

# WELT HUNGER Mad Gazine HILFE Mad Gazine What We Achieve Together!





#### Dear friends of Welthungerhilfe,

On 14 December 1962, Welthungerhilfe was founded. We look back at 60 years that have been both challenging and successful for us. We lived through painful moments, especially when we lost dedicated colleagues killed while working to assist people in need. And sometimes, the conditions in a country have pushed us to the limits of our ability to act. We have, however, also gone through countless enriching experiences, for example collaborations with partners and supporters or people in our projects from whom we have learned - and with whom we have been able to develop innovative solutions together.

These various facets are reflected in our work. We experience successes, for example, in the Nutrition Smart CommUNITYs. There, a wide range of people, local organizations and also authorities are networking to jointly drive progress in agriculture, health and nutrition (p. 12). At the same time, we see how development successes are destroyed by weather extremes or armed conflicts, such as in Pakistan (p. 10) or Somaliland (p. 8).

We are taking advantage of our anniversary year to look ahead with our team of 3,100 colleagues in 36 countries, to continue working on innovations and to build new partnerships. Because only if we all act together, and the political course is set appropriately, will we have a chance of achieving our goal - a world without hunger!

To reflect this conviction, we have refined our organizational brand. The new brand and logo communicate how we work together to realize our vision: reliable, focused, internationally connected, courageous and open to new paths.

With your commitment and trust in our work, we can support families in setting a new course for their lives and overcoming adversity. I am happy to share at least some of the numerous touching stories that show the impact of our work with you on this issue.

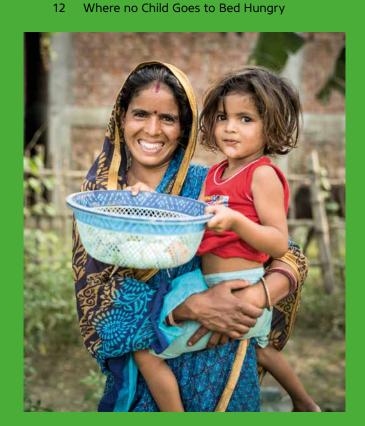
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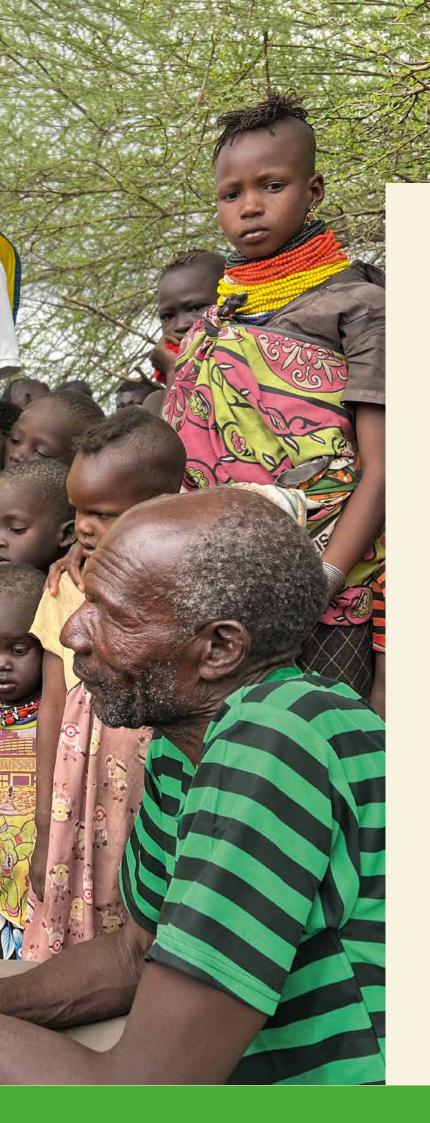
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Mathias Mogge, Secretary General





# NO LONGER IN THE RED

By Asenath Niva

t is really busy under the large village tree in Naduat, in Kenya's Turkana region: a mobile clinic has set up, weighing and measuring infants, including the circumference of their upper arms. Taking this measure helps to determine whether a child is malnourished. When a health worker puts the tape measure on little Lopeto Ebenyo, it shows red: The two-year-old (pictured left) is severely malnourished. "It's because of the drought," his mother worries. "All of our goats died, we have no milk left and nothing to eat." Many regions of Kenya are currently experiencing the worst drought in 40 years. More than four million people do not have enough to eat, and more than 740,000 children need acute treatment for malnutrition. So far, around 2.4 million animals have died. For children like Lopeto Ebenyo, the mobile clinic arrived just in time. His and the other mothers receive supplies of therapeutic supplementary food for two weeks to take home, then they can come back to get the next ration, and the clinic team will check whether the children have become healthier and stronger. The clinic also provides supplements and nutritional and hygiene counseling to pregnant and breast-feeding women. Among other activities, Welthungerhilfe is supporting the Kenyan government logistically with operating the mobile clinics in these times of great need. In the Turkana region, the teams also distribute concentrated feed for weakened animals - so that people do not end up losing their last reserves.



### "ACROSS THE WORLD, **MORE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER FROM HUNGER"**

In an interview, Welthungerhilfe's Secretary General Mathias Mogge talks about the work in Ukraine and the impact of the war on global food prices.

#### Welthungerhilfe supports people who fled the war in Ukraine to neighboring countries. Are you also working in the country itself?

Together with our partners from Alliance2015, a network of seven European aid organizations, we are bringing food, hygiene items and other relief supplies to various regions of Ukraine. To transport them into the areas of conflict, we load special cargo trains in the Czech Republic that then travel as far as eastern Ukraine. From the train stations, trucks then take the aid supplies to those villages and towns where the need is greatest, also to places that are under fire. Whenever there is still something to buy, we also use cash transfers to help people to survive.

#### Will Ukraine become a new project country for Welthungerhilfe?

We always go where the need is greatest. Until the war broke out, Ukraine was perfectly able to feed itself, but the war has changed everything. There are now people going hungry there too, so we will provide emergency humanitarian aid as long as it is necessary. Once this war is over - hopefully soon - our many years of experience with reconstruction aid will be of value and we might very well participate in supporting the country with that as well. At the same time, we remain active in countries that receive less international attention and support than Ukraine, but where the needs are just as enormous. We have to be careful not to play one country off against another. We also have to carefully manage our resources so that they reach as many of the world's neediest people as possible.

