

Annual Report 2008

Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe



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... for life to continue

Report of the Executive Board of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

2008 for Haiti was an exceptional year – in a negative sense. In late August and early September, four hurricanes swept across the country. Many people were able to survive thanks to the food supplied by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. We also helped by providing seed and training to enable farmers to become independent. For short-term relief alone is no longer sufficient in Haiti. The increasing frequency and strength of the hurricanes, the advancing environmental destruction, the political instability and the dependence on expensive food imports from abroad have meant that the situation of large sections of the population has deteriorated so much that they are no longer able to escape their situation of existential crisis. The crisis has become chronic.



Chronic crises – forgotten disasters

It is not only in Haiti but in other parts of the world, too, that the number of chronic crises is increasing. In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, in keeping with its mandate, again provided support for people who, through no fault of their own, became victims of natural disasters and violent conflicts. The vast majority of projects in 2008 were implemented in Somalia, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma / Myanmar and Columbia.

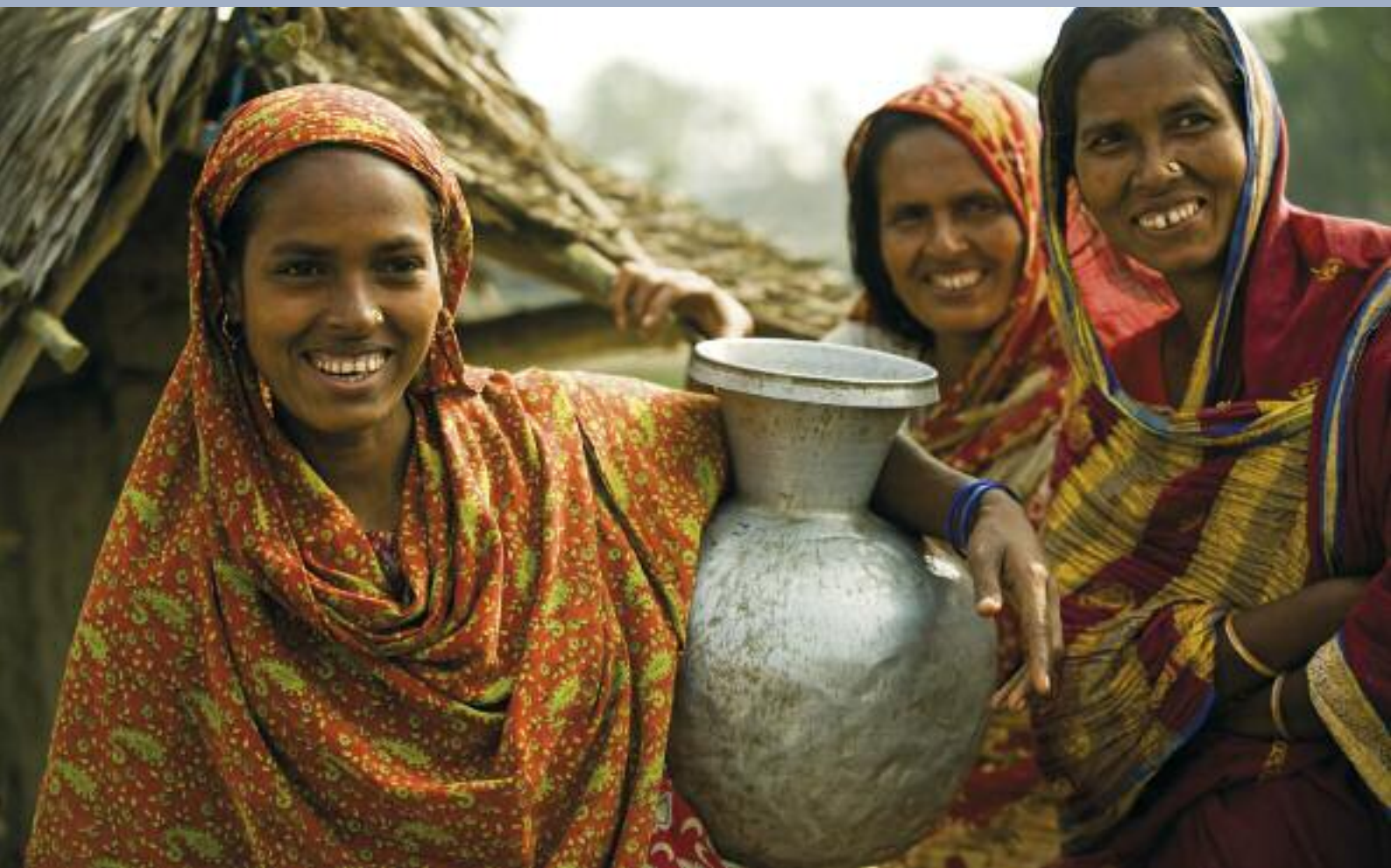
In the situations of violent conflict in Somalia, Congo and Columbia, where armed groups repeatedly target civilians, leading to some of the world's largest movements of displaced people, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided emergency aid primarily for people displaced by the fighting. Acute conflict escalation meant that short-term measures had to be re-planned again and again; members of staff were exposed to great personal danger: one female employee of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and one male employee of a partner organisation were tragically killed. Nevertheless, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe did not pull out of the conflict regions, but continued with its efforts to

provide high quality, essential emergency aid for tens of thousands of people.

We would like to thank all of our donors, who contributed not only to our response to acute disasters, but also to our non-earmarked activities. Thanks largely to their generous support in 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, together with its partners around the world, was able to assist the people as they faced emergency situations. We would also like to thank all staff of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and our project partners for their untiring commitment in working on behalf of the victims of natural disasters and wars.

Key areas of work

In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe supported a total of 152 projects, amounting in financial terms to a total volume of 26 million euros. (In 2007, 163 projects amounting to 30.76 million euros). In correspondence with our strategic planning, our planned activities focused on Africa, since the people in this continent are particularly affected by poverty and chronic crises. A total of 54 projects, amounting to 9.5 million euros, were supported in Africa in 2008; 46 percent of all measures approved in 2008 are being implemented in Africa (compared to 32 percent in Asia, 15 percent in Latin America, 7 percent in Europe and internationally). Many of these endorsements have to be sustained by third-party funding, since it is extremely difficult to raise sufficient donations to tackle the chronic emergency situations facing the population in many regions of Africa. The trouble spots, where Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe expanded its activities in 2008, included the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. In other African countries our work could be consolidated. In Liberia, the post-civil war situation has stabilised to such an extent that there are now plans to close the office in Monrovia in the medium term and to relocate it to the



Sahel region, where the impacts of climate change have become increasingly apparent or where, as in Chad, there are repeated outbreaks of armed conflicts.

Despite setting clear strategic priorities for Africa, in 2008, the actual number of projects in Asia (62) and the amount to which they were supported (10.7 million euros) were greater than planned. This was due to a number of serious natural disasters in 2008 and to reconstruction measures in the aftermath of previous disasters. These include the devastating Cyclone Nargis in Burma, the worst flooding for 50 years in the Indian state of Bihar, the earthquake in China and the rehabilitation following the earthquake in Pakistan 2005, as well as aid for Iraq and for Bangladesh after Cyclone Sidr in 2007.

Disaster risk reduction in times of climate change

In addition to acute emergency aid and post-disaster rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction has played an increasingly important role in the work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe for several years now. One fifth of all funding is

currently directed towards helping people in areas especially prone to crisis and disaster to help them survive future emergency situations. Of particular note in this context is the special programme, "Disaster Preparedness in Times of Climate Change", launched in 2006. There is particularly close co-operation in this area with our sister organisation within the Diakonisches Werk, "Brot für die Welt", ensuring a seamless transition from relief to rehabilitation to long-term development. Disaster preparedness is also an area where Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has specifically developed collaboration with the worldwide ecumenical alliance, ACT (Action by Churches Together) within the scope of a newly launched climate change working group.

Organisational changes

But co-operation between Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and "Brot für die Welt" has been strengthened not only within the scope of this project, but also in organisational terms. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, as the emergency department of the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD DW), is part of the process merging the EKD

DW with the Church Development Service (EED) to form a “Centre for Development and Diaconia”. This merger was approved in 2008 by the Diaconal Conference and the EKD Synod and will be implemented within the next few years. Within this newly created centre, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is to be retained as an emergency department and will be involved in all further merger negotiations.

Transparency and controlling

Once again in 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was also awarded the seal of approval of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) and is ranked in the lowest possible category in terms of its expenditure on administration and advertising. Furthermore, in 2008, we achieved fifth place among the 55 donor funded agencies assessed for transparency of objectives, work and finances in the 2008 Price Waterhouse Coopers transparency prize. We were also awarded the best possible classification by the European Commission’s ECHO auditing of our financial and other control systems.

Measures to increase revenue

Donations receipts of 9.2 million euros in 2008 were slightly higher than in the previous year. Most donations – 3.2 million euros – went towards emergency aid following the cyclone in Burma. It is particularly pleasing that our efforts to increase non-earmarked funds have been effective. We can post 4.2 million euros as “general donation receipts”. That is around 46 percent of total donations. In 2007, this figure was 42 percent and, in 2006, only 26 percent of all donations. This shows that we are nearing our target of raising more general donations for our work in disaster prevention and for chronic but non-media-effective crises, which ensures adequate funding is available to help the needy.

Outlook for 2009/2010

In 2009, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe will complete its strategic planning for the years 2010 to 2014. At workshops in Stuttgart, Islamabad, Bogotá and Monrovia, key challenges were discussed and objectives, expected outcomes and measures for implementation established. This process will continue until the end of

2009, and the response capacity, expertise and information flow within the organisation and with our global partners will be improved and strengthened.

In the medium term, the activities in Africa as a focal region will be further developed. The background to this decision, which has also been approved within the framework of ACT, is the increasing number of chronic crises and the vulnerability to climate change induced disasters within Africa. In this context, the working co-operation with our sister organisation, “Brot für die Welt”, on the issue of climate change is again worthy of mention. By the end of 2010, at least one or two “lighthouse projects” are to be undertaken in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific region. The aim of this joint endeavour is to integrate disaster prevention with food security measures at a time of climate change, and thereby to provide sustainable help to those affected. Many of these measures can only be implemented and/or achieved, if Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe can continue to raise sufficient funding. We will, therefore, continue to expand our activities to raise non-earmarked donations in particular. The basis for this is a communication concept developed in 2007. Furthermore, the establishment of an office in Brussels has provided us with a good basis to increase our efforts to attract funding from third-parties such as the European Union so that we can further expand aid in chronic crises and in the area of disaster prevention.



Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel
Director of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe



DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

Where love is more than just a word

In the mountains around Goma the poor open their doors

On the dusty streets, Bageni Katembereza was sure of only one thing: “To get away from here as quickly as possible.” Without knowing where they were going, he and his wife and their six children fled their home village in September 2008 from the violence of combatants. Then, in the hills above Lake Kivu, the desperate mother discovered a “good fairy”: Siyawna Mulingeza. “They were on the streets, with no place to sleep. So we invited them into our home,” she says, as if it was the most normal thing in the world to take in complete strangers.

It is not the first time that Bageni Katembereza has been on the run. “The first time we had to leave our home was in 1996, and then in 2007 and now again,” she says. “This time, though, we are not going back until we are really sure that the war is over.”

For more than ten years in the crisis region of Eastern Congo, the battle has been raging for power and influence – and for control of the mineral resources of what is actually a rich country. Kai M. Henning, responsible for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe projects in Africa: “Each party in this conflict has been committing horrific human rights violations. For the international aid workers, too, the security situation is critical.”

The internal mass exodus of the Congolese population from the armed conflict in the east of the country presents an unusual picture. In other African crisis countries, huge

refugee camps for people displaced in their own country spring up almost overnight, usually close to the relatively safe urban centres. In eastern Congo, however, a good 70 percent of civil war refugees have been taken in by other families. Just like their “guests”, they, too, have very little to live on. Here, the poor are offering hospitality to others who are poor.

Help for “invisible families”

Foreign aid agencies often have no access to these so-called “invisible” displaced people. In order to support them, the worldwide church alliance, ACT (Action by Churches Together), along with its religious affiliates, maintains a programme for food security and for water and sanitation. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a member of ACT and supports this programme. It targets the communities

and families that have taken in refugees, about 27,000 people. This is because the host communities themselves are increasingly encountering serious problems: with increasing numbers of displaced people, the need for firewood alone has doubled or even tripled – and this over a long period. The consequence: local deforestation is constantly increasing.

Food security in the communities

The local members of ACT in the Congo are, therefore, working to strengthen and support the network of households and church communities offering hospitality. For, the common opinion is that this traditional way of coping with internally displaced people provides a healthier and safer environment than that found in huge camps. Hence, local families receive support to grow more cereals, fruit and vegetables to feed themselves and the many new additional community members.

■ **In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided aid amounting to 1.83 million euros to displaced people, host families and returnees. Of this, 325,944 euros came from the German Federal Foreign Office, 500,000 euros from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and 600,000 euros from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ).**

Articles for daily life

Since displaced people are often unable to take anything with them when they flee, families in Goma and Lubero also receive essential non-food items. An aid package for a family with five children costs about 70 euros.

It contains:

- 1 plastic tarpaulin
- 3 wrap skirts for women
- 5 pieces of clothing for children
- 2 blankets, 1 mosquito net
- 1 jerry can, 3 pots
- 6 plastic plates, plastic cups, spoons and
- 1 knife

Fleeing violence

For the people in the province of North Kivu, the renewed outbreak of armed conflict at the end of October 2008 exacerbated the situation. Rebels took the town of Goma, and pushed further north towards Lubero.

According to estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 250,000 people in North Kivu in north-east Congo are on the run from the violence of the soldiers. 30,000 people have fled across the border to neighbouring Uganda. International aid workers also had to retreat occasionally from outbreaks of violence.

Food and water for survival

Displaced people primarily need food, water and medicines, but also longer-term food aid and material support to return to farming. In South Lubero, Goma and Minova, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), partner organisation of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, provides emergency aid to the displaced.

Medical and psychosocial support in response to sexual violence

In addition, the LWF and another partner, the Programme d'Assistance aux Pygmées en RD Congo (PAP), care for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence and severely traumatized in health care centres. Survivors of sexual violence are often rejected and disowned by their families and village communities and suffer feelings of guilt. Thus, alongside medical care, PAP has introduced information campaigns in the villages, to make it easier for women and girls to access medical and psychosocial help, and counteract prejudice and discrimination.





SOMALIA

The crisis reached dramatic proportions Aid in civil war – only at great risk

Civil war for the last 20 years, a four year long drought, anarchy and unbridled violence: almost half of the approximately ten million inhabitants of Somalia need help. Around one million people alone have fled from the capital Mogadishu. Because of a lack of medical care pregnant women have to give birth on the streets. Children die of easily curable diseases. And food prices are rocketing as a result of pirates and militias seizing aid shipments. Thus, the price for 50 kilograms of rice has shot up in no time at all from 22 to 60 U.S. dollars.

For that reason, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2008, allocated funds amounting to three million euros for aid projects in Somalia, to improve the living conditions of those affected and to alleviate the situation in the refugee camps. But humanitarian aid and access to those affected is possible only at great risk. Tens of thousands of refugees from Mogadishu, mainly women, children and old people, receive support: each family receives packages containing basic foods such as rice, beans and cooking oil, a plastic tarpaulin, a mosquito net and drinking water. In another project, around 48.000 people in the regions of Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Benadir were

supplied with food and drinking water up to the end of October 2008.

Rehabilitation and training

In addition to providing emergency aid, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is working hard with reconstruction work in other parts of the country: building schools, providing books and materials, offering young people an education – and thereby at least the prospect of a better future. There are special programmes for women intended to protect them more effectively in situations of family conflict against domestic violence and genital mutilation.

Other areas where we help

■ **Kenya:** No one had anticipated the outbreak of violence that shook the country after the controversial re-election of President Mwai Kibaki in December 2007. 200,000 people fled the escalating violence; hundreds lost their lives. Through the early delivery of emergency aid, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was initially able to provide people, primarily in the slums of Nairobi and in Kisumu, with much needed food supplies.

After President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga signed a coalition agreement for joint government in February 2008, the situation relaxed. In subsequent months, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided support, above all, to the children, pregnant women, elderly and sick in the refugee camps, in the form of food, clean drinking water and medicines. Mosquito nets, blankets and seeds were also distributed.

■ **In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided support amounting to 523,545 euros to its project partners in Kenya. Of this, 366,507 euros came from the German Federal Foreign Office.**

■ **Sudan:** In Darfur, there is no solution in sight to the conflict, which started in 2003. Over four million people are affected and are dependent on external aid for survival. Since 2004, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, in conjunction with ACT (Action by Churches Together), has been supporting the population. In addition to the supply of everyday necessities, 3,630 emergency shelter and 22 health centres have been set up and two hospitals and four clinics refurbished. In 42 newly built schools, more than 41,000 children are now being taught. And in 15 nutritional centres, children under five as well as pregnant and nursing mothers receive supplementary food.

In 2008, additional wells were also constructed, latrines created and hygiene items distributed. Peace work and the provision of help to cope with trauma are also key parts of the programmes. This psychological support is very important, especially for women, who are often rape victims.

■ **In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe allocated a total of 905,896 euros to its project partners in Sudan.**

Peace negotiations

Whether the hopes for a better future can be fulfilled, depends largely on the peace negotiations and the diplomatic skills of political leaders to defuse the conflicts between warring clans and promote future co-operation. This requires the identification and development of common concerns across clan boundaries.

Given the increasing threat to the staff of aid organisations, it is proving increasingly difficult to help the people of Somalia. Due to the escalating violence, international organisations had to pull their staff out of the country some years ago. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its sister organisation, "Brot für die Welt", are two of the few German organisations still operating in Somalia through their partner, the DBG.

■ **In 2008, the working commitment of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in Somalia amounted to a total of 3,078,883 euros, of which, 1,496,131 euros came from the German Federal Foreign Office and 400,000 euros from the BMZ.**



Mourning for Mohamoud Mohammed Kheire

He dedicated one of his last reports to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to the sufferings of the Somali civil war victims. Shortly afterwards Mohamoud Mohammed Kheire, Deputy Director of Daryeel Bulsho Guud (Hilfe für alle, DBG) was dead. Shot by contract killers in front of his house in Mogadishu. In July 2008, thousands of people paid their last respects to him and protested against his murder.

Kheire, known everywhere as "MMK", was one of 24 employees of aid organisations murdered in Somalia in 2008. Militant groups intentionally kill those caring for the victims of violence, in the belief that charities are employing spies.

"MMK" was known as a judicious mediator. Working for the DBG since 1996, he had helped those displaced by the civil war and worked for reconciliation. The 60-year-old was respected throughout the country, primarily for his ability to mediate between the clans. "We have to involve each clan, each faction; only then can we work in peace in Somalia," Kheire said only a year ago.



Chronic crises Aid thanks only to general donations

The need is great, and it goes on and on. Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Columbia – many countries are suffering as a result of a phenomenon, described by experts as “chronic or complex crises”. These crises either persist for years or flare up repeatedly. In these conflicts, it is not a matter of two hostile groups confronting each other. But, instead, a multitude of actors with diffuse power bases. Chronic crises are claiming thousands of lives, often unnoticed by the worldwide public.

They are the forgotten disasters, either ignored by media reporting or long since disappeared from the headlines, and whose victims receive little aid; e.g. long-term crises such as those in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Darfur, Sudan. As a result of the situation and empty public coffers, these very poor countries no longer have the political structures enabling them to deal with the crises themselves. They are dependent on external help – not only to survive but also to establish effective structures and improved self-help capacities.

But where governments are unable to operate and the disintegration of public order leads to violence and anarchy, it is difficult to organise long-term aid. There is remarkably little interest in making donations to these countries. As a result, it is the children, girls and women, above all, who suffer most, since levels of sexual violence against them in these crisis areas are alarmingly high. They are in urgent need of help to overcome their trauma.

Great demand for non-earmarked donations

Tackling not only current natural disasters, but also these forgotten disasters, in particular, is part of the humanitarian work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

And for such long-term, sustainable help, which, independently of the political situation and media reporting, is oriented solely to the plight of the people, non-earmarked donations are essential.

For, in terms of the law in this area, there are clear stipulations that donations relating to specific events, such as the Elbe flood or the tsunami, may be used only for the purpose described in the designated region. Re-allocation to other emergency areas is not possible. General – non-earmarked – donations, with no reference to any regional or specific purpose, allow Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to care for the people, who would otherwise be forgotten.



■ Example: Somalia

The long years of war and state disintegration have brought great suffering to the people of Somalia – and made those already weak even more vulnerable to drought and famine. Through general donations, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been able to build up and support viable partnership structures. Through this, it was possible to implement programmes to improve living conditions (education, training, income-generating activities), restore irrigation facilities and agricultural areas and provide agricultural resources.



■ Example: Western Africa

The entire region is destabilised by civil wars. The conflicts in Liberia extended in the 1990s into Sierra Leone, and even the Ivory Coast and Guinea are affected by fighting, movements of refugees, death and displacement. Public interest and the willingness to make donations no longer exist. But thanks to general funds, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is able to help the region care for and resettle refugees and displaced people, create new livelihoods for the rural population, restore infrastructure and agriculture and completely rebuild social structures. All projects also include elements, which contribute to reconciliation, such as psycho-social support, training in non-violent conflict resolution, peace education and community activities.



