



INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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IN 2019, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER...


WAS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY

> 1M
 PEOPLE



EMPLOYED
8,477
 PEOPLE GLOBALLY



1,497
 STAFF MEMBERS RECEIVED SECURITY TRAINING



RAISED
€450.2M
 REVENUE



DISTRIBUTED
€42.4M
 CASH



MANAGED
A GLOBAL SUPPLY
CHAIN VOLUME OF
€146.5M



CONDUCTED
72
 RESEARCH PROJECTS



RESPONDED TO
43
 EMERGENCIES



REPORTED
10
 VERY SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS



NUTRITION

 **5.5 MILLION**
 people supported by our nutrition programmes

 **209**
 nutrition assessment and surveillance reports

 **210**
 mobile and satellite teams for nutrition treatment

 **642,364**
 admissions to CMAM programmes supported by Action Against Hunger

 **81%**
 average CMAM cure rate in high burden countries

HEALTH

 **19,857**
 health and nutrition education training sessions

 **2.9 MILLION**
 people supported by our health programmes

 **1,951**
 health centres

 **288**
 health and nutrition projects

MENTAL HEALTH AND CARE PRACTICES

 **229**
 Mental health & care practices projects

 **13,112**
 people received a mental health & care practice kit

 **416,086**
 people benefited from mental health & care practices

 **88%**
 of individuals who benefited from IYCF received preventative support

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

 **60**
 DRR and DRM projects

 **215,666**
 people supported by our DRR and DRM programmes

 **40,122**
 people received DRR and DRM training

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

 **5.6 MILLION**
 people supported by our WASH programmes

 **2.6 MILLION**
 hygiene kits distributed

 **13,256**
 water points improved

 **1.8 MILLION**
 cubic meters of water delivered

 **38.7%**
 of Action Against Hunger projects have a WASH component

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

 **2.4 MILLION**
 people supported by our FSL programmes

 **271,752**
 people received unrestricted cash

 **252**
 food security and livelihoods projects

 **18,194**
 tonnes of food assistance delivered

INTRODUCTION

There are three major aims of the International Strategic Plan 2016-20: to mitigate the consequences of hunger; to address the causes of hunger; and to change the way hunger is viewed and addressed. These aims contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Zero hunger, good health, gender equality, and clean water and sanitation are the four Sustainable Development Goals emphasised by our International Strategic Plan 2016-20.

GLOBAL GOAL 2: NO HUNGER

End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

GLOBAL GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages.

GLOBAL GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

GLOBAL GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Our aims are framed by Action Against Hunger's theory of change. This is an overarching guide for achieving a world free from hunger. It outlines our four crosscutting tools: powerful and legitimate voice; transfer of our knowledge and expertise; operational capacity; and technical expertise and innovation.



The International Annual Report 2019 highlights the ways in which our country offices have contributed to achieving a world free from hunger, through several sectors and focuses:

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION/MANAGEMENT

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

MENTAL HEALTH & CARE PRACTICES

ADVOCACY

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

FOCUS ON OUR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-25

The Action Against Hunger network is governed by a five-year International Strategic Plan (ISP) that provides a shared direction for the 8,000 staff working across our organisation, and informs the strategy and plan of action of our more than 50 offices. Our next International Strategic Plan (ISP3) will set the intentions and ambitions of the network for the 2021-2025 period, and provide a common roadmap to achieving them.

The development of the ISP3 was kicked off in 2019 by a wide consultation process conducted over a period of several months, which aimed to bring together the views and aspirations of Action Against Hunger's key stakeholders, including our staff, donors, and partners. The insights gathered from the Mid-Term Review of our previous 2016-2020 ISP have been a key input throughout the development of the new strategy and will continue to inform its operationalisation. This first consultation phase was followed by strategy development workshops.

This participative process enabled the network to identify a number of key priorities, which will continue to be further refined as we finalise the ISP3 over the next few months.

1. WE ENHANCE THE CORE OF WHAT WE DO FOR GREATER IMPACT

While our expertise as an emergency responder and frontliner will remain core to our identity as an organisation, we aim to significantly strengthen our efforts to achieve sustainable long-term change, by putting a greater focus on prevention and on addressing the root causes of hunger.

We know that the climate crisis will be a key accelerating factor in increasing hunger over the next five years. Climate change will not only disrupt local climate conditions and reduce agricultural output, but also have a compounding effect on other drivers of hunger such as conflict and protracted crises, exacerbating existing needs and increasing the pressures facing the most vulnerable populations. This means that we need to fundamentally change the way we address hunger by making this a key focus.

In addition, inequalities in terms of social, political and economic power also remain a key driver of hunger that will be central to our 2021-2025 International Strategic Plan. We believe that the world cannot eliminate hunger without eliminating gender inequality and gender-based violence, since they are both causes and consequences of hunger, and we commit to significantly strengthening our approach in that regard.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping the environment in which we operate, and is already having a deep impact on hunger and food security, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations. The information and knowledge gathered by our teams as they work to address both the direct and indirect repercussions of this crisis will inform the development of our next ISP.

2. WE TRANSFORM OUR APPROACH AND ACT AS A FACILITATOR AND A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

We know that addressing escalating humanitarian needs will require new ways of working that can produce change on a greater scale, and we will aim to achieve this by rethinking our approach to collective action with our partners and by harnessing the potential of digital transformation. In addition, our recognised technical expertise and decades of experience mean that we are uniquely positioned to mobilise and empower others. Over the next five years, we will aim to maximise our ability to act as a catalyst for change, joining forces with communities and actors at all levels to achieve unprecedented and sustained gains in the fight against hunger.

To this end, we will work hand in hand with and communities to develop and implement the most effective solutions to prevent and reduce hunger. We will build on our recognised technical expertise to collectively create and share knowledge to empower individuals, communities and actors on a global scale, and leverage our relationships and our global footprint to connect people at all levels to come together and call for change.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER REACHED OVER 17 MILLION PEOPLE IN 2019

KEY GLOBAL STATS

Action Against Hunger's ambition of a world free from hunger translates into a comprehensive variety of humanitarian and development interventions, spanning from livelihoods to nutrition; from advocacy to research.

Our actions focus on immediate support to save lives, to prevent the causes of malnutrition, to help to mitigate factors that contribute to crisis, and to deliver development initiatives and sustainable solutions.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger operated in 46 countries⁴ worldwide providing assistance in the sectors of nutrition, health, WaSH (water, hygiene and sanitation), food security, livelihood and disaster risk management (DRM).

Overall, we reached 40 per cent of the beneficiaries (6,983,097 individuals) in our identified high burden countries while 60 per cent (10,453,254) were in the rest of the countries where we intervene.

⁴ Central America is composed of Nicaragua and Guatemala

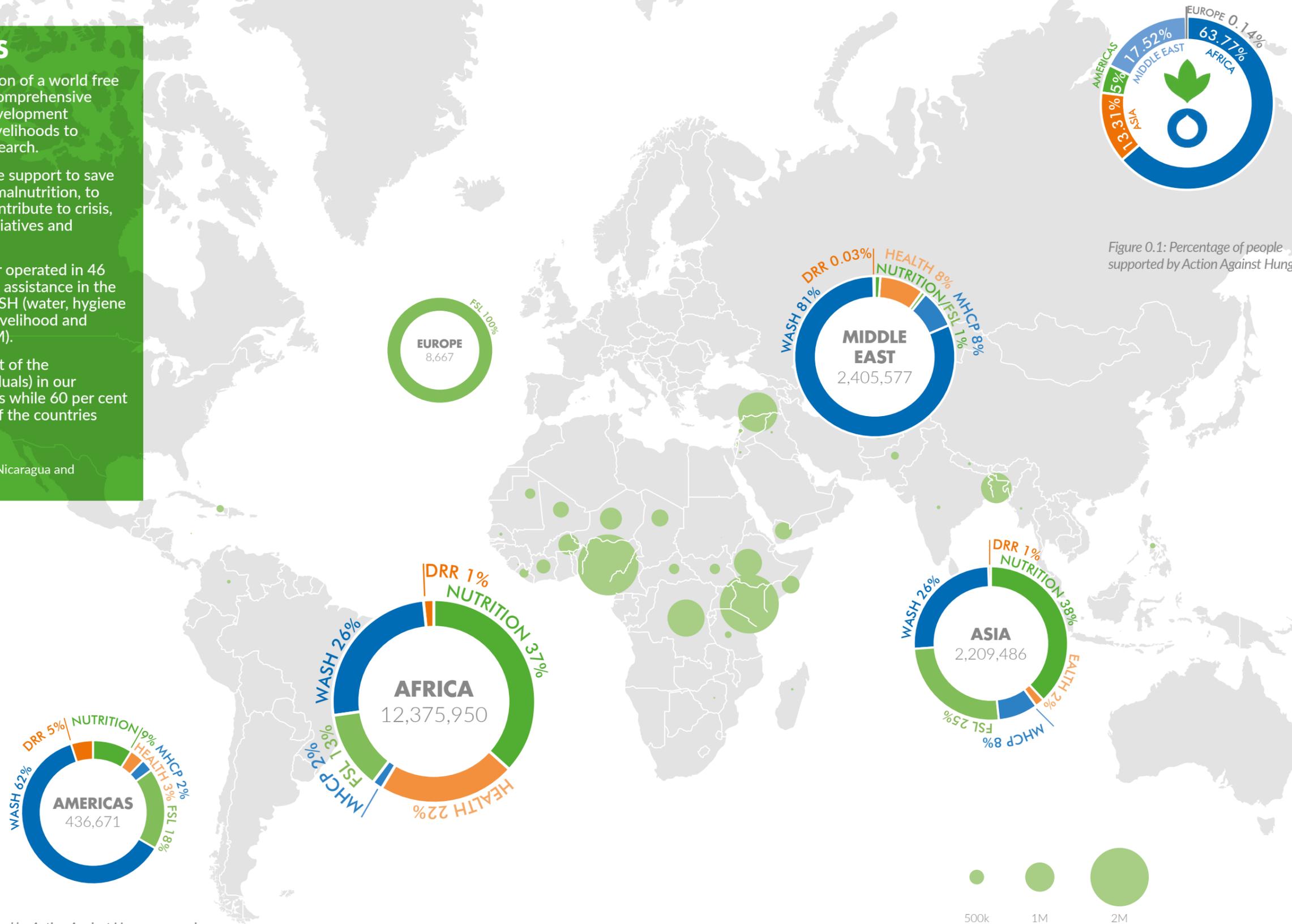


Figure 0.1: Percentage of people supported by Action Against Hunger

Figure 0.2-0.5: Number of people supported by Action Against Hunger per region and distribution of sectors (%).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER



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BURKINA FASO



118
STAFF

OUAGADOUGOU
ORODARA
FADA
DIAPAGA
OUAHIGOUYA
KAYA

OPERATING
SINCE
2008

REACHED
706,367
PEOPLE

In 2019, Burkina Faso experienced an unprecedented increase in humanitarian needs due to large displacements of populations within a difficult context characterised by extreme poverty and very limited access to basic social services. An estimated 1,786,629 people will be food insecure in June-August 2020. In the particularly affected eastern region, SMART results indicate a 7.5% prevalence for global acute malnutrition (GAM) and 0.8% for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

A total of 645,540 beneficiaries were reached in 2019. Action Against Hunger in Burkina Faso continued its health and nutrition activities as part of the PADI project in the Hauts Bassins region. This project has contributed to reinforcing the resilience of communities by including vulnerability and capacity studies, as well as cartographies of zones at risk of food insecurity. This project was also supported by Confluences, an advocacy project aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society actors in favour of healthy nutrition practices.

The programme initiated emergency projects to provide quick shelter, WaSH, protection and mental health support to displaced and host populations. The mission collaborated with WFP for a food assistance project in aid of internally displaced persons, and with UNICEF for the distribution of WaSH kits and *WaSH in Nut* interventions.

The programme also elaborated an emergency preparedness and response plan to identify main risks, and monitoring and preparedness actions to undertake. This plan will be operational in 2020.

CAMEROON



Three humanitarian crises are ongoing in Cameroon. Refugees from the Central African Republic are present in the east; the region in the far north suffers from Boko Haram attacks resulting in population movements and affecting the delivery of basic services; and the English-speaking regions are in turmoil with an ongoing conflict between the government and anglophone armed groups.

