



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER REGIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

2017

MIDDLE EAST







IN 2017, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER...



103
PROJECTS
81% INCREASE SINCE 2016



2
RESEARCH PROJECTS



3.1 MIШON PEOPLE



502
PEOPLE



RESPONDED TO 4
EMERGENCIES



REPORTED

1

VERY SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENT

...IN THE MIDDLE EAST

35%

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE





126,918

hygiene kits distributed



2,005 water points improved



1.63 MILLION

cubic meters of water delivered

30%

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS





26,562

people received unrestricted cash



11,268

livelihoods kits delivered



57

metric tons of food assistance delivered

18%

NUTRITION & HEALTH



10,953 people

treated for

severe acute

malnutrition



13,887

people treated for moderate acute malnutrition



148,981

people received reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health services

7%

MENTAL HEALTH & CARE PRACTICES





100

people received support for infant and young child feeding



6% FOOD ASSISTANCE



2% DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 19,400 people reached



2% OTHER

OTHER SECTORS



ADVOCACY







MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Despite extensive diplomatic efforts exerted throughout 2017, the Middle East remains afflicted by multiple protracted crises. The number of newly displaced people generally decreased, however the region still struggles to handle the needs of approximately 11.5 million internally displaced people - 6.5 million in Syria alone - and around 6 million, mainly Syrian, refugees.

Action Against Hunger's Middle East Regional Office (MERO) was created in 2013 to respond to the extraordinary regional humanitarian challenges. Our eight missions contribute to the fantastic humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering of millions of vulnerable people. To that end, the Middle East Regional Office (MERO) provides technical as well as security and access guidance, encourages innovation through pilot initiatives and creative solutions and builds capacities through tailored trainings. MERO also fosters better interaction between all regional stakeholders and raises its voice through an audacious advocacy strategy.

A FEW FOCUSES...

T: WASH

The Middle East region being the most water scarce region in the world, Action Against Hunger has the ambition to be the leading agency in the field of water management. The MERO, though the Regional WaSH Advisor, is an active member of the Regional WaSH Working Group, which works on innovative solutions for a better water governance. Among other Action Against Hunger has started cooperation with academics and local authorities to improve a situation that is challenged by the multiple population movements.

II MEAL

The role of regionalisation in evaluation practice is particularly important in an evolving funding environment where unforeseeable risks and volatile contextual forces are defining factors to consider for the success of a programme. The regionalisation approach had positive effects in mainstreaming MEAL and integrating MEAL into programmes, particularly in the Middle East Region. Besides that, it promoted collaboration, coordination, and exchange of support at regional level, as well as harmonisation and standardization of MEAL systems.

For these projects, the attempt to link multicountry evaluation evidence to regional approaches could further position Action Against Hunger as a reliable partner to implement global calls. Action Against Hunger is committed to Transparency and accountability at all levels. The MERO office supported the organizational commitment through exchange of good practices in accountability around the ACF network by organizing workshops, trainings, sharing guidelines and good practices. This process will lead us to organizational plan of action to comply with CHS commitments.

It is universally acknowledged that girls, boys, women and men have different needs and responsibilities not only in times of peace and social harmony, but especially when natural or manmade disasters occur. This is particularly the case in a region like Middle East, where a number of countries are strongly affected by the large influx of refugees, and where societies are marked by a number of protection issues, such as early marriages, gender-based violence, preference of boys over girls, etc. Action Against Hunger has been diligently working during the last few years to incorporate and apply the gender policy within all our projects, while creating a gender sensitive and enabling environment across our organisation. Our country teams actively pursue the gender-balance approach in their project planning and execution, and strive to break the barriers of gender stereotyping within every activity. One such example in 2017 was a successful implementation of the cash-for-work project in Jordan, where the mission succeeded in changing perception about women working in the waste collection sector a vocation predominantly occupied by men. The work to implement our gender policy and provide protection for those most vulnerable will continue in the future.

SMART INITIATIVE

SMART stands for Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions and is an inter-agency initiative launched in 2002 by a network of organizations and humanitarian practitioners. SMART advocates a multi-partner, systematized approach to provide critical, reliable information for decision-making, and to establish shared systems and resources for host government partners and humanitarian organizations. Presently, the SMART Convenors at Action Against Hunger Canada in collaboration with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide training and technical support in SMART.

