Mission East
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Building lasting change together
Mission East’s approach to relief and development

Mission East is an international relief and development organisation founded in Denmark. We work with the vision of empowering people and communities to lift themselves out of crisis, poverty and marginalisation.

What we do

- Disaster Response
- Rural Community Development

Our main sectors

- Emergency relief
- Food Security
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Livelihoods
- Disability and inclusion

Our key approaches

- Inclusion
- Resilience
- Accountability and Partnership

Aiming to assist the most vulnerable, we try to ensure that no one is left behind on the basis of gender, disability or other discriminatory factors.

In our development programming we use a rights-based approach and seek attitude change to enable women’s empowerment.

Working to support durable improvement in lives and livelihoods, we try to link relief, recovery and development. Taking a context-specific approach to analysing and preparing for natural hazards, we work towards Disaster Risk Reduction. In climate-vulnerable locations we will try to integrate Climate Change Adaptation approaches into local development where possible.

Responding to community needs, we try to be accountable to those we help and those who fund our work.

We collaborate with other local and international partners and take a planned approach to capacity building of civil society.
Armenia
- Inclusive education promotion
- Capacity strengthening of civil society and authorities on inclusion
- Diaspora engagement in rural communities
- HIV/AIDS prevention, care, information, and access to services

Afghanistan
- Emergency relief
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Food and Livelihoods Security
- Civil society capacity strengthening and inclusion

Tajikistan
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Advocacy
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Capacity building of civil society

Iraq
- Emergency relief
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Psychosocial support and recovery for conflict-affected children, youth, and women
- Livelihood recovery and security
- Support for shelter reconstruction for returnees
- Capacity strengthening of local partners to respond to humanitarian crises
Nepal
- Livelihoods Support (especially for women)
- Empowerment and inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups
- Inclusive Disaster Preparedness
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Capacity building of civil society, local communities, and government
- Emergency Relief

North Korea (DPRK)
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Food security

Bangladesh
- Basic health services for Rohingya refugees
- Hygiene promotion in refugee camps

Myanmar
- Food security
- Capacity building of local civil society
- Education support
Some of our joint achievements in 2018

Every year, thousands of people participate in and benefit from Mission East’s projects. Here you can see how many people have benefited in 2018 from each of the sectors we work in.

As some projects cover multiple sectors, there may be overlaps of beneficiaries between the sectors.

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2018, Mission East’s work contributed to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals in particular. More details are provided on each country page.
Rapid response... and long-term change

In 2018 Mission East continued to work in humanitarian response, long-term development and in the fragile space between the two. We provided rapid humanitarian support to communities emerging from conflict or suffering from natural disasters while continuing to build long-term partnerships for lasting change.

Four years since the start of the crisis in Iraq, people are gradually returning to their homes, where infrastructure and livelihoods need to be restored. Despite a still volatile context, Mission East is working to enable people to get back on their feet. This commitment to support people as they move from life-saving needs to long-term recovery is increasingly referred to as ‘the nexus’ and is characteristic of much of Mission East’s work. (Read more on page 10). In Afghanistan both emergency and far-sighted support were required in the past year to assist communities affected by drought and conflict, as well as persistent extreme poverty. In Myanmar, long-term agricultural development interacts with humanitarian support in a context which is fragile from both political and environmental perspectives.

REACTION TO SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SHORTAGES

North Korea remains an important focus area for Mission East. An exceptionally hot, dry summer in 2018 followed by flooding caused significant damage to the harvest, creating serious food shortages. In 2019 Mission East is providing life-saving food assistance alongside its long-term efforts to improve agriculture methods.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

In Nepal and Tajikistan, Mission East continuously strengthens its partnerships with local civil society to build ongoing positive change rooted in community needs. In Nepal our work is creating change for women who have traditionally been excluded from livelihoods opportunities but are now acquiring new skills and speaking out for their rights. In Tajikistan, our work on disability and inclusion continues to identify children with disabilities who have not received the care they need, and to give them opportunities for rehabilitation and support services.

Over the years our work on disability has been informed by our extensive experience in Armenia. In 2019, Mission East will close its office in Armenia, and continue programming there via its partner Bridge of Hope. Our ability to phase out and allow our partners to take the lead is our best indicator of success and positive societal change.

Thank you to all our partners and donors for making this work possible!
Location and number of Mission East staff in 2018

*Figures accurate as of December 31st 2018

**The Board**

Carsten Wredstrøm
Chairman of the Mission East Board of Directors since 2010.
Project and Quality Management Consultant.

Ib Alstrup
Deputy chairman of the Mission East Board of Directors since 2015.
Medicines Inspector.

David Hermansen
Member of the Mission East Board of Directors since 2016.
Lawyer with specialisation in business law.

Ib Nørholm
Member of the Mission East Board of Directors since 2015.

Helge Sørensen
Member of the Mission East Board of Directors since 2018.
Researcher at the Technical University of Denmark.

**The Management**

Kim Hartzner
Managing Director, Copenhagen.
Co-founder and responsible for leadership and strategic direction.

Vibeke Hauge Farrisdahl
Responsible for administration, communication and fundraising.

Peter Drummond Smith
Responsible for relief and development programming.

Nazik Avagyan
Responsible for Mission East’s overall finances.

