

# ASB-Foreign Aid Annual Report 2013

We help  
here and now.



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

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# Foreword

Dear Reader,

countries in which the staff of ASB Foreign Aid are working do not always dominate the public discussion. But last year turned out to be different: The civil war in Syria as well as the disastrous typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines often made the news. The suffering and distress of those who lost everything but their bare life, made many people all around the world feel compassionate with the survivors.

In both emergencies, ASB's reaction was quick: We delivered relief items to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and organized a major medical humanitarian operation in the Philippines. This latter was mainly based on the solidarity and dedication of volunteers, as the majority of the First Assistance Samaritan Teams (FAST) – our emergency response team in case of disasters abroad – is working on a voluntary basis.

But we do not want to forget all those aid workers joining their forces without any public notice or perception: They fight against starvation in Niger and Uganda, support refugees and internally displaced persons in Georgia to build up a new life; they conduct disaster preparedness training sessions with children, families and whole communities in Indonesia and build new houses and schools in Haiti.

Establishing and strengthening partnerships between Samaritan organizations in different countries is another focal point of ASB's foreign aid service. In 2013, this international Samaritan cooperation has contributed to the creation of new, copious relations and has been the basis for intensified, sustainable friendships. The various Samaritan organizations are building a stable network of relief and an exemplary sign of international solidarity. When the crisis in Ukraine required further support, the partner associations did not hesitate to provide additional resources. This solidarity also became obvious during the Balkan floods in May 2014. The Serbian and Bosnian Samaritan organizations could immediately start their relief efforts – with support from their international allies.

But all our work would be impossible without the support of sponsors, contributors, members and our staff – whether employed or voluntary. It is you, who bring to life our mission: We help here and now. Therefore, the heartfelt thanks from ASB Foreign Aid's team go out to all of you!



Knut Fleckenstein,  
ASB Federal Chairman



Christian Reuter,  
ASB Federal Managing Director



Edith Wallmeier,  
Head of ASB-Foreign Aid Department

# 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 1.1 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.

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WE NEED  
FOOD & WATER

HELP  
US

## Fast and effective help

In November 2013, “Super-Typhoon” Yolanda devastated the Philippines, leaving great destruction in its wake, with a vast number of people dead or injured. ASB- Foreign Aid immediately dispatched three of its Rapid Response Teams (FAST) to provide medical assistance to Yolanda’s victims.

However, ASB has not only provided relief in the direct aftermath of natural disasters, but has also kept sight of those affected by long-term crises or poverty. These included, for example, refugees from the civil war in Syria to whom ASB supplied household goods and hygiene articles.

ASB provided food parcels to internally displaced persons from Abkhazia to help them survive the harsh, desperate winter. ASB team members also worked in the barren north of Uganda, supporting the youngest and weakest members of society with a wide-ranging child protection programme.

Photo: ADH/F. Zanettini

# Georgia

Natia is one of the 24,000 internally displaced persons living in Western Georgia close to the border with the breakaway region of Abkhazia. Since fleeing from the Caucasian Conflict, the single mother and her four children have lived in a former school now serving as a mass accommodation centre. Most of the displaced families are destitute, living at subsistence

level. “Until October, I worked at Zugdigi market. But then, one day, I suddenly lost my job. I was so worried about my family because we were running out of money for food and fuel”, the 45-year-old describes her difficult situation.

## Winter aid for families

In November 2012, ASB started a winter aid programme to improve living conditions for the internally



Photo: SSK Georgien

displaced in Samegrelo. With financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office, 350 of the poorest refugee families were provided with food parcels containing important staples such as oil, pasta, wheat flour, and sugar. ASB also distributed wood-burning stoves and a total of 150 tons of firewood, with special consideration being given to single parents, the chronically ill and old people living on their own. “The food parcels and firewood saved me and my children from the deprivations of the long hard winter”, Natia says gratefully.

To avoid any social tensions, the project also took into consideration the local Georgian population that had fallen on hard times in 2012, due to bad harvests, falling market prices, and widespread flooding. ASB has been working in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region since January 2012. In cooperation with Georgian partner organisation CONSENT, and with financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office/ Zivik, ASB continues to implement peace-building projects in the region. ASB is also active in a further five regions in Georgia (Tbilisi, Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Adjara and Kvemo Kartli). The focus is on setting up social enterprises as well as the provision of inclusive disaster prevention programmes in playschools and in mass accommodation centres for the internally displaced. All ASB projects in Georgia are implemented in close cooperation with the Georgian Samaritan Association (SSK).

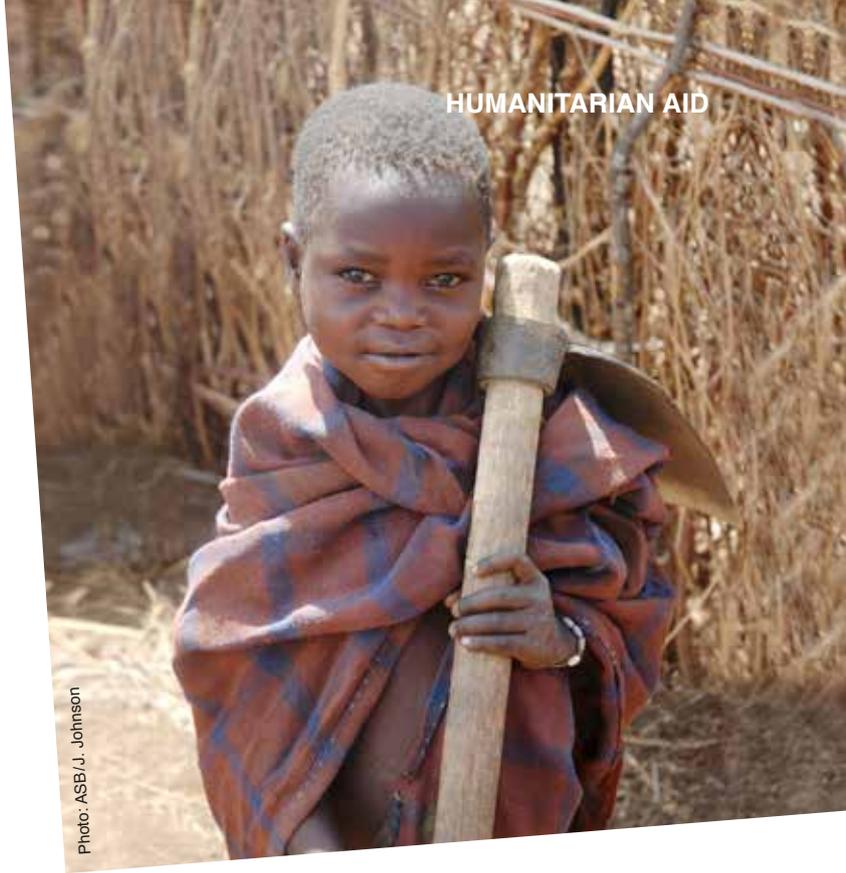


Photo: ASB/J. Johnson

## Uganda

Karamoja is not a happy place for children to grow up. The lives of people in the northeast of Uganda, the country's poorest region, are scarred by violence. The everyday life of the Karamajong, the people living in this region, includes water shortages, crop failures, and insufficient medical care. Every tenth child is underweight, and child mortality is extremely high. Women and children are at the lower end of the societal scale because the Karamajong live in a patriarchal society.

## Strengthening children's rights

In cooperation with Unicef, ASB is committed to improving the rights of women and children in Uganda. Female ASB team members regularly visit villages to talk with clan leaders, representatives of local authorities, and the police. One of these ASB team members is Lucy Ogwang. She is Karamajong herself and knows how difficult it is to effect lasting changes that will improve the position of women and children: "Violence against women and children is part of everyday life in Karamoja. We would like to create an awareness for children and women as a valuable part of society", Lucy Ogwang explains.

In the villages, female ASB social workers organize meetings of Women and Children's Protection Committees. They work closely with village elders and the local authorities, systematically supporting them in the criminal prosecution of violence against as well as abuse and exploitation of women and children. Persons of trust such as midwives or policemen are specifically alerted to the plight of children. At district level, the project has set up 275 Children's Protection Committees.

ASB regularly runs refresher courses to continue to raise awareness of the situation of women and children in Karamoja in order to bring about lasting change. Since the project started in July 2013, up to 900 children and young people, all of them victims of violence, abuse, or exploitation, have received help and

support. Child trafficking as well as exploitative child labour has been significantly reduced. Future prospects for most young people are bleak, since an inadequate education system and low income potential are hardly designed to foster a positive outlook towards a successful life. In youth centres, ASB provides computers with Internet access, improving not only young people's access to information but also enabling them to plan a better life for themselves.

ASB has been working in Uganda since 2006 and currently has five international and more than 130 Ugandan team members. Priority projects are emergency aid, income-generating measures, child protection programmes, and disaster risk reduction.

## Philippines

On 8 November 2013, "Super-Typhoon" Yolanda hit the Philippines with speeds of more than 350 kilometres per hour. Some twelve hours later, when the storm had finally veered off towards Vietnam, the United Nations (UN) published the first data: more than 9.5 million people had been affected by the storm. ASB-Foreign Aid responded by dispatching FAST, its specialist Rapid Response Teams for emergency aid operations abroad.

On 11 November, just a few days after Yolanda had swept across the Philippines, two ASB emergency

aid specialists, Axel Schmidt (37) and Alex Robinson (44), arrived on Cebu. In the weeks to come, the island would become a logistics hub for international humanitarian aid because the typhoon had largely spared the Cebu region. “Our task was to determine, in the midst of the ongoing chaos, where medical assistance and drinking water supplies would be required”, explains ASB-Emergency Aid Coordinator Axel Schmidt: “Because the devastated area was so vast, coordination of emergency aid measures was something of a challenge. Even the Philippine authorities had very little information about the more remote regions.”

The town of Palo, south of Tacloban, eventually became the designated emergency response location for FAST (First Assistance Samaritan Teams). Palo is a small town with some 68,000 inhabitants. The typhoon destroyed over 80 percent of homes, streets, and bridges. Nearly all the medical care provisions had been paralyzed. Two emergency aid organisations, the Belgian First Aid & Support Team and International Search and Rescue Germany (ISAR), set up a joint medical treatment tent in the church square, where they provided emergency surgery and medical care.

Once the initial phase of treating the traumatized patients was over, they handed tent and equipment over to ASB. While the first of three FAST teams reached Palo, a plane carrying 63 tons of relief supplies, including the ASB’s medical equipment, landed in Manila. This transport of relief supplies to the Philippines was organized by Germany’s Relief Coalition (Aktion



Photo: ASB/F. Hofer

Deutschland Hilft). The helpers worked under difficult climatic conditions – the average temperature was 40 degrees Celsius – in the tented medical centre, which often had long queues waiting outside. Every day, they treated up to 200 patients. During the first days and weeks, the FAST team mostly dealt with broken

bones, smaller operations, and follow-up treatment for patients who'd had to endure amputations. Later, most treatments were for infections, respiratory ailments, diarrhoeal diseases, and tending to wounds and injuries. As the first Christmas trees were being decorated in German living rooms, people in



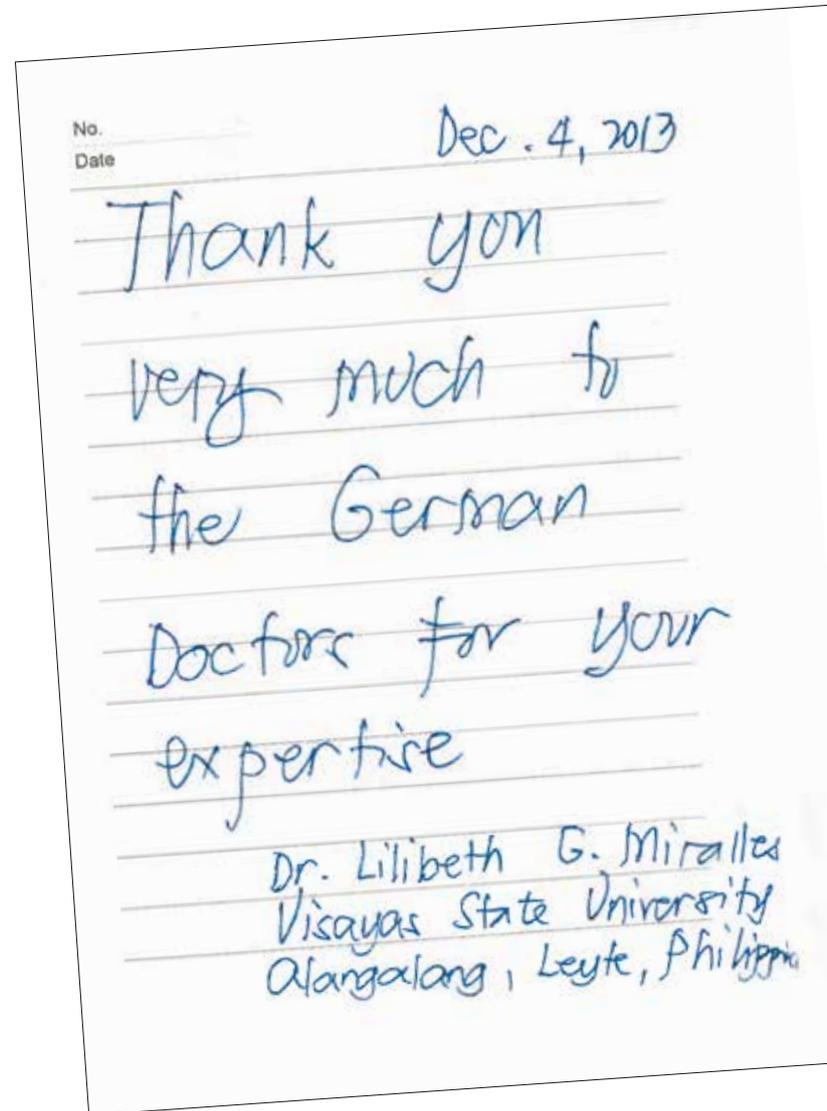
Photo: ASB/F. Hofer

Palo also started to prepare for Christmas. A group of children regularly appeared at the medical tent, singing Filipino Christmas carols for the “German doctors”, as they called them. Naturally, ASB staff did not need to be asked twice – they belted out some German Christmas carols and in the end rehearsed with the children for a special rendition of “Silent Night”. Christmas Eve was a normal working day at the medical centre, but after 6 o’clock in the evening, the team came together for a celebratory meal. The medical relief operation for typhoon victims in the Philippines ended on 6 January 2014.

