

MISSIONEAST



ANNUAL REPORT
2020

2020 AT A GLANCE

Mission East provides humanitarian aid and development assistance in nine countries across the Middle East, Asia and former Soviet republics. In 2020, we helped over 432,000 people. Our global response to the COVID-19 pandemic covered all active country locations.

SYRIA

18,636 conflict-affected people were supported with food and hygiene materials, as well as vocational training opportunities to help them create a more secure future.

ARMENIA

Our programme for the rights of people with disabilities worked to make sure they were not overlooked in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. We also provided aid to IDPs from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, reaching a total of 6,273 people.

TAJIKISTAN

Clean water supply, latrines, and disaster resilient schools improved the quality of life for border communities, while inclusion programming supported families of children with disabilities. Together we helped 33,238 people.

DPRK

Mission East programme in DPRK was on hold in 2020, due to a quarantine which closed all borders. We remain ready to resume operations when possible.

LEBANON

14,149 people, mostly Syrian refugees, were assisted with food and hygiene materials, protection services and skills training, with a particular emphasis on enabling women's livelihoods.

IRAQ

Protection services, clean water, and livelihoods support reached 76,058 people in addition to emergency COVID-19 response, with a focus on displaced and returnee families.

AFGHANISTAN

197,997 people were assisted with emergency relief, clean water, food security and support to develop sustainable livelihoods, including improved environmental management.

NEPAL

Climate change adaptation activities were initiated for remote mountain communities, in addition to support for livelihoods, women's empowerment, food security and COVID-19 response, reaching 58,897 people.

MYANMAR

Sustainable food security programming showed good results. 24,839 people benefitted from improved year-round food availability and COVID-19 assistance.

ABOUT US

A vision of empowerment

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 humanitarian responses following disasters and carry out long-term development interventions that address root causes of vulnerability. We respond to needs with timely and relevant aid and engage with communities to develop sustainable solutions to local problems using rights-based approaches. The nature of the fragile and changing situations we seek to assist means that many of our programmes blend emergency and development approaches - working in the 'nexus' in-between.



Key approaches

Throughout our programmes, three key approaches are fundamental to Mission East's work:



Our Values in Action

Mission East's values which underpin our organisation and our work are:

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

RESULTS 2020

Impact across six main sectors

In 2020, tens of thousands of people participated in and benefited from our projects within each of our six main sectors. An additional 3,444 people were reached with protection activities.



EMERGENCY RELIEF

346,150
PEOPLE



WATER & SANITATION

56,911
PEOPLE



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

33,988
PEOPLE



LIVELIHOODS

25,198
PEOPLE



FOOD SECURITY

13,333
PEOPLE



DISABILITY & INCLUSION

25,744
PEOPLE

As some projects cover multiple sectors, there may be overlap of beneficiaries between the sectors. Emergency Relief total includes COVID-19 response, which is also broken down below.

COVID-19 RESPONSE



332,000 people in 8 countries were reached by our global response to the COVID-19 pandemic

246,398 people benefited from emergency hygiene kits to help protect themselves from the virus

50,707 people received food assistance, enabling families to survive while unable to earn during lockdowns

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Front & back page photos from Karnali province, Nepal.
Front: Pupils from HEAD school. Back: Workshop on girls' rights

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

Rising to the challenge

2020 ... even before the year had ended the internet was full of jokes about just how bad the year had been. The world had a common enemy as never before, in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, as usual, the most marginalised had least access to key information and supplies, and the poor were pushed even deeper into poverty.

How can an aid organisation like Mission East deliver vital assistance when borders are closed, and travel becomes impossible? How can we reach out to help others when our own staff are struggling with restrictions on personal and working lives at the same time? The situation presented a unique scale of challenge... and also demonstrated as never before the unexpected resilience of the human spirit in difficult times.

For Mission East, as for so many individuals and organisations, 2020 was a tough year. But it also brought into clear focus the elements which underpin our ability to work in hard-to-reach places and uncertain situations: the faithfulness of our supporters, relationships of trust with major donors, effective partnerships, a determined and professional staff and the capability to find innovative solutions to overcome extreme circumstances such as the COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite the unique challenges of the year, together we were able to adapt to new conditions and deliver assistance to those most in need. And again, and again, we witnessed the power of ordinary people prepared to make an extraordinary effort to help those in need in their own communities.

Each year we are so grateful to those who make this work possible. This year even more so. We present this Annual Report with our deepest thanks to all our supporters, donors and partners – and to the communities and individuals who give us their trust in the places where we operate. And of course, a special thanks goes to Dr Kim Hartzner, who leaves the legacy of an organisation constantly meeting new challenges in favour of the most vulnerable.



Torben Andersen
Chair of the Board



Betina Gollander-Jensen
Managing Director

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Mission East helped communities around the world impacted by the COVID crisis. In Sarkegad (Nepal), food packages were distributed to poorest households who could not earn via daily wage labour during lockdown.

2020 – a year like no other

Mission East programmes in 2020 covered a spectrum of humanitarian and development interventions across Afghanistan, Armenia, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Syria and Tajikistan. The year was defined by rising to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and some key changes within the organisation.