Considering the ongoing crisis in Syria, and taking into account the numerous protracted crises across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the SMART Initiative conducted a regional Nutritional Capacity Needs Analysis (NCNA) with ongoing humanitarian situations in 2016.

Result had shown very low to medium technical capacity on the methodology across different countries studied. Thus, a scale-up of SMART services in the Middle East started in mid-2017 for the affected countries. In line with its global strategy, SMART initiative in the region aims to collaborate and support national government ministries, nutrition cluster partners in moving towards the long-term goal of increased response effectiveness by strengthening institutional technical capacity on quality nutrition data collection, analysis and management. In 2017, among other activities, the SMART team trained 23 participants from nutrition partners and Yemen Ministry of Public Health (MoPHP) in Aden on SMART methodology for Managers; conducted tailored data clinic for partner staff in Yemen; and supported partners in protocol development, review and validation of survey reports in Syria.

















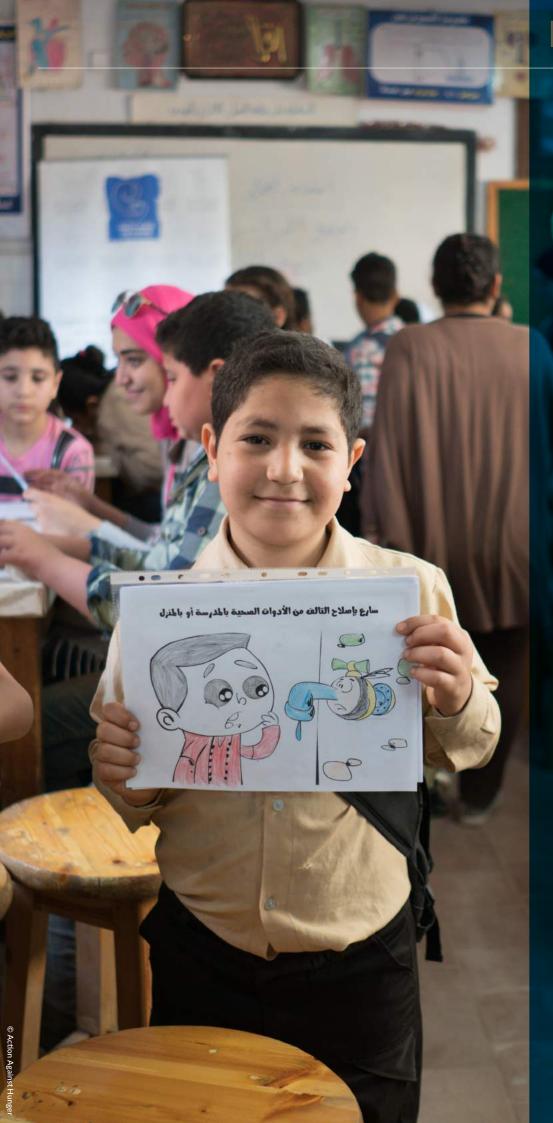


Action Against Hunger began officially working in Egypt in June 2015 by providing emergency relief to people in need. With millions of Syrians taking refuge in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, and saturating the capacity of the three countries, roughly 130,000 were forced to flee to Egypt, although Egypt is not bordering with Syria. As Egypt is battling to reduce poverty itself, the country is not equipped enough to take care of refugees who are in dire need of support. Action Against Hunger therefore decided to open a mission in Egypt in order to cover the needs of those most vulnerable: Syrian refugees and the impacted Egyptian host communities.

In parallel, Action Against Hunger conducted an integrated needs assessment on nutrition, water and food security, which focused on Upper Egypt governorates. The results of the assessment indicated that Upper Egypt governorates show prevalence of food insecurity, undernutrition and lack of income opportunities, mainly affecting the Egyptian population and impacting their socioeconomic development.

