

ASB-Foreign Aid Annual Report 2014



We help
here and now.

 **ASB**
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

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Foreword

Dear Reader

There has been no reduction in the number of disasters during 2014, either. In Northern Iraq, tens of thousands of people are fleeing the brutal savagery of the IS militants. In Eastern Ukraine, too, thousands of refugees are fleeing the conflict regions. Many of them escape with little more than the clothes on their backs. In camps and emergency shelters, they hope that one day they will be able to return to their homes.

In West Africa, aid workers have been dealing with the Ebola epidemic. Aside from treating the infected, the focus was on protecting those who were still healthy from becoming infected and providing specific information and hygiene measures to contain the spread of this disease.

Largely unnoticed by the German public, another disaster hit the Balkans in the spring of 2014: hundred-year floods destroyed large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The floods caused great destruction in Serbia, too, and made thousands of people homeless.

ASB foreign aid staff and volunteers are operating in all of those crisis and disaster-struck regions. They also support people in distress in places that were affected by disaster some while ago but are still in

need of aid; places such as Haiti, Indonesia, Georgia, Nicaragua, Niger, and Uganda.

We would like to extend our immense gratitude to our staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts. But there are many others who join the ranks of those who provide help: our members and contributors, sponsors and partners. Their support enables us to fulfil our mission and provide assistance where it is most desperately needed. Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for making this possible!



Knut Fleckenstein
ASB-Federal Chairman



Dr. Marcus Kreutz
Interim ASB-Federal Managing Director



Edith Wallmeier
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Non-bureaucratic aid in the aftermath of disaster

In 2014, we saw a seemingly unending number of disasters. The civil war in Syria and the brutal IS terror in Northern Iraq as well as the fighting on Maidan in Kiev, the annexation of the Crimea and finally the fighting in Eastern Ukraine placed great demands on the aid workers. The challenge was – and still is – to provide shelter and essential relief supplies for tens of thousands of refugees.

At the same time in West Africa, the Ebola epidemic claimed thousands of victims, posing grave challenges to the community of humanitarian aid workers. Treating the sick and containing the epidemic are top priorities. In the Balkans, hundred-year floods demanded a large-scale operation manned by staff as well as volunteers.

As prescribed by the ASB-Charter, many helpers were on hand in these and other operations to provide humanitarian aid and help set up health care and social structures.

Photo: ASB/T.Lipohat

Northern Iraq

“I just want my husband to come back. We’ve already lost an uncle and two other family members in this war,” said Hatice*, a young mother, in November 2014 in Northern Iraq. The Yezidi lives in Berseve refugee camp not far from Zakho, a city near the Turkish-Iraqi border. She is one of the 1.5 million people who had to flee from the Islamic State (IS) militia during 2014. Many of them escaped with just the clothes they were wearing.

At first, most of the displaced and refugees stayed in makeshift shelters, schools, unfinished buildings or had to camp out in the open. By now, refugee camps have been set up that offer better protection against rain, snow or heat.

ASB has been intermittently active in Northern Iraq since 1991 and has implemented large-scale projects for refugees and the civilian population. The cooperation with the Directorate of Health (DoH) and the regional government has worked so well over the years that the DoH as well as the Kurdish Regional Government have asked ASB for help with the current refugee crisis.

In August 2014 and in cooperation with German medical aid organisation action medeor, ASB sent an initial so-called Emergency Health Kit to the Dohuk

regional health authority. The Emergency Health Kit comprises enough medical supplies for 10,000 people for three months and was distributed to regional health units to ensure medical care for the population and the refugees alike.

Winterization programme

Following an extremely hot summer with temperatures of up to 50 degrees Celsius in the shade, a cold winter set in at the end of September. With financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office, ASB embarked on a large-scale winterization programme. From October onwards, aid workers distributed stoves, fuel, warm blankets and winter clothing to those families most in need of help in refugee camps near Berseve. Camp Berseve I accommodates some 11,000 people and Berseve II more than 9,000. Both camps are filled to capacity.

The young mother from the Sinjar mountains is grateful for the help received: “We’ve been given most of what we need to survive. I also receive support from my parents-in-law whose tent is next to ours. Living in these tents is OK. But the girls need their father who is fighting the IS. I need my husband, and my parents-in-law want their son back safe and sound.”

Basic medical care

But people in the camps require not only material aid. Living in tents and under difficult hygiene conditions caused a steep increase in illness. In late 2014, ASB set up a health center in Berseve I to improve basic medical care and, together with the local health department – the Directorate of Health – and funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, assumed responsibility for the medical care of refugees. In December, ASB distributed 2,500 aid packages containing soap, shower gel, washing powder, shampoo, disinfectant, nappies, toothbrushes, detergents and other hygiene products.

Hygiene education

Supported by the Austrian aid organisation “Nachbar in Not”, ASB organised additional courses in hygiene during December 2014. Multipliers from within the ranks of the refugees were trained in order to achieve a more sustainable dissemination of information. This resulted in a significantly higher degree of acceptance by the target group. The hygiene teachers showed the families how to stay healthy within the difficult conditions of a refugee camp and how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Special attention was given to those with additional risk factors such as children and pregnant women.

Photo: ASB/T. Lipohar



Ukraine

When the situation in Ukraine escalated in March 2014 and the Maidan riots in Kiev resulted in deaths and thousands injured, the European Samaritan Associations expressed solidarity with their Ukrainian partners by donating 30,000 euros to the Ukrainian Samaritan Association (SSU). Seven other European Samaritan Associations also provided funds to ensure ongoing medical care for injured Maidan activists. “Since signing the Treaty of Accession of the Crimea to the Russian Federation, Ukraine is once again faced with a crucial challenge. The European Samaritan Associations are demonstrating their solidarity with the Ukrainian population in this situation and are setting a sign for peace,” stated ASB-Federal Chairman Knut Fleckenstein (MEP).

Financial support from Samaritan partner associations enabled the purchase of medical supplies so that the injured could be cared for. “Many of the activists who suffered bullet wounds, burns or cuts during the riots did not receive proper medical care. Therefore, the Ukrainian Samaritan Association (SSU) extended its service to continue to look after more than 100 seriously injured even weeks after the fighting, administering follow-up medical care,” says Svetlana Levkovska, Managing Director of SSU in Kiev.

Start of the civil war

The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and the military conflicts with separatist forces in Eastern Ukraine finally resulted in civil war breaking out in Ukraine in the summer of 2014. Since then, more than a million people have fled, predominantly from Eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Most of them escaped only with whatever they could fit into a bag. Julia (name changed) was amongst those who fled the ongoing bombardment. With her two children, she ran for 30 kilometres across fields and forests: “The streets were too unsafe, you never knew whether there'd be more shooting or whether you'd be apprehended by a patrol.” Most of the internally displaced persons (IDP) were headed for Kharkiv and Kiev regions, where they were initially housed in sanatoriums, holiday homes or empty buildings.



Photo: SSU

The authorities found themselves overwhelmed by the onslaught of IDP, and the Ukrainian Ministry for Social Affairs asked ASB and the Ukrainian Samaritan Association (SSU) for help. With financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office, ASB started its winter aid programme in November because with the onset of winter, the humanitarian situation worsened. Many of the shelters were not winter-proof, there was a lack of warm clothing and insufficient supply of food. Urgent help was needed, most especially for mothers with children, the disabled, the old and the chronically ill.

Support of refugees

Ukrainian Samaritans distributed some 200,000 food parcels amongst the refugees, each parcel containing pasta, rice, wheat, buckwheat groats, canned foods, tea, biscuits, oat flakes, toilet paper, washing powder, toothpaste and soap. Medicines sufficient for 2,500 treatments were purchased. Some 4,000 refugees received winter aid parcels containing warm winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves, socks and bedding. Another 100 people were resettled in winter-proof accommodation, thanks to Samaritan efforts.

SSU volunteers invested hundreds of hours of work in sorting and distributing the relief supplies. Some of the refugees also helped with packing and distributing the goods to other displaced persons. So, too, did Julia from Luhansk, who now shares a room with



Photo: SSU

another family at the Kiev Samaritan's children's emergency shelter. "Here, my children can find some peace, there is water and food and we don't have to be afraid of bombs. I wanted to give something back and so I asked if I could volunteer."

The project will continue during 2015 and will be extended to other regions. For over 20 years, ASB has had a relationship with the Ukrainian Samaritans on many different levels, and this extensive partnership has resulted in numerous projects including setting up community services, youth encounters, fundraising and relief supply transportation as well as First Aid training.

Lebanon

During 2014, the conflict in Syria escalated even further. More than 200,000 people have died, some nine million – roughly half the population – are fleeing their homes. Most of the refugees are in Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. In early 2014, more than one million Syrian refugees were registered in Lebanon, a country with a population of just four million. By comparison, this would equate to 25 to 30 million refugees arriving in Germany. This massive influx of refugees has had an impact on everyday life in Lebanon: on rents, infrastructure, food prices, the job market, water and electricity as well as the health and education system, making it even more difficult for the refugees to stand on their own feet.



Therefore in January 2014, ASB and its partner organisation Solidar Suisse, funded by the German relief coalition Aktion Deutschland Hilft, supported the most desperately poor refugee families in Lebanon. ASB distributed “Newcomer Kits” to recently arrived refugee families in the South and El Nabatieh regions in the south of the country. As specified by the United Nations, these kits contained essential relief supplies such as mattresses, cooking utensils, blankets, soap, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hygiene products and essentials for babies. These kits are designed to enable families to start over without having to use up their meagre savings to purchase basic supplies. Also distributed were “Dignity Kits” for Muslim women, containing a scarf, clothing and female hygiene products.

At the same time, the refugees received information regarding official registration, including the processes involved, where to register and any other related issues. This was intended to increase the willingness of refugee families to join the official refugee register, which would ensure long-term support.

Qualifying refugee families were selected in close cooperation with the local Lebanese authorities and a tenth of the aid parcels was distributed to poor Lebanese households to prevent tension between newcomers and local families.

The Gambia

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa started in Guinea at the end of December 2013 and is the largest outbreak of its kind to date. By December 2014, 20,206 people had been infected with Ebola and 7,905 had died from this fatal disease. The countries most affected were Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Nigeria.

In October 2014, ASB initiated a project for the prevention and containment of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa/The Gambia. The health centers in The Gambia – its neighbouring country of Senegal had also suffered an outbreak of Ebola – had neither suitable protective clothing nor disinfectant at the time. Medical equipment was inadequate and staff was unaccustomed to handling it. The aim was to train staff at the ASB medical center as well as 30 other health centers in The Gambia, to equip them with the required protective suits, gloves and disinfectants and to support them with continued additional help.

Part of the project was an information programme aimed at patients and the general population, to make them aware of the dangers posed by Ebola. Trained staff acted as multipliers by training their colleagues. They learned how to properly handle the protective suits, how to set up isolation units for suspected cases and how to safely move Ebola patients to better



Photo: ASB Gambia

equipped facilities. Hygiene measures were revised in cooperation with health center staff and amended to achieve a significant improvement in the protection of staff during their day-to-day work.

Since 2002, ASB Gambia has run a medical center in Serrekunda, caring for some 34,000 patients a year.

Gaza

For seven weeks in July and August 2014, there was war in the Gaza Strip. Rocket attacks, gun battles and a ground offensive claimed more than 2,000 lives and some 10,000 injured. Thousands were made homeless or had to flee and seek shelter in emergency accommodation. According to the United Nations, more than 1.8 million people were affected by the conflict.



In cooperation with the German relief coalition Aktion Deutschland Hilft, ASB provided 10,000 euros for emergency relief to refugee families in the Gaza Strip. Old people and families were supplied with urgently needed hygiene products and household goods as a matter of priority, and mobility aids were distributed to senior citizens and the disabled. The distribution of relief goods was undertaken by aid workers of HelpAge – like ASB a member of the relief coalition Aktion Deutschland Hilft. In total, 1,811 elderly women and men received help quickly and without any red tape as part of this emergency relief effort.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In May 2014, the Balkans were hit by massive flooding caused by the heaviest rainfalls since records began 120 years ago. The government declared a countrywide state of emergency and, on 16 May 2014, asked for international support. Many thousands of people lost their homes when the floods destroyed their houses and flats. All in all, more than 38,000 homes were directly affected by the flooding, and fields and harvests have been destroyed.

Tens of thousands of households were without electricity and even worse, without clean drinking water. More than 100,000 Bosnians had to be evacuated. In Bosnia and Herzegovina alone, more than 900,000 people were affected by the floods. Team members from the ASB country office in Sarajevo and the Bosnian Samaritans of Žene sa Une started their joint operation as soon as the disaster struck, distributing aid packages to the most badly affected families. ASB immediately contributed an initial 30,000 euros for this purpose and a total of 475 families in Orasje/Domaljevac, Breko, Šamac, Odzak, Vukosavlje, Maglaj and Doboј municipalities were supplied with food and drinking water. Aid workers and the population alike remarked on the excellent coordination of emergency efforts. As an example, while in Orasje, ASB received a phone call from a local transport company, telling them about the extremely bad food situation in one of the flooded villages. The very next day, ASB was able to supply food and drinking water directly to the villagers.

Worst affected by the floods was the Northern Bosnian town of Šamac, where water supplies had collapsed due to flooding of the local waterworks. ASB dispatched their First Assistance Samaritan Team (FAST) to provide fast relief and prevent the spread of infectious disease. The volunteer team operated a water purification unit providing up to 36,000 liters of drinking water a day, sufficient for the daily needs of up to 7,000 people. FAST had also brought



9,000 ten-liter canisters for distributing the water to the population.

Financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, ASB continued to provide help after the emergency phase was over. 475 families in Posavina and Central Bosnia cantons were given cleaning supplies, hygiene products and household linen. To enable clean-up operations, the ten districts within

these two cantons were supplied with equipment comprising two generators, two water pumps and four chain saws each. Initially, the equipment was loaned free of charge to victims of the flooding. When the clean-up operation was over, the local civil protection authorities obtained the equipment so that it may be used in future emergencies.

In order to assist families whose homes had been completely destroyed by the floods, ASB is taking part in a rebuilding programme. In the Posavina region, more precisely in the towns of Šamac, Odzak, Orasje and Domaljevac, 500 new homes are being built for families who have lost literally everything to the water. As the authorities at the time lacked

especially the human resources to deal with choosing who would be entitled to this help, the first step was to define the selection criteria to determine those families that will receive a new home. ASB team members then clarified with the families what needs the new homes should meet. By the end of the year, 269 completed blueprints had been passed to the UN Refugee Agency who will manage the project until the families have moved into their new homes. The remaining 231 blueprints were completed by 30 April 2015.

Serbia

However, Bosnia was not the only country in the Balkans to be devastated by the hundred-year floods; Serbia was badly affected, too. Here, also, thousands of people had to be evacuated and many villages were cut off. It was thanks to the speedy reaction of ASB team members from the country office in Belgrade that emergency measures could be put in place just a few hours after the initial flooding. To start with, first priority was the distribution of relief supplies to families who had been cut off from the outside world and had not yet received any help. ASB team members carried food, blankets, tarpaulins and hygiene products across tree trunks and makeshift bridges or waded through the flooded areas, pushing wheelbarrows containing essential supplies.



Absolute priority was given to the provision of basic humanitarian aid to the area in and around Obrenovac, Krupanj and Valjevo, the towns worst hit by the floods of May 2014.

The volunteer helpers of the Serbian Samaritan Association (IDC) worked around the clock to look after the evacuated families in emergency shelters. Leisure activities and movies were organised for the children to take their mind off the emergency situation for a few hours each day.

Cleaning up homes and fields

Once the waters had receded, the focus of emergency aid shifted from distributing relief supplies to widening the cleanup operations of flood-damaged buildings and fields. With financial help from the German Federal Foreign Office, ASB supported 669 families in their efforts to rid their houses, flats and fields of the sludge left behind by the floods. ASB concentrated much of its efforts on helping Roma families, the disabled, families with a female head of household and families with young children.

In order to help the affected families to help themselves, ASB team members also distributed equipment for the clean-up operations. This included water- and sludge pumps as well as saws and cleaning products. During the cleanup operations, ASB worked alongside dozens of volunteers from within



Photo: ASB Serbia

the project region who were themselves affected by the floods. The active involvement of the people affected made this a highly accepted project within the municipalities and made it easier for people who had lost their homes in the floods to come to terms with their own personal “flood trauma”.

In cooperation with Austrian organisation “Volks-hilfe Solidarität” and with funding provided by “Nachbar in Not”, ASB succeeded in providing furniture to 40 families in need, so that they were able to refurbish their homes.

Life story:

A small shop brings great hope

Mazlum, who does not want to give his real name, was a soldier who fled when the IS wanted to recruit him. When the city of Mosul fell to the terrorists, he had to flee again, leaving everything behind.

Mazlum, his wife and their three children managed to escape with their lives but there had been no time to pack anything to take with them. And so the family reached Berseve refugee camp with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

ASB winter aid is welcomed

In the Berseve camps, ASB distributed winter clothing, blankets and stoves to the most destitute families. “There is a lot of rain in this region, especially during autumn and winter. The water turns the camps into huge mud holes and makes life even more desperate for people who often have not been able to escape with more than their very lives,” explains ASB Emergency Aid Expert Carsten Stork. Since Mazlums children were little and especially vulnerable to disease, the family not only received winter clothing and blankets but also hygiene products such as nappies, soap and disinfectant. All in

all, ASB distributed 2,500 so-called hygiene kits containing soap, shower gel, washing powder, shampoo, disinfectants, nappies, toothbrushes, cleaning equipment and towels to refugee families in Berseve.

But relief supplies alone are not enough to remain healthy in a refugee camp. “We were visited by a hygiene teacher,” says Mazlum. “She’d been trained by ASB and she showed us here in our tent what to do to make sure that the children and we ourselves don’t get ill.” ASB is concerned to ensure that all training takes place in the refugee families’ immediate surroundings. This ensures that hygiene teachers can respond directly to people’s questions and demonstrate how to properly use the available hygiene products so people have the best chances of remaining healthy.

And if something should go wrong after all, there is now a health station in the refugee camp, set up by

ASB. “It’s good to know that there is always help at hand if there is an emergency,” says the father of three.

Not just sitting around, waiting

The help he received from ASB encouraged Mazlum not to give up. “I’ve worked as a day labourer and I’ve set up a small shop here in the camp. I’ve made a make-shift tent and I sell fruit, eggs and anything else I can get at the market,” says the young man whose life had changed direction so abruptly. His children are proud of their father but they miss their friends, their toys. Most of all they miss going to pre-school or school where they would learn things. But at least they are safe and have some small perspective for the future. “The shop doesn’t make much money,” says Mazlum. “But this is better than just sitting around, waiting.”



Photo: ASB/T. Lipohar



Return to a new life

In 2014, the number of refugees worldwide was the highest since World War II. Over 51 million people had registered as refugees across the globe, with many remaining within their own country as internally displaced persons. But millions had to leave their country and were forced to look for shelter abroad.

Aside from natural disasters, during 2014 people lost their homes and livelihoods predominantly through war and armed conflict.

In many countries, ASB works to support refugees as part of its emergency relief programme, but in the Balkans and Georgia in particular, ASB also supports families wanting to return home and helps with the integration of those who are unable to return to their former homes.

Georgia

Georgia has always been a country where people from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds live together peacefully. The Eastern Georgian province of Kakheti in particular, with its main town of Akhmeta and the well-known Pankisi Gorge, is regarded as a prime example of a peaceful and integrated multicultural way of life. The Pankisi Gorge is home to tens of thousands of Georgians as well as several thousand Kists, an ethnic minority that has played an important role in the region's public and cultural life for decades.

As a result of the war in Chechnya in the late 1990s, several thousand Chechen fled into the Pankisi Gorge, about 25 km from Akhmeta. Some 90 percent of these refugees have been unable to return home. Life in such a remote valley is hard even under normal circumstances, but for the refugees, it is particularly hard as they try to make a new life for themselves. In Kakheti province, the number of people existing below or barely above the poverty line is extremely high. Every fifth person there is officially deemed destitute.

ASB aims to help the refugees as well as the indigenous population to find a way out of this extreme poverty. To achieve this, ASB, with European Commission funding, finances and supports the creation

of social enterprises, where local initiatives set up centers offering services and facilities for senior citizens, children and young people. The service centers provide jobs and training, and the community services such as day-care for children, mobile care and transport services, benefit all of the people living there. Setting up and further developing social enterprises also promotes contacts between local initiatives, local people and local administration, making it easier for the impoverished families to access available help.

In Kvemo Kartli, a region to the southeast of Georgia's capital Tbilisi, ASB works to set up social enterprises as well as develop strong partnerships between private initiatives and regional authorities. Compared to the country average of 15 percent, the regional share of impoverished families is a rather low nine percent, but of those entitled to help and benefits, only every fifth person actually receives it. In Bolnisi, Marneuli, Rustavi, Tetrtskaro and Gardabani municipalities in particular, people are cut off from many of the available benefits on offer.

For two years, from January 2013 to December 2014, ASB supported private individuals and initiatives in Kvemo Kartly region wanting to set up a children's day-care facility, a mobile care service and evening classes with the intention of creating support services and jobs. This resulted in three sustainable services and 15 jobs.

That projects of this kind can also entail problems became clear, when those responsible within the municipal administration were replaced and the newcomers initially focussed on different priorities. “For initiatives like these to be successful in the medium and long term, you need staying power and reliable partnerships based on trust between the service providers and the authorities,” explains ASB Project Coordinator Bernd Ilg. This is why ASB trains not only the budding entrepreneurs setting up the service centers but also municipal and regional authority employees, so that a stable cooperation base would be developed and help for families in need would be continually improved in the rural areas.

The positive experiences ASB had with this approach resulted in the Georgian government and the European Commission inviting ASB to work together with the Georgian charity “Abkhazeti” (CHCA) on a concept for introducing a nationwide funding programme to support setting up social and community service centers. Since September 2014, ASB now works with other national and international aid organisations on building a platform to showcase exemplary start-up and training concepts, and to provide networking facilities for stakeholders from politics and industry.



Photo: SSK

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Headlines in Germany about the Balkans are predominantly about the growing numbers of asylum seekers. Hardly any papers report on the reasons why many families can no longer see any hope for a promising future and a better life for their children within their own country. Reality is that, especially for socially deprived and marginalized families, it is incredibly hard to earn a living and to lead the kind of life that would provide a credible future for their children and grandchildren. Since the Balkan war, the economy has been stagnant and this as well as the current economic crisis makes it all but impossible for socially weak families to stand on their own feet.

For many years, ASB has championed the cause of such families and tried to better integrate them into society. The aim is firstly to provide direct help to the families. And secondly, it is to encourage all those who stay to become involved in the reconstruction of the federal states and their civil society.

September 2014 saw the start of another project in the city of Gorazde in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kotor Varos across the border in Serbia. With financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office and financial contributions from Gorazde and Kotor Varos municipalities and ASB, 16 persons each from

the two municipalities that were deemed most in need of support were given the opportunity to take part in a business start-up training programme. During the training, which ended in April 2015, the participants learned how to set up and successfully manage and administer a small enterprise. They learned where to apply for grants and how to open up sales channels, and they learned to use simple marketing practices. Participants were selected by a committee consisting of representatives from social services, the municipal administration and ASB. To prevent misuse of start-up capital and to ensure that the entire community would benefit, the committee decided that participants would be supplied with the equipment and seeds required for setting up a small-scale gardening enterprise.

As soon as the greenhouses that form part of the new enterprise have been built, all of the new gardeners will receive intensive training sessions in their own garden so that in 2015, they'll be able to success-



fully grow seasonal fruits and vegetables. And so, 32 families who had previously relied on welfare only for their survival are now on their way back into a self-reliant life. As an additional benefit, the produce they grow in their own gardens will not only provide an income but also a more healthy diet. By selling their produce on the local markets, the families will establish contact with other inhabitants of the region and, little by little, the current social stigmatisation will become a thing of the past.

Help for Roma families

The Roma are one of the population groups that have a particularly hard time in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of the approximately 40,000 Roma currently living in Bosnia, some 17,000 (about 4,500 households) still are in urgent need of state support. Since June 2013 and in cooperation with “Hilfswerk Austria”, ASB has supported a total of 152 Roma families in the Bihac region to enable them to better integrate economically as well as socially. Many of the families lived in makeshift shelters made from corrugated sheeting and tarpaulins, so that the initial part of the project was to provide the families with homes that were fit for human habitation. By the end of December 2014, ASB had constructed a total of 64 small houses and 88 public housing units in 14 villages. Nearly all the families were able to move into their new homes by the end of the year.

In cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the OSZE and the UNHCR, a suitable plot of land was selected to ensure that in 2015, the last remaining families will finally have a proper roof over their heads.

All the 152 beneficiary families took part in ASB-run advisory sessions providing information on where and how to register with the local administration, how to enrol their children for day-care or school and where to go for medical treatment and advice. As the families had lived in almost total isolation before, these advisory sessions are essential for a return to society and integration into the community.

Access roads were constructed for the new settlements and ASB also provided electricity, water and drainage so that more than 100 families were able to benefit directly from the new infrastructure. ASB ran small-business start-up advisory courses for 80 members of the Roma community in Bihac. These courses will be continued throughout 2015 to ensure the families have as much information and practical know-how as possible when they embark on their new venture.

To ensure ongoing success and provide reliable points of contact for the families, ASB supported the 14 Roma associations actively working in the Bihac region, to enable them to employ more staff so they can offer further advisory sessions and other assistance. ASB also conducted training sessions for local

and regional administration social services and housing office staff to make them aware of the challenges and issues that confront the Roma.

The current project is the second one with ASB working in cooperation with Hilfswerk Austria for the integration of Roma families in Bosnia. It is clearly recognizable that the municipalities continue to increase their efforts towards a better coexistence. For example, the regional administration contributed more than 500,000 euros towards the current construction and training projects and provided practical technical help when required, without the need for unnecessary red tape.

Help for the victims of landmines

In Bosnia as well as in Serbia, ASB works to help people who have become victims of landmines. Even decades after the end of the war, there are still

landmines hidden in the soil of both countries. And the May 2014 floods have dislodged many mines previously discovered and located with warning markers, so that they have again become potential threats to life. Many victims of landmines – especially those injured since the war had ended – are still traumatised. With disabilities that for many of the victims have been so severe that their mobility is permanently restricted, many of the injured are becoming increasingly isolated.

From February 2013 to June 2015, ASB has been supporting 433 people in 23 Bosnian municipalities and in the Brcko district of Serbia who live with injuries caused by landmines.

