

MISSIONEAST

ANNUAL REPORT

2019





HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

In 2019, Mission East continued to work alongside vulnerable populations around the globe. Here is a selection of highlights in each country where we work.

AFGHANISTAN

786 drought-affected farmers were able to meet household food needs and construct new irrigation canals in their communities thanks to a new food-for-asset-creation project.

ARMENIA

Thousands of children with disabilities in Yerevan now have access to inclusive education as Mission East and partner Bridge of Hope completed the second phase of inclusive education roll-out in Armenia.

IRAQ

Among the thousands of people helped in Iraq in the last year, 1,500 street children and youth in Mosul found a safe space to access support – in Mission East’s first project of this kind in Iraq.

MYANMAR

Hundreds of farmers in Myanmar are growing vegetables year-round for the first time and uptake of the new sustainable agriculture methods is spreading rapidly beyond project participants.

NEPAL

Nepali women and girls are making their voices heard! 885 women and girls in remote rural communities are aware of their rights and learned how to advocate for these.

DPRK (North Korea)

With a new office in Pyongyang, Mission East now has long-term staff based in the country and can more closely follow activities.

TAJIKISTAN

1,551 children with disabilities and their families in 3 regions of Tajikistan have a better quality of life as Mission East and its partners concluded 3 years of efforts to help them claim their rights and access services.

SYRIA & LEBANON

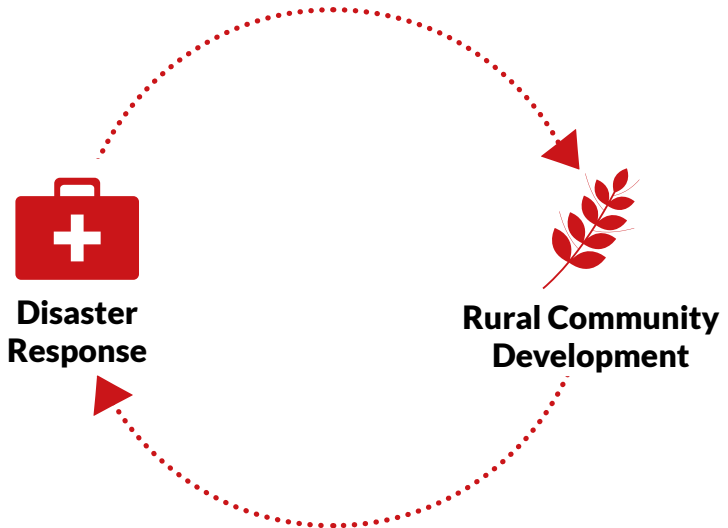
A new project was launched! Syrians and Lebanese affected by the conflict in Syria will benefit from support from Mission East’s new local partners to rebuild their livelihoods and improve their well-being.

2019 APPROACH & ACHIEVEMENTS

Mission East is an international relief and development organisation founded in Denmark. We aim to see people and communities empowered to lift themselves out of crisis, poverty and marginalisation.

Working across the relief-development spectrum

We engage in short-term responses following disasters, long-term interventions that address root causes of vulnerability, and act flexibly in the nexus between these.



Key approaches

Throughout our projects and across all contexts where we work, three key approaches are fundamental to the kind of organisation Mission East aims to be:



Resilience

In 2019

- Continued to integrate DRR and/or climate change adaptation (CCA) into 5 country programmes
- Remained committed to linking relief, recovery & development wherever possible



Inclusion

In 2019

- Continued to mainstream inclusion across 9 country programmes
- Actively contributed to promotion of best-practice among other actors



Accountability & Partnership

In 2019

- Maintained certification as compliant with the Core Humanitarian Standard following a mid-term audit
- Supported 30 local partners

Our main sectors

Mission East works across [six main sectors](#). In 2019, tens of thousands of people participated in and benefited from our projects within each of these sectors.



EMERGENCY
RELIEF

78,181
PEOPLE



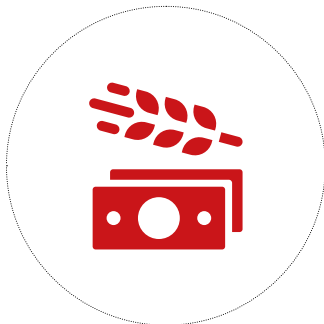
WATER &
SANITATION

56,703
PEOPLE



DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION

49,081
PEOPLE



LIVELIHOODS

17,271
PEOPLE



FOOD
SECURITY

15,889
PEOPLE



DISABILITY &
INCLUSION

20,725
PEOPLE

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



OUR **VALUES** IN ACTION

HONESTY • INTEGRITY • COMPASSION
RESPECT FOR ALL PEOPLE • VALUING THE INDIVIDUAL

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[Drawings developed for Mission East's hygiene awareness sessions in Afghanistan.](#) Photo: Mission East Afghanistan

This publication is generously sponsored by:

reese grafisk

In this report, the names of persons below the age of 18 have been changed to protect their identity.



FOREWORD

2019 was another year of which Mission East, our partners and our supporters can be proud of what we've achieved together. Working in consultation and collaboration with those facing crisis and hardship, we continued to provide relevant assistance to people in some of the hardest-to-reach places, often in parts of the world forgotten or not-served by other organisations. Once more, Mission East and our dedicated local partners reached out with emergency relief to populations suffering from conflict and disasters and continued to build the long-term resilience of vulnerable communities in the ongoing fight against poverty and marginalisation. Tens of thousands of individuals benefited from our assistance; delivered by staff and partners who are always prepared to put in incredible efforts to help those in difficult circumstances.

In 2019 we are particularly proud to have begun programming with new partners in Syria and Lebanon, recognising the continuing acute level of need arising from the Syrian crisis. Another milestone in 2019 was the opening of a Mission East office in North Korea, which will enable closer involvement in responding to the needs there. In Iraq and Afghanistan, Mission East continued to balance working on long-term solutions with responses to immediate needs, in two continually volatile contexts. And in Armenia, Tajikistan, Myanmar and Nepal, we began working with a multi-country programme approach in 2019, benefiting from synergies between similar programmes working through civil society, engaging governments, and empowering marginalised groups to promote inclusion and resilience.