A rapid pandemic response

Early in 2020, as COVID-19 spread around the world, Mission East quickly launched a global response to support target communities in our operating countries. Urgent emphasis was placed on reducing vulnerability to COVID transmission

by sharing clear information and hygiene materials, both of which were often in short supply in our hard-to-reach programme locations. As usual, the poorest households were typically those hardest hit by the crisis, so our assistance also addressed needs arising from lockdown/movement restrictions. For example, food packages were distributed in Iraq and Nepal to families normally dependent on daily wage labour or other livelihood activities which had become impossible. In many places, our local partners were essential in enabling delivery of assistance to communities. By the end of 2020, more than 300,000 people had benefited from Mission East's global COVID-19 response activities.

Adapting and innovating

The COVID-19 pandemic presented Mission East teams and partners with a unique challenge requiring flexibility and innovative approaches. Existing programmes were disrupted, and the information available on the virus, the level of risk it presented and necessary measures to ensure safety of communities and staff also changed rapidly. Good communications with our donors facilitated quick adaptation of projects or reallocation of funds, and additional resources for emergency response were also secured. Global response coordination from headquarters supported the rapid sharing of learning on how to operate in new ways. For example, guidelines on how to carry out COVID-19 safe distributions were developed and quickly shared with field teams, partners and with other organisations.



"Mission East has grown at a brisk pace ever since I, together with my father René Hartzner almost 30 years ago, gathered and shipped relief to an impoverished Soviet Union and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall. We have been able to help millions of needy people over the years."

The end of an era

A major event for Mission East in 2020 was the change in organizational leadership. Dr Kim Hartzner, who helped found Mission East with his father almost three decades ago, stepped aside from his role as Managing Director, after many intense years of service to the organization. This was a particularly significant change in Denmark, where Kim is a well-known figure. At the same time, the transition to new leadership is illustrative of the organisation's maturity. Mission East Board also had a new Chairman in 2020, Torben Andersen, and the Board took an active role in transition measures and the recruitment process for a new Managing Director. At the end of 2020 Mission East was delighted to welcome Betina Gollander-Jensen to the Managing Director position. Betina shares Mission East's Christian values and passion for making a difference for the most vulnerable.

Moving forward

Mission East Board and Management Team identified some key areas for further organizational strengthening in 2020, and initiated improvements which will continue to be worked on in 2021. These include measures to update financial accounting procedures and a review of the organisation's statutes which have not had significant change for many years. An updated cooperation agreement was also signed with Mission East Deutschland.



"I know Mission East, and the reputation they have for doing a good job of helping the most vulnerable in the most remote areas, where few other organizations are present. It appealed to me to work for such an organization with a great passion and high quality in their work."

Relevant and timely international aid

Despite the challenges of the year, Mission East maintained its commitment to quality in its work, as shown by successful completion of the 4-year cycle of certification against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). This recognition of our programmes as (among other criteria) relevant and timely was illustrated by the expansion of our assistance to affected populations in the Syrian crisis in 2020. At the end of the year Mission East responded quickly to the impacts of the re-ignited Nagorno Karabakh conflict, providing relief assistance to displaced families who had fled to Armenia. This was a reminder of the fragility of the contexts in which we work, and which require flexible transitions between development assistance and disaster response; the so called 'nexus' approach. Mission East's experience in nexus approaches to programming continues to gain in pertinence. 2020 also saw further progress in work designed to develop community resilience in the face of environmental degradation and climate change, with expanded programmes on this theme in Afghanistan and Nepal.

FINANCES 2020

With the 2020 final accounts, Mission East changed its accounting methodology for public income recognition to be better aligned with standard accounting principles. Although this impacted equity, shifting some income from previous periods to future periods, it was an important change to ensure best practices and ultimately will strengthen Mission East's financial health.

Mission East's sources of income include private supporters, foundations, and public institutions, with the Danish State continuing to be the largest donor. The year marked Year 3 of implementation of our four-year strategic partnership agreement with the Danish State, which included additional covid response funding in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Additional significant funders were the German State (12.9%) and the United Nations (12.8%). Private donors and foundations are one-third of total income, representing a successful fundraising year despite uncertainties.

Programme spending in 2020

Mission East's programming, as everything else in 2020, was defined by rising to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Afghanistan grew to the largest program country, largely due to additional COVID-19 response funds and new German and UN contracts. The largest program growth is seen in Syria/Lebanon, which was only 1% of program spending in 2019 and almost 10% in 2020.

The proportion of expenses directed toward emergency response increased to 66.7% of total expenses (from 60% in 2019). This reflects the increasing humanitarian needs and the global situation during the year. When appropriate, Mission East was able to adjust plans and redirect funds to covid response and other emergencies.

As we strengthen the organisation into 2021, we also continue to focus on strong program that seek innovative ways to address the growing humanitarian needs worldwide with a commitment to quality and accountability.