#### Humanitarian aid is supposed to be unbiased and neutral. Is that even possible in a Russian war of aggression that violates international law?

There is zero respect for international humanitarian law in the war in Ukraine and in many other conflicts. Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen ... the list goes on. In Ukraine, they are letting people go hungry, and civilian aid workers are prevented from reaching those in need. Evacuation corridors are being shelled. We know that all parties use propaganda in a war. We, too, run the risk of becoming part of and victims of this propaganda. For example, the warring parties might accuse us of helping only one side. But as a humanitarian organization, we are committed to absolute neutrality. We focus on people's needs, not on politics.

#### Russia and Ukraine have been major exporters of grain and edible oil. Will the war now lead to famines all over the world?

Unfortunately, there is a great danger of this happening. Countries such as Egypt, Kenya, South Sudan, Lebanon and many others have been either directly or indirectly dependent on Russian and Ukrainian exports. These countries are not receiving their ordered goods now or have to pay much more for them. Even

before the war, food prices were at an all-time high because of factors like climate change, conflict, the Corona pandemic, and speculation on world markets. With energy prices now rising, also because of the war, what will also become more expensive now is something like agricultural irrigation, which in turn will lead to a further increase in food prices.



We can only afford half the amount of food now. My family is poor and everything has just become too expensive. What's really awful is that the children don't have enough to eat. 99

Shimu Akhter from the village of Maghan in Bangladesh



### And what will the consequences be?

Naturally, this affects poor people the most, who already spend a high proportion of their disposable income on food. Often, they are already forced to skip meals. The war in Ukraine will cause more people around the world to go hungry. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an additional 13 million people could be driven into hunger. The increased prices are also a huge problem for aid organizations like Welthungerhilfe. We will be able to buy less food for distributions. The World Food Program (WFP), for example, has already had to reduce its aid rations for Yemen.

For many years, Welthungerhilfe has been working to reduce developing countries' dependence on food imports by increasing local production. Will the current situation help to renew and boost this approach?

The war is a wake-up call to finally establish a more sustainable agricultural production in countries suffering from hunger. Rural areas must become more attractive, with countries developing their infrastructure and working with smallholder families to grow more, richer and higher quality food, so that these nations can feed themselves. We are working hard to ensure that Germany takes a leading role in supporting this process, including as part of its current G7 presidency.

#### Is development cooperation in war and crisis zones even able to make any real difference at all?

Unfortunately, we are mostly active in countries with very violent conflicts. Still, we work together with the local population to alleviate immediate needs and create medium- and long-term perspectives, even under the most difficult conditions. In Syria, for example, we are distributing bread and are simultaneously reha-

bilitating destroyed bakeries to generate supplies more sustainably. We can also achieve a great deal even in war and crisis zones with kitchen garden projects or irrigation facilities. Resilient food systems, in turn, help to promote peace. Most importantly though, we need political solutions for conflicts, also as a stable foundation for our work. I am very concerned about all the countries that are now massively rearming. At the moment, it seems the hawks have the upper hand, unfortunately, and not the doves. I think that the return to nationalistic tendencies is extremely harmful. What we need now is exactly the opposite: more international cooperation to find global solutions to the major problems facing humanity, such as climate change, conflicts, pandemics and the fight against hunger.

> Philipp Hedemann, freelance journalist in Berlin, conducted this interview.



### **HOW THE WAR IN UKRAINE AFFECTS SOMALILAND'S CAMEL HERDERS**

Thomas Hoerz is the program coordinator for Welthungerhilfe in Somaliland. From the capital Hargeisa, he reports how global developments are leading to dramatic decisions in the country.

e were completely unprepared for these news: Instead of 6,000 families, our team would only be able to provide food to 774 families, effective immediately. This related to the largest of our current projects: we distribute food provided by the United Nations to nomadic families. Since, as a result of the war in Ukraine, grain, legumes and cooking oil were no longer available in sufficient quantities on the world market, we were told that we could no longer fully implement all planned or already active projects. What a cruel situation - how do we choose the poorest among the very poor in a village? At the beginning of the project, our team had made careful decisions and choices, together with the village elders and women of the village. The families that were picked are already hardly able to survive. And now only one in eight will receive the longed-for and bitterly needed food rations? When no one can afford the basic foods in the village store as it is?

Nomad families in Somaliland live primarily on animal products, supplemented by grain, which they usually acquire by trade. The price of grain had already risen rapidly as a result of the Corona pandemic and a prolonged drought. Since Russia's attack on Ukraine, the costs have doubled. So has the price of pulses and oil, the essential building blocks of a balanced diet. The drought has also halved the value of the nomads' livestock. Families are faced with the choice of selling even more animals below cost so that they can stay in their villages, or migrating to the city in hopes of somehow staying afloat. Many will have to do one and then the other. Because more animals will die from the drought. The herder families will end up distributing the rest of their emaciated animals to relatives and start a new life in one of the squalid settlements for internally displaced people - refugees of climate change and a crazy war.

The United Nations World Food Program is forced to do on a large scale what we now have to do on a small scale: making heartbreaking choices - cutting hungry

people out of programs in order to have enough for the starving. In concrete terms this means the following for our region: because many children are already dying every day in war-torn Somalia, the country has priority over Somaliland, where the security situation is better and at least aid organizations can operate. And yet these cuts come at the expense of a country where the need is immense.

Even though we have suffered a setback in the immediate fight against hunger, we can still tackle other fundamental problems. For tens of thousands of families, we are improving their access to water, safeguarding them from drought. In cooperation with the communities, our five hydraulic engineers are working hard to improve the water situation. Our pasture specialists are extending protected areas for drought-resistant plants in order to generate enough fodder for livestock in the long term. In the end, pastoralists in Somaliland will hopefully be able to do what Germany and Europe are also attempting: becoming more independent. In Somaliland from cheap imported grain, in Europe from cheap energy.

> Camels, watered at one of the rare water points, are the last reserves of the herding families.



### "HE IS MY HERO"

Daryna\* comes from Kherson in southern Ukraine, a region that has been occupied by Russian troops. The experiences of the single mother and her four children have been traumatic - her younger son was injured in an attack. Now she lives in the west of the country in a place that shall remain anonymous.