As we write this in 2020, Mission East is once again rising to the challenge of exceptional circumstances – this time the COVID-19 crisis. While our colleagues across the world are themselves confronted by the challenge of lockdown and fragmented teams working from home in many places, they remain dedicated to adapting existing programmes in response to this new crisis. [New initiatives](#) are being rolled out to equip communities to reduce the impact the virus might otherwise have in contexts where populations are already vulnerable due to poverty, hunger and little access to viable healthcare. This makes us proud to be part of Mission East.

We want to extend our deepest thanks to all our supporters, donors and partners who make this important work possible – and most importantly, to the communities and individuals who give us their trust in the places where we work.



Torben Andersen
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Torben Andersen'.



Peter Drummond Smith
Interim Managing Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter DS'.

MISSION EAST IN ACTION



“When I was a young farmer, we had good weather. But now you can’t predict the rains. It makes farming very difficult.” Zobei is one of the subsistence farmers living in a remote community of Chin State, Myanmar, where climate change threatens their very survival. Photo: Kendrah Jespersen

A helping hand in a changing world

The places Mission East works in are, by nature, challenging contexts. They are generally subject to extreme poverty and often affected by conflict and instability. Things can change fast. In 2019, Mission East continued to demonstrate flexibility and apply innovative approaches to reach out to those most in need.

Rapid and flexible response where needed

Mission East continued to combine our dedication to sustainable development for vulnerable communities and groups in the countries we work in, with a commitment to provide emergency aid in times of crisis. Timely humanitarian assistance in 2019

included winterisation support for displaced people in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as food assistance to DPRK. When responding to humanitarian crises, Mission East’s professional staff and dedicated partners are central to ensuring we can adapt our work to meet the needs of the situation. They are constantly adjusting programming, reassessing priorities, and putting in the extra effort to move fast into new activities. In Afghanistan, the result of this flexible approach was that at the end of the year, preparations were in place for 35,700 people displaced from their homes by conflict to receive heaters and fuel in the new year to help them get through the harsh winter.

Adjusting our modes of work and extending geographic reach

Mission East's international programme portfolio also saw some changes in 2019. After several years of managing programmes in DPRK from a distance with periodic visits for assessments, monitoring and expert input, in 2019 Mission East opened its own office in Pyongyang. This enables closer cooperation to a population which is difficult to reach but in need of assistance. We also extended our geographic scope in 2019 in the form of our first intervention in the Syrian crisis. This programme, set up in collaboration with international partner Dorcas and two local partners, enables Mission East to contribute much-needed assistance to refugees and other conflict-affected households in communities in Syria and Lebanon.

A further change to our ways of working was achieved in Armenia, where Mission East closed its country office and transitioned into an approach based entirely on partnership work. Armenia remains close to our hearts, and there is still much work to be done to secure the rights of people with disabilities as a particularly marginalised sector of the population. However, we are proud that this change reflects the strength of our cooperation with local partner organisation, Bridge of Hope.

A changing climate

Mission East's commitment to 'do no harm' means that consideration of our environmental impact is increasingly important, as reflected through the roll-out of our environmental policy with all our teams. Furthermore, our work with rural communities, especially in remote areas such as the mountains of Nepal and Myanmar increasingly includes activities to enable local populations to protect their environment and to adapt lives and livelihoods to the effects of climate change. This change is already visible in shifting weather patterns and less predictable monsoons, storms etc. which affect food production. Our long-term impact will only be effective if we respond accordingly and help communities adapt and become more resilient. Sometimes it is difficult to open ourselves up to change, rather than doing things 'the way we've always done them'. But for farmers in some of the world's poorest countries, the ability to change approaches is literally a matter of survival.

Innovative approaches

Change can require innovation. Often when we think of innovation, we associate it with new technology. But

Mission East's concept of innovation also embraces new approaches. Sometimes this takes the form of introducing a community to a new way of doing things. Ensuring that traditionally stigmatized groups such as women, Dalits, and people with disabilities, have a voice and can be socially and economically active is an approach that is experienced as truly innovative in some communities, and like all innovations has to be 'tested' by the users to make sure it 'works'.

At other times, Mission East, and its fellow NGOs change how we operate. In 2019 Mission East was involved in facilitating a series of '[Partner Listening Forums](#)' in cooperation with alliance members. We realised that we could not pursue a 'localisation agenda' in humanitarian aid with integrity without allowing more space for our local partners to weigh in with their views, ambitions and requests about how we can support more locally led humanitarian responses.

Mission East's activities in 2019 confirmed that in humanitarian and development work, there is no such thing as 'business as usual'. We remain proud of our ability to adapt in a timely manner to shifting circumstances and new challenges. In an uncertain world these qualities will continue to help us change things for the better.



Children on Sinjar Mountain grow up in the midst of complex changes far beyond their control. Mission East helped make life in this informal settlement more stable in 2019 by providing latrines for over 1,000 families, and replacement tents for 100 families. Photo: Binar Mohammed.

WE ARE MISSION EAST

The Mission East team is spread around the world, but close collaboration allows us to achieve our goals.



Afghanistan. Photo: Dal Bahadur B.K.



Nepal. Photo: Dal Bahadur B.K.



Iraq. Photo: Aziz Bek.



**NUMBER
OF
STAFF**

102	78	25	13	
Afghanistan	Iraq	Tajikistan	Belgium	
12	5	5	3	1
Denmark	Nepal	Germany	DPRK	UK

Total employed headcount as of December 31st 2019

THE BOARD

Torben Andersen

Chair of the Board of Directors

Setara Nigar Hassan

Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors

Christian Nolsøe

Member of the Board of Directors

Klaus Jahn

Member of the Board of Directors

Jens Stiller

Member of the Board of Directors

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Peter Drummond Smith

Interim Managing Director
and Operations Director

Vibeke Hauge Førreisdahl

Director of the Copenhagen Office

Mags Bird

Programme and Strategy Advisor

Jill Talmage

Finance Director

Richard Peppiette

Support Manager

Nicki Davies-Jones

Human Resources Director

Felicitas Flörchinger

Managing Director Deutschland

Our staff are our greatest asset. At Mission East we strive to prioritise their wellbeing and provide a positive and supportive working environment.