All the participants take part in courses for the start-up and successful management of small-scale enterprises. In 2014, the conclusion of these courses was an analysis of the local economic situation. The participants developed business plans they were obliged to present to a commission comprising representatives of ASB and participating training partners (Eco Sport Group, Izbor Plus). The commission selected the 280 most promising business ideas and start-up plans and will support these with start-up funding, regular consultancy sessions and evaluations. The competitive nature of this project shows the idea behind this approach: The motto “To Earn – Not to Get” is designed to motivate the participants to not just settle for accepting aid. Rather, the aim is to work towards earning a living in the future, and by doing



so, develop a new optimism and feel like a fully valued member of the community again.

By the end of 2014, initial funding had been provided for 162 of the business start-ups, with the remainder setting up in 2015. Most of the new businesses are agricultural such as farms with livestock, bee-keeping or greenhouse vegetable gardening, but also other small-scale enterprises such as a carpenter's or an electrician's workshop will improve not only the lives of the new businessmen but also those of the entire neighbourhood.

The commission members were most surprised that not one of the participants whose business plan had not been selected lodged an appeal. "We expected those that were rejected to besiege the commission and plead to be accepted," ASB Regional Director Elmira Bojadzic reported. "But there wasn't one single complaint. This tells us that the selection process has been very transparent and those who were not selected now know which parts of their business plans they need to revise."

Serbia

In May 2014, the heaviest rainfall since records began caused extreme floods in the Balkans. In Serbia as well as Bosnia dozens of people died and tens of thousands had to be evacuated. Thousands of houses were



Photo: ASB SEE

made uninhabitable or even totally destroyed. For weeks on end, roads and other parts of the infrastructure were unusable. The cost of the damage in Serbia alone is estimated to be in excess of 1.5 billion euros.

When the waters had receded and after the initial clean-up operation, ASB embarked upon a massive reconstruction programme. 332 families, whose homes remain habitable but who had lost literally all of their belongings to the floods, were given basic items of furniture, kitchen utensils and other essential furnishings. 164 families were supported by ASB in their efforts to rebuild their partially damaged homes.

ASB is also building new houses for 22 families whose homes had been swept away by the floods. For 172 small and medium businesses that had been badly

affected by the floods, ASB provided financial help for reconstruction and 34 other businesses received building materials so they could carry out repairs.

The reconstruction of houses proved particularly difficult, because in most cases, the plots of land where the houses had stood no longer exist: they disappeared in landslides or were swept away when rivers burst their banks. So the first step was to clarify the legal situation and find new plots of land for the families affected. However, there were unexpected silver linings – for example, Loznica municipality provided ASB with plots of land for seven new houses.

Help for refugees and the displaced

Thousands of refugees and displaced people from the Balkan wars still live in Serbia in temporary accommodation. For several years now, ASB has contributed to rehoming the refugees in safe accommodation or, if this is an option, supported them in their return home.

From February 2013 until the end of November 2015, ASB is implementing another building programme for refugees. Funded by ASB and the European Union, homes for 73 families are being built in Smederevo, Gadzin Han and Vranje municipalities. By the end of 2014, 64 families had already been able to move into their new homes. Because the families had no financial resources, ASB provided beds, chairs, a table and other furniture for the initial furnishing of their new homes.

Two of the collection centers that had been in use since the mid-1990s could finally be closed after the 64 families had moved out. Once this project is finished and all the families have moved, the third and last collection center in the region will finally be shut down. During 2015, the project will also focus on integrating the families into the communities. Many of the families now benefitting from the project have lived in cramped conditions in collection centers since 1995 and had very little contact with the outside world. It is therefore quite a challenge to enable them to adopt a new outlook on life and establish connections with their neighbours, potential employers and



Photo: ASB SEE

the authorities. However, ASB's expertise gathered in similar situations over many years does show that working closely with the displaced and their new neighbours yields good results.

On good terms with the neighbours

In July 2013, ASB set up a project in the Serbian city of Zrenjanin aimed at a better coexistence of local inhabitants and migrants. By November, ASB had provided prefabricated houses for four refugee families and business set-up training for members of 16 families. The initial plan had been to provide these business-training courses for 12 families only, but thanks to a reduction in cost, four more families were able to take part.

In the Serbian town of Vrsac, too, ASB was involved in the integration of refugees, the displaced and returnees into the community. In 2014, 14 displaced families who cannot return home received support to finish building their homes. Again in Vrsac, 16 families were able to attend business-start-up training sessions and, with the aid of an ASB start-up grant, set up small-scale businesses that will enable them to earn their own living in the future.

People are especially keen to invest their start-up grant in small tractors so that they can start an agricultural business. But the applications also show many requests for basic bee-keeping equipment, tools for soil cultivation or greenhouses.

South Eastern Europe

Many of the problems in the successor states of the former Yugoslavia and its neighbours are trans-border problems. In order to strengthen networking amongst civil society stakeholders in the region, which in turn ensures greater sustainability of the work being undertaken, ASB has initiated cross-border projects.

From December 2012 to November 2014, ASB, in cooperation with its partners Solidar, OGI, LIR CD, EDC, CLARD, SOS Telephone – all of them national non-governmental organisation networks in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia – worked to achieve an improvement of social and community services.

Unemployment is very high in all the participating countries; many people subsist below poverty level and many senior citizens and disabled people are marginalized. This is why ASB advocates support for civil society organisations and aid networks to create viable medium to long-term social structures in the participating countries. The cross-border project is also designed to make people realise that it is worthwhile to stand up for one's own rights and that joint involvement for an issue can initiate changes at national level and lead to success.

Within the framework of this project, a joint online platform was set up in 2014. Participating organisations and projects present themselves on www.iris-see.eu. Although predominantly a networking facility for various civil society stakeholders, the platform is also accessible to interested persons who want to become involved in a particular issue. An e-learning-course on organisational development was developed and has already been taken up by more than 150 participants.

Furthermore, two conferences took place in the EU Parliament during 2014 and between December 2012 and November 2014, the IRIS network supported 23 grass roots projects all working to secure sustainable funding for social and community services – five each in Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and three in Kosovo. By now, more than 150 social and civil society organisations are networked through IRIS.

For more information:



Kosovo

Since the end of the civil war between the countries of the former Yugoslavia, thousands of refugees are living in Serbia. In 1995, a total of 500,000 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia and 210,000 from Kosovo were registered in Serbia. For the past 20 years, the International Community has supported families in their efforts of returning to their homes or, if this was not possible, making a new life in their new home. ASB has been active in Serbia since 1999 and part of its involvement is the support of refugees wanting to return to Kosovo. But ASB also supports those refugees that are unable to return in their efforts to integrate into their new home.

In February 2014, ASB set up another programme for refugee families and the communities they live in, based on successfully run projects during the past few years. With funding from the European Union, ASB works to secure a decent life for 208 Kosovan families still in temporary accommodation in Serbia. The endeavour to return the families to their old homes is made difficult by the current economic crisis, which has hit Kosovo especially hard and makes it a challenge for the returnees to earn a living. Hardly any public funds or donations are available to help families that lost their homes during the war rebuild their lives.



Photo: ASB SEE

Providing information

Faced with such challenging circumstances, ASB has identified as target groups for this programme not only the families themselves, but also representatives of the communities they had fled to and of the cities and villages they would like to return to.

With a large-scale PR campaign, 37 publications were produced to provide information to interested families about opportunities available to them upon return to their old homes. ASB also printed 200 posters and 2,000 flyers with information for refugees willing to return home, which were displayed in public areas and facilities frequented by refugees. Following a “round table” discussion organised by ASB for potential

returnees, 119 families declared that they would like to move back to their old home. By the end of 2014, ASB had already been able to support nine of these families with practical help for the preparation and implementation of their move: ASB transported the families’ belongings to their new old home and took care of the often complicated customs clearing formalities.

In order to speed up the reintegration process for the returnees and to prevent potential tension with the local population, ASB put out a call for proposals for sustainable community development projects. For communities with many returnees, this will result in new job opportunities from small-scale businesses such as carpentry and other workshops being set up in 2015 and 2016.

Life story:

A new home and a new life

Ljiljana rather likes springtime. But there is one night in May 2014 she really doesn't like to remember, and when she thinks of it, it still terrifies her. "I woke up and our house was flooded," the single mother of five says.

"It was the middle of the night and even though it had been raining heavily for several days here in Loznica, we were not prepared for such a disaster." She woke up her children, grabbed some clothing and shoes and with her children, ran out of the house through the rising water.

Floods that destroy entire livelihoods

The floods that swept through large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and some regions in Croatia in May 2014 rendered thousands of families homeless. Many, like Ljiljana, were caught unawares in the middle of the night with water running through their homes. Others lost their homes and all their possessions in landslides caused by the flooding.

The rains that had fallen in the region were the worst in 120 years. Entire areas were submerged;

numerous towns and villages were completely cut off. Thousands of people had to be evacuated and were waiting in emergency shelters. In Loznica in the western part of Serbia, more than 50,000 square metres of land were flooded, more than 10 kilometres of road were impassable. In this city alone, 760 houses were affected by the floods, 150 of them completely destroyed.

For Ljiljana and her five children things were bad but they could have been much worse: "A cousin offered us accommodation in his home. There were six of us in one room but it was warm and dry," the 42-year-old said. A neighbour brought some flour and salt so that the dedicated single mother could bake bread for her children. "I often felt desperate but I wanted to be strong for my children."

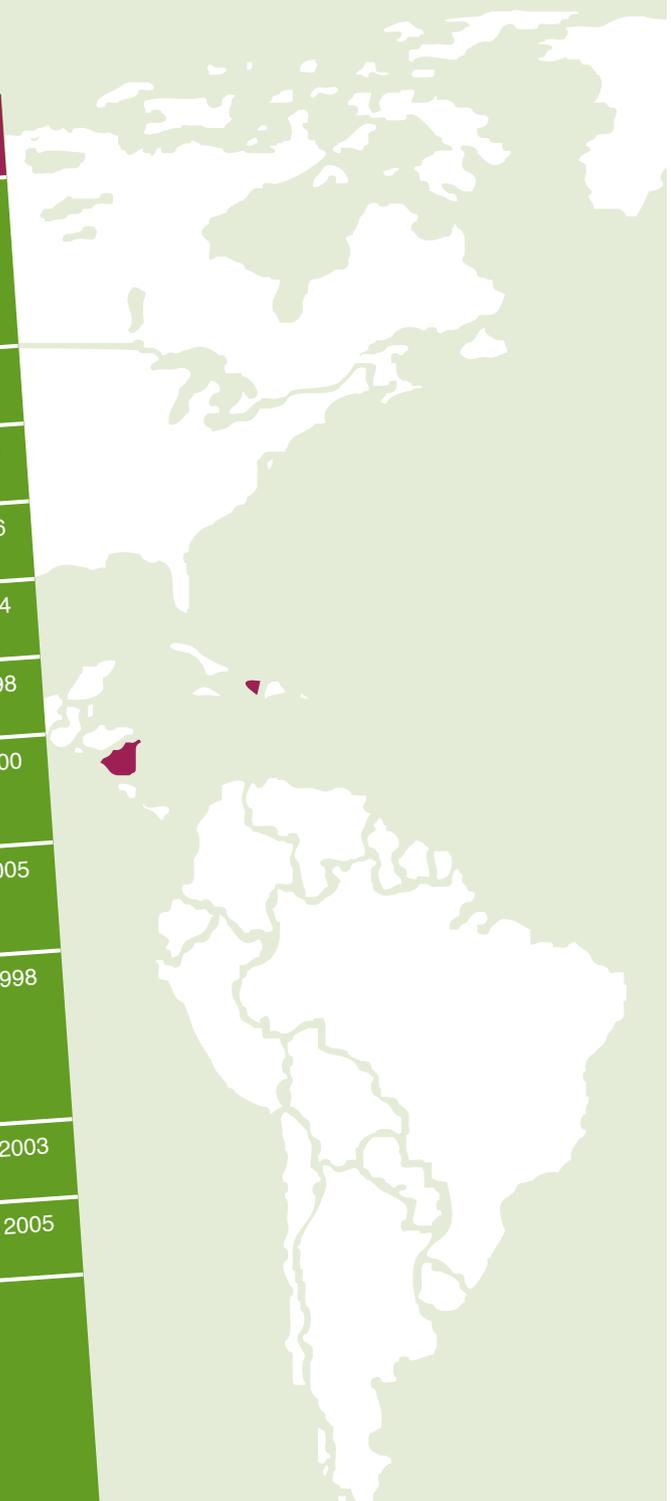
Being able to do homework in peace

With European Union funding, ASB has constructed new homes for families that had lost everything. Families like Ljiljana and her children. “Ever since my husband died, I’ve had to be responsible for everything. When the water destroyed our entire existence, I was at my wits’ end.” In early 2015 the family was able to move into their new home. “I am happy and grateful that we are able to live in a house again, thanks to ASB. The children can do their homework in peace and can sleep and play in safety. At long last, we can look towards the future again.”