By Kieran McConville

e were at the market when there was an explosion. I don't know whether it was a missile or a bomb, but it went off very close to us, and my boy was injured by shrapnel." 9-yearold Sasha\* was only able to walk short distances on crutches when we meet him. He has spent a whole month in the hospital, but a piece of shrapnel is still lodged in his lower back. Because it is very close to an artery, removing it would be too risky.

"He's my hero," Daryna exclaims, giving Sasha a hug. In April, Daryna's family managed to escape the fierce fighting in their native Kherson on an evacuation train. In a village in the west of the country, she found a small house to live in. But she hardly knows how to finance the rent. Her savings are depleted, and it is difficult to get papers for the children, so she receives only a little bit of financial support. "All our documents are in Kherson, and I can't get to them," says the strained and exhausted-looking mother.

"I feel so alone," says Daryna, who lives here with Sasha and his 14-year-old brother Misha. Her two daughters are staying with their aunt, the only relative still alive. "There would be no room for them here; there is no running water, no toilet, and there are no washing facilities." The small family fetches water from a well nearby, the two boys sleep on the sofa, and there is a single electric hotplate. Daryna gets basic foodstuffs from a humanitarian center in town, to which she has to travel a long distance by bus. "I'm glad we're still alive," Daryna says. "But that's about it - we are just surviving. Nothing more."

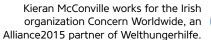
Alliance2015 partners Concern Worldwide, Welthungerhilfe and CESVI are ensuring that families like Daryna's receive at least the basic necessities of life. In cooperation with local authorities and organizations, the three organizations provide food, hygiene items and bedding in eight local humanitarian centers in western Ukraine. They also support collective centers that provide temporary shelter for internally displaced persons.



Displacement, injury and constant fear - the last few weeks have deeply scarred Daryna and her sons.

66 I'm glad we're still alive. But that's about it we are just surviving. Nothing more. 99









# A FLOOD OF **DESTRUCTION AND SUFFERING**

In Pakistan, torrential monsoon rains have caused immense flooding. More than 1,600 people lost their lives, and around 33 million are affected by the consequences. Millions lost their homes and livelihoods, and for weeks a third of the country was under water. Welthungerhilfe and its partners are on the ground, supporting families with the most basic necessities.

By Isabel Bogorinsky

ike never before, Pakistan is experiencing the consequences of climate change. After a massive heat wave earlier in the year, with temperatures of up to 50 degrees centigrade, monsoon rains fell so heavily for weeks in July and August that they caused flash floods and landslides. Entire districts are flooded; where there were villages before, nothing is left. The masses of water swept away houses and roads. The scale of the disaster is already many times greater than that of the 'flood of the century' in 2010.

More than half of those affected no longer have a home, and many are still camping under makeshift plas-

tic tarpaulins or in tents. Like the family of Ashok and ↑ Well-trained and equipped, members of the disaster committees can tackle their missions. Meena. They lost their house and all their belongings in the floods. Because public buildings such as hospi-→ Ashok and Meena's house tals were also badly damaged and no longer was destroyed - they are forced to live on the streets now.

**PROJECT AREAS** 



Ashok will not be able to earn an income for a long time, because the dry cleaners where he worked is also full of water. The family now has to live in horrible conditions on the street – without clean water, a toilet or washing facilities. Meena and her newborn child would normally be getting necessary medical care. But there is just as little of that as there is regular food for the family.

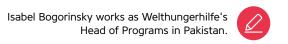
Together with local partners, Welthungerhilfe is right there on the ground, providing emergency aid for people who are in a similarly desperate situation as Ashok, Meena and their children. Those affected receive food packages or food vouchers, drinking water filters, utensils for cooking, jerry cans, solar lamps, mosquito nets and hygiene articles. People who are homeless and forced to live on the streets receive plastic mats, tarpaulins and bamboo sticks with which they can build emergency shelters. Later, they can use these materials to repair their homes. Welthungerhilfe and its partners also support families in rebuilding their homes, and communities in building community infrastructure, such as drinking water wells.

In the provinces of Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, our teams are working under immense pressure to alleviate the suffering of as many families as possible. The scale of the disaster is enormous. Pakistan is an agricultural country, and people here live from what they grow on their farmland and from livestock farming. Now, fields are under water, crop- and seed storehouses have been flooded, and hundreds of thousands of animals have drowned. Food production must restart as quickly as possible, otherwise there is a threat of hunger, meaning that yet another disaster is looming. In total, around two million hectares of cultivated land were destroyed. In the southern province of Sindh, where half of the country's food is produced, the flood destroyed around 90 percent of the crops. The water still prevents sowing for the next season.

The floods mostly affect those who were already poor now their need is critical. Because of the high inflation rate in Pakistan, basic foodstuffs have become much more expensive in recent months, and now there is the additional threat of shortages. Together with our partners, we are therefore also busy helping people to drain their land. Later, families will receive seeds and agricultural equipment so that they can grow crops again.

**Pakistan is a country** that is exposed to natural disasters over and over again. One of Welthungerhilfe's priorities is therefore disaster preparedness. People need to know how to prepare for extreme weather events and what to do when a flood comes. This can save lives. It is becoming clearer than ever how important and effective such measures of precaution are. Together with our partner Doaba, we have helped communities to set up disaster committees and train their members accordingly. Equipped with protective clothing, rescue tires and tools, they have already been able to rescue many desperate people from the floods. Timely early warnings have also had an effect, helping to minimize damage and losses.

Once again, those who have contributed the least to climate change are suffering the most from weather extremes. It will take a long time before the country will have overcome the consequences of this disaster. Until then, Welthungerhilfe will stand by the people, contribute to the reconstruction and work towards making families who face emergencies stronger and more resilient.





#### **Nutrition Smart CommUNITY:**

# WHERE NO CHILD **GOES TO BED HUNGRY**

Globally, up to 828 million people do not have enough to eat, and over two billion suffer from malnutrition. A Welthungerhilfe pilot program supports particularly affected village communities to counteract the complex causes of hunger with equally complex solutions. In Nutrition Smart CommUNITYs, people, local organizations, and authorities are networking to jointly advance developments in agriculture, health, and nutrition. After establishing 670 model villages in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, Welthungerhilfe is now exporting the concept to other regions.