In 2019, we have grown our key areas of expertise at HQ in line with our organisational strategy, including the addition of a Disaster Response Manager position, and increasing HQ capacity for MEAL technical support. We have also expanded our finance team, and re-structured and strengthened our communications and fundraising teams. In our country offices, 2019 brought a significant change as we said goodbye to our staff team in Armenia and transitioned to a more independent partner-driven modality for our continued work there. We also established a new office with a small team in DPRK. Meanwhile, the team in Afghanistan underwent a significant re-structuring process in line with changes in the context. Numerous efforts to streamline ways of working took place in 2019 and we invested in the development of several in-house initiatives for sharing learning and skills including team learning approaches and further development of an online learning platform.

As we look ahead to 2020, we recognize several areas for improvement in the area of human resources. We are committed to a process of reviewing and adjusting key aspects of policy, procedure and practice over 2020, as well as learning from monitoring and staff feedback as we aim to continually improve how we support our staff across the globe.

We thank all our valued staff members for their contribution throughout 2019.



“I am pleased to be a part of Mission East which works in the most remote and vulnerable parts of Nepal with strong and dedicated leadership and colleagues. I feel the importance, dignity and meaning of my role and responsibilities to contribute to achieving the goals of the organization.”

Sajana Shakya - HR & Finance Manager, Kathmandu, Nepal



“A warm greeting from Nusai, Badakhshan Afghanistan. I am so happy and proud to work with Mission East Afghanistan especially in Darvaz, when I see the life situation of Darvaz people. I work hard and energetically because there are many needy and poor people.”

Mohammad Riza - Junior WASH Engineer, Afghanistan



“One aspect of my work that I find particularly fulfilling is coaching and providing technical support to our field and partner staff – whether it’s through field visits where we get to sit side-by-side or hike through the jungle to visit farmers together, or coaching sessions via Skype”.

Kendrah Jespersen - HQ Quality & Learning Manager, Belgium

FINANCES 2019

In 2019 Mission East has continued to seek improvements to organisational effectiveness and to further develop departments to ensure engagement with both new and existing donors, provide appropriate financial and programmatic oversight, and navigate geographic and activity expansion.

Mission East turnover from private sources increased by about 15% in 2019 compared to 2018. Public income remained steady and similarly diversified as it was in 2018. Funds from the Danish state remained Mission East's main source of public funding, with the conclusion of 2019 marking the mid-point of our four-year strategic partnership agreement. Mission East also received two notable new grants from the Danish government in 2019, including its first three-year development programme grant via Civil Society in Development which covers activities implemented with local partners in four countries, and funds for emergency response with partners in Syria. Other public contributions were mainly from the United Nations (12%), and the German State (12%).

Programme spending in 2019

Programme expenses in 2019 were proportional to the annual turnover with approximately 60% of spending on emergency aid and 29% on development aid. The spending on administration was at 11% in 2019, an increase representing investment in communications and support capacity.

Geographically, spending increased in Armenia and Tajikistan with new public and private funds directed toward development projects. Although the Iraq portfolio decreased significantly due to completion of projects in 2018, it remained Mission East's largest geographic area in 2019 with 35% of programmatic spending on emergency relief activities in the country.

Looking ahead to 2020, while initial prospects for growth of both private and public income are positive, the full effect of the COVID pandemic on funding flows remains to be seen. Regardless, we will continue to seek ways to make a greater difference on behalf of the world's most vulnerable populations, without compromising our commitments to quality and accountability.

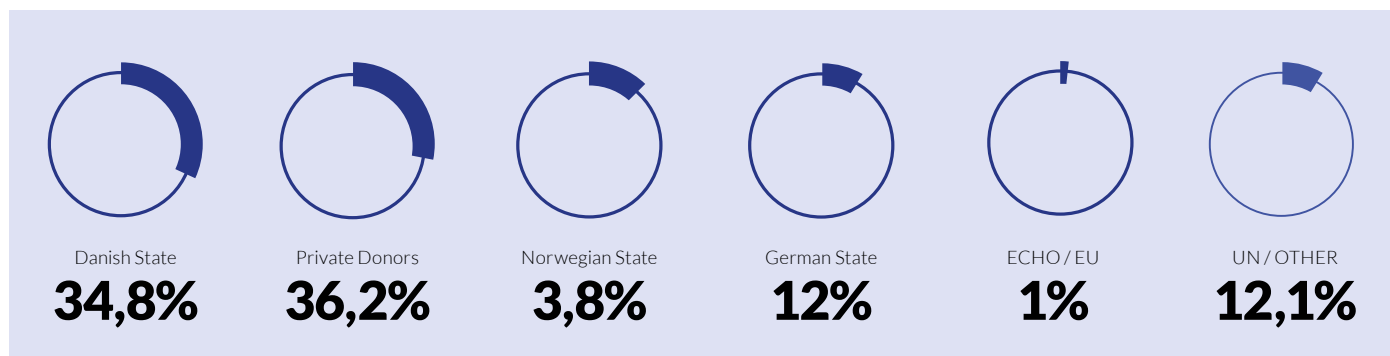
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

Profit and Loss Statement	2019	2018
Income	DKK	DKK
Private donations	13,571,913	10,074
Private grants	14,527,478	14,481
Public grant payments	50,161,328	54,468
Accrued grant income	-4,477,290	-21,167
Total income	<u>73,783,428</u>	<u>57,857</u>
Expenditure		
Privately financed projects	20,798,888	25,078
Public grants expenditure	44,621,917	49,983
Accrued grant expenses	-45,703	-19,487
Head office staff	5,865,367	3,234
Public relations	245,376	470
Administration, travel, premises	2,383,314	2,041
Total Expenditure	<u>73,869,158</u>	<u>61,319</u>
Operating contribution	<u>-85,730</u>	<u>-3,462</u>
Depreciation and financing costs	13,726	1,391
Retained income	<u>-72,005</u>	<u>-2,070</u>
Funds at 1 January	<u>1,116,570</u>	<u>3,187</u>
Funds at 31 December	<u>1,044,565</u>	<u>1,117</u>
Balance sheet 31 December 2019	2019	2018
Assets	DKK	DKK
Fixed assets	151,021	154
Liquid funds	8,789,360	7,191
Debtors	54,513,006	55,623
Total assets	<u>63,453,386</u>	<u>62,968</u>
Liabilities		
Project commitments	57,519,157	57,565
Other payables	4,889,663	4,287
Mission East equity	1,044,565	1,117
Total liabilities	<u>63,453,386</u>	<u>62,968</u>

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.