■ Example: Columbia

The internal conflict between guerrillas, paramilitaries and government forces continues unabated. More and more people are fleeing to the urban centres – because they are afraid or because they have been the target of threats from one or another of the conflicting parties or because their livelihoods have been destroyed. Crime, state school systems strained to breaking point and child labour are on the rise. In this situation, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe helps affected people survive and enables them to create prospects for a better life: through creating house gardens for food security and the strengthening of social networks; through training programmes for young people; through education campaigns on the danger of landmines and through support towards reintegration. This also includes empowering people to organise their own protection against violence in the communities and to protect young people from being recruited by warring parties.

Examples of chronic crises and conflicts

- **Columbia:** civil war, displacement, discrimination of indigenous populations
- **Haiti:** environmental destruction, food crisis, natural disasters, political instability
- **Iraq:** post-war situation, political and economic instability, displacement
- **Uganda:** integration of returnees, political instability, flood / drought
- **Sudan/Darfur:** civil war, displacement, reconstruction, integration of returnees
- **DR Congo:** civil war, displacement, food crisis
- **Zimbabwe:** political instability, economic and food crisis
- **Sri Lanka:** civil war, displacement



BURMA **Difficult relief work conditions after cyclone** Government denies access to the region for weeks

With wind speeds of 190 kilometres per hour, cyclone Nargis sweeps across Burma in early May 2008. About 100,000 people lose their lives. In the densely populated Irrawaddy Delta in the south of the country, where the storm is at its fiercest, entire villages are submerged under a tidal wave up to four metres high. Along with their homes and crops, livestock and seeds. And what the volunteers working for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe's local partner organisations experience in the devastated Delta pushes them to their limits. One of their most important tasks is to retrieve corpses and animal carcasses from the rivers. And it is their example that gives the survivors the courage to do the same.

In contrast to Bangladesh, which, in recent years, has invested in early-warning systems and protective shelters and intensified its coastal protection, Burma was totally unprepared when the cyclone hit. But worse than this: the country's government had previously dismantled the existing protection, by cutting down the mangroves along the coast and, instead, encouraging the planting of paddy rice. For Peter Rottach, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe's climate expert, this is a major reason why the cyclone was able to have such devastating effects.

If the provision of food, medical care and other basic necessities had already been critical before the storm, it was certainly catastrophic afterwards. Partly because the Burmese government, suspicious of foreign organisa-

tions, hampered international assistance by denying access to the region for weeks on end, thereby ensuring that important time was lost in bringing help to the people.

Help possible through local partners

Through its local partner organisations, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe was nevertheless able to provide disaster relief for the worst-affected people: in the first weeks after the storm, 4,600 families – about 28,000 people – initially received such essentials as rice and drinking water, but also medicines, plastic tarpaulins, water containers, clothing, soap, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen utensils. Over 600 tons of rice and about 30 tons of salt and peanut oil went to the survivors of the cyclone.

Besides the World Food Programme, one of the few organisations allowed to maintain food distribution after the first few months was a partner organisation of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. Active in environmental protection, it has been working for many years in the mangrove reforestation of coastal regions. Since the storm had also destroyed the farmers' agricultural livelihood, it also provided rice farmers in the affected villages with a total of 400 tons of seed, helped them with advice and, in addition, brought in 25 power tillers along with the necessary fuel, so that the farmers could resume rice planting as quickly as possible. Another setback made further help necessary: after a plague of sea crabs and snails had destroyed the new seedlings in several paddy fields, a fast-growing but less productive type of rice had to be resown.



■ Overall, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe made 1,756,145 euros available for emergency aid and reconstruction in Burma.



Learning from Bangladesh

Tentative beginnings for disaster prevention in Burma

Life **after** the disaster – in times of climate change – also means life **before** the disaster. That is why disaster prevention is one of the most important future tasks. Hence, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has started building storm-resistant houses in 36 villages in Burma, to accommodate particularly needy, low-income families with many children. The houses, built on one to two metre high columns anchored securely in the ground with concrete, should be able to withstand wind and water. They also have a water tank to help the inhabitants survive long dry periods, when clean water is scarce. As protection against future cyclones, shelters are also being built in particularly vulnerable villages – mainly on the grounds of elementary schools and Buddhist institutions, traditional places of refuge. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe wants to build three of these shelters by September 2009.

It is also paying for three Burmese workers to travel to Bangladesh to acquire information on such precautionary measures as evacuation plans and early-warning systems and then pass on their knowledge to Burmese communities. The goal: to be able to respond in advance to approaching storms such as Nargis and to bring the people to safety.

The cost of protection

- Storm-resistant house for one family **about 1,140 euros**
- Rainwater harvesting tank **about 32 euros**
- Cyclone shelter in the event of disaster, with room for about 1,200 people **about 140,000 euros**



IRAQ

Medicines urgently needed Sanctions: the sick suffer most

After three wars and 13 years of continuous sanctions, the people of Iraq are finding it difficult to return to a bearable everyday life. Sick people are suffering most as a result. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe – as one of the few international aid organisations – supplies hospitals in Iraq with urgently needed medicines and medical equipment.

In the opinion of someone like Eva-Maria Hobiger, it is enough to make anyone crazy: The doctor and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe consultant hears again and again of children dying in hospital of easily treatable diseases, due to the lack of the necessary medication. And since the people have suffered for many years from a shortage of food, medical care and other basic necessities, even relatively easily treatable diseases such as diarrhoea or respiratory illnesses are often fatal.

In November 2008, the doctor travelled with an aid consignment to the south of the country to deliver antibiotics, cancer drugs, anaesthetics, painkillers, syringes and bandages to two public hospitals. The mother and child hospital in Basra cares annually for about 28,000 women and children inpatients and

over 60,000 outpatients. It is the only hospital in a region with a population of around 2.5 million and has a ward for neo-natal health care and a children's cancer ward. The general hospital in Qurna provides for the city's 400,000 inhabitants.

■ In 2008, a total of 292,760 euros were provided for emergency medical aid, including 192,760 euros from the German Federal Foreign Office. Also, in Iraq, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided 50,000 euros in aid to rescue 300 of the neediest refugee families in Mosul from an acute emergency situation. The programme for returnees displaced by the Arabisation policies of the Saddam Hussein regime is receiving 125,000 euros in support.

Time to listen Aid for refugees

In 2008, the Dane, Tommy Bouchiba, a Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe consultant since 1994, brought help to more than 2,000 Christian families from Mosul in northern Iraq. They were terrorised and displaced in October by a small extremist Muslim minority; 20 of them were murdered.

How is the situation now in Mosul?

It's still not safe to live there. There are still suicide attacks in Mosul. But the Iraqi government has responded to international pressure and the security situation has somewhat relaxed. And most of the 2,000 families have returned.

How are they now?

Some have found refuge in Christian villages north of Mosul and want to stay there, partly because of the very kind, touching gestures of solidarity: at market stalls, the displaced Christians were allowed to buy things at lower prices and craftsmen charged only for the cost of materials, not of their "hands", i.e. working time.

How does Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe help?

Above all, the families need a small loan to get back on their feet again: start-up funding to help them pay the first three months rent for a shop, money to buy tools etc. to help them ply their trade, or plants and seeds for a garden or greenhouse. Our returnees programme is very successful here. People just need this one little push, and then they can continue on their own. It is most encouraging to see what they make of this opportunity.

What is the most important thing about your work?

It is extremely important to listen to people when they talk about what they have been through - even when I've heard very similar stories a thousand times before. I regard it as part of our job to help displaced people bear the burden of what they've experienced. For them, it is extremely important to know that the world cares about what is happening to them. Therefore, wherever I can, I take the time to listen.



Single-handedly responsible for the family

She is 35 years old and the mother of three daughters. After her family received death threats if they did not convert to Islam, they fled from Mosul in March 2008. Apart from their car, she and her husband, a car mechanic with his own workshop and four employees, left everything behind. In the village where their flight ended, they found a house and her husband even found a job in a garage. But not long afterwards he was killed in an accident. Now single-handedly responsible for her family and mother-in-law, the widow received help from Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe through its Iraqi partner organisation, CAPNI. The outcome: thanks to this financial support, she was able to open a hairdressing salon at the end of December. And since the money she received also helped her buy a generator, she has a good chance to compete with rival salons. She does not want to return to Mosul with her children, even if the situation was to become more peaceful. For as Christians, they would still not be able to "out" themselves. Whenever they visit Mosul, they wear headscarves to avoid being recognised.

Other areas where we help

■ **China:** On 12th May 2008, the earthquake in Sichuan province wiped out the lives of about 70,000 people, and injured another 370,000; almost six million people were made homeless. The Amity Foundation, longstanding local partner of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in Sichuan, also belongs to the church aid network, ACT (Action by Churches Together). In the first weeks after the earthquake, this organisation of Chinese Christians was able to provide initial emergency aid to about 20,000 people. Since then, reconstruction has been the main focus: in co-operation with other partners, 500 houses, two schools and five clinics are being rebuilt and 20 drinking water plants repaired. The Amity Foundation also provides psycho-social care for traumatised survivors.

■ **For emergency aid and reconstruction work, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe made a total of 350,000 euros available.**

Disaster risk reduction – a systematic approach

Training in risk assessment



Risk assessment – i.e. the assessment of the risk of becoming victim of a disaster – is the first step of a strategy for disaster risk reduction. Especially in times of climate change. Supported by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its sister organisation, “Brot für die Welt”, training courses in the methods, content and objectives of risk assessment were held in Indonesia and Bangladesh in autumn 2008 and January 2009 for partners of the two aid organisations. Further training courses in Africa and Latin America are planned.

**Interview with Peter Rottach,
co-ordinator of the project “Disaster preparedness in times of climate change”**

Risk assessment has been used for some time in development co-operation. Why is it now being pointedly promoted by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe?

Mainly because of the impact of climate change. And because, unfortunately, we cannot help all those affected by climate change in the same way, since our resources, after all, are limited. With risk assessment, however, we have a tool that enables us to identify the most vulnerable people and develop adequate, tailor-made aid specifically for them.

And how is this different to previous risk assessment?

What is new is that we are helping communities to assess risk systematically right down to the level of the individual household. This means, together with the residents of a community or village, closely examining which people are most vulnerable to these risks. Risk assessment is, thus, a tool enabling limited resources to be really used for the benefit of the neediest. And it is a tool that allows us to work hand in hand with the people to develop tailor-made protective measures for the entire community and for individuals alike.

In other words, a move away from the “watering can principle”?

The purpose of disaster relief and preparedness as well as development co-operation is to identify those in greatest need. Although it is true that, in comparison to us in the West, the majority of people in many developing countries are extremely poor, there are insufficient financial resources, however, to support them all. If no distinctions are made in identifying those in greatest need, the better off can easily end up securing the largest slice of cake. For they are usually better educated, smarter and better able to push for what they want. As a consequence of climate change, the number of those requiring assistance will presumably increase dramatically. Hence, it will be even more important in the future than it is today, to look very carefully at who needs help the most.