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Profit and Loss Statement	2020	2019
Income	DKK	DKK 000
Private donations	13,863,357	13,572
Private grants	13,146,092	14,587
Public income	52,131,367	47,138
Total income	79,140,816	75,296

Expenditure	2020	2019
Privately financed projects	19,976,601	22,150
Public grants expenditure	49,584,449	43,705
Head office staff	5,736,622	5,865
Public relations	184,917	245
Administration, travel, premises	1,589,615	2,383
Total Expenditure	77,072,204	74,350
Operating contribution	2,068,612	947

Financing income	913,113	13
Retained income	2,981,725	960
Funds at 1 January	(4,127,091)	(5,087)
Funds at 31 December	(1,145,365)	(4,127)

Balance sheet 31 December 2020	2020	2019
Assets	DKK	DKK 000
Fixed assets	84,031	151
Liquid funds	13,409,678	8,789
Debtors	11,239,522	7,500
Total assets	24,733,231	16,440

Liabilities	2020	2019
Project commitments	20,285,494	15,677
Other payables	5,593,101	4,890
Mission East equity	-1,145,365	-4,127
Total liabilities	24,733,231	16,440

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.

Annual accounts were presented at the Extraordinary General Assembly of Mission East and were approved by the Board of Mission East. The accounts were audited by EY, State Authorized Public Auditor Ulrik B. Vassing and Thomas H. Christensen.

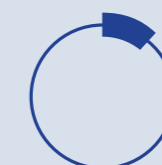
Where did the money come from?



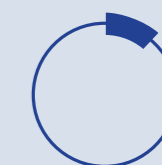
DANISH STATE
40.5%



PRIVATE DONORS
33.8%



GERMAN STATE
12.9%



UNITED NATIONS
12.8%

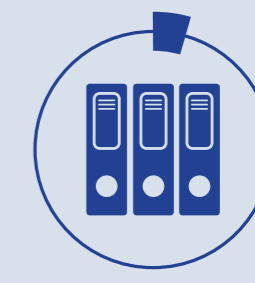
What was the money spent on?



Emergency Aid
66.7%

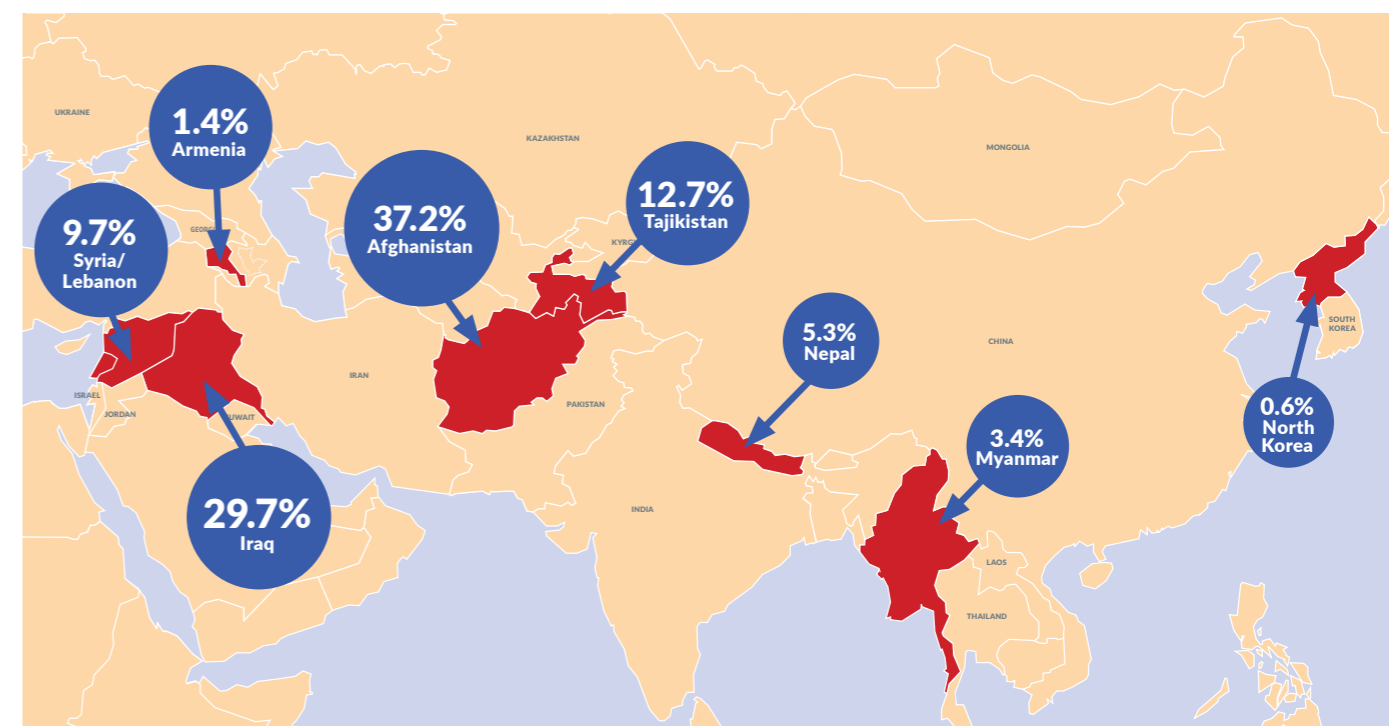


Development Aid
23.8%



Administration
9.8%

Where did the money go?