A total of three teams, consisting of 33 ASB staff and volunteers, were on duty, carrying out more than 4,200 treatments. Treatment tent and medication were handed to the Philippine health authorities who plan to continue running a health care programme there. ASB, too, will continue its involvement in the Philippines, predominantly in the area of disaster risk reduction.

## Lebanon

The civil war in Syria is forcing more and more people to flee to the adjoining countries. No other neighbouring state is taking in more refugees from Syria than Lebanon. The United Nations have estimated that 902,000 Syrians had fled to Lebanon by



early 2013, plus the returning Lebanese nationals who had lived in Syria before the civil war, as well as Palestinian refugees. During the past two years, the influx of refugees and returnees has caused the population to grow by at least 20 percent, which has a massive bearing on the political, social, and economic stability of the country.

Among the ramifications are considerable increases in rent and the overall cost of living, while the influx of unqualified workers is simultaneously causing wage levels to deteriorate.

Many Syrian refugee families are staying with relatives; others rent flats or stay in tents. They tend not to register with the authorities after they arrive, possibly for security reasons, and also because of ignorance. However, registration is necessary for them to be able to receive offers of support in the future.

## Relief items for refugee families

By 2013 it was obvious that there was progressively less living space and work available within the built-up areas, as a result of which more and more refugees started to settle in the less heavily populated south of the country. In November 2013, ASB conducted an assessment in the Saida and El Nabatieh regions to evaluate the situation people found themselves in, and to implement additional help and support measures.

The assessment showed that primary care, especially for new refugees from the civil war regions, was insufficient. Together with partner organisations Solidar Suisse and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition), ASB developed an aid project for approximately 2,400 Syrian refugee families now living in Southern Lebanon. As Carsten Stork, Project Coordinator for Lebanon at the ASB Federal Association, explains: "Refugees who have arrived in Lebanon less than a month before are given household items such as blankets and kitchen utensils as well as hygiene articles. Muslim women also receive a so-called 'dignity package' containing a scarf and clothing."

Refugee families for this aid project are selected in close cooperation with the Lebanese communities, and a tenth of all the aid packages are distributed to Lebanese households in need, so that tension between newcomers and the indigenous communities can be avoided.

ASB set up a hotline, distributed information material, and trained community representatives to facilitate registration of newly arrived refugee families. Refugees can also receive relevant information by text messages. The aid measures are funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), Germany's Relief Coalition that includes ASB. The FAST Rapid Response Team was last deployed in Northern Iraq in October 2012 to provide medical assistance to Syrian refugees.



Photo: SOLIDAR Suisse

From the field diary of FAST members:

## Medical aid after the typhoon

**Friday, 08 November 2013:** Typhoon Yolanda hits the Philippines with speeds of up to 370 kilometres per hour.

**Tuesday, 12 November 2013:** ASB dispatches two experienced emergency aid experts, Axel Schmidt and Alex Robinson, to the Philippines. They instigate further aid operations from a base on Cebu. Members of Aktion Deutschland Hilft, which include ASB, conduct an initial telephone conference to coordinate their aid contributions.

**Sunday, 24 November 2013:** Arriving in Palo at long last the ten members of the first FAST team are tired but happy to have reached their destination. The destruction is immense and first impressions are overwhelming. The ASB ambulance tent is right outside the cathedral. For the town's approximately 70,000 inhabitants, this is now the only medical treatment centre available.

**Monday, 25 November 2013:** The team started registering patients at seven in the morning. There were already 30 people waiting outside the tent. By the end of the first treatment day, there were between 150 and 200 patients waiting.

**Tuesday, 03 December 2013:** Today, we are expecting an important visitor Jörn Rohde, German Ambassador in Manila, is coming to Palo to see how German aid is progressing. Of course, he insisted on paying a visit to the ASB medical treatment tent, too.

**Monday, 09 December 2013:** Among the most frequent conditions presented to us here are skin ailments. Most affected are the children. "The terrible hygiene conditions in many of the temporary shelters really promote the spread of fungal disease and other skin infections", explains Dr Anja Weihrauch. This is exacerbated by the humidity of the tropical climate. Under these conditions, young children are especially prone to infectious diseases such as measles and polio, and ASB has now set up a vaccination station in the treatment tent.

**Thursday, 12 December 2013:** The number of patients coming to the treatment centre remains high, and the workload for the team remains heavy. Sometimes, though, a small improvement can make all the difference, as Dirk Schiffers from ASB Worms-Alzey reports: "I'm the logistics specialist and it's part of my responsibility to help keep the team in good spirits. Today I think I made our boys and girls very happy – I built some showers and they were delighted!"

**Wednesday, 25 December 2013:** Christmas Day is a holiday in the Philippines, too, and so we only have 20 patients today. Among them is a little boy who is paralysed down one side of his body. ASB helpers immediately moved him to the nearest hospital, 30 kilometres away.

**Friday, 27 December 2013:** A day of records: record temperatures and record patient numbers. In the evening, a short but heavy rainfall provided some slight relief. As usual, the team had several emergencies to deal with today. The more serious injuries included, for example, deep cuts and motorcycle accidents.

**Tuesday, 31 December 2013:** "This morning, I went to Palo market to shop for fresh food. Many people wished us a Happy New Year or said, 'Thank you German doctors'. We were so pleased to have such positive feedback from the population. This makes it easier for us to cope with being away from our own family and friends at New Year", says Steffen Hemer of Worms.

**Tuesday, 7 January 2014:** After some nine weeks, the emergency operation is over, but ASB is continuing its support in the Philippines over the next few months, focusing on reconstruction and disaster risk reduction.



Photo: ASB/F. Hofer



## Returning home after the disaster

In 2013, more than 45 million people worldwide were refugees. Every day, war and violence as well as natural disasters force thousands of people to run from their homes in fear for their lives. Most of these refugees search for safety within their own country. This is why emergency relief organisations refer to them as IDPs – internally displaced persons.

When the disaster is over, many families, men, and women want to return to their homes and start a new life. ASB supports people all over the world – for example, in the Balkans, in Haiti, Sri Lanka, and Georgia – during their time of return and reconstruction. In other words, ASB helps with a new start for a self-determined, hopeful future. In addition to rebuilding infrastructure and homes, the focus is on new income-generating measures and ensuring lasting peace.

Photo: ADH / F. Kopp

# Serbia

No other country in Europe is faced with such a vast number of refugees and internally displaced persons as Serbia. Even now, Serbia is sheltering more than 70,500 refugees, mostly from Croatia or Bosnia and Herzegovina, and more than 210,000 people displaced from Kosovo during the Balkan wars. Serbia regards these as internally displaced persons and, according to recent estimates by UNHCR, some 90,000 of them are dependent on aid.

Even though most people would like to return to their original homes, which is also what all the humanitarian efforts aim for, ongoing ethnic tensions and dire economic situations have so far made such a return impossible for many of the displaced. It is therefore necessary to improve their current living conditions and support their integration.

In 2013, ASB supported measures to create social enterprise based income opportunities as well as house building programmes to move people out of mass accommodation. Integrative projects focused in particular on the Roma, the most disadvantaged of all the displaced people.

## Better living conditions for Roma families

They live in places constructed from cardboard and scrap materials; insults and physical attacks are part of their everyday life. The Roma are one of the largest and also the most disadvantaged of all the minority groups within Serbian society. ASB's efforts are aimed at improving living conditions for the Roma, so that they can have a better chance of taking part in community life. In 2010, ASB constructed housing for 21 Roma families in Pozarevac. The newly built playground means that some 70 children now finally have a suitable, child-oriented environment to play in. The new recreation lounge with workroom is open to children and adults alike and suitable for studying as well as spending time together. Communal projects such as painting the outside walls or redesigning the inner courtyard helped reinforce a feeling of community and gave the residents an increased sense of self-confidence.

Many of the Roma make their living by collecting and trading in refuse, and with ASB support they founded a cooperative that now, through agreements with recycling firms and other companies, is able to offer improved working conditions as well as better pay.



Photo: ASB/Serbien

## Setting up mobile care services

In Serbia, only very few of the care-dependent elderly citizens receive an adequate level of care. Costs for a place in one of the care homes range from 400 to 800 euro per month. With an average pension of 250 euro per month, this is out of reach for most old people, and there are very few state-run care facilities.

This is why ASB, in cooperation with the Serbian Samaritan Association IDC (Initiative for Develop-

ment) and Mladenovac municipality, has developed a programme to set up a mobile care service. The new service looks after the region's care-dependent elderly and at the same time creates new jobs. Other local organisations and regional administrations were included in the process, so that in the future they will be able to initiate and set up new nursing and care services.

In August 2013, the IDC care teams were launched. By now, six team members are looking after more than

60 elderly people, providing nursing and household assistance. In the years to come, the range of services offered will be continually extended.

## Closing mass accommodation centres

Because of the vast number of refugees and displaced persons that have come into Serbia since the late 1990s, mass accommodation centres became a necessity. Even today, 3,750 people still have to live in them. Closing these centres is a high priority because they place a great financial burden on the state as well as the local communities, and they prevent the integration of the refugees and displaced persons who live there under extremely difficult conditions.

Since 2007, ASB has implemented several projects aimed at improving living conditions for these refugees, but although much has changed for the better, there is an ongoing need for assistance – especially considering that 60 percent of the refugees and displaced persons have no permanent accommodation and only five percent of them will return to their country of origin. The project region, which includes Smederevo, Vranje, Gadzin Han and Požega municipalities, still has six mass accommodation centres. Closing them is only possible once other accommodation has been created for the people living there. This is why ASB funded the construction of 59 prefabricated houses to provide accommodation for 73 families that previously had to stay in the emergency mass accommodation centres.

## Kosovo

Kosovo is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Ethnic tension, predominantly between Albanians and Serbs, still prevents lasting social stability. While most of the 850,000 displaced Kosovo-Albanians were able to return home after the end of the war, many members of other minority groups are still living abroad due to the country's ongoing social instability. Because of their often dire economic situation and the large-scale destruction of houses, returning home remains a near-impossible proposition for most of the displaced.

Returnees, especially those belonging to the minority group known as RAE – Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians – are having a hard time settling in Kosovo. The unemployment rate for this section of the population is 90 percent. They are socially sidelined and usually live in terrible housing conditions. The communities do not have the money to react to the challenges faced by the returnees. 37 percent of the population of Kosovo live on less than 1.42 euro per day, but only 13 percent receive any state benefit.

## Facilitating the return

The Serbs and RAE returning to Kosovo are predominantly settling in Pristina, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Peje/Pec. To facilitate their return, ASB cooperated with the American aid organisation Mercy Corps. While Mercy Corps helped rebuild homes, procured legal

documents and dealt with social challenges, ASB distributed so-called “returnee packs” to 32 families. The packs contained six months’ worth of food and baby food, hygiene articles, warm blankets, stoves for the winter, and basic furniture. ASB also organised the return of 33 refugee families from Serbia, and provided professional or additional training for another 22 families, so that they were able to set up small businesses.

## Working together for a peaceful future

In Obiliq/Obilic and Shterpce/Strpce municipalities, many families belonging to the Albanian majority as well as Serbian and RAE minorities are existing in precarious living conditions. All parts of the population suffer high unemployment, and still more people keep returning there, mostly from Serbia.

ASB supports all socially disadvantaged families with income and job generating measures, regardless of their ethnic background. 15 of the most destitute Albanian, Serbian, and RAE families were selected to take part in this project. One member of each family was invited to take part in courses to strengthen entrepreneurial skills, which then enabled them to provide income opportunities for their families. In order to support this process, ASB networked with the authorities and companies that actively support the process of providing jobs for the socially disadvantaged.



Photo: ASB/Studosteuropa

## A market for the future

Mamusha municipality has everything required for successful agriculture: a favourable climate and fertile soil. Tomatoes from Mamusha are renowned throughout Kosovo and offer great export potential. And yet, Mamusha used to be the only municipality in Southern Kosovo that didn't have a market. This is why ASB – with financial funding from the municipal authorities and the European Commission – is continuing its support of the newly established regional fruit and vegetable market.

Funded by the EU, ASB implemented the construction of an indoor market building, where some 30 traders now offer their produce. Local inhabit-

ants benefit from the new market since they can now purchase fresh regional fruit and vegetables. The new trading facility enables agriculture to boom, and provides new job opportunities as well as sustainable economic recovery for the region. Seminars about business administration and production engineering are provided to teach farmers how to increase product quality and business productivity, thereby ensuring that Mamusha will strengthen its appeal as a trading centre for agricultural produce and secure a sustainable future.

Networking with neighbouring communities has much the same goal: their markets offer produce from Mamusha, while Mamusha market also sells fruit and vegetables from neighbouring communities. An annual tomato festival is designed to increase awareness of



Photo: ASB/Südsteuropa

the trading centre within the region and strengthen co-operation with neighbouring farmers' associations.