But does this not create discord in the communities?

It is essential that everyone in the village participates in the process of risk assessment. Only this ensures that the results are transparent for all. And if the better-off are involved in selecting the people to receive assistance and in determining the measures to be taken, then, in my experience, they will have no difficulty in accepting that the most vulnerable people in society are helped.

Climate change/disaster risk reduction – Examples of support in 2008

- In Bangladesh, 20 communities particularly affected by Cyclone Sidr are being supported in developing disaster plans and early warning systems and in building storm-resistant houses (500,000 euros).
- Through funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, communities in India are being supported to adjust to conditions of flooding and drought resulting from melting glaciers in the Himalayas (140,000 euros).
- In Mozambique, in co-operation with Caritas international, communities especially vulnerable to drought are being supported, in particular, to improve their water supply through food-for-work projects (650,000 euros).

Early prevention

Indonesia: a model of disaster risk reduction

Floods, droughts, landslides and forest fires – every year at least 200 to 300 natural disasters kill hundreds of people, destroy tens of thousands of homes and cause financial damage amounting to millions of euros. Without adequate disaster preparedness and systematic disaster management, the affected communities can no longer cope with their problems. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, therefore, supports a broad-based disaster risk reduction programme in Indonesia. One essential element of this: analysing the local risk of disaster.

In response to this situation, the Indonesian parliament passed an act on disaster management in 2007. The objective was to be able to react quickly and appropriately to disaster and also to take preventive measures to reduce the risk itself. At a local level, however, there is still a lack of properly trained personnel, information and plans, which would make this achievable.

Participation of village communities

In Indonesia, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, therefore, finances – with 198,000 euros from the German Federal Foreign Office – a broad-based programme, which seeks to expand and improve disaster preparedness and management. This involves the participation of around 70,000 people from 25 communities in five regions particularly at risk. They are now learning how to assess their disaster risk, how to use this knowledge to develop targeted, and preventive measures and to be responsible for their implementation and maintenance. The local partner organisation is YEU, the emergency unit of the Indonesian relief organisation, YAKKUM (Christian Foundation for Public Health).

The affected communities are actively involved from the outset. To begin with, one man and one woman from community-based organisations are trained methodically. They then pass on what they have learned to the villages, where, together with the local elected representatives, they identify the specific areas of risk in the village and the surrounding area, as well as the potential risk to residents in a “risk map”.

Action plans for community-based disaster risk reduction

The next step is for the 25 municipalities to use the results of their risk assessment to create a tailored action plan specifically for



their village, listing the processes, responsibilities and different measures involved in disaster management. Each village then sets up a working group, which, in the event of a disaster, assumes responsibility for disaster protection and, in collaboration with the relevant authorities, organises the necessary aid measures.

Supportive coaching

As well as this, key stakeholders from the organisations also received training in how to properly register the financial needs of the community on time with the regional authorities and to push through their demands. To facilitate the exchange of experiences locally, YAKKUM also organised a national congress for 300 community organisations as well as members of the authorities and government.

The Americas



COLUMBIA

Going to school as protection

Aid programme brings displaced children back to school

Children in Columbia, who do not go to school and live on the streets, are living dangerously. For them, the danger of being forcibly recruited by rival gangs or criminal bands is particularly high.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, therefore, supports the project “Our future is today”, which seeks to protect children and young people against armed groups in the areas of Cauca, Caqueta, Meta and Cundinamarca. It does so by bringing boys and girls back to school. These four project areas are among the regions most affected by armed conflict in Columbia. Many farming families are losing their property and land, especially in the drive to create space for a large-scale agro-export economy.

Special tuition

In the “Our future is today” project, 326 selected children and young people outside of the school system, receive intensive special tuition. Through this type of “accelerated learning”, boys and girls can catch up on the years of schooling they have lost as a consequence of displacement. Another 1,700 children, who, through the psychological consequences of being displaced, cannot be reintegrated into a normal classroom, are taught in extra classes within their schools, to help them catch up on their education. The project has proved very successful in recent years: three quarters of participants were

subsequently able to return to normal lessons in state schools.

Psychosocial support to deal with traumatic experiences

Because of their traumatic experiences, many refugee children suffer from behavioural and psychological problems. Accordingly, the girls and boys, along with other members of their family, also receive psycho-social support – either in small groups or as individual and family therapy.



■ From March 2008 to February 2009, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe contributed a total of 774,100 euros to the “Our future is today” project, 650,000 euros of which came from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).



“We are here to stay, even after the storm has abated” Longer-term aid needed to alleviate Haiti crisis

HAITI

2008 was a difficult year for Haiti. In April, the people revolted because there was no more food. In late August and early September, four tropical storms swept over the island. The result: nearly 800 dead and over 300 missing; 151,000 took flight from the storm and months later 40,000 people were still living in shelters.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe distributed food to 24,000 affected people in the southern districts of Bainet and Jacmel. This acute emergency aid was financed to the tune of 50,000 euros from the German Federal Foreign Office. For a period of five days, the people received dry food rations – 2.3 kilos of maize and 3.45 kilos of beans (at a cost of three euros) per family. In a second step, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe supported storm victims to rebuild their homes.

Immediate response no longer sufficient

Haiti, where 98 percent of all trees have been cut down, is now the most deforested country in the western hemisphere. Each year, 20,000 tons of fertile soil are washed into the sea – and, with it, the crops and the people’s hopes for food security. Hence, emergency relief is no longer sufficient. “We are here to stay, even after the storm has abated,” says Astrid Nissen, head of the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe local office.

Gardens and silos to combat crop failure

In the Bainet community in southeast Haiti, corn and beans, millet and seeds are stored in 20 new grain silos, safe from any moisture and pests. The inhabitants also receive help to create their own small vegetable gardens and receive seeds for fast-growing vegetables and crops. Altogether, one hundred peasant families are participating in the project – particularly families on a low-income or with many children.

Also in the second project in Montagne Lavoutte, supported by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe through its partner organisation, CROSE, 108 families are receiving silos to protect their crops. And in order to be better protected against erosion and landslides, the project participants are building a five-kilometre-long protective wall at the river delta.

■ In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provided a total of 527,519 euros in funding for projects in Haiti, with 122,925 euros of this paying for post-hurricane relief aid.

Africa	Euros	Projects
Extending over several countries	638,325.00	6
Angola	330,267.83	4
Ethiopia	106,551.59	1
Burundi	62,937.61	1
Eritrea	52,000.00	1
Ghana	64,301.75	1
Kenya	667,317.87	4
Dem. Rep. of Congo	1,160,275.64	8
Liberia	615,332.09	4
Malawi	44,169.00	1
Mozambique	745,065.15	2
Zambia	37,886.20	1
Zimbabwe	402,000.00	3
Somalia	3,073,831.66	9
Sudan	984,725.49	4
Swaziland	10,000.00	1
Chad	101,078.17	1
Uganda	480,782.94	2
Africa total	9,576,847.99	54
The Americas		
Extending over several countries	466,300.64	2
Bolivia	96,237.80	2
Dominican Republic	6,355.48	1
Ecuador	58,825.63	2
Haiti	740,149.44	5
Honduras	30,760.78	1
Columbia	1,716,817.05	5
Cuba	20,354.41	1
Mexico	16,794.23	1
Nicaragua	389,172.84	2
Peru	476,867.54	3
USA	16,048.30	1
The Americas total	4,034,684.14	26
Asia		
Extending over several countries	92,052.07	1
Afghanistan	95,882.45	2
Bangladesh	930,740.12	4
China	356,488.85	1
Georgia	436,439.93	5
India	2,970,266.55	10
Indonesia	805,493.24	5
Iraq	613,289.53	5
Iran	37,924.41	1
Burma (Myanmar)	1,254,740.15	6
Pakistan	891,720.01	3
Palestine (West Bank and Gaza)	123,625.00	2
Philippines	552,834.97	6
Sri Lanka	1,418,913.12	7
Vietnam	118,866.02	4
Asia total	10,699,276.42	62
Europe		
Extending over several countries	104,743.92	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	260,744.28	1
Germany	677,505.90	1
Romania	76,075.10	1
Europe total	1,119,069.20	4
Worldwide total	623,505.96	6
Project payments 2008	26,053,383.71	152