In the east, Action Against Hunger continued to assist refugees and host communities with nutrition and food security and livelihood interventions. In the far north, Action Against Hunger implements nutrition and health, WaSH and NFI (non-food items) emergency programmes to respond to acute humanitarian needs in the area most affected by attacks. It also implements multi-year programmes that aim at strengthening resilience, nutrition security and well-being in communities through health and nutrition assistance, WaSH, FSL, mental health, and advocacy as well as support to local governance. A food security monitoring and early warning project also started in 2019.

In response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the northwest and southwest (NWSW) regions, Action Against Hunger distributed NFI to displaced populations and started mobile clinics providing primary health care and nutrition to affected populations in areas where health services are compromised or non-existent.

Action Against Hunger consolidates its strategy based both on emergency actions to address the effects of the crises caused in particular by the NWSW crisis and the war against Boko Haram, and on medium-term actions to increase the resilience of populations, fight the underlying causes of undernutrition, and promote social cohesion.

192
STAFF

YAOUNDÉ
BATOURI
KOUSSÉRI
MAROUA

OPERATING
SINCE
2014

REACHED
325,843
PEOPLE

455
STAFF

BANGUI
BOSSANGOA
BOUAR
ALINDAO

OPERATING
SINCE
2006

REACHED
342,516
PEOPLE



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Despite a peace and reconciliation agreement signed in February 2019, there are still some 600,000 internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic to date, due to armed conflict and insecurity. Over half of its 4.9 million population rely on humanitarian assistance. Malnutrition remains a major issue and is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality for children under five.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger implemented emergency projects to respond to acute humanitarian needs. Rapid Response Teams provided non food items, water and sanitation assistance, food aid and psychosocial support to newly displaced people in three prefectures in the north-west of the country. Drilling and nutrition mobile teams responded to WaSH and nutrition emergencies. Additionally, health, nutrition, mental health and care practices and emergency WaSH programmes were implemented in the Basse Kotto Prefecture and in Bangui.

Looking at the longer term, we implemented a food security and livelihood programme in Bossangoa, building the resilience of vulnerable communities. Action Against Hunger continued to work with the University of Bangui to reinforce psychological care capacity in the country, and to collaborate with the Pediatric Centre of Bangui for the treatment of acute and severe malnutrition in children, while strengthening the capacity of concerned medical doctors for malnutrition treatment. To support health system strengthening, a major diagnostic of the system was conducted in Bangui. We conducted a value chain analysis on caterpillars in Bangui, a major source of protein for the population.

Three major humanitarian crises affect nearly 6.3 million people in Chad, representing almost 40 per cent of the population in a context of underdevelopment and poverty. These are food insecurity and malnutrition, population movements due to armed conflict or community tensions, and epidemics. In the Lac province, there are 298,803 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of urgent assistance.

In 2019, a rapid response mechanism has enabled Action Against Hunger to assist newly displaced people in the Lac province through the implementation of WaSH activities and distribution of NFIs. In addition, Action Against Hunger implemented nutrition and health interventions in Kanem and in Bar El Gazal in the Sahelian belt as well as in the South of Chad, in Logone Oriental province. Efforts to support the health system have continued and new community centred approaches aiming at behaviour changes have started through care groups and husbands' schools. To support its nutrition activities, Action Against Hunger implemented WaSH in Nut interventions in health structures. WaSH teams also responded to the cholera epidemic in Mayo-Kebbi Est province.

In addition, longer term, early recovery and emergency food security interventions have been implemented in Kanem, Bar El Gazal, Logone Oriental and Lac provinces. New sustainable agricultural initiatives were implemented such as solar-powered irrigation systems and farmers field schools to promote agro-ecology. The programme also implemented a new community-based early warning system and emergency response mechanism. We also provided food relief to vulnerable people during the lean season and we provided work opportunities to young people and women through cash for work opportunities.



CHAD

302
STAFF

N'DJAMENA
MAO
MOUSSORO
BAGA SOLA
AM TIMAN

OPERATING
SINCE
1982

REACHED
579,092
PEOPLE

IVORY COAST



29 STAFF

ABIDJAN KORHOGHO

OPERATING SINCE 2002

REACHED 471,341 PEOPLE

Ivory Coast has remained politically stable since the end of the 2010-2011 crisis. However, recent confrontations have emerged between political protesters and the police following the arrest of opposition politicians. This series of events has heightened uncertainties related to the election scheduled for October 2020, which may trigger more political revolts. The poverty rate is high at 46.3%, and nutrition remains a major public health issue: 21.6% of the population suffers from chronic acute malnutrition. Limited access to basic social services and low employability also impede sustained development.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger reached 471,341 people. The mission continued to strengthen the Ivorian health system through the Health System Reinforcement Programme (PROSSAN), which follows a community-based approach to strengthen community involvement in health centre management and activities related to prevention and promotion. PROSSAN aims at improving the health of vulnerable populations, such as women, young adolescents and children under 5 in the poorest parts of Abidjan. In addition to strengthening the capacity of health professionals, Action Against Hunger rehabilitated 3 health centres and 2 youth listening posts to provide support for young people suffering from psychological distress.

The mission also continued to implement activities supporting civil society organisations on nutrition advocacy projects as part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



The Congolese population suffers from decades of bad governance and armed conflicts, especially in the eastern provinces. Extreme poverty, population displacement, lack of functioning basic services and poor infrastructure have resulted in one of the most severe humanitarian crises, with 15.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019. Measles, Ebola and cholera epidemics worsened the situation in vast areas of DRC.

Action Against Hunger has continued to respond to acute nutrition needs through its emergency nutritional programme, which can deploy response teams and conduct nutrition surveys anywhere in DRC in order to provide food aid to vulnerable families in Kasai. Action Against Hunger has responded to the acute humanitarian crisis in the Djugu territory of Ituri with an integrated nutrition and health approach, mental health and care practices, WaSH and food aid projects; and in the Masisi territory in North Kivu with a multi-sectorial rapid response project. In addition, we implemented Ebola infection control and protection activities in Kinshasa and Ituri, and responded to floods in the South Libenge province.

To address the causes of undernutrition, Action Against Hunger also implemented longer term multi-sectoral interventions in Kasai and Kasai central. We also concluded a study in 2019 on nutritional resilience in the province of Kwango to better understand the determinants of malnutrition, the behavioural barriers of communities, and the specific vulnerabilities associated with gender.

472 STAFF

KINSHASA KASAI KASAI CENTRAL NORD-KIVU SUD-KIVU TSHOPO KWANGO KWILU HAUT LOMAMIAAA

OPERATING SINCE 1997

REACHED 1,263,514 PEOPLE



EGYPT

LUXOR GREATER CAIRO

OPERATING SINCE 2015

During the last 10 years, Egypt has gone through periods of political volatility, impacting the country's economy, which is largely dependent on tourism and agriculture. With millions of Syrians taking refuge and saturating the capacity in the region, roughly 130,000 people were forced to flee to Egypt. The country hosts thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, arriving not only from Syria, but also from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia, as well as Iraq, Yemen and Somalia. The inflow of Syrian refugees prompted Action Against Hunger to open a mission in Egypt to cover the needs of the most vulnerable: Syrian refugees and the impacted host communities.

Action Against Hunger began working in Egypt in 2015. All projects in Egypt covered a range of sectors in a cohesive way, including nutrition with WaSH, and livelihoods with civil society strengthening. All were shared and implemented with local partners and supported by Action Against Hunger staff who have experience and technical expertise in several sectors.

Despite significant humanitarian and development added value brought by cooperation organisations in Egypt, funding availability and mechanisms for sustained engagement and long-term allocation of resources has proved challenging. Therefore, Action Against Hunger decided to downscale its activities in 2019, and closed the mission in Egypt at the end of August 2019.



ETHIOPIA

615 STAFF

OROMIA SOMALI AMHARA GAMBELLA BENISHANGUL GUMUZ DIRE DAWA

OPERATING SINCE 1985

REACHED 957,819 PEOPLE

Ethiopia experienced positive socio-political developments in 2019. At the same time, protracted and acute crises continued to disrupt the lives of a significant and growing number of people, causing widespread food and nutrition insecurity and forced displacement. Natural disasters, epidemics, and livestock diseases further drove increased humanitarian needs. In 2019, Ethiopia hosted 2.6 million internally displaced people and nearly 700,000 refugees. 39% of people had access to improved water sources and just 7% to safe sanitation. 8.5 million people faced severe acute food insecurity and, among children under five, 37% were chronically malnourished and 7% were acutely malnourished.

Action Against Hunger responded to multiple emergencies with integrated, multisectoral assistance including malnutrition treatment, mental health support, WaSH services, gender and protection programmes, support for food security and emergency livelihoods, and resilience-building activities.

Our teams prevented, detected, and treated malnourished South Sudanese refugee children and mothers. We conducted an innovative pilot project to reduce anaemia among refugee children called the Toddler Care Group approach. In 2019, we provided emergency cash transfers to 47,965 people. Each month, we screened 215,326 children under five and 52,379 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers for malnutrition per month. Throughout the year, our teams treated 19,992 severely malnourished children, 71,697 moderately malnourished children, and 46,714 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women. We held education sessions through mother-to-mother support groups, reaching 21,284 mothers and infants and provided mental health support to 7,513 people.



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KENYA

43 STAFF

**WEST POKOT
ISILOLO
MANDERA
SAMBURU**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2006**

**REACHED
1,226,213
PEOPLE**

In Kenya, arid and semi-arid areas face immense challenges, including drought, hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Across the country, 4.2% of children are acutely malnourished and 26.2% are chronically malnourished.

From January to September 2019, drought increased food and nutrition insecurity, reduced water access, and increased child morbidity. In October, deadly floods and mudslides affected thousands of people, disrupting health services, economic activities, and livelihoods. Desert locusts entered Kenya in December and quickly spread, posing a significant threat. These emergencies adversely impacted pasture and water availability, crop cultivation, livestock reproduction, agriculture, livelihoods, and food prices.

Action Against Hunger launched an early drought response to support livelihoods. After the floods hit, we provided health services, including screening and treatment of malnutrition, distribution of hygiene kits, basic goods, and home water treatments, and restoration of critical water infrastructure. Our nutrition teams reached 1,226,213 people through emergency response and programmes to strengthen health system capacity, teach caregivers to detect malnutrition, and improve care and feeding practices. Our health programmes benefited 705,350 people, helping to improve maternal and child health in communities and at health facilities.

We supported 4,677 herders by helping keep livestock healthy through vaccinations and deworming. Our teams also trained animal health experts and assistants to build early warning and response capacity and to protect livelihoods. Our water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes supported 48,677 people through distribution of hygiene kits, water treatment tablets, and home water treatment tools.



LIBERIA

More than half of the Liberian population lives in poverty. The Ebola epidemic of 2014 precipitated a prolonged economic crisis, which in turn created serious political and social tensions in 2019. Currently, 38.4% of the population is food insecure, 25% of the population does not have access to drinking water, and only 17% has access to basic health services. Although HIV and Ebola prevalence rates have declined, diarrhoeal diseases remain the second cause of death for children under 5.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger Liberia reached 308,032 people. The mission continued its Nutrition and Health activities through the implementation of a project involving direct nutrition interventions targeted at women and children in 8 counties out of 15 throughout Liberia. The project aimed to improve the nutritional status of beneficiaries through direct nutrition interventions both at public health centre and community levels. In partnership with the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Liberia (SUNCSAL), Action Against Hunger also carried on with its nutrition advocacy work.

During the summer, the mission began a new WaSH project in rural areas of Montserrado aimed at preventing the spread of waterborne diseases by improving drinking water coverage and access to sanitation, which includes the construction of wells and latrines in schools.

MONROVIA

**OPERATING
SINCE
1990**

**REACHED
308,032
PEOPLE**

MADAGASCAR



102 STAFF

**ANTANANARIVO
TULEAR
AMBOASARY**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2011**

**REACHED
85,195
PEOPLE**

Madagascar ranks 162 out of 189 on the HDI, with 75% of the population living below the poverty line. In 2019, the island suffered significantly from malnutrition. The island's extreme weather conditions have intensified due to climate change, increasing food vulnerability. Such food insecurity affects all regions, and particularly those in the south, which have a semi-arid climate and are particularly exposed to severe and recurrent droughts. In 2019, a lack of rainfall and a powerful El Niño phenomenon led to the loss of 90% of the harvest and placed more than 60% of the population in food insecurity.

