



# Annual Report 2017

Main Topics. Project Overview.  
Financial Report and Overall  
Result. Organisation.



**medico international**

## medico international

# A different kind of world needs a different kind of aid

For 50 years the aid and human rights organisation medico international has fought for social change. In solidarity with socially excluded and marginalised people in the global South, medico works to promote good living conditions for people which maximise health and social justice. The goal is not merely to reduce poverty, want and violence, but to identify and overcome their causes. The problem in the world is not too little aid, but rather the conditions that make more and more aid necessary.

For medico, aid is part of comprehensive political action in solidarity. Our efforts to support emancipatory processes are made in the awareness of the ambivalent consequences of aid. We operate on the maxim 'Defend, criticise and overcome aid'. The core issue is cooperation in partnership with actors in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Rather than exporting aid materials, staff or projects, we support local structures and initiatives. Our partners are not passive recipients of aid – instead, they are competent actors, themselves organising aid in the struggle for better living conditions and fighting for the human right to health.

Crises and emergencies are not natural phenomena. Poverty and violence have their causes in global relationships of exploitation and domination. This is why active and critical public relations work is a central task for medico international. Always standing up for the rights of the socially excluded, we are active in global networks, at events and through publications and campaigns. We keep people informed about forgotten conflicts, repressed interests and concealed dependencies. The goal is to establish and promote a transnational counterpublics which binds together the ideas of a good life, human rights with universal validity, social responsibility and institutionalised common goods accessible to all.

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medico international



**Dr. med. Anne Blum**  
**Chair**

**Dear readers,**

Capitalist globalisation and enforcement of the global market have made the world smaller, but at the same time have created deep social divisions. The progress of recent decades has bypassed large parts of the world's population, leading to a new level of exclusion. They have been integrated into the global market only at the lowest level, as cheap labour in global textile production, wage labourers in the production of bioethanol or palm oil, and as buyers of unhealthy industrially produced foods whose consumption gives the fatal illusion of participating in modern life. For many others, however, there seems to be no place at all in this globalised world.



**Thomas Gebauer**  
**Executive Director**

Situations like these confront medico with a major challenge. Humanitarian aid alone is not enough to tackle the consequences of growing social insecurity. We are seeing with great concern how the success of aid is increasingly being measured by the volume of goods supplied, smoothly functioning transport routes, meticulous accounting and prompt reporting – while the notion of a decent life fades into the background. Grand goals such as creating social justice, democratising democracy or contemplating cooperative forms of economies are being swept aside. At the same time, this is exactly what we at medico are striving for. We believe in the emancipatory potential of social action, and defend aid against the focus on commercial criteria. The world may have lost its way, but it is still colourful, diverse and full of contradictions. And these contradictions are where the potentials of emancipation as a prerequisite for a life of self-determination make themselves felt.

The connecting factor in the almost 120 projects which we supported in 2017 in some 30 countries is the idea of a different globalisation – a way of life based on solidarity, rooted in empathy, curiosity and creativity, instead of competition and egoism. We want to thank our partner organisations most warmly – for their determination in opposing prevailing conditions with a concept of solidarity; for their commitment to defending human dignity wherever this is being systematically violated, and for collaborating on making a different, better world.

With greetings in solidarity!

Anne Blum

Thomas Gebauer

# Twelve months, twelve events

## East Africa

### A disaster in the making

There is drought in East Africa. In combination with international food speculation, crushing foreign debt and serious conflicts over regional dominance, millions of people are facing a new threat of famine. medico partner organisations in Kenya and Somalia with good local networks are providing food aid.

## Greece

### Europe's shame

On 18 March, the anniversary of the deal between the EU and Turkey, thousands of refugees and solidarity groups take to the streets in Athens to draw attention to the disastrous situation in the EU hotspots in Greece. medico reports regularly on camps like Moria on the island of Lesbos, and supports Refugee Support Aegean, an organisation providing legal and psychosocial support to refugees on the Greek islands.

## Turkey

### Reconstruction as resistance



In south-east Turkey hundreds of thousands of Kurds have been driven from their cities by the Turkish regime using bombs and demolishing their homes. Nevertheless, the people want to stay, at least in the region. With support from medico, several hundred houses are being built - the material basis of Kurdish self-assertion.

January

February

March

April

May

June

## Israel/Palestine

### Land grabbing legalised



The Knesset has passed a new law which is the basis for legalising settlements and outposts illegally built on Palestinian privately-owned land. medico continues to stand by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees in opposing expropriation and supporting land rights of Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley.

## Afghanistan

### Underground university

Initiated by medico partner organisation AHRDO, 700 Afghan men and women gather in this torn country for five days in a kind of underground university to debate human rights and democracy - a sign of hope in the midst of war and violence, and against war and violence.

## Germany

### Right to the city [Part I]



Flight and migration are turning cities into places of refuge. How can they become spaces of arrival, of settlement and participation - in opposition to nationalist policies of rejecting refugees? The symposium "Weltoffene Städte" [open-minded cities], organized by the medico foundation debates concepts of sanctuary cities and solidarity-based cities.

Germany

## Alter-summit

The protests against the meeting of the G20 heads of state in Hamburg are making headlines worldwide. medico is also present. At the civil society altersummit, partners Ousmane Diarra from Mali and Marta Sánchez from Mexico speak on the panel "For an open society - solidarity against separation and racism".

Mexico and Bangladesh

## Acute crises

Two critical emergency aid projects with partner organisations are starting. After several earthquakes in Mexico, Código DH in Oaxaca is supporting indigenous communities. In Bangladesh, our long-standing partner Gonoshasthaya Kendra [GK] is active with emergency aid for hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas who fled and were expelled from Myanmar.

Syria

## The revenge of the regime



The Assad regime is starving-out 400.000 people in the besieged East Ghouta. This is the start of the reconquest, to be continued with massive military bombardments. medico projects are also being hit - the schools in Erbin and the women's centre in Douma.

July

August

September

October

November

December

West Africa

## Protecting freedom of movement

"We call on our states not to sign any agreements with EU countries which are contrary to the human right to migration." In the Bamako Declaration a network of migration policy initiatives from West Africa, including the Mali medico partner organisation AME, take a stand against EU migration policy.

Germany

## Moving into medico house



On 6 October medico moves into its own offices for the first time in the East of Frankfurt. The building is funded by the medico Foundation, secures the independence of our work, and with its event and exhibition rooms is quickly developing into a counter-public location.