Worldwide aid in figures

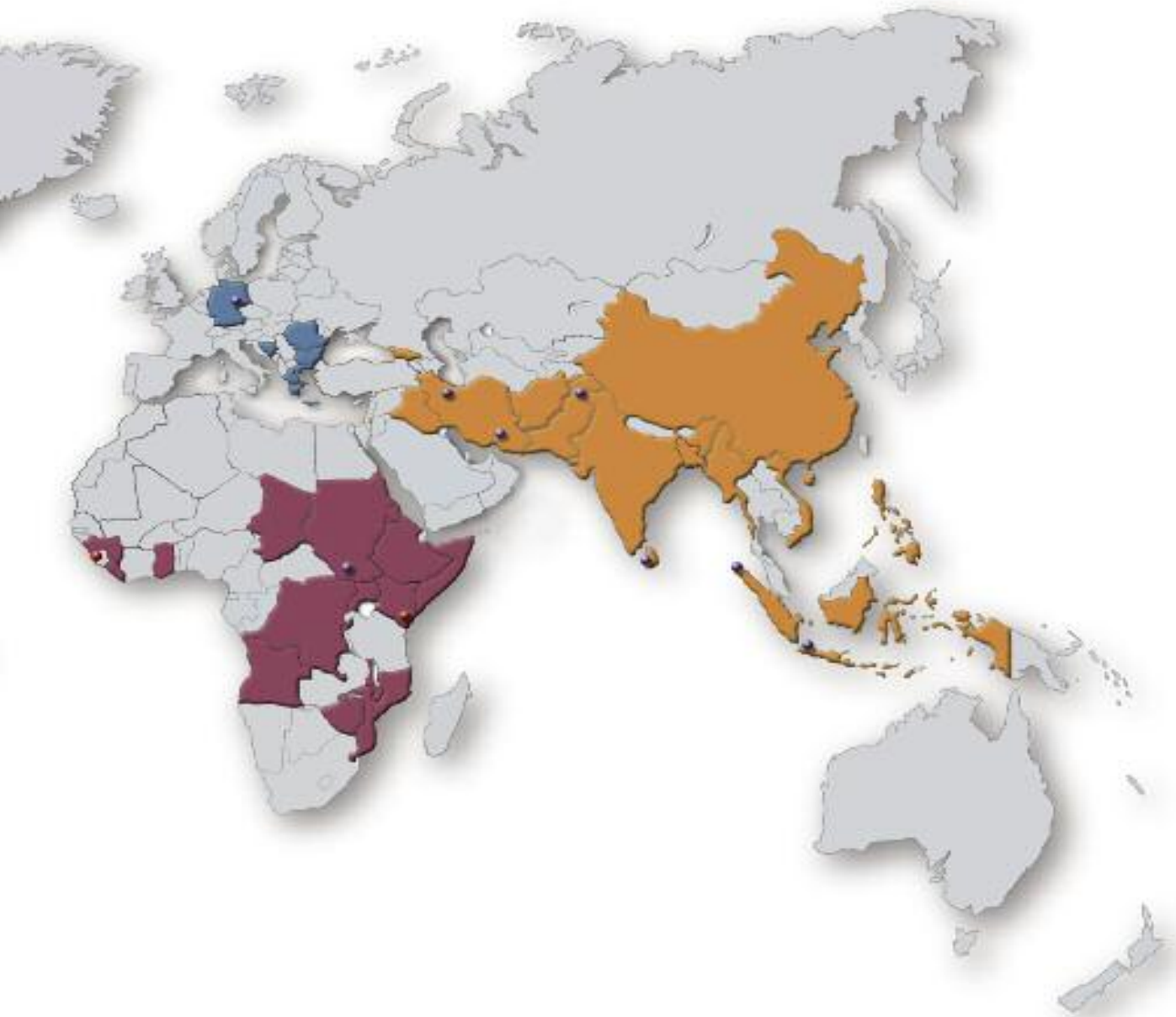


Regional Offices

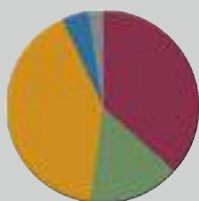
Nairobi, Kenya (East and Southern Africa)
 Monrovia, Liberia (West Africa)
 Bogotá, Colombia (Latin America and the Caribbean)

Project offices

Banda Aceh and Jakarta, Indonesia
 Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Dresden, Germany
 Islamabad, Pakistan
 Rumbek, Sudan
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti
 Florencia und Popayan, Columbia



Project expenditure 2008



Africa	9,576,847.99 euros	36.7%
The Americas	4,034,684.14 euros	15.5%
Asia	10,699,276.42 euros	41.1%
Europe	1,119,069.20 euros	4.3%
International	623,505.96 euros	2.4%
Total	26,053,383.71 euros	

How we help

Earthquakes, floods, drought or war and displacement - Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe supports the victims of natural disasters or political crises, who are unable to cope on their own with such emergencies. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, founded in 1954, is the humanitarian relief organisation of the protestant churches in Germany. Together with the worldwide community of Christians, and based on the Christian concept of humanity and on having overall responsibility for God's creation, it provides unconditional humanitarian aid, irrespective of the political, religious and cultural affiliation of the people concerned.

Together with its sister organisations' "Brot für die Welt" and "Hoffnung für Osteuropa", Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe belongs to the Ecumenical Diaconia of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD (Social Service Agency of the Evangelical Church in Germany). The co-operation with these organisations guarantees the transition in the event of a disaster from immediate emergency response to long-term support. While Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe ensures that immediate aid is provided, "Brot für die Welt" and "Hoffnung für Osteuropa" ensure that the aid provided is sustainable.



■ We ensure survival

Immediately after a disaster, the people primarily need food, medicines, water, blankets and tents. Where possible, we purchase relief items locally. This reduces costs through shorter transportation routes and also boosts the local economy.

■ We build futures

A disaster often destroys people's entire livelihoods. We help them take responsibility again for their own lives, help them rebuild their

houses and provide seed to help them resume trading and agricultural activity.

■ We reduce risk

As a result of climate change, the frequency and magnitude of storms, floods and drought are ever-increasing. We mitigate the often devastating impact of such extreme weather through mangrove reforestation, the planting of seed resistant to salt and drought, improved irrigation systems and well-drilled local disaster management.

Our network of partners

■ Local partners

The support of experienced, local aid organisations in war, crisis and disaster regions is the best way to implement projects that are effective, accepted and adapted specifically to local circumstances. At the same time, this reinforces the autonomy and initiative of the people in the region. Only in exceptional cases, is Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe represented by its own staff on the ground.

■ Partners in Germany

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a member of the Humanitarian Aid Co-ordinating Committee of the **German Federal Foreign Office (AA)**. On application, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe can receive grants for its projects, especially for immediate relief for displaced people and for disaster risk reduction programmes.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) is one of the most important public sponsors of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. The BMZ largely supports projects aiming to reduce poverty among particularly disadvantaged population groups.

In Germany, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe works closely with the Catholic aid organisation, **Caritas international**. Caritas international is mandated by the German Conference of Bishops to provide emergency and disaster aid and supports social projects for children, the elderly, sick and disabled.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is also actively involved in the humanitarian aid section of **VENRO**, the association of German development non-governmental organisations. VENRO is a voluntary association of about 100 German non-governmental organisations.

■ Partners in Europe

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) is responsible for the Commission's humanitarian aid work. In response to applications, ECHO awards grants to projects for emergency and disaster aid and reconstruction. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is one of 13 German partner organisations. It has the status of an FPA



Partner (Framework Partnership Agreement) and thus meets the requirements to receive funding. Becoming an FPA partner involves undergoing an extensive testing procedure using demanding quality criteria.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a member of several Europe-wide alliances, including **VOICE** (Voluntary Organisations in Co-operation in Emergencies), an alliance of 90 European non-governmental humanitarian organisations. VOICE is also the main contact partner among non-governmental organisations for the European Union on such issues as emergency relief, disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is also a member of **Aprodev**. The Federation of Protestant development organisations was founded in 1990 with the aim of strengthening co-operation between European development organisations and the work of the **World Council of Churches (WCC)**. At present, 17 development and humanitarian aid organisations, including Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe co-operate through Aprodev.

The worldwide ecumenical alliance ACT



Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is a member of the international church network ACT (Action by Churches Together). The Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches set up the alliance in 1995 to co-ordinate the humanitarian aid activities of all Protestant and Orthodox churches around the world. Today, more than 130 churches and their aid organisations from all regions of the world belong to the network.

Targeted help

In the event of a disaster, the partners and members of the alliance are immediately on the spot – in Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, the Middle East and Europe. This is the particular strength of ACT: the staff are familiar with the local circumstances and are firmly rooted in the population. They are in the best position to assess the dimensions of a crisis and take quick, targeted and appropriate action. In acute emergencies, the responding organisations can have access to financing from the Rapid Response Fund and, where necessary, additional experts from all over the world. The aid is for victims of natural and environmental disasters, war and other political conflicts. And it should be available to all who are suffering, regardless of religious, political or ethnic affiliation, race, gender and nationality.

Securing livelihoods

ACT, along with its partners, remains active on the ground even after immediate needs have been cared for. The emergency aid is then converted into sustainable development. The local population is directly involved in all supportive measures, so that the community is empowered to help itself in the long-term. This should also prevent future disasters and safeguard the newly created livelihoods. ACT and its members also work closely with specialised agencies of the United Nations, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme and the UN children's emergency fund (UNICEF).

Coordinating aid effectively

The governing body of ACT is the "Emergency Committee". It consists of 30 members from all over the world, who, once a year, determine the basic political orientation of the network. The board of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is also a member. The co-ordination office in Geneva, Switzerland, puts these guidelines into action. From here, the activities of the members are co-ordinated, financed, monitored and supported. Collaboration with the various UN aid agencies makes a significant contribution to facilitating the much called-for co-ordination of relief work in major disasters.

Since April 2006, the director of the co-ordinating office has been John Nduna from Zambia. ACT is funded primarily by members' contributions but also through donations and funds from churches, partners (e.g. ECHO – the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office) and national governments. In 2007, ACT funding for humanitarian assistance in 39 countries amounted to about 49 million euros.

For further information about ACT, please visit: www.act-intl.org

“It’s sometimes dangerous” New: safety training for employees

“It is part of the very nature of our work, that it is sometimes dangerous for the dedicated men and women in the field,” says Volker Gerdesmeier, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. “But we also have a duty of care, and that means we have to do all we possibly can to ensure the safety of the staff in our offices and partner organisations.” Since the end of 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been offering safety training courses. But one thing is clear: “These courses are important, but they can only minimise the risks, not eliminate them.”

Interview with Volker Gerdesmeier, Head of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

What do you want to achieve with the training courses?

They should not only be understood in technical terms, i.e.: Where is the office’s emergency exit, or what escape routes are there? They should also demonstrate to the staff that the most important thing for their own safety is contact with the people: being rooted among and accepted by the people we are helping.

Because they will warn them in uncertain situations

Yes, it’s something I experienced myself when I was working in Sudan. That is why being close to the people as well as the quality and credibility of our work are the best safety precautions of all. They have to understand the ethical principles, according to which we work, to prevent a false impression of us arising. If we were to gain a reputation for missionising, then that would indeed be dangerous for us. Also because it is so important to make it clear that we provide help to all those in need, regardless of their religion, ethnicity or gender. Neutrality is, therefore, not only extremely important for humanitarian aid, but also, for our own safety.

How do you learn to correctly assess the security situation?

On the one hand, it’s a personal matter, developing out of the work itself through observing people, how they behave, and thereby sharpening your instincts. On the other, we proceed systematically, assessing the situation very carefully: What kind of area is our office in? Who could represent a danger to us? How many escape routes are there from the office? Do we have emergency phone numbers? Whom should we notify if we are in danger? After working through these ques-

tions, security plans are drawn up for each of the offices.

In 2008, a member of staff was murdered in Somalia. Do you ask yourself, in such a moment, whether you should end your working commitment in the country?

That’s something we simply couldn’t do, since our local partners’ response to this question is always, “We can’t do that. These are our people. We can’t abandon them.” The murdered man’s colleague was immediately on the spot a few days later, thereby sending out the message, “We won’t leave you alone here.”

The Geneva Conventions are supposed to protect the work of international aid organisations. Why then, in spite of this, are they being attacked more often?

One major reason for the growing threat to international aid organisations, I believe, is that since September 2001 they have been instrumentalised by politicians and the “global war on terror”. If we are no longer viewed as neutral helpers, but as an organisation of white people seeking to carry out the policies of the West, then this will be extremely dangerous for us all.

How can this be changed?

We have to re-establish the influence and authority of international humanitarian law and restore it to the place it warrants. We can only do our work when international law is really functioning and effective. It’s just crazy that the very people who are providing aid are the ones being attacked, as if to say, “These Westerners ...” – and then we come under fire! This needs to change as a matter of urgency, if we are to be in the position to provide help in acute crises.