The response in Madagascar is focused on an integrated approach to combating undernutrition, notably by strengthening the health system. Action Against Hunger continued its fight against undernutrition, by providing treatment of acute malnutrition and quality psychosocial care, as well as nutrient supplementation to the most vulnerable in urban areas, such as children under 5 and pregnant women. To help populations survive and build resilience against worsening climate change-related shocks, Action Against Hunger also implemented a multi-sectoral transversal programme, including Health and Nutrition, WaSH and Food Security activities. Action Against Hunger also works to strengthen both local and national resilience capacity in the longer run, as embodied by its implementation of a two-year Disaster Risk Reduction project.



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MALI



The security situation in Mali saw a significant change in 2019. The central and eastern areas of the country were subject to ethnic-community violence and reprisals, which were followed by an increase in attacks by radical armed groups on soldiers and camps of the Malian army. Furthermore, the conflict is increasingly internationalising with the multiplication of international coalitions and involved countries.

In 2019, with the strong deterioration of the humanitarian situation, there were three times more internally displaced persons than the previous year, and more than 300,000 people in need of food assistance. In addition, the loss of government control of large parts of the country reduced the coverage of basic services, limiting NGOs' access.

Action Against Hunger teams worked to address emergency needs in the northern, eastern, and central regions of the country; areas where the conflict is particularly intense. To respond comprehensively to country needs, we also expanded our activities to the centre (Segú, Sikasso) near the area known as Liptako-Gurma, epicentre of the current conflict.

256 STAFF

**GAO
KAYES
BAMAKO
KITA
TOMBOUCTOU**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1996**

**REACHED
541,921
PEOPLE**

In 2019, food insecurity was the major issue in the southern area of Mauritania, as anticipated by the end of 2018. The rainy season lasted until October, but in most cases with scarce intensity compared to 2018. However, the support of the government and humanitarian partners have in part alleviated the situation. The security situation remained stable despite the elections and the change of president.

For the third consecutive year, and in particular in the south area of the country, populations continued to face a challenging situation due to scarce rainfall. For the humanitarian response, Action Against Hunger teams implemented early warning mechanisms, and reinforced its presence in the eastern region of the country, in the Hod El Chargi, where most of the support is needed.

MAURITANIA



203 STAFF

**SELIBABY
BASSIKOUNOU
GORGOL
NOUAKCHOT**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2007**

**REACHED
341,056
PEOPLE**

NIGER



288 STAFF

**TAHOUA
MARADI
DIFFA
NIAMEY**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1997**

**REACHED
747,746
PEOPLE**

Niger's border areas with Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria (the Tahoua, Tillabéry and Diffa regions respectively) continued to be in a state of emergency. Despite hampered access imposed by the security situation to the bordering region of Lake Chad, it is still possible and necessary to intervene in the area.

In the second half of 2019, Action Against Hunger teams participated in the emergency response in the Maradi area, where since August approximately 80,000 people have fled from insecurity and conflict in Nigeria, on the other side of the border (Sokoto area).

Due to worsening security conditions, Nigerian authorities are sporadically limiting humanitarian organisations' access to border areas with Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Despite the situation, Action Against Hunger has reinforced its action in providing emergency and rapid response in health and nutrition, specifically in Tahoua and Diffa.

NIGERIA



After more than a decade of conflict, the humanitarian crisis in the north-eastern states of Nigeria remains one of the most serious in the world. In 2019, the security situation worsened, and the risks for humanitarian workers increased.

Across the three crisis-affected BAY states, 7.9 million people out of a total of 13 million – more than one in two people – will need humanitarian assistance in 2020. This 11 per cent increase from 7.1 million people in need of some form of assistance in 2019 resulting mainly from rising violence and insecurity. It is estimated that more than 1.2 million people including 971,000 in Borno State and 244,000 in Yobe State are in areas that are inaccessible to international humanitarian organisations.

The number of food-insecure people increased to 3.8 million persons, and 1.1 million women and children are in need of immediate nutritional services or treatment for malnutrition.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger reached more than 2 million people across the four states Borno, Jigawa, Yobe and Kano. We continued to invest in nutrition and health interventions in order to reach populations through reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services.

In 2019, both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming were equally at the centre of our approach. We continued to implement the WaSH in Nutrition strategy, food security and livelihood interventions aimed at fighting the root causes of hunger by addressing production, access and income issues through emergency, recovery and resilience programming, cash assistance to vulnerable people in Borno and Yobe and much required policy initiatives around social protection.

In addition, a rapid response mechanism enabled Action Against Hunger to meet the urgent need in wash and in non-food items of newly displaced persons.

588 STAFF

**ABUJA
DAMATURU
MAIDUGUI
MONGUNO
DUTSE
FUNI
POTISKUM
DAMASAK**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2010**

**REACHED
2,073,747
PEOPLE**

117 STAFF

**MATAM
PODOR
LOUGA
DAKAR**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2012**

**REACHED
94,976
PEOPLE**

In 2019, the northern areas of Senegal experienced a severe food security crisis. In particular, in the three northern departments, where Action Against Hunger has a greater presence, more than 300,000 people were threatened by severe food insecurity during the famine season, between June and September.

In addition to the support delivered in the Northern region, Action Against Hunger teams continued to focus on the implementation of research initiatives such as SAM Photo Diagnosis or employment projects in Dakar.

The number of staff and people we reached in 2019 includes Senegal and the Gambia as they are operated together.

SENEGAL



SIERRA LEONE



68 STAFF

**FREETOWN
MOYAMBA**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1991**

**REACHED
70,754
PEOPLE**

In 2019, Action Against Hunger continued to implement a one-year multi-sectoral programme aimed at improving the nutritional status of children under five and women of reproductive age through the implementation of the integrated management of acute malnutrition. Action Against Hunger also helped many mother support groups, including pregnant and lactating women, to organise activities aimed at improving the nutrition of infants, young children and mothers, hygienic practices and community screenings. This programme also included a Food Security and Livelihoods component.

As a continuation of its nutrition and health actions, in August 2019, Action Against Hunger started the implementation of a project aimed at strengthening the prevention and management of undernutrition. Activities fall into three areas, improving knowledge and practice in nutrition services, improving the capacity to coordinate and promote nutrition services at national level, and producing evidence to enable improving knowledge of best practices to fight undernutrition.

During the massive floods in the summer of 2019, Action Against Hunger launched an emergency intervention in Cash and WaSH, in partnership with Oxfam and national stakeholders, through the Start Fund. The intervention consisted of water distribution, installation of water storage tanks, disinfection and rehabilitation of water points, and 1,289 households benefitted from unconditional emergency cash.

Finally, in the rural and urban West zones, the implementation of the multi-year regional project PROSSAN started in autumn 2019. It is focused on improving access to basic health services for the most vulnerable, especially women, children and youth.



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SOMALIA



160
STAFF

**ELBARDE
YEED
HUDDUR
WAJID
GAROWE
EYL
MOGADISHU**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1992**

**REACHED
523,228
PEOPLE**

Across Somalia, more than one million children under five - 1 in 10 - are acutely malnourished, of which 178,000 severely malnourished and 830,000 are moderately malnourished. Additionally, an estimated 832,000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers need nutrition assistance. Malnutrition is driven by number of factors, including conflict, political instability, displacement, climate change, as well as limited access to healthcare and clean water, food insecurity, and poor hygiene and sanitation practices.

Poor environmental conditions, limited access to water, and unsafe sanitation exacerbate the impact of food insecurity and drive increased levels of malnutrition and epidemics. Outbreaks of malaria, measles, diarrhea, cholera, and polio, combined with high malnutrition rates and limited access to services, lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Harsh conditions, violence, and displacement subject the population to psychological distress, resulting in social and mental health issues.

In 2019, we improved access to nutrition treatment and prevention programs through fixed and mobile treatment sites, reaching 22,395 severely malnourished children. Our teams increased access to quality primary healthcare services for 165,112 pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and young children in hard-to-reach communities.

Our teams integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene projects into health, nutrition, food security and livelihoods programs, reaching 213,522 people and increasing access to clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene practices in areas with high malnutrition rates. To improve food security and support livelihoods among displaced and host populations, we provided \$2.45 million in cash transfers to help 122,199 vulnerable people access basic goods, strengthen resilience, and promote local markets.

SOUTH SUDAN



240
STAFF

**AWEIL EAST
GOGRIAL WEST
GOGRIAL EAST
FANAK COUNTIES**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1985**

**REACHED
498,178
PEOPLE**

In South Sudan, 7.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and nearly half of the country's population - an estimated 5.5 million people - are expected to face severe food insecurity in 2020. Climate shocks, poor living conditions and public services, limited access to humanitarian aid and safe water, and inadequate hygiene practices are all key drivers of undernutrition.

Severe flooding in 2019 impacted livelihoods: reports indicate that 74,157 hectares of cultivated land was damaged and 72,611 metric tons grain were lost. The effects will be felt in 2020: large parts of the population are expected to face greater food deficits during upcoming lean seasons.

In 2019, we established a new Stabilisation Centre in the hard-to-reach area of Paguir, providing treatment to severely malnourished children, in addition to treating common illnesses in the community and providing prenatal care.

Our teams provided agricultural support to 7,215 farming families and constructed dykes to protect flood-prone areas of Aweil East. We built 71 kilometers of community access roads, linking people to schools, health centers, and markets.

We rehabilitated 68 water points and constructed four new ones and built 22 latrines at nutrition centers and 4,079 in homes. Our teams distributed 11,572 dignity kits - including water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies as well as menstrual hygiene supplies - to families of severely malnourished children and to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

SUDAN

2
STAFF

**OPERATING
SINCE
2018**

**REACHED
58,612
PEOPLE**

In Sudan, the ongoing economic crisis has been exacerbated by months of civil unrest and political uncertainty. 8.5 million people are now estimated to be in need of humanitarian and/or protection assistance. Rising food prices have also aggravated already-high levels of malnutrition, with some 2.8 million acutely malnourished children across the country, of whom 750,000 have severe acute malnutrition.

Sudan now hosts over 1 million refugees, of whom some 850,000 are from South Sudan. 70% of the South Sudanese refugees are out of camp, in locations under-served in terms of access to basic services. Formal camps are located in White Nile and East Darfur states. In addition, there are 1.86 million IDPs.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger Sudan has implemented an emergency response project in White Nile to prevent potential disease outbreaks and restoration of assets among the 1,800 flood-affected women, men, boys and girls in the Um Remta locality.

TANZANIA



6
STAFF

DODOMA
REGION

OPERATING
SINCE
2015

REACHED
216,255
PEOPLE

In 2019, food insecurity in Tanzania was driven primarily by a prolonged dry spell, armyworm infestations, and erratic rainfall. About 25% of districts had vulnerable food insecurity pockets in 2019, compared to 5% in 2018. Nearly one million people in 16 districts, were estimated to be experiencing severe food insecurity. More than 500,000 children across Tanzania suffer from acute malnutrition, of which more than 91,000 are severely wasted. This high burden, coupled with high anaemia (39.6%) and stunting rates (32%), predispose children under five to poor nutrition and health.

Before our programme began, treatment was not available to malnourished children in the area. Our teams increased availability and access to treatment and support for acutely malnourished children in previously hard-to-reach areas. By the end of 2019, we had supported 58 health centers to expand treatment services, and 741 children were treated for acute malnutrition. We strengthened health system capacity by training 153 health workers in acute malnutrition treatment and providing basic supplies and equipment. Our teams also trained 1,629 parents and caregivers to prevent and identify malnutrition at home through the Family MUAC approach.

More than 200 trained community health workers conducted events to promote nutrition and hygiene, reaching 216,235 community members. Through our advocacy efforts, integrated management of acute malnutrition is now a key issue to be addressed and funded by all levels of Government. We continue to engage with nutrition champions to influence budget processes in key sectors like agriculture and health.



ZIMBABWE

HARARE

OPERATING
SINCE
2002

REACHED
31,085
PEOPLE

Zimbabwe is ranked 150 out of 189 on the Human Development Index. According to the 2019 ZimVAC report, GAM prevalence was 3.6% and SAM prevalence was 1.4% at the national level for children under 5. Food insecurity increased sharply in 2019 following several destructive economic and climatic shocks. The agricultural sector suffered heavy losses due to Cyclone Idai and droughts caused by the El Nino climate phenomenon. Because of the current disastrous agricultural and macro-economic situation, 38% of Zimbabweans were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in autumn 2019.