Photo: ASB Serbia



Country	Programme Focus	Staff international/ national	since
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Reconstruction of houses, income-generating activities, promoting the development of local structures, support for marginalized groups of the population, emergency support and rehabilitation of infrastructure after the flooding	0/9	1992
Georgia	Inclusive disaster risk reduction, establishing social enterprises for social care services	2/26	2010
Haiti	School- and community based disaster risk reduction, training for earthquake-proof construction	4/35	2010
Indonesia	Community-based disaster risk reduction, advocacy activities in inclusive disaster risk reduction	1/30	2006
Iraq	Winter emergency aid for refugees and internally displaced persons	1/1	2014
Kosovo	Income-generating activities, rehabilitation of infrastructure	0/4	1998
Nicaragua	Community-based disaster risk reduction, disaster risk reduction with focus on families with disabled children	1/7	2000
Niger	Set-up and support of grain and feed banks, support of rural municipalities, income-generating activities for people with disabilities, food security	1/19	2005
Serbia	Reconstruction and rehabilitation for refugees and internally displaced persons, support of returnees to Kosovo, support of Roma families, emergency aid and rehabilitation of infrastructure after the flooding	1/7	1998
Sri Lanka	Reconstruction of houses for internally displaced persons	1/2	2003
Uganda	Restoration of rural livelihoods, protection work for disadvantaged children, young people and women	2/5	2005



ASB-Foreign Aid projects

Country	Type of aid	Donors	Volume in €
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Reconstruction of housing, income-generating schemes, promoting the development of local structures, support for marginalized population groups, emergency aid and rehabilitation of infrastructure after the flooding, support for mobile social care services	EU, AA, ADH, local government agencies, own funds	1,225,420.94
Georgia	Inclusive disaster risk reduction, consolidation of peace by setting up social enterprises for social care services, mobile care, social assistance for long-term hospitalized children, supporting the umbrella association	Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), ECHO, Non-profit development cooperation organisation (GEZA), ADH, Aktion Mensch, BPRM, own funds	582,086.37
Haiti	School-based disaster risk reduction, road repairs, training for earthquake-proof construction	BMZ, own funds	1,286,515.18
Hungary	Rescue services support	Own funds, ASB Chemnitz und Umgebung	5,705.73
Indonesia	Community-based disaster risk reduction, humanitarian aid, income-generating schemes, advocacy activities in inclusive disaster risk reduction	AA, BMZ, AusAID, ADH, own funds	750,125.28
Iraq	Winter emergency aid for refugees and internally displaced persons, distribution of relief items	AA, ADH, initiative "Nachbar in Not"	591,474.72
Kosovo	Income-generating schemes, rehabilitation of infrastructure	AA, EU, own funds	164,518.51
Latvia	Distribution of relief items, exchange of experts, supporting the umbrella organisation	Own funds, ASB Hamburg-West, EU NABiBB	19,410.39
Lithuania	Supporting the umbrella association and the branch office in Kaunas, youth exchange programmes, distribution of relief items, support for day-care centers, implementation of a social welfare center, support for transport services in Kaunas	Own funds, ASB Ostvorpommern, ASB Ostthüringen, ASB Hamburg-Nordost, ASB Wiesbaden, ASB Mittelhessen, ASB Warnow-Trebbel, ASB Stormarn-Segeberg	33,967.41
Nicaragua	Community-based disaster risk reduction, disaster risk reduction with a focus on families with disabled children, construction of drinking water supplies	DIPECHO, ADH, own funds, BMZ	533,914.99
Niger	Set-up and support of grain and feed banks, supporting rural municipalities in Gangara, income-generating schemes for people with disabilities, food security	EU, ADH, FAO, own funds, Dominikus Ringeisen Werk	175,569.35
Palestinian Territories	Humanitarian aid for victims of the military conflict	ADH	10,000.00
Philippines	Basic medical care for the population affected by typhoon Haiyan, disaster risk reduction projects with local partners	AA, ADH	29,212.88
Poland	Development of umbrella association, summer holiday camp, exchange of experts, implementation of mobile social services, participation project for victims of Nazi persecution in the region of Lesser Poland	Own funds, ASB Heilbronn-Franken, foundation EVZ	42,500.00

Country	Type of aid	Donors	Volume in €
Romania	Transport of relief items, support for establishing a home for the elderly	Own funds, ASB Helmstedt	6,200.00
Serbia	Rehabilitation of housing for refugees and displaced persons, income-generating activities, support of returnees to Kosovo, support of Roma families, support of mobile care services, trainings, emergency aid and rehabilitation measures after the flooding	EU, UNDP, BPRM, AA, ADH, own funds	3,381,144.46
Slovakia	Development of umbrella association	Own funds	8,550.00
Sri Lanka	Reconstruction of houses for internally displaced persons, peace building activities and conflict prevention, support for economic and social development	EU, ADH	53,091.00
Syria	Distribution of essential relief supplies for recently arrived refugees in the Lebanon, construction of emergency shelters for Syrian refugees	ADH	322,702.89
The Gambia	Supporting a health-care center, Ebola prevention measures	AA, ADH, own funds	133,923.24
Uganda	Food security measures, repair and maintenance of wells, restoration of rural livelihoods, protection work for disadvantaged children, young people and women	EU, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, ADH, own funds	1,680,521.68
Ukraine	Winter emergency aid for internally displaced persons, establishing a care center and mobile care service for the support of victims of Nazi persecution, support for an emergency children's facility, organisation of a youth exchange programme, support for the umbrella association, establishing medical and emergency services, organisation of encounters between former forced labourers and young people, support for injured Maidan activists, support for the Vorzel orphanage	AA, own funds, Foundation EVZ, ASB Bavaria, ASB Schleswig-Holstein, ASJ Schleswig-Holstein, ASB München, ASB Hamburg, Danish People's Aid, LSA, SFOP, ASSR, ASBÖ, White Cross, ASB Foundation "Stiftung Zukunft", ASB Lower Saxony, ASB Baden-Württemberg, ASB Hessen, ASB Saarland, ASB Thüringen	453,926.63
Cross-border projects	Support of the Federal Association and FAST Teams	Own funds	88,916.74
Total amount			11,579,398.39

as of 31/12/2014

Abbreviations: **AA:** German Federal Foreign Office **ADH:** German Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft) **ASBÖ:** Samaritan Association of Austria **ASSR:** Samaritan Association of Slovakia **AusAID:** Australian Agency for International Development **BMZ:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development **BPRM:** Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (US Department of State) **ECHO:** European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection **EU:** European Union **EU NABiBB:** European Union – National Agency Education for Europe at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training **FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organisation **Foundation EVZ:** Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" **LSA:** Samaritan Association of Latvia **SFOP:** Samaritan Association of Poland **UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme **UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund **UNHCR:** United Nations High Commission for Refugees **UNICEF:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund **UN Women:** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

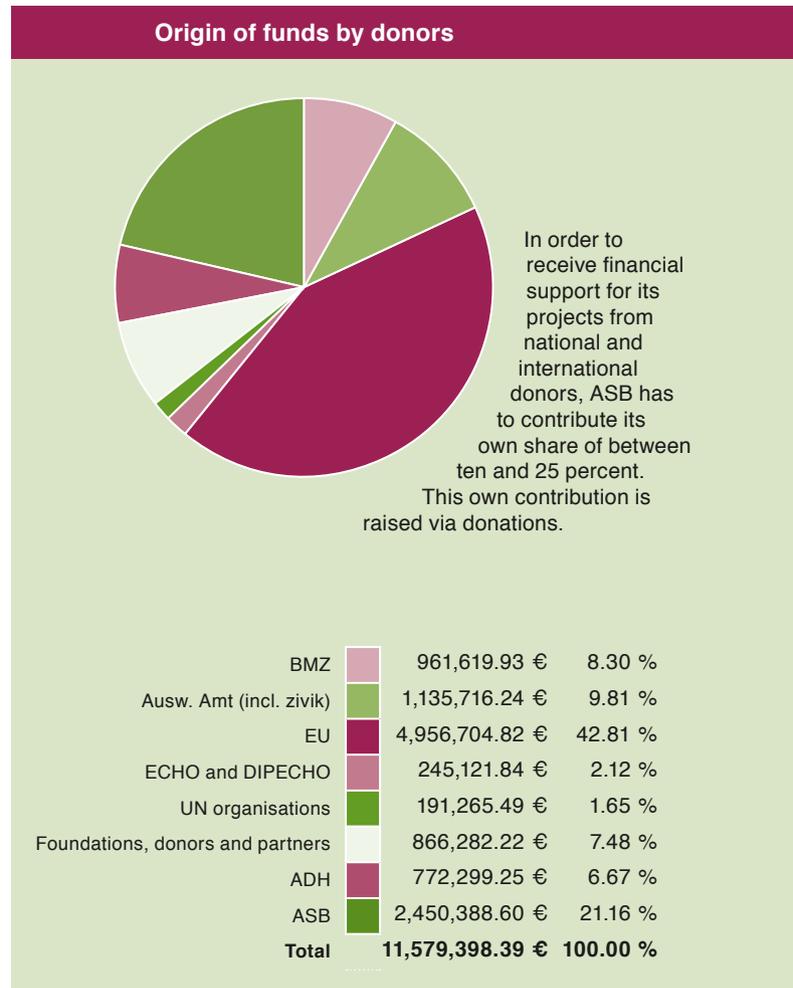
Facts and figures

ASB Foreign Aid is a department of the ASB Federal Association and therefore does not maintain a separate balance sheet. The annual volume of the projects implemented by ASB Foreign Aid in 2014 comprised a total of 11.579 million euros.

In 2014, the Foreign Aid Department at ASB Headquarters consisted of 13 permanent staff (head of department, project coordination, finance coordination) as well as one trainee and two temporary staff members.

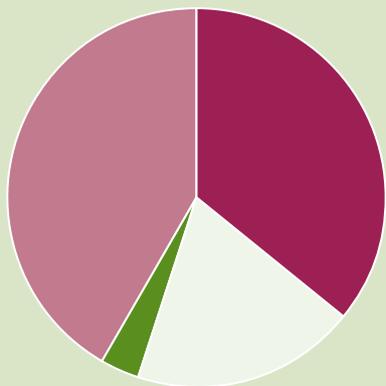
ASB Foreign Aid utilizes all monies according to the rules set out by German not-for-profit law that requires funds intended for a particular purpose to be appropriated for the purpose intended. Timely usage of funds as well as the responsible build-up of reserves is also part of these principles. For more information about ASB Foreign Aid's mission statement and quality assurance processes please see pages 74 to 77 of this annual report.

The charter of ASB Deutschland e.V. as well as the annual report including the ASB Federal Office financial statement is published on our website www.asb.de/en



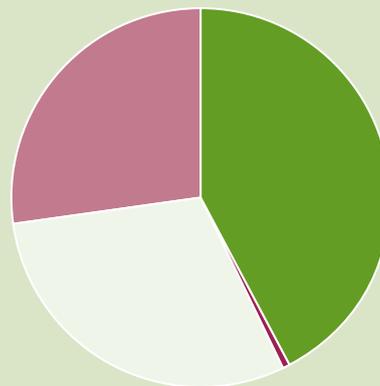
Abbreviations: ADH: Aktion Deutschland Hilft / German Relief Coalition
 Ausw. Amt: German Federal Foreign Office
 BMZ: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
 ECHO: European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
 DIPECHO: Disaster Preparedness ECHO

Project expenditure by sector



Humanitarian aid	4,160,103.96 €	35.93 %
Return and reintegration	2,226,017.73 €	19.22 %
International Samaritan Cooperation	384,672.37 €	3.32 %
Disaster risk reduction	4,808,604.33 €	41.53 %
Total	11,579,398.39 €	100.00 %

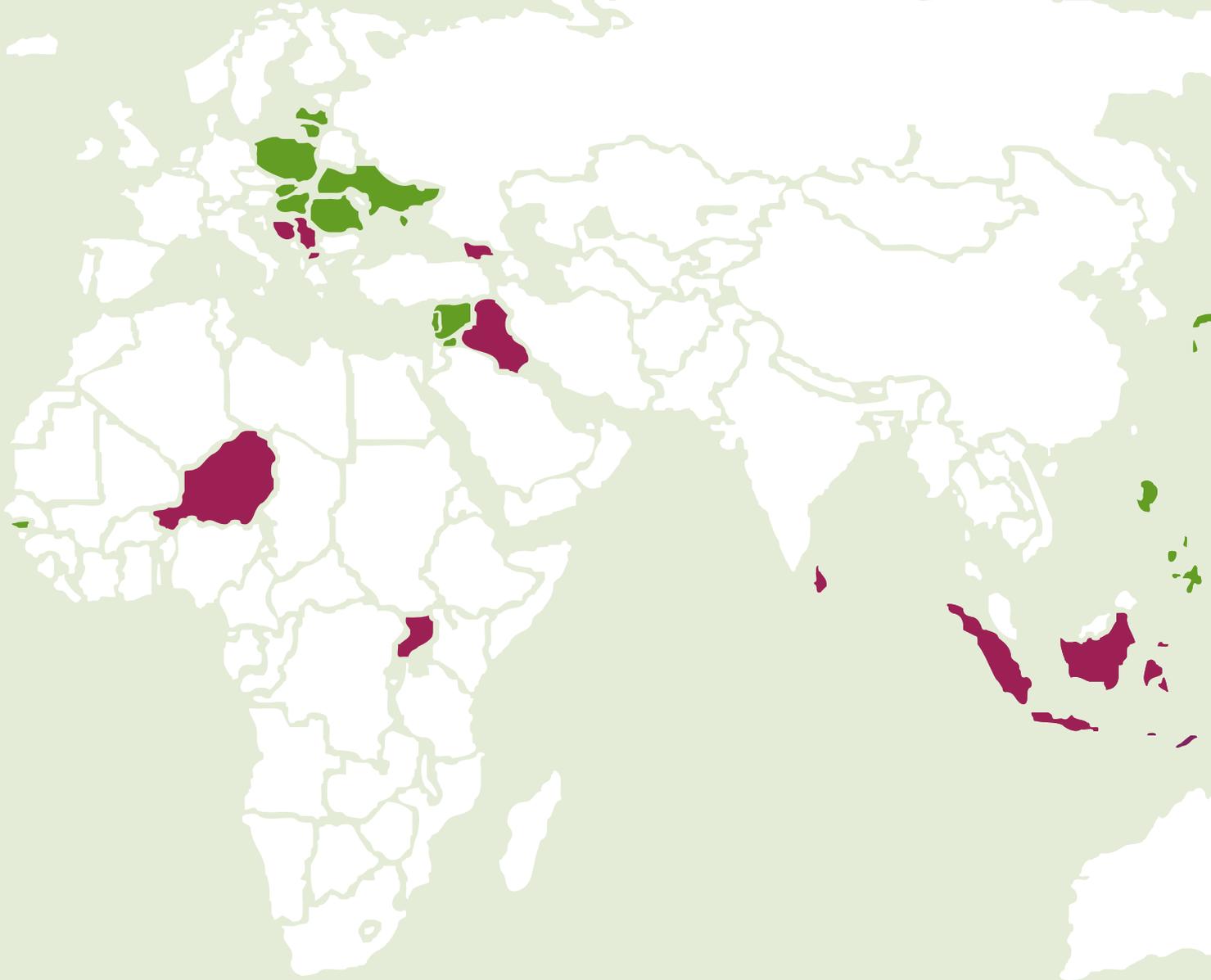
Source of own funds



Our project table shows "own funds". This overview illustrates what these funds consisted of in 2014.