By Philippe Dresrüsse and Sweta Banerjee

run was developing and growing more slowly than other children in the village of Nayagaon in the Sheopur district of India. He cried and was irritable, anxious and always tired. His mother, Sunita Adiwasi, was unaware that all of these symptoms were due to malnutrition and undernourishment. "Whenever Arun cried, I would soothe him with cookies," she says, referring to a piece of roti, a type of flatbread that many children in the village would chew on for hours until their mothers returned from the fields. When Welthungerhilfe's project began in 2018, Arun was one of 70 malnourished children in Nayagaon. "The women in the village didn't spend much time feeding their children properly," Sunita says. "We used whatever was available."

And by no means was there always something available. When summer begins, droughts and water shortages dominate life in the district: up to 47 degrees centigrade smolder over parched grasslands, where gaunt cattle scavenge for something to feed on that is no longer growing. At this stage there is neither work nor food left. It is the time of migration journeys, when entire families travel long distances to where the parents will hopefully earn just enough money to survive as day laborers. When they return, they are usually still poor - and often have sick and malnourished children.

Nayagaon has become a model village as part of Welthungerhilfe's concept of developing Nutrition Smart Villages. One of the goals of each of these villages is that

no child goes to bed hungry anymore, and that people no longer have to leave the village to secure a livelihood elsewhere. However, since there is no one single cause of hunger, but many different interrelated factors - there are just as many ways to intervene. That is why Welthungerhilfe has selected the experiences and methods that have emerged as best practices from nutrition projects all over the world and incorporated them into an integrated approach. This framework aims to counteract any causes of chronic hunger and malnutrition with systemic measures at all levels. And it does so locally, cost-effectively and in a way that can be replicated in other regions. Interlinked approaches form the basis:

#### **Creating Nutritional Awareness**

Sunita Adiwasi did not know that the reason her son Arun was not developing according to his age was because she fed him incorrectly. Mothers were unaware of how important it is to nurse their children with healthy breast milk, and families were growing the same few crops over and over again. As long as old habits prevail, the village as a system is not moving forward. Behavior changes only come with knowledge. In the model villages, the women find out what healthy nutrition entails, but also learn about the importance of hygiene, clean water and health care. In classes, they practice preparing balanced meals, and they nurse and feed their children, who are weighed and measured regularly. "Arun has grown," Sunita says with a smile. "And he doesn't cry anymore." Only three of what used to be 70 children in Nayagaon still show signs of malnutrition.

#### Making Agriculture Serve Nutrition

Families in the villages are supported in growing a wide range of food, enough so that everyone can live healthily - even during the summer months. Families learn how to plant home gardens, and smallholder farmers receive training in sustainable farming methods and biodiversity. One of them is Ram Charan from Acharwala Seharna in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The 45-year-old's slight build is a visible consequence of growth disorders caused by malnutrition in childhood. He wants his three children and six grandchildren to be better off, and now he knows what he has to do to make that happen. "In the summer, my garden now grows bitter melon, okra, pumpkins, cilantro and chilies," he says, not without pride. "In addition, various grains thrive all year round, and I make my own organic fertilizer." Ram Charan's days as a day laborer are over. So are the days when his family's food contained almost no vitamins. And what is most definitely over is the time when they didn't even know what vitamins were.

#### **Increasing Involvement**

In India, Bangladesh and Nepal, legislation allows each village the right to set its own community development plan and the financial budget for it. In reality, however, this often means that the most powerful community members take over and do as they see fit. The Nutrition Smart CommUNITY initiative therefore encourages and trains community members to become actively involved in community planning processes, to make sure their voices are heard and to claim their rights if necessary.

When Sokina had to marry after her father died, she was still a child. That left its mark on her. "Child marriages must be prevented," she says firmly, "and women must be allowed to develop their potential." Studies confirm that a woman's status has a direct impact on malnutrition rates - on those of the women themselves and those of their children. Sokina also educates women about family planning: "Fewer children mean better health and less poverty."

- From her own experience, Sokina Khatun knows exactly what urgently needs to change in the communities.
- fed healthier food, he has grown and developed age-appropriately.







 Agricultural training focuses the families' attention on crop diversity and sustainability.

#### Strengthening Institutions

Strong self-help groups, farmers' organizations or village committees are key in order to mobilize the village population. Also necessary are people like 40-year-old Sokina Khatun. She leads a women's self-help group in the remote model villages of India's Chittagong Hills, with 35 members who provide advisory services in the region. "I work with about 180 families here, including 76 children under the age of five," she says, describing her busy day. "Many girls and boys are malnourished. No one has done anything for them here yet."

Above all, however, Sokina Khatun is a kind of village manager. As part of the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY, she has trained for this role. She guides community members to analyze their problems as well as the potential of their village and how to develop solutions. She also works with local authorities to ensure that families receive seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. That way, she provides various incentives, all of which pay off in a way that ensures that the village is functioning as a system and that people learn to help themselves.

Arun's mother, Sunita Adiwasi, and other women from Nayagaon are now teaching neighboring communities about healthy eating and good hygiene. Ram Charan shares his knowledge and experience in agriculture with other owners of home gardens and fields. Sokina Khatun has organized a nutrition camp for malnourished children. She is right in the middle of village life - between mothers, children, recipes, hand washing, worries and hopes large and small.

### **Nutrition Smart** CommUNITY



> Especially for the women it is important to be able to decide more themselves. When making plans for the village, clean drinking water is at the top of the list.



All these experiences and successful approaches are now serving as a model for other village communities across cultures and continents. The Nutrition Smart CommUNITY initiative now includes Sierra Leone, Malawi, Ethiopia, Burundi and Tajikistan and is entering its second phase. From the start, the whole concept of the project was designed to scale up its impact without too much effort. Two Nutrition Smart Villages at the start of the program in Asia have already become 670. Over a four-year period, they have all become centers of knowledge and learning, including for neighboring communities. Promising results include a marked improvement in families' food diversity, they are practicing more organic agriculture, and access to government health- and nutrition-related services has also improved.