The annual accounts of Mission East were audited by Christian Danielson ApS without reservation and have been approved by the Board of Mission East. They will be presented at the Annual General Assembly of Mission East.

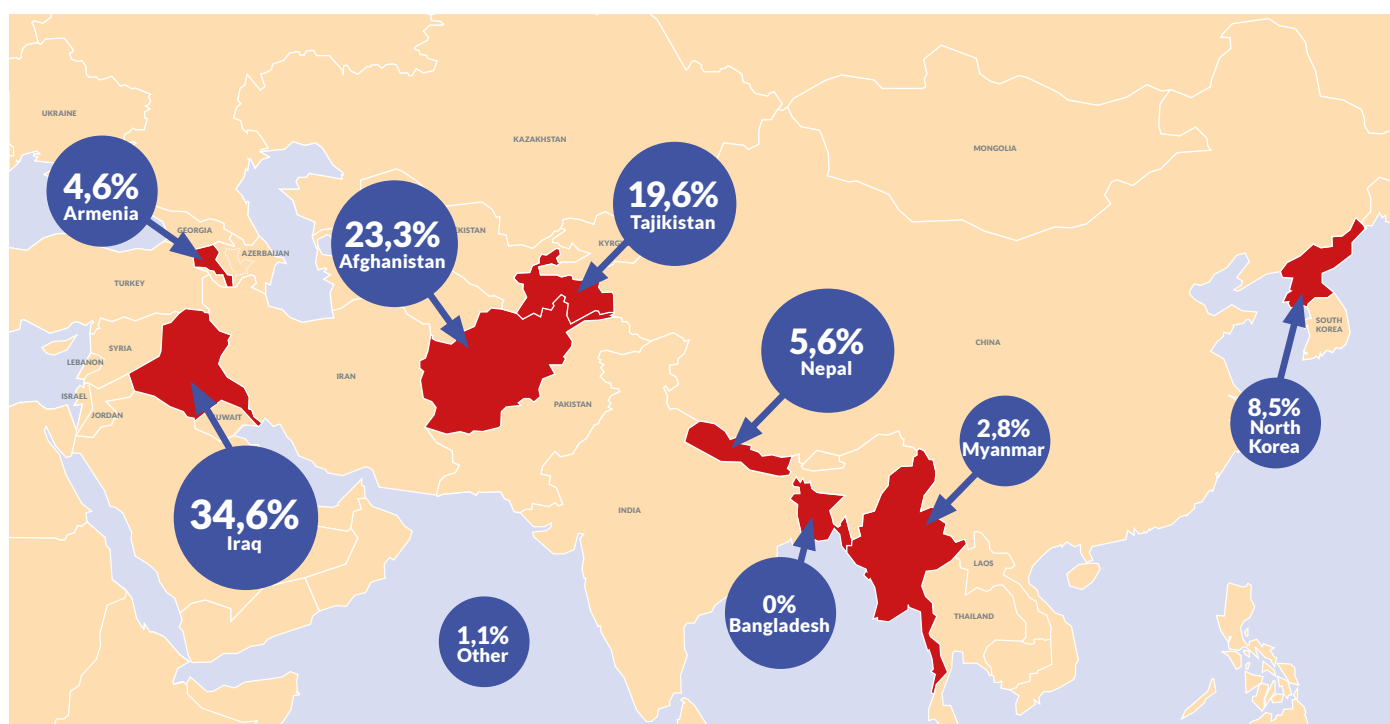
Where did the money come from?



What was the money spent on?



Where did the money go?



FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS

High private income thanks to our supporters

Mission East's private supporters are a vital life-line for our work, and they certainly did not let us down in 2019. With new staff joining our teams we secured an increase in donations from private individual supporters. We are deeply grateful for the confidence shown in our work by private individuals, churches, Y's Men, corporate donors and foundations!



Socially distant, but connected through our work! Staff members from the Comms and Funds teams meet online about the production of this year's Annual Report. Photo: Karen Bendix

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019



A meaningful collaboration

The Novo Nordisk Foundation is one of the many foundations which supported Mission East in 2019. The foundation provided funds for our humanitarian work twice: first offering support to displaced [Yazidi families on Sinjar Mountain](#) in Iraq, and later providing food assistance for children in DPRK in response to acute shortages. Mission East is grateful to NNF for enabling us to provide urgent assistance when its needed.

Photo: Binar Mohammed



Faithful supporters

Mission East's work would not be possible without faithful supporters like Rebekka Svinth Haastруп from Denmark who has been at our side for 20 years: "Mission East inspires confidence! When I choose to support you, I trust that the money goes to the right place. You continue to support people when the disaster is over. You carry on until the job is done. You go where others do not reach. I like your courageousness: for example, that you work in DPRK where no one else is - and continue to help there."

Photo: Rebekka Svinth Haastруп



Awareness through film

2019 featured a public awareness campaign which allowed us to inform new audiences about our disability inclusion work. We shot a film called, "Overcoming - not fumbling in the dark, even if you cannot see," featuring the story of a girl from Nepal and a boy from Denmark who both overcome impressive obstacles despite their visual impairments. The film was launched at the premises of and in partnership with Denmark's main organization for disability advocacy, [DPOD](#). You can [watch the film](#) on our YouTube channel.



Press work adds value to Mission East

In 2019, Mission East's work was presented in 367 articles, newspapers, magazines and websites, in addition to multiple appearances on national radio and television. We had 14 million online page readers. We reached particularly large audiences through opinion pieces on topics related to our work contexts: such as advocating for the Yazidi minority population in Iraq or drawing attention to the sustained food insecurity experienced by the DPRK population, caused by recurring droughts, floods and other factors.