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



LEGO gave joy to kids fleeing war

65 children fleeing with their families from conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh got an early Christmas present when Mission East showed up in their temporary shelter with a suitcase full of LEGO. The LEGO Employees' Anniversary Scholarship funded special desks and educational equipment for children with disabilities in Armenia. In addition, the LEGO Charity offered an extra gift in the form of two charity boxes of LEGO and DUPLO bricks. The 65 delighted children of all ages each received a bag of LEGO, sparking a precious moment of joy, play and creativity, a welcome respite from their difficult experience of war. Thank you to The LEGO® Employees' Anniversary Grant and LEGO Charity!

2020 - the best private income ever

In 2020, Mission East's private supporters showed their most generous side by making 2020 our best fundraising year ever. Regular givers and new donors enabled us to share hope for a better future with the most vulnerable in the most distant countries. Our supporters' loyalty and help in a year like 2020 which brought crises, wars and the COVID-19 pandemic is invaluable to our work. To private individuals, churches, Y's Men, corporate donors and foundations; we humbly and heartily thank you for your valuable donations and great trust in our work!

Engagement in times of COVID-19

COVID-19 shut down the world for all physical gatherings such as lectures, film screenings, festivals, discussion events and summer camps. All our plans were put in the drawer until restrictions could be lifted. Instead, Mission East's public outreach was boosted with campaigns, articles, mails, video and photos in print, digital and social media. As the number of articles increased, so did the interest in knowing more about Mission East's work. Visitors and readers of our website, newsletter, social media feeds, and press articles are more numerous than ever.

'Your help is straightforward'

Many supporters want to support Mission East by creating a will. One of them is a pensioner who wishes to remain anonymous. "It takes so little. And it can help so much," says the pensioner, who supports Mission East's relief work. "You are so down to earth. I discovered that you train women in the mountains of Iraq to be beekeepers and help them start their own business. It was an eye opener for me that you help local people on the spot. It seems simple, but it's effective!"

THANK YOU

Mission East wishes to thank all our private supporters for enabling our work in 2020, as well as the following groups, companies and donors:

FOUNDATIONS

AEC Fonden
Asta og Jul. P. Justesens Fond
Bygma Fonden
Det Nissenske Familiefond
Fonden af 17-12-1981
LEGO Medarbejdernes Jubilaumslegat
Medarbejdernes Honorarfond i Novo Gruppen
Missionsfonden af 4/5 1964
Novo Nordisk Fonden
Ole Kirk's Fond
Rengøringscompagniets Fond
Pakistan Afghanistan Tadjikistan Regional Integration Program (PATRIP)
Sct. Georgs Fonden

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Brandenburg State Government
Center for Kirkeligt Udviklingssamarbejde (CKU)
Civil Society in Development (CISU)
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danish MoFA)
European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
European Union International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)
German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (German MoFA)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with support of the Government of Japan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norwegian MoFA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
UN Office for Coordinated Humanitarian Action (UN OCHA)

CORPORATE DONORS

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

OTHERS

Archdiocese of Cologne
Brot für die Welt
Churches in Denmark
Danmarks Indsamling
Ein Herz für Kinder
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria
Läkarmissionen
Nadia's Initiative
Y's Men Clubs Denmark
Y's Menette Clubs Denmark

BEHIND THE SCENES

The photos we share mostly focus on the end result of our work – the delivery of relief items or the changes our development work brings to people’s lives. But we couldn’t achieve this without our teams of dedicated staff.

While Mission East staff are quite used to coordinating between different time zones around the world, 2020 tested us like never before. As COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions were rolled out, staff had to adapt fast to working from home, and to not being able to engage in normal patterns of field visits and meetings in person. Some employees were stuck either ‘away from home’ or ‘away from work location’ for many months. New ways of working were quickly put in place to keep our staff and those they work with as safe as possible. And as the year went on, and the pandemic stayed with us, the well-being of staff continued to be a key focus. During 2020,

we also updated some of our policies, approaches and systems. For example, following a refresh of our Child Safeguarding policy, we established a cross-organisational group to further enhance Safeguarding-related policy and practice. Things aren’t likely to be entirely ‘back to normal’ in 2021, and some changes are here to stay – more work online, fewer in-person gatherings. This may also help us in becoming a greener organisation. But to stay resilient, we also recognise the need to protect our team spirit, maximise internal communication, and to keeping supporting one another. With that in mind, in 2021, we will continue to look at aspects of staff engagement, learning, development and performance management across the organisation as well as building further on our existing approaches to PSHEA and Staff Care.

We thank all our staff members for their valued contribution to Mission East’s work throughout 2020!

LOOKING FORWARD



In a world changed forever by a pandemic, it becomes more important to be agile and ready to adapt to new situations – and above all to remain true to our values and mission amidst changes and hard times.