Brazil

## Right to the city [Part II]



In Brazil the Homeless Workers Movement [MTST], with medico support, is fighting social inequality in the cities with protests, occupations and squats, and creating agricultural spaces in the contested residential areas.

# War and displacement in Syria

## Against all borders

The “Kurdish question” is nothing less than the question of democracy and future in the Middle East. By Martin Glasenapp.

The pictures were shocking. Islamist fighters chanting “God is great” with a raised index finger, destroying statues of Kurds. Turkish soldiers making fascist gestures and shouting Ottoman war slogans. A Turkish flag was unfurled on the town hall balcony, and German Leopard 2 tanks rolled through the city. The victorious commander in Ankara called the day a “work of Allah”. The Syrian-Kurdish city of Afrin had fallen. After more than a month, the Turkish air force with relentless bombardments had succeeded in forcing the Kurdish YPG militia to retreat. Faced by the alternative of a bloody house to house struggle which would have led to the destruction of the city and thousands of dead civilians, the Afrin administration decided to evacuate the population. Up to 250,000 people left the region, and are now displaced.

### The Mountain of the Kurds

Until its conquest, the Afrin region was a small island of peace and rationality in the midst of the Syrian civil war. For centuries the region has been known as “Kurd Dagh”, or the Mountain of the Kurds. Famous for the beauty of its summits and fertile valleys. There were said to be more than 13 million olive trees in Afrin. Kurds have lived in Afrin forever, together with numerous religious minorities – Christians and Yazidi, and also Alevites from Turkey. Claims to the contrary by Turkish premier Erdoğan are pure wartime propaganda. He is obviously concerned to revive the old Arabisation project in Afrin with an Islamist component. Or is it merely a coincidence that Turkish fighter aircraft in Afrin started by destroying Ain Dara, a Syro-Hittite temple dating back to 13-800 BC? No, Erdoğan wants to eradicate the religious and cultural diversity of the region. His thinking in this is not particularly different from the Taliban who dynamited the Buddhas of Bamiyan or the ISIS who destroyed the pre-Islamic buildings in Hatra and Palmyra.

There are some 3.5 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey. If Turkey relocates some of these Arabic-Sunni refugees in newly-created “protected zones” like Afrin, as

Erdoğan has announced, this may also explain why the German Federal Government has been so strikingly silent in criticising Erdoğan’s war. Because the dirty game could pay off for both Berlin and Ankara. The alleged pressure of migration to Europe could decline if Syrian refugees return “to Syria”, and from the Turkish point of view this would also decrease the share of the Kurdish population in this border region. Such “demographic engineering” by state enforced resettlement would be nothing new – the Syrian Kurds know this from the time of Hafez al-Assad, the father of the present Syrian dictator. In the north-eastern Al-Hasaka Governorate a 350 km strip was compulsorily arabised from the early 1970s. Kurdish Afrin in Western Syria was able to largely retain the composition of its population. Now, Erdoğan wants to force demographic reconstruction. In the whole of the canton Afrin there are some 360 Kurdish villages. The share of Kurds in the population is higher than anywhere else in Syria. Now, this cultural zone is threatened by forced Arabisation, and with it the destruction of the last contiguous Yezidi settlements.

The war in Afrin has no influence at all on life in Damascus and has absolutely nothing to do with regime change. Turkey is aiming for imperialist expansion. All this is happening in public view to an extent rarely seen for a NATO member. The Turkish premier Erdoğan talks about Afrin today in the same way that Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin talks about Crimea, speaking without any restraint of Afrin as part of the mythical “Red Apple”, a symbol of the imperialist drive under the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish state-controlled media publish maps which not only incorporate parts of Greece into a future new Turkey but also include the entire Syrian north-west up to the border with Iraq, leaving the area free of Kurds. The USA, which has stationed its forces together with those of the Kurdish YPG some 120 km east of Afrin in the Arab city of Manbij, will be forced to choose between their NATO ally Turkey and their Kurdish allies in the YPG.

The history of the Kurds shows how depraved Middle East realpolitik can be. The victors of the First World War ig-

nored the Kurds as they drew new lines in the sand after the defeat and collapse of the Ottoman Empire, creating the nation state realities that have lasted to the present day. In a secret treaty in 1916, Great Britain and France not only divided up Kurdish areas but reached a colonialist agreement that would shape the history of the Middle East. To stabilise this new order, colonial regimes were installed or monarchies supported. This was followed by the model of an authoritarian, assimilating nation state committed to development policy, as in Iraq and Syria – and finally also in Turkey. The resulting regimes were never willing to make real democratic concessions.

The Arab Spring starting in 2011 was the first serious challenge to the traditional despotism in the Arab countries. Almost everywhere, protesters were struggling against socioeconomic misery such as unemployment, social inequality and universal corruption. At the same time they were objecting to arbitrary tyranny, police violence and decades of restriction of political rights. But there was more at stake. In many cases, demands went beyond civic freedoms to the right to internal self-determination, and with it the right to cultural, ethnic or religious diversity.

The violent outbreaks in Syria and Iraq show that the response to Arab nationalism can be not only the hoped-for democratic emancipation but also the reactionary backlash of political Islam. Just as Syrian president Bashar al-Assad refuses to allow any challenge to himself as a political option, Islamic fundamentalism cannot accept either ethnic or cultural diversity. This is why the “Islamic state” destroyed pre-Islamic temples, tried to eliminate the Yezidi and is the enemy of the idea of a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional local self-administration, such as the Kurds are attempting in north-west Syria.

### The democratic experiment

The Kurds in Syria are the largest ethnic minority in the country. As a stateless population, their only choice has always been between assimilation and subjection in Turkey or Syria. They tried to take advantage of the retreat of Syrian central power for their own autonomy project. Kurdish Syrians, for decades the most excluded of all, formed an open society in the course of the Syrian civil war. They did things which contradicted all conventions. Afrin was the first administration unit in Arab history to recognise the Yezidi as a religious community. Not only Kurdish but all languages in north-west Syria became official languages. Municipal and district administrations are elected, and representation is proportional to the share of Kurds, Arabs, Armenians and Arameans in the population. There is a 50-50 gender quota in all official positions.