THANK YOU

Mission East wishes to thank the following groups, organisations and companies for making it possible to achieve our work in 2019:

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
Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973
Medarbejdernes Honorarfond i Novo Gruppen
Missionsfonden af 4/5 1964
Novo Nordisk Foundation
Ole Kirk's Fond
Rengørings Compagniets Fonden
Sct. Georgs Fonden
Kristelig Lægeforening
The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
The Pakistan Afghanistan Tadjikistan Regional Integration Program (PATRIP)

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Brandenburg State Government
Civil Society in Development (CISU)
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danish MoFA)
Danish Mission Council Development Department (DMCDD)
European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
European Union International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)
German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (German MoFA)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UN Office for Coordinated Humanitarian Action (UN OCHA)
World Food Programme (WFP)
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norwegian MoFA)
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

CORPORATES

Ejendomsselskabet X ApS v/Nyerhvervsejendom
JENSEN, Den originale fra Grøfte ApS
Thyessen Krupp

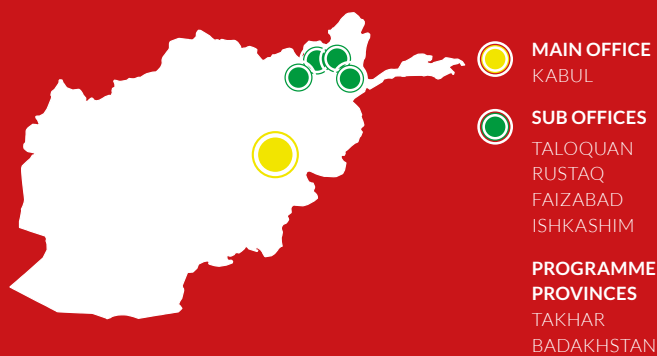
OTHERS

Archdiocese of Cologne
Danmarks Indsamling
Läkarmissionen
FIDA International
Ein Herz für Kinder
Camunda
Y's Men Clubs Denmark
Y's Menette Clubs Denmark

Afghanistan

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in [Afghanistan](#) addresses interlinked factors of vulnerability and risk for crisis-affected rural communities. This is achieved through a package of resilience-building measures in WASH, food security, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and civil society capacity-building. Mission East has been working in Afghanistan since 2001.



1,119 families received kits of household items

110 families received emergency tents



224 latrines were built

35,153 people received hygiene and sanitation training

22,201 people accessed water from newly built or rehabilitated water systems



11,680 people benefited from improved dietary diversity



33 communities set up community-based disaster risk management

5 communities adopted forest landscape restoration techniques



9,702 people received training and inputs to strengthen livelihoods

Meeting urgent needs and building long-term resilience

The Afghan operational context continues to be volatile and insecure. Despite these challenges, Mission East remains committed to addressing urgent and long-term unmet needs in our priority sectors.

Highlights in 2019 included Mission East's response to the needs of drought-affected smallholder farmers through rehabilitation of disused irrigation canals. This provided much-needed irrigation water to boost crop yields and incomes. A new grant allowed the initiation of forest landscape restoration activities and revived in-house expertise in natural resource management. Mission East's food security activities expanded to reach many more households than past years, as did its Community-Led Total Sanitation programme in Takhar province – through the help of local partners. As winter 2019 began, Mission East began preparations for a large-scale winterisation response, procuring gas heaters, cylinders and vouchers for gas to be distributed to over 5,000 families displaced by conflict.

In 2020, Mission East will continue to work in hard-to-reach 'contested' areas in northeast Afghanistan to respond to the high unmet humanitarian needs in these areas.

DONORS

Danish MoFA, UN OCHA, WFP, GIZ, PATRIP Foundation, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Justesen Foundation

PARTNERS

Life Roots Social & Economic Development Organisation, Comfort for Women Organisation, Afghan Women Development & Cultural Organisation, Organisation for Development Services & Agriculture Development, Afghan Women Rehabilitation & Skill Building Association, Human Capacity Development in the Field of Life Organisation

In line with our commitment to localisation, Mission East will be looking to develop longer-term strategic partnerships with a range of Afghan civil society actors, strengthening their capacity for service delivery and advocacy.



“In my first year, I sold 100 kg of honey and earned 35,000 AFN. This gave me the capital I needed to expand my business. Now, I earn over 500,000 AFN* a year!”

Hikmatullah, Afghanistan

*Approx. €5,988

**Photo:
Mission East Afghanistan**



**1
NO
POVERTY**



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Afghanistan contributes to [SDG 1](#), ‘end poverty.’ Our combined food security and livelihoods activities provide the inputs and training needed to help households – especially women – to boost production of items such as vegetables, fruit, eggs and honey. These products can be used both to improve household nutrition and to improve incomes, helping people take the first steps away from extreme poverty.

Armenia

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work through partners in [Armenia](#) focuses on the inclusion of marginalized groups, in particular children and youth with disabilities. This includes changing public attitudes, supporting parents and teachers, and advocating with policy makers to mainstream inclusive education. Mission East has been working in Armenia since 1992.



65 schools were supported to provide inclusive education

10 years completed - coordinating the NGO response to HIV/AIDS

Transitioned to a partner-led programme modality

DONORS

CISU, DMCCD, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, Ejendomsselskabet X ApS v/ Nyerhvervsejendom, AEC Fonden, Rengørings Compagniets Fonden

PARTNERS

Bridge of Hope, New Generation, AIDS Prevention Union, Aids Prevention and Education Centre, Positive People Armenian Network, National Centre for Aids Prevention

Inclusion in action

In 2019, Mission East transitioned into a new mode of programming in Armenia with the closure of the Mission East office. Mission East now works remotely with our long-standing local partner organisation [Bridge of Hope](#) taking the lead in-country. While our 'ways of working' in Armenia have changed, the core of the programme remains the same. In the past year, Mission East and Bridge of Hope completed the rollout of '[Universal System of Inclusive Education](#)' in Yerevan, with a positive evaluation of impact. New funding was also secured to further build on the advocacy efforts carried out to-date in Armenia. This will promote inclusion and better representation of persons with disabilities in Armenia.

In 2019 Mission East also completed 10 years of support to HIV/AIDS prevention in Armenia, in cooperation with The Global Fund and numerous local partners.