2020 proved that surprise events can happen on an enormous scale... and as 2021 progresses, we are still not expecting to be back to ‘business as usual’ soon. Looking ahead we are learning to expect the unexpected but will keep our focus on how to move forward for the benefit of the people we help.

Help where it’s most needed

In 2021, we are continuing work in all the country locations covered in this report and seeking ways to maximise the assistance we can offer. We see potential for expansion in our Syrian regional programme (Syria and Lebanon). We are keen to continue support for local partners in Myanmar despite the massive upheavals there and would like to offer our support to the population of North Korea once more when circumstances permit. Across our programmes we would like to see women and girls and other discriminated groups better empowered to contribute to resilient and peaceful communities.

Reviewing our strategic direction

This year our strategy review process will set the direction for the next 5-year period. Some

strategic elements are already clear: a continuing commitment to both humanitarian aid and development, with a significant element of nexus work; use of our Christian values as a solid organisational foundation; continued focus on value-for-money in our activities so that most money reaches those we help; an ongoing blend of direct implementation and strategic partnerships for maximum impact; an enduring engagement in difficult and hard-to-reach contexts in favour of the most vulnerable. Other elements will continue to be fine-tuned through discussion and learning: including how to integrate into our work the challenges of the climate and environment crises and the increasing political and economic fragility in many locations. We will also examine innovation possibilities presented by digitalisation, new technologies, and new partnerships.

Looking ahead

Looking forward we expect the communities we seek to assist to be faced with shocks and crises which continue to require our assistance to enhance local resilience and ownership. We expect our agility and ability to adapt to become ever more important in reaching out to those in need in a variety of contexts. And we expect the collaborative relationships developed over many years -with donors, supporters, partners, authorities, communities - to continue to be the key to our success.



NUMBER OF STAFF



Total employed headcount as of December 31st 2020

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

Pia Jerslund
Member of the Board of Directors

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Betina Gollander-Jensen
Managing Director

Peter Drummond Smith
Operations Director

Jill Talmage
Finance Director

Richard Peppiette
Support Manager

Nicki Davies-Jones
Human Resources Director

Alexander Davey
Programme Director

Felicita Flörchinger
Managing Director Deutschland

Afghanistan

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in Afghanistan addresses interlinked factors of vulnerability and risk for crisis-affected rural communities. An integrated package of resilience-building measures address WASH, food security, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and civil society capacity-building. Mission East has been working in Afghanistan since 2001 in the north-east provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan.



5,100 IDP families received relief items to help survive harsh winter



596 vulnerable families received cash vouchers to buy basic food commodities

13,498 families received emergency hygiene items to mitigate COVID-19 spread



24,000 people got access to clean water from new or repaired systems in schools and villages



26 communities set up community-based disaster risk management structures

10 communities adopted forest landscape restoration techniques



10,220 individuals benefited from improved nutrition



18,234 individuals benefitted from inputs and trainings to strengthen livelihoods

DONORS

Danish MoFA
UNOCHA
GIZ
PATRIP Foundation
Novo Nordisk Foundation

PARTNERS

AWRSA
HCDFLO
ODSAD
Liferoots
CWO
AWCDO

Building community resilience in a protracted crisis

Afghanistan continued to experience insecurity and localised conflict throughout 2020, with a surge in violence as parties struggled to initiate intra-Afghan peace negotiations. The peace talks, essential in determining the country's future, were still without conclusive results by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the north-east provinces remained the focus for Mission East assistance, including hard-to-reach rural areas and disputed districts. Mission East implements a community-driven, multi-sectoral programme in Afghanistan, with particular emphasis placed on reaching most vulnerable groups including women, children, IDPs and returnees, people with disabilities.

Emergency relief was provided in the form of winterisation assistance for displaced households (heating and fuel), as well as the distribution of hygiene kits to reduce the spread of COVID-19. 2020 also saw the increased use of cash as a means for emergency assistance, for example to support food needs of displaced families.

At the same time the programme continued to address root causes of poverty and conflict, via activities designed to improve livelihoods, access to clean water, natural resource management and food security. Self-help approaches were used to empower women and achieve better recognition of their rights and improvement in social and economic status.

Abdul lives in Galawan, a mountain village with no access to safe drinking water. A clean water supply will protect his health, and that of his family.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Afghanistan contributes to SDG 6, 'clean water and sanitation.' We aim to reduce the spread of preventable illnesses and waterborne diseases by installing water systems, promoting the use of latrines to end open defecation, and educating community members about the importance of good handwashing and other critical hygiene practices.

Armenia

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in Armenia with partner Bridge of Hope focuses on improved rights for people with disabilities. In 2020 Mission East also offered emergency assistance to families displaced by the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Mission East has been working in Armenia since 1992.