Action Against Hunger and its partners, Africa Ahead Zimbabwe and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe, responded to Cyclone Idai through an emergency food assistance intervention and a cash transfer project in the Chipinge region, one of the most affected areas. To cover basic nutrition needs, Action Against Hunger and NAZ implemented another cash transfer responses to respond to the prolonged drought and macroeconomic crisis. These projects supported households in acute need of food assistance. Action Against Hunger distributed emergency sanitation kits to 6,000 beneficiaries in order to prevent the spread of disease and infections.

UGANDA



Action Against Hunger in Uganda delivers interventions in nutrition, WaSH and Food Security and Livelihoods. Currently we work in the four districts Adjumani, Yumbe (Bidibidi and Lobule settlements), Kiryandongo and Kibuke (Kyangwali settlement).

In an attempt to tailor Action Against Hunger's interventions to the needs of the target population in the Ugandan context and in line with the comprehensive refugees response framework led by the office of the prime minister, the programme was able to diversify its portfolio towards multi-year livelihoods and nutrition programmes. In particular, Action Against Hunger is gaining a strong position in the livelihoods and resilience sector, through the introduction of the graduation model, which provides a set of interventions based on the vulnerabilities, skills, assets and financial status of our beneficiaries. This innovative approach is already demonstrating tangible results, and generating interest for different partners in Uganda. It has been launched in 2018, and we are scaling up the approach.

Action Against Hunger is the main actor in the nutrition sector in Uganda, being the main WFP partner in the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition countrywide.

The programme has invested in the use of digital tools and data-driven optimisation of livelihoods programmes for smallholder farmers in order to improve the agricultural production system to address food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation.

224
STAFF

KAMPALA
ADJUMANI
KIRYANDONGO
YUMBE
KYANGWAI

OPERATING
SINCE
1995

REACHED
153,888
PEOPLE



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IRAQ



- 162 STAFF**
- ERBIL DOHUK NINEWAH**
- OPERATING SINCE 2013**
- REACHED 78,215 PEOPLE**

In Iraq, an estimated 4.1 million people remain in need of some type of humanitarian assistance, with over 1.4 million based in Ninewa governorate and nearly 300,000 in Dohuk governorate (Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2020), where Action Against Hunger is operational.

Iraq's 2014-2017 conflict with Islamic State (IS), with multiple military campaigns to regain control of Iraqi territory, resulted in several waves of displacements. The time spent under IS rule and the military campaigns has exacerbated many problems experienced by the population, such as limited livelihood opportunities, damaged or destroyed housing and water supplies, and a breakdown of social cohesion due to past hostilities between different groups. Although the conflict with IS has since ended, the consequences of this instability and volatility continue to affect the most vulnerable groups in Iraqi society.

Our key sectors in Iraq are FSL, mental health and care practices (MHCP) and WaSH. We recognise the importance of the integration between the sectors. Therefore, many of our projects are integrated in order to meet the holistic needs of the Iraqi people.

The Iraq mission has an established presence in Mosul, Dohuk, Sinjar, Sinune, Erbil and Baghdad. In addition, Action Against Hunger are currently opening a new field-base in Basra in southern Iraq to expand our geographic coverage and extend our support to the Iraqi people.

JORDAN



In 2019, the Jordan programme maintained its presence in its three main sectors: WaSH, FSL, and mental health and care practices (MHCP), across three bases for both host communities and encamped populations. Most key activities from 2018 continued into 2019, including household-level water connections; WaSH facility rehabilitation at the household and public institution level; cash-for-work, mental health system strengthening; and community awareness raising for water conservation, waste sorting and recycling; and mental health stigma and referral pathways. The programme also began implementing its first agriculture-centric activities through a WaSH and FSL integrated project to improve the resilience and water optimisation in communities hosting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

Action Against Hunger continued working closely with local partners and community-based organisations to implement activities in all sectors, while aiming to build the capacity of local actors. Notably, the programme began to draft a new country strategy towards the end of 2019 to align with the transitioning humanitarian-development landscape within Jordan, and to promote sustainability and accountability of future interventions.

- 113 STAFF**
- IRBID AZRAQ MADABA**
- OPERATING SINCE 2013**
- REACHED 89,268 PEOPLE**

LEBANON



- 148 STAFF**
- BEIRUT ZAHLE TIRO ARSAL**
- OPERATING SINCE 2006**
- REACHED 165,864 PEOPLE**

The Syrian crisis continues to generate political, social and economic pressure in Lebanon, and keeps more than 1.5 million refugees in a situation of increasing vulnerability.

Most of 2019 was marked by strategies of encouraging refugees to return to Syria, although the conditions did not allow it to occur safely and voluntarily. The Prime Minister's declaration of a state economic emergency led massive protests throughout the country, which resulted in the fall of the government and the paralysis of all business and management activities.

Although migrations were registered in the thousands from Lebanon to Syria, they were not considered to have a relevant impact on the situation in either country. However, these led to legal measures including the dismantling of some informal camps, the deportation of people who entered Lebanon illegally, and control measures on irregular work in the country.

In this environment of political, economic and social uncertainty, our teams have maintained their high levels of humanitarian response. Likewise, our interventions in the Bekaa and northern areas, as well as in the south of the country, have been maintained, with a special focus on working in alliance or consortia with other organisations, and on institutional strengthening of relationships with both institutional donors as with local authorities.



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OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



67
STAFF

GAZA
HEBRON
JERUSALEM

OPERATING
SINCE
2002

REACHED
144,878
PEOPLE

The conflict between Israel and Palestine continues to generate acute humanitarian needs among Palestinian populations in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. The humanitarian impact of the blockade on Gaza and the internal political divisions between the West Bank and Gaza administrations remains equally serious.

There has been an increase in the politicisation of humanitarian aid, as the Israeli government prohibits the import of specific humanitarian items into Gaza, and Hamas imposes restrictions on humanitarian operations within the strip. In addition, aid is being confiscated in all parts of the territory. The 2019 Israeli electoral process led to a paralysis due to the failure to form a majority government. This situation adds to uncertainty and political tension. 2019 was also characterised by a significant escalation of tensions between Gaza and Israel, with peaks of increasing armed confrontations in early May and November.

The blockade and thorough checks on the programme and its activities by the de facto authority in Gaza has led to a restriction of movement, which continues to affect the programme today.

SYRIA



In March 2019, the United States and the Kurdish militias declared the defeat of the Islamic State while the demilitarisation campaign in the northwest (Idlib) continued, which had begun in late 2018, and remains unresolved. The first half of the year was thus characterised by open fighting and massive population displacements within the Syrian territory. The second half of 2019 was characterised by the Turkish offensive in the northeast of the country that led to the creation of a “safe zone” along the border and to negotiations between the parties involved and their allies. This situation has led to a further increase in population displacement and a worsening of the coverage of basic needs in the affected communities.

Significant changes in the context as well as the increasingly harsh push at the regional level for the return of refugees to Syria mean that our programmes continue to balance between emergency response (distribution of fodder, warm clothing, food, water from tanks, etc.) and programmes to facilitate access to shelter, health and water services as well as awareness-raising on hygiene measures. Health and Nutrition programmes were introduced due to a collaboration with the ministry of health.

114
STAFF

DAMASCUS
HASSAKEH
ALEPPO

OPERATING
SINCE
2008

REACHED
1,350,694
PEOPLE

HATAY
MERSIN
ADANA
URFA
DIYARBAKIR
BATMAN
MARDIN

OPERATING
SINCE
2011

More than three and a half million Syrian refugees are still settled in Turkey. After more than nine years of conflict, the care needs of refugees are increasing, and their survival mechanisms are at the limit. A small portion – a few thousand – are still living in 7 remaining camps or Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs) located in 5 provinces in the South East of Turkey; the rest are located within host communities and many are living in big cities, especially in Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa and Konya. In Turkey, Syrians represent 4.43% of the total population.

In 2019 we focused on strengthening our partnership with our Turkish counterpart, Support to Life (STL), including a stronger focus on localisation. This approach comes from our long-term engagement with STL, which started in 2011 with a joint initiative to respond to the effects of the Van earthquake that developed into a mutual capacity strengthening partnership directed towards the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey.

Support to Life is a Turkish organisation committed to supporting communities affected by disasters and emergencies, by partnering with humanitarian NGOs and donors. Since 2011, Action Against Hunger Spain has been working with Support to Life and recently started to explore how this partnership could be modelled and piloted as an example of localisation and partnership which could provide learning for the future.



YEMEN

Conflict between pro-government forces in the south of the country and natural disasters in other areas have completely destabilised the country, and led to the resurgence of large internal displacements of populations. The city of Hodeida is still under siege. It has become increasingly difficult to access vulnerable communities. Almost 24 million Yemeni are in need of humanitarian assistance, 14.3 million of which are in acute need of assistance, which represents a 27% increase year on year.

238,000 people have reached level 5 (famine) according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. Around 7.4 million people need treatment for malnutrition, 2 million of which are children under 5.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger worked to strengthen staff capacity within the ministry of public health and at health services level in order to improve delivery of severe acute malnutrition treatment. Nutrition interventions reached 44,620 people throughout the country.

57,201 individuals within households suffering from food insecurity received support in the form of multi-purpose cash transfers in the 3 governorates of Hudaydah, Abyan and Lahj. Households suffering from moderate acute malnutrition were prioritised in receiving monetary support.

In keeping with its response against the cholera epidemic, 36,658 individuals received drinking water. Interventions to promote hygiene and prevent the spread of the disease also took place at the community level. WaSH and FSL interventions were prioritised in zones that presented high rates of malnutrition and limited access to health services.

277
STAFF

HATAY
MERSIN
ADANA
URFA
DIYARBAKIR
BATMAN
MARDIN
ISTANBUL

OPERATING
SINCE
2013

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AFGHANISTAN



338 STAFF

**KABUL
GHOR
HELMAND
BADGHIS**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1995**

**REACHED
324,668
PEOPLE**

In 2019, Action Against Hunger in Afghanistan implemented several multi-sector projects at the country level, responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people. The ninth phase of the Emergency Response project, funded by ECHO, started in April. This programme addresses immediate and life threatening needs arising from the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and regular natural disasters. With the support of ECHO, GAC and SIDA, Action Against Hunger provided 24,351 beneficiaries with multi-purpose cash. Other emergency responses were also targeting children with acute undernutrition and drought-affected people, and included an emergency winterisation response.

Action Against Hunger in Afghanistan is recognised for its expertise in Health and Nutrition. Action Against Hunger deploys mobile health teams, as well as rapid intervention teams, in areas that are difficult to access. These activities benefited 3,226 children with severe acute malnutrition in 2019 and provided primary health care consultations to 30,992 children under the age of five and to 3,665 pregnant and lactating women. Mental health and psychosocial support are also part of the services provided by these mobile health teams. These activities benefited 36,340 beneficiaries in 2019, with 85% of them being women and girls. In Helmand in particular, a therapeutic feeding unit has been set up to treat children suffering from severe malnutrition.

BANGLADESH



Influxes of refugees coming from Rakhine state in Myanmar took place in 1978, 1992, 2012 and 2016. But by far the largest influx occurred in August 2017: UNHCR estimates 615,500 Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh between August and November 2017. As a leading actor in Cox's Bazar district, Action Against Hunger, together with its partners, is conducting a massive multi-sectorial emergency response in order to alleviate the needs of refugees and host communities.

We implement activities in nutrition and health to screen and treat severely and moderately malnourished children, and pregnant and lactating women, in centres accessible for host communities and refugees. We estimate that 340,000 people from refugee and host communities benefited from food security and livelihood activities. Throughout 2019, Action Against Hunger distributed an average of 3,424 meals per day.

Action Against Hunger is providing safe drinking water to both refugees and host communities through the construction and maintenance of water points, latrines and the distribution of hygiene kits.

We implemented gender-responsive assistance and protection for Rohingya women and girls, which allowed beneficiaries to access safe spaces, and to receive mental health and psychosocial support services and gender-based violence protection services.