Funds provided by ASB Federal Office from membership subscriptions	1,037,043.45 €	42.32 %
Interest received	5,822.03 €	0.24 %
Non-designated donations	740,546.28 €	30.22 %
Designated donations	666,976.84 €	27.22 %
Total	2,450,388.60 €	100.00 %

MISSION AREAS
WORLDWIDE



- ASB projects
- ASB country offices



Protection from natural hazards

Nobody can prevent natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods or hurricanes and climate change is likely to cause an increase in the number of such natural phenomena. But given the right preparations we can focus our efforts on lessening the impact of such disasters.

Using suitable preventive measures enables people to get to safety in time; using earthquake and storm-proof construction methods reduces damage to buildings and helps to safeguard livelihoods. This makes disaster reduction an important part of ASB foreign aid.

ASB is involved predominantly wherever natural disasters are most likely to strike: in Central America, Asia and Africa. ASB projects significantly reduce the population's risk and vulnerability factor whenever disasters strike.

Photo: ASB Georgia

Georgia

Georgia is greatly susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, landslides and avalanches. ASB's involvement concentrates on remote, hard to reach regions as well as those populated predominantly by minority groups and refugees, with additional focus on those especially vulnerable such as children, the disabled and the elderly. When disasters strike in these regions, those most affected are also the first at the scene to provide emergency help. Since 2011, ASB has run disaster risk reduction projects in preschools so that even the youngest know how to protect themselves and seek shelter in the event of a disaster.

“We Are Ready! – Building Disaster Resilient Preschools in Georgia” is the name given to the ASB disaster risk reduction programme in Georgian preschools. The programme includes evacuation drills, signposting of evacuation routes and small-scale construction work to ensure safer evacuation routes. Some 2,700 teachers also learn how to teach vital protection measures and First-Aid skills to the children. This programme is jointly funded by ASB, DIPECHO (the European Union's Disaster Preparedness programme) and Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

During 2014, the programme was implemented in 243 preschools. Some 12,200 preschool children aged between three and six years learned to help them-

selves and others during and after a disaster. They learned to seek shelter, place emergency calls and how best to help others – especially those who cannot help themselves. Knowledge acquired by children at this early age forms the basis for lifelong learning. The earlier you learn the appropriate skills for use during and after a disaster the better you will become at applying them. And in addition, children are natural multipliers, handing on their newly acquired knowledge to family, relatives and friends.

At a local level, 2014 saw the establishment of disaster management committees; First-Aid training courses were introduced and disaster risk reduction learning materials were developed and distributed. In addition to practical training and information, ASB has for years worked to increase the local population's awareness of inclusive disaster risk reduction. For example, 22 October 2014 was celebrated as “International Disaster Risk Reduction Day”, which included media coverage. “We Are Ready!” will run until November 2015.

Uganda

When ASB Federal Office decided in 2005 to set up a country office in Uganda, the civil war that had started in the late 1980s was still raging through the north of the East African country, with profound consequences for the population. Fighting between



ASB in Uganda 2005 – 2014

the rebel group “Lord’s Resistance Army” (LRA) under rebel leader Joseph Kony, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court, and the Ugandan army forced over two million people to flee to safer parts of the country. There, they often had to stay for years in camps for the displaced, most of them without any economic base. More than 30,000 children and young people were abducted during this time and abused as child soldiers, carriers and sex slaves.

ASB distributed relief supplies, built latrines and worked to combat violence against women and children. From 2007, many of the displaced were able to return to their homes and ASB provided assistance for their new start. In cooperation with FAO, projects concerning agriculture and food security were implemented in those communities. In the wake of the floods that devastated large parts of the east of the country in 2007, ASB Uganda extended its activities to include those regions and, after the initial emergency relief period, ran food security projects there, too.

The ASB country office was closed down in 2014, after successfully completing the last of the ongoing projects. We want to extend our sincere thanks for the tireless work and involvement especially by our local Ugandan colleagues, without whom the ASB operation in Uganda would not have become such a success story.

41,460



families received relief supplies such as blankets, tarpaulins, tools and kitchen utensils.

55,000

people were given soap and other vital hygiene articles.

20,000



families received seeds and gardening tools for growing fruit and vegetables.

33,000

people now have reliable access to water – because of 17 new wells, 3 reservoir dams and 184 rainwater tanks.

5,700

participants learned in 24 school gardens how to achieve a better yield under challenging climatic conditions.



4,481

latrines were constructed by ASB – each of them is being used by at least five family members.



Niger

Climate change brings great challenges for many countries. This puts an ever-increasing pressure, especially on such regions that are already regularly threatened by natural disasters and now have to cope with ever worsening climate and weather conditions.

One of the greatest dangers in Niger is the ongoing drought. During the past few years, arable and grazing land as well as watering places have severely dried out in many regions and the people living there have to make do with less and less food for themselves and their livestock. This often results in violent conflict between farmers and nomads.

This is why in the Zinder region, where ASB has worked to achieve a more reliable food supply situation since 2005, ASB is now involved in conflict management and developing mutual cooperation between the conflicting parties to achieve a fair distribution of resources.

In November 2013, a project began in Gangara municipality that aims to map the watering places as well as arable and grazing land. Financially supported by the European Union, the inhabitants of the region – farmers and nomads alike – are given a clearer overview of the available resources. ASB has also set up local committees in the municipality villages whose members have received mediator training. This will

in future enable them to intervene in arguments and conflicts in their early stages, and so help to resolve any problems.

To make sure that the mediators will be accepted by all the conflicting parties, ASB ensured that some of the 21 members elected to the committees were women. Also included in the committees were members of the local authority, of self-help organisations of agricultural and livestock farmers as well as youth groups.

160 representatives of the Council of Elders, 26 regional commissions for the allocation of grazing rights and a number of local and regional aid organisations were also given regular updates and so were integrated into the process. The intention is that in the future, all 113,000 inhabitants of this region will benefit from a peaceful coexistence and a fairer distribution of resources.

Helping the poorest of the poor to survive

But providing fairer access to watering places and arable land is not enough to help all the people in the region. Some families are so poor that they cannot survive the annual dry season without assistance. ASB has taken up the challenge of supporting the weakest and most destitute families. To achieve this, and at the same time promote the local market and help other families earn an additional income, ASB



Photo: ASB Niger

chose the “cash transfer” approach, which had already been successfully employed in 2013. 100 families in Dakoro District subsisting at way below poverty level as well as 22 families with disabled family members have been given cash grants from November 2014 to March 2015. The money is provided by donations and by “Aktion Deutschland Hilft”.

Cash grants are also provided for 18 refugee families who had fled to safety from the conflicts in the neigh-

bouring Republic of South Africa. The total number of people benefiting from this project is 899.

This grant not only enabled the families to purchase food and clothing but it also prevented them from having to adopt desperate measures in order to survive. Without the ASB cash grants the families would have to take their children out of school because they would need the tuition money for buying essentials to enable survival. The families would also be forced to sell some of their animals, their home or other

belongings and would find themselves slowly spiraling deeper and deeper into abject poverty. Last but not least, ASB aid also prevents families from falling steeply into debt during the dry season: since debts have to be repaid from the harvest yield, hardly anything remains to sustain families encumbered with debt. In addition to the cash payments (of 49.50 euros per month per family) the families each receive ten kilos of pest-resistant millet seed and ten kilos of niébé seed that is well-suited to the local climate. Refugee families also receive basic necessities such as blankets, tarpaulins, mattresses, mosquito nets, soap and other hygiene products.



Photo: ASB Niger

Philippines

On 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines and left a swath of destruction in its wake. ASB immediately dispatched volunteers of its First Assistance Samaritan Teams (FAST). For more than six weeks, the emergency aid specialists ran a medical treatment tent in the town of Palo, the last of the FAST members returning to Germany on 6 January 2014.

In order to be able to provide sustainable help to the Philippine population after the initial emergency phase was over, ASB devised and initiated a major resilience-boosting programme, in order to increase the physical and mental power of resistance of those living in a region frequently suffering natural disasters. In April 2014, experienced ASB project coordinators conducted an assessment in situ, coordinated with non-governmental organisations and the authorities and identified potential project partners.

Disaster risk reduction

The aim is to enable people to be better prepared for future disasters and be more able to protect themselves and their families. The ASB resilience-boosting programme focuses on those people most at risk in the event of a disaster. This includes most especially the disabled who often have little access to

potentially life-saving information or have only limited potential to react to this information.

ASB will not operate this programme itself but will get local and regional aid organisations involved in the implementation of the project. This will promote better networking between the “general” non-governmental organisations and organisations for the disabled. It will also ensure that the Philippine helpers receive all the training, advice and support they need from ASB Indonesia’s experienced team members, so that, in the future, they will be able to develop and implement similar projects of inclusive disaster reduction themselves.

ASB’s Indonesia office has many years of experience in successfully implementing disaster risk reduction projects for the disabled and is a leading organisation in this field within Pacific Asia.

By working closely with the authorities since the very beginning, ASB strives to ensure that measures developed in cooperation with partner organisations will be included in the national disaster risk reduction programmes and so made available to other communities, too. Initial disaster risk reduction projects will be implemented during 2015.



Nicaragua

The list of countries with the highest risk of natural disasters published in the World Risk Report 2014 includes four in Central America: Guatemala ranks 4th of the 171 countries listed, El Salvador is 8th, Nicaragua 13th and Honduras is 31st.

The numbers also signify the extremely high dangers the populations of these countries face in natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, drought, rising sea levels or even tsunamis. In addition to the dangers to life and limb, in Nicaragua this extreme vulnerability has a major effect on infrastructure, food supplies, the housing situation and

economic frameworks. Up until now, the level of disaster risk reduction as well as the availability of early warning systems and medical care has been very low in this Central American country.

Although at an international level the conception, strategy and policy papers of national development cooperation and disaster risk reduction increasingly takes into account the special needs of the disabled, in practical terms this rarely happens in Nicara-

gua. Specifically, this means that those in charge of disaster risk reduction have neither the specialist knowledge nor the experience necessary to be able to assist the elderly and the disabled when disaster strikes or assess what particular arrangements need to be made to protect these extremely vulnerable groups of people.

Since June 2014, ASB has worked towards an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction in León



Photo: ASB/A. Meuz

and Chinandega regions. For many years ASB has approached this issue by concentrating on training for disabled children and their families and specialist teacher training as well as training for multipliers from within participating municipalities and self-help organisations.

This approach has been very successfully implemented in Nicaragua, too. Donations and financial support from Aktion Deutschland Hilft enabled 500 families with disabled children, 20 representatives of partner organisation LOS PIPITOS, 260 disabled children and 50 teachers to take part in courses about inclusive disaster risk reduction. This ensures that not only the persons concerned benefit but – because the multipliers are gradually handing on their knowledge – also the entire population of the project region. In addition to the training sessions, ASB has developed emergency and evacuation procedures that will benefit a special school for disabled children as well as four public amenities run by partner organisation LOS PIPITOS, and has trained those responsible in implementing these procedures.

By the end of December 2014, three months before the end of the project, more than 80 percent of the target group had already been reached, so that by now – without any increase in costs – more teachers and families can be trained. An estimated 25 percent more people than originally planned will benefit from these measures. This is even more amazing when you consider that many of the people con-

cerned live in remote areas and were geographically as well as socially isolated. By working in close cooperation with community leaders and providing travel cost allowances, these hurdles could all be overcome and the families better integrated into the communities.

The high level of commitment shown by the participants made it possible to add additional subjects to the training sessions. Teachers and multipliers in particular received basic tutoring in Law Number 763, which is concerned with the rights of the disabled, and several evacuation drills were run in a special school for disabled children.