## Tourism to drive development

Southern Kosovo has not only great farming potential but is also of interest to tourism: a varied landscape, a rich cultural and historical heritage, and lots of folklore. Tourism already offers good income potential. If this potential is properly directed, it could drive development within the entire region. ASB intends to upgrade quality and visibility of the richly varied regional cuisine and use this as a marketing strategy for tourism.

Funded by the EU, ASB team members work with previously unemployed, socially disadvantaged families to develop menus and recipes typical of the region. These will be on offer as part of a gastronomic journey across the south of the country. A map called "Tourism and Taste – Tourtaste" will feature all the participating gastronomic enterprises. Press releases, newsletters, and a website are used to promote these new tourist attractions. Increased awareness of Southern Kosovan regional cuisine will also provide sustainable benefits to agriculture and the food industry.

## Bosnia

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the world's most heavily landmine-contaminated countries. More than

8,000 inhabitants are registered as victims of landmines, including some 1,700 who were injured since the end of the war. Exploding landmines are still causing deaths today. The mines are not only a constant danger to life and limb but they also damage the country's social and economic development: they reduce the amount of available arable land, cause loss of livestock, and generate a permanent feeling of threat and fear.

But it is the landmine victims who have to cope with the very worst consequences. In a country where the economy is weak and unemployment is high, they find it almost impossible to get work. Their situation is further complicated by the psychological damage caused by such a traumatic experience.

After completing a wide-ranging and successful mine-clearing project, ASB is now attending to the mutilated and traumatized people living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 1 January 2013, a programme was launched that will enable victims and their families to be better integrated into society. 480 families affected by landmine explosions are taking part in further education programmes specifically adapted to suit people with disabilities, aiming to strengthen their entrepreneurial skills. 240 people with severe injuries caused by landmines will receive start-up capital for setting up businesses. ASB also helps establish contacts with local employers offering jobs to people with amputation injuries.



Photo: Aktion Deutschland hilft

## Haiti

When the great earthquake of 12 January 2010 devastated vast areas of Haiti, it struck a country that, even before this catastrophe, was one of the poorest in the world. When the initial important phase of emergency aid was completed, local as well as international aid teams were not only faced with the challenge of having to rebuild structures, but more often than not having to create them from scratch. Who can rebuild their house or flat, and where? How do new homes have to be constructed to better stand up to future earthquakes and hurricanes? What sanitary installations are non-negotiable parts of reconstruction so that outbreaks of illnesses and epidemics can be prevented in future? ASB faced these and many other questions, in line with the important motto “build back better”.

The aspect of disaster risk prevention is an essential part of any sustainable, effective rebuilding programme. A central component is to ensure that construction quality will prevent buildings collapsing again when the next storm or earthquake strikes. This is why ASB trains bricklayers and other construction workers in disaster-proof building techniques. For example, there are very simple ways of checking whether bricks are sturdy enough for house building.

Another important aspect is the choice of building location. Haiti is a country of many coastlines and erosion-prone slopes. ASB team members are on

hand to offer advice to builders on the suitability of particular locations and the right kind of terrain for building on. They also advise on the use of timber and steel construction to markedly improve the structural integrity of a building.

## **Help in the wake of Hurricane Sandy**

Even now, more than three years after the earthquake, there are still people living in tents, without clean drinking water and sanitary facilities. Among those still housed in tents are not only survivors of the earthquake; in 2012, numerous families also lost their homes through Hurricane Isaac or Hurricane Sandy. They, too, were included in ASB's planning and will receive new housing. Building new homes for the last of the now homeless inhabitants of Grand-Goâves – some 300 people – started in September 2013. By the middle of 2014, the last of the provisional encampments in the region is finally due to be closed.

## **Rebuilding schools**

In order to be able to provide additional infrastructure in the newly constructed living quarters, ASB is rebuilding primary and secondary schools. Financially supported by Aktion Deutschland Hilft and Deutsche Bank Foundation, six schools have already been completed and another six are at planning stage. The buildings are earthquake and storm proof and are to be used not only as schools, but also as emer-

gency shelters for local inhabitants, for instance, during a hurricane.

Building schools, of course, also plays a role in matters of educational policy. However, some 80 percent of schools are private, which means that parents have to pay hefty school fees and sometimes even go into debt. This is why ASB supports the building of public schools, in close cooperation with local government and the Department of Education. In the long term, this will be of great benefit to many people.

## **Health education in schools**

Naturally, children are taught the conventional subjects in school, but ASB-trained hygiene tutors also offer lessons in the prevention of infectious diseases. The children learn that they need to wash their hands before eating food, how to properly boil germ-infested water, and how important it is for overall health to correctly use sanitary facilities. They take their newfound knowledge back to their families and so act as multipliers for vitally important health information.

# **Sri Lanka**

The civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil organisation "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" (LTTE) in Sri Lanka lasted for

30 years. The war cost tens of thousands of human lives and forced more than 300,000 people, most of them Tamils, to flee their homes. Most of the displaced persons were initially housed in IDP camps. However, because of large-scale destruction throughout the region, it became difficult for them to return home. There were no houses, schools, hospitals, or health centres left standing, and there was acute danger from landmines, insufficient drinking water, and the absence of sanitary facilities. This is why the government designated new areas for housing and resettled families of displaced people from the north and east of Sri Lanka in other regions of the country.

## Storm-proof building

More than 200 ASB team members have been working in Sri Lanka for several years, helping people traumatised by war to make a new, self-determined life for themselves. To start with, ASB worked in the refugee camps, but then a huge rebuilding programme began, and ASB supported the construction of new, weatherproof housing for a total of 2,794 families. ASB helpers were most concerned that the land surrounding the newly constructed housing developments would be arable and that there would be sufficient drinking water available for all the inhabitants. This project was aimed predominantly at families that had been expelled from their homes several times and had been forced to live in makeshift shelters for many years.

The construction work was undertaken by the families themselves, alongside local building contractors. ASB team members dealt with the provision of materials and provided advice and support where needed. The project, financed by the European Union, also included training brick manufacturers in the production of building materials better able to withstand severe weather conditions.

ASB team members trained the new homeowners in different building techniques such as bricklaying and plastering, so that they could be involved in the construction of their own homes and later be able to carry out some of the house maintenance themselves. An ASB site engineer regularly inspected the building work as it was completed.

## Preventing conflict situations

To avoid conflict situations between the extremely poor local inhabitants and the newcomers, ASB organised advanced training courses in conflict prevention and dispute settlement techniques for those in charge at local and regional authority level, supported the foundation of a regional aid organisation network and the basic and advanced training for social workers. By working together, the atmosphere in the villages between locals and refugees has significantly improved and there is a growing feeling of mutual solidarity – misery and suffering are now turning into hope and trust.



After the successful conclusion of the initial work, ASB team members handed the projects on to the by now well-organised aid network, which will continue to run and develop social projects in the years to come.

## Georgia

The Caucasian Conflict of 2008 forced many Georgian families to flee to different regions within their native country. Families displaced from South Ossetia lost their homes and all their belongings in the conflict. There had already been military conflicts concerning

the Georgian provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the early 1990s. According to the UN Refugee Agency, some quarter of a million people in Georgia are still internally displaced. Thousands of families are staying in the Samegrelo region, near the border to Abkhazia.

### Setting up social enterprises

ASB aims to get all the region's inhabitants – native people as well as the displaced – to join together in developing their villages and towns, thus creating better communities. ASB is setting up “social enterprises” as a means of easing social privation and con-



Photo: SSK Georgien

licts between locals and displaced persons, and to prevent future problems. These service centres provide new jobs for the displaced, while benefiting the indigenous population.

ASB is also involved with initiating other projects designed to promote peace. Most notably, these include so-called civil forums, where key players from all the different groups come together to plan the next steps. These regular meetings and exchanges create sympathy for “the others” and are instrumental in reducing tensions.

By now, a mobile care service, a day-care centre for young people and a day-care facility for children from displaced as well as local families have successfully

started to operate. Also well established by now is a centre for the repair of artificial limbs with an integrated training facility for disabled young people, and a renovation and repair service. ASB provided basic equipment and furnishings for these centres and absorbed the cost of registration with the authorities. Financial support from the “Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (Zivik)” enabled ASB to provide deferred loans for all social enterprises and finance the tuition of staff.

### **Help for socially disadvantaged families**

In Kvemo Kartli, a region in the southeast of Georgia, ASB employs a similar strategy.

Support is provided for setting up social enterprises, thus creating jobs for the displaced and the socially disadvantaged. Because the services are offered free of charge, the project is of particular benefit to socially disadvantaged local inhabitants, too. Prior to this, many of them had to go into debt, just to be able to receive medical assistance or care.

In order to make the plight of the displaced people more understandable and bring the various social groups closer together, ASB, in cooperation with Georgian organisations, set up a competition for journalists, with awards for those contributions that most powerfully and realistically described the situation faced by refugees.

## The Balkans

Networking, training on the job and additional training opportunities are important milestones on the road towards establishing successful social organisations, a more assured civil society, and to securing a lasting peace. This holds as true for Germany as it does around the world, most especially in a region so shaken by conflict as the Balkans. This is why ASB initiated a cross-border project supporting organisations aiming at social and civic education in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Kosovo.

The aim is to connect civic education organisations from those five countries into one large transnational network, to promote the exchange of specialists and to strengthen the cooperation with national and transnational authorities and organisations.

## Serbia

In practice this means that ASB will set up network meetings in each of the five countries for representatives of civic education and social organisations from all of the countries. Central to these meetings is the exchange of information about the state of the social security systems and available grants within the EU, as well as training workshops and the development of joint actions by advocacy groups.

Part of the project, which is also supported by the EU commission and SOLIDAR, a European NGO network campaigning for social justice within Europe and throughout the world, is the development of an online learning platform for staff of the networked organisations. ASB also provides the required financial support for the 20 best jointly developed advocacy campaigns for social projects and the development of a civil society.

Life story:

## Hope for the victims of landmines

In place of his right leg, Oner Kharchilava now wears an artificial limb. The reason for this is a landmine, left over from the war in South Ossetia during the 1990s. Back then, thousands of these mines were deployed, and many of them remain to this day.

This could have been the end of Oner's story, but the committed family man ensured instead that this is where it really starts. The only artificial limb Oner could afford was badly made and didn't really fit. But, after all, he was good with his hands, and so he got to work, repairing this and adjusting that, until his artificial limb was a good fit. Today he is able to walk perfectly, without the aid of crutches or a walking stick.

### From self-help to entrepreneurship

Once he had started to get involved with the artificial limbs issue, he realised that there were many more people affected by this than just him – most people with artificial limbs were limping badly and suffered horribly with the badly fitting appliances. Oner got in touch with Iamze Alpenidze, who in 2003 had set up a regional aid organisation for disabled people. She put him in touch with ASB. Together, they established that just in the region around Zugdigi, more than 2,000 people had artificial limbs. Most of them had

been injured during the war or by landmines. Oner and Iamze have now set up a social enterprise for all those people – a workshop for artificial limbs.

The concept of small-scale social enterprises has been successfully introduced by ASB in the Caucasian border regions for several years. Refugees and other people affected by war are trained to be able to offer social services that are desperately needed in the region. During the past few years, several care services have been established: nursing and assistance for the elderly, home assistance for the disabled, janitorial services, and childcare facilities.

It is important for the ASB teams that the enterprises tackle several problems at the same time: that they provide jobs, and that they provide vital services to the entire region. This means that the programme benefits the displaced as well as the indigenous population and is instrumental

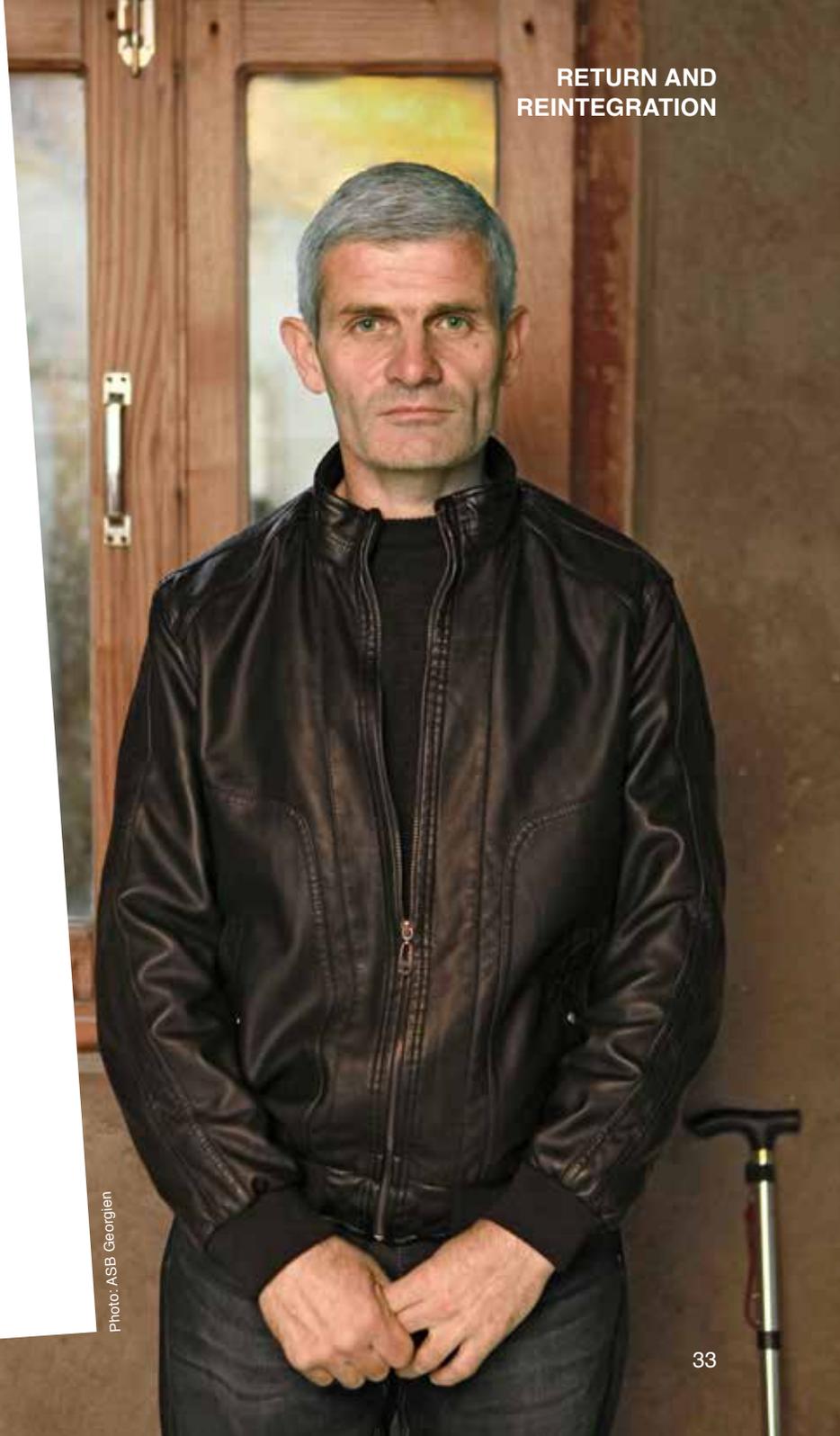
in merging the various groups into true village communities.