1,272 STAFF

**DHAKA
COX'S BAZAR
SATKHIRA
BARGUNA
KURIGRAM**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2007**

**REACHED
1,079,414
PEOPLE**

In 2019, Action Against Hunger in Bangladesh implemented several multi-sector projects at the country level, responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people. The ninth phase of the Emergency Response project, funded by ECHO, started in April. This programme addresses immediate and life threatening needs arising from the ongoing conflict in Bangladesh and regular natural disasters. With the support of ECHO, GAC and SIDA, Action Against Hunger provided 24,351 beneficiaries with multi-purpose cash. Other emergency responses were also targeting children with acute undernutrition and drought-affected people, and included an emergency winterisation response.

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CAMBODIA

40 STAFF

**KAMPOT
KAMPONG THOM
PREAH VIHEAR**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2013**

**REACHED
16,812
PEOPLE**

Despite economic growth, a significant portion of the Cambodian population lives close to the poverty line, at high risk of falling back into poverty at the slightest shock. Undernutrition remains a major public health concern: 32% of children under five years old suffer from stunting, 24% are underweight, 10% are acutely malnourished, and micronutrient deficiencies are widespread. Cambodia is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, with regular monsoon flooding and localised droughts. Limited and unequal access to education and health services and low investment in public infrastructure further perpetuate food insecurity and undernutrition.

In Cambodia, Action Against Hunger aims to improve hygiene, nutrition, and health practices at the community, household, and individual level, focusing on pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children under two years old. By building the capacity of local stakeholders and communities, we work to reduce undernutrition in a comprehensive and sustainable way and to lessen the impacts of climate change.

In 2019, we created 1,422 local water committees, provided 1,548 people with access to latrines and water filters, fostered 1,747 mother-to-mother care groups, hosted 915 mothers and fathers in Gender and Nutrition sessions, and cultivated 5,310 community groups focused on increasing food security through rice banks, farming, and home gardens. We engaged households in cooking demonstrations, visited homes, and provided support to increase food security. In collaboration with WFP, we produced a booklet as a Supportive Document on Integrating Socially Inclusive Food Security and Nutrition into the Commune Development to be used by the Council of Agriculture and Rural development.



INDIA

184 STAFF

**NEW DELHI
MUMBAI
MUMBAI SUBURBS
JAIPUR
BARAN
DHAR
RATLAM
DHARNI
PALGHAR
NASIK**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2010**

**REACHED
113,076
PEOPLE**

In 2019, Action Against Hunger India developed numerous projects focusing on Nutrition, FSL and WaSH. 755 children received therapeutic supplementation for severe acute malnutrition, and 3,777 children received preventive supplementation. In total, 4,532 children benefitted from counselling and home visits and received support for tackling malnutrition. In addition, the transition from CMAM to CMAM +1000 days programme, has strengthened the preventive and curative strategy to diagnose, treat and prevent malnutrition

Action Against Hunger India developed a multi-sectoral project in Dharni, Amravati (Maharashtra), which has an integrated approach to tackle malnutrition. It takes into account the three contributing factors to malnutrition - Nutrition, FSL and WaSH.

To further improve the impact of its work, Action Against Hunger has strengthened its collaboration with the local government, to increase coordination and develop a deeper sense of mutual responsibility towards tackling malnutrition. Supporting the Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), with a focus on convergence and strengthening the Government system, has increased our reach in the intervention locations.



INDONESIA

 **JAKARTA
NUSA
TENGGARA
TIMUR
SULAWESI**

 **OPERATING
SINCE
1998**

 **REACHED
15,505
PEOPLE**

Action Against Hunger in Indonesia concentrates the majority of its activities in the Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province in the east of the country. The NTT province is one of the poorest provinces of Indonesia.

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition in Kupang is 21.2% for children 6-59 months of age. The rate of severe acute malnutrition is at 3.9%, which far exceeds the OMS accepted crisis threshold (2%). Therefore, Action Against Hunger's strategy and activities continued in 2019 to address the immediate and underlying causes of under-nutrition.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger continued its collaboration with the ministry of health in Indonesia at national, provincial and district levels to implement the second phase of the integrated health programme in the Kupang District. This significantly improved the integrated management of child illness in the area. In 2018, this project expanded its coverage to target 12 health centres and improve the capacity of health staff and students of medical and nursing schools in Kupang. In 2019, the project managed to launch a handbook on integrated management of child illness for nursing students, the first of its kind in NTT province.

The decision was made to close the Action Against Hunger office in Indonesia, effective as of 31st December 2019, based on the inability of Action Against Hunger to secure long-term funding to support activities, as well as the growth of local actors, meaning they no longer require long-term support from Action Against Hunger.



MYANMAR

 **388
STAFF**

 **YANGON
KAYAH STATE
RAKHINE STATE**

 **OPERATING
SINCE
1994**

 **REACHED
89,807
PEOPLE**

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar is characterised by a complex combination of vulnerability to natural disasters, food and nutrition insecurity, armed conflict, inter-communal tensions, displacement, trafficking and risky migration. The situation is compounded by chronic poverty and underlying structural inequalities and discrimination, based on gender, disability, ethnicity and religion.

According to the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview released in December 2019, more than 985,000 people in Myanmar need humanitarian assistance. Of these, 864,000 people are experiencing critical problems related to physical and mental wellbeing.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger provided treatment for 5,327 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, 2,837 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and 865 malnourished pregnant and lactating women through 9 outpatient therapeutic programme centres in Rakhine state. Action Against Hunger also provided mental health and psychological support for people in distress.

Action Against Hunger conducted important advocacy activities due to reduced access to humanitarian assistance for the conflict-affected population.

NEPAL



25 STAFF

**NAWALPARASI
MAKWANPUR
NUWAKOT
RASUWA
RAUTAHAT
SAPTARI**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2011**

**REACHED
99,455
PEOPLE**

Action Against Hunger started its intervention in Nepal in 2005 with a focus on addressing the needs of the conflict affected population. In 2011, Action Against Hunger initiated a nutrition programme in the Saptari district. The 2015 massive earthquake in Nepal led to scaling up of the work in the country to 5 of the 14 most affected districts. In 2019, Action Against Hunger was active in Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi West, Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.

The implementation of integrated management of acute malnutrition, a national priority programme, was continued in Nawalparasi East and West districts in 2019. This managed severely acutely malnourished children through 28 outpatient therapeutic care centres and two inpatient therapeutic care centres. Nutrition-sensitive Food Security and Livelihoods activities (home gardening, mushroom farming, poultry and integrated shed management) also continued. DFID-funded WaSH reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, implemented in the highly earthquake-affected districts of Nuwakot and Rasuwa, were concluded in December 2019.

PAKISTAN



Pakistan is highly impacted by climate change and in 2019, earthquakes, heavy rainfall, and drought hit the country. A severe drought occurred specifically in the provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan, affecting 5 million people and devastating the agriculture. Alongside this, the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is still going through a crisis, due to military operations against militias in tribal areas, which has led to a high-level of displacement of populations.

Overall, the country has one of the worst numbers of children under 5 affected by stunting with 45% countrywide (50% in Sindh and 48% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

In 2019, Action Against Hunger continued the implementation of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) with the support of the EU. The Nutrition-specific component focuses on treatment of malnutrition in health facilities supported by an outreach programme to screen children and a referral system for their follow-up and a behaviour change communication programme for improved childcare, sanitation, and feeding practices. It allowed the management of 44,797 severely acutely malnourished children in 2019.

In Sindh, Action Against Hunger also implemented a pilot project focusing on Saline tolerant fodder approach, to address the high levels of soil salinity and the water scarcity in the district of Thatta. This project supports small farmers in re-cultivating their agricultural land that has been abandoned due to increased salinity.

As the malnutrition and stunting of adolescents is a concern in Pakistan – and since girls under 24 make up for 21% of Pakistan's population – Action Against Hunger launched an innovative project in Hyderabad (Sindh) to raise awareness on hunger among adolescent girls in four schools.

83 STAFF

**ISLAMABAD
DADU
GHOTKI
KHAIRPUR
MATIARI**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1979**

**REACHED
276,182
PEOPLE**



PHILIPPINES



123 STAFF

**MANILA
TANDAG
MASBATE
ZAMBOANGA
ILIGAN
COTABATO**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2000**

**REACHED
195,515
PEOPLE**

After the recognition of autonomy for the Muslim region of Mindanao (Bangsamoro Organic Law) in 2018, the territory that is part of the autonomous region was defined in 2019. A transitional regional government was formed, and will work on the establishment of operational mechanisms of the region before the elections of 2022.

Although this process represents an important step towards establishing of peace in Mindanao, terrorist attacks and confrontations between different armed groups and regular troops have continued.

In this context, our work in 2019 has focused on serving the population affected by the armed conflict and natural disasters, especially with regard to access to water, sanitation, hygiene and livelihoods, reaching up to more than 100,000 people.

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COLOMBIA



153 STAFF

**PUTUMAYO
NARIÑO
CÓRDOBA
LA GUAJIRA**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1998**

**REACHED
113,699
PEOPLE**

Multiple humanitarian agendas coexist in Colombia. On one side, there is the emergency response due to the humanitarian impact that the violence generated by various armed actors, who continue to generate displacement and confinement in rural areas of the country, still have on the population. On the other hand, there is a need to work on the stabilisation of the post-conflict situation and on the implementation of peace agreements, which include a series of commitments in the territories, especially rural ones, to have better conditions of development and integration of ex-combatants. Finally, there is the humanitarian emergency linked to the situation in Venezuela, which has generated the largest migration flow on the continent. Official data indicates that by the end of 2019, more than 1.63 million people from Venezuela lived in Colombia.

We reached 115,048 people in 2019, focusing our work on urban contexts (including Bogota) and the main border areas (Guajira, Vichada, Norte de Santander and Nariño) to serve Venezuelan migrants and host communities. We have prioritised health and nutrition care, strengthening public institutions. We also worked in mental health and psychological first aid serving 3,287 people (67% women). In relation to food security and livelihoods, we carried out activities to deliver seed kits, food aid, training for employment and employability through the "VIVES" approach.

GUATEMALA



In 2019, the Central American context has remained vulnerable to socio-economic, environmental, and climate shocks, resulting in greater political insecurity and instability. The migration of hundreds of thousands of people from the countries of the so-called Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala), has been particularly visible through the Migrant Caravans.

A food assistance programme funded by the European Commission reached 18,188 people in four departments of Guatemala's Dry Corridor, and contributed to the prevention, identification, diagnosis and referencing for 4,903 children under five at risk of malnutrition, as well as to the capacity-building of health personnel, and resilience strengthening of families vulnerable to recurring food crises.

In the department of Sololá, we have started a water and sanitation project that will benefit more than 195,000 people in 120 communities. The activities, which will last for three years, are focused on strengthening the capacity to manage community and municipal water and sanitation systems, to make them more effective and sustainable.

Working on migration and development is becoming increasingly important, given the increase in migration flows from Central America. In 2019, we focused our efforts on conducting studies and pilot initiatives to explore the links between migration and development in territories of origin with high migration flows.

37 STAFF

**CHIQUMULA
ZACAPA
EL PROGRESO**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1996**

172 STAFF

**NORTH-WEST
ARTIBONITE
GRAND'ANSE
SOUTHEAST**

**OPERATING
SINCE
1985**

**REACHED
257,385
PEOPLE**

Political tensions in Haiti continued and worsened in 2019. Corruption, inflation, gang activity, and fuel shortages sparked regular mass protests. Blockades, demonstrations, and violence were common, forcing the country to standstill episodes known as "Peyi Lock" in February, July and from September-November 2019, hampering food and nutrition security and access to healthcare, education, and water.

Persistent drought has considerably impacted agriculture. Farmers in the Low Northwest Department have experienced extended lean periods with fewer rainy seasons and annual production nearly cut in half.

IPC analysis, released in October 2019, found that 3.67 million people were acutely food insecure. Around the country, global acute malnutrition increased from 4.6% in 2012 to 6% in 2019 and global chronic malnutrition is estimated at 22.7%.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger provided cash transfers to 5,822 families to reduce food insecurity. We trained 201 Lead Mothers in improved nutrition practices and how to detect undernutrition early - these Lead Mothers subsequently trained 19,289 vulnerable people.

Our teams built or rehabilitated 95 latrines in 16 schools, benefitting 168 teachers and 4124 students. Additionally, we rehabilitated 18 water points in cholera-prone areas and distributed 39,331 hygiene kits.