Clean water reduces risk of disease

The village of Pueblo Nuevo is located directly on the banks of the river Wawashang within a nature reserve of the same name. Pueblo Nuevo is crammed tightly onto a steep slope that falls away to the river. The difference in altitude between the river and the upper part of the village is about 100 metres.

Individual plots are very small and the residents are unable to keep to the minimum distances between well and latrine as required by the health ministry, so the drinking water is continuously contaminated with faecal bacteria. Measurements showed a degree of contamination so high that the health of children and the elderly in particular is gravely endangered on an ongoing basis.

Pueblo Nuevo is currently home to some 250 families, only about 30 percent of which have their own well – and the wells frequently only supply sufficient water during the rainy season. ASB is working to secure an adequate supply of drinking water. In January 2014, with financial support by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), ASB began the installation of drinking water supplies with direct connection to 250 homes – some 1,500 people – using a source of water located some three kilometres outside of the village. This was still a good and suitable option, despite the technical challenges caused by, amongst others, a 200 metre difference in altitude. By the end of December 2014, 70 percent of homes had been connected to the water supply, with the remaining houses connected by April 2015. The overall aim is to reduce diarrhoeal diseases and the resulting cases of death by at least 50 percent, especially with regard to children.

Unforeseeable delays occurred especially at the start of the project because the village of Pueblo Nuevo is only accessible by water and far distant from larger towns, so that the delivery of construction materials posed a great challenge. Another great challenge was the coordination of the large number of players involved. However, in the end it proved beneficial that the project had been jointly planned and implemented by all the various parties – residents, representatives of the authorities, engineers and ASB. The result is that the installation of the new water supply system is very well accepted by the local population.

The establishment of a water committee also ensured that the newly acquired knowledge about health and water supplies is going to be available to the villagers for the long term. And last but not least, the process of discussion and planning led to a contribution to the cost of construction of about 28,000 euros by the mayor's office of the village's parent municipality of Laguna de Perlas.

Haiti

Knowing what to do can save lives during an earthquake. Houses built to good construction design are less likely to collapse, reinforced roads enable evacuation, the transport of relief supplies and a good knowledge of food production and storage methods makes a contribution to food supply-security.

Haiti's geographical location makes it extremely susceptible to natural disasters. This is why, after the provision of emergency aid in the wake of the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 came to an end, ASB decided to strengthen the rural population's resilience to natural disasters in the small towns of Petit and Grand Goâves.

Local and international helpers found themselves confronted with the challenge that structures did not just need repairing, but often had to be constructed completely from scratch. Who is allowed to rebuild



Photo: ASB/A. Meauz

their home and where; how should new homes be constructed to better withstand future earthquakes and hurricanes; what sanitary installations are essential when rebuilding homes to prevent future outbreaks of disease and epidemics? These and many other questions had to be considered by ASB on the basis of “build back better” – their motto for rebuilding and reconstruction.

One of the central issues is to secure quality construction so that the buildings will not collapse again during the next storm or earthquake. This is why ASB trained bricklayers and skilled workers in disaster-proof construction techniques. Another important factor is plot selection: Haiti is a country of many coastal regions and erosion-prone mountain slopes. ASB advised the building owners about the plot and substrate best suited for constructing a building.

Even years after the earthquake, people were still living in tent camps without clean drinking water and sanitary amenities. Amongst the families in those camps were not only earthquake survivors but also thousands of people made homeless in 2012 by hurricanes Isaac and Sandy. They too have been provided with new homes and by mid-2014, the last of the region's camps finally closed. In total, ASB constructed homes for over 600 families.

Disaster reduction in schools In order to provide better infrastructure for the newly constructed neighbourhoods, ASB also rebuilt primary and secondary schools. Financial support by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) enabled the construction of six earthquake and storm-proof schools. These not only provide educational facilities but also serve as emergency shelters for up to 4,000 villagers, for example in case of a hurricane.

As part of this project for strengthening disaster resilience, in 2014 ASB started to reinforce some eight kilometres of rural access roads. This will keep them open even during a disaster. Planting school gardens and teaching methods of growing and storing food contributes to an improvement in food security. Another important part of the project is disaster risk reduction training for all 45,000 pupils and 17,500 teachers in the region. This project will continue until September 2016.

The great earthquake of 12 January 2010 killed more than 300,000 people and made 2.1 million people homeless. ASB was on site within just a few days of the earthquake. Emergency aid focused on the coastal town of Petit-Goâve 60 kilometres to the west of the capital Port-au-Prince. Since the end of the emergency aid phase, ASB has been involved in the reconstruction of the region around Petit and Grand-Goâves. This is also the seat of the ASB national office. To date, ASB has implemented projects in Haiti to a cost of approximately 4.3 million euros. Projects include the construction of 300 temporary and 480 semi-permanent homes, introducing disaster risk reduction lessons in schools and the provision of hygiene education.

Indonesia

Indonesia is one of the most seismically active regions on earth. Earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters pose great danger to some 240 million inhabitants, worst affecting the poor and disabled. ASB has been working in Indonesia since 2006, focusing on disaster risk reduction. Much of ASB's involvement is centered on the Mentawai Islands.

The islands off the western coast of Sumatra are one of Indonesia's most earthquake and tsunami-prone regions. They are very remote, communication is

difficult and transport routes are not always available. When disaster strikes, it often takes a long time for outside help to arrive. This makes it all the more important to ensure that the communities and inhabitants of these islands are equipped, trained and prepared to be able to react appropriately in the event of disaster, so that they can help themselves.

“Helping you to help yourself” is the aim of a project ASB started in early 2014 with joint funding from ASB and the German Federal Foreign Office. The project is based on the Mentawai group of islands and seeks to train and educate local communities to strengthen their disaster risk reduction capacities. Know-how, innovation and education are used to create more safety and resilience for the inhabitants and to strengthen preparation and effective reaction at all levels in the event of a natural disaster. By the end of the project, each community will have enough well-trained local teams to ensure that help is available when disaster strikes.

To this end, ASB first set up forums and disaster risk reduction teams at local community level and ensured they were adequately equipped. This included, for example, the construction of radio communication posts to enable regular communication with the capital. So-called “risk mappings” were developed together with the teams, to mark out those regions most in danger. The teams then devised community-level disaster management and emergency plans in cooperation with representatives of the local



Photo: ASB/M. Kunstmann

civil protection authorities. Local residents then took part in practical emergency drills and in turn they themselves trained other people who, for example, practised emergency evacuation procedures with other residents. Information material, training sheets and communication materials were also distributed.

In addition to the theoretical training and preparations, the communities also received tools and equipment. These included, for example tents, search and rescue equipment and First Aid kits. Furthermore evacuation routes, emergency shelters and communication channels were improved.

Disaster preparedness trainings: **Children can help too**

How Salome learned to protect herself and her friends in the event of a disaster. The adults, too, are benefiting from Salome's know-how. In Georgia, ASB uses a concept it has successfully run in Indonesia for many years.

Salome is five years old and she already knows how to save lives. She knows what to do if a fire starts up near-by and she knows how to get herself and her friends to safety when the earth quakes. She learned all this in courses run by ASB in her preschool in Georgia. Salome's family experienced just a short while ago how vital it is to be able to protect yourself in an emergency. A landslide in the Dariali Gorge between Stepantsminda and Wladikavkaz buried the main road between Georgia and Russia and claimed the lives of seven people.

Parents learn from their children

Salome's preschool is located in the middle of an earthquake zone in the mountains. Because of the frequent quakes, landslides and other natural disasters, ASB runs a large-scale disaster risk reduction programme in this location. Including even the youngest in the courses and emergency drills has

proved to be a good approach. "I was quite surprised that my daughter now knows how to protect herself," Salome's mother says enthusiastically. "And I'm learning something new, too. I'm sure this will be very helpful during the next earthquake."

ASB runs disaster risk reduction courses in a total of 244 preschools in the Georgian regions of Adjara, Samtkhe-Javakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti. Learning by playing, the children are taught how to take appropriate action in case of an emergency. For example, their teachers might sing songs with them that talk about the different dangers and what to do when they happen.

At Salome's preschool, the young rescuers have rehearsed and performed a play. Salome played a first responder who helped evacuate her blind friend. In order to ensure that the emergency drills will be repeated in regular intervals, ASB organised special

First-Aid courses for the preschool teaching staff. The courses also teach them how to give emergency First Aid to the children if required.

Learning from ASB in Indonesia

The preschool programme includes ASB-run evacuation drills, evacuation route signposting and small-scale construction work to ensure safer evacuation routes.

This comprehensive programme originates from Indonesia, where ASB has successfully offered disaster risk reduction programmes in schools and preschools for many years. In this way, the know-how acquired in one disaster region can be handed on to colleagues in other countries.



Photo: ASB Georgia



Working together for people in need

In 1888, six carpenters from Berlin had the idea to get First Aid training so that they would be able to help other workers in case of accident – and this idea has long turned into a worldwide movement. Samaritan organisations with employed and volunteer helpers exist not only in Germany but also in many other countries across the globe, lending a helping hand wherever people are in distress.

Many German ASB associations are very actively involved in partnerships with Samaritan organisations in other countries, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Since 1989, numerous cross-border relationships have been established and new ones are still being added. ASB Federal Office supports these partnerships as part of the “International Samaritan Cooperation”. The purpose of this financial as well as consultative support is to establish stable and equal partnerships and contribute to mutual cross-border learning and an opportunity to create a good future together.

Last but not least, these partnerships and their encounters and exchanges are a living example of cooperation, tolerance and solidarity as well as European unity at a social level.

Photo: SSK

Multilateral youth exchanges

An important part of the foundations of Samaritan Cooperation are regular youth exchanges. They bring children and young people together, instil an interest in each other's country, language and culture and ensure that the partnerships between various Samaritan organisations remains alive and well.

In 2014, several such exchange programmes took place, amongst them a youth gathering on Usedom Island, organised by ASB Ostthüringen. Together, young people from Germany and the Lithuanian city of Pakruojis learned about the ins and outs of each other's lives. Themed "Summer Dangers", the encounter included a First Aid course for the participants, enabled them to get to know the Usedom water rescue service and had them practise their newly acquired First Aid skills to ensure that they would be able to utilize them properly in case of an emergency.

25 young people from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Bosnia and Herzegovina met up in Hamburg from 19 to 27 July 2014. The encounter was themed "Educational Opportunities in Europe" and, aside from getting to know one another and forming new partnerships between the youth associations involved, the focus was on subjects concerning educational possibilities, differences between the countries' educational systems and equal opportunities.

Georgia

The "Children's New Clinic" in the Georgian capital Tbilisi treats many seriously ill children, some of whom may have to stay in hospital for weeks or even months. With financial backing from Aktion Mensch and ASB's own grants, ASB supports the organisation and development of psychosocial care services for long-term hospitalised children. This service is used on a daily basis by twelve children, with eight more being cared for in their hospital beds as part of their treatment. A voluntary service manned by students of applied psychology simultaneously visits and supports the children on an ongoing basis. ASB also organises relevant further training for the medical staff and provides resources for the development of guidelines on caring for children in this situation.

In the Eastern Georgian town of Lagodekhi in Kakheti Region, ASB is constructing an interdisciplinary early support center with funding from Aktion Mensch. The center aims to improve the living conditions of particularly disadvantaged children and the social environment in which they live as well as promoting social integration and inclusion of 16 disabled children by providing an individual early support programme. A library of children's books and textbooks as well as group therapy sessions and the setting up and support of self-help groups all form part of the center's programme. ASB also funds

training for expert staff and regularly offers two internships. The development of a mobile ambulance service began in early 2013. This service is now also available in Gori, Telavi and Tbilisi.

Strategy workshop

In addition to these projects, ASB also works to strengthen and further expand the Georgian Samaritan Association (SSK) as an organisation. With this in mind, ASB team members arranged a two-day strategy workshop to develop a long-term strategy for SSK. This dealt with questions of the Georgian Samaritans' mission and vision as well as focusing on making decisions concerning future priorities and activities and the SSK's future positioning as a relief organisation and social welfare association. The final topic addressed the development of an action plan to be steadily implemented and developed further in the months and years ahead.

ASB continues to support the development and implementation of joint projects in order to improve co-operation with the Tbilisi city authorities, ministries and other stakeholders in the capital's political and social life, increase the SSK membership and promote stable lines of communication between SSK, various multipliers and the public.



Photo: SSK

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ASB Federal Office supports the Bosnian Samaritans of Žene sa Une in the development of a mobile social care service in Bihać region. The service is predominantly aimed at families with many children, the homeless and an assisted living unit for the disabled. More than 18 percent of the region's inhabitants are destitute, most especially large families, members of minority groups and the disabled. They are hardly ever able to access help and are often socially excluded. There

is no social welfare provided by regional or national administration. The social care service wants to counteract this. In the initial stages of the project, ASB will fund personnel costs for the project management, a nurse, a doctor and a psychologist.

In April 2014, a delegation of representatives from ASB Hessen and Hamburg as well as ASB Falkensee visited Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina accompanied by ASB Federal Office. The purpose of this visit was to get to know the two Samaritan organizations in the Balkans as well as the important work they do, and to initiate additional Samaritan partnerships.

Ukraine

During the past year, the partnerships with Ukraine were greatly influenced by the conflicts. After the Maidan riots, German and international Samaritan Associations immediately provided an emergency grant of 30,000 euros for their colleagues at the Ukrainian Samaritan Association (SSU) in Kiev. The funds were made available by Samaritans from Denmark, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Austria as well as ASB Federal Office and various branches of ASB Germany. ASB Bavaria, which has partnered and supported the Kiev Samaritans since 1993, also became involved in financially supporting the Kiev



Samaritans' welfare center. The Bavarian colleagues covered parts of the costs for personnel, administration and activities to ensure that the welfare center would be able to continue its work, even amidst the chaos of the fighting.

With financial support from the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” foundation (EVZ), ASB has worked since 2008 with colleagues from SSU in Kharkiv, organising and providing a mobile care service for 105 survivors of Nazi concentration camps, ghetto imprisonment and forced labour. This was extended during 2014, to include a visiting service manned by volunteers. Workshops for caregiver families were also very well received.

As the care-dependent senior citizens continuously increase in age (the average age is 84 years) and care-dependency year on year, caregivers are facing ever-increasing challenges especially on a specialist level. 2014 saw the additional problem of periodic safety issues during pro-Russian demonstrations that made it difficult for members of the care service to reach all their patients every day. The safety situation was carefully evaluated throughout.

In order to strengthen the project and those who run it, it is vital that participants network with other stakeholders of political and social life. This is why ASB supports networking and lobbying meetings and training for the project workers as well as the set-



ting up of a project website and other regional press and PR work.

As in past years, ASB Bavaria continued its support for the SSU orphanage in Poltava. The facility looks after more than 20 children who are either orphaned or whose parents no longer have custody. An additional number of up to 70 children from difficult family situations currently use the day-care facilities. During 2014, ASB Bavaria also subsidised the orphanage utility bills.

In 2014, ASB Schleswig-Holstein supported the setting up of a SSU branch office in Chernivtsi by subsidising the rent as well as personnel costs. ASB Schleswig-Holstein also financed the refurbishment of the Chernivtsi oncology clinic and supported SSU in broadening its activities within volunteering, ambulance service provision and First-Aid training.

In cooperation with the EVZ Foundation, the Samaritans from Germany's North-Sea coast continued their support for the care service in Chernivtsi that supports former forced labourers and other survivors of Nazi persecution. 75 senior citizens with care needs ranging from severe to total care-dependency are being looked after by SSU care teams. With support from ASB and EVZ, the care teams were able to acquire new equipment in 2014 to enable them to continue their excellent work.

For 200 children in a day-care center in Chernivtsi a long-held wish came true in 2014: lots of new play equipment could finally be installed in the grounds of the day-care center, thanks to financial support from the Young Samaritans (ASJ) Schleswig-Holstein. Sadly, because of the difficult safety situation it was not possible for ASJ team members to help with the installation as had been originally planned.

The SSU orphanage in Vorzel provides a new home to 100 children, many of them with disabilities. This worthwhile project is supported by many ASB branches and during 2014, funds provided by ASB Niedersachsen, Saarland, Thüringen, Hessen, Schleswig-Holstein, Baden-Württemberg and Hamburg as well as ASB Federal Office and "Stiftung Zukunft – Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V." ensured the continued running of the orphanage. Monies from Germany bought, for example, groceries, especially dairy products, as well as mobility-promoting

toys, rehabilitation equipment and items of furniture. A huge children's party was held, where each child received a gift. Since September, the Vorzel orphanage has also taken in and looked after some 50 internally displaced and orphaned children that had been evacuated from the Donbass region.

Volunteers withdrawn due to precarious safety situation

In early 2014, several volunteers were working in Ukraine. Three young people were volunteering in Kharkiv as part of "Action Reconciliation Service for Peace"; another two had been dispatched to Chernivtsi by ASB Schleswig-Holstein with the "weltwärts" volunteer service. Because of the precarious safety situation, all volunteers were withdrawn from Ukraine in 2014 and will not be replaced until further notice.

Poland

ASB Heilbronn supports its partners at the Polish Samaritan Association (SFOP) in Zakliczyn with funding for the setting up of a mobile social care unit in the Krakow region. The services include, for example, a mobile care service, domestic help and a transport service and are intended to support people in the city as well as the surrounding villages. Also,

they are designed to provide SFOP with a medium to long-term reliable income, so that the Polish Samaritans can afford to increase their involvement and offer further training to their members. But during 2014, the partners came to realize that extending their services was more difficult than expected. Governmental organisations now offer many services free of charge. SFOP currently concentrates on establishing a day-care facility.

In order to continue the development of SFOP in spite of the challenges, SFOP's Heilbronn partners also invested in the head office, funded the training of care personnel and gave several Polish interns an opportunity to experience the day-to-day work of German care services.

In Lesser Poland Province, SFOP has set up an advisory service for survivors of the Nazi regime as well as their families, with financial support by ASB Federal Office and the "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" foundation (EVZ). The service aims to improve the living conditions of 500 survivors by offering face-to-face and telephone counselling. It also plans to offer social and cultural activities to enable the survivors and their families to become better integrated into the social life of the region. In order to keep knowledge about Nazi atrocities alive, volunteers conduct interviews with surviving witnesses of that period, provide information about National Socialism to schools and youth groups and



organise networking activities together with other non-governmental organisations.

As part of its partnership support scheme, ASB Federal Office supported the SFOP umbrella organisation by part-financing the SFOP head office and the provision of further training for volunteers and volunteer coordinators.

Serbia

The Serbian Samaritan Association (IDC) would like to develop its volunteering and especially its youth work, with a special focus on recruiting young people from socially disadvantaged families. Volunteering with the Samaritans can serve to improve their self-confidence and creativity. It also opens up ways of social integration and future job prospects that otherwise would be unavailable to them. ASB Federal Office supports the new volunteer programme with start-up funding for personnel and office premises.

Hungary

ASB Chemnitz und Umgebung has been in firm partnership with Delta Rescue Services in Budapest since the early 1990s. With financial support from ASB Federal Office, the Chemnitz Samaritans provided their partners in 2014 with additional equipment for their medical rescue service to further improve their facilities. This included funding for 15 defibrillators plus associated equipment, a computer and various medical devices and consumables.



Photo: ASB SEE

Latvia

The Latvian Samaritan Association (LSA) runs the Maras Crisis Centre in the capital Riga, a facility for single mothers and their children. The center's roof had fallen into disrepair. Within the framework of its partnership support scheme, ASB provided the necessary funds to LSA to enable them to have the required restoration and repair work carried out.

During the past four years, ASB Hamburg-West has supported LSA in their efforts to establish and develop their voluntary work.

By now, volunteer helpers are actively involved in the visiting service for the elderly and the Riga food bank as well as other LSA social facilities. All the various services and activities are planned by the volunteer coordinator who also organises further training programmes for the volunteers. ASB Hamburg-West and ASB Federal Office jointly fund the volunteer coordinator post as well as the cost of volunteer training programmes.

The active partnership between German regional branch ASB North-East and LSA Ventspils has been operating since 2007. This year, ASB representatives visited Ventspils and the programme included a lively exchange of information and experiences from previous projects as well as an analysis of current needs together with an agreement about future cooperation

for the development of the joint social projects in Ventspils. ASB Federal Office subsidised the travel costs for this planning meeting.

In Riga, ASB Bremen supports the development of sheltered accommodation for the disabled. The aim is to extend the facility, currently housing 24 disabled people, so that it can accommodate and care for more people with mental disabilities as well as provide family units. The necessary remodelling and repair work for extending the facility by some 150 square metres was begun in 2014. In early 2015, the first new residents are due to move in.

Slovakia

ASB Halle/Bitterfeld would like to enter into a partnership and sustainable cooperation with ASSR in Stará Ľubovňa. From 8 to 10 July 2014, the Samaritans from Halle visited their colleagues in Slovakia to initiate the partnership and embark on an initial strategic planning. The official start of the partnership is planned for 2015. The initial projects are to support the Slovakian partners in their endeavour to develop new fields of operation. Also planned is a closely coordinated civil protection and disaster management cooperation through, for example, joint emergency training exercises.

As part of the so-called partnership support scheme, ASB Federal Office supported the Slovakian Samaritan Umbrella Organisation (ASSR) and partly funded three staff as well as some of the running costs of ASSR head office.

Romania

In 2014, ASB Helmstedt continued to support its partner organisation in Orastie in the development of a mobile social care service. Services offered include the usual care services as well as a meals-on-wheels service and help with shopping and household. By now, the Romanian partners also offer an advisory service for people seeking to make their homes barrier-free so that they can continue to live there for as long as possible.

The Orastie Samaritans can also provide assistance with the purchase of nursing beds, walking aids, wheelchairs and other devices that help the elderly and disabled. In order to ensure that this project will become well established within the region, the Samaritans from ASB Helmstedt financed the acquisition of an initial supply of such aid equipment.

Lithuania

In 2013, a new social care center was set up in Kaunas. ASB Wiesbaden financially supported the construction of barrier-free access to the new center during 2014 as well as the setup and fitting out of a day center for senior citizens. In order to make the entire facility even more user-friendly, the grounds were remodelled, too. And to further develop the services on offer to children and families in the new social center, ASB Hamburg-North-East funded the setup and fitting out of the childcare facility. The Hamburg Samaritans also provided funds for running costs such as heating, telephone and electricity.

In order to set up an independent and sustainable organisational structure of the LSB in the Lithuanian city of Kelmé and to strengthen the cooperation with German ASB associations, ASB Warnow-Trebetal, since 2010 partnered with LSB Kelmé, supported the establishment and development of a local ASB office. The funds were used to finance one employee, whose main task is to recruit new members and motivate them to becoming actively involved in LSB. Funds were also used for effective PR and the promotion of cooperation between the Samaritans and political decision-makers in the region. The search for contributors and sponsors was intensified so that eventually sole responsibility for these activities can be transferred to LSB. The old heating system

in the LSB Kelmé children's center was beyond repair and so, in order to be able to continue running this service, ASB Stormarn-Segeberg provided the finance for a new heating system to be installed and operated.

LSB Ukmergé has been able to rely on a strong partnership with ASB Mittelhessen for many years. In 2014, LSB Ukmergé ran an information-and-join-in campaign about healthy eating, supported by the Middle-Hesse partner organisation. Under the motto "Healthy Together", children, young people and families were given information about healthy eating issues. A springtime celebration, a number of cultivation days during the summer and a harvest festival all enabled the participants to experience what a healthy lifestyle can be like. Everyone worked together to plant, look after and harvest vegetables, and there were competitions and cookery books. To ensure that information would be available in the long term, the Lithuanian Samaritans prepared relevant information for the families to take away with them.

In 2014, the meeting of the Lithuanian Network took place in Palanga in Lithuania. Every two years, ASB and LSB associations get together for an information exchange, to strengthen their partnership and to develop strategies for future cooperation within the network. The network meeting has by now become an institution and forms a strong basis for the partnerships. The meeting takes place alternately in Ger-



many and in Lithuania, thus providing a deeper insight into the partners' way of life.

In 2014, in order to promote the development of the LSB umbrella organisation and to especially support the Lithuanian colleagues in their efforts to set up and extend their youth work, ASB Federal Office funded part of the personnel and running costs for the LSB office in Vilnius as well as part-funding the annual youth exchange. Further training for LSB team members was also partly financed.

Interview:

Trust as a basis for the future

ASB members from Baden-Württemberg first established contact with the Polish Samaritan Association (SFOP) in 2010, which developed into a vibrant partnership. Rainer Holthuis, managing director of ASB Heilbronn-Franken and Barbara Żychowska, managing director of SFOP Krakow, share their experiences.

How long has your association been involved in Samaritan partnerships and which partnerships are currently in place?

Barbara Żychowska: Our cooperation began in 2010. The first meeting was in Heilbronn, where we had the opportunity to talk about our experiences and develop joint goals and ideas for our cooperation. Our first joint project was an exchange programme for specialist carers working with the elderly.

Rainer Holthuis: We have an intensive partnership between the Samaritans in Poland and ASB Heilbronn-Franken and the relationship constantly develops. Over the next few years we intend to set up a social care station near Krakow and, if possible, a day-care center.

What do you regard as the special features of a Samaritan partnership?

Barbara Żychowska: What makes our partnership unique is the contrast between our small local organisations and the opportunity of working with a renowned, experienced partner. So far, we at SFOP are the ones with the most tangible benefits from this cooperation but our German friends also benefit from getting to know and understand the reality of being a not-for-profit organisation in Poland.

Photos: ASB Heilbronn-Franken / SFOP



Rainer Holthuis and Barbara Żychowska are already planning their next joint projects.

Rainer Holthuis: What makes it special for me is the interest in seeing the bigger picture: to broaden your horizon, gain experience in an international context and learn at a socio-cultural level. What connects us, where are the differences and how can we benefit from one another? After all, these partnerships are a mutual challenge, and I don't just mean the language. There are differences in perception, too. I can't think of anything more interesting!

What surprised you most when you really got to know your partners?

Rainer Holthuis: I was and continue to be impressed by the sincere interest, the stamina with which projects are seen through and the warmth and friendliness of our Polish colleagues. But I was also surprised by the sometimes truly grave problems our partners are confronted with.

What are your wishes for the future?

Barbara Żychowska: We hope for a continued exchange of experience. We also aim to utilize the support offered to us in the most efficient way to make it clear that our cooperation was the right decision, and a good one.

“Our decision to work together was a good one.”

Barbara Żychowska: What surprised us most was their openness for new things. Above all, their desire and willingness to cooperate with us. There were just a few months between the first study visit to Germany and the implementation of further joint projects. And we realized that the partnership is also valuable outside of the joint projects. We are now able to complete certain tasks much faster because we adopted best practice as applied in Germany.

Rainer Holthuis: My wish is that we continue this amicable and equal cooperation based on mutual trust and respect as the foundation for a successful expansion of the Samaritan organisation in Poland. And it would be extremely helpful for all concerned if support for the development of particular fields of operation were to be approached with more courage and willingness to take risks.

Good networking: international partnerships

Samaritan partnerships are formed between people of all ages and between associations of different organisational forms.

Some partnerships involve national associations while others are formed between local branches or district and regional associations. Some ASJ associations are also actively involved in Samaritan Cooperation at regional and national level.

A strong network, stretching across many borders.



as of 31.12.2014 Plan: Stock vector@Pingebat

ASB initiatives in Germany

Prevention saves lives. Information about Ebola.

In early 2014, the Ebola epidemic in West Africa led to many questions, also in Germany. In cooperation with Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH – Germany’s Relief Coalition that includes ASB), ASB organised an information event on Ebola. The information exchange at ASB-Federal Office focussed on two main issues: the planning of additional aid efforts – as an example, several ADH member organisations

made initial arrangements for a joint aid project in Liberia – and a presentation by Daniel Peters, a medical volunteer with the ASB FAST-Team, about the symptoms of the Ebola virus and its mode of transmission. He vividly demonstrated how hard it is to put on the protective suits, and even more difficult to take them off again, without inadvertently contaminating oneself. “Prevention is our only chance of winning the fight against Ebola,” the experienced medic told the assembled project managers and numerous media representatives.

Welcoming 26 new FAST members

During the past few years, FAST activities were characterised by successful large-scale operations. Following an aid project for Syrian refugees in Northern Iraq in the winter of 2012 and the emergency medical aid response in the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan around Christmas 2013, the water purification unit was dispatched to Bosnia for the first time in May 2014. As a “thank-you” for these operations and to extend an official FAST welcome to 26 new members who had completed their training, ASB Foreign Aid invited their volunteers to Cologne for a small celebration in December 2014.



Photo: ASB/S. Höhle

Some 70 FAST members from all over Germany attended and welcomed the new team members. “Past operations have shown our aid workers to be competent, dedicated and capable in dealing with the aftermath of a disaster,” stressed Edith Wallmeier, Head of ASB-Foreign Aid Department. The certificates for the newly qualified FAST members were presented by Wallmeier and Ludwig Fröhlich, a member of the ASB-Federal Executive Board and actively involved in FAST.

Examples from local ASB organizations: Foreign aid work of ASB Hamburg-Mitte

Some of the regional branches are involved in foreign aid over and above the dispatch of volunteers into FAST-Teams and collaboration within the framework of the International Samaritan Cooperation. One of the most active branches is ASB Hamburg-Mitte. For example, the Northern German Samaritans are helping to provide electricity for the San people of Namibia by constructing photovoltaic units. This creates new jobs and makes it possible for schools to use computers.

Assignment in St. Petersburg

For over ten years, the Hamburg ASB members have been working with the Russian Samaritan Association in St. Petersburg to support socially disadvantaged families. Educators and artists pro-



Photo: ASB/S. Herte

vide out-of-school activities and a safe learning and playing environment for children in deprived areas. Since 2007, support from ASB Hamburg-Mitte has made the provision of a transport service for senior citizens in St. Petersburg possible.

Relief supply transports

ASB Hamburg-Mitte also regularly organises the transport of relief supplies to Central and Eastern Europe as well as The Gambia, Namibia and a school in León, Nicaragua.

The ASB-Foreign Aid mission statement

The Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) is a German aid and welfare organisation with 16 branches at federal-state level and more than 200 branches at regional, district and municipal level as well as 125 associated not-for-profit companies. Almost 37,000 employees and some 16,000 volunteers ensure a quality service in areas such as civil protection, rescue services and social welfare services. As a non-political and non-denominational organisation, ASB has, since its foundation in 1888, represented continuity and reliability. With its first mission abroad in 1921, Foreign Aid became a major component of the organisation. Humanitarian and democratic principles form the basis of our activities at home and abroad.

Our main activities

Using an integrated approach, we provide effective worldwide aid and also support the establishment and development of local self-help structures.

International Samaritan Cooperation

By enabling exchange and networking between German and international Samaritan associations, we promote the development of structured organisations and provide support for their work in Central and Eastern Europe.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By strengthening local disaster management and self-help capacities, we reduce the local population's

vulnerability in the event of an emergency. We also assist the local population to prepare for dealing with the aftermath of disasters.

Humanitarian Aid

In the event of a sudden crisis or disaster abroad, we provide quick and targeted relief according to the needs of the affected population.

Return and reintegration

We seek to enable refugees and displaced persons to return to a safe environment. A crucial element in our work is to create socio-economic prospects to afford people the chance of a fresh start.

How we work

Providing help – as fast as possible, as long as necessary

Our work is based on an integrated approach. In the event of a sudden crisis or disaster, we provide help as quickly as possible by, for example, deploying our rapid response teams, with the assistance of reliable partners and our own established local country offices. We regard it as a duty to support people struck by disaster for as long as is necessary. Therefore, we not only provide Emergency Relief but also help communities with reconstruction work, implementation of long-term measures to fight the causes of poverty and help the local population to better prepare themselves for possible future emergency situations.

Linking fulltime and voluntary commitment

Voluntary contribution is one of ASB Germany's most valuable resources. This is why we combine our fulltime and voluntary contingents to cooperate in the provision of emergency aid to people all over the world.

Strengthening local partners

We aim to improve the living conditions of local populations and to reduce their dependence on external support. We strengthen the local population's capacity to help themselves by systematically supporting local groups, e. g. NGOs, through consultation, further education and financial funding.

Our flexibility in terms of programmes and strategy enables us to react in ways most appropriate to the requirements of the respective country.

Promoting international partnerships

Within the Samaritan Cooperation Central and Eastern Europe, we initiate, promote and encourage partnerships between German ASB branches and Samaritan organisations in other countries. Thus we help establish sustainable welfare structures in partner countries and create a range of social services for people in need.

Bundling resources

As part of a leading welfare federation, we have access to a wide range of experience and know-how. We share this knowledge with our partner organisations and cooperate in national and international networks on a basis of mutual trust. This enables us to bundle resources and make full use of their synergistic effects.

Being accountable for what we do

Part of our philosophy is to ensure the responsible and efficient use of our finances. We feel obligated to be fully accountable to those we help as well as those who fund our operations, namely our donors, supporters and the general public. Therefore, we continuously carry out internal and external quality assurance procedures as well as audits to ensure and extend the transparency and professional quality in our work.

We help here and now.

ASB is a non-political and non-denominational charity and relief organisation. We help all people – regardless of their political, ethnic, national and religious affiliation. We enable people to develop and maintain the greatest possible degree of self-determination. We provide rapid and direct help to all those in need of our support.

Since its foundation in 1888, ASB has provided services that focus on people's needs, including care for the elderly, rescue services, First Aid, services for children and young people, support for people with disabilities and those suffering from mental problems, as well as foreign aid and adult and further education. The ASJ, the ASB's independent youth association, promotes the social engagement of children and young people. ASB-Foreign Aid focuses on Emergency Relief and Disaster Risk Reduction as well as reintegration and cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe.

Anyone wanting to be involved in voluntary services will find suitable opportunities at ASB, for example as part of a civil protection team or as a paramedic, as a visitor to the elderly or a reading mentor, as a visiting dog handler or a school nurse.

More than 1.2 million people throughout Germany share the ASB's humanitarian and democratic principles and support our non-profit association

with their membership and their personal commitment, as part of 16 regional associations, more than 200 local branches and around 120 associated not-for-profit companies.

What was to become ASB began in 1888 with six carpenters in Berlin. At a time when there were neither health and safety regulations nor emergency rescue services and workers often sustained terrible injuries, our founding fathers successfully established the first "Training Course for First Aid after an Accident", in spite of considerable opposition. In 1909, the first Arbeiter-Samariter-Gruppen (Workers Samaritan Groups) from across Germany formed the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB).

As a relief organisation and charity, ASB also considers itself an advocate for socio-political issues. ASB takes a position on current debates and is in contact with members of the Bundestag (lower house of German parliament) and the European Parliament as well as ministries and other institutions.

Quality assurance

In all its projects aimed at alleviating need and poverty, ASB focuses on the requirements of those affected, integrating them in planning and implementation alongside local partner organisations. In this way, the abilities and know-how of the local population as well as the available resources are put to best use, and people’s potential for self-help is strengthened. ASB hands over responsibility for projects to its local partners as early as possible so that the work is continued on an independent basis.

Quality, effectiveness, efficiency and transparency are of utmost importance when implementing aid projects. This is why ASB is committed to a continuing process of learning and regularly assesses and evaluates its projects. ASB’s provision of aid measures follows international standards such as the Code of Conduct, the Sphere Standards (minimum standards in Humanitarian Aid), “Do no Harm” or the standards of German and international donors (e. g. basic rules for Humanitarian Aid, guidelines for the donation of drugs).

ASB also applies its own standards, such as

- the ASB Procurement and Tendering Guidelines,
- the ASB Safety and Security Standards, and the
- “Standard Operational Procedures” for the consistent implementation of logistical, administrative and operational processes in ASB Country Offices.

Project coordinators regularly monitor local projects, and audits carried out by donors ensure that ASB projects are scrutinized for effectiveness and efficiency. If required, additional quality assurance measures are introduced.

Partners and networks 2014



Aktion Mensch

Aktion Mensch supports projects and provides start-up assistance for organisations working with the disabled, children and young people. Aktion Mensch also invests in setting up structured approaches to disability support in Central and Eastern European countries. www.aktion-mensch.de



Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

AusAID is the government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid programmes. www.ausaid.gov.au



European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)

ASB is a partner of ECHO, the European Union authority responsible for Humanitarian Aid. ECHO awards funds for emergency and disaster relief and subsequent reconstruction programmes. www.ec.europa.eu/echo



European Commission Directorate for Development and Cooperation (EUROPEAID)

EuropeAid is responsible for the preparation of European development strategies and provides development aid anywhere in the world. http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

The BMZ sets the guidelines and concepts of German development policy. It supports sustainable projects to combat poverty and provides development oriented Emergency Relief. www.bmz.de



German Federal Foreign Office

The German Federal Foreign Office supports fast-response humanitarian and disaster relief aimed at saving lives in acute emergency situations. www.auswaertiges-amt.de



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The goal of the Food and Agriculture Organization is to improve the food supply situation worldwide, for example by increasing agricultural production. www.fao.org



Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ)

In remembrance of the victims of National Socialist Injustice, the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" campaigns for strengthening human rights and international understanding. It promotes international projects concerned with addressing historical events and support for the victims of National Socialism. www.stiftung-evz.de



Germany's Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft/ADH)

Germany's Relief Coalition, Aktion Deutschland Hilft, is a federation of German relief organisations that combine their extensive experience to provide rapid and effective aid for major catastrophes and emergency situations abroad. ASB was a founding member of ADH in 2001. www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de



Institute for Foreign Relations (ifa) Civil Conflict Resolution Programme

The ifa is actively involved in working towards a peaceful and enriching coexistence of people and cultures across the world. The civil conflict resolution programme (zivik) advises non-governmental organisations and the German Federal Foreign Office on civil conflict resolution. www.ifa.de/zivile-konfliktbearbeitung.html



National Agency Education for Europe at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (NA BiBB)

NA BiBB supports adult education through the LEONARDO DA VINCI and GRUNDTVIG programmes, by networking European and national projects. www.na-bibb.de



SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL (SAM.I)

SAM.I is an amalgamation of 13 non-governmental organisations that campaigns for the development of a uniform emergency aid system at European level. ASB was a founding member of SAM.I in 1994. www.samaritan.info



SOLIDAR

SOLIDAR is a European network of 53 aid organisations campaigning for social and economic justice in more than 90 countries worldwide. SOLIDAR is active in Humanitarian Aid, development cooperation, social policy, social services and lifelong learning. www.solidar.org



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF works for children's rights and to ensure sustainable living conditions for every child around the world. The United Nations Children's Fund is represented in more than 150 countries. www.unicef.de



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Women fights against the discrimination of women and girls, works for the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality on a worldwide basis. www.unwomen.org



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Based on the Geneva Convention on Refugees, UNHCR runs worldwide campaigns to enable people threatened by persecution to be granted asylum in other countries. According to its mandate, UNHCR is charged with seeking lasting solutions for refugees. www.unhcr.de



United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is the United Nation's most important institution in the fight against global hunger and provides food aid in many disaster and crisis regions around the world. www.wfp.org



VENRO (Association of German Development NGOs)

VENRO is a voluntary alliance of some 100 German non-governmental organisations. VENRO members are private as well as church-related organisations concerned with development cooperation and Emergency relief as well as development policy education, public relations and advocacy. www.venro.org



Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)

VOICE is an association of 85 European humanitarian non-governmental organisations, and acts as chief contact with the European Union on topics such as disaster relief, disaster prevention management and rehabilitation. www.ngovoice.org



WASH-Network/The German Network for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

was founded by German non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) on June 20th 2011. The members of the WASH Network are German non-profit organisations which focus on development cooperation or humanitarian emergency relief and rehabilitation and are actively engaged in the WASH sector.

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here and now.**



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