## New jobs

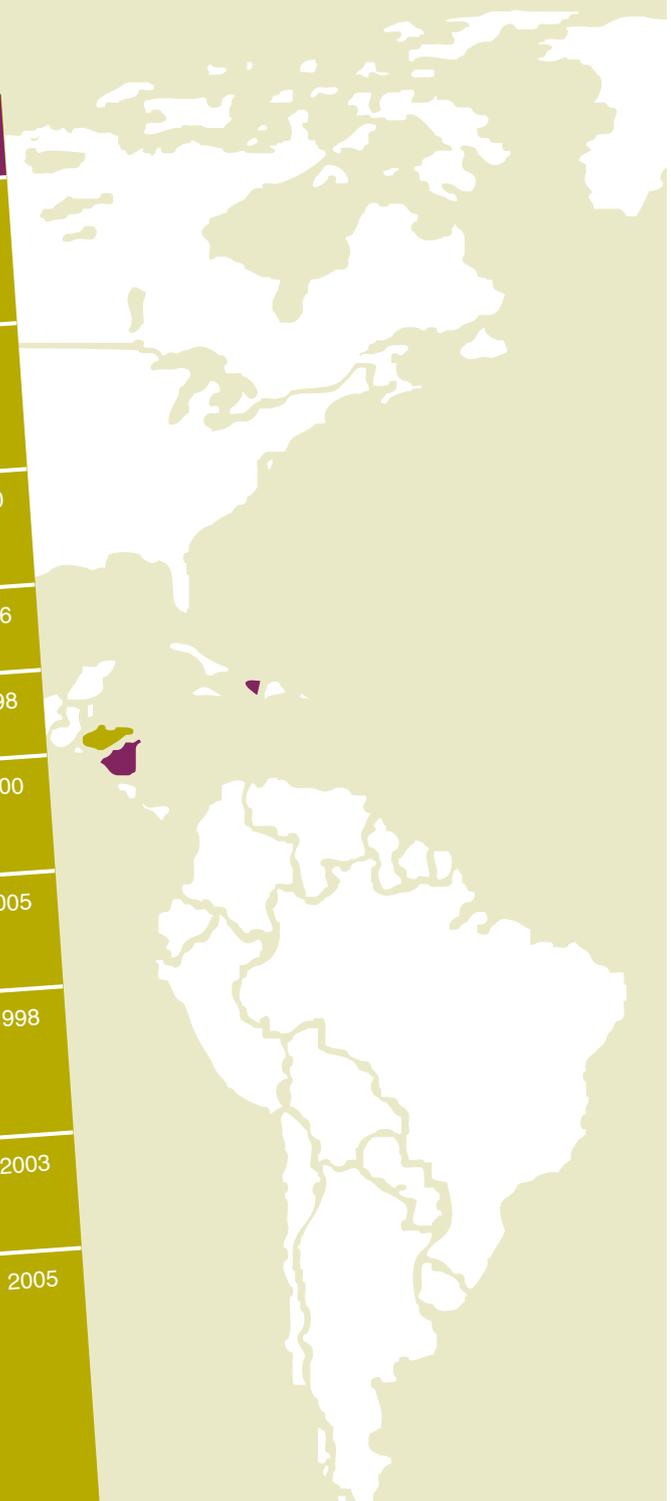
News about the orthopaedic workshop spread quickly and Oner has been able to employ four staff. They repair damaged artificial limbs and adjust those that do not fit properly, so that their owners achieve better mobility and are once again able to live an independent life.

Thanks to start-up help provided by ASB and the excellent networking of Iamze Alpenidze, the workshop is able to offer its services free of charge to those families living below the poverty line. However, this is not enough for Oner Kharchilava. Since early 2014, the deeply committed entrepreneur offers traineeships to school children and students. Trainees learn how to repair artificial limbs, but they also learn how to set up and successfully run a small enterprise. And it looks as though the small workshop will soon need to be extended – the traineeship programme has resulted in a number of potential new staff members already queuing up!

Photo: ASB Georgien



Country	Programme Focus	Staff inter- national	Staff national	since
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Reconstruction of housing, income-generating schemes, promoting the development of local structures, support for marginalized groups of the population	–	9	1992
Georgia	Inclusive disaster risk reduction peace consolidation setting up income-generating measures, setting up of social enterprises for social services,	2	26	2010
Haiti	Humanitarian aid, reconstruction of local infrastructure, school-based disaster risk reduction	4	35	2010
Indonesia	Inclusive disaster risk reduction, income-generating schemes, humanitarian aid	1	30	2006
Kosovo	Income-generating schemes, rehabilitation of infrastructure	–	4	1998
Nicaragua	Community-based and inclusive disaster risk reduction, humanitarian aid, water, sanitary and hygiene programmes	1	7	2000
Niger	Humanitarian aid, set-up and support of grain and feed banks, disaster risk reduction	1	19	2005
Serbia	Reconstruction of housing for refugees and internally displaced persons, income-generating schemes, support of returnees to Kosovo, support of Roma families	1	7	1998
Sri Lanka	Reconstruction of local infrastructure, support of economic and social development	3	50	2003
Uganda	Food security measures, restoration of rural livelihoods, protection work for disadvantaged children, young people and women	5	85	2005



## ASB-Foreign aid projects

Country	Type of aid	Donors	Volume in €
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Reconstruction of housing, income-generating schemes, promoting the development of local structures, support for marginalized population groups	EU, local government agencies, own funds	<b>1,013,468.89</b>
<b>Gambia</b>	Supporting a health-care centre	Own funds	<b>5,213.14</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	Inclusive disaster risk reduction, consolidation of peace by setting up income-generating measures, setting up of social enterprises for social services, mobile nursing services, social assistance for long-term hospitalized children, supporting the umbrella association	AA, Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), ECHO, Non-profit development cooperation organisation (GEZA), ADH, Aktion Mensch, ASB RV Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Eifel, own funds	<b>481,822.44</b>
<b>Haiti</b>	Construction of 480 semipermanent houses, construction of semi-permanent schools, distribution of tools for street repairs, reconstruction of streets, trainings in earthquakeproof construction works, construction of school gardens	ADH, BMZ, ECHO, donations	<b>1,594,352.96</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	Rescue services support	Own funds, ASB Chemnitz and District	<b>6,112.40</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	Community based disaster risk reduction, Humanitarian Aid, income-generating schemes, Advocacy activities in the sector of inclusive disaster risk reduction	AA, BMZ, AusAID, ADH, own funds, donations	<b>289,998.83</b>
<b>Kosovo</b>	income-generating schemes, training schemes, rehabilitation of infrastructure	AA, EU, BPRM, own funds	<b>244,911.44</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	Supply and distribution of relief items, employment of a staff member responsible for volunteer work development, exchange of experts, supporting the umbrella association	Own funds, ASB OV Hamburg-West, EU NABiBB	<b>25,808.62</b>
<b>Libanon</b>	Assessment of the situation of syrian refugees, distribution of relief items to newly arrived refugees	own funds, ADH	<b>36,489.69</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	Supporting the umbrella association and the branch office Kaunas, youth exchange programmes, distribution of relief items, support for day-care centres, implementation of a social welfare centre, support for transport services in Kaunas	Own funds, ASB KV Ostvorpommern, ASB KV Ostthürigen, ASB OV Hamburg-Nordost, ASB OV Wiesbaden, ASB RV Mittelhessen, ASB RV Warnow-Trebeltal, ASB RV Stormarn-Segeberg	<b>33,048.38</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Community-based disaster risk reduction, disaster risk reduction with a focus on families with disabled children, construction of wells, establishing of a drinking water supply system	ECHO, BMZ, ADH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malta (via ERRC), own funds	<b>384,835.78</b>

Country	Type of aid	Donors	Volume in €
<b>Niger</b>	Cash transfer for support of households affected by food crisis, set-up and support of grain and feed banks	FAO, ADH, own funds, Dominikus Ringeisen Werk	<b>154,154.88</b>
<b>Philippines</b>	Basic medical care for people hurt by taifun Haiyan	AA, ADH, own funds	<b>143,973.02</b>
<b>Poland</b>	Development of umbrella association, summer holiday camp, exchange of experts, implementation of a social welfare services, participation project for victims of Nazi persecution in the region Lesser Poland	Own funds, ASB RV Dresden, ASB RV Heilbronn-Franken, Foundation EVZ	<b>37,052.91</b>
<b>Romania</b>	Transport of relief items, support of the construction of a home for the elderly	Own funds, ASB KV Helmstedt	<b>5,473.80</b>
<b>Serbia</b>	Allocation of housing for refugees and internally displaced persons, income-generating schemes, support of returnees to Kosovo, support of Roma families, support of a mobile care service, trainings	EU, BPRM, own funds	<b>197,233.40</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	development of umbrella association	own funds	<b>3,127.88</b>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Reconstruction of housing for internally displaced persons, peace building activities and conflict prevention, support for economic and social development	EU, AA, UNICEF, ADH, donations	<b>533,020.89</b>
<b>Uganda</b>	Food security measures, repair and maintenance of wells, restoration of rural livelihoods, protection work for disadvantaged children, young people and women	FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, ADH, donations	<b>900,416.25</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>	Establishing a care centre 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, organisation of youth exchanges, support for the umbrella association, establishing medical and emergency services	Own funds, Foundation EVZ, ASB LV Bayern, ASB LV Schleswig-Holstein, ASJ Schleswig-Holstein, ASJ LV Schleswig-Holstein	<b>99,888.04</b>
<b>Total amount</b>			<b>6,190,403.64</b>

as of 31 /12/ 2013

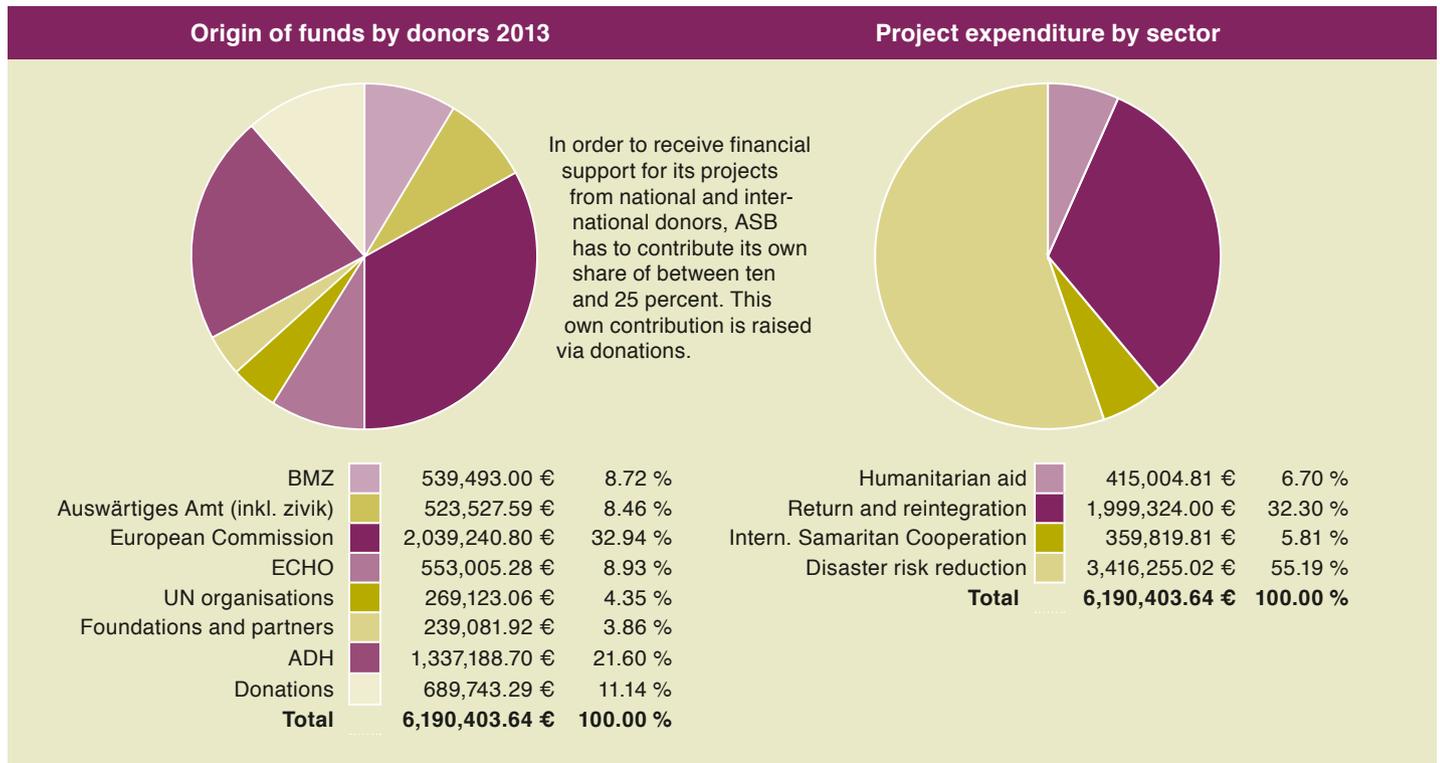
Abbreviations: **AA:** German Federal Foreign Office **ADH:** Germany's Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft) **AusAID:** Australian Agency for International Development **BPRM:** Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (US Department of State) **BMZ:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development **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 **ERRC:** Emergency Response and Rescue Corps, Malta **FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organisation **Foundation EVZ:** Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" **UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme **UNHCR:** United Nations High Commission for Refugees **UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund **UNICEF:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund **UN OCHA:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs **UN Women:** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women **WFP:** World Food Programme