In the next year, Mission East and Bridge of Hope will continue to build the grassroots disability advocacy movements across the country. Efforts will focus on supporting parents of children with disabilities so that they can become agents of change on behalf of their children and family. Considering recent successes achieved in securing improved realisation of rights for people with disabilities, 2020 will see further sharing of learning to be built upon in Armenia and beyond.



“Mission East’s programme in Armenia enables children with disabilities to engage in education on an equal basis.”

**Photo:
Tatevik Mnatsakanyan**



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



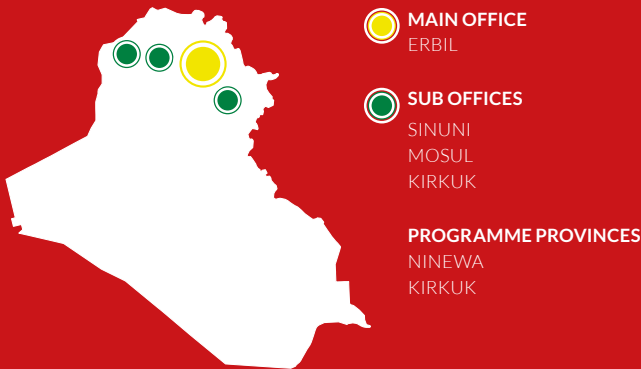
Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Armenia contributes to [SDG 17](#), ‘global partnership for sustainable development’. We work through a partnership model, building the capacity of our local partner Bridge of Hope, who in turn strengthens networks of civil society organisations (CSOs) fighting for realisation of the rights of people with disabilities. Together, these CSOs lobby their government to improve access to services for people with disabilities.

Iraq

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East assists conflict-affected populations in Iraq via protection, livelihoods, WASH and shelter interventions. These efforts combine urgent responses to basic needs with longer-term support for returnees and people living in protracted displacement. Mission East previously worked in Iraq from 2003 to 2006 and started current operations in 2014.



470 families received shelter assistance

450 families received winter kits



10,125 people accessed water from 5 newly built or repaired water systems

7,101 people received hygiene training

1,003 families gained access to new latrines



1,667 people received livelihoods training



540 people received cash grants for livelihoods



3,587 children, youth, & adults received psychosocial support

2,324 people were reached with awareness-raising activities on protection topics

1,562 protection cases were managed and 820 cases referred

Living with the consequences of the displacement crisis

In 2019, Iraq made gradual steps towards increased stability, but continued to struggle with the consequences of the conflict combined with new political uncertainties. Population movement patterns were similar to those of 2018, with ongoing protracted displacement both within and outside of camps, and a slow rate of returns. 1.77 million people remained in acute need of some form of humanitarian assistance.

In response to this changing context, Mission East adjusted its programme by focusing on improving resilience and self-sufficiency. Projects in the last year put an increased emphasis on returnees and made use of multi-purpose community centres to provide a diversified set of protection services and other forms of community support. Mission East's portfolio of local partnerships expanded, prioritising capacitybuilding of local actors. Nevertheless, targeted emergency assistance was still provided where it was required, as there are still 'hot-spots' where urgent basic needs must be met.

In 2020, Mission East will continue to focus on similar programme areas. We plan to strengthen our partnership approach, and increasingly work with and through local partner organisations, investing in their capacity to respond to evolving needs in Iraq in the long-term.

DONORS

German MoFA, Danish MoFA, UN OCHA, UNICEF, Brandenburg State Government, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Archdiocese of Cologne, Danmarks Indsamling, Erik Thunes Legat af 1954

PARTNERS

Access Aid Foundation, Critical Needs Support Foundation, Engineering Association for Development & Environment, Justice Centre, International Organization for Migration, grassroots women and youth groups



A young woman harvesting cucumbers in Nineveh, where Mission East runs several livelihoods projects to strengthen self-sufficiency and resilience.

Photo:
Mission East Iraq

1 NO POVERTY



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Iraq contributes to [SDG 1](#), 'end poverty.' People displaced by conflict in Iraq, or returning to communities devastated by war, often end up being dependent on aid to survive. Many have lost their livelihoods, assets, property, and savings. Youth have gaps in their education and struggle to find work. Mission East helps people return to self-reliance by providing the assets, capital or training needed to kickstart livelihood activities.

Myanmar

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in [Myanmar](#) since 2013 has focused on building the capacity of local NGOs to improve food security. With Mission East support, partners train farmers on new sustainable agriculture methods, promote nutrition messages, build community capacity for good water management and advocate for more inclusion of marginalised groups within the community.



 PARTNER MAIN OFFICE
LAILENPI
PROGRAMME PROVINCE
CHIN STATE



300 farmers increased their knowledge and skills to carry out sustainable farming

98% of the farmers report that they have more year-round vegetables available than in the past

170 women in 17 Self-Help Groups were trained on and are promoting good nutrition

600 acres of land were transitioned to permanent sustainable farming

136 youth were taught at COME school

DONORS

CISU, Ejendomsselskabet X ApS v/Nyerhvervsejendom, AEC Fonden, Rengørings Compagniets Fond

PARTNERS

Together for Sustainable Development (TSD), Health and Hope Myanmar (HHM), Mara Evangelical Church (MEC)

Food security through sustainable agriculture

The Mara region in a remote part of Chin State is gaining increasing access to external markets, communication, transport and education opportunities. But with insecurity in neighbouring areas, these changes are vulnerable to disruption.

In 2019, Mission East and its two local implementing partners continued to implement [food security activities](#) in this rapidly changing context. The result has been widespread uptake of the new farming methods, even beyond the project target population – helping communities overcome challenges related to climate change, soil fertility and water access. The new resilient agricultural methods have resulted in farmers growing greater crop varieties, having year-round crops, more varied diets, and

beginning to sell their surplus in local markets. 2019 also saw a continuation in support to young students in the last years of high school at the COME school, to improve their access to further education upon graduation.

In the year ahead, Mission East and its partners will assist farmers to form cooperatives for their marketing efforts. Cultivation of [non-timber forest products](#) will be introduced as an additional opportunity to improve both livelihoods and diet. The partners will also have an intensified focus on promoting inclusion in the target communities, particularly improving opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. In addition to the food security projects, Mission East will continue to support the COME school.



