civil society organisations to ensure ownership and sustainability. We also maintained partnerships with national and decentralised authorities. And we

coordinated activities by authorities and CSOs in order to maximise our impact.

Our interventions are rooted in a range of scientific and technical expertise that allows us to fight against the causes and consequences of hunger.

We responded to the different needs of populations, whether by saving lives during lean periods, supporting the development of rural communities through ambitious multi-year projects or by providing shelter for people displaced by conflicts in neighbouring countries.

## MOZAMBIQUE

OPERATING SINCE 2021

In 2022, more than 1.5 million people (half of them children) needed life-saving assistance in northern Mozambique – an emergency linked to violent insecurity in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Countrywide, approximately 1.1 million people were acutely food insecure and the number of internally displaced people rose from 750,000 in 2021 to one million in 2022. Mozambique is one of the four African countries most exposed to extreme climate shocks (cyclones, tropical storms, floods).

Since the reopening of a permanent country office in Mozambique in 2021, Action Against Hunger has focused on the north of the country and scaled up its emergency response. In 2022, Action Against Hunger improved access to nutrition and health services to hard-to-reach conflict-affected communities. This resulted in the provision of outreach health and nutrition care to nearly 12,000 children under the age of five in the districts of Mueda, Nangade, Muidumbe and Macomia.

Action Against Hunger also provided emergency food assistance to over 26,000

households (over 130,000 women, men, girls, and boys) in Mueda district and strengthened access to WASH services through the rehabilitation of wells and boreholes and hygiene promotion for 25,000 people living in Macomia Sede.

In addition, Action Against Hunger joined forces with Solidarités International and the Norwegian Refugee Council to launch the first Rapid Response Mechanism (supported by DG ECHO) in Cabo Delgado, providing emergency relief in the form of kitchen sets, bedding, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and food rations to people affected by displacement in Macomia and Quissanga Districts.

Action Against Hunger secured USAID funds to provide complementary and multisector assistance to affected people enabling life-saving activities in the areas of health, WASH, and food security. It also provides livelihoods support, such as income-generating activities and support for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

## NIGER

OPERATING SINCE 1997

Around four million people in Niger needed immediate humanitarian assistance by the end of 2022 – the worst crisis in a decade, most recently compounded by a late rainy season and long periods of drought and flooding.

According to the Niger Government, more than 450,000 children under the age of five years were severely acutely malnourished in 2022. Due to insecurity, many people were displaced and faced a lack of access to essential services such as healthcare and medicines in rural areas. Only 56 per cent of the population had access to safe drinking water and just 13 per cent had access to basic sanitation services.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger focused on three core sectors to ensure a holistic approach to the crisis: water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihoods, and nutrition and health. In terms of health, teams focused on improving access to

primary health care, sexual and reproductive health care, management of malnutrition (including the ICCM+ approach), and prevention of malnutrition through the 1,000 days approach.

Our work on water, sanitation and hygiene focused on constructing wells, converting existing hand pumps into small water supplies, and building or rehabilitating separate latrines for males and females and hand-washing facilities in health centres. We also built the capacity of water point management committees and health-care personnel, as well as promoted knowledge, skills and practices on sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, and health. Cash or food was made available to affected people through seasonal social safety nets or free food distributions during the lean season. We also provided training and support in agro-ecological production techniques with seed kits and horticulture adapted to climate change.

## NIGERIA

OPERATING SINCE 2010

Nutritional insecurity worsened in Nigeria in 2022, leaving 1.74 million children undernourished in the north of the country and more than 2 million internally displaced because of insecurity caused by non-state armed groups and banditry. In addition, Nigeria experienced severe flooding in the rainy season.

Nutrition and health interventions continued in 2022, through screening, treatment, and health education activities for severely malnourished children, and ensuring quality health, mental health, and psychosocial support services in health facilities in Borno and Yobe states. Action Against Hunger opened a new base in the north-western Sokoto State and began an emergency programme to address the very poor nutritional situation there.

In northeast Nigeria, Action Against Hunger provided food aid to internally displaced people and their host communities and implemented livelihood promotion and resilience-building activities. In Jigawa and Kano states, the organisation played

a crucial role in ensuring food security for the most vulnerable by helping to ensure that social protection laws were passed in 2022. Through an FCDO-funded project, Action Against Hunger trained the Social Protection Officers from the Government of Nigeria on monitoring and evaluation principles, supported the organisation of workshops on social protection and its financing strategy, and supported civil society organisations to raise awareness on social protection.

Action Against Hunger also rehabilitated and built water and sanitation infrastructure, promoted effective hygiene practices, and continued its groundwater monitoring project in the Borno and Yobe States. Within the framework of the rapid response mechanism for population displacement (i.e., through interventions deployed within 72 hours of receiving alerts), Action Against Hunger provided WASH services and cash transfers to populations displaced by violence and floods in all its areas of intervention.

## SENEGAL

OPERATING SINCE 2012

Senegal is a dynamic and emerging economy, but it is nevertheless affected by deep disparities. Action Against Hunger works in the north of the country, where 70 per cent of the population depends on livestock or agriculture, and where global warming has led to an increase in fires, droughts and floods that affect the local population. In 2022, 33 out of 45 administrative regions showed worrying dietary diversity among their households with at least 20 per cent of the population experiencing hunger. Rising prices of staple foods and commodities have contributed to this vulnerability, and the latest surveys show a deterioration in this situation.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger worked in Louga, Saint Louis and Matam, where malnutrition rates range from 11 per cent to 20 per cent. We implemented projects to predict and manage malnutrition in collaboration with Senegal's Ministry of

Health, continued to support the National Food Security Secretariat's surveillance and early warning system, and implemented agricultural development projects with communities and women's groups.

This year, two Action Against Hunger research and innovation projects made good progress, with the final stage of enrolment of children into the TISA survey, which is evaluating the integration of a water and hygiene component into the management protocol for severe acute malnutrition, in partnership with the authorities and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The Smartphone application SAM Photo, which aims to detect malnutrition with a simple photo of the child's left arm, has also been the subject of further study with the aim of implementing a pilot phase in 2023.

## SIERRA LEONE

OPERATING SINCE 1991

Poverty levels rose in Sierra Leone in 2022. 1.6 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC 3 or more) corresponding to 20 per cent of the total population of the country and nearly 30 per cent of children under the age of five were stunted. The socioeconomic and political context was tense, and protests broke out in August 2022 as the conflict in Ukraine caused a sharp rise in the price of essential goods and households faced a soaring inflation rate of 21.27 per cent never experienced since the end of the civil war.

Despite a conducive tropical wet climate, Sierra Leone is also experiencing climate change due to man-made activities (such as deforestation and erosion) but also changes in rainfall patterns affecting agriculture activities and self-resilience of the communities. Action Against Hunger implemented several climate change-related projects during the year. The Integrated Actions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation research project aimed to improve climate-resilient agriculture through sustainable land management, intercropping cultures, awareness-raising, and access to weather information. Action Against Hunger also continued its support to small farmers to improve the groundnut value chain in Moyamba District, promoting agroecological

practices, improving harvesting, storage and transportation and strengthening collaboration between farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the private sector.