Balance Sheet 2008

Assets	31.12.2008 euros	31.12.2007 euros
A. Fixed assets		
I. Intangible assets	11,971.36	25,031.02
II. Tangible assets		
1. Land	1.00	1.00
2. Operating and office equipment	1,877.83	2,286.85
3. Advance payments and investment in building	200,281.63	0.00
III. Financial assets	6,893,696.87	8,482,273.05
B. Current assets		
I. Securities	14,547,693.80	18,843,087.47
II. Cash balance, bank balances and cheques	4,755,688.32	3,559,625.89
C. Pre-financing		
Pre-financing from earmarked grants	2,049,192.05	2,421,752.65
Total assets	28,460,402.86	33,334,057.93
Liabilities	31.12.2008 euros	31.12.2007 euros
A. Equity capital		
Reserves		
1. Earmarked reserves	8,189,553.61	10,989,286.05
2. Free reserves	6,768,812.00	5,768,812.00
B. Other accrued liabilities	180,210.50	167,194.08
C. Liabilities from earmarked donations	13,321,826.75	16,408,765.80
Total liabilities	28,460,402.86	33,334,057.93

General information

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provides humanitarian aid throughout the world. Its tasks include emergency aid, medium-term reconstruction and disaster risk reduction. The legal entity is the Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V. (Social Services Agency of the Evangelical Church in Germany), which has its headquarters in Stuttgart. Together with the development organisations "Brot für die Welt" and "Hoffnung für Osteuropa", Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is part of the board division Ecumenical Diaconia of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V. The annual accounts and balance sheet of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are an integral part of the overall accounting and financial statement of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V., whereby the separate annual accounts for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe ensures the demarcation between its donation collection activities and the central association responsibilities of the Diakonisches

Werk der EKD e.V., in terms of expenditure, revenue and financial resources. The 2008 annual financial statement of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V. will be adopted by the Diaconal Conference in October 2009 and subsequently published online at www.diakonie.de. It includes the balance sheet, the management report, the profit and loss account and the auditor's report.

The audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of commercial law in compliance with the basic principles of

- correctness and neutrality
- clarity and lucidity
- completeness and prohibition to net debit with credit balances
- individual valuation of assets and liabilities
- careful evaluation of assets and liabilities

The balance sheet and annual accounts, as a statement of the application of funds presenting the source as well as the use of funds, are derived from the annual financial statement of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V. For the annual accounts, the guidelines of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) in Berlin and the declaration HFA 4/1995 “The accounting and auditing of donation collection organisations” of the Institute of Auditors in Germany, which has its headquarters in Düsseldorf, were also observed.

Accounting and valuation principles

The valuation of assets and liabilities takes account of all identifiable risks in accordance with the principles of prudent business valuation. Acquired intangible assets (e.g. computer programmes, licences), as well as fixed assets are capitalised as initial or production costs, minus regular depreciation through use, determined according to the linear method

and, in the case of operating and office equipment, the diminishing balance method. Low-cost assets with an initial value of between 150 and 1,000 euros will be written off over a period of use of five years.

Fund units are valued as inventory value (current value) less unrealised gains in fund securities. The remaining financial assets are valued as initial costs or as lower fair value. Pre-financing is set at the level of cash disbursements. Liquid assets and cash equivalents are set at their nominal value and certified through bank balance statements. Liabilities have been carried at their repayment amounts.

In accordance with the accounting principles for donation collecting organisations, earmarked grants received will be carried as earmarked liabilities or statutory reserves. Valuation is set at the value of the net cash outflow or payments received.



Assets

A. Fixed assets

The intangible assets consist of the purchased and regular depreciated computer programmes. The tangible assets consist of the residual value of a piece of land / building belonging to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, the necessary operating and office equipment and – under the heading “Investment in building” – a computer application currently being installed and adapted to fit our requirements. The financial assets (fixed asset securities) consist of shares in a security-based investment fund, which complies with the ethical criteria for financial assets of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD. The valuation adheres to the strict minimum value principle. The securities listed in this position, along with current asset securities, offset the liabilities from earmarked grants and earmarked reserves. In line with the decline in earmarked reserves and liabilities arising from earmarked grants, the financial assets and securities decreased.

B. Current assets

Securities and cash holdings, bank balances and cheques. Project funding is disbursed to the project partner organisations subject to the progress of the project itself and on the basis of implementation and financing plans. The pledged, but not yet remitted, funds are invested in low-risk interest-bearing investments, while simultaneously taking account of the necessary liquidity.

C. Pre-financing

This relates to firm financial assurances, already being used for approved projects, but not yet paid by the funding partners in the 2008 financial year. At the time of drawing up this annual report, 34 percent of outstanding funds had been received; the receipt of all funds is expected in the 2009 financial year.

Liabilities

A. Equity capital

On 31st December 2008, funding amounting to 8,189,553.61 euros (earmarked reserves) was available to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe for new projects. At the time of drawing up this annual report, this funding was almost entirely bound by further project commitments to project partner organisations and fixed funding plans. The free reserves act as a safeguard for the institutional performance of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and as risk coverage. In the reporting year, there was an intake amounting to one million euros.

B. Other accrued liabilities

Other accrued liabilities were formed for obligations arising from the active component of early-retirement entitlements and for holiday and overtime entitlements existing on the balance sheet date.

C. Liabilities from earmarked grants

All project funding commitments already approved and being implemented on the balance sheet date are disclosed as liabilities from earmarked funding. Within the scope of this amount, written agreements with our project partners are available. These funds are disbursed in line with the progress of the project and with the implementation plans and interim accounts submitted by the partners.

Annual accounts 2008

	2008		2007	
	euros	%	euros	%
Total available funds as of 1.1.	30,745,111.20		40,069,508.60	
Source of funds				
Donations	9,190,937.44	36.7	8,049,823.32	32.0
Fines	1,000.00	0.0	2,450.00	0.0
Legacies	37,233.77	0.1	37,886.45	0.1
“Brot für die Welt” – Emergency fund	3,648,000.00	14.6	3,481,000.00	13.8
Interest	244,427.72	1.0	1,852,818.64	7.4
Public funds	9,358,984.61	37.4	8,469,578.82	33.7
BMZ/Emergency and Refugee Aid	4,404,683.00		2,615,317.00	
Federal Foreign Office/Humanitarian Aid	3,339,307.38		3,495,440.00	
ECHO	1,179,984.80		1,470,939.20	
EU/EuropeAid	334,863.70		334,589.62	
German State of Saxony	0.00		265,000.00	
German State of Baden-Württemberg	0.00		263,200.00	
Miscellaneous	100,145.73		25,093.00	
Third-party contributions	1,824,892.49	7.3	1,031,983.94	4.1
“Brot für die Welt” – Project co-operation	927,589.96		229,754.87	
German Caritas Association	457,300.00		475,000.00	
ACT	112,169.78		125,761.90	
Diakonie Austria	60,570.68		38,617.56	
Other third-party contributions	267,262.07		162,849.61	
Other Income	728,574.85	2.9	2,235,411.28	8.9
Total source of funds	25,034,050.88	100.0	25,160,952.45	100.0
Use of funds				
Project expenses	26,053,383.71	88.2	30,761,166.48	89.2
Human rights immediate aid projects	100,000.00	0.3	80,000.00	0.2
Project support	1,114,220.41	3.8	1,079,136.87	3.1
Statutory public relations work	672,040.52	2.3	752,263.88	2.2
Advertising	879,678.75	3.0	1,092,948.19	3.2
Administration	728,838.38	2.4	719,834.43	2.1
	29,548,161.77	100.0	34,485,349.85	100.0
Total use of funds				
Balance of funds 31.12.	26,231,000.31		30,745,111.20	
including approved project funds	11,272,634.70		13,987,013.15	
including free reserves	3,368,812.00		3,368,812.00	
including earmarked project fund reserves	500,000.00		500,000.00	
including free project fund reserves	2,900,000.00		1,900,000.00	
available for future approval	8,189,553.61		10,989,286.05	

BMZ > Federal Ministry for Economic
Co-operation and Development
AA > German Federal Foreign Office

ECHO > European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office
ACT > Action by Churches Together

Source of funds / revenue

In 2008, income from donations amounted to 9.2 million euros, slightly more than in 2007. The main focal areas of donation appeals in 2008 were the cyclone in Burma (3.2 million euros), the earthquake in China (400,000 euros) and the conflict in Congo (200,000 euros). In comparison with earmarked donations, “general donations revenue” continued to increase encouragingly to 4.2 million euros.

Traditionally, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe receives donated funding co-operation from its sister development organisation, “Brot für die Welt”, principally to enable it to take action in the case of forgotten disasters and in its rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. In 2008, this funding was slightly more than in 2007.

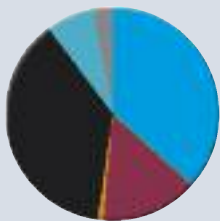
Income from interest comes about as a result of donations not immediately being passed on in full to the project partner, but transferred in line with the current progress of the project. Earmarked and approved project funds are invested in safe interest-bearing asset forms until their disbursement. The generated interest income is earmarked and, like the donations themselves, is available for the support of other projects. Due to the current financial and economic crisis, this interest income is considerably lower than in previous years. Nevertheless, a conservative investment policy meant that, even in the past year, it was possible to achieve a positive financial result.

In 2008, the project volume supported by public funding from the federal government was up 25 percent on the previous year. Funding partnership with the European Union (EU) and particularly with ECHO (European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office) stabilised; attempts are being made to expand this co-operation. Potential earmarked donations for Africa as well as Central and Latin America were also quite low in 2008, which meant that important project support in Africa and Central America was only possible through the support of the German Federal Government and ECHO.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe works closely with other aid organisations and, in 2008, received contributions from third parties and project co-operation funds for projects in Haiti, Somalia and Liberia in particular.

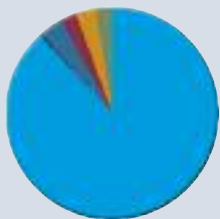
Compared with the previous year, other income was considerably lower since less “non-accrual repayments” came from the support for projects in 2008.

Source of funds



■ Donations	36.7%
■ Legacies	0.1%
■ “Brot für die Welt”	
■ Emergency fund	14.6%
■ Interest	1.0%
■ Public funds	37.4%
■ Third-party contributions	7.3%
■ Other income	2.9%

Use of funds



■ Project expenditure 2007	88.2 %
■ Human rights	
■ Immediate aid projects	0.3 %
■ Project support	3.8 %
■ Statutory public relations	2.3 %
■ Advertising	3.0 %
■ Administration	2.4 %

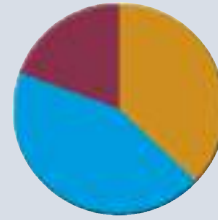
Use of funds / expenditure

The categorisation and configuration of personnel, equipment and material expenditure, depreciation and all other expenses comply with the guidelines of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) for donation collecting organisations. Whereby, a distinction is made between project expenditure, which directly fulfils statutory purposes, such as expenditure on project support, project monitoring and statutory public relations work, as well as expenditure on advertising and administration, which indirectly fulfils statutory purposes. In June 2006, the DZI revised its categorisation of expenditure on advertising and administration. The core of the change is that expenditure on project accompaniment is now incorporated into project expenditure. Hitherto, it had been categorised by the DZI as “incidental project costs” and assigned to administrative costs in the broader sense. In 2008, total expenditure on project accompaniment, public relations, advertising and administration for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe amounted to 3,394,778.06 euros, nearly seven percent lower than in the previous year (3,644,183.37 euros).