“This year is so different from the past. My attitude has changed and I’m planning ahead. Whatever I grow feels like an investment in the future.”

Kheiche, Myanmar

Photo:
Kendrah Jespersen



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Myanmar contributes to [SDG 10](#), ‘reduce inequality.’ We work with subsistence farmers in a region with few services, helping to improve their status in the community as they adopt new sustainable agriculture methods that not only improve their food security, but also bring in a surplus they can sell for income. The programme also includes and empowers women and people with disabilities.

Nepal

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Since 1997, Mission East has been working in [Nepal](#) together with local partners to help the most vulnerable overcome poverty and combat discrimination. Projects engage with civil society and local authorities to achieve results in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, governance, livelihoods, food security, and inclusion and empowerment of marginalised groups.

 MAIN OFFICE
KATHMANDU

 PROGRAMME PROVINCE
KARNALI



Inclusive development through empowerment

In 2019, Mission East started a new five-year cycle of programming in Nepal. Our [Karnali Inclusive Development Program](#) outlines Mission East's continued commitment to working in this very remote area, which is also one of the least-developed regions of Nepal. Within this programme, Mission East initiated five new projects focused on empowering women, adolescent girls, people with disabilities, and farmers, and strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and newly elected local government representatives. 2019 saw an increased emphasis on climate change adaptation, particularly in small-scale agriculture.

In the next year, Mission East will continue to focus on inclusive development in partnership with local NGOs, civil society organisations and local governments. Significant efforts will be dedicated to strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to carry out advocacy and hold government actors accountable. Mission East will also explore more funding opportunities, in hopes of expanding our donor base and programme coverage.



360 girls increased their knowledge on the importance of dietary diversity

2,268 people know about local disaster and climate change

37 communities advocated for the inclusion of food security issues in local policies

36 civil society organisations advocated for food security issues in their communities



2,268 people know about local disaster and climate change

64 local government representatives were trained on disaster risk reduction

5 climate resilient agriculture technologies were introduced



6 agriculture groups were formed to increase income of marginalized women

144 farmers benefited from agriculture trainings and inputs

30 farmers started selling vegetables at the local market



410 people with disabilities are receiving government services

885 adolescent girls and women increased their awareness on their rights

17 wards established complaint hearing and response mechanisms

DONORS

CISU, DMCCDD, Läkarmissionen, Danmarks Indsamling, Thyessen Krupp, Ejendomsselskabet X ApS v/Nyerhvervsejendom, AEC Fonden, Rengørings Compagniets Fond

PARTNERS

Himalayan Education and Development (HEAD) Nepal, Karnali Integrated Rural Development & Research Center (KIRDARC), Women Welfare Society (WWS)



“I had a lot of suffering before I came to this centre*. I needed to collect fuel from the forest and take care of the livestock. Now I am getting an education, and it’s very good for my life.”

Gahugora, Nepal

*Local partner HEAD’s education centre for children with visual impairments

**Photo:
Michael Schmidt**



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



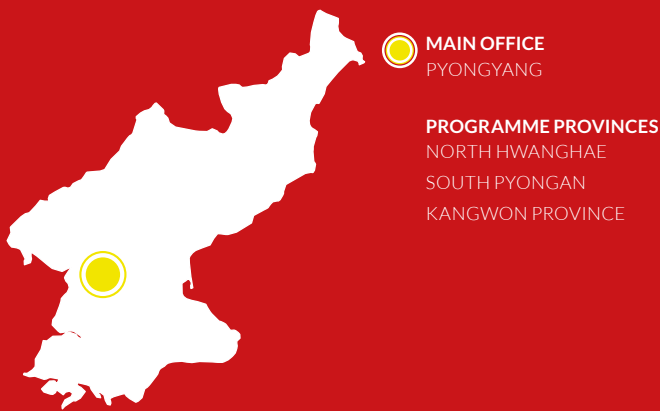
Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East’s work in Nepal contributes to [SDG 16](#), ‘promote peaceful and inclusive societies.’ In extremely remote mountainous communities, our local partners empower Dalits, people with disabilities and women who are often excluded from community decision-making. These groups are making their needs and priorities heard, while local government structures are encouraged to become more accountable through community consultations and complaints mechanisms.

DPRK (North Korea)

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in DPRK (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea – also known as North Korea) focuses on sustainable agriculture with the goal of reducing the food insecurity which is prevalent throughout the country. Current programming includes increasing potato yields and promoting agroforestry. Mission East started working in DPRK in 2011.



41,921 young children and **3,475** pregnant and lactating women received emergency food assistance

DONORS

Danish MoFA, Norwegian MoFA, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Bygma fonden, Ein Herz für Kinder, Fonden af 17-12-1981, Ole Kirk's Fond, Fida International, Medarbejdernes Honorarfond i Novo Gruppen, Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973, Den Midtjyske Bladfond, Camunda, Kristelig Lægeforening, Sct. Georgs Fonden

PARTNERS

Korean European Cooperation Agency (KECCA), Fida International

Emergency food assistance and sustainable agroforestry

2019 was an important year for Mission East's operations in DPRK as we shifted from remotely supporting projects in DPRK to opening an [office in Pyongyang](#). With staff on the ground, Mission East can ensure a swifter response to the needs, better coordination, and access to additional grants.

Starting in the spring of 2019, Mission East launched an emergency food distribution that reached 45,396 people - mainly children in nursery schools and kindergartens - in response to food shortages following a poor harvest. Beyond emergency response, Mission East made plans to expand its programming to focus on reducing the risk of future food crises by training

farmers on increasing potato crop yields (a critical crop for the annual lean season) and promoting sustainable agroforestry as a means to effectively manage sloped lands, reduce runoff and risk of landslides, and provide food and income for farmers.

In 2020, Mission East plans to emphasise disaster risk reduction efforts in DPRK. In particular, Mission East will focus on 5 cooperative farms in Kangwon Province where farmers will be provided with comprehensive training on potato farming and better practices for storing potatoes after harvest. Mission East will also begin another project in Kangwon to create a tree nursery and support the country in organizing a reforestation master plan.