Following the result of the 2021 national SMART Survey, a new operational base was opened by Action Against Hunger in Bonthe district in 2022, which showed the highest prevalence of combined global acute malnutrition of rural provinces (7.8 per cent). A new multisectoral project (funded by Irish Aid) was launched to improve the nutrition status of vulnerable communities through increased access to detection, preventive and curative undernutrition and health services for children aged 6 to 59 months and women of reproductive age. This also aimed to improve access to healthy diets, safe water, sanitation, and to improve resilience to climate change.

Phase 1 of the PROSSAN project ended in 2022 and contributed to improving the quality of services in 22 primary health centres in western urban (Freetown) and rural areas and to improve health outcome indicators. Adolescent Friendly Spaces and School Health Clubs were particularly successful for improving the wellbeing and healthy behaviour among this vulnerable generation.

## SOMALIA

OPERATING SINCE 1992

The protracted drought in Somalia claimed an estimated 43,000 lives in 2022, and continued to drive extreme hunger, displacement, and poverty. The number of people impacted by the drought doubled and the number of people displaced by drought quintupled, with more than 1.3 million people displaced. An estimated 8.25 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2022.

Malnutrition among rural communities and displaced people was driven by limited access to clean water and milk, high food prices, and outbreaks of measles and cholera. More than half of Somalia's children were acutely malnourished, and the threat of famine continued to loom.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger admitted 73,613 severely malnourished children and 37,068 moderately malnourished children into our treatment programmes, of which 92.3 per cent were cured.

To complement our nutrition treatment work, we also provided vitamin A supplements and deworming, as well as education on healthy care and feeding practices to 208,712 caregivers.

Our teams helped to build capacity and support health systems in Somalia and provided 450,581 people with primary health services, including vaccinating 259,114 children against measles in Baidoa, Burhakaba, Bardhere and Afgoye.

We also reached 154,362 people with our education efforts to improve health and prevent gender-based violence. Additionally, Action Against Hunger helped to improve access to clean water and safe sanitation among 320,515 people, and provided livelihoods support, cash, and vouchers to improve food security for 107,466 people.

## SOUTH SUDAN

OPERATING SINCE 2017

In 2022, 9.4 million people needed humanitarian assistance in South Sudan – a staggering 76 per cent of the population. More than half of the country was acutely food insecure, and 1.4 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2023. Across South Sudan, 59 per cent of people had no access to clean, safe water.

The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is driven by conflict, widespread flooding, deepening food insecurity, inflation, high food prices and lack of access to basic services. Despite increased needs, humanitarian funding continues to dwindle, leaving immense gaps.

In South Sudan, Action Against Hunger worked with local partners to implement a care group project, helping caregivers to improve their families' health. Our mobile teams integrated primary health

services with our nutrition outreach in remote communities, and we worked with the Ministry of Health to support child immunisation and maternal health services at our nutrition centres.

In areas impacted by floods, we scaled up our climate smart programmes, including installing flood-resilient hand pumps to prevent contamination of water sources and using green energy to power motorised water points. Our teams also helped communities to adapt by introducing rice as a new crop and establishing floating vegetable gardens.

To promote peace and empower young people, we supported youth football programmes and employment projects, and with our partners, including UNICEF and the South Sudan Ministry of Health, we began a new research project to prevent gender-based violence.

## SUDAN

OPERATING SINCE 2018

Sudan continues to face the health and humanitarian consequences of Covid-19, recurrent disasters, as well as political upheaval, leaving significant proportions of Sudan's population living in poverty, lacking access to healthcare, and severely food insecure. In Sudan, 50 per cent of children's acute malnutrition is associated with repeated diarrhoea or infections related to poor WASH conditions.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger helped refugees, IDPs, returnees, and nomadic and host communities in Central Darfur, South Kordofan, White Nile, and Blue Nile regions, through quality life-saving treatment and prevention services that contributed to reducing malnutrition, illness, and premature death.

We tackled the causes of malnutrition through strengthening access to health services for all at health facility and community level; implementing activities to detect, refer and treat malnutrition among children under the age of five years; and through vaccinations.

We also supported interventions that reduce food insecurity by providing food, seeds, and tools; in-kind support, cash, or cash-for-work; and ensuring equitable and affordable safe water, and gender-segregated access to safe, dignified, and clean sanitation facilities. We also supported communities in creating action plans and training on early warning systems that can strengthen resilience to shocks and enhance communities' self-sufficiency.

## TANZANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2015

Tanzania has made progress in combating childhood undernutrition,<sup>5</sup> however, stunting levels were higher than the national average of 30 per cent. In 2022, the political and security situation remained calm, but food insecurity continued to drive hunger. An estimated 17 per cent of the population faced acute food crises following prolonged dry spells, pest infestations and disease outbreaks.

Last year, Tanzania's National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan II was launched and rolled out across 30 regions. The plan provides strategic direction for the public and partners to invest in nutrition as a sustainable approach to development.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger reached 534,014 people in Tanzania with interventions to increase access to clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene,

and to treat and prevent malnutrition and improve food security and livelihoods. Our teams educated people on healthy nutrition, screened children, and other vulnerable groups for malnutrition, and provided counselling. We constructed improved latrines in schools and provided training and education to both girls and boys on hygiene practices and sexual and reproductive health.

Last year, we trained 5,759 smallholder farmers in agroecological skills to increase production and improve post-harvest green vegetable practices, such as drying crops in the sun to make them last through the lean season. Smallholder farmers also took part in our nutrition education sessions that included practical lessons on food preparation, handling of food and kitchen supplies, and feeding young children.



## UGANDA

OPERATING SINCE 1995

Uganda continued to host more than 1.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2022, many of whom had fled persecution, conflict, political instability and human rights violations in Burundi, the DRC, and South Sudan. The rising number of refugees has put pressure on food availability, income opportunities and health services. Nearly 30 per cent of children under five are stunted, and more than half of the population is anaemic. Hunger and malnutrition in Uganda are caused by several factors, including poverty, landlessness, high fertility, natural disasters, and high food prices.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger created 340 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) in Uganda, and with our support, these groups collectively saved €511,480.

Our teams also provided climate-smart agricultural supplies to 459 farmer groups,

including seeds, irrigation systems, wells, oxen, and ploughs, and we connected farmers with the global supply chain, helping them to sell sunflower grain, cassava, and chillis and generate more than €20,000 in income.

Our teams helped to treat and prevent malnutrition through 50 health facilities and 298 care groups, reaching 33,576 young children and 45,987 pregnant and breastfeeding women. We promoted healthy care and feeding practices and provided food vouchers, immunisations, and maternal health services to improve health and nutrition among refugees and host communities. Action Against Hunger also increased access to safe water, built sanitation infrastructure such as latrines, and improved hygiene practices among individuals and in health facilities.