Richard Peppiette
Responsible for IT systems.

Joël De Vos
Responsible for Human Resources in Mission East.

Jana Goepel
Responsible for fundraising and donor contact in Germany.
Mission East staff share their passion

Fundraising for humanitarian and development work demands a high degree of flexibility as the context and priorities change rapidly.

But every time we succeed in securing funds, it is a victory for us, and even more when we see the great work carried out in our programme countries.”

Majken Samsoe Fundraising Manager in Copenhagen (2018-present)

When I joined Mission East, I had not imagined that I would work for any organisation for nearly a decade. Looking back, I see some key reasons for this.

First, Mission East provided opportunities for my professional growth within the organisation. Second, I had good mentors in the form of supervisors who valued my work and enabled me to gain new skills. Finally, the work environment is homely and flexible.”

Santosh Sharma Team leader in Nepal (2009-2018)

Coming on board was easy. I appreciate the way that projects are developed in a way to come alongside the community to listen and learn from them.

Additionally, I fell in love with the wonderful, hospitable people of Tajikistan. It is not often that you find that perfect fit between an organisation, the location, and the type of work that is being done in such an amazing way.”

Scott Amis Program Manager (2012-2015) and Country Director (2018-present) in Tajikistan
Keeping affected populations at the heart of our work

Mission East is committed to keeping people who are affected by poverty, exclusion or crisis at the heart of our work. This means that the people we are accountable to – first and foremost, before our donors, partners and managers – are the individuals and communities we work with.

In other words, we must use the power we have as an organisation responsibly, especially when we are working with particularly vulnerable populations.

We must do our utmost to provide the right kind of assistance on time, guard against any possible harm from our work, prevent abuses and corruption, avoid mistakes, and listen to and learn from feedback from communities.

One way we ensure this is by aligning our work with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). The CHS provides a framework for humanitarian and development actors to measure and improve the quality and effectiveness of their assistance. In 2017, Mission East was certified as compliant with the standard by independent auditors.

But adhering to the CHS is not about a one-time ‘pass or fail’ audit. Rather, it is a process of continuous improvement and remaining conscious of accountability throughout our daily work. In the past year, we have been working hard to further demonstrate our commitment to the quality in our work.

Here are some examples of improvements that have been applied:

- Formalising our process and criteria for when we respond to new disasters – ensuring we do this in a timely and responsible way
- Assessing potential risks to communities more consistently in our risk analysis processes
- Updating our policy and systems for monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Developing procedures on responsible use of personal information from affected populations
- Designing better mechanisms for communities to give Mission East feedback and complaints – with input from the community members themselves
- Articulating our policy and processes for when we do and don’t accept donations – to ensure we don’t compromise on our ethics

In June 2018 Mission East passed its 2nd annual external audit, confirming our ongoing compliance with the Core Humanitarian Standard. This allows us to keep our quality mark – demonstrating our commitment to the highest standards for the people we serve.
Mission East’s work is usually categorised as either short-term disaster relief or long-term development. But in the world’s most troubled and challenging places, we often find ourselves in situations that fall somewhere in between. One of the defining features of Mission East’s approach is the combination of timely response to urgent needs with a long-term commitment to the communities we assist. This means that we are often responding to very real needs beyond the first rush of a disaster response, but without a stable context in which to carry out planned and predictable long-term development projects.

This type of situation is increasingly referred to as the humanitarian-development ‘nexus’ – where significant humanitarian needs exist and/or are likely to re-occur, and where long-term efforts are threatened by conflict, instability, or repeated natural disaster.

Many of the world’s protracted humanitarian crises can fall under this definition, including some of Mission East’s current programme countries. Mission East has developed a successful approach to working in these areas which combines detailed analysis of each local context, flexibility of programme, and integration of emergency response capacity with multi-sector community resilience-building.

Afghanistan faces frequent natural disasters such as drought or flooding, which create new needs in an otherwise difficult context. At these times, Mission East adapts its regular programming to step in with emergency relief, as we did in 2018 by providing cash and material support to 1,370 drought-affected families like this one. Photo: Bashir Ahmad Mirzad

Between ‘crisis’ and ‘development’: the nexus

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Working in the Nexus in Afghanistan

Our Afghanistan programme is a good example of this. Core programme elements focus on working with communities to strengthen food security, improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene awareness, develop sustainable livelihoods and self-help approaches. At the same time, emergency situations are anticipated and can be addressed rapidly. This can take the form of providing humanitarian aid from stockpiled supplies to families displaced by local conflict or adjusting programme activities to give more direct support to drought-affected farmers following the failure of rains and depleted harvests.

Mission East’s long-term presence in places like Afghanistan ensures a deep understanding of local issues and well-developed relationships with local organisations, communities and authorities, which is important for operating in such fragile contexts. Another nexus situation is Iraq, where our team works in the context of large scale population movements, sensitive post-conflict politics, shifting territorial claims and fluctuating administrative requirements. Myanmar, where Mission East works in the remote Chin state through local partners, can also be included in the humanitarian-development nexus, with particularly marginalised populations, and a fragile security situation presenting a challenging operating context.