Photo: ASB / Zanettini

# 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 2013 comprised a total of 6.19 million euro. In 2013, the Foreign Aid Department at ASB Headquarters consisted of twelve permanent staff (head of department, project coordination, finance coordination), one project-bound coordinator as well as one trainee and two temporary staff members.



as of 31/12/2013

Abbreviations: **Auswärtiges Amt**: German Federal Foreign Office **ADH**: Aktion Deutschland Hilft /Germany's Relief Coalition **BMZ**: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development **ECHO**: European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office





# Preparing for the worst

Nobody can prevent natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, or hurricanes from happening. But the right preparations will go a long way towards helping people to significantly limit the impact of such disaster.

Among the most important preparatory measures are improving the infrastructure, increasing the population's self-help capacity, and regular emergency drills teaching best practice in the event of disaster.

ASB's involvement in disaster risk reduction focuses on those parts of the globe where severe weather conditions and earthquakes prevail: Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Numerous ASB projects contribute to a significant risk and vulnerability reduction for the population in case of disaster, and help achieve greater self-sufficiency when dealing with the aftermath.

Photo: SSK Georgien

# Nicaragua

Nicaragua is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters. According to the World Risk Report 2013, the Central American country ranks 14th on the index of countries most at risk from natural disaster. This is because of the pronounced volcanic activity along the Pacific coast and the high number of earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. Climate change, too, causes an increase in severe storms, floods, landslides, and droughts. In addition to the acute threat of natural disasters, the population's existence is made even more perilous by loss of fishing and poor harvests.

ASB has been working in Nicaragua since 2002, running projects in close cooperation with the country's National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response that was set up in the year 2000.

## Help for people with disabilities

Central to the aid provided by ASB are preventive measures for people with and without disabilities. Even though the disabled are extremely vulnerable in the event of disaster, to date there is practically no consideration given to this part of the population within disaster risk reduction programmes in Nicaragua. Still, disability is no peripheral matter: some 600,000 people – approximately ten percent of the population – live with a disability. Of these, 230,000 are children and young people under the age of 18.

During 2013, ASB concentrated its efforts on families with disabled children. The overall aim is to teach and practice specific actions and measures people can utilize to better protect themselves and their children, and get to a place of safety in the event of disaster. These projects were supported by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition).

## Learning from positive experiences in Asia

Based on the positive results ASB experienced while working in Indonesia, ASB now sets up training teams that undergo intensive preparation seminars. These seminars enable them to teach disaster risk reduction techniques to children and families and to practice with them the emergency routines necessary for survival. Training materials for parents, originally developed in Indonesia, were translated and amended to suit Nicaraguan requirements. Bespoke teaching materials were developed to suit the specific needs of disabled children. These include, for example, videos with soundtrack and subtitles.

Parents, their disabled children, and their siblings are trained in small groups. Emergency drills enable them to put into practice their newly acquired knowledge and skills. The training teams include members of the Nicaraguan aid organisation "Los Pipitos". They will run regular refresher courses when the project has ended, and will ensure the long-term sustainability of these preventive measures.

A total of 5,591 disabled children, their families, neighbours, and friends were trained in 2013 in Managua, León, Chinandega, Matagalpa, Estelí, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia regions. To date, more than 22,300 people have taken part in the training programmes and emergency drills.

The same approach is being adopted in Guatemala, where ASB works with AWO, the Workers' Welfare Association, to offer inclusive disaster risk reduction training to children and their families.

## Clean drinking water

When disaster strikes, remote and hard to reach regions such as the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS) are often cut off from aid for many days. Pueblo Nuevo village, for example, lies about an hour by boat from the semi-urban population centre Laguna de Perlas, right on the banks of the river Wawashang. Pueblo Nuevo is crammed tightly onto a steep slope that falls away to the river. The plots are tiny, so that it is impossible for the residents to implement the minimum distances between well and latrine as required by the health ministry, which is why drinking water is continuously contaminated with faecal bacteria. ASB installed safe drinking water supplies with direct connections to the houses. A follow-up project will supply a solution for the sanitation problems by installing so-called biodigesters.



Photo: ASB / Nicaragua

# Haiti

Haiti's geographical location makes it extremely susceptible to natural disasters. The country lies in a zone of high seismic activity that is constantly prone to earthquakes. Throughout the hurricane season, from June to October, massive storms are a recurring danger, heavy rainfall often leads to flooding, and extensive deforestation is causing frequent landslides. The devastating earthquake of January 2010 claimed more than 200,000 human lives, some 2.1 million people lost their homes. Even today, thousands of people live in emergency shelters and life has not yet



Photo: ASB Haiti

returned to normal. School is often held in temporary structures.

## Cholera epidemics and tropical storms

Remedial action is made difficult by cholera epidemics that have continued to flare up since 2010, especially during the rainy season. Additional natural disasters such as the devastating hurricanes Isaac and Sandy as well as the over-stretched food situation play their part in further slowing down any improvement.

In the so-called Zone “Les Palmes” around the towns of Petit-Goâve, Grand-Goâve, and Leogane, ASB rebuilt six schools, using disaster-proof construction methods. The buildings serve as classrooms and, during the hurricane season, they also provide emergency shelters for the local population. Local construction workers can utilize their newly acquired knowledge on earthquake and storm-proof construction methods later on, when building living accommodation and other amenities. By reinforcing those parts of the roads that were particularly vulnerable, helpers ensured that access would remain open even when disaster had struck.

During the past few years, ASB team members have held training sessions at all 250 primary schools in Petit-Goâve/Grand-Goâve school district and, to ensure that these skills are not lost, experts run regu-

lar refresher courses and emergency drills. ASB also set up school gardens in those places where many people suffered from hunger. In twelve schools, ASB nutrition experts introduced parents and pupils to new methods of growing and conserving food, making an essential contribution to food security.

## Georgia

Georgia's great susceptibility to natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, landslides, storms, and avalanches is not widely known. But the country at the edge of the Caucasus Mountains is regularly devastated by massive natural disasters. The Munich Re insurance group, for example, has rated some 80 percent of the Georgian territory as highly earthquake-prone, and at least 50 percent of the country – especially the uplands and high mountain regions – are considered avalanche-prone. Typical for the mountainous regions are snow avalanches as well as mudslides and landslides.

Georgia has a population of 4.7 million people. About a third of them live below the poverty line. These people are especially vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. As a result of the civil wars of the early 1990s and the warlike conflict with Russia in 2008 concerning the Georgian region of South Ossetia, about a quarter of a million people are registered as internally displaced persons today. They,

too, often live in precarious conditions and are subject to an extremely high risk of natural disasters occurring.

ASB is focusing its activities on the area in and around Zugdigi, capital of the Samagrel-Zemo Svantia region, some 350 km northwest of Georgia's capital Tbilisi, right on the border to the break-away region of Abkhazia. According to data supplied by the Georgian Environmental Authority, the region is under extreme threat from earthquakes as well as flooding. It has not only one of the highest probability ratings for landslides but also suffers strong winds, and in summer, after extended dry periods, increased danger from forest fires.

### Help for senior citizens and the disabled

For the internally displaced, it is particularly difficult to recognise the dangers posed by natural disasters, to assess the situations realistically, and to be able to take the measures required to prepare themselves and their surroundings for such events. There is also the fact that the mass accommodation centres for refugees are often in remote areas, making it hard for the rescue workers to reach them. Often, displaced families include elderly or disabled people who were injured, for example, by landmines or during the civil war, and who have great problems reaching a place of safety in the event of disaster.

This is why ASB team members are training first aid providers in the region's mass accommodation centres. These people will be able to apply life-saving measures and help the injured to survive until the rescue teams arrive. Events providing additional information about disaster risk reduction are offered to the inhabitants of the mass accommodation centres as well as the surrounding villages. During the course of one year, 1,000 people received training in the application of essential preventive measures.

## First aid courses and early warning systems

In 50 mass accommodation centres, additional emergency drills were held that were open to refugees as well as representatives of the surrounding communities. The families learnt how to prepare for natural disasters, what action to take during a disaster and what to look out for in the immediate aftermath. The emergency drills took into consideration the special needs of the most vulnerable residents such as the elderly, children or the disabled, and pointed out where in the region help would be available to people.

In cooperation with the Georgian partner organisation CONSENT, ASB also utilized the train-the-trainer method to train four Georgian colleagues as disaster risk reduction tutors, who will then con-

tinue to provide training courses in the future, thus ensuring the ongoing sustainability of this project.

In close cooperation with refugee representatives and local authority staff, ASB has devised a hazard map to show all potential sources of danger within the vicinity of the mass accommodation centres and the surrounding villages. The map also shows emergency shelters and evacuation routes. Distinct signposting was used to mark safe emergency assembly points. Easy to maintain acoustic early warning systems were installed in all 50 mass accommodation centres and the surrounding villages, and first aid kits as well as fire extinguishers were provided.

## Learning by playing: emergency drills for children

Children are amongst the most vulnerable when it comes to the aftermath of natural disasters, but even the smallest can learn what to do during an emergency. This is why ASB has developed a special programme for disaster risk reduction courses in playschools. Child-friendly teaching aids and play-acting teaches children how to protect themselves and seek shelter when disaster strikes, focusing on self-protection as well as helping children with disabilities. In addition to the children, their teaching staff and local authority representatives are being made aware of potential sources of dan-



Photo: SSK Georgian

ger in the vicinity of playschools, and playschool staff are given first aid training.

This is a joint project between ASB and Save the Children Netherlands, with ASB running courses for children and teachers in playschools in the Georgian regions of Adjara und Samtskhe-Java-

khети and Save the Children running the same courses across the border in Armenia.

Both organisations are financially supported by DIPECHO, the Disaster Preparedness programme of ECHO, the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection.

# Niger

The republic of Niger is one of the poorest countries on earth. Some 60 percent of the population live below the poverty line. The United Nation's 2013 Human Development Index has Niger share last place with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The West African country is at risk from a multitude of hazards, including natural disasters such as droughts and flooding, plagues of insects and epidemics.



What makes matters worse is that even during normal times, harvests do not yield enough to provide for a whole year. Traditionally, the time between June and September is known as the “periode de soudure”, the “time of scarcity”, which continuously reactivates the hunger cycle because this is exactly when most of the work in the fields has to be done. When families do not have the energy for work during those months, the next harvest is even worse.

## Help for the disabled

However, there is enough produce for sale in the markets even during the summer months. To bridge the period to the next harvest, ASB supports the 150 most poverty-stricken families with monthly contributions of 32,500 CFA-francs, about 50 euros. In the village of Zinder, ASB identified another 21 households with disabled people who are so destitute that they will require longer-term assistance. In cooperation with the Niger Federation of Persons with Disabilities (FNPH), ASB pays these families the sum of 15,000 CFA-francs (about 22 euros) a month for half a year.

In the village of Gangara, ASB has established a different approach for providing help. In this stretch of land between the Sahara and the more arable regions in the south, settler-farmers and nomads with their herds compete for increasingly scarce resources. Old, traditional systems of resource sharing are cancelled

out by the deterioration of grazing and arable land and by the country's massive population growth.

### Distributing small farm animals

In order to protect the most destitute families from hunger, ASB has distributed 114 goats and 738 sheep and set up a production facility for animal food, so that the animals would survive and provide milk, offspring, or meat. ASB donated the first 20,000 units of animal food to the families.

In cooperation with the local authorities, ASB team members also set up a community-based help system for the development of farm animal resources and animal health control. Simultaneously, a system for handling grievances was put in place, so that conflicts can be reported and resolved.

## Uganda

Even though significant headway has been made during the past two decades in the fight against poverty, Uganda remains one of the poorest nations on earth. It ranks 161 of 186 in the United Nation's Human Development Index 2013. There may be a moderate reduction in poverty in Northern Uganda, but 61 percent of the population are still living below the poverty line. This slow rate of progress leads to

a cycle of conflict, displacement, loss of production facilities, lack of access to education, and finally, to widespread poverty and hunger.