## ZAMBIA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

Despite years of socioeconomic progress in Zambia, more than half of the population still lives in poverty. The country's malnutrition rates are among the highest in the world, with 35 per cent of Zambian children under the age of five years facing chronic malnutrition. Hunger is driven by poverty, inequality, gender disparities, poor dietary diversity, chronic food insecurity, and a lack of clean water.

Most of the population depends on agriculture for their income – a precarious livelihood in a country that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Zambia's rainy season has become increasingly erratic, with short, intense downpours creating flooding between spells of drought.

In Zambia, Action Against Hunger partners with government authorities, civil society organisations, and community members to strengthen efforts to adapt to climate change and improve food security and livelihoods. We aim to tackle the root causes of hunger and to build resilience by equipping communities with the knowledge, technical support, and tools they need to avoid food, water, and nutrition insecurity crises.

## ZIMBABWE

OPERATING SINCE 2002

In 2022, Zimbabwe's humanitarian context was fragile, with more than 1.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including over one million children. Average monthly household income fell from \$75 in 2021 to \$57 in 2022, generating economic instability which was exacerbated by climatic shocks and natural hazards to which Zimbabwe is chronically exposed.

In Zimbabwe, Action Against Hunger carried out extensive community systems-strengthening projects to help mitigate the impacts of prolonged drought, the economic crisis, and Covid-19 on people's food and water security in several provinces.

Activities included cash-for-work; training and distribution of inputs for agricultural and livestock activities; rehabilitation of water

infrastructure; and hygiene promotion. Jointly with its partner Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ), Action Against Hunger piloted the Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) to test a practical and affordable approach for small farmers to increase their incomes from crop cultivation while at the same time preserving pollinator diversity and habitat. For further information on this project, see page 66.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger also tested a new model to measure emergency impact through community-led MEAL where communities were asked to propose and measure the indicators of success of the assistance they received.



## RESPONDING TO FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

In June, devastating floods hit Pakistan, affecting 33 million people. Seven million children urgently needed access to nutrition services, four million children couldn't reach health centres and 5.5 million people couldn't access safe drinking water.

"The first downpour was heavy and devastating, lasting six hours," describes Falak, one of Action Against Hunger's Community Workers in the region. "The rain just did not stop, and people's houses started to collapse."

"The rain that fell after 15 days was the most dangerous rain. Many people's houses were destroyed, lives were lost and so were animals," says Falak.

Falak and the Action Against Hunger team were among the first to respond and

continue to provide a wide range of support - from diagnosing and treating malnutrition, distributing life-saving food parcels, and repairing water systems so people can get clean water. Falak is in charge of distributing hygiene kits to families, containing anti-bacterial soap, mosquito nets to prevent malaria, water purification tablets and water containers.

"All these things have made a big difference" says Falak. "Because the water is clean, there is a decrease in diseases like diarrhoea and malaria. Also, the use of soap has reduced germs. People are happy with these items."

As climate disasters are only expected to become more frequent, the team has also been running mock emergency drills to improve their response time and enable them to provide vital medical, hygiene and food parcels to those in need even faster.



## AFGHANISTAN

OPERATING SINCE 1995

Afghanistan is in the grip of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Famine and civil unrest have left more than two-thirds of households struggling to meet their basic needs, and by 2023 nearly 28.3 million people are predicted to require life-saving assistance.

Action Against Hunger continued to reach vulnerable and isolated communities in the provinces of Ghor, Helmand, Daykundi and Badakhshan through multisectoral projects funded by ECHO, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), OCHA, UNICEF, GFFO and various private funds.

In 2022 Action Against Hunger reached more than 165,000 people in need, with a special focus on people requiring health and nutrition support. This included 10,000 children with severe acute malnutrition, 19,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition, as well as 9,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women who were admitted for treatment.

To continue the fight against hunger and improve livelihoods, Action Against Hunger distributed cash to 46,000 families to buy food, as well as food vouchers, winter survival kits, and agriculture and livestock packages, containing seeds, fertiliser, agricultural inputs, livestock, and fodder.

To improve access to safe water and hygiene, Action Against Hunger built or rehabilitated WASH infrastructure in 58 health facilities, as well as 39 water points, 22 standpipes and 40 latrines. More than 3,000 hygiene kits and 160 water kits were distributed, including water filters and purifying tablets.

Action Against Hunger also conducted a countrywide SMART survey (Standardised Monitoring Assessment for Relief and Transition) on malnutrition, provided psychosocial support to 200,000 people, and obtained funding from the Gates Foundation to participate in a two-year polio immunisation programme.

## BANGLADESH

OPERATING SINCE 2007

In Bangladesh, 31 per cent of children under the age of five are stunted, while 24 per cent of women aged between 15 and 49 years are underweight, thus increasing the risk of both maternal and infant mortality. The causes of malnutrition are compounded by natural disasters and climate change that disrupt food systems and people's food security.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger distributed food supplements to 50,525 women and children in Rohingya refugee camps. A solid waste management process was also piloted, converting organic waste into fertiliser which was distributed to communities. Thirty Info Hubs were created to allow communities to access digital services, such as access to telemedicine services and job ads.

Action Against Hunger advocated for the nutritional well-being of children under five years and trained 71 civil society organisations and 28 local entrepreneurs to ensure easy access to affordable nutrition and WASH products, especially in the event of natural disasters.

The Strengthening Forecast-based Early Actions in cyclone-prone coastal regions in Bangladesh (known as the STEP project) – funded by ECHO – continued to benefit communities in the southwest of Bangladesh. In cyclone prone areas, Action Against Hunger facilitated climate adaptive and resilient agricultural production. Through the STEP project, a cyclone early warning protocol was put in place with communities and national authorities allowing effective governance in disaster risk management.

Using emergency funds donated by SIDA, Action Against Hunger was able to respond to the flash flood in Sylhet, and to deliver multisectoral interventions to support 9,500 people. This included the delivery of hygiene kits, cash grants to repair damaged homes and WASH facilities. In collaboration with the Ramu Health Complex, the organisation trained 39 doctors, nurses, and community health workers to provide mental health and psychosocial support for those affected by flooding.

## INDIA

OPERATING SINCE 2010

India has some of the highest rates of child malnutrition globally, and according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the country accounts for about 24 per cent of the world's hungry population. India also has the highest child wasting – around 34.7 per cent children under the age of five years are stunted and 17.3 per cent are wasted. Several factors contribute to this situation, including poverty, inadequate access to health care, poor sanitation and hygiene practices, lack of education, and limited access to clean water.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger intensified its efforts to counter child and maternal malnutrition by commencing work in the state of Gujarat with Project Trupti, in Gujarat's Ahmedabad district. Project Trupti is designed to improve the nutrition and health status of children under the age of five through infant and young child feeding practices, as well as through the diagnosis, referral, and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, and home-based care for children with moderate acute malnutrition.

It also aims to improve WASH practices and knowledge to improve the nutritional and health status of pregnant mothers and new-borns.

In addition, Project Vruddhi – a joint project between CARE and Action Against Hunger India in Bhavnagar and Sabarkantha districts of Gujarat – was also launched. Project Vruddhi aims to tackle childhood malnutrition and maternal and child anaemia by improving communities' essential health and nutrition practices and providing technical support for strengthening service delivery.