The war in Afrin proves in the bitterest way the political hypocrisy of the free West when democracy and freedom are at stake. The Syrian Kurds were good enough to save the world and the Yezidi from ISIS. The West praised them for their courage in Kobanê and in saving the Yezidi



The Syrian Kurds were good enough to fight against the ISIS terror regime. Now, their future is totally uncertain.

of Mount Kurd in Iraq. But that does not mean by any means that the West defended any of the Kurds' rights against the invasion by the Turkey army. And yet the “Kurdish question” in the Middle East is nothing less than the question of the future of democracy. The war in Syria has long been the ground zero of a multilateral world order whose failure is evident in the complete fiasco of the UN Security Council. The USA is present in Syria, but has de facto retreated from the negotiations into a new isolationism. The vacuum is being filled by Russia, Iran, Turkey and the Gulf States. They are determining what will become of Syria on the basis of their geopolitical interests. If the old order is coming to an end, the crucial issues of protection, security and freedom need to be renegotiated. How can those seeking to overcome a nation-state, as the Syrian Kurds are trying to do, protect themselves against this nation-state and international powers which are seeking to discriminate against, assimilate or even destroy them?

However, Kurdish Syria will have a voice in deciding whether – at least in the Middle East – the whole issue of democracy can still be reopened away from religious and ethnic divisions and the European concept of “constitutive people” and nation states. If ultimately all that remains for the Kurds is subjugation or an enduring struggle for national independence, the concept of democratic emancipation that emerged with the start of the Arab Spring will be back at its historical square one.

## Repressive policy against refugees **Alleged "voluntariness"**

All over the world, refugees and emigrants are being forced out of the countries where they have sought refuge. With sheer violence, but in many cases also by programmes for so-called "voluntary" return.



Frigid Europe: refugees from Afghanistan sit it out in Belgrade. Disregard of their rights is intended to force them into "voluntary return".



2017 was the year of repatriation. In Germany, in Europe and in many other regions of the world, returning people to places they have left to seek protection and survival elsewhere has become the preferred instrument of asylum and migration policy. This instrument is in line with the logic of Western “externalisation societies” which are outsourcing the negative consequences of globalised capitalism – such as flight and forced migration. Out of sight, out of mind. So that the externalisation societies are no longer forced to put up with the sufferings of the world directly on their doorstep, they have moved beyond deportations – violent, if necessary – and pushbacks at the border. Support for so-called “voluntary” return is also gaining ground, appearing to be more humanitarian and more efficient to implement.

In this context, German actors like the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) are gaining importance, as they are increasingly tasked to deal with the “voluntary” return and reintegration of refugees and migrants. On 1 March 2017 the repatriation programme announced by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) went into force, to assist people with no prospect of asylum in Germany with their voluntary return. With the help of “reintegration scouts” GIZ is meant to “build a bridge between return counselling in Germany and German

development cooperation in the countries of origin of refugees and migrants”. However, in reality those affected rarely have a genuine choice. Often, the decision to go is taken out of despair at the hopeless situation or to forestall threatening deportation with a ban on re-entry. The selection of countries with and in which this policy is to be implemented is based primarily on Germany’s interest in getting rid of as many refugees as possible. Two of the main countries of origin, Iraq and Afghanistan are among the target countries for supported “voluntary” return, although the security situation is extremely bad in both countries.

“To subject as many as possible of those we regard as undesirable to intolerable living conditions, to corral them daily, subject them repeatedly to countless racist blows and injuries, to take away all the rights they have acquired, to numb this beehive and humiliate them until they have no other choice but to deport themselves.” This is how Cameroon intellectual Achille Mbembe describes our present situation, which he calls the “Age of Nanoracism”. One expression of this age is the policy of attrition and indirect force which brings people to the point of agreeing to their own deportation.

Ramona Lenz

## Wrong direction

Questions for Tejan Lamboi, Network of Ex-Asylum Seekers in Sierra Leone, on the politics of repatriation and reintegration.

**If an application for asylum has been denied the targeted asylum seeker is supposed to leave Germany within a period of some weeks. Otherwise the person will face compulsory deportation. In the future an option of so called voluntary, supported return is offered to these group of people. A good idea?**

It is like taking the first step with the wrong foot and in the wrong direction. For the asylum seeker, it is like choosing between the lesser of two evils without even being aware which of the two is worse. The problem here is that such thinking totally disregards the diverse reasons for which people flee and the difficulties associated with that process. No one ever runs away if you feel secure, protected and happy in your country of origin. Some of these asylum seekers have seen people dying while trying to flee. I don’t want to make the same mistake of generalizing here but in the context of West African asylum Seekers, I can tell you that they have experienced so much violence and trauma when fleeing, sometimes even worse than the situation they are running away from in their home countries. Therefore

urging asylum seekers to leave “voluntarily” few weeks after they have been denied protection disregards the basic human need of seeking protection and all the struggles they endure trying to reach that safety. On the one hand you threaten people with deportation and on the other you ask them to leave “willingly”? Any decision that is taken under such duress is one that lacks genuine voluntariness. This is a complete disregard for human dignity and rights! The individual becomes an object, they are considered second-rated. And instead, the all-important state policy is what needs to come first – by all means.

**Return and development will be connected much more than before. Is there a chance that return programs will benefit the development in the countries of the refugee’s origin?**

Return programs can definitely be strengthened to be part of mutual development cooperation between two countries. But you need to a close look on the contexts. In a situation, wherein you have experts from so-called



The members of NEAS in Sierra Leone resist the exclusion of deportees and help build perspectives.

developing countries like Sierra Leone, who have studied and made a career in a so-called developed country like England in their respective fields abroad and have reached a point where they are willing to go back to support their home countries, then I see a mutual benefit in facilitating such returns. The situation is very different with asylum seekers. We are talking here about people who fled because they have reached a point where they realized that they pose enormous dangers to their personal wellbeing and safety, if they continue to stay.

**How does a development cooperation that really wants to support these people should look like?**

Development cooperation needs a radical transformation. A transformation that makes such cooperation become how it should be – mutual. A cooperation that ensures potentially rich countries like Sierra Leone being able to benefit from their wealth, their diamonds, bauxite and gold and so on. And not one based on exploitation and unfair trade deals, which enables powerful multinational companies from rich countries in the West in connivance with local leader to exploit resources much to their advantages. It is my view that we should remodel development cooperation, which aims to reintegrate asylum seekers to their countries of origin, in a way that the power imbalance between developed and developing countries will be reduced.

**All measures of support for returnees are based on the idea of reintegration to the job markets. Does this open realistic opportunity for return and future perspectives for the returnees?**

On the surface, these offers look romantic, forward thinking and development-oriented. Providing training and technical education and support in the job market for returnees are well sounding initiatives. How I wish this was real and achievable. We are talking about countries that have been destabilized by exploitation and therefore conflicts. Countries, where a huge proportion of the population is unemployed. Where do these returnees find jobs after such training? It is no rocket science to know this might not work for the majority. Maybe we should return all the European experts and give their jobs to the returnees? Probably, but unfortunately this would still not be enough.