20 organizations of disabled people were trained on advocacy and policy influence

336 parents and youth with disability benefitted from training on how to protect their rights

106 youth disability advocates were trained on promoting inclusion in their community

107 government officials, **184** teachers and **24** journalists were among hundreds of others trained on disability rights through webinars, trainings and workshops



612 children with disabilities provided with online educational support in lockdown



3,425 people displaced due to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict received essential hygiene items

DONORS

CISU
DMCDD
AEC Fonden
Rengøringscompagniets Fond
LEGO Employees' Foundation
Danish MoFA

PARTNERS

Bridge of Hope
Syunik Development NGO

Leaving no one behind... including when crisis hits

Despite good progress in the situation of rights for people with disabilities in Armenia over recent years, there is still much work to be done to ensure that they are not 'left behind' – especially in times of crisis. The work of Mission East's long-term partner Bridge of Hope therefore took on a special relevance during 2020, to raise the voice and needs of people with disabilities who were often excluded from consideration in the shifting priorities of the pandemic.

As elsewhere, COVID-19 forced a change in ways of work, with support services to families of children with disabilities, consultations, trainings, and educational assistance all moving online. This, however, did not prevent the successful growth of grassroots disability activists across different regions of the country, supporting local groups and encouraging community advocacy.

Armenia hit the headlines in the autumn, as thousands of displaced people arrived from Nagorno-Karabakh and the country as a whole was politically and psychologically shocked by the renewed conflict. Mission East was quick to carry out needs assessment and initiate a response in collaboration with a local NGO, providing vital aid to families who had lost their homes and possessions.

"We lost everything we created for our children. It is a daily struggle to make ends meet," said Toma. More than 600 families displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh received help from Mission East.



1 NO POVERTY



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Having to abandon your home and possessions as a result of war is not only traumatic – it pushes people into poverty. Providing basic items to preserve health and dignity in such situations is a key part of Mission East's work. This enables families such as Toma's to survive and hold on to hope for a better future.

Iraq

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's work in Iraq provides conflict-affected populations with urgent and long-term support in through WASH, shelter, protection and livelihoods interventions. Mission East has worked in northern Iraq since 2014, with particular focus on people living in displacement and assistance to returnees in Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates.



600 families received emergency kits to survive harsh winter conditions



15,285 families received hygiene kits or food parcels



621 people received legal assistance, case management or other protection services

1,611 people received psychosocial support via 3 community centres



9 water systems repaired, providing **2,752** people with access to clean water

8,807 conflict-displaced people provided with access to emergency latrines



619 people - mainly women and youth - received vocational training

57 women received grants to start their own business

DONORS

German MoFA
Danish MoFA
Brandenburg State Government
Archdiocese of Cologne
Danmarks Indsamling
Novo Nordisk Foundation
IOM, with support from Government of Japan
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria

PARTNERS

Nadia's Initiative
EADE (Engineering Association for Development & Environment)
Justice Centre

Recovery slowed by COVID-19

Iraq remains a country in a fragile post-conflict situation with high continued humanitarian needs, especially among internally displaced people, and families returning to their places of origin. In 2020 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was intensified by a drop in oil prices, and it is clear that progress in rebuilding society and economy will be slower than previously expected.

Mission East continued to focus assistance on meeting urgent needs while supporting improvements in resilience and self-sufficiency. Our COVID-19 response reduced transmission risk among already struggling households through the distribution of hygiene and cleaning items, as well as food packages to those whose livelihoods were most impacted. At the same time, provision of clean water supply, vocational training and small business grants helped people seeking to re-establish themselves in post-conflict areas. Protection services, including legal assistance, psychosocial support and awareness raising on rights were extended through multi-purpose community centres and outreach teams.

In 2021 Mission East will continue to strengthen work with local partner organisations and a range of community groups in our work towards sustainable, inclusive and dignified livelihoods, coverage of urgent needs and post-conflict recovery in Iraq.



Cleaning kits were distributed to displaced families living in poor shelter, often with communal washing facilities, to help prevent disease transmission.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Iraq contributes to SDG 16 'Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.' Our partnerships with local organisations help people to understand and exercise their rights, and to take initiatives to improve their own futures. Our protection activities also support this SDG as an important part of reducing child exploitation and abuse.

Lebanon

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East started working with partners in Lebanon in 2019, implementing programmes focused on refugees from the Syrian crisis, as well as most vulnerable Lebanese households in the target locations. The programme focuses on protection and legal services, while also providing emergency support to most-affected households.



13,415 people received emergency relief including food parcels and hygiene kits

1 phone hotline gave psychological support for vulnerable people during lockdown



3 community centres provided information, counselling and support services to vulnerable and refugee households

179 people were helped with professional legal assistance

56 people received psychosocial support (PSS) on SGBV, child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence, Parenting Without Violence (PWV) etc.

280 women received life skills training in topics covering practical, social and vocational skills

DONORS

Danish MoFA

PARTNERS

Tabitha (Dorcas)
Migration Services and Development (MSD)

A year of multiple crises

Lebanon has been deeply affected by the protracted Syrian crisis, and the influx of refugees who now form the largest per capita refugee population in the world, with uncertainty over when returns will be possible. 2020 saw an intensification of the country's internal political and economic problems, with significant civil unrest, in addition to COVID-19 measures including heavy curfews. The explosion which killed thousands and destroyed the port area in Beirut in the summer added further to the number of people in need of short and long-term assistance.