Overall, Action Against Hunger's work in India resulted in 64,238 children under the age of five being screened for signs of severe and moderate acute malnutrition and 10,820 children being identified and provided with timely and targeted care. In addition, 47,933 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers were reached through our interventions, and 2,777 field-workers were trained in nutrition and WASH activities.

## MYANMAR

OPERATING SINCE 1994

Myanmar's fragile political and security situation has led to a humanitarian crisis in which people's livelihoods and food security are at risk. The conflict has displaced more than 2.7 million people and 17.6 million are predicted to need humanitarian assistance by 2023. Action Against Hunger's ability to intervene has been diminished by administrative and political barriers, including prohibitions on food distributions and travel permits.

In Myanmar, Action Against Hunger continued working to strengthen access to health care services and nutritional security in Rakhine, Sagaing and Kayah states. Through capacity-building among different stakeholders, the organisation helped improve access to quality nutritional services and food security for vulnerable groups, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children.

To this end, in 2022 Action Against Hunger supported integrated nutrition centres to provide home and community-based interventions for children with moderate or severe acute malnutrition.

It also established community care centres within these nutrition centres where awareness-raising sessions, discussions, and training on psychological first aid were held.

In addition, Action Against Hunger provided alternative, strengthened, and sustainable livelihoods to vulnerable households to improve their income and reduce food insecurity by delivering financial education and business skills development plus technical and vocational training on key areas, such as grant provision and the formation of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

Action Against Hunger also began implementing "Baby WASH" activities to provide comprehensive support to children and mothers from conception through the first 1,000 days of a child's life. This Baby WASH approach integrates WASH, nutrition, and mental health/psychosocial support, aiming to understand the roots causes of malnutrition and address them before they occur.

## NEPAL

OPERATING SINCE 2011

Despite progress in recent years – a 10 per cent decrease in stunting in young children and a 2 per cent reduction in wasting - malnutrition remains a problem in Nepal (especially among young children) driven in part by poverty and inequality. Food insecurity is compounded by the impact of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and landslides.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger through its partnership with Sahara Nepal supported disaster-resilient livelihoods and improved food security and diversity for vulnerable households in Belaka municipality, Udayapur district.

In partnership with the Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG), Action Against Hunger also carried out a comprehensive nutrition and food security assessment in Belaka municipality and screened and treated acutely and severely malnourished children aged 6–59 months at a government outpatient therapeutic care centre.

And in the municipalities of Kispange and Aamachhodingmo in Nuwakot district, a WASH project funded by the City of Paris was launched to improve sustainable access to water for domestic and agricultural use and improve the cleanliness of water discharged into the river.

## PAKISTAN

OPERATING SINCE 1979

Over four million people were acutely food insecure in Pakistan by the end of April 2022 and were consuming poor-quality food with little dietary diversity. Floods in August 2022 added to the vulnerability of the country (which is also home to 1.3 million Afghan refugees) at a time when it was experiencing a major political crisis.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger supported Afghan refugees and the host population in Pakistan by providing health services, and integrated treatment of acute malnutrition and mental health and psychosocial support for children and women. Given the vulnerability of populations to natural disasters, Action Against Hunger carried out projects to improve emergency preparedness in at-risk provinces and improve early warning systems.

Action Against Hunger also supported some of the 33 million people affected by

floods in Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The funding enabled a rapid response to help vulnerable households, including cash distributions, provision of non-food items, rehabilitation of water supply systems, construction of latrines and the setting up of mobile medical camps. In addition, the team also conducted psychological first aid training, distributed hygiene kits and provided agricultural tools.

Furthermore, EUROPEAID's five-year, €30 million PINS project to improve nutrition in Sindh was successfully completed and the three components of the project were handed over to local authorities. This included outreach at the community level for the screening, referral and prevention of undernutrition, and the establishment of eight Nutrition Stabilisation Centres for cases of severe acute malnutrition with complications.

## PHILIPPINES

OPERATING SINCE 2000

The Philippines has the highest risk of disasters of any country in the world, experiencing an average of 20 typhoons yearly and exposure to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In 2022, the inflation rate also reached an average of 5.8 per cent. These crises exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, including food insecurity, malnutrition, and inadequate access to basic services such as clean water, health care, and education. Around 2.4 million Filipino children under the age of five were suffering chronic malnutrition, and 2.89 million families were experiencing moderate to severe hunger.

In 2022 we responded to two major emergencies: Super Typhoon Rai in December 2021 and the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that shook northern Luzon in Summer 2022. As part of the typhoon response, 516,075 people in Bohol and Caraga received humanitarian support that included immediate emergency aid, mental health and psychological care, and livelihood recovery programmes such as multipurpose cash support and training sessions.

In addition, four inclusive disaster risk reduction projects that integrated shock-

responsive social protection and food security and livelihood projects were implemented in 20 municipalities in Mindanao. These were part of Action Against Hunger's efforts to anticipate, prepare for, and mitigate the impacts of climate change among vulnerable communities.

In the past two years over 800,000 Filipinos have been displaced – more than 100,000 due to conflict and violence in Mindanao – and the country continued to experience the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the country's health system and economy. To meet health needs in vulnerable areas, we supported Covid-19 vaccination campaigns, promoted health and nutrition education, rehabilitated damaged health facilities, and provided training sessions.

Access to safe water and hygiene facilities continued to be one of Action Against Hunger's priorities in 2022. WASH facilities benefitting more than 200,000 people were built to help prevent diarrhoeal diseases in communities, complemented by hygiene-promotion activities and hygiene kits.



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# EUROPE

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

Wherever armed conflict starts, hunger follows. As do mental health and psychological problems, due to trauma and insecurity. Action Against Hunger is working in Ukraine and surrounding countries to offer support to as many people affected by the war as possible. Our teams are helping with mental health support, medical care, hygiene supplies and food distribution.

Svitlana is part of “Here And Now”, a group of psychologists in Chernivtsi who help mothers and their children cope with the psychological impact of conflict. “A child needs to feel safe,” she says.

Mental health work is part of our battle against hunger. Research shows that maternal depression often leads to low child immunisation rates, reduced hospital visits and a decrease in breastfeeding. These, in turn, result in higher rates of child illness

and malnutrition and badly hold back a child’s normal development.

Trauma also often causes people to lose their appetite and can destroy the parent-child bond. Svitlana sees that both mothers and children in the community experience high levels of stress due to the conflict and being forced from their homes. Those being treated by psychologists say they are afraid, disoriented, sad, angry, and anxious. Sleeping disorders and panic attacks are common.

“What we offer are self-support techniques to regain confidence and focus on the mother’s well-being which will help to appease their children,” explains Svitlana.

By addressing people’s mental health, we can help their physical wellbeing too. A lot of families no longer have the support of their friends and relatives nearby, which makes Svitlana’s role even more important than ever.