Reaching those most in need in a complex and changing world is always going to be a challenge requiring special efforts and commitment. Mission East anticipates that in the years ahead, an increasing amount of its aid delivery will be in nexus situations. We are ready to meet the challenge!
Partnerships as the key to long-term change

Mission East’s development programming wouldn’t be possible without the critical role played by civil society organisations working for change in their communities and countries.

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Conflicts in Iraq, drought in Afghanistan, refugee camps in Bangladesh... The drama of humanitarian needs often hits the headlines on our television screens, newspapers, and social media. But Mission East also has high on its agenda the less dramatic situations of daily poverty and marginalisation which keep millions of people from living healthy and fulfilled lives. Our development programmes take place where long-term change is needed, with local communities and partner organisations at the heart of it.

In Nepal, for example, Mission East continues to work in one of the poorest and most remote mountainous corners of the country, where girls’ and women’s rights are not respected, where support is rarely available for families with disabled children, and where the obstacles to earning a basic living are often insurmountable for single or widowed women. Through partnerships with a range of local NGOs, Mission East can help vulnerable groups get livelihoods training, literacy skills, and training to understand and assert their rights. The results might not seem dramatic at first – the allocation of a portion of local budgets to women’s priorities, the ability of women to officially register their children’s birth, someone previously trapped in poverty now earning a basic income – but to the people most affected, such achievements are truly life-changing.

LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS FOR LASTING CHANGE

The key to sustainable change in such situations is the development of local civil society – NGOs, community groups, women’s networks, etc. Mission East tries to take a far-sighted approach to partnership with a range of local partner organisations, and to provide systematic support to help them grow into stronger and ever more-active organisations. At the same time, our partners have their feet firmly on the ground. They understand local problems, provide training and assistance to those most in need, speak out for and with groups who need to be heard, and influence local community leaders and government officials.

In 2019, Mission East is launching a new multi-country programme focused on building inclusive and resilient communities, combining the work of partner organisations in four different countries. This approach will enable partners in Nepal, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Armenia to share learning and encourage each other in their work, supporting grassroots change to flourish in some of the world’s most remote places.
**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2018**

Mission East’s work benefited from significant growth from 2014 to 2017 due to an increase in both public and private contracts. In 2018 this levelled out, as funding for Iraq (Mission East’s largest programme) reduced significantly in keeping with the progressing situation.

Further to CHS certification in 2017, in 2018, we focused on organisational improvements and departmental development, to ensure effective engagement with new donors and partners and to safeguard Mission East’s potential for future expansion in geography and activity profile.

Mission East turnover from private sources remained steady between 2017 and 2018. Public income remained similarly diversified as it was in 2017 but decreased by 8%. Funds from the Danish state remained Mission East’s main source of public funding in 2018, marked by the start of a four year strategic partnership agreement. This grant was a notable achievement, as it represents Mission East’s first multi-year, multi-country partnership agreement for humanitarian purposes. Other public contributions were mainly from the US Department of State (15%) and the German State (12%).

**PROGRAMME SPENDING IN 2018**

Programme expenses in 2018 were proportional to the annual turnover with a similar balance between emergency aid and development assistance spending. Geographically, spending increased specifically in Myanmar for our work supporting improved food security through local partners in Chin State, and in Bangladesh where we supported fellow Integral members in their response to the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Mission East’s main area of programmatic spending was emergency relief activities in Iraq which represented 49% of expenditure in 2018. The spending on administration was at 7% in 2018.

We enter 2019 with a positive outlook for growth of Mission East’s private and public resources to be able to carry out our mission of delivering relief, striving for long-term change and making an impact on the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people.

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**Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018**

**Statement of financial activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profit and Loss Statement</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private donations</td>
<td>10,074,496</td>
<td>10,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private grants</td>
<td>14,481,074</td>
<td>14,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public grant payments</td>
<td>54,468,103</td>
<td>59,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued grant income</td>
<td>-21,166,656</td>
<td>9,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>57,857,018</td>
<td>93,926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Privately financed projects</td>
<td>25,077,876</td>
<td>23,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public grants expenditure</td>
<td>49,983,022</td>
<td>66,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued grant expenses</td>
<td>-19,487,260</td>
<td>-3,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head office staff</td>
<td>3,234,009</td>
<td>3,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>469,832</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, travel, premises</td>
<td>2,041,303</td>
<td>1,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>61,318,782</td>
<td>92,186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Operating contribution    | -3,461,765 | 1,741 |

| Depreciation and financing costs | 1,391,403 | -1,006 |
| **Retained income** | -2,070,362 | 735 |

**Funds at 1 January**

| Funds at 1 January | 3,186,934 |
| **Funds at 31 December** | 1,116,572 |

**Balance sheet at 31 December 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>154,489</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid funds</td>
<td>7,190,728</td>
<td>6,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>55,623,040</td>
<td>76,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>62,968,258</td>
<td>83,146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project commitments</td>
<td>57,564,858</td>
<td>77,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other payables</td>
<td>4,286,828</td>
<td>2,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission East equity</td>
<td>1,116,572</td>
<td>3,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>62,968,258</td>
<td>83,146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information presented here is a summary of the information contained in the accounts of Mission East. This summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Mission East. For further information, the full accounts should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from Mission East’s registered head office.
Where did the money come from?

Danish State: 34.4%
Private donors: 31.1%
US State: 15.0%
German State: 12.4%
ECHO / EU: 5.8%
UN / OTHER: 1.4%

What was the money spent on?