The physical distance between the Indian village of Nayagaon and the village of Langarama in Sierra Leone is around 10,000 kilometers. But the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY initiative somehow connects the two communities with their similar problems and potential solutions. Successful scaling up, however, is not just about transferring a method from one country to another.

It also means assembling a whole number of countries, projects, and stakeholders under one roof, continuously adapting and improving the working methods and materials and customizing them so that they become appropriate for the location. Networks will connect villages across Asia and Africa to foster joint responsibility, knowledge exchange, dissemination, and replicability.

Government agencies, civil society, and national and international development organizations are increasingly taking notice of Welthungerhilfe's initiative. More and more people and institutions are getting on board and are broadening the network of expertise, cooperation and capacity to act. In the future, a global digital platform will facilitate mutual learning and the collaboration among all stakeholders. It will ensure that the concept spreads, the idea multiplies, and that more and more communities will become "Nutrition Smart."

> Philippe Dresrüsse, program coordinator, and Sweta Banerjee, nutrition expert, work in the Welthungerhilfe team in India and coordinate the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY initiative.



### "I AM PROUD TO WORK FOR **WELTHUNGERHILFE**"

Founded on December 14, 1962, Welthungerhilfe has now been contributing to a world without hunger and poverty for sixty years. Over the years, we have become a team of 3,000 employees in 35 countries, who work full of commitment and courage, with passion and professionalism for the common goal. Some of our staff members introduce themselves to you here on these two pages.

#### **Josef Frei**

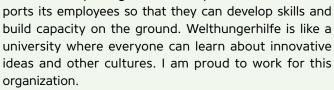
Security Officer, Bonn: I have been working for Welthungerhilfe for nine years now. My job is to ensure that the security system in each of our project countries works reliably at all times. To assess the situation there, we evaluate the risks twice a year. The result is a scale on which countries are classified from 'safe' to 'highly dangerous.' Based on this scale, I develop processes and pro-

cedures that enable our employees to work even in high-risk areas - continuing to provide vital support to the population. For us, security is a team effort! All levels are involved in order to respond properly to potential hazards.



#### **Balasubramaniam Ramasubba**

Finance expert, Bangladesh: I have been working for Welthungerhilfe for 15 years and in various countries. I am currently responsible for finances and logistics in a camp for Rohingya families who were forced to flee from their home country. For me, Welthungerhilfe is above all an organization that is transparent and meets its accountability obligations. It sup-



#### **Ulla Förster**

Auditor, Bonn: I have been working for the internal audit team of Welthungerhilfe for 16 years and am proud to be part of an organization that improves people's living conditions with its projects and activities. During my audit trips, I get to meet Welthungerhilfe colleagues and partner organizations who implement the local projects, often under difficult circumstances. With the critical eye of an auditor, I monitor compliance with standards and



norms and that way help to ensure that the donations entrusted to us reach the people with the best possible results.

#### **Nabijon Hakimov**

Driver, Tajikistan: I have been working here in the Welthungerhilfe team since 1996 and am responsible for ensuring that colleagues and professional



visitors reach the project sites safely. More than 93 percent of our country is made up of steep, rugged mountain landscapes, and most of the projects are remotely located at high altitudes. Any driver here needs a lot of special experience, otherwise it is really dangerous. I find my work very enriching as I meet many interesting people and learn a lot through the conversations with them. That's what I really appreciate about my job.



#### **Annalisa Lombardo**

Country Director, Haiti: I joined Welthungerhilfe in 2018, taking over the very challenging position of Country Director in Haiti. I have the responsibility to develop and manage an impact-oriented country program with the ambitious goal of helping Haitian households to achieve their right to a dignified life free from hunger and pov-

erty. In a nutshell, this captures exactly what I am passionate about: human rights and social justice – and this beautiful yet torn Caribbean island with its vibrant people, ancient spirituality and colorful art.



#### Farida Juma Lucia

#### Project manager, Kenya:

I am project manager for the vocational training program for young people (Skill Up!) and the support of schools. It is such a pleasure for me to witness a child or young person confidently crossing the

bridge from poverty towards independence. Describing these successes on paper rarely conveys the emotions or the far-reaching impact the project has on our participants. But believe me – it is immense! Thanks to you as donors, these disadvantaged children and young people see the world through a different lens when just one euro is invested to decrease their plight.



#### **Joseph Ogayo**

Project Manager, Sudan: Currently, I am leading a dedicated and committed team in North Darfur, where we support internally displaced peo-

ple and vulnerable rural populations with food and cash. We also work on the prevention and treatment of malnutrition and promote home gardens, which include vertical gardens, for example. We focus on empowering vulnerable families to sustainably produce their own nutritious food. I am motivated and honored to be working with a respected organization like Welthungerhilfe and have been doing so for 13 years. I strongly believe that with simple innovative solutions, we are on the right path to "One Planet – Zero Hunger."



#### **Juli Dabire**

Logistician, Burkina Faso: I have been working for Welthungerhilfe since 2021 and have found very nice and committed colleagues here. Together, we tackle all the big challenges. As a logistician, I coordinate the

procurement of all goods, i.e. purchasing, transport, storage and inventory, to meet the needs of the projects on site and in our office. I feel very honored to be contributing to a better resilience and strength of the most vulnerable populations. I see the fact that I am a woman working in a profession that has long been reserved for men as a positive change towards greater equality.

### **UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER AND STICKING TOGETHER**

The Turkish province of Mardin lies around 20 kilometres from the border with Syria. Many families who fled from the violence in their country to seek refuge here now have great difficulties earning a living. With the coronavirus crisis exacerbating the situation, paid work is scarce and tensions between refugee- and local families are growing. A Welthungerhilfe project offers opportunities in agriculture, fosters communication, and promotes cooperation.

By Jessica Kühnle

he morning sun is beating down as Halime returns home. She has been on the road since 4:30 this morning. Her children greet her eagerly, anticipating the big sack of cucumbers that she picked in a field on the outskirts of the city. The children enjoy the crunchy vegetables, but Halime's work is far from done.

In the field, she picked the smallest and thus most valuable cucumbers for processing into gherkins. This is

extra work, but it pays off. In the hallway of their small apartment in the Turkish town of Midyat, she spreads a flowerprint blanket on which she sets spices, plastic bottles, and cucumbers that are small enough to pass through the bottles' necks.