Project expenditure in 2008, amounting to 26 million euros, is presented in greater detail and according to geographic region on pages 20 to 21. Expenditure, compared to that in 2007, is about 15 percent lower, particularly because project payments to the large-scale, longer-term “Tsunami” and “Kashmir earthquake” campaigns are coming to a close.

In 2008, the geographical focus, with 41.1 percent of total spending, was again on Asia (39.8 percent in 2007). Expenditure in Africa declined in real terms, but with 36.8 percent of total spending (35.8 percent in 2007) remained, proportionally, roughly constant. This was mainly achieved as a result of third-party funding and funds earmarked for project support in Africa. The priorities for action in Africa were: acute post-displacement emer-

Payment according to area of operations



	Amount in euros	Percent
■ Survival/immediate aid	9,699,971	37.2
■ Rehabilitation/reconstruction aid	11,323,625	43.5
■ Risk reduction/precautionary aid	5,029,788	19.3
	26,053,384	100.0

gency aid, “Emergency Aid as an Aid to Self-Help”, basic health care, improvements to irrigation systems, cultivation methods and the accumulation of stocks, especially in the “crisis countries” of Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Mozambique. In the Americas, there was continued support for projects in Haiti and Columbia. Alongside acute emergency provision, there is a particular need for sustainable support for children from socially disadvantaged and displaced families, backed up by self-produced food and accompanying psycho-social care. Project expenditure in Europe relates, in particular, to third-party-funded projects related to the “2002 Elbe flood” – now winding down, and support for rehabilitation and prevention projects in Eastern Europe.

In the case of expenditure according to areas of activity, compared to the previous year, rehabilitation and reconstruction aid continues to decline. It is apparent here that the extensive building and rebuilding programmes linked to “Tsunami Aid” and the “Kashmir earthquake” are coming to an end. However, expenditure on prevention projects continued to rise to a level of 19.3 percent (13.3 percent in 2007). This is in line with the strategic direction of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and is something also being keenly pursued in collaboration with our partner organisations.

Expenditure on project accompaniment includes, alongside the supervision and guidance of projects, project support for upstream and downstream activities, such as the preparation and selection of appropriate projects, the appraisal of applications for support, improving the expertise and capacity of implementing organisations, monitoring, the auditing and the evaluation of projects. The increase in expenditure from 2007 to 2008 is explained by higher personnel costs. A process of organisational development was carried out during the reporting year. This contributed to a further improvement in the quality and consolidation of project accompaniment and also envisages further staff reinforcement the following year.

Statutory public relations work focuses especially on raising public awareness, specifically

in Germany, for humanitarian aid concerns. These include traditional public relations activities, educational / awareness-raising work and advocacy on behalf of those affected by natural disasters and conflict. In 2008, expenditure on statutory public relations work was 80,000 euros (11 percent) less than in 2007.

Expenditure on advertising is strongly “campaign-based”, i.e. dependent on serious disasters, and hence, compared to 2007, particularly in terms of material costs, decreased by a total of 213,000 euros (20 percent). Spending on administration showed little change compared to that in 2007.

Overall, in comparison with other aid agencies and according to DZI criteria, spending on advertising and administration, 5.5 percent of the total (5.3 percent in 2007), is very low.

Allocation of expenditure in 2008 according to type of expenditure

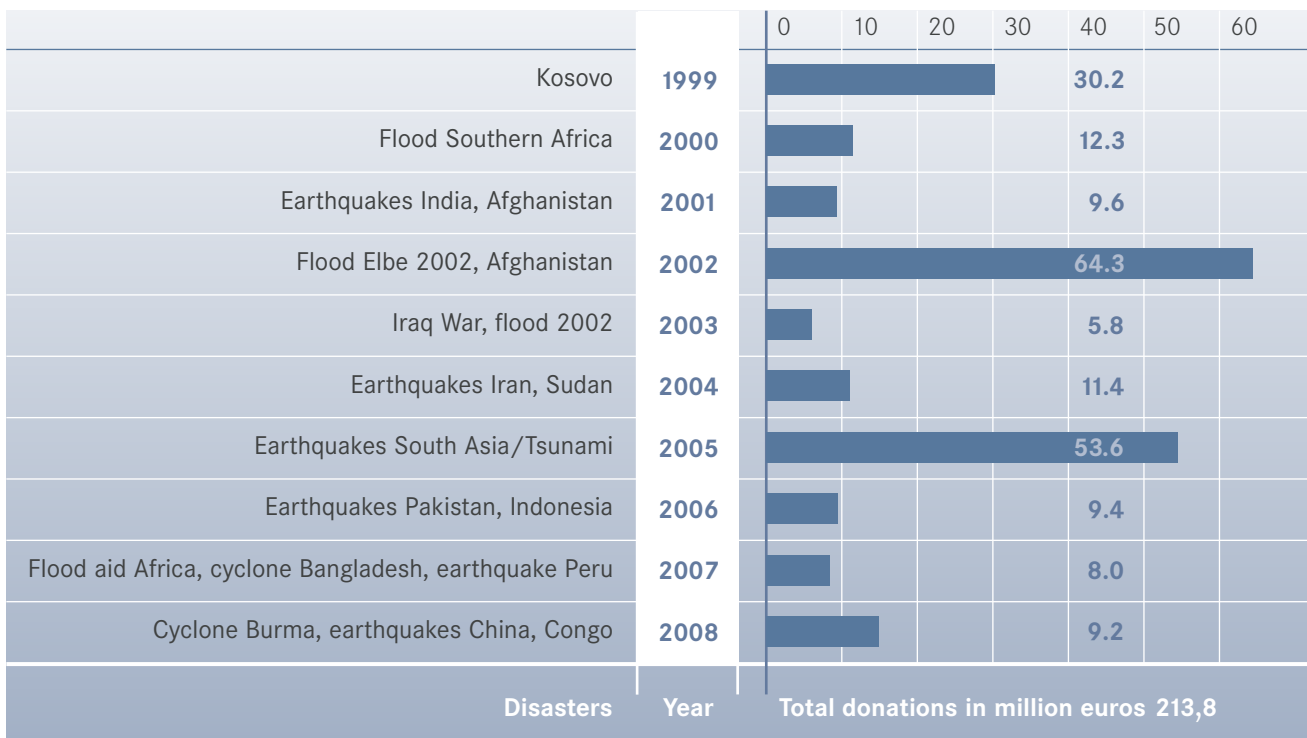
Type of expenditure	Project-expenditure	Project-support	Public relations and educational work, advocacy	Advertising	Administration	Total in 2008
Project payments	26,153,383.71					26,153,383.71
Material expenses		7,892.08	288,573.71	371,213.95	3,501.82	671,181.56
Personnel expenses		877,500.37	269,106.82	376,774.29	359,637.83	1,883,019.31
Depreciation		25,399.70	8,727.83	10,044.73	19,841.54	64,013.80
operational expenditure		203,428.26	105,632.16	121,645.78	345,857.19	776,563.39
Total	26,153,383.71	1,114,220.41	672,040.52	879,678.75	728,838.38	29,548,161.77
in %	88.5	3.8	2.3	3.0	2.4	100.0
Total in previous year	30,841,166.48	1,079,136.87	752,263.88	1,092,948.19	719,834.43	34,485,349.85
in % of previous year	89.4	3.1	2.2	3.2	2.1	100.0

Available funds as of 31.12.2008

The annual accounts of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are presented as a cash flow statement with a disclosure of the balance of funds. The balance of funds as of 31.12.2008 comprises the following balance sheet items:

		2008	2007
Liabilities A.	1. Earmarked reserves	8,189,553.61	10,989,286.05
Liabilities A.	2. Free reserves	6,768,812.00	5,768,812.00
Liabilities C.	Liabilities arising from earmarked grants	13,321,826.75	16,408,765.80
minus assets C.	Pre-financing	-2,049,192.05	-2,421,752.65
Balance of funds as of 31 st December in the annual account		26,231,000.31	30,745,111.20

Donations received from 1999 to 2008



Auditor's report

To the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V., Stuttgart:

We have audited the annual financial statements, consisting of the balance sheet, profit and loss account and notes – including the bookkeeping system of the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V., Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Stuttgart, for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2008. The bookkeeping and the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with German commercial law are the responsibility of the legal representatives of the association. Our task is to express an opinion, based on our audit, on the annual financial statement including the bookkeeping system.

We conducted our audit of the annual financial statement in accordance with § 317 of the German Commercial Code (HGB) in compliance with the principles of proper financial statement auditing as defined by the Institute of Auditors in Germany (IDW). Those standards require that the audit is to be planned and performed in such a manner that any misstatements and violations materially affecting the presentation of the assets, financial and income situation conveyed by the annual financial statement in conformity with German principles of proper accounting are identified with reasonable certainty. In the determination of auditing procedures, due consideration is given to knowledge of the business activities and the economic and legal environment of the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V., Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe as well as expectations as to possible errors. Within the scope of the audit, the effectiveness of the accounting-related internal monitoring system and the evidence supporting the disclosures in the bookkeeping and annual financial sta-

tement are examined primarily on a sample basis. The audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the legal representatives as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the annual financial statement. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit has not led to any reservations.

In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the annual financial statement complies with the statutory requirements and gives a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial situation of the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V. – Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in compliance with German principles of proper accounting.

Stuttgart, 8 May 2009

CURACON GmbH Auditing Company
Stuttgart branch



Allkemper
Auditor



Lutz
Auditor



Since 1992, the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has awarded the DZI seal to selected charitable, humanitarian organisations – after careful consideration and only for one year.

In awarding its seal of approval every year since 1993 to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD, the DZI certifies the proper planning, execution, accounting and monitoring of its project and aid programmes.

Board of the Diakonisches Werk der EKD



*(from left to right)
Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel,
Dr Bernd Schlüter,
Rev. Klaus-Dieter Kottnik,
Dr Wolfgang Teske*

The Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is part of the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V. (EKD) (Social Services Agency of the Evangelical Church in Germany). The Diakonisches Werk der EKD is headed by an executive board appointed by the Diaconal Council for a five year term. It is chaired by the president, with the vice-president acting as his or her deputy. The board directs the work, the ongoing operations and implements the deci-

sions of the diaconal conference. It is supervised by the Diaconal Council.