Since cholera emerged in Haiti, Action Against Hunger has been heavily involved in eradication efforts in Artibonite and Northwest Departments. Our teams respond to suspected cases quickly, promote healthy hygiene and safe sanitation, and work to create a market for locally-manufactured and purchased water treatment products. The last confirmed case of cholera in Haiti was reported in February 2019.



NICARAGUA

5 STAFF

MADRIZ

**OPERATING
SINCE
1996**

In 2019, the Central American context has remained vulnerable to socio-economic, environmental, and climate shocks, resulting in greater political insecurity and instability. In Nicaragua, the consequences of the socio-political crisis since April 2018 have had a particular impact on the livelihoods of a large proportion of the population and contributed to the forced and mass migration of young people. In this context, the space for action by civil society and humanitarian organisations has been reduced.

In turn, in our prioritised line of action of public-private partnerships in risk management, we managed to position, in alliance with national and regional private and public sector actors (including the Chambers of Tourism of Guatemala and Nicaragua), the issue of resilience of the Central American tourism sector in areas of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation.

PERU



32
STAFF

**PIURA
PUNO
AYACUCHO**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2007**

**REACHED
5,385
PEOPLE**

In 2019, Peru's social, political and economic context was highly unstable. Following the dissolution of the Congress, new leaders took control of local and regional governments, and economic growth has subsequently been reduced to less than 3 per cent. Hunger has grown, now affecting 9.7 per cent of the population. Peru has received a constant flow of migrants from Venezuela, which is starting to generate xenophobic reactions as politicians, mayors and ministers publicly show their rejection of this population. Moreover, the media have begun a campaign of criminalising Venezuelans, encouraging people to "protect themselves" from them, while the Central Government has started the public expulsion of Venezuelans. Meanwhile, Venezuelan citizens are increasing the intensity of complaints about their employers for their illegal and unethical labour practices, such as payment below the legal minimum wage or the absence of contracts.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger implemented a comprehensive response to the humanitarian emergency situation following the arrival of more than 850,000 Venezuelans to the country (80% in Metropolitan Lima). Furthermore, we worked on strengthening capacities at the regional, municipal and community levels to reduce the high levels of child malnutrition in rural areas of Puno and Ayacucho and to improve employment and entrepreneurship among young people and women in northern Lima.

VENEZUELA



Protracted economic crisis continued to set the tone in Venezuela during 2019. Although initiatives to encourage political dialogue continued, and there was an expectation of a democratic solution to the differences between the government and the opposition, discussions stagnated. The socio-economic and humanitarian consequences of this impasse were the maintenance and aggravation of economic degradation, and with it: increasing unemployment, hyperinflation, the degradation of industry and production, the deterioration of services, in particular health, education, energy, drinking water and sanitation. All of this has had a significant impact on people's quality of life, highlighted by an increase in unmet basic needs and an expanding humanitarian response.

In Venezuela we adapt our work to address the unique characteristics of each territory, with a focus on gender equity, respecting and incorporating cultural elements, and seeking to optimise the identification of people with a greater vulnerability to develop malnutrition. Priority has been given to children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities and older adults with severe illnesses. Considering the lack of official figures, we and our local partners implemented different strategies (surveys, anthropometric measurement days, etc.) in order to identify the most vulnerable people, and adapt the humanitarian response according to their needs.

9
STAFF

**MIRANDA
CARABOBO
ARAGUA
MOAGAS
TACHIRA
ZULIA**

**OPERATING
SINCE
2018**

**REACHED
16,823
PEOPLE**



EUROPE

SOUTH CAUCASUS

47

SPAIN

47



SOUTH CAUCASUS

39
STAFFGALI
TBILISSI
SUKUMIOPERATING
SINCE
1994REACHED
8,667
PEOPLE

Despite recent economic growth, Georgia is still facing widespread poverty driven by the political and social consequences of two conflicts (1990s and 2008), precarious food security and high unemployment rates. In recent years, an invasive agricultural pest has further affected and greatly weakened the livelihoods of the rural population with high losses in agricultural outputs. Particularly affected by these problems are internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, people living in remote areas, women and youth. The unresolved status of Abkhazia hinders sustainable development and Action Against Hunger continues its assistance to the people based on the needs identified.

In 2019, we continued the scale-up and expansion of our economic and social inclusion approach (Employment and Entrepreneurship Shuttles) where participants of the programme are coached and assisted in accessing the labour market and starting their own business start-ups in the whole South Caucasus region through direct implementation and capacity building of other institutions and LNGOs.

Action Against Hunger has been able to improve livelihoods and food security through key agricultural and economic support, including the provision of agricultural inputs to vulnerable farmers; the establishment of farmer field schools and agricultural training centres to provide training courses and extension services to farmers as well as support to the local veterinary service and livestock farmers.

SPAIN

138
STAFF

BARCELONA
CACERES
CASTELLÓN DE
LA PLANA
MADRID
MÁLAGA
MURCIA
OVIEDO
SANTIAGO DE
COMPOSTELA
PAMPLONA
SEVILLA
TOLEDO

OPERATING
SINCE
2013REACHED
5,781
PEOPLE

In 2019, more than 3 million people in Spain were out of work. Unemployment, high temporality, low wages and other precarious conditions continued to bring part of the population closer to the cycle of poverty and exclusion. Ultimately, this leads to food insecurity, since households without an income cut their food spending. Our programme in Spain therefore focused on empowering people to facilitate their access to the labour market and improve their livelihoods.

In 2019, we empowered 5,781 people to gain employment or create a business. The most relevant sociodemographic groups were women (67%), long-term unemployed (41%), immigrants and minority groups (34%) and households where all members are unemployed (25%). The uptake of employment programmes exceeded 45 per cent, and business creation 15 per cent; 85 per cent of the businesses remained active in the first year. We managed to implement the employability model in 35 per cent across all prisons in Spain.

The network generation strategy at European level increased by 49 new entities in 2019, adding 183 members. And at international level, the development of the technical axis of social and labour inclusion meant implementation in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Peru, Colombia, Nicaragua and Senegal.

FOCUS ON OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

SAM PHOTO DIAGNOSIS APP – 2019 UPDATE

Since 2015, Action Against Hunger's team in Madrid has been developing the "SAM Photo Diagnosis" app to provide governments and humanitarian agencies with a tool that identifies acutely malnourished children based on a photo of their left arm. The app aims to provide a real-time and systematic diagnosis, making it ideal for community-level and survey use.

By using the app, health workers and volunteers will be able to avoid the current challenges encountered with the diagnosis of acute malnutrition, particularly in the community. Weight-for-Height z-score (WHZ) and Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) are the two approved methods of diagnosis in use at the moment¹. WHZ requires health workers and volunteers to carry cumbersome equipment during screening. Moreover, the lack of proper training and/or experienced professionals leads to errors in measurement and interpretation of z-scores, resulting in misdiagnosis. MUAC tapes are easier to carry and use, however errors in measurement are still common (especially in younger children). Scientific studies have also demonstrated that not all children suffering from acute malnutrition can be identified using MUAC and WHZ and that each method can identify different children.

The SAM Photo Diagnosis smartphone app avoids these challenges by using morphology (the study of shapes) to identify acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months in real time, without the need for internet. The app has the potential to greatly improve the accuracy of diagnosis as well as the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of screening and surveys. The app also avoids the need to take a photo of the child's face (unlike technologies being developed by other organisations).

By speeding up the diagnosis of acute malnutrition at community level, the app will result in malnourished children being identified earlier in the progression of the disease, thus increasing the chance of successful treatment and reducing time in treatment. This is likely to improve the perception of treatment in the eyes of the community. In addition, if location data collected by the app are shared in real-time at national level, ministries of health will be able to identify malnutrition "hot spots" and take timely action to support sub-regional health structures.

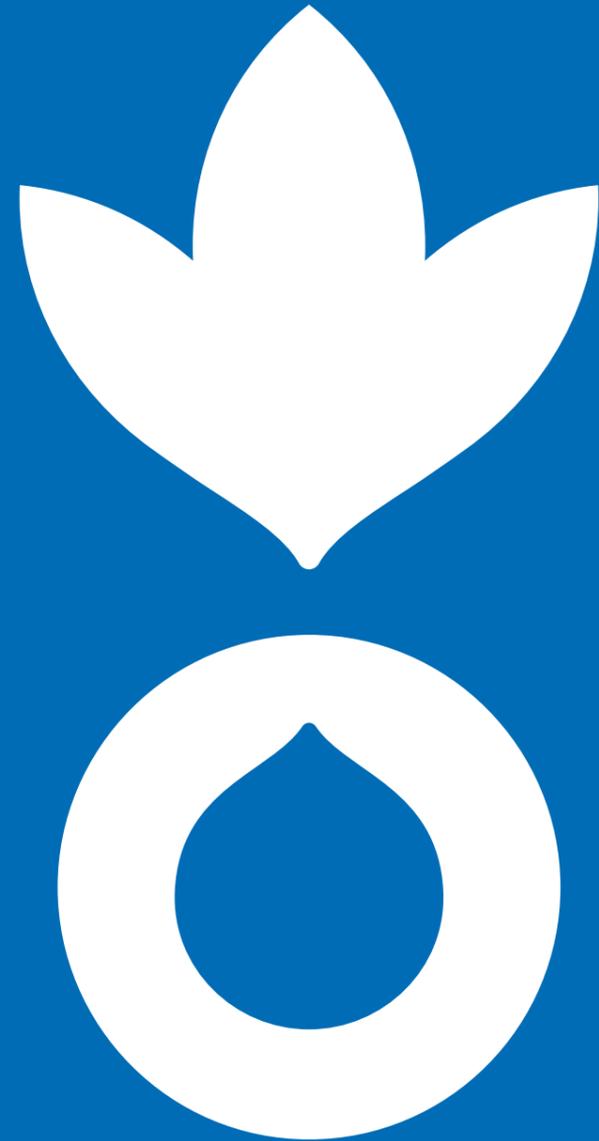
Since October 2018, the Action Against Hunger Spain team have been implementing a validation phase to test the App in Senegal. Data collection will continue until March 2021 during which time data will be collected from 1800 children to improve the accuracy of the classification algorithm. During this stage of testing, the four nutritional status groups addressed by WHZ and MUAC are being considered for inclusion in the app including: 1. Severe Acute Malnutrition, 2. Moderate Acute Malnutrition, 3. At risk of Acute Malnutrition, 4. Optimal nutritional condition.

In order to support future scale-up and use in programmes across different populations, a final stage of technological development, validation and refinement is needed to adapt the app to its end-users: Community Health Workers and Volunteers. This will involve a user-centred design study with community-based nutrition workers and with key community members. Eventually, therefore, it could be possible for community members to use the app to monitor the health of their own children. To complete this important stage, the team in Madrid is currently looking for new sources of funding.

1 Testing for presence of bilateral pitting oedema is also used. However since oedema search is the first step in the acute malnutrition diagnosis protocol, the SAM Photo Diagnosis app starts working after the screening for oedema has resulted negative (if positive, the child is considered SAM with complications and referred immediately to health facilities).



**ACTION AGAINST
HUNGER
INTERNATIONAL**



LOGISTICS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS



€146.5m

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN VOLUME

2018: €151.1m



38%

OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN VOLUME TO TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE ACROSS ORGANISATION

2018: 48%



76%

OF ACTION AGAINST HUNGER STAFF HAVE A POSITIVE PERCEPTION OF THE LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

2018: 70%

Logistics and information managements systems are fundamental to deliver humanitarian and development actions. Action Against Hunger considers it essential to focus on quality, timely and effective processes to support its operations.

The logistics system is composed of several components which support daily management. It mainly concerns procurement and supply chains, and premises and fleet management. This includes the selection of vehicles and equipment, and the procedures necessary to establish, manage and monitor a fleet of vehicles, ensuring that systems and procedures follow safety and legislative requirements. It also includes the development of skills and competences to: guarantee proper supplies for operations and access to energy in remote areas; provide energy devices (generators, solar panels, inverters, etc.); replace and anticipate the needs of the equipment; facilitate waste management; and establish operational rapid response mechanisms.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger spent €146.5 million through its logistics and supply chain, recording a slight decrease of 3 per cent compared to 2018. This volume was shared by 46 Action Against Hunger operational country offices, three regional offices (Middle East, East Africa and West Africa), as well as seven logistics centres (in Accra, Barcelona, Dubai, Lyon, New York, Panama, and Paris).