Halime grew up in a Kurdish family in a village near Midyat. The single mother hardly spoke any Turkish when she moved to the city after her family became unable to support her. Halime

first found a job as a seasonal worker, but her income barely covered essentials. Then, she applied to Welthungerhilfe's agricultural project after seeing it advertised on a poster. "We often hear about these kinds of projects, but they usually promise more than they deliver, and their overall benefit is limited. I was afraid of being disappointed again, but this time it was fortunately a complete success," says Halime with a smile.



66 Speaking the language helps me to make connections and to navigate daily life. ??





Sy selling the gherkins, she can afford clothing and food for her children as well as a mobile phone for her business.



Muhammed's high-quality tomatoes are a result of hard

She participated in training sessions and received some land to cultivate. Every second day, she goes to the field to tend to her cucumbers. "In the high season, I was able to harvest nearly 90 kilograms. I sell the large and medium-sized cucumbers to merchants or at the local market. The smallest and tastiest ones I take home for my children and for pickling," Halime explains while adding spices to the bottle.

Thanks to a good harvest and her income from food processing, Halime's time of need is over. All bills and debts accumulated over recent years have been paid, and Halime has gained both financial stability and new friendships with other project participants. "In the beginning, we were not able to communicate. Some women spoke Arabic, others Turkish, and my mother tongue is Kurdish. Then, we took Turkish lessons through the project, and it is now much easier to communicate with the others. Speaking the language helps me to make connections and to navigate daily life, for example when going to the doctor," explains Halime.

**Contact with his Turkish peers** has brought Muhammed Sale Mustafa joy as well. He is Syrian and managed to flee to safety in Midyat. In his home country, the 50-year-old worked in agriculture, but how was he supposed to make money in his new home? The Welthungerhilfe project served as his lifeline. As Muhammed is talking, he uses his hands to shovel bright-red, juicy tomatoes into crates that are then loaded onto a truck. "Our produce is of very good quality, so when we took it to local merchants, they were surprised and happy to be getting something this good from nearby. Now, we sell our tomatoes at a fair

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It is also a good way to get to know people who have always lived here. This makes us feel a little less like strangers. 99

price and make a living from this. It is also a good way to get to know people who have always lived here. This makes us feel a little less like strangers."

With this, two project goals are achieved: social cohesion and economic opportunities for Syrian and Turkish families. The project is being conducted in the provinces of Hatay, Mardin, and Gaziantep, where Welthungerhilfe provides participants with 1,600 hectares of arable land as well as seeds, tools, and fertilizer. Knowledge of modern cultivation and marketing methods are also on the syllabus in order to ensure optimal harvests for farming families like those of Halime and Muhammed.



Jessica Kühnle worked in Welthungerhilfe's Turkey office until October 2021. Since November, she has been bolstering the Welthungerhilfe team in South Sudan. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and is being conducted in partnership with the German Association for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of a program for better economic prospects.

# WHEN SHAME **TAKES YOUR DIGNITY**

As in so many other regions in the world, the time during their period is a big challenge for women and girls in South Sudan. They frequently have no access whatsoever to menstrual products, they are marginalized, they cannot go to school or work, and they experience stigmatization. In Unity State, in the country's north, the situation is especially difficult, because broad swathes of the region have been experiencing the effects of severe flooding since last year. Thousands of people live in provisional shelters or camps, which make it even more difficult to maintain good menstrual hygiene.

By Susan Martinez



ife in the city of Bentiu, the capital of South Sudan's Unity State, is marked by regional armed conflicts and by the effects of flooding, both of which are driving people to seek refuge here in the thousands. This has significantly increased population density in the camps and the surrounding villages. Privacy is almost non-existent, with families sleeping in a single shared room; toilet facilities are limited in number and have no doors, even in schools. These are the circumstances under which women and girls have to deal with their periods. Since menstruation is a taboo topic in their country, they are deeply ashamed of their periods and avoid discussing them with each other.

"I was told, 'When it comes, you have to hide it. Nobody is allowed to see," says 17-year-old Nyachop Gatluak. "In my village, it is forbidden to prepare food or to milk cows during your period," she adds. Most girls do not know what is happening or what to expect the first time their period arrives. Nobody explains it to them. Fourteen-year-old Nyachot recalls, "I suffered a lot from this. I tried to tie several items of clothing around my

waist to hide bloodstains because I don't own any underwear or even soap to wash my clothing with. So I don't go anywhere until my period is over."

Isolation during menstruation is common. "When I have my period, I don't go to work for seven days, even if that means losing customers at my tea room and not making any money, because if my customers were ever to see a bloodstain on my clothing, they would never come back," explains Nyazuode Hoth. Like the overwhelming majority of women here, the 25-year-old takes care of her children on her own. With hardly any menstrual products like sanitary pads available for purchase, and then only at a price unaffordable to most, many women are at risk of not being able to support their families. In addition, young women and girls can lose their chance at an education, because they are made fun of in school if their clothing has bloodstains, leading many girls to avoid going to class or even to drop out of school entirely.

Welthungerhilfe is working together with local communities to change the status quo and to put an end to this



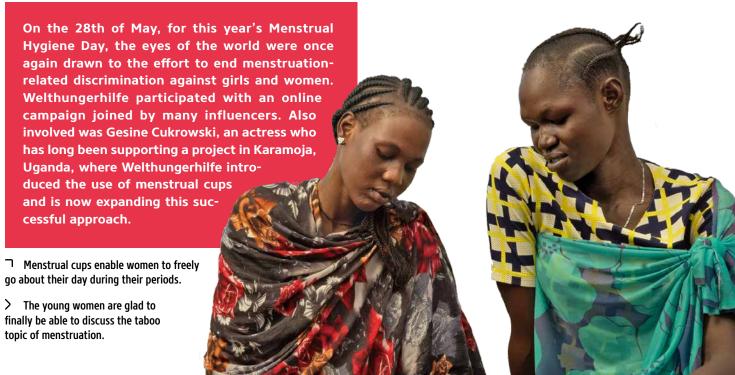
culture of shaming and degradation. Local advocates are trained in informing women and girls about menstrual hygiene and about dealing with periods, including at schools. In addition, women and girls receive a package containing underwear, soap, and reusable menstrual pads. Another innovative project is off to a great start, with 100 women at hygiene classes having been offered the option of using menstrual cups. This has largely been greeted with excitement and relief, and 87 of these women are now using the cups and are telling others about the advantages. One of them, Nyebaka Gatphan, mentions, "When you pin your pad up outside after washing it, everyone knows that you are on your period. That is embarrassing. But with the cup, nobody knows."