Interview: Ramona Lenz



Tejan Lamboi was one of the founders of NEAS in Sierra Leone.

## Europe's African policy

# Good plan, or bad joke?

The "Marshall Plan with Africa" presented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development [BMZ] is supposed to help the continent advance and combat the causes of flight. Wouldn't that be nice? A critique of Europe's African policy, with the voices of medico partners from the South. By Anne Jung.

"Europe's policy for Africa was for decades often guided by its own short-term economic and trade interests." How true. "It is necessary to bring a new dimension to cooperation with Africa." Absolutely. "Establishment of production chains, fair trade conditions, economic diversification, targeted support for agriculture and improved access to the EU single market are all required." Nods of agreement and amazed glances at the title page. This analysis comes – difficult though it is to believe – from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which presented the "Marshall Plan with Africa" in Germany in 2017. It even included recommendations like compliance with international environmental and social standards and stopping illegal financial flows.

However, on close examination the plan turns out to be smoke and mirrors. The Marshall Plan which made possible the reconstruction of Germany after the Second World War was funded on a scale which would correspond to €130 billion today. By contrast, there is not a single Euro reserved for the "Marshall Plan" for Africa. The BMZ paper merely pays lip service to desirable guidelines, ignoring the fact that these are in complete opposition to the hard facts of the North's policy for Africa.

For example, the "Marshall Plan" calls for greater fairness in trade. "Europe has done everything possible to force the countries of the South into unfair trade structures," concludes Rangarirai Machedze at Equinet, the medico partner network based in Zimbabwe. The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiated under German leadership were signed by Kenya most unwillingly, after massive political pressure. The result is that the country must in future open up to 80% of its market for goods from Europe – including subsidised agricultural products – while at the same time reducing subsidies for local agriculture. These asymmetrical agreements threaten not only massive losses of revenue for the state, but also above all progressive destruction of many farmers' livelihoods. Machedze: "The credibility of Germany's and Europe's policy for Africa depends on whether they are ready to revise the free trade agreements."

Susan Wamuti of NAPAD in Somalia emphasises a different aspect – the political ignorance which refutes the much-quoted idea of "equal footing". "Concepts like the 'Marshall Plan' don't even mention the African institutions. What we need, however, is a solution to managing Africa's problems which is developed internally." Her colleague Abdullahi Mohamed Hersi puts it even more plainly: "European policy has declared the African continent to be easy pickings." In East Africa, where droughts and famines are recurrent crises, European groups are leasing vast tracts to cultivate jatropha, used for production of biofuel. In a country where less than 10% of the land is usable for agriculture, this has disastrous implications for food security. Hersi calls on Europe to come back to the negotiating table with viable ideas. Otherwise, "the 'Marshall Plan' is just a bad joke."



Crow looks at a billiard table in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The "Marshall Plan" has no suggestion for dealing with perhaps the African continent's greatest problem – land grabbing.

## Resilience

# The rise of a concept

Resilience has become a buzzword in development affairs and a yardstick for funding decisions. In regard to security, climate change, natural disasters and terrorism, resilience is given an increasingly dominant role in crisis management. By Usche Merk.

“The costs of humanitarian crises are escalating. There is an urgent need to help people and communities withstand and recover from growing shocks and stressors – in other words, to help them build resilience.” These words from the current EU Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis-Prone Countries 2013- 2020 exemplify the trend. By 2010 at the latest, it was apparent that resilience had replaced vulnerability as the core concern of humanitarian aid and development cooperation. The focus is no longer on the weaknesses and needs of people and communities; it is now on their strengths and their capacity to cope with disasters and crises.

This shift has an emancipatory quality, in that it directs attention to people’s and communities’ endurance and potential for self-help, emphasising survival strategies, capacity for action, self-empowerment and support networks. Funding decisions increasingly depend on them. Critical NGOs have been calling for such an approach for a long time. The irony, however, is that with the spread of the resilience notion, local capacities in crisis regions have been “discovered” as resources for crisis and risk management. The focus has thus shifted away from the need to prevent crises. In the technocratic logic of resilience, floods, droughts, hurricanes, wars, expulsion, displacement and poverty are merely perceived as “shocks” and “stressors”, not as root problems that need to be prevented or overcome. People’s desperate fight to survive in inhuman conditions has been redefined as “resilience”.

### Crisis as normality

This trend may have serious consequences in a health crisis, as the international experts Stephanie Topp, Walter Flores, Veena Sriram and Kerry Scott have argued. Building resilience rarely seems to involve a direct examination of, and even less challenge to, the structural conditions that contribute to overarching health-system

dysfunction. Among the underlying reasons of dysfunction, the authors list historical legacies, current trade and aid patterns, taxes and health insurance coverage. In their perspective, the rise of the resilience notion means that debate on longterm visions is being preplaced by shortterm action-oriented debate. As crisis is accepted to be the normal state of affairs, the resilience concept is superseding the sustainability concept. The latter was supposed to restore a global equilibrium, while the focus of the resilience discourse is on managing an unbalanced world.

The Janus-faced quality of the resilience approach to disaster management is evident in the new “role” of individuals, communities and crisis regions in need of help. Crisis management is now largely their responsibility, with success depending on their resilience. This notion can become a trap, as a case study by Mara Bernadusi shows. The Italian researcher assessed resilience building in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami. The result was, that, if local people are merely vulnerable, they fail to meet the requirements for resilience-strengthening support. If they are too resilient, however, they over-fulfil the requirements and risk being classed as not being in need. To receive aid, survivors had to consider carefully how much resilience they should show, Bernadusi pointed out.

### Monitoring tools and selection criteria

To find out how to make a community more resilient, specific measurement instruments have been designed. The European Union, for instance, uses a resilience marker. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has designed sophisticated tools that enable it to define the need for aid with increasing precision. Its “depth of poverty” measurements shows how much poverty can be tolerated without eroding resilience. The “moderate-to-severe hunger” indicator defines the point at which a



Sustainability tries to avert climate change, resilience tries to make the consequences survivable.

person actually experiences hunger. The “global acute malnutrition” scale shows when malnutrition exceeds the customary level.