Emergency aid: 66.9%
Development assistance: 26.1%
Administration: 7.0%

Where did the money go?

Iraq: 49.3%
Armenia: 8.9%
Afghanistan: 19.5%
Tajikistan: 13.5%
Nepal: 4.6%
North Korea: 1.2%
Other: 0.02%
Bangladesh: 0.2%
Fundraising and communication in 2018

New popular engagement strategy
Mission East’s fundraising and communications department has launched a new strategy for public engagement. We will strengthen our fundraising by targeting new donor groups such as corporations and become better at fundraising among private individual supporters through social media and other online channels. In addition to raising more funds, we also aim to increase our communication and information work through social, digital and print media, and press which serves to raise awareness among the Danish and German public about the value of relief and development work in the countries where Mission East works.

Campaigning for North Korea
In August, Managing Director Kim Hartzner visited North Korea and was concerned by what he saw: field after field of dried out maize crops – a worrying outlook for the food supply for the year ahead in North Korea. In response, Mission East’s communication and fundraising department immediately started to campaign for our work in North Korea.

New website
In October, Mission East launched a new website. The website strengthens our opportunities to communicate about Mission East’s work to various stakeholders, freshens our public platform, and makes it easier for supporters to donate to Mission East’s work through a wider range of payment options.

A child’s life in the midst of war
In December, we were able to give a global voice to 13-year-old Amira from Mosul, Iraq. We shared her heartfelt story of life during and after IS’ occupation of her city through social media and Danish newspapers. Amira is one of the participants in the Mosul community centre run by Mission East and its partner EADE, where children can play and learn in a safe environment.

Hundreds of articles
In 2018, Mission East’s work was presented in 374 articles in newspapers, magazines and news websites, in addition to multiple appearances on national radio and television.

New foundation donor
For the first time, Mission East received funding from Denmark’s largest private foundation, the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The foundation funded a project to alleviate the effects of a serious drought in Afghanistan.
Thank you!

Mission East wishes to thank all those who made our work possible in 2018, including all of our generous individual supporters and the following groups, organisations and companies, who have supported our work:

### Alliance partners
- Agha Khan Agency for Habitat
- Läkarmissionen
- World Relief US

### Churches
- Karlslunde Strandkirke
- Byens Valgmenighed
- Herlufsholm Sogns Julemarked
- Bistrup Kirkes Arbejdssudvalg
- Højnæskirken - Kristent Fællesskab
- Søborgmagle Kirke
- Århus Valgmenighed
- Frikirken NU, København
- Kvanglund Kirke
- Glostrup Menighedsråd
- Aars Frikirke
- Buddinge Sogns Menighedsråd
- Gladsaxe Sogns Menighedsråd
- Bistrup Kirke
- Aabenraa Sogns Menighedsråd
- Vamdrup Kirke
- Ansøgs Kirkens Kirkekasse
- Øster Snede Kirke
- Bistrup Menighedsråd
- Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas
- Hjørring Kirkekasse
- Det Fælles Kirkekontor
- Sdr. Starup Kirke
- Villingered Menighedsråd

### Corporate donors
- Balderus Stoleflet
- Camunda
- Knud Albertsen Holding ApS
- Motivation og Angsthaandtering
- Nettolager ApS
- Thyssenkrupp

### Foundations
- AEC Fonden
- Asta og Jul. P. Justesens Fond
- Bygma Fonden
- Den Midtjyske Bladfond
- Det Nissenske Familiefond
- Erik Thunes Legat af 1954
- Fonden af 17-12-1981
- Jocelyn & Günter Pilarsky Stiftung
- Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973
- Medarbejderens Honorarfond i Novo Gruppen
- Missionsfonden af 4/5 1964
- Novo Nordisk Fonden
- Ole Kirk's Fond
- PATRIP Foundation
- Paula og Axel Nissens Legat
- Rengørings Compagniets Fonden
- Sct. Georgs Fonden
- The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

### Institutional donors
- BMZ – German Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development
- Brandenburg State Government
- CISU – Civil Society in Development
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- DMCDD – Danish Mission Council Development Department
- ECHO – European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
- EuropeAid – European Union International Cooperation and Development
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- UNICEF
- US State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

### Others
- Archdiocese of Cologne
- Armenischer Unternehmer Verein
- Danmarks Indsamling
- Diözese der Armenischen Apostolischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.
- Kulturstyrelsen
- Y’s Men Clubs, Denmark
- Y’s Menette Clubs, Denmark

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Photo: Peter Eilertsen
Building resilience in Afghanistan’s protracted crisis

Mission East’s programme in Afghanistan continues to provide an integrated, coordinated approach to address relief and recovery needs in a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis. Many Afghans are repeatedly affected and displaced by conflict, drought and natural hazards in areas which are becoming harder to reach and harder to operate in safely.

In late 2018, Mission East distributed animal fodder and vaccinated livestock to help drought-affected families restore their livelihoods.

Photo: Bashir Ahmad Mirzad

The severe, country-wide drought in Afghanistan displaced more than 275,000 people in 2018 in addition to the number of people already displaced by ongoing conflict. Within such a fragile and volatile ‘protracted crisis’ situation, Mission East continues to work with local communities, civil society, government and other stakeholders to address the multiple and inter-linked factors of vulnerability and risk.