All projects in Egypt are shared and implemented with local partners and supported by Action Against Hunger staff who have experience and technical expertise in several sectors. In 2017, programming in Egypt has kicked off with three interventions comprehensively covering a range of sectors, including nutrition, WASH, and livelihoods with strong components that aim to strengthen the civil society. In areas that are heavily affected by the eroded health and water services, interventions include integrated nutrition and water activities designed to provide support to women, mothers and children, as well as to health practitioners. Finally, in order to improve access to livelihoods for the population of impoverished governorates in Upper Egypt's Luxor, Action Against Hunger combined empowerment of the civil society with the delivery of services and offers support through a grant mechanism. The grants are intended for a wide range of services or sectors, from nutrition, to environment, agriculture, vocational training, as well as income generating activities.





EGYPT

II II

14
STAFF



OPERATING SINCE 2015



REACHED 51,013 PEOPLE IN 2017











After the recapture of Mosul and the territories occupied by Islamic State (IS) in December 2017, the Iraqi government officially announced the end to the war on IS. NGOs were therefore able to enter new areas in the country. Nevertheless, access and administrative registration of organisations continue to pose challenges for most INGOs.

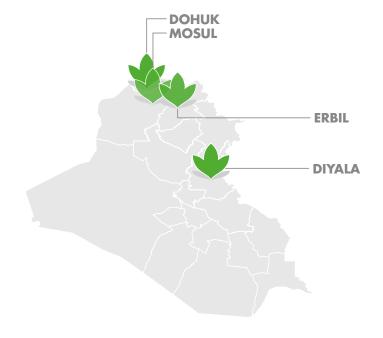
In practice, two different realities affect the country itself, as well as Action Against Hunger's daily work. In the north, in the Kurdish Region of Iraq, Action Against Hunger applies a more development based approach, while in the newly liberated areas a dynamic humanitarian response is implemented, at present focusing predominantly on reconstruction and recovery. Action Against Hunger has interventions in both areas, applying relevant assistance to each context.

Following the failure of the referendum for independence in Iraqi Kurdistan, the general elections to elect a new president and parliament - initially planned in the region for 1st of November 2017 – were pushed back by eight months. In 2017, population movements took place in multiple directions, with 3.2 million returnees, and 2.6 million newly displaced (of which 1.7 million in 2017 alone).

Action Against Hunger continued to support Syrian refugees, internally displaced people and host communities. Our teams favour a multisector approach, combining all our fields of expertise. Within the food security and livelihoods sector, our programmes included distribution of rations and food coupons, money transfers, and vocational training. Water, sanitation and hygiene interventions included emergency response with activities such as water trucking in Mosul, installation of water points and networks, establishment of sanitation structures and latrines, distribution of hygiene kits and awareness raising, as well as support for waste management. ACF is co-leading the WASH cluster with UNICEF on the countrywide level.

Within the mental health and infant care practices sector, our programmes included emergency psychological support, women-, men- and children group sessions, individual follow-ups, establishment of baby spaces and training of mental health professionals.

Finally, our nutrition and health interventions covered support for health centres and helped set up community-level management for the treatment of undernutrition in Hammam al-Alil camp.









OPERATING SINCE 2013



REACHED 361,337 PEOPLE IN 2017



JORDAN

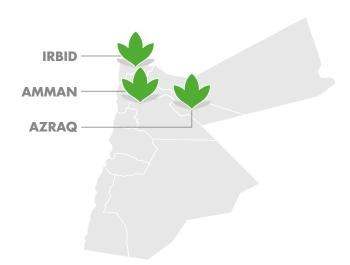




The ongoing crisis in Syria continues to affect neighbouring Jordan. In 2017, Jordan hosted an estimated 1.3 million Syrian, including approximately 655,000 registered refugees, the majority of whom live in host communities in the northern governorates. This population influx has challenged the Jordanian government's ability to deliver basic services, strained local infrastructure, and generated competition over resources and the labour market.

To address the immediate needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians and build the resilience of crisis-affected communities, Action Against Hunger delivered water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and livelihood support from three operational bases to more than 50,000 individuals in 2017. At the end of the year, we also initiated discussions with the Ministry of Health to support expanding mental health services.

In Azraq refugee camp, Action Against Hunger is regarded as the lead actor in WASH programming. We upgraded and operate the water network, ensuring daily delivery of safe drinking water to all camp residents - more than 35,000 individuals. This is complemented by community-based awareness raising on hygiene and water conservation practices. We also maintain all sanitation facilities across the camp (3,456 blocks) and scaled up a greywater network in one camp section, enabling the safe disposal of water used for washing.