One implication of this trend is that the quest for ever-greater resilience has become obligatory. Resilience building has become an issue of monitoring as well as selection criterion for aid. The humanitarian principle that anyone in need must get support has thus been called into question. In humanitarian aid, the concept of resilience has thus triggered a paradigm shift. For good reason, critics had been discussing whether it made sense to separate humanitarian aid from development cooperation. The problem is that such arguments now serve to cast doubt on the entire system, as is exemplified by the EU’s Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries. It redefines the extent of humanitarian needs and, accordingly, the entitlement to aid. The consequence is that a whole range of EU programmes that relate to risk management, disaster prevention, climate change adjustment, social protection and food security are now conflated under the cross-sectional principle of resilience. As a result, budgets can be slashed. In practice the “cross-sectional principle of resilience” means that the responsibility for managing crises is shifted onto the shoulders of those who suffer the crises.

### **New scope for business**

At the same time, humanitarian aid is increasingly being opened up to private enterprise. The private sector is generally wooed as a fourth pillar of development cooperation alongside government, civil society and academia. New scope for business has been found in disaster

prevention. In 2015, 70 % to 80 % of new investment in “disaster risk reduction” was made by private sector entities. International forums like the Global Disaster Relief Summit put private investors in touch with UN agencies, the World Bank, security consultants, financial service-providers, philanthropic foundations, relief organisations and government agencies such as USAID. Everything is for sale – from vehicles and logistics products to communications, security technology and pharmaceutical products. Disaster management has become a business model with “resilience dividends”. One NGO study shows in detail that reconstruction became a testing ground for the profitability of private investments after Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines in 2013. The promise of reconstruction programmes was to “building back better”. In fact, however, matters deteriorated dramatically for many poor families, whereas whole new business opportunities arose for private companies in mining, farming and tourism.

The ascendancy of the concept of resilience represents a turning-point in humanitarian aid and development cooperation. It must be about more than merely boosting the “resilience” of people and communities who are mobilising what they can – including crisis strategies, capacities, networks and creativity – in desperate attempts to survive disaster. The local actors concerned need resources and support that empowers them to make those who cause crises to contribute to crisis management. The resilience notion is not entirely wrong, but its proponents’ tendency to co-opt and exploit the efforts of the people who are affected by disaster is irritating. Independent social activists must resist abuse, critically monitor impacts and promote narratives that reject the logic of permanent crisis.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS BY REGION



### AFRICA

#### Egypt

- Core support for El Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence
  - Social theatre program – Promoting health and social change, Dawar for Arts and Development
  - Refugee support and integration in Alexandria, Torraha for Culture and Art
- € 45,477.86** (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

#### Kenya

- Advocacy for health and human rights in Kenya, Kamukunji Paralegal Trust (KAPLET)
  - Emergency relief and advocacy in drought affected regions of Kenya, KAPLET
- € 111,583.83**

#### Mali

- Core support for Association Malienne des Expulsés (AME)
  - Support to deported and rejected migrants in Mali. Improvement of conditions of reception, Association des Refoulés d’Afrique Centrale au Mali (ARACEM)
- € 58,000.00**

#### Mauretania

- Legal advice and social support to migrants, regional networking of organisations working on the respect of the rights of migrants, Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l’Homme (AMDH)
- € 35,000.00** (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

#### Sierra Leone

- Strengthening rights and access to health care - paralegal programme in Kono District, Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD)
  - Strengthening self organisation of deported ex-asylum seekers and their advocacy, Network of Ex-Asylum Seekers Sierra Leone (NEAS-SL) and Conscience International (CI)
  - Emergency relief for climate disaster victims in Kono district, NMJD
- € 56,892.80**

#### South Africa

- Strengthening self organisation of community care workers in South Africa and their representation in the public health sector, Khanya College, People’s Health Movement – South Africa, Section 27, Sinani, Sophiatown Community Psychological Services (SCPS), Wellness Foundation, end of Phase 1 (2014-2017), beginning of phase 2 (2017-2020)
  - Strengthening the political and social human rights of people with HIV/AIDS, Sinani
  - The right to basic education in the Limpopo province, Section 27
  - Core support for Sinani
- € 574,175.55** (incl. support from BMZ)

#### Somalia

- Emergency lifesaving aid for drought affected communities in Gedo, Nomadic Assistance for Peace and Development (NAPAD)
  - Emergency aid for vulnerable communities in Gedo (Somalia) and Mandera (Kenya), NAPAD
- € 982,602.98** (incl. support from AA)

**Western Sahara**

- Provision of medication and medical equipment for Sahrawi refugee camps and capacity development for pharmaceutical staff, Ministry of Health of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (DARS)
  - EU and Siemens information campaign on human rights violations and resource exploitation in occupied Western Sahara, Western Sahara Ressource Watch (WSRW)
- € 670,154.79 (incl. support from ECHO)

**Zimbabwe**

- HIV prevention and health promotion for Women / Lesbians, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)
- € 41,038.94 (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

**ASIA****Afghanistan**

- International encounters: Critical thinking and the future of Afghanistan, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO)
  - Core support for AHRDO
- € 36,409.78

**Bangladesh**

- Health care program for the garments and textile workers, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
  - Emergency flood relief, GK
  - Emergency aid for Rohingya refugees, GK
- € 45,945.47

**Nepal**

- Exploration of alternative initiatives for sustainable health financing, Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF)
  - Emergency relief for flood affected families, Nepal Development Society (NEDS)
  - Health, Engineering and Agriculture Project II (HEAP II), NEDS
  - School of Leadership: Building youth leadership to address disaster and social justice, Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal (AYON)
- € 131,349.50

**Pakistan**

- Accommodation block for the training Center in Karachi, Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS)
  - Disaster prevention and disaster resilient rehabilitation in northern Sindh, HANDS
  - Lighting lives in Pakistan – LED solar lights for rural Sindh, HANDS
  - Water for Life – Installation of water filters for improved water facility in five villages of district Thatta, HANDS
  - Labour rights and improving working conditions of workers in the global supply chain, National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) in cooperation with Home Based Women Workers Center Association (HBWWCA)
- € 68,552.02 (incl. support from BMZ and stiftung m.i.)