We do this through a series of resilience-building measures in water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food and livelihood security, disaster risk reduction and civil society capacity-building. These inter-linked ‘nexus’ measures aim to reduce the use of unsustainable coping strategies at times of crisis, and to improve household and community health, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities, particularly for the most vulnerable households.

Guided by the overall objective to ‘reduce vulnerability and increase resilience’, the programme will continue to work to strengthen local community and civil society capacities to act as agents of change for meeting humanitarian needs and for longer-term resilience building, particularly as Afghanistan enters a period of increased political turbulence and uncertainty with upcoming presidential elections and an ongoing peace process.

Facts


Programme locations: Badakhshan, Takhar

Number of staff: 109

Partners: Afghanistan Social and Legal Organization (ASLO), Empowerment of Women Organization (EWO), and Baharak Vocational Agriculture Social Service Organization (BVASSO).

Donors/funding partners: Novo Nordisk Fonden, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and PATRIP Foundation.

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Afghanistan contributes to SDG 1, ‘End poverty’. By giving a boost to livelihoods, reducing the risk of preventable illness and reducing the risk of disasters, we aim to keep families from continuously returning to extreme poverty. Our inclusive approach means we prioritise remote communities and pay special attention to livelihood opportunities for women.
Our 2018 priorities in Afghanistan

Emergency Relief
By providing emergency relief, drought and conflict affected families can meet their urgent needs to cope and recover.

Achievements in 2018:
- 1,370 drought affected families provided with cash and in-kind support to meet urgent needs for food, WASH and livelihoods recovery
- 1,067 NFI kits provided to displaced conflict-affected families in Takhar and Badakhshan

WASH
By constructing latrines and improving hygiene practices, we decrease the occurrence of waterborne diseases.

Achievements in 2018:
- 28 water schemes were built and repaired (20 at community-level and 8 at schools)
- 54 community latrines built
- 4,594 school children and 5,608 adults trained in good hygiene and sanitation practice

DRR
Supporting community-based disaster risk management structures reduces people’s risk to natural hazards and strengthens their coping capacity.

Achievements in 2018:
- 53 high-risk communities supported to set up community-based disaster risk management structures
- Financial and capacity-building support provided to 3 local NGO partners with 18 others trained

Livelihoods & Food Security
Through training and support, we strengthen the livelihoods of men and women and improve household food security.

Achievements in 2018:
- 1,515 households (especially women members) provided with training and inputs for activities to improve household food and livelihood security
- 21 new Self-Help Groups and producer groups formed and trained
- 1,045 women trained in good nutrition and feeding practices
- 6 irrigation canals rehabilitated providing irrigation water to 6 communities

New courage in a desperate situation
During the drought, Mr. Sangi-Bay was so desperate that he considered selling all his livestock: “As a father, it is my responsibility to feed my children and give them winter clothes. But how?” he asks. Fortunately, a better solution presented itself. “I heard that Mission East was distributing fodder to small scale farmers like me. That gave me new courage. They also came and vaccinated my animals against infectious diseases. All my seven female goats and my cow are pregnant, and because of the vaccinations, they are healthy. In a few months I will have 14 goats and two cattle,” he says happily.
Breaking down barriers to inclusion in Armenia

Mission East’s work in Armenia focuses on the inclusion of marginalised groups. Through the efforts of our skilled local partners, children with disabilities benefit from inclusive education; populations at risk of HIV/AIDS benefit from prevention measures, treatment and support; and rural communities gain access to new opportunities.

In 2018, Mission East continued to support its local partners to advocate for and provide the tools to implement inclusive education. Following successful testing of the “Universal System of Inclusive Education” in Tavush, the model began being rolled out in the capital, Yerevan, and is seeing similar success. Previously neglected children are gaining access to quality education for the first time.

We also completed year 9 of Mission East’s 10-year commitment to Armenia’s HIV/AIDS prevention efforts – reaching out to particularly marginalised at-risk groups with services, support and means for prevention.

In line with our strategy, after 27 years of involvement in Armenia, Mission East plans to close its office there in the summer of 2019. We will continue to support the work of our valued long-term partner, Bridge of Hope, promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Armenia supports SDG 10, ‘Reduce inequality.’ With partners, we promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. We work for policy change which enables children with disabilities to access quality education alongside other children.
Our 2018 priorities in Armenia

Disability and Inclusion

We support civil society organisations and educational facilities to ensure access for marginalised groups to inclusive educational services.

By outreach to most-at-risk groups, we reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS spreading among vulnerable populations.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ The “Universal System of Inclusive Education” has been rolled out in Yerevan and is now largely acknowledged by government and civil society stakeholders in the capital
✓ 42,000 children (of which, 2,361 are children with disabilities) are benefiting from an improved education and an inclusive environment as a result of 19 adapted classrooms
✓ 2,901 teachers and specialists, over 600 parents, and 409 pedagogical-psychological units have improved capacity to deliver inclusive education for children with disabilities
✓ 12,392 most-at-risk people were reached with HIV/AIDS prevention services and harm reduction means

Rural Community Development

Through local civil society organisations, we facilitate the transfer of knowledge and know-how from the Armenian Diaspora to vulnerable communities in rural areas, on topics that can improve local development and the situation of children.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ Improved capacity of local actors to develop their communities in Lori, Shirak, Tavush, and Gegharkunik following the engagement of experts from the Armenian diaspora.