Mission East works with partners to help those most in need to get back on their feet. Community centres are used as hubs for the provision of protection services and legal assistance; these are vital to enable people to understand their rights, avoid exploitation, complete registrations processes and access support that they are entitled to. Training in life skills which can help earn an income is targeted in particular at women.

Alongside these future-oriented efforts, emergency assistance is provided where most needed. In 2020, as COVID-19 posed not only a health risk, but also prevented regular earning livelihood opportunities, food parcels and hygiene kits were distributed to cover the basic needs of thousands of individuals. The short-term outlook for Syrian refugees and other most vulnerable households in Lebanon remains rather bleak, with 90% of Syrian refugees there living in conditions of extreme poverty. Mission East and partners hope to be able to extend programming over the year ahead.



A project making facemasks is one of the opportunities offered to women in Batroun, enabling them to use recently acquired skills to gain income.

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.' Training and support activities enable women who have experienced the traumatic effects of war and displacement to gain confidence, acquire skills and find new opportunities to earn a living.

Myanmar

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East has worked with partners in Myanmar in remote areas of Chin state since 2013, serving the Mara population. Our work focuses on building the capacity of local NGOs to support more sustainable farming methods and better natural resource management. A focus on the inclusion of marginalised groups underpins our resilience approach.



300 farmers participating in Farmers' Groups were training in improved agricultural methods

110 farmers received trainings on sustainable forestry

168 people were trained in food processing to enable safe food preservation and better household nutrition



24,000 people in 38 villages benefitted from COVID-19 information sessions

20 villages received protective equipment for staff running prevention checkpoints



68 duty bearers received trainings on the inclusion of people with disabilities

DONORS

CISU
AEC Fonden
Rengøringscompagniets
Fond
CKU

PARTNERS

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

Working with nature to end hunger

Mara communities in the far west of Myanmar remain extremely isolated despite gradual improvements in communication and transport links. Fighting linked to Myanmar's internal conflicts proved increasingly disruptive to the area in 2020.

Mission East's main programme focus is food security through sustainable farming methods and nutrition awareness. Farmers are taught land use, crop rotation and agricultural techniques to replace previous 'slash and burn' approaches. In 2020, the cultivation and use of Non-Timber Forestry Products was added to the programme for further diversification of crops and livelihoods. Particular emphasis is placed on improving inclusion and the status of women and youth in target communities.

With the onset of COVID-19, Mission East's local partners took the lead in establishing local prevention activities, including community awareness raising, and checking systems for people moving between villages.

Mission East also supports improved life opportunities for Mara youth through the COME school, and in 2020 intensified its capacity building activities to help local partners' organisational growth.

In early 2021, Myanmar was thrown into another level of upheaval. Beyond the uncertainty of the political context, Mission East and partners remain committed to supporting remote communities to a more sustainable future.



"I'm full of so much hope now. Within three years, my new farm will surely provide for all the food needs of my family," says Khelai, Myanmar.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Myanmar contributes to SDG 2 "End hunger". Our projects support small-scale farmers to adopt agricultural techniques which produce healthy crops without damage to the environment. This is the foundation of a sustainable food supply at household and community level in one of the most remote parts of the country.

Nepal

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East works in the Karnali province, in the remote mountainous western end of Nepal. A multi-partner programme supports the empowerment of marginalised groups to overcome poverty and discrimination, while bringing improvements in livelihoods, food security, and climate change adaptation. Mission East has been working in Nepal since 1997.



402 farmer households received trainings and inputs to improve farming techniques

105 youths trained on climate change adaptation methods

225 farmers adopted new climate resilient technologies in agriculture



885 women and girls received training to enable them to better defend their rights

441 people with disabilities secured official registration to enable access to benefits and services



39,374 individuals were supported with essential hygiene materials

350 extremely vulnerable families received food parcels



10 village committees for disaster risk preparedness were formed and trained

DONORS

CISU
AEC Fonden
Rengøringscompagniets Fond
Danmarks Indsamling
Läkarmissionen
CKU

PARTNERS

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

Speaking out for change

Mission East's programme area, the Karnali, is one of the least developed regions of Nepal. Our work over many years with trusted local partners is bringing change to women, people with disabilities, Dalits, and other groups who traditionally experience prejudice and discrimination. Training in literacy and numeracy, as well as income generation skills enhances their ability to participate in community life, to speak out on issues which affect them, and also to earn a living.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic saw many labour migrants forced to return to Nepal, with households pushed further into hardship as a result. With local resources severely limited, Mission East and partners were able to provide assistance to some of those hardest hit.

With the impacts of climate change increasingly affecting the mountainous Karnali region, we expanded our programme in 2020 with specific climate adaptation activities. Integrated alongside the continued work in rights awareness, empowerment, food security and livelihoods, we aim to support communities to a sustainable and dignified future. Climate adaptation measures cover a range of activities including local planning, water management and agriculture, and this area of work will continue to grow in importance. Throughout our work in Nepal there is also emphasis on activities which build up young people as change-makers for a brighter future.