Country offices that experienced a significant increase their supply chain volume in 2019 were Pakistan (+356%), Jordan (+136%), Iraq (+153%), Yemen (+102%) and Bangladesh (+52%).

Overall, expenditure followed the reduction trend started in 2017, when the volume was €177.9 million. The 2019 decrease can be explained by the restriction in Action Against Hunger's movements and ability to flex in some emergency contexts like Nigeria (-10% compared to 2018), Ethiopia (-29%), Syria (-35%), South Sudan (-39%), and Mali (-77%). The trend in reduced overall volume from 2017 to 2019 can also partly be attributed to the closure of offices in Malawi and Egypt.

In 2019, thirty country offices utilised Action Against Hunger's Logistics Assessment Tool (LAT⁴), scoring an average completion rate of 70 per cent (69 per cent in 2018). The tool provides an assessment of the implementation of standardised logistics processes and tools, using 19 indicators that give guidance to our logistics teams on current performance. The average completion rate represented a slight improvement compared to 2018. The increase can be attributed to the high scores recorded by Kenya (90%), South Sudan (93%), Syria (89%) and Colombia (86%) country offices.

Twenty-five county offices reported using vehicle trackers last year, against sixteen in 2018. Action Against Hunger has been progressively deploying trackers to save costs by monitoring vehicle movements in real time. In 2019, on average 57 per cent of vehicles were tracked in countries adopting tracking devices (in 2018, 25%). Jordan, Kenya and Nigeria country offices reported the tracking data of all their vehicles.

Supply management also benefited from positive results in terms of the timely delivery of orders. In fact, in 2019 the percentage of timely orders delivered in 22 country offices was 64 per cent, with an outstanding score for Niger (85%), Senegal (89%), Georgia (96%) and Guatemala (87%).

Only seven country offices reported on positive perception rates in 2019 with an average of 76 per cent. The weak participation to this indicator was due to the difficulty in conducting a Logistics satisfaction survey. Notwithstanding this low participation and other challenges, positive perceptions increased by 6 per cent points.

In 2019, some country offices were exceeded expectations in terms of logistical changes and improvements. The office in Kenya increased the number of signed framework agreements by 20 per cent compared to 2018, and South Sudan established 24 framework agreements, which helped to reduce late/last minute budget spending and contributed to quality and timely programme delivery. The digitisation of processes has also allowed working with online taxi services, enabling the country programmes to save on taxi costs (e.g. Kenya).

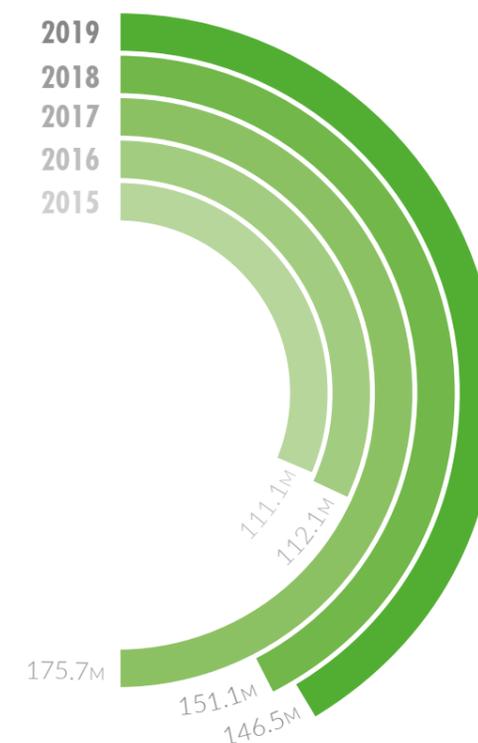


Figure 6.1: Total supply chain volume managed by Action Against Hunger (€), 2015-19

IN FOCUS

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT HUMANITARIAN AID. POOLING LOGISTICS RESOURCES

In 2019, the Réseau Logistique Humanitaire⁵ (the Humanitarian Logistics Network - RLH), an alliance composed of several international humanitarian organisations, including Action Against Hunger, presented a paper with the aim of outlining important areas of work orientated towards collaborative practices.

Efficiency improvement and cost effectiveness is at the heart of the RLH's mandate. The idea behind the paper was to provide a potential response to the funding gap in the humanitarian sector, as in 2018 only 60 per cent of humanitarian needs were covered (with a funding gap of almost 10 billion dollars in humanitarian response plans).

The report is based on an assessment of logistics practices in the humanitarian sector and also considers progress in the private sector. The analysis showed that practices need to be further developed in the humanitarian sector, as well as highlighting a need to increase collaboration among organisations and thereby optimise existing resources. Those practices might optimise the use of resources, and enhance the quality and efficiency of logistics services across the sector.

The paper was presented in several key forums such as the Global Logistics Cluster, Humanitarian Network Partnership Week, Forum Espace Humanitarian and ECHO Brussels, with the aim of sensitising and promoting a political reflection.

Following this publication, the RLH members launched a study to identify opportunities to scale up the pooling of resources, such as in the area of procurement, through a dedicated structure. The results will be presented in early 2020.

⁵ The Réseau Logistique Humanitaire (Humanitarian Logistics Network- RLH) is a consortium created in 2014. Its main objective is to optimise humanitarian logistics and improve operational efficiency by developing a common strategy of resource sharing, advocacy and information sharing. The RLH currently consists of eleven international humanitarian organisations, represented by their respective directors and logistics managers. It is also a forum for sharing knowledge and best practices concerning humanitarian logistics.

To support the Logistics system, information management and technology need to be integrated within established work processes to provide timely access to comprehensive, relevant, and reliable information. The main phases comprising the information management system are information capture, transmission, storage, retrieval, manipulation and display. Information management can also support wider programmatic needs, such as Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and Nutrition activities.

The Information System tool 'LINK', utilised in the majority of our countries of operation, welcomed over 1,200 simultaneous users in 2019. Last year was also important for the expansion of its functionalities, in particular with regard to the development of the Stock Management module, as well as the launch of an inter-NGO platform project⁶. The sharing of this platform will allow users to pool the costs of using the tool and to develop new functionalities, opening the possibility for carrying out joint purchasing and logistics operations.

Information management plays a fundamental role in relation to MEAL. In 2019, 82 per cent of country offices utilised a digital tool (ODK, KoBo toolbox, Commcare, DHIS2) to conduct data collection in the majority of the projects implemented, thus supporting the transition toward a digitisation process.

Action Against Hunger, through its specific focus on hunger eradication and nutrition, implements nutrition information systems designed to continuously collect, analyse, interpret and share nutrition-related data⁷.

Information systems are critical for managing and organising daily activities as well as responding to new emergencies through early warning and preparedness schemes. In particular, these systems inform decision-making on transport, supply chain management, resource mobilisation, programming, monitoring, evaluation, and assessment. They promote information creation and enable sharing mechanisms within and among humanitarian actors.

In several countries, Action Against Hunger acts as a lead organisation in the Logistics Cluster, promoting lessons learnt and facilitating the conversation among humanitarian, development and governmental actors (e.g. in South Sudan and Uganda). The participation in Logistic clusters allows Action Against Hunger to provide coaching, mentoring and training initiatives (Advanced Humanitarian Logistics, Basic Humanitarian logistics course, Logistics cluster induction, dangerous goods awareness course, warehouse management training) to benefit the staff of our partner organisations (e.g. 50% of Action Against Hunger staff in South Sudan received training).

⁶ In 2019, Action Against Hunger signed a partnership with Handicap International to allow the access to the tool.

⁷ Nutrition information systems play a key role for targeted action in population, nutritional health and food insecurity. In more detail, nutrition information supports measuring changes in the nutrition status of vulnerable people, namely women and children, tracking progress in the implementation of actions, helping the prioritisation of responses. Nutrition information assists in decision-making on policy and nutrition programme design, legislation, channelling of resources and implementation.



RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND LEARNING



72
RESEARCH
PROJECTS
2018: 25



25
COUNTRIES
2018: 25



58
PARTNERS
2018: 49



€14.2m
VALUE
OF ONGOING, MULTI-
YEAR RESEARCH
PORTFOLIO
2018: 12.9M

Action Against Hunger is a leader in technical expertise and innovation in the field of undernutrition. Our International Strategic Plan 2016-2020 outlines our commitment to research, innovation and learning in our operations, and to ensuring that all research projects strengthen practical approaches to prevent and treat undernutrition. This chapter highlights our progress towards the achievement of our research, learning and innovation targets, and our Research Strategy 2016-2020. The research strategy has three strategic workstreams:

- Prevention of undernutrition
- Treatment of undernutrition
- Effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and emergency response

In 2019, Action Against Hunger conducted 33 research projects. The number of research projects that we conducted as well as the overall financial volume increased compared to 2018. Our projects span our operational sectors and countries, where we collaborate with a variety of donors and partners to produce the results needed to deliver evidence-based interventions.

We conducted research projects in 25 countries, the most common of which were Senegal and Mali, with five projects each. For an example of one of our research projects conducted in both these countries, see the case study on the ICCM+ project⁸. The majority of our research projects were conducted in countries in Africa (73% or 24 projects in 17 countries). Our research presence in Latin America doubled compared to 2018 with 4 projects in 2019 in Colombia, Guatemala, and Haiti. The number of projects did not change in the remaining areas in Asia (4 projects in Nepal and Bangladesh), the Middle East (2 projects in Iraq), and Europe (1 project in Spain). For a full list of our research projects please see Annex 2.

In line with Action Against Hunger's technical expertise and experience, 82 per cent of our research projects have a nutrition component.

Similarly, the majority (67%) of single-sector projects were nutrition focused. Three quarters of our projects were multi-sectoral, addressing research gaps in health, mental health care practices and water, sanitation and hygiene to name a few. The least frequently researched thematic sector is disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, in which we only have two projects.



The total value of Action Against Hunger's ongoing, multi-year research portfolio is €14.2 million, an increase from €12.9 million in 2018. Of this total budget, €3.8 million was for activities in 2019, up from €3.1 million in 2018.

In 2019, we collaborated with 58 partners on our research projects. Academic and research institutions continue to be our most common partners, collaborating with us on 88 per cent of projects. As part of our work with academic institutions, we supported 13 graduate degrees across 12 research projects. We also partnered with a range of non-governmental organisations, public and private institutions and United Nations agencies. Our donor portfolio has also increased; in 2019 we received support from 21 donors, up from 17 in 2018 and ten in 2017.

One quarter of our research projects have a fully developed and funded research uptake strategy. The total number of projects with a fully developed (but unfunded) uptake strategy remained similar at 70 per cent. Progress in this area must become an organisational priority to ensure we proactively include research uptake in all proposals, and advocate for and secure funding for uptake activities.

We produced 19 publications linked to our research projects. One third of these publications were peer reviewed, and all of these articles are published in open access journals. For a full list of our research publications please see Annex 2.

Action Against Hunger continues to prioritise learning and innovation in all that we do. The International Strategic Plan 2016-2020 highlights the importance of making learning a core part of Action Against Hunger's culture.

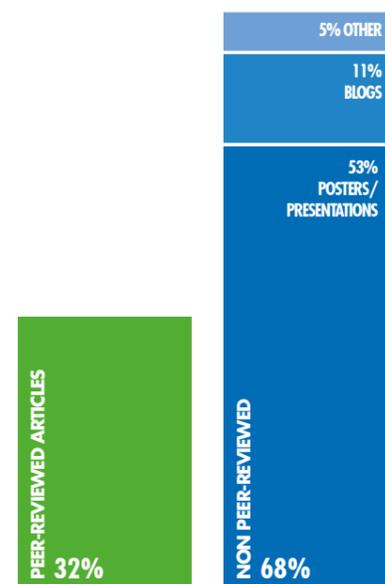


Figure 7.1: Proportion of research publications disaggregated by category

In 2019 Action Against Hunger produced the eighth Annual Learning Review. The document highlights key learnings from across our programmes, in order to capitalise on our technical knowledge and expertise. Learning initiatives launched in 2018 – the Knowledge Hub and No Hunger Radio – continued in 2019. In particular, the latter aired a series of podcasts on the 2018 Research Review, demonstrating how innovation and research can overlap.