Reaching further

In Nagorno-Karabakh (also known as Artsakh) which lies between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Mission East has supported its partner Bridge of Hope to start extending its experience promoting inclusive education to schools in the region’s capital, Stepanakert.

In 2018, this resulted in:

✓ 22 educators from 12 schools have become teacher trainers and mentors to promote the implementation of inclusive education in their schools
✓ 70 parents of children with disabilities are better informed on the rights of their children and empowered to advocate for these rights
✓ 45 government officials and members of civil society organisations in the region have an improved understanding of inclusive education

A new approach

These Grade 1 children are students in one of Stepanakert’s first inclusive classrooms. “The Inclusive Education training has changed my approach and understanding of education.” Stepanakert City, School Deputy Director Irina Mkrtchyan. Photo: Mission East
Adversity continues for displaced people and returnees in Iraq

Mission East continues to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in Iraq. This includes those who have been displaced for multiple years now, those who have returned home but face new challenges upon return, and host communities weary from the extended instability.

The humanitarian context in Iraq continues to evolve as many people return to what remains of their homes and face new needs in communities that have been devastated by the war. But others are still unable to return and are stretched by the burden of continued displacement. Overall, an estimated 6.7 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Activities focused on enabling a return to self-sufficiency and normality were a priority for Mission East throughout 2018 as we aimed to rebuild livelihoods, restore water supply, and repair damaged shelters in war-torn communities that were struggling to mend. Immediate help was also provided where appropriate, including cash assistance and other relief items. Mission East also increased its activities in the area of protection, focusing on providing safe spaces for children and youth to play, learn and process their experience, and promoting their psychosocial well-being and resilience. A key development in 2018 was identifying a core group of four strategic local partners to strengthen and collaborate with in the coming years. Together with these partners, Mission East developed a new Country Strategy for Iraq covering 2019 to 2021.

Moving forward, we will focus on three main sectors: protection, livelihoods and WASH/shelter, with an increased emphasis on participation of women, youth, people with disabilities, and other excluded and vulnerable groups. Geographically, Mission East will strengthen its presence in Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates, as well as aiming to gradually expand its outreach to Saladin and Anbar.

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East’s work in Iraq contributes to SDG 5, ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.’ Through community centres which provide recreational activities, training, peer-support and referrals to counselling and other specialized services, we aim to reduce the impact of violence experienced by teenage girls and women in Iraq and build their confidence and prospects.
Our 2018 priorities in Iraq

Emergency Relief

By receiving life-saving items such as food, heaters, shelter materials and cash, as well as psychosocial support, families are able to cope with harsh conditions and improve their well-being.

Achievements in 2018:
- 929 families received cash assistance for their most urgent needs
- 685 families received emergency food kits
- 2,404 families received cash or kits to meet their needs for hygiene items or heaters, fuel, and other items needed to survive the winter
- 182 returnee families received grants to help repair their damaged homes
- Over 5,000 conflict-affected children, youth, and women participated in group activities or received individual support to improve their psychosocial well-being
- 5,035 people have benefited from various improvements in their communities as a result of youth-led initiatives

WASH

By providing access to clean water and promoting hygiene awareness we can meet water needs in war-torn communities and decrease the spread of waterborne disease.

Achievements in 2018:
- 13 wells or other water systems have been repaired, supplying water to 8,513 community members
- 2,888 people have participated in hygiene awareness sessions

Livelihoods & Food Security

By providing training, inputs, and cash grants, conflict-affected households can become self-sufficient as they revive their livelihoods after the conflict.

Achievements in 2018:
- 5,938 people benefited from trainings or inputs to resume or start up new livelihoods
- 704 people engaged in short-term ‘cash for work’ wage employment
- 9 wells have been restored to supply irrigation water for gardens

A safe place in a war-torn city

At the centre, they teach us to respect each other,” says 13-year-old Amira. She and her family were displaced from Mosul during the ISIS occupation. They have now returned to the war-torn city and Amira participates in activities at the Mosul community centre run by Mission East’s local partner EADE.
Planting a new future

Natural disasters and farming methods that are no longer well-adapted to the context have resulted in regular food shortages for the Mara community in remote areas of Chin State. Mission East, through its local partners, is introducing new ecologically responsible and sustainable methods aiming at improved food security.

In 2018, we observed how the Mara community worked hard and enthusiastically to introduce new methods to their agricultural practice. A new approach to water management has been spread widely with great success, even outside the target population. We started to see the fruits of the work (literally!) and how the new methods are improving nutrition and reducing hunger, while being responsible towards the environment. We also provided support to schooling for disadvantaged students, with the aim that youth from the Mara community will be able to access higher educational opportunity.

In 2019, Mission East and our partners will continue to focus on improved food security and responsible environmental management, with an intensified focus on inclusion of people with disabilities and women in these processes. Support to youth studying at COME school will also continue.