In neighbouring Azraq Town, Action Against Hunger is partnering with the Municipality and local farming community to improve solid waste management. Assessments findings from 2017 on service delivery and potential for community involvement will support the development of quality compost for the farming community.

Due to the access restriction at the North-East border between Jordan and Svria. Action Against Hunger limited its intervention to monitoring the quality and supply of water delivered for groups stranded at the border. In the host community of Ruwayshed, we connected vulnerable households to the local water network and upgraded sanitation facilities for households, schools, and the local hospital.

In Irbid, Action Against Hunger addressed the basic needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians through an unrestricted cash transfer, reducing reliance on negative coping strategies. Through a cash for work intervention, we delivered immediate livelihood support to vulnerable persons while improving the environmental conditions in the surrounding communities. Participants — nearly half of whom were women - collected and sorted waste, garnering positive recognition from municipal authorities. We also launched a large-scale project to improve access to the main water supply network and enhanced WaSH facilities for nearly 10,000 households. Such rehabilitation works help to reduce water waste, which in turn lowers household spending on water. All the activities are accompanied by awareness raising on water conservation.

Action Against Hunger is a key contributor to the Vulnerability Assessment Framework, an inter-agency effort to enhance the humanitarian community's understanding of the presence, concentration, and level of needs faced by Syrian refugees throughout Jordan. Action Against Hunger conducts assessments that contribute to a collective database, making comprehensive information available to guide multisectoral support to refugees.



LEBANON





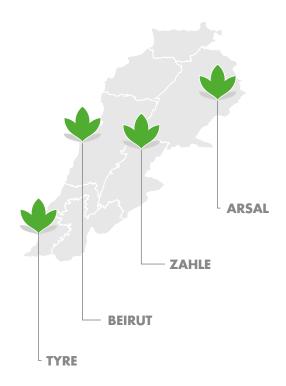






Lebanon, a historically rich Mediterranean country, is a sharply divided nation whose fragile peace is routinely threatened by conflicts taking place across the Middle East. Beyond the tensions that persist between its various religious and political factions, Lebanon also faces a number of humanitarian challenges such as unstructured agriculture in the south, significant influx of refugees, and spillover from the war in neighbouring Syria. Action Against Hunger established presence in Lebanon in 2006, initially supporting communities caught in the crossfire during the armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. However, with the start of the civil war in Syria in 2011, Lebanon has been struggling to deal with the pressure that came with the large number of Syrian refugees.

In 2017, the refugee crisis entered its seventh year, with the needs of estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees continuing to grow. Refugees face massive socioeconomic difficulties and suffer deep vulnerabilities, all while the pressure on the hosting communities is rising and the future is becoming increasingly uncertain. Given that establishment of official camps was not permitted, and refugees were forced to set up tents on swaths of land across the country, Action Against Hunger increased the geographical coverage of interventions, extending from the Bekaa valley to cover the entire South region, and including difficult to reach areas. Our interventions focus on delivery of emergency aid, including WASH activities, multi-purpose cashbased intervention, food security and nutrition programs, all of which are in response to the needs of the affected population. The fact that every fourth inhabitant of Lebanon is now Syrian has also had a severe impact on social cohesion and sparked tensions. Action Against Hunger is therefore working to ensure that the short-term assistance responds to lasting needs, and that the Lebanese population also benefits from our programs that are built to strengthen the Lebanese public systems and governance.





OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN **TERRITORY**









2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the Israeli military occupation and the 10th anniversary of the imposed land, air and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip. With the lack of peace or reconciliation on the political horizon and a shrinking humanitarian space, the situation remains highly volatile across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, settlement expansion and related annexation policies, combined with entrenched legislative and judicial punitive measures, continues to decrease access to essential services for vulnerable Palestinian communities. Despite the increasingly coercive environment, Action Against Hunger continues to effectively deliver assistance in the sectors of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) mainly. With a crosscutting protection and gender sensitive approach, we contribute to the prevention of forcible transfer of Palestinians.