The Karamoja region in the northeast of Uganda regularly suffers droughts. The arid climate is unique in a country where development approaches and programmes are otherwise based upon reliable precipitation. Until a few years ago, the region was also dominated by armed conflict between various communities. During recent years, donations for Karamoja have predominantly been invested in projects focusing on peacebuilding and primary care for local people. However, the situation is still characterized by insufficient infrastructure, lack of health care facilities and social services, weak agricultural production with regular crop failure, and poor access to markets.

This is what ASB's help is targeted towards. All the projects are designed to strengthen the resilience of the nomadic communities in Karamoja and assist their efforts to set up their own support structures, so that they are better able to prepare for future droughts. To make these goals achievable, ASB is constructing or repairing 202 kilometres of roadways in Moroto, Napak, and Abim districts, to connect communities with market centres.

## Utilizing rainwater to counteract drought

ASB is implementing a comprehensive irrigation project in order to improve water supply to the region and enable water storage for times of drought. The project includes not only the clearing and repair of silted-up springs and the drilling of new wells but also a large-scale programme for the collection and storage of rainwater. In the three districts, ASB team members have dug a total of 96 irrigation cisterns and built two large water tanks to collect rainwater as well as two storage depots where the harvested crops can be stored. Three existing dams and their reservoirs were desalted so that people can make use of rainwater from the mountains. Additional rainwater collection tanks were built right next to people's houses, where run-off from the roofs is filtered, collected, and stored. ASB team members in Karamoja also supported the construction of low fuel consumption wood-burning stoves. By utilizing this up-to-date technology, fewer trees and shrubs are cut down, so that there are more root systems left to store groundwater and prevent the otherwise rapid soil erosion.

Safe storage of harvest and higher revenue has been secured by a 15 by 20 metre platform, constructed by ASB for drying beans and peanuts. Villagers received training in growing and propagating sweet potatoes. These potatoes are well suited to the climate and make nourishing meals for the whole family. For each family, ASB provided the initial seedlings.

To ensure sustainable success, ASB also supports microfinance groups in Abim, Moroto, and Napak. These strengthen solidarity between the families and enable them to jointly make important purchases for their village community.

## Support for valley communities

In six other regions of Amuria and Katakwi districts at the foot of Mount Moroto, ASB, with financial support from the United Nations and Aktion Deutschland Hilft, built new and repaired existing roads. These give people better access to health care providers and markets where people from the valleys can not only purchase goods but also offer their own produce for sale.

Here, too, people's lives are greatly improved by the utilization of rainwater: in addition to municipal rainwater collection basins there are now rainwater collection tanks for filtering and collecting rainwater run-off from roofs. Here, ASB makes use of the "cash-for-work" approach widely used by humanitarian aid organisations, where the villagers help with the construction and are paid for their work. At the same time, they learn how to maintain or repair the rainwater storage tanks, how to clear silted-up wells, and how to make roads passable again. This will enable them to help ensure a better water supply situation in the future. ASB provided the tools, which are left with the families to repair any future damages.

In order to achieve a higher yield, ASB distributed sweet potato seedlings and provided training in better farming methods to the families. Last, but not least, ASB team members supported the communities in the formation of village committees for the maintenance of water tanks and the setting up of so-called “Village Savings and Loan Associations” – self-help cooperatives for the management of harvest revenue and the provision of microfinance.

## Speaking out against circumcision

In traditional village communities and similar types of domestic arrangements in rural Uganda, women play a very inferior role, which often results in a maelstrom of domestic violence.

An extreme example of the traditional roots such violence has is widespread in many parts of Karamoja: the circumcision and sexual mutilation of young girls. Because of bad hygiene conditions, these practices often lead to serious acute complications such as infections and high blood loss. Long-term, women's sexual pleasure is severely limited, infertility often follows, and there is increased danger of complications at birth.

ASB is running two projects that focus on combating domestic violence in all its forms by increasing dialogue, by providing relevant information and education to the communities, and by strengthening the economic, and simultaneously social, role of women. During so-called culture days, village community

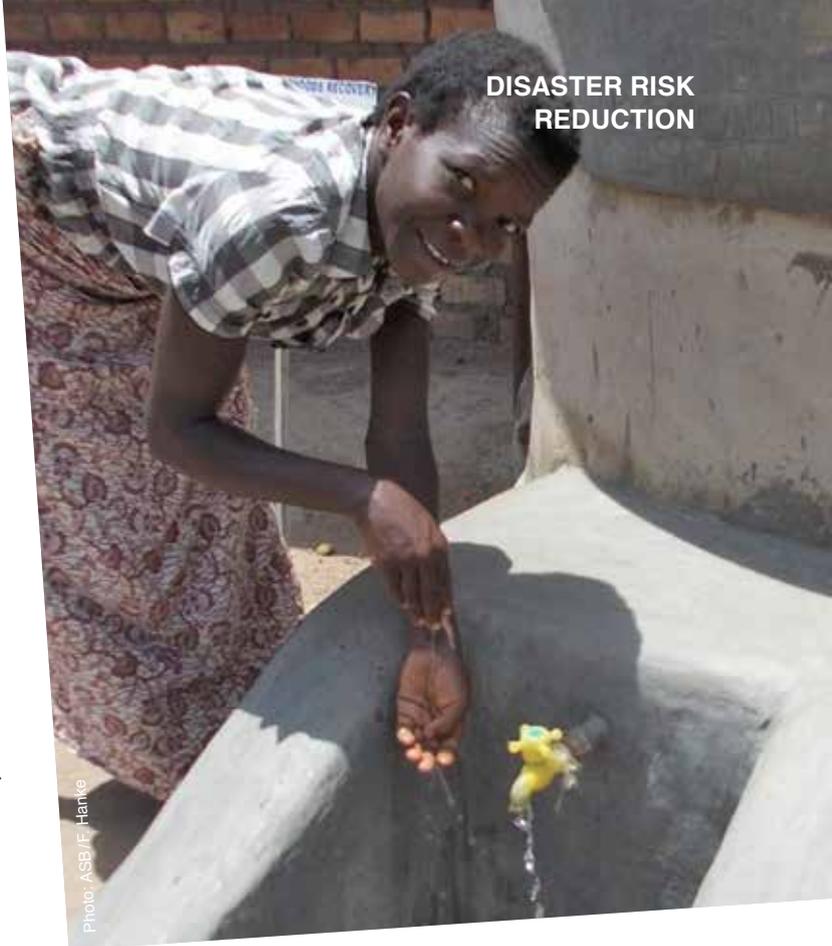


Photo: ASB/IF, Hanke

members staged plays that talked about the effects of violence against women and the way discussions can be used to solve conflicts. ASB team members, together with victims of violence, also used workshops, radio shows, and songs to draw attention to the problem and present possible solutions. An important goal of all these measures was to include the entire village community in these projects. This was helped by the affected girls and women speaking out, and by messages sent to village elders by the local children.

# 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. 12 percent of inhabitants, some 30 million people, live below the poverty line, with the poverty rate being significantly higher in rural areas, especially in the more remote regions. People there are especially vulnerable when disaster strikes.

In 2007, the Indonesian government reacted to the increase in natural disasters and declared that disaster risk reduction was one of its most central tasks. But despite the national effort, the effective development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies is adversely affected by lack of resources and capacity at regional level.

ASB has been working in Indonesia since 2006, focusing on disaster risk reduction and especially on the rights and special requirements of the disabled, a most vulnerable group in the event of disaster.

In recent years, large-scale risk reduction projects were implemented in Yogyakarta, Central Java, West Java as well as on Sumatra. Whether working at community level or in schools, ASB always and in all activities promotes the rights and special needs of the disabled within the context of disaster risk reduc-

tion. On the island of Nias, the surrounding smaller islands off West Sumatra and – since 2011 – also on the Mentawai Islands, ASB has become firmly established as a specialist advisor for disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in schools.

## Inclusive disaster risk reduction

To give greater visibility and support to the subject of inclusive disaster risk reduction, several international aid organisations, including ASB, founded the network Disability Inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN) in October 2012. The purpose of the network is to represent the needs of the disabled in the event of a disaster more forcefully at a political level, in order to ensure their inclusion within local, national, and international disaster risk reduction measures.

An inter-organisation project spanning 10 countries within the Asia-Pacific region was started in September 2013. The project aims to promote the inclusion of the disabled in the planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction measures at local level and to ensure that the subject is firmly embedded within national and regional strategies.

Bantul district in Central Java is under particular threat of severe earthquakes, tsunamis, bushfires, landslides, flooding, and drought. Capacity shortages make it impossible for the district government to develop and implement suitable strategies for



inclusive disaster risk reduction without outside help. Support is to be made available from organisations for the disabled, which are currently given awareness training and the relevant skills by ASB.

ASB also supports the ongoing development of local partner organisations, for example by training 25 members from eight different organisations in planning and devising disaster risk reduction measures in such a way that the needs of all the inhabitants are taken into consideration. The model they developed is transferable for use by other communities, so that in time an active and sustainable disaster reduction network will result. Also planned is the implementation of a workshop at national level, which will present past experiences and results achieved, in order to develop the project further.

## **Community-based work**

ASB has been working on the Mentawai Islands since 2011. This island group to the southwest of Sumatra is frequently devastated by severe earthquakes and tsunamis. In 2013, financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, ASB ran a community-based disaster risk reduction project in Katurei, a remote, rural, poverty-stricken community.

ASB extended the infrastructure and ran training sessions and emergency drills in order to make the community more resilient in the event of a disaster. Evacuation routes were strengthened; shelters and communication posts were set up and fitted with communication equipment, so that the community will be able to stay in contact with the outside world in the event of a disaster. A large part of the population took part in earthquake and tsunami emergency drills. The exercises, which were open to participation by local households and schools, included best practice during an earthquake (Drop – Cover – Hold On), the orderly evacuation by way of the newly strengthened routes, checking evacuated buildings for people possibly left behind, and assembly at evacuation locations. To ensure the sustainability of this project, such training drills will be held regularly in the future and the technical equipment will be maintained on a regular basis.



Photo: ASB / M. Michals

## Life story:

# New hope at Mount Moroto

In the northeast of Uganda, at the Kenian border, lies Lomuygen Krión – meaning gatekeeper. Which is an appropriate name, because the small village at the foot of Mount Moroto marks the entrance to a long, narrow valley.

Village, on this occasion, describes a small, circular settlement of huts typical of the region. They are called Manyata and their inhabitants, the Karamajong, are not settled in the village all year round but live a semi-settled nomad life. During the dry season, the families move with their cattle to regions where the animals can find enough food. During the rainy season, they live in their Manyatas and try to grow as much food as the barren land allows.

A hard life, also for Sophia Nakut. “Since my husband died four years ago, I am the one responsible for my family’s survival”, she says. Sophia can’t remember how old she is. But she can remember very clearly the day her eldest son and his wife went away. “They went to look for work, for a better life.” Sophia never heard from them again. Since then, she and her younger son also look after her four grandchildren. “My grandchildren comfort me when I feel bad. But there are too many

days when I can’t give them enough to eat. It is terrible to see the little ones suffer.”

## Potatoes may save lives

To help Sophia and other families in Karamoja, ASB has given out sweet potato seedlings and taught the families how to grow them properly. The potatoes grow well and are very nourishing, but each plant only grows one tuber. To achieve ongoing and sufficient harvests, the families have to propagate the plants – and this too, they can learn from ASB team members. “My neighbour is really good at this”, Sophia remarked. “He can keep harvesting plenty of potatoes throughout the winter.”

She has enrolled in the ASB training programme so that she can learn to propagate her plants very well, too. “I’ve learnt a lot there”, the grandmother laughs. “Just not how to make it rain!” To cope

with the lack of water, ASB team members and villagers are working together to build a dam at the end of the valley. This will enable them to collect the rainwater run-off from the mountains, store it, and use it during the dry season at home and on the fields. Sophia and her neighbour in the next hut also plan to construct a communal rainwater collection basin for both households on the boundary between their two plots, with help from ASB.

Photo: ASB / F.Hanke



# Living a european partnership

Germany is not the only european country with a strong Samaritan organisation. One of the key focal points of ASB Foreign Aid is Central and Eastern Europe. In close cooperation between German ASB associations and partner organisations in Central and Eastern Europe, ASB Foreign Aid supports cooperation between Samaritan organisations in the various countries, helping to build partnerships on an equal footing.

Within the framework of "International Samaritan Cooperation", joint venture projects receive financial support and ongoing advice, multilateral projects are implemented, and partnerships are initiated and supervised. The various projects would also like to set a widely visible example of mutual solidarity.

Photo: ASB/F. Zanettini

## International exchange of specialists

As part of the LEONARDO programme, an “International Elderly Care Expert Exchange” took place again in 2013. Skilled staff members from ASB Hamburg-West and their colleagues from the Latvian capital Riga used this meeting for an exchange of experiences, and to get to know each other’s working environment, obtain additional skills and knowledge, and gain new motivation. The two specialist carers from Hamburg spent two weeks in Riga, shadowing their colleagues and working alongside them in the provision of inpatient and home care.

## Multilateral youth exchange

In the summer of 2013, young people from Germany, Austria, Latvia, and Poland came together for a multinational youth exchange in Riga, Latvia. Under the motto “Young People for a Unified and Better Europe”, the focus was on getting to know one another and holding discussions with politicians. The young people devised joint strategies for a unified Europe and the integration of the various member nations.