Facts
Mission East started working in Myanmar in 2013.
Programme locations: Chin State, Matupi Township
Number of staff: Mission East staff visit periodically
Partners: Together for Sustainable Development (TSD), Health and Hope Myanmar (HHM), and Mara Evangelical Church
Donors/funding partners: Astrid Møller and Civil Society in Development (CISU)

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East’s work in Myanmar contributes to SDG 2, ‘End hunger.’ We support farmers to adopt sustainable methods which are better adapted to changes in the context. The new methods also enable families to eat a more varied diet all year-round.
Our 2018 priorities in Myanmar

Food Security

By providing training and inputs for new agriculture methods, farmer families have better dietary diversity and more food available.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ 130 families trained on new growing methods and supported via Farmer Groups
✓ Water management trainings were provided to farmer groups and community members
✓ Household diets improved as a result of awareness-raising efforts

A healthy diet

These days we always have enough vegetables for our family, and I can even give some greens away to friends and neighbours. I’m already selling some of the things I grow on the farm: ginger, chilli, and eggplant. We have had no sickness in our family this year.” 31-year-old Losi is one of the farmers participating in a project which offers farmers in Chin State an alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture and provides a more varied diet. Photo: Susanne Madsen.

Bangladesh

Just across the border from Myanmar’s Rakhine State, Mission East continued to support its fellow Integral Alliance members Medical Teams International and Food for the Hungry in Bangladesh where they are responding to the needs of Rohingya refugees. In the world’s largest refugee camp where over 900,000 people are crowded into temporary shelters, Mission East supports our partners to provide basic health services, promote good hygiene practices, and prevent outbreaks of disease.

In 2018, this included the following:

✓ 100 Community Health Workers and 29 Community Psychosocial Workers conducted daily household visits promoting hygiene, preventing the spread of disease, and supporting the population on mental health issues.
✓ An essential package of health services was provided through 2 primary health centres and 1 health post.
Women at the forefront of change

Mission East Nepal and its partners are committed to combatting long-term poverty and discrimination and promoting empowerment and inclusion in the remotest part of the country, the Karnali Zone. A key focus is ensuring that women are empowered to lead change for their families and communities.

During 2018 we witnessed how the new decentralised government structure, shifting power to local and provincial levels, has presented both an opportunity and a big challenge for advocacy actions of civil society. New governance structures lack capacities at many levels, but some are open to capacity building from organisations like Mission East and its partners. This gives us the opportunity to influence policy-making that is inclusive of all marginalised groups in different sectors such as health, education, small business development, disaster risk management, etc. The inclusion of women, Dalits and other marginalised people in municipality/rural municipality councils will help to prioritise their agendas in policy and programs at the local level and ultimately strengthen peace and democracy as the status of marginalised people grows in our working areas. We have been encouraged, in particular, to see the role women have played in stepping forward into leadership in project areas in 2018.

In 2019, Mission East and our local partners will continue to work for the empowerment and inclusion of the most marginalised groups, with particular emphasis on women, people with disabilities and caste-discriminated populations in Karnali, the least developed province of Nepal. Sectors we will be working in include: climate resilient agriculture, livelihoods, rights advocacy, food security, capacity building of civil society, and government accountability.

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East’s work in Nepal contributes to SDG 17, ‘Global partnership for sustainable development’. Partnership is at the root of everything we do in Nepal. Our projects are collaborations with local organisations, bringing our help directly to local communities.
Our 2018 priorities in Nepal

Food Security

Through the provision of nutrition and agriculture trainings and inputs, we support families to grow a better year-round supply of food.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ 2,500 people supported to improve food security and nutrition via training, extension services, and inputs for round-the-year food production. Focus on households with persons with disabilities.

Livelihoods

Through activities to strengthen women’s livelihoods, we improve their resilience and role in society.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ 7,308 people in remote mountainous districts benefit from improved women’s literacy, rights awareness, and livelihoods skills
✓ 5,058 women and their families benefit from savings groups and income generating activities
✓ Inclusive approaches have ensured participation of women, adolescent girls, people with disabilities, Dalits, and other marginalised groups in community development activities

Emergency Relief

We support disaster-affected families so they are able to cope and overcome the impact of the disaster.

Achievements in 2018:

✓ First stages of restoring water supply underway for 480 people in a village devastated by fire.

Empowering women is important!

“It is important to empower women. Before we knew nothing about saving money. Now we have learned how to calculate,” says Jhupu Rokaya who is chair of a savings and loan group for women. The system enables the women to borrow money for things such as doctor’s visits and establishing or improving kitchen gardens. Photo: Susanne Madsen.
Remembering a forgotten protracted crisis

While politics on the Korean peninsula frequently appears in the media, behind the headlines the population in the North continues to face food shortages and lack of access to basic services such as water and sanitation. Mission East strives to address these gaps with both long-term interventions and aid following disasters.

In 2018, Mission East followed up on the completion of water systems and latrines in flood-damaged areas and in one farming community. We then progressed with plans for our next project, completing a food security assessment that led to the design of a project to improve efficiency and productivity on one cooperative farm by promoting methods that are more resilient to the effects of climate change and degradation on sloping agriculture land. Plans were also initiated for installing a new water system in remote North Hamgyong. In the summer of 2018, North Korea suffered a severe heat wave and lower than average rainfall in a period that is normally particularly wet. Later in the summer, the country was hit by tropical storm Soulik which caused heavy flooding and damage to agricultural land in some areas. The combination of these two disasters had a crippling impact on the 2018 harvest, which was the lowest it has been in the last decade.