In the Gaza Strip, the blockade combined with intra-Palestinian political divisions has led to an infrastructural crisis and a chronic lack of basic service delivery. The exacerbated isolation combined with the Israeli-imposed restrictions on movements of people and goods, has stifled Gaza's economy forcing almost a million Palestinians into food aid dependency. Punitive measures introduced by the different duty bearers has left power-starved Gaza with as little as 4-6 hours of electricity on average per day and confronts them with a regular tightening of the already stringent restrictions in place.

Action Against Hunger's work in Gaza aims to increase access to safe, sufficient and affordable water and adequate sanitation, in addition to supporting income generating activities for vulnerable families. With three and a half years passed since the 2014 hostilities that resulted in destruction and loss of life, 2,500 Palestinian refugee families remain displaced and 59,000 homes (UNOCHA) are still waiting to be repaired.



SYRIA











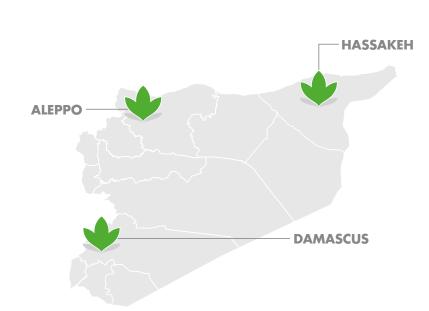


Due to its long-lasting presence in Syria (since 2008), Action Against Hunger was amongst the first agencies to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Syria conflict. Unfortunately, 8 years into the conflict the relentless fighting continues and the humanitarian situation faces harshening conditions. Despite the efforts of the humanitarian community to cope with the sheer needs of the Syrian population, there are still 13,1 million people in need amongst which 5,6 million in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities, displacement, hostilities, lack of access to essential goods and services and many protection threats endangering the Syrian population.

Overcoming several barriers, in recent years Action Against Hunger — Syria has expanded its programmes in the Food Security. WaSH and NFI sectors covering, in 2017, 1,795,374 people in need in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Ragga, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Dar'a. Programmes in the Food Security sector consist of direct food aid covering life-saving needs or flour distribution for bakeries; and agriculture, livestock and livelihood generation and management transitioning to life-sustaining activities whenever possible. Normally, lifesustaining agriculture is implemented alongside programmes to ensure constant availability of water for households and irrigation. Other WaSH emergency activities are implemented in informal or collective settlements, ensuring minimum conditions (quantity and quality) of water safety, sanitation and hygiene promotion in these sites as well as in communities hosting a large number of IDPs. Emergency responses include provision of water, distribution of food and non-food items kits, as well as shelter solutions.

Action Against Hunger - Syria, will continue to invest in scaling up those sectors through life-sustaining, resilience activities, and innovative approaches, promoting capacity building and sharing experience with partners in the country.

In its evaluation of needs and programme design, **Action Against** Hunger - Syria pays particular attention to the vulnerability profiling of areas, guided by an impartial and independent analysis of needs conducted by the dedicated MEAL and Information Management units.





TURKEY &







In 2017, Turkey remained strongly affected by a high number of Syrian refugees residing in the country, with numbers rising to more than 3,3 million. Since the beginning of the refugee crisis in 2011, the Turkish government has been largely involved in the response. Although government's engagement has helped resolve a number of practical issues at the onset of the crisis, with time a number of legal frameworks were introduced, which continue to challenge operational capacity of international and national NGOs to conduct unimpeded response operations that would satisfy all needs of refugees. In the context of Turkey, Action Against Hunger made a strategic decision to focus on working with a local partner organisation, designing the intervention in a way that fosters exchange of information for the benefit of the partner and the fulfillment of our goals to cover the needs of those most vulnerable. Designing the intervention in this way has not only increased sustainability in the impact of projects, but also improved cost efficiency, therewith allowing for a greater coverage of people in need.

These developments directly indicate that the space and modality of operation for international actors are changing from direct implementation to have more collaboration and engagement with local actors and stakeholders in the format of joint efforts to operate in Turkey. A better coordination mechanism for rendering service to vulnerable people that would improve livelihoods, MHPSS, social cohesion, as well as foster local networking is needed, and has to be reinforced.