**Philippines**

- Fighting hunger, rebuilding lives: a reconstruction and rehabilitation program for typhoon-Haijan devastated communities in Samar, Samahang Operasyong Sagip (SOS)
  - Evaluation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation program of SOS (2014-2107), Management Advancement Systems Association (Masai)
  - Core support and earthquake disaster preparedness, SOS
- € 66,833.40

**Sri Lanka**

- Supporting the sustainable resettlement for internally displaced people in northern Sri Lanka, Social, Economical and Environmental Developers (SEED)
  - Foster a culture of peace in war-torn communities, SEED
  - Core support for SEED
- € 102,187.22 (incl. support from BMZ)

**LATIN AMERICA****Brazil**

- Understanding Health Care Reforms, Centro Brasileiro de Estudos de Saúde (CEBES)
  - Asserting the right to health, and networking with JnT in Maranhao, Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul (PACS)
  - Asserting the right to health, and networking with PACS in Rio de Janeiro, Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT)
  - Strengthening the federal school of the Brazilian landless movement (MST), Escola Nacional Florestan Fernandes (ENFF)
  - Community Gardens in squatted Housing Blocks, with support of the MTST, Movimento dos Trabalhadores sem Teto (MTST)
  - For a different health: Strengthening the opposition communications work, Associação Planeta Porto Alegre (Outras Palavras)
- € 83,700.00 (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

**Chile**

- Human rights work, Cooperación de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo (CODEPU)
- € 8,714.50

**El Salvador**

- Strengthening the structures of the National Health Forum (FNS) in the districts of San Salvador and La Libertad, Alianza Ciudadana contra la Privatización de la Salud (ACCPS) through Asociación de Promotores Comunes Salvadoreños (APROCSAL)
  - Publication of memory work of the history of social struggles, Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (MUPI)
  - Expenditure on the Central American office
- € 38,643.35

**Guatemala**

- Defending the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of indigenous communities in the region Ixcán, Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud (ACCS)
  - Struggle against impunity and for the democratisation of the legal system, Comisión Internacional de Juristas (CIJ)
  - Strengthening youth leaders of the Maya Q'eqchi community in the region Sayaxché, Petén, Sagrada Tierra
  - Forest project, Fundación Centro de Servicios Cristianos (FUNCEDESCRI)
  - Dealing with the psychosocial impact of grave human rights violations, Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP)
  - Expenditure on the Central American office
- € 408,821.61 (incl. support from BMZ and stiftung m.i.)

**Haiti**

- Strengthening the rule of law and the struggle for the respect for human and civil rights in Haiti, Réseau National de Défense de Droits Humains (RNDDH)
- € 257,974.16 (incl. support from BMZ)

**Mexico**

- Caravan of the Mesamerican Migrant Movement, Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano (M3)
  - Human rights work of the hostel for migrants „La 72“, „La 72“ Hogar – Refugio para Personas Migrantes
  - Strengthening of organisational development and reconstruction in dignity in San Dionisio del Mar and Juchitán after the Earthquake, Código DH
  - Expenditure on the Central American office
- € 74,670.51 (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

**Nicaragua**

- Organisational, judicial support and environmental protection for victims of chronic renal failure in 20 communities in the county El Viejo, Asociación Chinantlan

## 16 SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

- Strengthening of influence of civil society actors to defend the territory, the water and the sovereignty, Fundación Popol Na para la Promoción y el Desarrollo Municipal (Popol Na)
  - Expenditure on the Central American office
- € 37,883.33**

### Venezuela

- Installation & Equipment of a room for deliveries in the health center of the Cooperativa en Barquisimeto, CECOSESOLA
- € 10,473.59**

## NEAR EAST, MIDDLE EAST

### Iraq [Kurdish regions]

- Expansion of Culture and Youth Centre in Kifri as a dialogue centre between internally displaced persons and host communities, HAUKARI e.V.
  - Support of family counselling teams against women-based violence, Germin-region, HAUKARI e.V.
  - Promotion of women's rights, health and religious tolerance, Haukari e.V.
- € 79,069.09**

### Lebanon

- Core support for Marsa Sexual Health Center, MARSa
  - Empowering Palestinian refugee youths and enhancing their capacities, Nashet Association
  - Primary health care for Syrian refugees in the Beqaa valley and in Beirut, AMEL Association
  - Strengthening women and young people in activities for community development in marginalised Palestinian communities in Greater Beirut and southern Lebanon, Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARd)
- € 697,060.46** (incl. support from AA and stiftung m.i.)

### Palestine/Israel

- Improving access to essential health services and provision of medications in the West Bank and in Gaza, Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)
  - Strengthening of health services and patients in dealing with non-communicable diseases in Gaza, PMRS
  - Core support for School of Community Health, PMRS
  - School health and first aid programme, Medical Relief Society (MRS), Jerusalem
  - Core support for Physicians for Human Rights – Israel (PHR-IL)
  - Mobile clinics programme 2016 in the occupied territories, PHR-IL
  - Support for the Open Clinic Jaffa, PHR-IL
  - Defense of Palestinian land rights in the Jordan valley, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)
  - Core support for the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Adalah)
  - Early detection of breast cancer, awareness and support of women in the Gaza strip, Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)
  - Core support for Breaking the Silence
  - Core support for Who Profits
  - Support for EU advocacy & lobbying for a just Middle East policy, European Middle East Project (EuMEP)
  - Core support for the Freedom Theater Jenin, The Freedom Theatre (TFT)
  - Core support for the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Al Mezan
  - Support of research on land confiscation from Palestinians in the West Bank by Israel, Kerem Navot
  - Core support Aid Watch Palestine, Dalia Association
  - Modern arts workshop and art exhibition for young artists, Shababek – Windows from Gaza for Contemporary Art über General Union of Cultural Centres (GUCC)
  - Expenditures of medico's Palestine & Israel office
- € 2,410,285.92** (incl. support from AA, BMZ, ifa ZIVIK, m.i. CH and stiftung m.i.)

### Syria [incl. Kurdish regions]

- Humanitarian assistance for Syrian-Palestinian refugees in Yelda and Yarmouk, JAFRA
- Food aid for Syrian-Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk, Yelda, Babilla Beith Sahem in Southern-Damascus, JAFRA

- Support of displaced Syrian-Palestinian girls and young women in Ein-el-Hilweh-Camp (Saida), Nashet Association
  - Legal support and emergency supply to political detainees in Damascus
  - Supporting a women's centre in Douma, Adopt a Revolution (AaR)
  - Medical support of internal displaced Syrians during the military campaign to liberate Raqqa, Koordination des Gesundheitsrates Rojava
  - Support for self-organized schools in Erbin, AaR and Local Coordination Committees (LCC)
- € 2,254,318.53** (incl. support from AA)

### Turkey [Kurdish regions]

- Rehabilitation of houses in Southeast-Turkey, Democratic Society Congress
- € 138,040.90**

## OTHER

### Global Health

- Institutional and program support for People's Health Movement (PHM)
  - Support for 7th International People's Health University in El Salvador, Movimiento para la Salud de los Pueblos América Latina (MSP-LA) via Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud (CISAS)
  - Strengthening of networking of PHM Central America; Movimiento para la Salud de los Pueblos América Latina (MSP-LA) über Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud (CISAS)
  - Membership contribution and kick off voluntary contribution 2017 to Global Geneva Health Hub (G2H2)
  - Right to Health conference and PHM MENA regional meeting, Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)
  - Advancing proposals for Corporate Responsibility for Health in the extractive sectors in East and Southern Africa, EQUINET via Training and Research Support Centre (TARSC)
- € 77,196.13** (incl. support from stiftung m.i.)