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## FRANCE

OPERATING SINCE 2020

In 2022, France experienced a significant increase in food insecurity, reflected in the rising number of visits to food aid centres, the volume of food distributed, and the rate of new registrations. The Restos du Coeur association reported a 22 per cent increase in visitors during the winter 2022, and a 40 per cent increase in visitors in areas supported by Action Against Hunger - in Île-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

More than 4.1 million people were living in poor housing, and the sharp rise in food prices (up 12.1 per cent over 2022) contributed to a situation in which nearly 4.8 million people were living below the 50 per cent median income threshold (around 7 per cent of the French population). This only considers official data and does not include the most vulnerable people, such as homeless people, people living in shelters and people without official documentation, all of whom are more likely to be affected.

Action Against Hunger continued its domestic work in France - which started in 2019, because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Action Against Hunger worked with the NGOs Restos du Coeur, the Salvation Army and Secours Populaire and with the INRAE and CREDOC research institutes.

Through its different partnerships, Action Against Hunger France provided timely technical support to 14 projects implemented by its partners, participated directly in 12 joint surveys, and delivered training and/or joint activities with 13 projects.

Action Against Hunger France also directly led the implementation of the Passerelle project, implemented in the commune of Montreuil, aimed at reducing food insecurity by promoting access to a social support system for those in need. The project informed beneficiaries about their rights and existing schemes, analysing needs, and providing one-off cash transfers. This project was also used as a tool for advocacy and technical lobbying on social protection and food policies in France, which constitute an important pillar of Action Against Hunger's strategy in the country.

## ITALY

OPERATING SINCE 2022

In Italy, 10 per cent of people were deemed poor in 2022 and one in four was at risk of living in poverty. Families, especially single-parent families, were exposed to increasing social and economic vulnerability, and everyone - from workers to pensioners - experienced reduced purchasing power because of inflation - especially for essential goods such as food. In 2022, six million people sought help to get food, and this figure is expected to rise in 2023.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger implemented a project in Milan to help 200-250 people in fifty families to reduce food insecurity, and to help others find work to improve their ability to support themselves.

The programme, lasting four months, provided:

- a contribution to weekly food shopping for immediate nutritional support
- nutrition training to encourage a change in purchasing habits to support a healthy, balanced diet
- specific training aimed at finding employment.

Early indications were that the project was successful: nutrition improved (73 per cent of people involved said they ate more varied and healthy meals and 72 per cent have reduced their daily sugar intake); and 53 per cent found work or returned to education. In 2023, the project will be expanded to reach more families, doubling its reach in Milan (100 people), and being rolled out in Naples.

## MOLDOVA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

In 2022, Action Against Hunger started working in Moldova, one of Europe's poorest countries and one that has struggled economically in recent years – a situation impacted by Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine crisis on its northern and eastern borders. In 2022 Moldova's absolute poverty rate stood at 24.5 per cent, with rural areas worst affected. This, along with rising inflation and energy costs, left over 180,000 people living in severe food insecurity and over one million people living in moderate food insecurity.

Following the onset of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, Moldova became host to almost 675,000 refugees from Ukraine – leaving Moldova (a small country) with the highest number of refugees per capita in the region.

Action Against Hunger worked closely with international organisations, local authorities and implementing partners to improve food security and livelihoods, distributing food kits, multipurpose and winterisation cash-assistance, and providing more than 56,000 Ukrainian refugees crossing the border in Palanca and Otaci with hot meals and warm drinks.

Action Against Hunger also implemented nutrition activities such as infant and young child feeding counselling sessions for refugees and vulnerable Moldovan caregivers, and WASH activities including the distribution of thousands of hygiene kits. We also supported waste management and environmental activities at a municipal level.

## POLAND & ROMANIA

OPERATING SINCE 2022

Thanks to the European Union's Temporary Protection Directive, Ukrainian refugees were able to receive protection and essential services in EU Member States, including Poland. Despite the continuing conflict, the flow of refugees to Poland and Romania decreased during the year, leaving a total of 1.5 million in Poland and 110,000 in Romania.

In Poland and Romania, Action Against Hunger worked both directly with those in need and through established partners to be highly responsive to changing needs and locations. Between March and December 2022, Action Against Hunger and its partners supported over 75,000 people in the following ways:

- 12,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support through interventions including psychological first aid, stabilisation techniques, psycho-education sessions and care practices sessions focusing on exclusive breastfeeding for children under 6

months; continued breastfeeding with supplementary foods up to 23 months, including Minimal Meal Diversity (MMD) and Minimal Meal Frequency (MMF) for children aged six to 23 months. More than 390 national NGO and civil society staff were trained on these topics

- 3,149 people received multi-purpose financial assistance delivered through banking cards
- 9,800 people received hygiene kits and food assistance in the form of hot meals and distributions of food and supplies
- 71,318 people were assisted through quick impact projects, Action Against Hunger supported with partners providing flexible support for refugees in the form of management and procurement for accommodation centres and transit sites in Romania. All these sites ensure that refugees can meet their basic daily needs for food, hygiene items and in some cases shelter.

## SOUTH CAUCASUS

OPERATING SINCE 2018

Although economies in the South Caucasus grew in 2022, development and food security for the most vulnerable remained seriously hampered by the political and economic impact of the war in Ukraine; the rise in food prices; political instability around unresolved conflicts (in Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia); gender and social inequality; climate change; lack of economic diversification; and rural poverty.

The 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict saw over 90,000 people displaced to Armenia, and 2022 saw an increased need for humanitarian interventions in the region due to continued tensions. Action Against Hunger and two local partner organisations provided protection services to 3,100 children and their caregivers in multi-functional centres and 12,183 children and adults participated in awareness raising and education around unexploded devices.

Our team distributed food and hygiene items to 25,000 highly vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Georgia and built the capacity of three volunteer organisations to help the refugees who were experiencing trauma,

lack of income, difficulties finding affordable accommodation and accessing health services, and a lack of information on rights and services.

Action Against Hunger maintained its access to the breakaway region of Abkhazia, where we continued to provide winterisation support to vulnerable families, increase self-reliance through agricultural livelihoods and support to active farmers' groups, and conduct skills development. Our WASH projects provided 16 schools with new water and sanitation facilities.

In Georgia and Abkhazia, we provided improved community infrastructure, access to basic services, and supported job creation through community-led local development. In Georgia and Armenia, Action Against Hunger successfully piloted its "Shuttle" approach with four state agencies. This social inclusion approach increases the employability and entrepreneurship skills of participants and was piloted in vocational education and training colleges in the two countries. In Georgia, the State Employment Support Agency committed to scale-up and institutionalise the approach.

## SPAIN

OPERATING SINCE 2013

More than 13 per cent of people in Spain cannot regularly access sufficient food, either in terms of quality or quantity. This affects the normal development of people, especially children. At Action Against Hunger, we tackle this 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 2022, our programmes in Spain reached 5,554 families, with an operational budget of €7.7 million.

After completing our employment programmes, 42 per cent of people managed to find work. Action Against Hunger has helped almost 30,000 people to improve their employability since we launched our programmes in 2014.

The integration of the "Healthy Life approach" in our projects is highly valued by donors and we're increasing the number of projects following this approach. In 2022, we continued to carry out research with the Complutense University of Madrid to generate evidence of the relationship between healthy living and employability.