In 2016, Action Against Hunger and the Turkish organisation Support To Life (STL) established a partnership to implement projects in Turkey. In 2017, that partnership still proved to be solid and effective, with collaboration based on a long-term approach. Action Against Hunger continued to develop skills of STL staff in order to build on the institutional and operational capacity, so that the organisation can have a greater impact on relief, recovery and resilience of the crisis-affected populations. Furthermore, STL is extended technical expertise with the purpose to maximise the impact of ongoing projects and their scaling up, if and when the need for scaling up arises. In addition, Action Against Hunger through this collaboration - aims to reinforce and boost the localization agenda, as well as to make sure that the local partner will be able to take an important role as per their knowledge, capacity and experience to address the needs in most efficient and possible way and at appropriate time. This will also help the partner organisation develop fundraising opportunities, both to deliver relevant services to those most vulnerable, but also to strengthen STL's institutional stability and sustainability.

Throughout 2017, STL implemented a variety of activities that mainly focused on supporting refugees with protection, livelihoods, child protection in seasonal agriculture, capacity building of civil society organisations, and emergency response in eight provinces (Istanbul, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Diyarbekir, Mardin, Mersin, Adana and Kayseri). These activities helped serve more than 28,000 individuals.





YEMEN









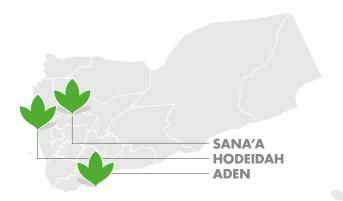




The Yemeni people are facing multiple crises, including armed conflict, displacement and risk of famine and disease outbreaks, creating the world's worst man-made humanitarian crisis. Three years of ongoing conflict and economic decline have exhausted the population's resilience mechanisms, destroyed infrastructure and seriously disrupted the country's economy. An estimated 22.2 million people (80% of the total population) are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 17.8 million are food insecure and around 16 million are in dire need of clean water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition, 16.4 million people lack access to health services, resulting in recurrent waves of cholera over the last 15 months. Finally, around 1.8 million children and 1.1 million pregnant and lactating women are severely malnourished, including 400,000 children under the age of five who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Due to the conflict, essential public services have collapsed with many WASH- and health workers not receiving wages, further exacerbating the health- and nutritional needs and requirement of services, and increasing the threat of waterborne diseases in a context where health risks and malnutrition are already high. Access to affected communities, particularly in the north, is becoming increasingly difficult, while the needs in other parts of the country are rising. Continued conflict, airstrikes, embargos and high prices have caused profound deterioration of basic living standards and services, putting hundreds of thousands of lives at risk. The humanitarian space remains restricted in terms of access to resources, vulnerable communities and in its operational capacity.

Despite access restrictions, in 2017 we reached more than 300,000 persons in need across five governorates in Yemen. Maintaining operational presence in some of the worst affected areas of the country and supporting those hardest to reach remains our greatest challenge. We are, however, continuing our nutrition and health programmes, especially our support for severe and moderate acute malnutrition in children under five and pregnant and lactating women. This also involves training of health workers and sensitization of vulnerable communities. The latter is of particular importance in light of recent waves of cholera that have affected over 1 million Yemenis. Roughly 30,000 suspected cases of cholera were treated by the Action Against Hunger-supported Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in urban al-Hudaydah. Our integrated humanitarian response also covers water, sanitation and hygiene programs through rehabilitation of water points and latrines, hygiene promotions and distribution of hygiene kits.



In 2017, Action Against Hunger also piloted the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), supporting internally displaced people (IDPs) and vulnerable communities affected by conflict, natural disasters or epidemics with immediate assistance following a crisis or displacement. Lastly, in order to combat the increasing food insecurity and respond to the loss of livelihoods, we carry out food security- and livelihoods programmes through distribution of food vouchers and/or cash to vulnerable families.



YEMEN

300 STAFF



OPERATING SINCE 2012



REACHED 28,000 PEOPLE IN 2017

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FOR FOOD.
AGAINST HUNGER
AND MALNUTRITION.

FOR CLEAN WATER.
AGAINST KILLER DISEASES.

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

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

FOR CHANGING MINDS. AGAINST IGNORANCE AND INDIFFERENCE.

FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. FOR EVERYONE. FOR GOOD.

FOR ACTION.
AGAINST HUNGER.