The Diakonisches Werk der EKD has committed itself to a Corporate Governance Code of Conduct. The gross remuneration of the four board members is disclosed in the annual report. This amounted in 2008 to a total of 472,409 euros (previous year: 433,320 euros). The directors are solely responsible for their working areas.

Rev. Klaus-Dieter Kottnik

President
Missionary-pastoral care section,
President's Office,
Press Office.

Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel

Director of Ecumenical Diaconia
"Brot für die Welt", Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe,
"Hoffnung für Osteuropa",
Department for Human Rights,
"Kirchen helfen Kirchen",
STUBE, Ecumenical Scholarship Programme.

Dr Wolfgang Teske

Vice President
Director of Economics and Administration
Justiciary, the Labour Law Commission,
Finance and Accounting,
Department for Human Resources/Personnel
Development, Administration, Sales, IT.

Dr Bernd Schlüter

Director of Local Centres
Health, Rehabilitation and Care Centre,
Family, Integration, Education, Poverty Centre,
Communications Centre and the Office in
Brussels.

Committee for Ecumenical Diaconia (AÖD)

The Committee for Ecumenical Diaconia (AÖD) makes decisions on the approval of projects and receives the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe reports. It comes together several times per year for two-day meetings. The AÖD was newly elected in October 2007. Its 17 members come from the church, diaconia and research as well as from development and humanitarian networks. They are appointed by the Diaconal Conference of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), in agreement with the Council of the EKD and the leadership of the Free Churches. For their voluntary work in the AÖD, members receive no remuneration.

Members of the AÖD in 2008

Dr h.c. Frank Otfried July

Presiding Bishop
of the Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg
(Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg)
Chairperson

Bettina Hildebrand

Head of Communications,
German Institute for Human Rights
1st Deputy Chairperson

Klaus Pritzkuleit

Managing Director,
Diakonische Arbeitsgemeinschaft evang. Kirchen
(Diaconal Association of Protestant Churches in Germany)
2nd Deputy Chairperson

Dietmar Arends

Pastor for Diaconia and Ecumenism, Chairman of the
Diakonisches Werk der Ev.-reformierten Kirche (Social
Service Agency of the Evangelical Reformed Church)

Barbara Bauer

Church Official, Department of Administration and
Finances, Evang. Landeskirche Baden
(Evangelical Church in Baden)

Prof. Dr Lothar Brock

Chairman of the Commission for Development Affairs
and Environment of the Evangelische Kirche in
Deutschland (Evangelical Church in Germany - EKD)

Prof. Dr Eugen Buß

University of Hohenheim,
Professor of Sociology

Prof. Dr Stephan Dabbert

Department of Farm Management
at the University of Hohenheim

Rüdiger Heining

Chairman of the Association of the Churches' Development
Services of the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche
(Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church - SELK)

Susanne Hesemann

Head of Department for Worldwide Diaconia,
Diakonisches Werk Hamburg
(Social Service Agency of the Church, Hamburg)

Thomas Kemper

Mission Secretary, Department of Mission and International
Co-operation, Vereinigung Evang. Freikirchen /
Evang.-Methodistische Kirche
(Association of Protestant Free Churches in Germany /
United Methodist Church in Germany)

Dr Monika Lengelsen

Lecturer in German Studies and Art History
at the University of Wuppertal

Dr Ludwig Markert

President of the Diakonisches Werk der Ev.-Luth. Kirche in
Bayern (Social Service Agency of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Bavaria)

Kathrin Schick

Director, VOICE Brussels

Dr Gisela Schneider

Director, Deutsches Institut für Ärztliche Mission
(German Institute for Medical Mission - Difäm)

Christian Schönfeld

Direktor, Diakonisches Werk
der Ev.- Luth. Landeskirche Sachsens e.V.

Ulrich Seelemann

President of the Consistory,
Evang. Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz
(Evangelical Church Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Oberlausitz)

Report of the AÖD for 2008

The Committee for Ecumenical Diaconia (AÖD) makes decisions on the approval of projects and receives the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe reports. In February 2008, the AÖD, after its election by the Diaconal conference in the autumn of 2007, came together for its inaugural meeting. This was followed by another regular meeting in November. At its first meeting, the members elected Bishop Frank Otfried July of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg, with no votes against, as AÖD chairman. In May 2008, the AÖD came together for an extraordinary meeting to debate the proposed merger between the Diakonisches Werk der EKD and the Church Development Service (EED). The discussion ended with a clear vote in favour of the merger and several specific proposals for the shape of the new entity.

In 2008, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe supported 152 humanitarian aid projects amounting to a total of over 26 million euros. The AÖD is commissioned by the Diaconal Conference with the task of carrying out project authorisation. It delegated this task to the board because of the urgency required in the event of disasters, but it lays down guidelines of a more fundamental and substantive nature and monitors their compliance retrospectively. In particular, it ensures that the funding policies and funding instruments of the different organisations of the Ecumenical Diaconia not only complement but also build on one another. Within this context in 2008, the AÖD placed particular emphasis on the well-co-ordinated and smooth transition from emergency and reconstruction aid to long-term development work in specific project areas, which make close co-operation between the organisations responsible to the AÖD, "Brot für die Welt" and the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, essential.

The AÖD dealt with the need for disaster risk reduction in times of climate change, and specifically with its impact on developing countries. It also discussed the political problems in providing aid to the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts in Burma, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the question of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe's scope for action in the face of the great destructive potential of religious and caste-related disputes in India,

where Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has provided support for victims of riots in various regions. With regard to funding in Columbia, concern was expressed that in what should actually be a wealthy country such extensive levels of humanitarian aid from outside is essential, because the state does not care sufficiently for the rural regions in particular. Such lobbying by the Board was encouraged in this context.

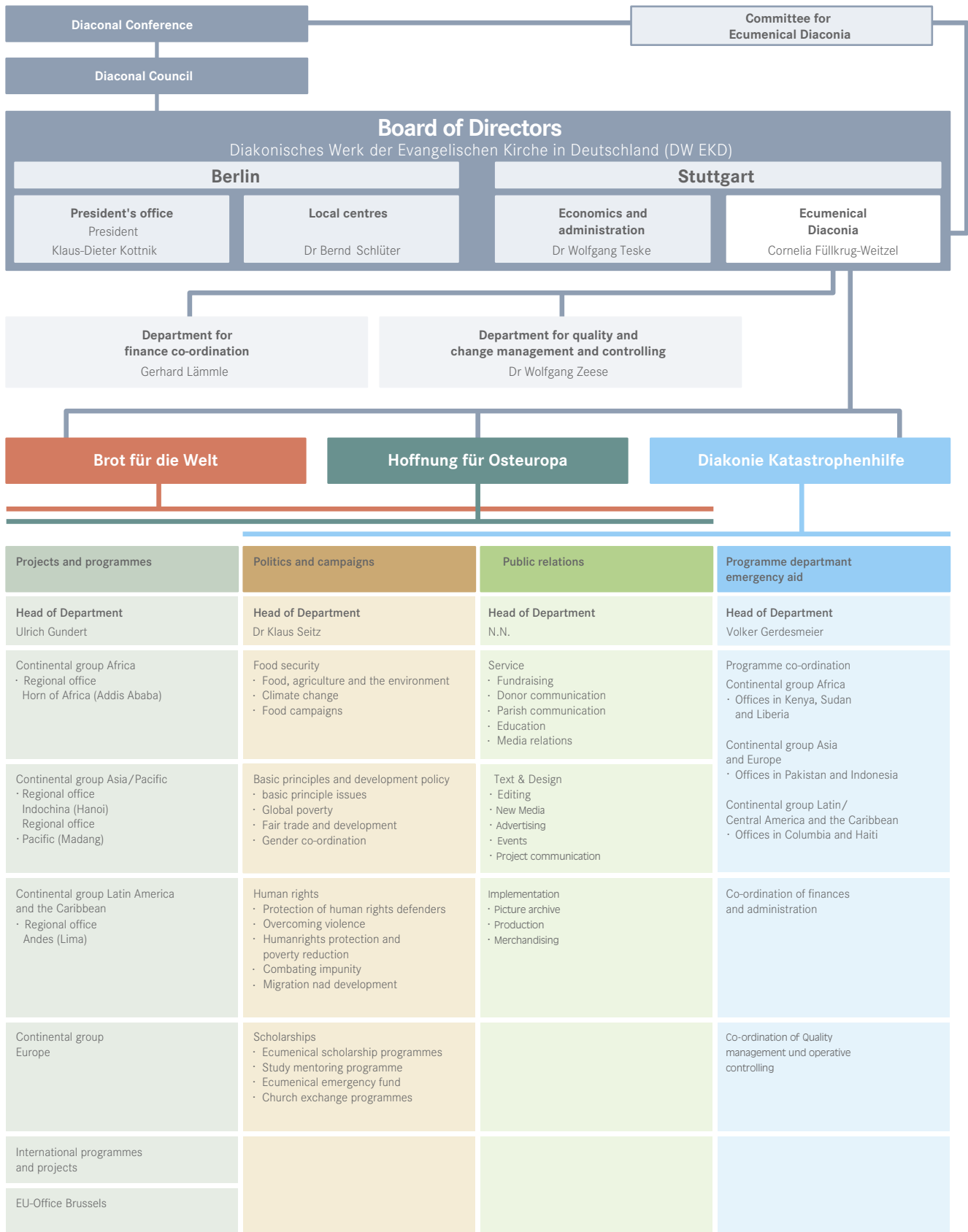
The wide-ranging project work of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in 2008 was made possible by a great many individual donors as well as public benefactors. The increase in earmarked donations and public funding for "forgotten disasters" are particularly gratifying. Both enabled Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to carry out needs-related aid programmes even in crises receiving very little media coverage. The 17 members of the AÖD, who not only lay down the guidelines for aid policy but also for the educational and public relations work and the donations appeals of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, demonstrated great satisfaction with the fact that the new PR concept developed in 2007, is apparently already proving successful and that non-earmarked donations, in particular, for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe increased by such a gratifying extent. With regard to the increase in third-party funding, the AÖD notes with satisfaction that the diversification of third-party donors – which the AÖD believes to be correct – has actually been carried out, so that even an increase in the volume of third-party-funding does not lead to political or financial dependency.

The Committee for Ecumenical Diaconia (AÖD) thanks all staff of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe for their dedicated work in 2008.



Bishop Frank Otfried July
Chairman of the AÖD

ORGANISATION CHART OF THE ECUMENICAL DIACONIA





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Cover	Paul Jeffrey/ACT International
Page 03	Christoph Püschner
Page 04	Christof Krackhardt
Page 06-07	Tarik Tinazay
Page 08-09	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Page 10	Tarik Tinazay
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Page 15	Tommy Bouchiba / Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
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... for life to continue

Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe



Member of

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Action by Churches Together

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