In our entrepreneurship projects, we continued to focus on reducing the gender gap. Over 25 per cent of young people who have completed our youth entrepreneurship programme have become entrepreneurs afterwards.

In 2022, we relaunched the Personal and Skills Training for Employment Project (EPYCO by its Spanish acronym) in penitentiary centres. By working in 24 centres and with the support of 644 professionals, the EPYCO project reached 59 centres, which is 60 per cent of the penitentiary centres and Social Integration Centres in Spain (excluding the Basque Country, Navarra, and Catalonia).

We have inputted into Spain's food security strategy by providing guidance on food assistance programmes and integrating cash transfers through cards and vouchers in the European Social Fund (ESF) and Basic Operational Programme. We also distributed cash transfers through cards to 541 families with a value of €125,000.

## UKRAINE

OPERATING SINCE 2022

Escalation of the conflict in Ukraine resulted in the displacement of almost 30 per cent of the Ukrainian population – with more than eight million Ukrainians leaving the country and over six million becoming internally displaced. In 2022, the UN estimated that 17.6 million people in Ukraine, including over three million children, needed humanitarian assistance.

Action Against Hunger worked both directly with those in need and through established partners to respond to changing needs and locations. Between March and December 2022, Action Against Hunger and its partners assisted almost half a million people in the following ways:

- 132,874 people received support to improve their food security through hot meals, food distributions, food kits or cash assistance – 90 per cent of these were reached through our partners
- 31,238 displaced people received hygiene kits

- 250,000 people benefited from improved access to water through our support to water distribution networks
- 1,468 people received psychosocial support from Action Against Hunger teams or our partners, through psychosocial education and counselling, psychological first aid (PFA) training or stress management modules
- 65,136 people received medical consultations in eight primary health care centres in Dnipro and Kharkiv, including 3,797 infants and young children who received powdered infant formula and ready-to-use infant formula
- 1,468 people received psychosocial support from Action Against Hunger teams or our partners, through psychosocial education and counselling, PFA training, or stress-management modules.

## UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATING SINCE 2020

The cost-of-living crisis in 2022 pushed millions more UK families into poverty and forced them to make difficult choices. The Food Foundation's bi-annual Food Insecurity survey in September 2022 reported that, in the UK, 26 per cent of households with children and 18 per cent of adults (9.7 million) had experienced food insecurity during the previous month. High rates of inflation, especially of essential food items such as oil, milk, and eggs, forced many households to make difficult choices about the food they bought. The Food Foundation survey also reported that those who were food insecure were more likely to cut back on purchasing fruit and vegetables. In 2022, more than 2 million British adults went a whole day without eating because they couldn't afford food. And 2 million British children did not have access to a healthy and affordable diet.

Since 2020, Action Against Hunger has supported partners in London and Sandwell to set up community-run pantries, where food-insecure households can access nutritious food for a small membership fee.

Six community pantries (four in London and two in Sandwell) were supported in 2022 thanks to financial support from Action Against Hunger's partnership with Tenderstem© Broccoli. The community pantries provided weekly support to approximately 450 local households, 70 per cent of which had children. Using the funding, the community pantries purchased additional food supplies for their members. With wholesale food prices in the UK increasing by 30-40 per cent in July-September 2022, Action Against Hunger and Tenderstem's support came at a vital time.

During 2022, Action Against Hunger also supported the local council and partners in the county of Somerset with the roll-out of community pantries. Additional support was provided to the council and partners to assess and map food-resilience needs and assets at county level and establish a food resilience strategy for the county.

# MIDDLE EAST

## SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON

Action Against Hunger's cash for work programme is supporting 7,497 of the most vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees across southern Lebanon. The project employs workers to improve community spaces, through activities like renovating local parks, collecting rubbish, and maintaining roads. It also raises awareness about waste management, hosting 36,807 educational sessions with community members.

"The project has brought the points of views of the host community and Syrian refugees closer," explains Mohammad, our Deputy Programme Manager in Lebanon. "We've also been able to help people with disabilities struggling to find work. Now they can earn money to support their families amid the economic crisis."

Zaki is a gardener at a park he helped build. He says the project has given him a sense of pride: "We built benches, planted flowers, and installed a water supply system. Working in my hometown motivates me to work harder. Due to the economic situation families can't afford to go out anymore. But now people can bring their food and spend the day with their families for free. At first, we participated in this project for financial gains, but it turned out to have social and even cultural benefits."

"This project has helped clean up our village. We separate all the rubbish for recycling. We're taking care of our village, as we should" says Hassan, who had been struggling to find a job before getting accepted onto the programme. "Thanks to the project I can afford our rent and can breathe a little easier now."



© Photo taken by Action Against Hunger

## IRAQ

OPERATING SINCE 2013

Five years after the end of fighting against Daesh, and despite some positive developments, Iraq still faces great insecurity with 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The erosion of national social cohesion, the incomplete restoration of basic services and livelihoods, climate change, increasing water stress and the cyclical risk of cholera epidemics challenge the country's fragile stability.

Action Against Hunger rehabilitated drinking water supply systems in schools and supported local authorities in detecting leaks in community water networks. We also implemented a participatory water stress risk-analysis tool, consulting communities to strengthen advocacy on environmental standards and continued to raise awareness among communities and authorities on good hygiene and water management practices.

We engaged with farmers to support the development of agriculture resilient to climate change and water shortages, supported vulnerable displaced households through cash transfers to help them meet their needs, and worked to help revive the local economy by supporting small businesses through grants and training owners to ensure their businesses thrive.

When it came to reducing the stigma and taboos around access to mental healthcare, Action Against Hunger provided direct services and training in mental health, psychosocial support, and protection to communities. We also worked to strengthen social cohesion by analysing the dynamics of conflict to provide a response adapted to the needs of communities.

## JORDAN

OPERATING SINCE 2013

Twelve years after the Arab Spring, Jordan continued to bear the social, economic, and environmental burden of hosting approximately 670,000 Syrians, and 83,000 refugees of other nationalities, alongside dealing with its own social and economic difficulties. The most vulnerable people remained under severe economic pressure, leading to increased indebtedness and dependence on humanitarian aid, an increase in negative coping strategies, persistent mental health difficulties and a loss of progress in terms of gender equality. In addition, the country continued to face growing climate challenges.

The self-sufficiency of vulnerable refugees and host communities was supported through a phased approach combining financial assistance with the strengthening of referral pathways and local capacities to address mental health needs.

In addition, Action Against Hunger supported comprehensive livelihood interventions, providing short-term employment opportunities for vulnerable Jordanian households and refugees, and improving the working conditions of informal waste workers.

Action Against Hunger also supported the connection of vulnerable households to public water networks and contributed to the adoption of good hygiene practices and sustainable water management techniques. For example, in Azraq camp, we improved hygiene, water use and maintenance of private latrines through community engagement and supported municipal services in solid and organic waste management.