Carolin Schmidt, Welthungerhilfe's head of program in South Sudan, explains, "The project is such a great success because it is about women's freedoms: their freedom of movement and their freedom to make decisions about their own bodies. A very young girl

> told me, 'If you cannot afford menstrual products when your periods start, you are forced to find a man to marry so that he can pay for them.' Early marriage and child marriage are a big problem in South Sudan, but I had never considered a connection to menstruation. Every woman is entitled to lead a dignified life. If she no longer has to limit herself due to her monthly period, she gains confidence, and that can be a starting point for thinking about which other rights she has."

Susan Martinez, a freelance journalist, visited the Welthungerhilfe project in Bentiu in May 2022.





## **MAKING THEIR SAVINGS** COUNT

Few families in rural Liberia have access to credit. Without credit, they cannot invest in their farms, increase their yields, and ultimately escape poverty. Welthungerhilfe is working with national and international organisations to conduct a joint project for establishing savings and credit groups. It also includes training in more effective methods of cultivating, storing, and processing agricultural produce. This increases families' incomes, improves their nutrition, and offers them the opportunity to build a small business.

By Joseph Ashong

uah Nyanty left school when she became pregnant and had her first child. Her goal had been to become a successful businesswoman, but now she had to work with her husband on their farm. They had difficulty harvesting enough for their own family, and their food stores were exhausted far too soon. When the Welthungerhilfe project came to where they lived in Topo Town and a savings and credit group was founded, Juah saw her chance. She took foundational business courses offered through the project and opened a dried-fish shop using credit extended by the group. The 28-year-old is now sourcing her wares from fishers on the coast and selling them at her region's central market. Thanks to Juah's hard work and strong organisational skills, her business is thriving. Having paid off her first loan long ago, she took out two further ones to expand her business, which she has been able to repay as well. Buoyed by pride and enthusiasm, Juah says, "The savings group made a huge difference for women in our village. I was able to risk opening my own business. Now, I have enough food for my three children every day, I can pay the school fees for the two older boys, and I invest part of the profits from my business in our manioc and rice farm."

The savings and credit group changed daily life for women in the region, and they have become more self-assured due to their new financial independence. "I am very grateful to the project because it showed us that we are not poor. Welthungerhilfe helped us to stand on our own two feet," says Juah. "I hope that the project will also reach other women and encourage them to found

> Group members bring the box with the savings deposits to each meeting.

their own savings groups. My whole life has changed, and you can see the difference in me," she says, laughing. "I can help to provide my family with a good life. Our diet has changed too, and we no longer suffer from scarcity. Something else changed as well: It used to be difficult for us to tell our husbands and other people what we thought because we were timid and did not know our rights. Now, we are equals."

James and Martha Ziankhan also report that the project changed everything for them. "Before, we didn't know how to increase our income from our farm. We wanted to buy tools and seeds but were unable to get a loan anywhere," recounts James Ziankhan. Then, an agricultural savings and loan association was established in their village. "We learnt to save small amounts and manage our money as a group," says James. Ever since, 30 farmers have been coming together every Sunday to pool their savings. All members can take out credit, and repayments continue to refill the pot. James and his wife used



their credit to purchase an oven and two large pans for toasting grated manioc to create *gari*, a powder that has a long shelf life when stored in sacks. It can be mixed with water to produce a maize porridge that is one of the staple foods in Liberia. "More and more people are buying our gari because the way we toast it has improved. That gives us more profit. My wife can now finally buy new shoes and clothing for the children," says James with a broad smile.

James and Martha Ziankhan's experience reveals the typical problems facing many small-scale farms in Liberia. Despite fertile soils, their crop yields are often poor, because the farmers lack access to means of production and to effective cultivation methods. In 220 communities across seven Liberian districts, the project aims to support around 6,600 agricultural families, for example by increasing the yields of manioc, plantain, pineapple, moringa, peanuts, or cowpeas and by improving storage and processing options. By extending

the shelf life of their products, this reduces food spoilage and increases profits.

The farming families can invest some of these profits through savings and loan associations in their villages, thereby making credit available for people to found small businesses or invest in their own farms. The success of this approach can be seen in the examples of Juah, James, and Martha.

✓ James and Martha Ziankhan proudly present their business training certificate.

Sy combining their savings, families can get access to credit.





### INGENIOUS, **HEALTHY, AND A GAIN FOR EVERYONE**

A small social business is solving a huge problem: The Ugandan company SPOUTS of Water produces ceramic filters from local clay. In doing so, it helps to prevent diseases, boosts the local economy and manages to save tons of CO2 emissions. Welthungerhilfe and its cooperation partner Viva con Agua have invested in the company.



many severe diarrhoeal diseases; it is even the second-most-common cause of death for children under five years of age. To address this issue at the school, Irene Kamwanya used to boil water over an open charcoal fire, as is common practice in around 40 percent of households in Uganda. "However, that took up almost all my time, and I could barely breathe because of the smoke," she says. Her days look different now. In the morning, she pours water into a filter and then moves on to her other tasks—and the children already have clean drinking water during their ten o'clock break.

The key to this solution is a 40-minute drive away in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, where a small business has taken on a big task. "Our mission is to provide all people in East Africa with clean drinking water," says Daniel Yin, the CEO of SPOUTS of Water, which manufactures ceramic filters. The principle underlying the filters is as old as it is efficient: Clay is mixed with small sawdust particles and formed into pots. At high temperatures, the sawdust burns off in the kiln, leaving behind tiny pores in the clay. These allow the water to drip down into a container below but do not let the germs through. Up to 5.5 litres of water can be filtered every hour. With a layer of silver nitrate further disinfecting the water, the filters are



More than 100 women and men work at SPOUTS of Water under fair conditions.

99.9 percent effective, which is as high as boiled water or purified water in bottles. The filters last for at least two years and are simple to clean. The cheapest model costs around 25 euros.