Children with disabilities are some of the most vulnerable in remote areas like Humla. Mission East's partner HEAD Nepal helps them to get the education they deserve.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mission East's work in Nepal contributes to SDG 10 'reduce inequality'. With local partners, we raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and take actions to ensure these rights are realised. Working with families, communities, and authorities to ensure children with disabilities can go to school is a good example of this life-changing programme.

Syria

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East launched its Syrian regional programme in 2019 and works through local partners to reach vulnerable populations in Syria and Lebanon. The programme targets particularly conflict-affected areas of Homs and Aleppo. Emergency relief is complemented by a focus on livelihoods recovery.



17,439 people received emergency support including food parcels and hygiene kits



136 people were trained and **107** received grants to restart small businesses that had been destroyed by conflict

201 rural families received support to begin agricultural production

93 people are participating in an apprenticeship programme intended to lead to jobs in carpentry, electronics repair, hairdressing etc

111 youth and women received vocational training in skills including baking, computer programming, electronics maintenance

DONORS

Danish MoFA

PARTNERS

Dorcas International
Orthodox Youth Movement (OYM)

A decade of conflict

10 years after the start of the Syrian civil war, the conflict still represents the world's largest refugee and displacement crisis. Millions of people fled the fighting; the majority either remain in temporary accommodation or have returned to find their homes destroyed and have few resources with which to re-establish themselves. The economic situation deteriorated further in 2020, and the country contains a complex and volatile mix of ongoing conflict and recovery. Market disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic contributed further to the steep rise in food and fuel prices.

Such a context requires a flexible approach to programming. In 2020, emergency aid in the form of food parcels and hygiene kits were distributed to the most vulnerable families in Homs and Aleppo. Activities to support early recovery and livelihoods were also carried out, including vocational training and apprenticeship schemes in targeted locations. Training opportunities are designed to fit with the experience and resources of the population and tailored to different urban and rural contexts.

Syria presents a difficult operating environment, but the need for humanitarian assistance and early recovery support is expected to remain acute in the year ahead. Mission East will continue to apply an agile approach to reaching a population desperate to find hope for the future.

"I haven't smelled soap for a long time now. Thank you," says Mrs Amoun. She has received food parcels as well as hygiene kits to help support her family.



Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals
Mission East's work in Syria contributes to SDG 1, 'end poverty.' Families who have lost homes, possessions and livelihoods in war need sustained and targeted support to avoid long-term dependency. Alongside providing essential emergency items, our programme helps to re-establish livelihoods as a key to avoiding long-term poverty.

Tajikistan

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Mission East's works in several regions of Tajikistan. A cross-border programme provides clean water and sanitation for Afghan and Tajik rural communities and supports local disaster risk reduction. Mission East also works with civil society partners to promote the rights of people with disabilities. Mission East has worked in Tajikistan since 1997.



400 children with disabilities were supported to access services and/or therapy

650 parents organized in Parent Support Groups, for advice, mutual support and advocacy



6,154 people access clean water from 16 new or repaired village water systems

107 families received new household toilets



1 new school constructed and 6 repaired to make them more disaster resilient

16 villages (over 7,000 people) received trainings and support to prepare for disasters



24,000 people benefitted from hygiene kits to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

24 institutions (hospitals, schools) supported to operate safely

DONORS

PATRIIP Foundation
CISU
AEC Fonden
Rengøringscompagniets
Fond

PARTNERS

Nuri Umed
Zarshedabonu

The right to a life with dignity... even in remote places

Tajikistan remains a country far from the spotlight of global media with fragile development gains, a vulnerable economy, and a high risk of natural disaster. Income from migrant labour remittances plummeted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, presenting significant livelihoods challenges for a large portion of the population.

In 2020, Mission East successfully completed a multi-year project to improve quality of life via clean water supply and sanitation and disaster risk resilience measures to 16,000 people in remote border areas. The project included the construction of a new school and safety improvements in 6 others. WASH and DRR work continues in the border area under an ongoing project.

Mission East also maintained its long-term work in the disability sector, with a focus on building the capacity of local partner organisations. Local partners are key in driving grassroots change. In practice this means supporting families of children with disabilities to access to relevant services, awareness-raising to reduce stigma, and working with authorities for realisation of disability rights.

Tajikistan's health system is weak and reliable information sometimes hard to come by. COVID-19 response measures were integrated across the programme to provide hygiene materials and information to help families protect themselves.

Local rehabilitation centres are essential to help children with disabilities in Tajikistan to realise their potential. Each new step is an achievement to be celebrated!



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



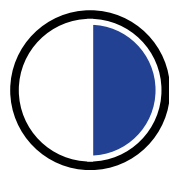
Spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals

In Tajikistan, Mission East's emphasis on working in partnership with local organizations for improved services and rights for people with disabilities contributes to SDG 17 'global partnership for sustainable development'. Sharing skills and building local capacity is the foundation for long-term grassroots change.

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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