## LEBANON

OPERATING SINCE 2006

In 2022, Lebanon faced economic crisis, the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, a cholera outbreak, and political deadlock, among other challenges and as the country continued hosting the highest number of displaced persons per capita of any country in the world – 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 257,000 Palestinian refugees – the needs of all groups continued to grow.

More than half of Lebanese households and 90 per cent of Syrian households were living in poverty in 2022. Action Against Hunger's humanitarian response primarily focused on Syrian refugees, though Lebanon's host population also required support to meet its basic needs.

Public services remained near collapse because of a lack of public investment and an ongoing energy crisis, and the amount of people living with poor water and sanitation rose. In response, our outreach grew, supporting 159,398 individuals, 53 per cent of whom were women. Our main response was on water, sanitation, and hygiene – interventions for which supported more than 147,000 individuals.

This included distribution of kits, awareness and behaviour change, water and sanitation emergency support, and infrastructure rehabilitation.

The crisis in Lebanon also helped to drive a rise in malnutrition – 26 per cent among Syrian refugees living in informal tented settlements had chronic malnutrition, up from 13 per cent in 2013. While wasting remains low at the national level (1.8 per cent), wasting among pregnant and lactating women was of particular concern (5 per cent on average, 8 per cent among Syrians, 9 per cent among Palestinians). More than 10,000 individuals received food security and livelihoods support from our teams, such as cash assistance or cash-for-work, and more than 2,000 received health and nutrition support, including infant and young child feeding counselling, micro-nutrient powder distributions, and screenings for childhood malnutrition.

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

OPERATING SINCE 2002

Humanitarian needs remained acute for Palestinians, who continued to suffer the consequences of a protracted conflict, 55 years of Israeli military occupation, and a 15-year-long blockade of Gaza by land, sea, and air. In 2022, Palestinians remained subject to violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws, internal Palestinian political divisions, and frequent escalation of hostilities.

According to the UN OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2022, of a total population of 5.3 million, 2.1 million Palestinians needed humanitarian assistance in 2022. Of those in need, 750,000 were in the West Bank and 1.32 million in the Gaza Strip, where Israel's blockade remains

the biggest barrier to economic recovery, development, and the realisation of human rights.

In 2022, Action Against Hunger implemented 12 projects in the occupied Palestinian territory, with a total budget of €10,350 million, focusing on entrepreneurship; economic empowerment of youth and women; water, sanitation, and hygiene, including WASH in healthcare facilities; protection and material assistance; advocacy; and the provision of cash. Through these activities, in 2022 we were able to reach 806,142 people affected by the multiple crises in the Occupied Palestinian territories.

## SYRIA

OPERATING SINCE 2008

In 2022, civilians in Syria faced the worst economic and humanitarian crisis the country has experienced since the start of the conflict in 2011. Across Syria at least 14.6 million people needed humanitarian aid – an increase of 1.2 million from the year before, and 90 per cent of Syrians were living below the poverty line.

With 6.7 million people currently internally displaced across the country, including 1.8 million people living in camps, ongoing conflict in several regions continued to leave people in fear of attack and at risk of new displacement. Additionally, Covid-19, a deadly cholera outbreak (with more than 60,000 cases and 100 deaths), sanctions, severe drought and its economic consequences, and the rise in food prices driven by the war in Ukraine, all worsened the situation.

Last year, acute food insecurity continued to worsen, with at least 12 million Syrians food insecure – 2.5 million of whom were severely food insecure – and more than 600,000 children chronically malnourished.

Action Against Hunger worked across the country, including in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Hama and Idlib – to help about one million Syrian people through capacity restoration; provision of reproductive, maternal and child primary healthcare services; supplying water and sanitation in emergencies; supporting farmers and families through training and support for income-generating activities; and improving access to safe water through strengthening these services in vulnerable communities.

## YEMEN

OPERATING SINCE 2013

Despite a six-month truce in 2022, the protracted conflict in Yemen continued to escalate, leaving 23.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The deteriorating economic situation, currency depreciation, persistent fuel shortages, rising prices of imported foodstuffs, and the lack of stable incomes for many households combined to make basic needs unaffordable for much of the population. This increased the level of malnutrition in the country, especially among women and children.

In Yemen, Action Against Hunger worked to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations by strengthening access to, and quality of, primary health and nutrition services in health centres

and through its mobile teams – including through the provision of medicines, medical equipment, and training.

Primary healthcare, and reproductive health and vaccination programmes were also provided, as well as the detection and treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition in children under five, and among pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Action Against Hunger also rehabilitated health infrastructure and medical waste management systems and supported the construction of community water sources to ensure access to clean water and sanitation in health centres and vulnerable communities. Support for infant and young childcare and feeding practices was also provided.



# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## RUNNING EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS IN PERU

In Peru, we run many livelihoods and employment programmes to tackle the country's growing food insecurity problem. A lack of disposable income is often the main cause of food insecurity. So, we work with communities to help them into work, or to set up their own businesses, to help them earn money to buy nutritious food.

The Work4Progress project teaches both vocational and business skills and has benefitted nearly 15,000 people.

"We're grateful for the programme," says José, a market stall owner. "We've learnt many things and want to learn more."

The project has helped Jaime establish his own banana farm and craft business: "We never knew you could extract banana fibres," he says. "But now we use the material to make handicrafts to sell and earn money. This new business makes us stronger."

"Before, I could only grow a kilo of strawberries," explains strawberry farmer Yuli. "Thanks to the training I now sell 60 kilos a week and even supply an ice cream shop. I can provide for my family now and employ other people, so they can also earn money."

Eight-year-old Yasumi has also noticed the benefits from her parents' now thriving vegetable farming business. "Now we have our own vegetables to eat and to sell." This income boost means that Yasumi's parents have no problem paying her school costs now.

"I love going to school. When I grow up, I want to be a civil engineer."

"Thanks to the project, our family has a more nutritious and varied diet," explains Yasumi's mum. "Yasumi's performing better at school thanks to this."



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## CENTRAL AMERICA

OPERATING SINCE 1996

In 2022, our work in Central America focused on responding to humanitarian needs arising from the increase in the number of migrants crossing the region on their way to Mexico and the United States. Our teams also responded to humanitarian emergencies caused by tropical storms and increased food insecurity caused by the rising cost-of-living, with inflation in the region reaching 10 per cent at the end of the year.

In Honduras, we opened a new office on the country's southern border when a considerable rise in the number of migrants heading to the United States was detected, with more than 1,000 people of different nationalities entering the country every day, 22 per cent of whom were children.

Meanwhile in Guatemala, we focused on providing employment opportunities to returnees and refugees. We also enabled the most vulnerable people in five of the departments with the highest prevalence

of acute malnutrition to access basic services offered by mobile health and nutrition brigades, guaranteeing nutritional monitoring of nearly 16,000 children under five years of age.

Action Against Hunger also responded to emergencies caused by floods and landslides following the tropical storms that hit Honduras and Nicaragua in 2022, causing the evacuation of communities that had suffered human and economic losses.

In addition, Action Against Hunger continued its long-established cash transfer work, reaching 2,700 food-insecure households in the Dry Corridor and delivering a total of almost €2 million in cash assistance. The organisation's institutional strengthening work also continued, supporting municipalities on their water and sanitation governance, and making targeted infrastructure improvements, which benefited more than 20,000 people.

## COLOMBIA

OPERATING SINCE 1998

Action Against Hunger worked directly in four regions affected by humanitarian crisis during 2022, (Caribbean, South Amazonia, East Orinoquia and Santander) and in consortiums, with fixed and mobile teams covering most of the country.

Our ADN Dignidad programme for migrant, refugee, and vulnerable host populations – run in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and funded by USAID – concluded its first three-year phase, during which time it reached more than 256,000 people (22 per cent more than the initial target) and became one of the largest cash transfer programmes in Colombia. A rigorous evaluation revealed the programme's role in reducing both the severity and prevalence of food insecurity mitigation strategies, as well as negative food consumption practices adopted by households facing food shortages.

Action Against Hunger's rapid response to emergencies arising from armed conflict and

natural disasters included jointly responding to 25 emergencies involving displacement, confinement, and mobility restrictions. As part of this response, Action Against Hunger took the lead on information management and alerts, as well as food security – especially in areas with high levels of risk, such as Chocó, Cauca, Meta, and Valle del Cauca, where we took action to improve the availability of, and access to, food.

Early recovery, protection and peacebuilding actions were also taken by Action Against Hunger, through the MIRE+ programme, which (with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) complemented our emergency response activities. During the year we also focused on improving our capacity to manage and monitor risks, expanding and improving our system for receiving and handling complaints of misconduct (such as fraud, abuse of power or identity theft), ensuring proper data protection and care for whistleblowers.

## HAITI

OPERATING SINCE 1985

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti remained dire, with ongoing civil unrest and armed gangs fighting for territorial control of roads, limiting services, and targeting authorities. Kidnappings, crime, and human rights abuses negatively impact the daily life of Haitians throughout the country, especially in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Past earthquakes, drought, high inflation rates, large population displacements, cholera outbreaks, food insecurity, and escalating violence have exacerbated poverty and hunger in Haiti. In 2022, an estimated 4.7 million people were in a protracted and severe food crisis, and more than 19,000 people faced catastrophic levels of hunger.

Action Against Hunger worked to improve food security for the most vulnerable

households, providing 19,576 people with food assistance. Our teams also supported healthcare providers and helped to strengthen the community's capacity to address and treat malnutrition.

Our teams also screened children and pregnant and breastfeeding women for malnutrition. Through these initiatives, we identified more than 1,000 children under five years who suffered from moderate and severe forms of acute malnutrition, and helped to ensure they were treated.

Additionally, in response to the resurgence of cholera in Haiti, our teams educated communities on how to stop the disease through healthy hygiene practices, decontaminated and purified water sources, and provided treatment for those infected with the illness.

## PERU

OPERATING SINCE 2007

In 2022, Action Against Hunger continued its humanitarian response in Peru, supporting 24,642 migrants and refugees and (as part of our localisation agenda) working in collaboration with local actors, developing activities in collaboration with local shelter management bodies, soup kitchens, and health workers.

We also worked closely with actors such as the Ombudsman's Office, the Awajun Autonomous Territorial Government, and various Peruvian and Venezuelan civil society organisations, providing technical assistance and institutional strengthening activities, as well as signing agreements to jointly address the situation of Venezuelan refugees in Peru.

This year Action Against Hunger implemented cash transfer programmes to help cover the food, health, hygiene, and employment needs of 12,136 people. Our food security and livelihoods programme in the Andean areas strengthened the capacity for agricultural production and marketing in rural locations and supported the creation of 39 agricultural enterprises. We also promoted the creation of commercial interconnections of urban hotel and catering networks, favouring the economic reactivation of restaurants

and markets in Metropolitan Lima with associations of agricultural producers in the department of Cusco.

To help migrant and refugee women in Lima to overcome the barriers to accessing work, we set up child-friendly spaces in shelters and ran activities focused on early child development and nutrition, which allowed almost 240 children and adolescents to have a safe environment and professional care while their mothers worked or sought work. Analysis showed an increase of 28–70 per cent in access to employment for these women, and an increase of 26.3 per cent in the salaries of mothers who were already working at the beginning of the project.

Action Against Hunger also participated in a baseline study on the health, sexual and reproductive health needs of migrants and refugees in Lima and produced several studies, including on water service models in rural areas; multisectoral analyses on food and nutrition security in times of crisis; and qualitative surveys on water, sanitation, and hygiene among migrant and refugee populations. Articles on food insecurity in the Venezuelan migrant population in Peru during the Covid-19 pandemic were also published in specialist nutrition journals and in Revista 17.

## VENEZUELA

OPERATING SINCE 2018

Action Against Hunger expanded its coverage in Venezuela in 2022, reaching new communities in different regions and increasing our comprehensive multisectoral approach to health, nutrition, food security, WASH, gender, and protection.

In the area of WASH, we helped to improve access to safe water through the rehabilitation of community systems and health centres, including sanitation systems in health centres, and supported thousands of people with training in good practices for the safe treatment and storage of water, and handwashing.

When it came to livelihoods, we supported families to create home gardens, helped indigenous women to develop small production initiatives, strengthened the technical and soft skills of entrepreneurs and distributed agricultural assets. We also worked on the prevention of gender-based violence, and to encourage greater male participation in domestic and care work.

Action Against Hunger also standardised reporting and data collection to improve quality and coherence, while improving our feedback system.



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# ACRONYMS

AFD	French Development Agency (French acronym)	NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (German acronym)	NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
CAR	Central African Republic	NTAG	Nepali Technical Assistance Group
CIAA	Interministerial Food Aid Committee (French acronym)	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
COP	Conference of the Parties	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	PFA	Psychological First Aid
DEC	Disasters Emergency Committee	ROWCA	Regional Office for West and Central Africa
DG ECHO	Directorate General for European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations	RUTF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic food
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EPYCO	Personal & Skills Training for Employment Project (Spanish acronym)	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ESF	European Social Fund	SMART	Standardised Monitoring Assessment for Relief and Transition
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FAP	Farming with Alternative Pollinators	UNSCR	United National Security Council Resolution
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
FSL	Food Security & Livelihoods	VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
HEARO	Horn and East Africa Regional Office	WHO	World Health Organisation
ICAN	International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition	WINS	Working to Improve Nutrition to Scale
ICCM+	Integrated Community Case Management		
IDP	Internally Displaced Populations		
IGEP	International Gender Equality Policy		
IGU	International Gender Unit		
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification		
ISP	International Strategic Plan		
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition		
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning		
MHGAP	Mental Health Gap Action Programme		
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support		
MMD	Minimal Meal Diversity		
MMF	Minal Meal Frequency		
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference		
NAZ	Nutrition Action Zimbabwe		

# ENDNOTES

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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 right 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 also have country offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America.

In 2022, we had 61 offices in 58 countries with 8,990 staff around the world. We ran 856 projects in 55 countries and assisted over 28 million people.