In 2019
DPRK experienced its worst
food shortage in a decade.
Meals for young
children in nurseries and
kindergartens helped protect
them from malnutrition.

Photo:
Kim Hartzner



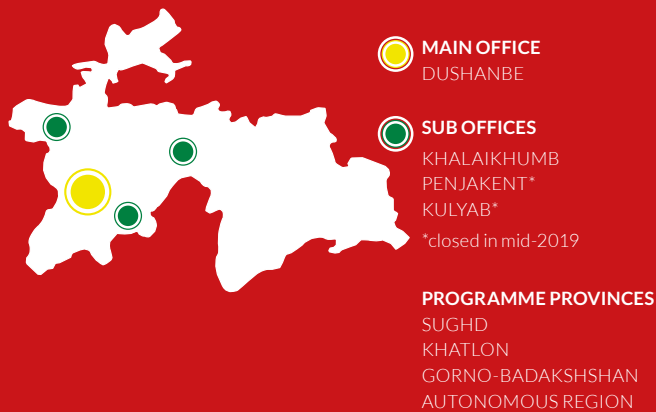
Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2019 Mission East provided food assistance for some of the most vulnerable segments of the country's population. Beyond that, Mission East is expanding operations in the country to also focus on improved agricultural productivity and disaster risk reduction – to address some of the root causes of [hunger](#) in DPRK.

Tajikistan

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in [Tajikistan](#) addresses both 'rights' and 'needs'. In rural communities near the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, a cross-border programme provides clean water and sanitation and supports community disaster risk reduction. Together with civil society partners, Mission East also promotes the rights of people with disabilities. Mission East has worked in Tajikistan since 1997.



Beyond the spotlight: claiming rights and addressing needs

In 2019, Mission East continued to work in remote and hard to reach areas in Tajikistan, including the cross-border region with Afghanistan. The cross-border programme completed its eighth year of supporting communities with clean drinking water, hygiene, sanitation, and disaster risk reduction. 2019 also saw the completion of a 3-year project on inclusion, focusing on improved access to social services and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. While the project has come to end, the rehabilitation services established during the project will continue to operate with the support of local partners and government. Mission East also initiated a [new 3-year project](#) to further strengthen local organisations and civil society, for increased awareness and promotion of disability rights in pursuit of a more inclusive society.



206 household and public latrines were built

317 hygiene promotion sessions were conducted, reaching approximately 20 people per session

5 new water systems were constructed



3,000 people participated in awareness raising on inclusion

1,551 children with disabilities continued to benefit from improved access to social services

489 assistive devices were distributed to children with disabilities



12 village disaster management plans were developed

DONORS

PATRIIP, EuropeAid, CISU, Det Nissenske Familiefond, Ejendomsselskabet X ApS v/Nyerhvervsejendom, AEC Fonden, Rengørings Compagniets Fond

PARTNERS

Markazi Nur, Nuri Umed, Zarshedabonu, Humanity and Inclusion

In 2020, Mission East will continue its WASH and disaster risk reduction work across the Tajikistan – Afghanistan border. Mission East also plans to expand its local partnerships to strengthen ongoing efforts to apply a human rights-based approach to promoting inclusion.



Surveying in mountainous Tajikistan is a team effort. These men helped collect measurements for the design of five water systems.

Photo: Ariane Davenne

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Tajikistan contributes to [SDG 6](#), 'water and sanitation for all.' We aim to reduce the spread of preventable illnesses and waterborne diseases by installing water systems, promoting the use of latrines, and educating community members and school children about the importance of good handwashing and other critical hygiene practices.

Syria & Lebanon

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East started working in [Syria and Lebanon](#) in 2019, operating through local partners. In Lebanon, the focus is protection, with specific attention on legal assistance. In Syria, the focus is rebuilding livelihoods destroyed during the war, via grants to businesses and farmers to help them regain self-sufficiency.



Plans put in place to reach:



2,000 children through school feeding programmes in Homs in 2020-21



200 households with training, inputs or grants to restart or establish new livelihoods in Syria in 2020-21



377 women in Lebanon with life skills training to improve their well-being in 2020-21

DONORS

Danish MoFA

PARTNERS

Tabitha (Dorcas), Orthodox Youth Movement

Protection and livelihoods in a protracted crisis

As the effects of the war in Syria continue to have a devastating impact on both Syria and neighbouring countries hosting refugees, 2019 saw the start of Mission East's operations in Syria and Lebanon. In the autumn Mission East secured a grant from the Danish MoFA to implement a project in both countries together with the international organisation [Dorcas'](#) local branch [Tabitha](#), and the local partner Orthodox Youth Movement in Syria. The work so far has focused on laying the groundwork for the programme, finalizing partnerships, and preparing for activity implementation in 2020.

Moving forward, Mission East hopes to secure more funding for both countries and expand operations, particularly with legal assistance in Lebanon. In addition, Mission East is working with the local partner to build programs that will act as an emergency social safety net for both Lebanese and Syrians as the economic situation in Lebanon continues to worsen.

In Syria, Mission East hopes to be registered in the country by the end of the year and open its own independent office with the goal of assisting more conflict-affected people in the future.



Since leaving Syria, Amira, Najila, and their family of 11 have struggled to make ends meet. Together with our partner Tabitha, Mission East is helping the family strengthen their livelihood and well-being.

Photo:
Ebba Nygren



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



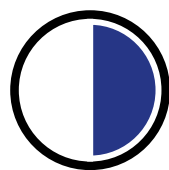
Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Lebanon contributes to [SDG 5](#), 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.' Our local partner Tabitha works with female Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese women to help them gain confidence, overcome the harmful psychological effects of the war, and take hold of new opportunities to learn, gain employment or improve their well-being. The activities also help women address situations of violence or exploitation.

ABOUT US

Mission East is an international relief and development organisation founded in Denmark. We provide emergency assistance after disasters, support long-term improvements that reduce poverty, and advocate for the inclusion of marginalised groups. We aim to see people and communities empowered to lift themselves out of crisis, poverty and marginalisation. **Because we believe in the value of every individual.**

Mission East is certified as compliant with the [Core Humanitarian Standard](#).



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