Looking ahead to 2019, Mission East will support the most vulnerable to survive the critical lean period before the next harvest is in, while continuing our long-term project that will help one farm become more resilient to these kinds of disasters. Mission East remains committed to keeping North Korea’s population in mind, even when their situation is not in the global spotlight.

Facts
Mission East started working in North Korea (also known as DPRK) in 2011.

Programme locations: North Hamgyong, Kangwon, and North Hwanghae Provinces

Number of staff: Delegations of Mission East staff visit periodically

Partners:
Korean European Cooperation Agency (KECCA), local authorities, and relevant ministries

Donors/funding partners:
Fonden af 17-12-1981, Bygma Fonden, Ole Kirk’s Fond, Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973, Medarbejderes Honorarfond i Novo Gruppen, Den Midtjyske Bladfond, Camunda, and other foundations

“I used to spend almost two hours every day fetching water” explained 56-year-old Ri Ok Nyo. Mission East visited her village in 2018 to see the new water system the organisation installed there, with connections to each home. “The water is cleaner, and I save time this way. It has made a big change in my life.” Photo: Kim Hartzner

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East’s work in North Korea contributes to SDG 6, ‘Water and sanitation for all.’ We repair water systems damaged by natural disasters and install new water systems in rural areas that lack basic services. We provide technical advice to promote high-quality water systems which will last.
NORTH KOREA

Celebrating water
Mrs. Han Kyong Sun lost her home in a devastating flooding in 2016, but now she has a new home with clean water supply. She says, “this is the first time we have running water in our house, and we are so happy about it. It tastes really good and nobody gets sick from it. When we got the water, we were so delighted that we went out and danced in the streets.” Photo: Peter Drummond Smith.
Investing in human capital

Mission East has worked in Tajikistan since the end of the civil war in 1997. Mission East’s programme has developed with the Tajik context and now centres on inclusion and disability rights, water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster risk reduction.

Despite Tajikistan’s sustained economic growth, the country still struggles to alleviate poverty – which affects a third of its population -, to reduce risk to natural hazards such as floods and landslides, and to eradicate the stigma surrounding disability.

In 2018, Mission East initiated a new cross-border project between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. This project is not only providing people with clean water and sanitation, but also facilitates cross-border communication and cooperation to promote good relations and the transfer of knowledge between the two countries. Mission East also continued our work on inclusion and disability, strengthening the quality of rehabilitation services for children with disabilities in eight centres. In addition to this, Mission East and partners have supported the review and adaptation of Tajikistan’s disaster risk management policies to be inclusive of people with disabilities, who are often most at-risk during disasters.

In 2019, Mission East and our local partners will continue to promote inclusion, support the awareness of human rights for marginalised groups, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and support disaster preparedness. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with our partners, focusing on capacity strengthening and mutual learning.

Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East’s work in Tajikistan contributes to SDG 16, ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies.’ We collaborate with and strengthen local organisations who stand up for the rights of vulnerable and excluded groups, including people with disabilities.
Our 2018 priorities in Tajikistan

**WASH**

Through development of infrastructure we provide clean drinking water and latrines combined with hygiene training to reduce the burden of waterborne diseases on families.

**Achievements in 2018:**
- 12 villages with needs in water and sanitation identified and improvements initiated
- 889 people trained in hygiene awareness and practice

**Disability and Inclusion**

By working with, strengthening, and advocating for inclusive social services and communities, we enable children with disabilities to access rehabilitation services, enable their participation in society, and allow them to live with dignity and respect.

**Achievements in 2018:**
- 317 children with disabilities have received services and/or assistive devices (wheelchairs, standing frames, etc.)
- 106 Parent Support Groups participated in advocacy and awareness raising of the rights of persons with disabilities
- 2 Community Based Rehabilitation networks were established
- 412 Social Assistance at Home Units and Primary Health Workers staff received training on Community Based Rehabilitation Services
- 176 education, health, and social protection workers have been trained on the legal framework of Children with Disabilities

**DRR**

We establish and strengthen disaster risk reduction measures to reduce people’s vulnerability to disasters and make them better prepared to cope with them.

**Achievements in 2018:**
- Trained 243 people working across 21 different organisations (ranging from village organisations to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection)
- National review of Tajikistan disaster risk policy to ensure inclusion of considerations for people with disabilities

“Building up confidence
Before we began participating at the centre, my daughter was often agitated and nervous. Now she has learned songs and counting and is interacting better with people around her. She seems happier and more relaxed,” says Guljahon whose ten-year-old daughter Nargis has Down’s syndrome. Until Mission East and Markazi Nur opened a rehabilitation centre in Khalaikhumb, there were no rehabilitation services for children with disabilities in Gorno-Badakhshan Region.

Photo: Joël De Vos
About Mission East

Mission East is an international relief and development organisation founded in Denmark. We provide emergency assistance after disasters, work to improve long-term living conditions for communities struggling with poverty, and advocate for the inclusion of marginalised groups such as people with disabilities. All this with a vision of empowering people and communities to lift themselves out of crisis, poverty and marginalisation.

Mission East is certified as compliant with the Core Humanitarian Standard.

Values in action

Honesty • Integrity • Compassion • Respect for all people • Valuing the individual