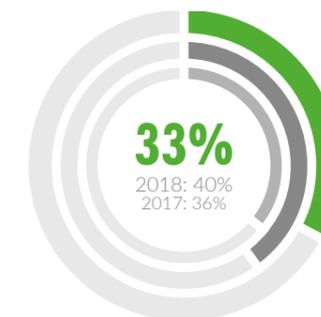
To position learning in the centre of our organisation, Action Against Hunger launched the inaugural Learning week in April 2019. This first edition included international webinars (including on research and uptake), talks and podcasts (including a No Hunger Radio series) across the network. Learning Week was a success and contributed to reinforcing the learning culture by providing space for learning

between staff, and experiencing how simple, impactful and rewarding learning can be. The Action Against Hunger International Learning Community Facebook Group was created for this occasion and continues to be active with knowledge sharing from across the network.

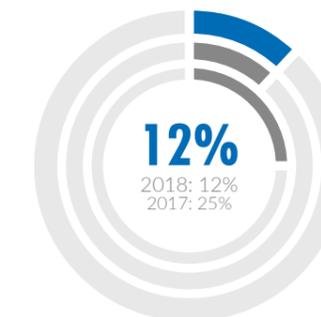


19 PUBLICATIONS

32% PEER REVIEWED
2018: 39 PUBLICATIONS
(46% PEER REVIEWED)



TRIAL REGISTRY



PUBLISHED PROTOCOL



ETHICAL APPROVAL

Figure 7.2: Proportion of research projects with a trial registry, published protocol and ethical approval

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO, PLEASE SEE THE [RESEARCH REVIEW 2019](#). THIS YEAR WE FOCUS ON THE 'TREATMENT OF UNDERNUTRITION', WITH A DEEPDIVE ON RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER THIS PRIORITY WORKSTREAM.



INNOVATIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION. A MEETING HOSTED BY ACTION AGAINST HUNGER ON BEHALF OF THE NO WASTED LIVES COALITION

Research uptake is a critical part of effective research at Action Against Hunger, to support the use of emerging evidence in order to inform programming, policy decisions, and future research across our own organisation as well as our partners. In addition to dissemination and publication of research results, Action Against Hunger also aims to support ongoing and active discussion about emerging findings through conferences and events with key stakeholders.

In the following case study, we highlight one example of an event that was held to support the uptake of emerging evidence on innovative approaches for the treatment of wasting. In addition to focused events like this one, the annual Research 4 Nutrition (R4NUT) Conference also supports presentation and discussion of emerging evidence on broader nutrition topics; and the Research 4 Action (R4ACT) workshops allow for small-group, in-depth review of focused areas of evidence. The most recent R4Nut Conference was held in Paris in November 2019, focusing on the theme of 'The Continuum of Undernutrition Prevention and Treatment: Sharing the Current Scientific Evidence'. The conference featured 43 speakers who gave 21 presentations and 30 posters to a group of 170 participants representing 68 institutions.

The aim of the Evidence to Action event was to support this global momentum with focused efforts to reach key stakeholders and partners, raising awareness of the issues, latest approaches, and further opportunities for collaboration.

In order to support the presentation of new evidence and discussion on findings, the event was organised around three distinct themes:

- **INNOVATION IN DIAGNOSTICS:** With known limitations to the

existing methods used to identify children with acute malnutrition in different contexts, innovation is important to expand our options and reach more children.

- **SIMPLIFIED APPROACHES:** Acute malnutrition is a continuum, and yet moderate and severe acute malnutrition are treated separately, with different protocols and by different organisations which can often result in inefficiencies or even blockages in care. Ready-to-use foods (RUFs) are a costly component of treatment and supply shortages are not uncommon, limiting the availability of treatment for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition.
- **INTEGRATION INTO HEALTH SYSTEMS:** Treatment of acute malnutrition is often delivered in parallel to the existing health platforms, creating inefficiencies in delivery and the workforce.

PUTTING EVIDENCE INTO ACTION:

In addition to the three focused panel discussions, a final panel reflecting on the meeting and forward looking opportunities was chaired by Lucy Lamble of the Guardian Global Development Desk included senior representatives from Action Against Hunger, the UK Department for International Development, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Save the Children UK. Key themes from four panel discussions:

- Integration of Severe Acute Malnutrition Treatment into Health Systems,
- Investing for the Short- and Long-Term in Treatment, and
- Continued Investment in Research to Build the Evidence on What Works.

ADVOCACY



WORKING TO BREAK THE LINK BETWEEN HUNGER AND CONFLICT



DEFENDING PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ACTION



SCALING UP NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO END MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER

Action Against Hunger uses advocacy as an important tool to change the way hunger and malnutrition are viewed and addressed. Our advocacy work draws legitimacy from our operations, research and direct work with communities. In our International Advocacy Strategic Framework 2016-2020, there are four goals for advocacy:

1. Achieve nutrition security
2. Improve humanitarian response
3. Address the drivers of hunger
4. Develop advocacy capability

The first three goals are geared towards influencing governments and institutions on our external change priorities. The fourth is on growing the advocacy capacity of our organisation and the wider movement at global, regional and national levels in order to influence and deliver change.

WE ADVOCATED FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION

The number of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) who are receiving treatment has risen due to the increased prioritisation of governments and donors to support the scale up and replication of cost effective interventions.

Action Against Hunger has worked with donor governments including the US, UK, France and Spain to ensure nutrition is a core component of aid strategies and programmes. Actions have included influencing France's Strategy for Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture, and the set-up of a nutrition taskforce within the French Development Agency AFD. The latter has informed both the development of UK DFID's strategy for Ending Preventable Maternal and Young Child Deaths, and the Spanish Cooperation's Child Strategy.

Advocacy in high-burden countries is critical to achieving lasting change. We have worked with governments to adopt national plans for achieving SDG2.2 on ending malnutrition and the World Health Assembly 2025 health and nutrition targets, in particular across East and West Africa. All countries in the Horn and East Africa have developed nutrition action plans and have integrated nutrition into their national health sector plans and Universal Health Care (UHC) frameworks. Our country programmes support and engage with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and are playing a leading role in national and regional SUN Platforms. We are now also seeing positive trends in resource allocation and political commitment for nutrition.

Elsewhere, a three-year advocacy project in India, 'Building an enabling environment for improved nutrition results in India' won the team a "Public Relations in Action" national award.

WE CALLED FOR ACTION TO BREAK THE CYCLE BETWEEN CONFLICT AND HUNGER

This continues to be the focus of an ongoing network global advocacy initiative. In 2019, we partnered with Save the Children to host a workshop in London with UN Agencies, governments, NGOs and academic experts to develop proposals for improving reporting and accountability for upholding UN Resolution 2417 on conflict and hunger.

The report from this workshop was shared at [a UN event in New York](#) during the Protection of Civilians Days, at which our Nigeria Country Director discussed the links between conflict and hunger in Nigeria and proposed concrete recommendations to strengthen implementation of the resolution.

We are now working on a "causal analysis between violence and food insecurity" together with the Basque Country University. The report, due in 2020, will include a guideline methodology and two case studies.

Sanctions and counter terrorist legislation are increasingly impacting vulnerable people's access to humanitarian assistance. This is why in 2019 we increased our action to highlight the impacts with both national authorities and key donors. This contributed to ensuring that humanitarian principles and law are respected in the Security Council Resolution 2462 on financing terrorism passed in April 2019.

WE DEFENDED PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The operating environment for humanitarian actors is changing around the world, with a rise in political interference in humanitarian action, access restrictions and a blurring of boundaries between humanitarian and security actors. This is why we raise the challenges with key

actors from the UN Security Council to local government authorities, in order to improve people's access to aid, and to better protect civilians in conflict situations.

Just some achievements have included influencing the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Humanitarian Strategy to include specific commitments on the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and principles; giving [a joint NGO statement](#) at a UN Security Council Ministerial level meeting on the protection of humanitarian and medical personnel; and co-organising and EU member state briefing on Nigeria.

Other focus countries have included Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We have contributed to improving humanitarian access in Syria and certain zones of Lebanon through dialogue with Lebanese, Syrian and Kurdish de facto authorities and through lobby tours and policy briefs shared with international donors. We have contributed too to monitoring and preventing 'push' measures in Lebanon against Syrian refugees through collective actions in collaboration with the EU commission.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory we have been instrumental in informing the EU member states on the reduction of humanitarian access in Gaza and the forcible transfer of populations in the West Bank, helping to prevent the forced transfer of Bedouins in Khan Al Anmar communities.

As the humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues, we have lobbied global governments including France, the US and the UK, alone and in coalition, on removing obstacles to humanitarian access, and cutting arms sales through actions such as shared reports, private briefing meetings with decision makers, public stunts and press briefings.

WE ENGAGED IN KEY DECISION MAKING FORA

In all contexts officials, parliamentarians and legislators are critical allies and targets for helping deliver our policy aims.

IN FOCUS: SAHEL

The Sahel region of West Africa is a network advocacy priority. We are working to help shape the policy responses from national and donor governments, to reduce the high levels of child undernutrition and tackle the causes of food insecurity across the region.

A key approach has been to raise the voice of local civil society to counter the security oriented approach of the Sahel G5 and G7 countries, and promote prioritisation of access to services, human rights, resilience, agroecology and inclusive governance. Action Against Hunger acts as a facilitator to ensure that civil society organisations are capable of uniting to influence governments. This approach puts the local populations at the centre of advocacy action, recognising they have the best understanding and legitimacy to identify and call for the right solutions. We support partners to reach global audiences too, such as facilitating the participation of a Malagasy partner organisation in the 2019 World Health Assembly. Across the region, notably in Mali and Niger, this approach has successfully influenced improvements in community access to health services.

We also engage with donor governments on the Sahel, through actions such as organising a large Sahel conference in Paris, a lobby tour, briefing EU COHAF members, the UK Joint Sahel Unit, the Spanish Cooperation Africa direction and the Spanish Parliamentarian Development Committee and releasing a report in 2019 taking lessons of the politicisation of aid in protracted conflict in Afghanistan as applied to the Sahel. This has contributed to a more rapid EU response to the food crisis in southern Mauritania and northern Senegal.

In Mali and Niger, as members of the Humanitarian Country Team, we have led bilateral dialogue with national and regional government authorities and with the EU to challenge restrictions on humanitarian space such as the imposition of armed escorts in Niger.

This is why across our HQs, regional offices and country programmes we have established relations with parliamentarians and meet regularly with officials from foreign affairs and development ministries. Amongst other things, this has enabled us to influence the US multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy and Global Food Security Strategy and to support the set-up of a new all-party Parliamentary Group on Nutrition for Growth in the UK. In India, the HQ has conducted multiple workshops with parliamentarians and policy makers. Action Against Hunger teams have been heard multiple times at the French and European Parliament talking about Nigeria, Yemen, arms sales, triple nexus, application of International Humanitarian Law, etc.

We work with our allies across the sector too, playing a leading role in key working groups and alliances such as SUN Civil Society Platforms, Inter Action, Bond, Coordination Sud, VOICE, the CONGDE, the Coalition for Food & Nutrition Security, global clusters and IASC groups, and the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN).

Through such alliances we are able to advocate at major global events. We influenced the C7 Civil society recommendations for G7 leaders on health, food security and nutrition and conflict, and participated in the August 2019 G7 Summit. We also participated in the World Health Assembly and in agroecology discussions at the October Committee on Food Security (CFS), leading to the CFS decision to develop an agroecology 'toolbox' in 2020.

Acting alone and with these alliances we have held several lobby tours in 2019, including on Yemen, Myanmar, Syria, Sahel, occupied Palestinian Territories, Chad and DR Congo. This has enabled us to participate in several decision making processes such as an EU and Swiss compliance dialogue on humanitarian exceptions to sanctions in Syria. Our engagement with partners such as SIDA, ECHO and OFDA has led to them offering support to promote in new contexts the use of a joint vulnerability profiling tool developed by Madrid HQ and the Syria Mission.



FOR FOOD.
AGAINST HUNGER
AND MALNUTRITION.

FOR CLEAN WATER.
AGAINST KILLER DISEASES.

**FOR CHILDREN THAT GROW
UP STRONG.**
AGAINST LIVES CUT SHORT.

**FOR CROPS THIS YEAR,
AND NEXT.**
AGAINST DROUGHT
AND DISASTER.

FOR CHANGING MINDS.
AGAINST IGNORANCE AND
INDIFFERENCE.

**FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER.
FOR EVERYONE. FOR GOOD.**

FOR ACTION.
AGAINST HUNGER.