### Migration

- Critical public relations and training, Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der psychosozialen Zentren für Flüchtlinge und Folteropfer (BAFF)
  - Support of accommodation for refugee women and their children in Morocco and Support of a Conference „Voice of Migrants“ in Rabat, Afrique Europe Interact (AEI) and Association des Réfugiés et Demandeurs d'Asile Congolais au Maroc (ARCOM)
  - Refugee Support Program Aegean (RSPA) , stiftung Proasyl
  - Pilotproject and Research „Alarmphone Sahara“ – against the death in the desert, AEI through Globale Gerechtigkeit e.V.
  - Networking and monitoring to defend the rights of Migrants along the „Balkan route“, Moving Europe and Forschungsgesellschaft Flucht und Migration (FFM)
  - Support of vulnerable refugees in Athens, FFM
  - Support of vulnerable refugees in Athens, Diktyo
  - Support for refugees, Anti-Rassismus-Telefon Essen (ART)
- € 155,209.81**

### Psychosocial Work

- Public conference: „The Personal and the Political – Psychosocial Health of Refugees between Care and Functionalisation“, BAFF e.V.
  - Conference and international Exchange: Critical Psychology in Germany and Turkey - Sharing emancipatory practice, Gesellschaft für subjektwissenschaftliche Forschung und Praxis (GsFP)
- € 5,000.00**

### List of abbreviations

- AA: German Federal Foreign Office
- BMZ: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- ECHO: European Community Humanitarian Office
- ifa ZIVIK: ifa – Programme Civil Conflict Resolution
- m.i. CH: medico international schweiz
- stiftung m.i.: medico international foundation



# 2017 Financial Report

## CURRENT STATUS AND TRENDS

**The total budget available to medico international in the period under review was €19,703,686.53. Compared to the previous year, this is an increase of 6.9%, primarily due to the growth of €1.6 million in public sector grants.**

### INCOME

Donations received by medico in 2017 totalled €5,364,183.75. Income from grants rose again compared to the previous year to €7,069,360.49 (54.8% of total income). The reason for this was the increase in emergency aid projects in Syria from Federal Foreign Office funds. For 2018 the share of grant income in total income is expected to decline to a more normal level of around 48%. The increase of 337 in permanent supporters to 3,827 (+9.7%) in the year under review is gratifying.

### EXPENDITURE

In 2017 medico again received the Seal of Approval of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI). Expenditure on statutory operational activities in 2017 totalled €11,843,176.55, or 91.8% of total expenditure. In detail we spent €9,737,311.18 (75.5%) on project funding, €1,163,207.39 (9.0%) on project management and €942,657.98 (7.3%) on campaigning and awareness raising. Expenditure on advertising and administration was €1,056,630.58 or 8.2% of total expenditure. medico spending on projects grew by 11.0% compared to the previous year. This was possible because of more extensive aid for people in Syria and in the regions in East Africa affected by the food crisis.

### PROJECTS

medico supported around 120 projects in the year under review, including – as a continuation of current programmes – provision of refugees in Lebanon, strengthening health services in Palestine and providing the annual demand of medicines to the Sahrawi refugee camps in south-west Algeria. As in the previous year, major political and logistical challenges included aid to people in Greater Damascus trapped and threatened by the Syrian civil war, and increasingly also in the Kurdish

provinces in the north of the country, after the Turkish invasion. In Bangladesh, we and our partner organisation Gonoshasthaya Kendra assisted the Rohingya expelled from Myanmar. Flight and migration were again priorities in medico's work in 2017.

### RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

medico international has a solid financial base. Particularly noteworthy is the steady growth in the number of permanent supporters. In particular, those members of the public who look at the precarious global situation and refuse to accept the status quo are in agreement with medico's work. This is where medico's special approach shows its strength, of using projects of practical solidarity to appear the vision of a different world, a world of solidarity. The societal spectrum into which medico now reaches into a spectrum of society from church communities, Third World initiatives and solidarity committees, through trade unions, political associations, universities and research and culture to state institutions. We are particularly happy about our growing success in interesting younger people in medico's work. The risks in medico's work are the result of two developments: the growing instrumentalisation of aid for security and economic interests, and the restrictions of civil society commitment. The latter, so called "shrinking spaces", particularly affect our partners in the South. On the one hand they see a growing gap between the demand for action and the funding actually available for it, and on the other hand the increasingly controlling and sometimes openly repressive state measures reducing steadily the space for civil society engagement.

### CONCLUSION

The public's response to medico and the solid financial base together secure extensive independence, which will last for several coming years. However, current willingness to donate is no guarantee for the future. With its critical understanding of aid, medico is prepared for these trends. It is important to consistently develop our approach formulated in the last few years of simultaneously defending, criticising and moving beyond aid.