For example, the young people introduced their individual home countries by presenting traditional food, games, and songs. Matthias Malt, ASJ Hamburg Regional Youth Leader: “For me, it was incredibly exciting to see that young people from four differ-

ent countries took part in this project, and there were no great obstacles at all. Young people always find a common language. Aside from working on the project, we also had a lot of fun and made some good friends.”

## A visit by the ASB Federal Chairman

From 22 to 25 September 2013, the ASB Federal Chairman and member of the European Parliament Knut Fleckenstein and his colleague Tanja Fajon visited Macedonia and Albania, to present and exchange views about the potential for cooperation with political and civil-society protagonists.

In Skopje, they met with Ibrahim Ibrahimi, the deputy minister for labour and social affairs, to discuss the difficult situation of the Roma in Macedonia. This minority group suffers badly from high unemployment, lack of living accommodation, and discrimination. Elmir Bojadžić of ASB’s country office for the Balkans and Michael Schnatz, project coordinator within ASB’s Foreign Aid-department, introduced integration projects for the Roma in Serbia and Bosnia, which were introduced as best practices. An information exchange with representatives of the Association of Students and Youth with Disabilities (ASYD) and meetings with members of the Albanian government also contributed to the establishment of productive contacts.



Photo: ASB Georgien

## Georgia

The Georgian Samaritan Association SSK has in recent years grown into an active organisation that not only offers first aid courses but also works to set up and extend social service programmes. These include a mobile nursing service for the elderly in the capital Tbilisi. After receiving start-up funds from ASB in 2012, SSK was able to continue running the service independently during 2013 with support from the Tbilisi municipality. SSK also organised

a high-calibre international conference on care of the elderly, which was held locally.

As part of its partnership support scheme, ASB sent volunteers of the German “weltwärts” voluntary development aid programme to Georgia. This was organised by ASB Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Eifel, which is involved in a lively partnership with Georgian colleagues. In 2013, the the ASB partners ran another relief supply transport to Georgia, delivering walking frames, clothing, and toys as well as a used car; and in December 2013, three trainers from Georgia

came to Bonn to take part in first aid “train-the-trainer” workshops. This helps SSK to extend their services, and enables them to offer their first aid courses not only in Georgian and Russian but also in German. Staff of the German embassy in Tbilisi already made use of this service, and so SSK, just a few years after its foundation in 2010, is already one of the leading providers of first aid courses.

In the East Georgian municipality of Lagodekhi, ASB and SSK jointly finance a centre for families with disabled children who are often socially excluded. Playschools and other facilities are either not available to them or refuse to accommodate the youngsters, even though they are legally obliged to do so. ASB ensures training is provided for early intervention specialists and offers regular care facilities for 20 children and information evenings for the parents. SSK and ASB also run a centre for long-term hospitalized children within one of the country's largest children's hospitals in Tbilisi. Seriously ill children and their families are supportively prepared for surgery and treatment with the help of child-oriented teaching materials. Both projects are financially supported by Aktion Mensch.

In Telavi, SSK and ASB, in cooperation with ASB Austria (ASBÖ) and GEZA (a Vienna-based development cooperation NGO), have set up a mobile care service for the elderly. The service now cares for some 70 elderly people, providing medical care, help in the home and psychosocial advice. The carers

were previously unemployed and received their specialist training as part of this project.

In 2013, ASB Federal Chairman Knut Fleckenstein visited the Georgian projects. In his capacity as MEP and chairman of the EP Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, he met with government representatives, visited SSK projects, and acquainted himself with the work of the ASB Country Office.

## Bosnia

In Bosnia, ASB supported its Samaritan colleagues from Žene sa Une (Women of Una) during the setting up of a homeless shelter as well as a new social care service for the homeless. ASB Federal Office finance was utilized, amongst others, for renovating accommodation, specialist training for social workers, setting up a volunteer network, and public relations work for the Samaritan Organisation in Bosnia.

In Bihać in the north of Bosnia, Žene sa Une runs a women's shelter, a day-care centre for street children, is involved with issues concerning volunteer work, and offers legal advice for women. In cooperation with other NGOs, the Bosnian Samaritans also help to implement large-scale EU projects to improve social structures and systems.

## Latvia

During the past three years, ASB Hamburg-West has supported the Latvian Samaritan Association (LSA) in Riga in their efforts of establishing a framework for voluntary involvement. Very successful assignments for volunteers were established, for example with the Riga food bank or in residential care homes for the elderly. In order to extend civic involvement even further, ASB Hamburg-West is funding the appointment of a volunteer coordinator, who organises further training and matches volunteers to suitable facilities. ASB Hamburg-West also organised another relief supply transport for items such as nursing beds, clothing, walking frames, and wheelchairs.

In 2013, the Kinder- und Jugendhilfe GmbH – ASB Rostock's aid programme for children and young people – paid a return visit to Riga, sending its specialist team members to the Maras Crisis Centre, an emergency accommodation centre for women, mothers, and children that provides social as well as psychological care. This was in response to a team of specialists from Riga visiting Rostock in 2012.

Within the framework of its partnership support scheme, ASB Federal Office supports the LSA's umbrella organisation. The EU's Carer+ project incorporates the testing and implementation of new technology for personal emergency response systems, a project supported by LSA with an equity stake of 30,000 euro.



Photo: LSA

## Hungary

In Hungary, Delta Rescue Services are on duty around the clock to provide emergency care for some 150,000 people. They also provide medical services to Budapest airport, for example, the transport of disabled people from gate to plane. ASB Chemnitz & Umgebung, partnered with the Hungarian Samaritans for some years now, has provided a new emergency call-out vehicle so that this service can now be extended to the city of Kistarcsa and the surrounding villages.

## Serbia

The Serbian Samaritan Association Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC) became a partner organisation in 2013. As part of the partnership support programme, ASB Federal Office supports the mobile care service in Mladenovac by contributing towards the cost of staff, fuel, and administration. The project cares for the elderly and disabled and at the same time provides new job opportunities in an economically underdeveloped region.

In order to improve the quality of services, ASB ran a care services workshop and a strategy workshop for personal emergency response systems. ASB also organised accompanied care visits with staff mem-

bers from ASB Federal Office and specialists from ASB Bernburg-Anhalt. All the participants were greatly interested in team-oriented working methods and the Serbian colleagues, in cooperation with the specialists from ASB, succeeded in developing viable improvement strategies.

## Romania

ASB District Branch Helmstedt and the Romanian Samaritan Organisation ASO have been in close partnership for many years. An example of their joint ventures is the patient transport service they set up in the city of Orastie. During 2013, ASB Helmstedt supplied care equipment to their Romanian colleagues, which is being used in the newly established care centre for the elderly that opened on 1 March 2014. ASB Helmstedt also funded the “nurse alarm”, the new care centre’s camera-supported emergency call system for dementia patients.

ASB Bad Windsheim also has close and long-standing links with its partners in Romania. In 2013, a repeat youth exchange took place, with young Samaritans from ASB Bad Windsheim meeting with children and young people from Brasov. All the participants were trained to be “junior trainers”, which means that they will now be able to train younger children, handing on their knowledge of first aid techniques as well as their skills as youth leaders.

This cross-border project was awarded the 2013 ASB Innovation award.

The Romanian Samaritans have no umbrella organisation as yet, so ASB Federal Office conducted a meeting to start the process of setting up a central

Romanian organisation. Representatives from ASB groups in Targu Mures, Orastie, Brasov, Bucharest, and Ploiesti made great progress towards establishing a mutual central organisation. ASB will continue to support this venture.

Photo: ASB/F. Zanetti





Photo: LSB

## Lithuania

During the past few years, numerous partnerships have developed between individual German ASB Associations and local branches of the Lithuanian Samaritan Organisation (LSB). As part of the partnership support programme, funding was provided for the LSB Central Office in Vilnius.

In 2013, ASB Federal Office ran a networking meeting at the Dresden-Kamenz regional association. At Lithuanian network meetings, the focus is on the exchange as well as the development of ideas for joint projects and

the acquisition of funds. The LSB, established in 1992, works predominantly with volunteers, collects and distributes food for the poor, organises youth work, and is also involved in working with refugees, providing child and youth services, as well as patient transport services.

ASB Federal Office financed a seminar on funding acquisition for Lithuanian Samaritans and supported the annual LSB youth conference.

ASB Wiesbaden-Rheingau-Taunus provided finance for renovating and furnishing the new LSB Social Centre in Kaunas. In addition to office and consultation prem-

ises, ample space was provided for childcare facilities. The Samaritans from Hesse also contributed towards the cost of a transport service for dialysis patients in Kaunas.

ASB Hamburg-Nordost is providing funding for conversion and renovation of the LSB children's centre "Windschatten" in Šlienava, which will be able to look after 25 children. Advisers are also on hand to support families in financial difficulties. This small village near Kaunas has a largely poverty-stricken and unemployed population that can no longer afford to live in the city. "Windschatten" aims to provide an opportunity for carefree playing and learning to those children growing up in the most dire circumstances.

ASB Stormarn-Segeberg as well as ASB Mittelhessen organised relief supply transports. Clothing, hospital beds, toys, training materials, and kitchen equipment were sent from Schleswig-Holstein to Kelmé, where they were distributed to the most destitute families. ASB Mittelhessen provided orthopaedic aids, clothing, bedding, household items, and children's toys to their partner association in Ukmergé.

Within the EU Programme for Lifelong Learning, ASB Mittelhessen and ASB Ukmergé have applied for a Grundtvig project, which has been approved. The project will run for two years, during which volunteers aged 50 and over from both countries will spend a few weeks each with the partner organisation, visit various

facilities, and take part in an information exchange on volunteering in both countries.

ASB Ostthüringen has further extended its partnership with LSB Pakruojis, providing finances for the employment of a fulltime member of staff in Pakruojis, working to support youth work, membership promotion, and procurement of sponsors.

There were, of course, youth exchange programmes in 2013. Young people from ASB Ostthüringen in Gera met up with their peers from Pakruojis, LSB Jurbarikas hosted children and young people from ASB Greifswald-Vorpommern, and in Rostock, young Samaritans from Warnow-Trebeltal met with those from Kelmé in Lithuania.

## Poland

In cooperation with ASB Heilbronn, the Polish Samaritan Association (SFOP) is setting up a mobile social care service in Krakow. This service is urgently required in Krakow as well as the surrounding villages and will also provide an additional source of revenue for SFOP.

In 2013, the third annual summer camp for children and young people from Poland and Dresden took place in the Baltic resort of Koserow. ASB Dresden-Kamenz had prepared a colourful programme that included a

visit to facilities run by ASB Dresden and a first aid workshop. A return visit to Poland is planned for 2014.

ASB Federal Office provided some of the funding for the SFOP administration and supported the implementation of projects run by Polish regional offices, as part of the partnership support programme. Together with the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ), ASB is involved with providing a better standard of living for the victims of Nazi persecution in Poland. An advisory service was set up to offer personal support as well as a telephone helpline. The services on offer include social and cultural programmes for the survivors of National Socialism, interviews with survivors, volunteer involvement, school-based information sessions about National Socialism, and increased networking with other providers.

## Ukraine

In the spring of 2014, Ukraine made the headlines with its Maidan revolution and the conflict with Russia. But for many branches of ASB, the country has been in the spotlight for a long time. In recent years, the connection between ASB associations and the Ukrainian Samaritan Association (SSU) has become markedly stronger. ASB Federal Office and its regional associations stood by their partners during the crisis and issued a call for donations under the heading “SOS

Ukraine”. Moneys raised were used by ASB colleagues in Kiev to help, amongst others, those injured in the street battles.

In 2013, ASB Federal Office organised the first ever network meeting of all ASB associations with partner organisations in Ukraine. The meeting took place in Hamburg and included Ukrainian partner organisations. ASB Federal Office contributed towards the cost of running the SSU umbrella organisation office and part-financed coordinating the local Samaritan associations, holding first aid courses, providing support to families looking after care-dependent relatives, youth work projects, and the SSU’s lobbying of authorities, ministries, and foundations. Kiev Samaritans run a facility called “The special child” – an emergency shelter for mentally disabled children and their mothers. This facility is unique in Ukraine.

ASJ (Samaritan Youth Association) Schleswig-Holstein visited the Samaritan Youth Association in Chernivtsi with the aim of further improving the existing close connections and establishing lasting networks and contacts. The young Germans helped their Ukrainian friends build a playground. ASB Schleswig-Holstein supported the Chernivtsi Samaritan Association by providing administrative help and organising an exchange as part of “weltwärts” voluntary services.

Many survivors of National Socialism are still living in Ukraine, many of them below the poverty line. SSU's mobile care service looks after them, enabling them

to lead a dignified life in their old age. ASB Bavaria and ASJ Munich organised an educational project for young people entitled “Nazi Forced Labour”, which put young people from Munich and Kiev as well as specialists from JFF Institute for Media Research and Media Education in Munich in contact with people who had been forced labourers under the Nazi regime. The moving accounts given by the old people were collated into a film documentary “Nazi forced labour – retracing history in Ukraine” by the young people. From this grew the desire to increase contacts between ASJ Munich and SSU Kiev, and to plan future exchange projects. This will come true in 2014.

ASB Federal Office is providing funds to SSU Kharkiv to ensure that the mobile care service for the surviving former forced labourers can continue to operate, with the aim of improving the quality of life of more than 100 former forced labourers and concentration camp prisoners. This includes nursing care and domestic support, advice and care courses for relatives, strengthening the voluntary support network, and further developing the Kharkiv Samaritan Association. The project is supported by the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” foundation (EVZ), which also supports the mobile care service for survivors of National Socialism in Chernivtsi, while ASB Schleswig-Holstein contributes towards the cost of staff, equipment, and ongoing training.