Christopher Munguleni works in the company's production side and is a big proponent of the filters. "They are safe, and they are cheap. People can afford to have one at home, which also saves the expense of buying charcoal to boil water," he says. SPOUTS of Water is the only producer of filters in Uganda and one of the largest in Africa. It was founded by two Harvard students. Welthungerhilfe and long-time cooperation partner Viva con Agua have been working with SPOUTS of Water since 2019. They employ the filters in a variety of projects focused on water, sanitation, and hygiene. A trusting business relationship has grown over time, and they decided to buy into the business together in order to make further expansion possible.

As of last year, Welthungerhilfe and Viva con Agua hold a combined 30 percent of the company's shares, each with 15 percent. This deal turned donations into investments. What does that really mean, and why is Welthungerhilfe pursuing this approach? "The key term is 'social business'," explains Florian Landorff, the head of Welthungerhilfe's Innovation Team. "With this approach, companies solve social and environmental problems. Profits do not go to investors but are reinvested to further the business's social objective. This makes our participation a type of impact investing. The goal of our investment is for the social business to have a positive impact on society and the environment in addition to making a financial return," says Florian Landorff. Ideally, the company will expand over time and multiply its impact, thereby offering people long-term opportunities and sustainable structures after the project ends and without requiring further funding.

Under these criteria, SPOUTS of Water is a textbook example of a social business. The filters' health benefits are directly measurable, with incidences of dis-

The clay filters are fired in a brick kiln. The manufacturing process takes a total of six weeks.

They are safe, and they are cheap. People can afford to have one at home. which also saves the expense of buying charcoal to boil water. 99

eases caused by contaminated water falling not only in Jehova Primary School but everywhere where the filters are used. "Since 2015, we have sold 70,000 filters, which are providing 400,000 people with long-term access to safe water," reports Daniel Yin. This represents a significant contribution to a healthier life and to reducing Uganda's disease-related productivity loss, which is estimated to amount to USD 170 million every year. Similarly, this also improves school attendance, education, and future opportunities.

More than 100 employees have signed long-term employment contracts with fair salaries and good working conditions at SPOUTS of Water. In addition, many women have become commercial representatives and improved their finances by selling the filters. The environment benefits too. "We use up to 99 percent local raw materials," explains Daniel Yin. "This saves on transportation and consequently reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well." The greatest CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, however, comes from people using less wood and energy to boil water. SPOUTS of Water is able to provide comprehensive calculations to prove all of this and is therefore entitled to issue and sell CO<sub>2</sub> certificates. This is hoped to provide additional income in the future. Further plans include growing the product selection and expanding sales to other East African countries. Welthungerhilfe and Viva con Agua have a right to participate in all major decisions and are represented on the executive board in order to influence the company's direction and to ensure that their own organisations' objectives are taken into consideration.

Locally, one of the greatest challenges is to change attitudes and habits. "Most people have boiled water all their lives, as have their parents and grandparents," says Daniel Yin. "Now, they have to be convinced that this alternative offers a solution to a problem they face on a daily basis." Christian Wiebe, the divisional manager for water projects at Viva con Agua, is confident that the approach will succeed, saying, "We believe that social entrepreneurship can create independent structures beyond the traditional development cooperation and enable profound change to take place. Developing and supporting social businesses is the key to a long-term impact that far exceeds the limits of project funding periods."

> Ever since the school got filtered water, rates of diarrhoea and disease have dropped significantly.



#### Hello everyone,

My name is Mekbib Seife, and I grew up in Ethiopia. In June 2021, I began working for Welthungerhilfe as a nutrition expert in Afghanistan. Then came a day I will never forget: On the 15th of August 2021, the Taliban took power. It was like something out of a nightmare. Our security advisor recommended that we leave the office in Kabul as soon as possible. That day, the 25-minute drive to our apartment took us more than two and a half hours. The streets were full of cars and panicking people, most of whom were headed to the airport to catch the last flights out of the country.

That night, we heard foreign citizens and Afghan helpers leaving in helicopters. Our country director, Thomas ten Boer, and co-workers in the Bonn head office encouraged us to wait a while longer. We were eventually evacuated as well. Having seen so many people from Welthungerhilfe work day and night to ensure our safety during this crisis, I have developed great trust in the organisation. That is also the reason why I have returned to Afghanistan to work with Welthungerhilfe and to support the people who are suffering the most under the current circumstances.

The entire country is suffering from food insecurity and high rates of undernutrition. An alarming 20 million people are already affected by an acute food crisis, and we now have to fear that the poor nutrition situation will further deteriorate due to the protracted drought and the coming winter. Scarce or expensive food combined with limited water availability will thrust even more people into acute need, especially children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Many families will sink further into debt. Our team are doing everything they can to continue supporting the affected people, to restart agricultural production, and to close families' income gaps so that they do not have to resort to measures like selling their equipment or consuming their seed stocks. This is part of what is required to effectively fight hunger and undernutrition. There is still so much to do to protect people's livelihoods.

### Yours sincerely, Mekbib

a nutrition expert on the Welthungerhilfe team in Afghanistan.



### **Global Hunger Index 2022**

The world is facing a serious setback in its efforts to end hunger. This is the conclusion of the Global Hunger Index 2022, published by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. Of the 136 countries assessed, the situation is serious or very serious in 44 nations, including Chad, the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, the Central African Republic and Yemen. The report can be found at welthungerhilfe.org/hunger/global-hunger-index.

### **Helpful Bekond**

On April 1, a fundraiser started in the industrial park of the Trier region to support people who had fled from Ukraine. The Active Bekond association, which has been supporting Welthungerhilfe for many years, was also present. In return for a donation, there were tasty treats for

> peace. Already in March, Hofgut Portz had organized a weekend-long sale of numerous delicacies. This alone raised 7,000 euros of aid for Ukraine, which Active Bekond passed on to Welthungerhilfe.



### **Climate Booth**

When Bonn's Villa Hammerschmidt (the Bonn-based residence of the Federal President of Germany) had an open house on June 18th, 2022, Welthungerhilfe was ready to meet with high-ranking visitors at its booth. Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn Katja Dörner and Federal President and patron of Welthungerhilfe Frank-Walter Steinmeier spoke with Irene Sunnus about climate change and hunger-related issues.



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