*Thomas Gebauer*

# OVERALL RESULT

INCOME	2017	2016
Monetary donations	4,626,558.99	4,699,963.76
Donations from 'Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft'	15,351.00	664,835.45
Grants - public funding	722,273.76	5,433,294.67
Grants - non-public funding	6,991,599.03	174,256.84
Contributions of the medico international foundation	77,761.46	280,000.00
Bequests	290,000.00	222,115.49
Fines	136,797.21	11,396.00
Interest and other income	14,960.00	6,972.61
Member fees	3,200.37	7,433.12
Income for other accounting periods	8,517.78	0.00
Other revenues	5,509.04	8,481.70
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,892,528.64</b>	<b>11,508,749.64</b>

## Reserves

According to § 58 No. 6 of the German fiscal code

(Abgabenordnung-AO) as at 01 January	4,480,088.44	4,693,979.43
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for projects that were scheduled in the previous year but whose issuing of funds could not or could only partially be completed by 31 December and are for earmarked remaining funds and for securing the Association's institutional viability

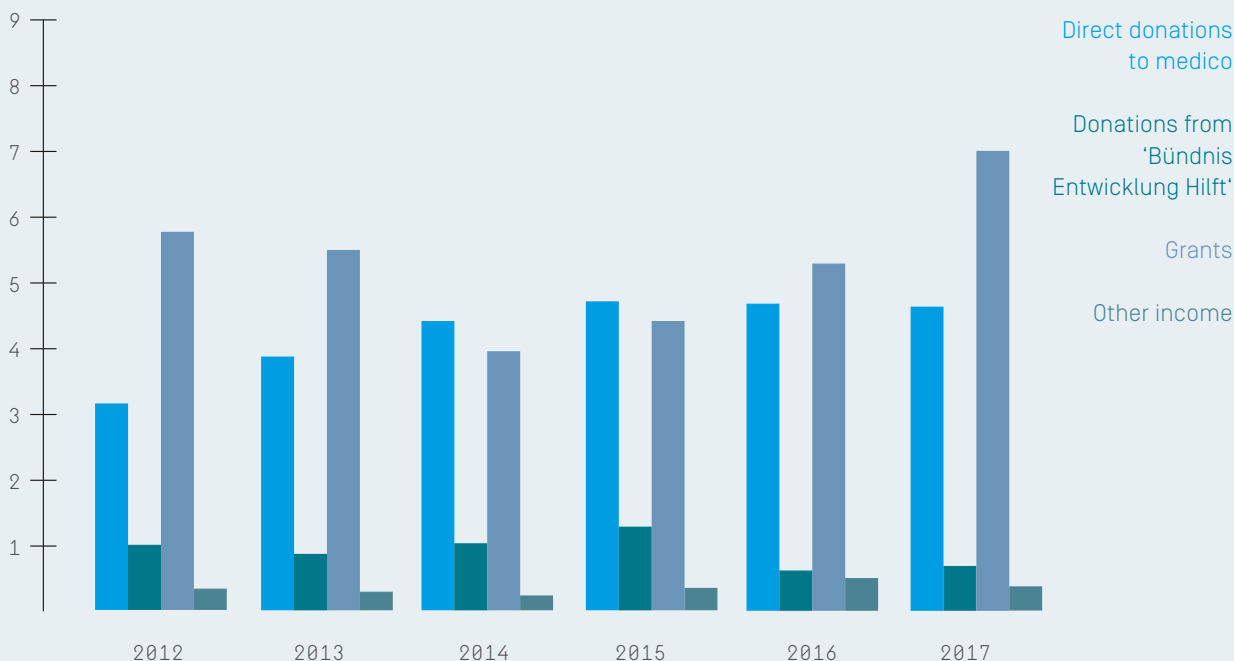
## Free reserves

according to § 58 No. 7a of the German fiscal code (AO)	2,106,000.00	1,992,000.00
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Association Capital - As at 01 January	225,069.45	240,698.60
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<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>19,703,686.53</b>	<b>18,435,427.67</b>
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## EVOLUTION OF INCOME [IN EURO M]



EXPENDITURES	2017	2016
Project funding	9,737,311.18	8,768,987.91
Project management	1,163,207.39	1,081,120.33
Campaigning and education work and awareness raising in line with statutes	942,657.98	851,039.45
Advertising and general public relations work	316,911.02	286,488.59
Administration	739,719.56	636,633.50

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **12,899,807.13** **11,624,269.78**

#### Reserves

According to § 58 No. 6 of the German fiscal code (AO)

**as at 31 December** 4,609,659.30 4,480,088.44

for projects that were scheduled in previous year but whose issuing of funds could not or could only partially be completed by 31 December and are for earmarked remaining funds, and for securing the Association's institutional viability

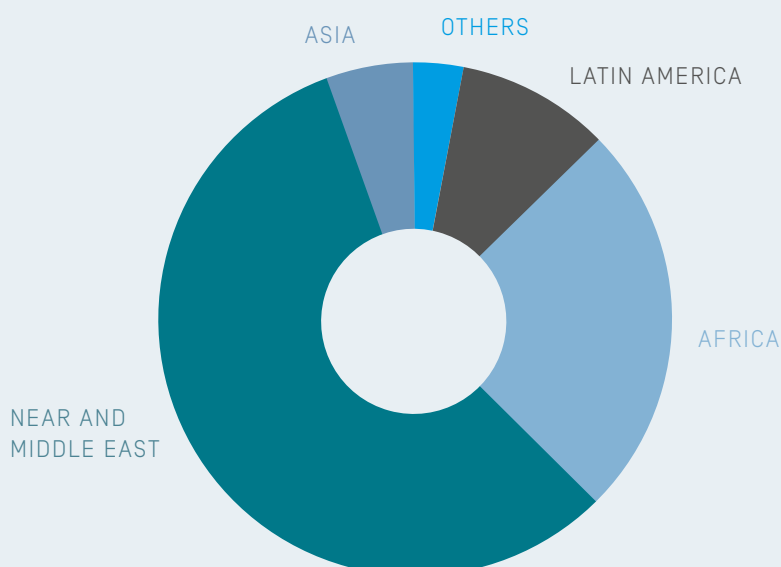
Free reserves according to § 58 No. 6 of the

German fiscal code (AO) 1,935,000.00 2,106,000.00

Association Capital – As at 31 December 259,220.10 225,069.45

BUDGET **19,703,686.53** **18,435,427.67**

## PROJECT EXPENDITURES BY REGION



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 Head of Projects, South America

**Jens von Barga**  
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 Southern and Southeast Asia  
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**Sabine Eckart**  
 Migration, Western Africa, Zimbabwe  
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 Kurdistan  
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**Usche Merk**  
 Psychosocial Work, South Africa,  
 Sierra Leone  
**Hendrik Slusarenka**  
 Emergency Relief  
**Dr. med. Andreas Wulf**  
 Health, Egypt

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**Anke Böttcher**  
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**Anke Prochnau**  
 Accounts  
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 EDP and IT  
**Steffen Schmid**  
 EDP and IT  
**Andrea Schuldt**  
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**Kristina Schusser**  
 Personnel Administration

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**Elena Mera Ponce**  
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**Wardeh Barghouti**, Office and Admi-  
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**Rojan Ibrahim**, Project Coordination  
**Anne Wolter**, Project Assistant  
**Laila Yousef**, Financial Coordination

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**Mehdi Mohammed Lamin**  
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