Photo: ASB München Oberbayern

## Slovakia

The Slovakian Samaritan Association (ASSR) has become well established in the past few years and has set up numerous new social services, including a personal emergency response system and a rapid response civil protection unit. The organisation works almost entirely with volunteers. As part of the partnership support programme, ASB provided financial support for the personal emergency response system as well as the few full-time members of staff. In future, ASSR intends to increase its involvement in first aid training.

## Interview:

# Friendship and cooperation

ASB branches from Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria are connected with Samaritan branches in Romania by a longlasting partnership. Karl-Eugen Altdörfer, member of ASB's federal board, and Corinna Ladar, President of the Romanian Samaritan Organisation ASO in Orastie give an insight in their experiences.

### What is the foundation of an effective and successful partnership between Samaritan organisations?

**Corinna Ladar:** You need regular contact, an active exchange of ideas, experiences and opinions. And you need to be on the same wavelength when it comes to help people in need.

**Karl-Eugen Altdörfer:** Contrary to partnerships that evolve due to emergencies, partnerships between Samaritan organisations emerge from our common interest to provide long-term and sustainable help. It is important for us to define our mutual expectations. Furthermore, we need to be open and open minded on both sides, especially when it comes to examine the possibilities of mutual support. Successful partnerships need encounter on eye level and bring enormous joy to all those involved!

### Do the living conditions in Romania differ from those in Germany?

**Ladar:** As the needs and requirements of the people aren't much different, the living conditions also are not as different as one may think in the first place. But the living standard, the legislative process and the general organization are very different. We therefore have a large benefit from the long-lasting practical experience of ASB. We also took advantage of logistical support during the setting of our social services.

Photo: ASB/F. Zanettini, privat



Corinna Ladar (on the right) and Karl-Eugen Altdörfer are committed to international Samaritan cooperation for years.

**Altdörfer:** Each partner can benefit from the ideas and experiences of the other as questions are considered from another position. That makes us reassess our own considerations and structures.

**What challenges do the Romanian Samaritan branches face in its daily operations, and what support can ASB offer?**

*„Successful partnerships need to encounter on eye level.“*

**Ladar:** Our daily challenges are manifold: There are requests for wheelchairs as well as the search for nursing beds or people looking for first-aid-courses in schools. We also offer Ambulance services and mobile care for the elderly, there are regular trainings of the volunteers and dogs of our K-9 unit, etcetera. Our German partners are a huge support in all these duties. For example, ASB Helmstedt made us the donation of an ambulance vehicle and gave us support when we were building up new services such as meals on wheels and in-house emergency call. They also organize regular transports of relief items which are a great help.

**Altdörfer:** It is important for me, that partnerships not only result in personal friendship but in real cooperation. My own branch, ASB Schwäbisch Hall/

Gaildorf, for example, is running care centers for the elderly where there are often instruments and facilities left over that can be needed in Romania.

**Do you already have plans for further commitment?**

**Ladar:** We have thought to organise a youth exchange and I really would like to „borrow“ some of ASB’s nursing staff who could teach our own personnel how the nursing system is organized in Germany. I think, we could learn a lot by such an exchange.

**Altdörfer:** We are planning internships for Romanian staff members in ASB’s care centers in Schwäbisch Hall. Our Romanian partners, on the other hand, send us doctors and medical assistants to support the medical service during the Gaildorf moto-cross. And there is a Romanian fundraising-campaign designed to pay the training costs for poor young people who want to become nurses that will be a common campaign in the future. We are also planning a work camp for youngsters with medic training and cultural programme.

# Projects in the context of International Samaritan Cooperation

Under the heading “Partnership Projects”, we present joint projects of German ASB branches and their Central and Eastern European Samaritan partners. These projects are funded via the ASB Federal Association Foreign Aid funding programme.

## Partnership Projects 2013

Country	ASB Branch	Partner organisation	Project
<b>Georgia</b>	RV Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Eifel	SSK	Transport of relief items
<b>Hungary</b>	OV Chemnitz and District	USB Hungary/Delta	Further development of medical emergency services
<b>Latvia</b>	LV Hamburg	LSA; SFOP, ASBÖ	Multilateral youth exchange “youth for a unified and better Europe”
	OV Hamburg-West	LSA	Establishing a volunteer structure/ follow-up project
			Transport of relief items
<b>Lithuania</b>	RV Nord-Ost	LSA	Homeless shelter Ventspils
	RV Greifswald-Vorpommern	LSB Jurbarkas	Youth meeting: Samaritans worldwide!
	RV Wiesbaden-Rheingau-Taunus	LSB Kaunas	Renovation of the welfare center in Kaunas
	KV Ostthüringen	LSB Pakruojis	Supporting branch office
			Youth meeting
	OV Hamburg Nordost	LSB Kaunas	Supporting the child welfare center “slipstream”
	RV Warnow-Trebeltal	LSB Kelmé	Youth meeting
RV Stormarn-Segeberg	LSB Kelmé	Transport of relief items	
RV Mittelhessen	LSB Ukmergė	Transport of relief items	

Country	ASB Branch	Partner organisation	Project
<b>Poland</b>	RV Dresden	SFOP	3. Children and Youth meeting
	RV Heilbronn	SFOP	Building up of social services
<b>Romania</b>	RV Bad Windsheim	ASBR Brasov/Ploiesti	Junior Trainer – Youth meeting
	KV Helmstedt	ASO	Emergency call system for a care center for the elderly Transport of relief items
<b>Ukraine</b>	LV Schleswig-Holstein	SSU Chernivtsy	Youth meeting – A playground for Chernivtsy Mobile care service for survivors of nazi-regime
	LV Bayern	SSU Kiev	Youth education project on the history of Nazi occupation

### Support for partner organisations\*

Country	Partner organisation	Support programme	Project
<b>Bosnia</b>	Žene sa Une Bosnien	Direct partnership support	Renovation of habitation for homeless people
<b>Georgia</b>	SSK Georgia	Direct partnership support	Supporting the umbrella association
<b>Latvia</b>	LSA Latvia	Direct partnership support	Third party funds, EU-projekt
<b>Lithuania</b>	LSB Lithuania	Direct partnership support	Supporting the umbrella association
		NPO-Managementtrainings	Internal and external communication
<b>Poland</b>	SFOP Poland	Direct partnership support	Supporting the umbrella association
<b>Serbia</b>	IDC Serbia	Direct partnership support	Moble care services for the elderly
<b>Ukraine</b>	SSU Ukraine	Direct partnership support	Supporting the umbrella association

\* This table refers to measures that support the partner associations themselves, including financial support and transfer of know-how. The tables above list only those projects that are supported by the ASB Federal Association. A large number of other joint projects are funded by local resources of ASB branches.

# ASB initiatives in Germany

## **STOP! Don't Look Away! ASB and Aktion Deutschland Hilft draw attention to the suffering in Syria**

On 16 May 2013, the Internet literally blacked out. ASB, together with 27 other aid organisations, took part in a day of action to draw attention to the suffering of the people of Syria and the urgent need for help for Syrian refugees. Central to this was an online campaign: the websites of all participating non-governmental organisations and their supporters showed a black page and a video depicting the dramatic situation in Syria.

Appealing for an end to the violence: The message of the joint action campaign, supported by, amongst others, German newscaster Ingo Zamperoni, was: “Stopp! Schau hin!” – “Stop! Don't look away!” It was designed to raise awareness for the plight of the Syrian people and the refugees in neighbouring countries, and to strengthen political and social commitment to work towards ending the violence. The most urgent concern of participating organisations was and continues to be the unimpeded and safe access to the suffering population.

## **Transparency and openness: ASB membership in German Donations Council**



Deutscher Spendenrat e.V. (German Donations Council), an umbrella organisation for donation-collecting non-profit organisations, has accepted

ASB as a member with effect from 01 October 2013. The Donations Council investigates its members carefully and guarantees that they use donations diligently and with full transparency. ASB Federal Managing Director Christian Reuter is pleased to be accepted by this independent body. “Our membership in the German Donations Council underlines ASB’s transparency and openness. It clearly states that we handle membership fees and donations entrusted to us responsibly and conscientiously, to enable us to provide fast help wherever our assistance is most needed.”

Complying with ethical principles: The Donations Council aims to ensure that the market for charitable contributions in Germany is and remains based on compliance with ethical principles. In order to safeguard the proper fiduciary administration of donated funds, members of the Donations Council commit to voluntary self-monitoring. Additional aims are to

uphold the membership organisations' mutual interests during fund raising, and to create transparency with regard to donors and interested members of the public.

Deutscher Spendenrat e.V. is a non-profit umbrella organisation, consisting of 66 donation-collecting non-profit organisations. These include organisations focusing on social and humanitarian aid as well as those focusing on the environment, animal protection, and art & culture. Members of this renowned and acclaimed umbrella organisation are bound by a mutual standard of conduct and transparency by agreeing to a binding voluntary commitment. For further information, please visit [www.spendenrat.de](http://www.spendenrat.de).

## Emergency aid up close and personal

FAST emergency training in Egloffstein: From 27 to 30 June 2013, Egloffstein in the Franconian Switzerland region of Germany became an "earthquake zone" where FAST, the ASB's emergency response team for aid operations abroad, ran a realistic emergency drill scenario to train for real-life emergencies.

Volunteers for emergency aid abroad, from all over Germany: To be able to take fast and appropriate action in the event of a disaster requires specialist knowledge, but also a number of abilities that cannot be acquired in a classroom setting, such as flexibility, improvisation, the ability to work as a team, and being able to cope under stress. This is why once a year, the



Photo: ASB/EF-Photo

entire FAST team meets up for a large-scale emergency drill. In 2013, as in previous years, the participating volunteers came from all over Germany.

Locals take part as extras: In spite of the rain, some 50 residents of Egloffstein and the surrounding area took part in the emergency exercise of FAST, the First Assistance Samaritan Team. They played the part of people who had lost their homes in the earthquake and were looking for safe shelter, food, and medical care. They were examined in the FAST ambulance, and then directed to collect a container of clean drinking water from the drinking water supply station. The exercise was supported by ASB Nürnberg-Fürth and ASB Gräfenberg.

## Federal President Gauck thanks ASB volunteers

FAST team members at the federal president's citizens' festival On 30 August 2013, German Federal President Joachim Gauck held a citizens' festival in the gardens of Bellevue Palace to honour citizens working as volunteers for the common good. This also included ASB volunteers: Anneli Droste of ASB Worms-Alzey and Felix Fellmer of ASB Cologne were among the guests of honour. Both of them are members of the First Assistance Samaritan Team (FAST), the ASB's rapid response team for aid operations abroad. They were delighted to have been invited by the federal president and accepted the tribute paid to their civic involvement on behalf of some 16,000 ASB volunteers.

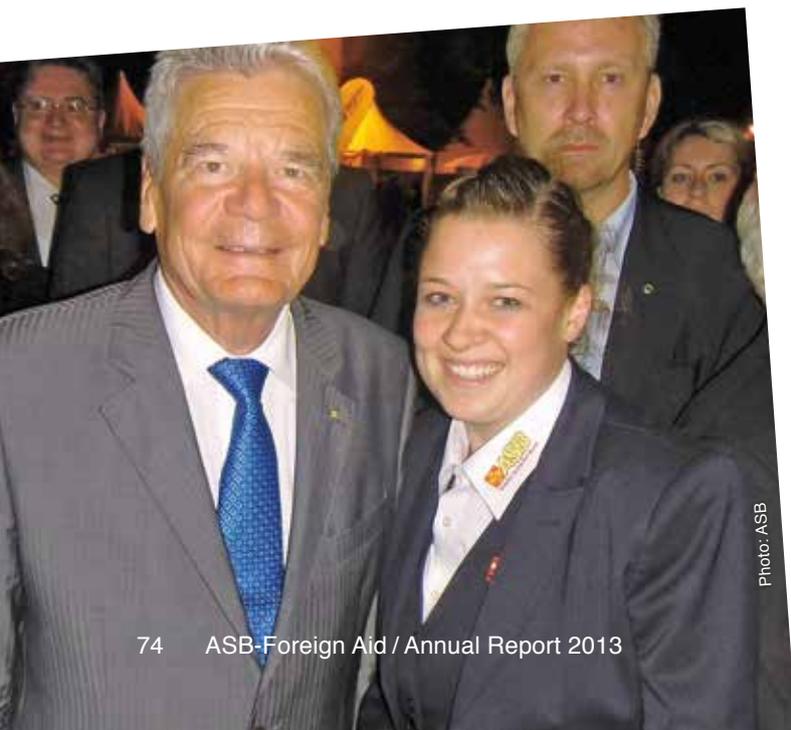


Photo: ASB

## Aktion Deutschland Hilft says "Thank You!"

"Deutschland Hilft" on tour across the nation Since its inception in 2001, more than 1.5 million people have contributed financially to Aktion Deutschland Hilft, a coalition of renowned German aid organisations. The nationwide tour entitled "Deutschland Hilft" (Germany provides aid) is a thank-you from the coalition, of which ASB is a member, to its supporters, and at the same time offers an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes of humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

What do emergency rations taste like? How do you turn contaminated water into drinking water? And how can an empty water bottle save lives? Aktion Deutschland Hilft and its member organisations answered these and many more questions between 14 September and 3 October 2013 in Nuremberg, Frankfurt, Cologne, Münster, Hannover, Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, and Munich.

ASB team members from Nuremberg and Münster provided tour support. The "Deutschland Hilft" tour ended with the Day of German Unity citizens' festival in Stuttgart on 2 and 3 October.

# 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.

# 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 224 branches at regional, district and municipal level. Almost 33,000 employees and some 14,500 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.

# Partners and networks 2013



## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.**



**Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund**