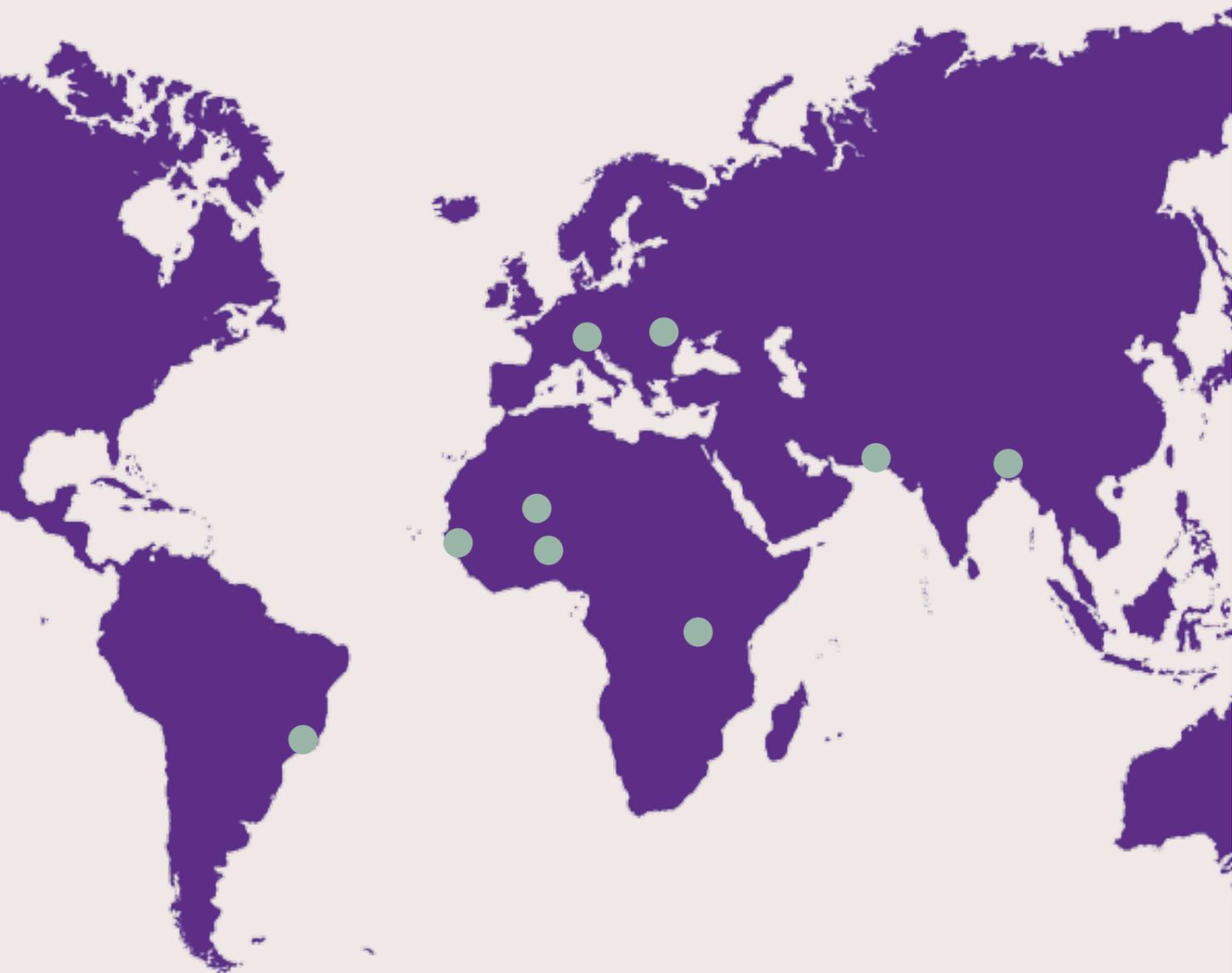




ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2023

HOPE'87 WORLDWIDE

www.hope87.at**IMPRESSUM**

This Activity Report gives account of the work of the non-profit organization HOPE'87 in the period October 2022 to September 2023.

HOPE'87 supports youth training and youth employment projects as well as humanitarian aid according to the "Code of Conduct for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief".

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INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear Readers,

HOPE'87 began 2023 by unveiling its new three-year strategy for the period 2023 - 2025.

To improve our competence in dealing with youth issues, we commit to actively engage across the system. We want to lead where our knowledge can drive change, we want to follow when others know more, we want to promote local solutions and share skills and learn with our partners.

At the heart of this system are young people, whose diverse needs and aspirations reflect their diverse communities.

We want to ensure that young people have options, that they are listened to, that we meet them at their level and that we support their right to make informed life choices.

The HOPE'87 Strategy 2023-2025 outlines our action plan for the next three years, aiming for a future where young people have access to quality services, especially education, are leaders in change and find lasting solutions. HOPE'87 is committed to building on its strengths as a youth-centred organisation and is ready to take on new challenges.

Our work is driven by three main objectives:

- 1) Young people have access to quality services, especially education
- 2) Young people become leaders of change
- 3) Young people secure lasting solutions

The above three main objectives are further refined by eight sub-objectives:

1. improving quality, accountability and learning
2. addressing the impact of climate change on youth
3. cooperation and exchange of expertise with local actors
4. sustainable solutions for people facing protracted displacement
5. humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach populations
6. promoting a more principled, efficient, accountable and effective aid system.

Given the development and humanitarian challenges, we will accelerate our work to achieve the first three sub-goals and further consolidate our approaches to the latter three.

Our strategy identifies five strategic entry points to strengthen our capacity to work efficiently and effectively. These are: i) streamlining systems and processes, ii) digital transformation, iii) expanding equitable partnerships and diversifying resources, iv) reducing our environmental footprint, and v) upgrading and improving our team.

Our strategy incorporates lessons learned from previous efforts that will enable us to:

- strengthen organisational accountability and gender mainstreaming
- create a clear decision-making framework
- facilitate resource planning and allocation
- enable tailored responses at regional and national levels.

As for this report, we have attempted to provide a synoptic structure of programme content in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As some programmes have been running for several consecutive years, we have kept the basic data for these activities and only included updated information from the previous year's progress report where this seemed necessary, in order to avoid providing too much detailed information. Full project data, project reports and evaluations can be obtained from the General Secretariat, along with any other information you may require.

As in previous years, we would like to thank our donors, first and foremost the Austrian Federal Government and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the European Commission, UNESCO and the YOU Foundation- Education for Children in Need, established by UNESCO Special Ambassador Dr Ute H. Ohoven and headed by Vice-President Ms Claudia Jerger.

The achievements of HOPE'87 would not have been possible without the active and invaluable support of the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the City of Vienna.

Our special gratitude goes to all donors, who generously supported the HOPE'87 humanitarian aid for Ukraine refugees in the Republic of Moldova, but also supported us in our endeavours to help the victims of the forgotten crisis around the World, such as for the Rohingya in Bangladesh, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the IDP in Burkina Faso.

Our special thanks go to the Austrian diplomatic representations, which have supported the General Secretariat and the country offices in every possible way. Our thanks also go to all the foreign representations in Vienna, whose doors are always open to HOPE'87.

HOPE'87 would also like to thank all the Austrian development organisations as well as the umbrella organisation GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY - the Austrian Platform for development and humanitarian aid, that represents currently the interests of 33 member organisations active in the fields of development cooperation, development education and policy work, as well as humanitarian aid and sustainable global economic, social and ecological development, for their very fruitful cooperation.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the HOPE'87 country directors, their staff, the network partners as well as the HOPE'87 representatives for their continued support and commitment.

We fondly remember our departed colleagues and friends Benoît Muhimuzi (†), HOPE'87 Burundi Country Representative, Heinz Vettermann (†), HOPE'87 Board Member, Tamar Oppenheimer, O.C. (†), UN Ass. Director General (ret) and Senior Advisor of HOPE'87, Uta Meran (†), HOPE'87-Kenya Branch Office Manager, Peter Sserugo (†), HOPE'87-Uganda Branch Office Manager.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Robert Ottitsch'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Robert Ottitsch
Secretary General
HOPE'87

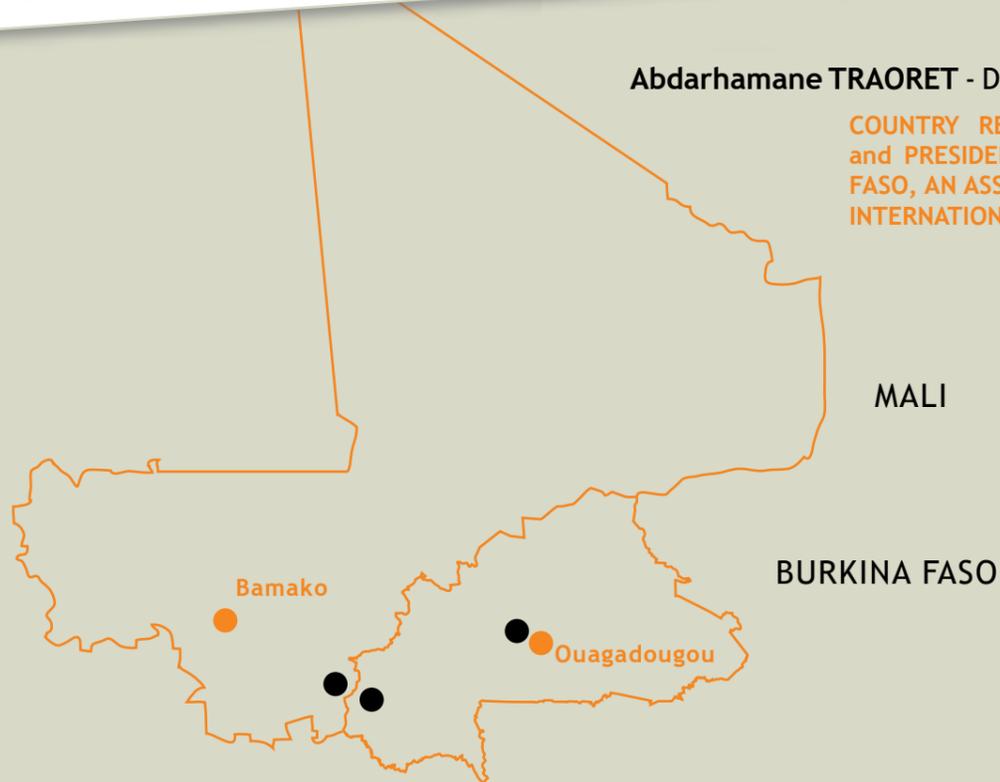
BURKINA FASO and MALI

PROGRAMME: Strengthening the Triple Nexus approach “Humanitarian-Development-Peace” as a strategy for sustainable development and for the improvement of the living conditions of the populations in the rural cross-border area of Burkina Faso and Mali



Abdarhamane TRAORET - Development Economist

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE FOR MALI and PRESIDENT OF HOPE'87 BURKINA FASO, AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOPE'87 NETWORK



| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Support for civil society and local state actors to prevent chronic malnutrition and infant mortality in the Hauts-Bassins region, Burkina Faso | Burkina Faso, Région des Hauts-Bassins, Province Houet, Rural District of Bama | 24,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 13 |
| Reduction of chronic child malnutrition and capacity building of state and civil society actors for better resilience to food insecurity | Burkina Faso, Région des Hauts-Bassins, Province of Kéné Dougou, Rural District of Koloko and Kangala | 10,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 13 |
| Together in the fight against the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova and Burkina Faso, a multi-country Burkina Faso and Moldova project for the support of MSEs affected by the COVID-19 crisis | Burkina Faso, Région du Centre, Province of Kadiogo, District of Ouagadougou | 700 | Goals 1, 8 |
| Capacity building and income generation for small farmers in Burkina Faso and Mali | Mali, Rural District of Finkolo; Burkina Faso, Rural District of Koloko | 700 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 8 |
| Increased income as well as food and nutritional security for small producers in Burkina Faso and Mali through capacity building | Mali, Rural District of Finkolo; Burkina Faso, Rural District of Koloko | 1,400 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 16 |
| COVID-19 Check Unit for Hérémakono, Mali | Mali, Troisième Région, Circle of Sikasso, Rural District of Finkolo | 10,000 | Goals 3, 16 |
| Raise your hand... for a sustainable expansion of the education sector in Africa; an Austrian project to support the education system in Burkina Faso and Mali | Mali, Rural District of Finkolo; Burkina Faso, Rural District of Koloko | 1,000 | Goals 4, 5 |
| A fountain for Sanoukoro, Mali | Mali, District of Finkolo, village of Sanoukoro | 250 | Goals 3, 6 |
| Our habitat and our values of peace “Woro Tatinguè na woro gnègnèguè” in the Senufo language | Burkina Faso, Région des Hauts-Bassins, Province of Kéné Dougou, Rural District of Koloko Côte d’Ivoire, Région of Poro, District of Korhogo | 3,000 | Goals 11, 16 |
| Resilience and income creation in the Sahel | Mali, Rural District of Finkolo; Burkina Faso, Rural District of Koloko | 12,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16 |

SUMMARY

From October 2022 to September 2023, the reporting period of this activity report, the political, security, economic and social situation in the Sahel region has improved slightly compared to the previous year. At the political level, in Burkina Faso, the coup d'état of September 30th, 2022 put in place a new transitional power which has undertaken to organise elections in the middle of 2024. In Mali, the political situation remained calm and a referendum on a new constitution was organised on June 18th, 2023. In terms of security, in both countries, the jihadist attacks, which were numerous, have decreased. However, some areas are still insecure, which makes the humanitarian and development work of NGOs more difficult. Economically and socially, especially poor and very poor households in urban and rural areas continue to be unfavourably affected by the high inflation.

In this continuing difficult context in the Sahel, HOPE'87-Burkina Faso and Mali implemented its project activities. The focus was on the Hauts-Bassins region in Burkina Faso and the Sikasso region in Mali. HOPE'87-Burkina Faso and Mali continued to implement the Triple Nexus approach in the design, implementation and monitoring of its projects. The programme, which comprises all current projects in the two countries, is entitled "Strengthening the Triple Nexus approach "Humanitarian-Development-Peace" for the improvement of the living conditions of the populations of Burkina Faso and Mali". This means that peace-building measures are an important dimension and considered throughout all actions to be implemented both in Burkina Faso and in Mali. Without peace there is no development!

Through the Triple Nexus approach, inequalities between urban and rural populations and between men and women are reduced. Moreover, disadvantaged and marginalised groups are supported and a voice is given to those who previously had none. The activities implemented through this programme in the two countries were humanitarian and development support for very poor and poor households in rural areas, and priority given to women and children, with the aim of reducing the effects of climate change, rising prices and insecurity; capacity building of state actors involved in the fight against undernutrition; and support for building a civil society capable of designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating humanitarian and development projects.



ACTIVITIES

Support for civil society and local state actors to prevent chronic malnutrition and infant mortality in the Hauts-Bassins region, Burkina Faso

This project, which is co-financed by the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development began its activities at the end of 2022 for a period of 18 months. It is implemented in the Hauts-Bassins region, the province of Houet and the municipality of Bama. Its objective is to help prevent chronic malnutrition and infant mortality by providing support to civil society and local state actors. The beneficiaries are 3,000 very poor and poor households in seven villages in the commune of Bama. The project is implemented in partnership with the municipality of Bama, the regional health directorate of Hauts-Bassins and the health district of Dandé. So far, the activities that have been carried out are the targeting of project beneficiaries, the organisation of women in nutrition education groups, the implementation of nutrition education activities and the implementation of income-generating activities within beneficiary households.



Reduction of chronic child malnutrition and capacity building of state and civil society actors for better resilience to food insecurity

This project started at the end of 2022 for a period of 18 months in the Hauts-Bassins region of Burkina Faso, in the province of Kéné Dougou and in the municipalities of Koloko and Kangala. It contributes to reducing chronic malnutrition and to making state actors and civil society more resilient in the fight against food and nutritional insecurity.

During the reporting period, all project start-up activities were implemented. These include i) raising awareness and informing all project stakeholders, ii) targeting beneficiary households, iii) setting up women in nutrition education groups, iv) setting up implementation of training for key actors in civil society and state actors, particularly those in the health sector and v) the start of the main activities for the construction of the market gardening perimeter of Kangala for the benefit of 100 women and the updating of the market gardening perimeter of Koloko for the benefit of 100 women.

Together in the fight against the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova and Burkina Faso, a multi-country Burkina Faso and Moldova project to support MSEs affected by the COVID-19 crisis

This project, funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection started in July 2021 and ended on June 30th, 2023. It has been an adequate and effective response to solve the difficulties of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) of the city of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, which have been affected by the health (COVID-19), security, economic and social crisis in Burkina Faso.

The project provided technical support through coaching, training and capacity building in classrooms and continuous advisory support within each of the 100 MSEs benefiting from the project. The results of this project were significant for all the MSEs partners of the project in the city of Ouagadougou. These companies applied the knowledge acquired during the project to i) be able to face the various risks of their activities, ii) reduce their cost of production, iii) increase their customers and their markets, iv) strengthen their ability to obtain financing of their new projects with new financial partners and v) have the tools to apply for public and private contracts.

Capacity building and income generation for small farmers in Burkina Faso and Mali

This project started in April 2019 and was completed in December 2022. It was funded by Big Dutchman and implemented by United-Teams - the strategic alliance of the YOU Foundation and the NGO HOPE'87-Burkina Faso in partnership with the rural municipalities of Finkolo in Mali and that of Koloko in Burkina Faso.

The project has made it possible to set up a fully equipped and functional training centre with the provision of the most important services requested by small farmers. This includes training in poultry farming (construction of henhouses, preventive and curative care of poultry and their feeding, the sale of eggs and the quality of eggs for consumers, etc.), the possibility of having farming equipment and materials and complete feed for all poultry.

During its implementation, the project contributed to the achievement of the goals related to the SDGs to: i) eliminate hunger in very poor beneficiary households, ii) ensure food security in these households with vulnerable people, iii) improve nutrition of children under five through the consumption of eggs and promote sustainable agriculture through the promotion of social entrepreneurship by small poultry farmers and iv) the pooling of resources for increased production in poultry farming. Furthermore, through the project, the two producers' associations (G.I.E.) Katanlgnan from Koloko in Burkina Faso and Yiriwaton from Hérémakono in Mali, which were created to strengthen their activities and also to contribute to peace-building in the border area of Koloko and Hérémakono, have strengthened their cooperation.

As for the incomes of small farmers, whose increase was a major objective, they have experienced strong growth. In the end, 56 poultry farmers received support in two groups: a group of 20 small farmers and a second one of 36 small farmers. They have a strong income and a good profit margin. The monthly income obtained by each small farmer was estimated at 1.5 times the SMIG (Guaranteed Minimum Interprofessional Salary) in Burkina Faso, which is a good performance in this very poor rural environment.

Increase in income as well as food and nutritional security of small producers in Burkina Faso and Mali through capacity building

This project aimed to support 200 rural women in Burkina Faso and Mali through food security, market gardening, nutritional education and the creation of a sustainable income. It started in December 2020 and ended in December 2022 and was co-financed by the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

During its implementation, the project made it possible to create two modern vegetable production sites of two hectares each in Burkina Faso (Koloko) and Mali (Tiétiébougou). Therefore, two production sites were fully fenced with wire netting to secure the production of tomatoes, cabbage and onions, a water supply system was set up, running on solar energy with a borehole carried out on each perimeter, and a drip irrigation equipment was installed to save water. As part of the training and capacity building of the 200 women, they have been trained in risks related to agriculture, in the management of economic units and the marketing of market gardening products as well as in the adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, taking into account the state of malnutrition of the target groups, such as pregnant and breastfeeding women, children from 0 to 5 years old, and more particularly those from 6 to 23 months old, a special nutritional education programme has been set up for the benefit of women in both countries.

The infrastructure built and the capacity building implemented by the project have improved the nutrition of women and children and also increased agricultural income for women and their households. In addition, through the joint activities implemented by the women of Burkina Faso and Mali the strengthening of peace between the border populations of Burkina Faso (Koloko) and Mali (Finkolo) has been effective.

A COVID-19 Control Unit for Hérémakono, Mali

This project was a response to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. It was implemented by HOPE'87-Burkina Faso and financed by the City of Vienna.

With the appearance of COVID-19 in March 2020, the border area of Burkina Faso and Mali was an area at risk of transmission of the disease. Indeed, many people traverse the two border crossings every day and it was necessary to take measures to protect the national populations as well as international travellers. The project was carried out with several technical partners, including the ASACO (Community Health Association), the medical team of the CSCOM (Community Health Centre) of Hérémakono and the community relays of the six villages of the health area of the CSCOM of Hérémakono in Mali. During the implementation of the project from October 2021 to December 2022, the project contributed to the prevention and fight against COVID-19 of people and health workers by reducing the spread of COVID-19 in the six villages of the CSCOM Hérémakono health area and among travellers entering Mali through the Hérémakono border post.

The objectives of the project were achieved by improving the conditions for caring for patients infected with COVID-19 and by strengthening the technical capacity of health workers and communities in the municipality of Finkolo in Mali. In addition, the project has strengthened the health system in Mali through the establishment of a COVID-19 centre in an extremely sensitive area as well as through preventing the circulation of the disease inside Mali.





Raise your hand... for a sustainable expansion of the education sector in Africa; an Austrian project to support the education system in Burkina Faso and Mali

HOPE'87 and HOPE'87-Burkina Faso promote basic education that meets the essential criteria of contemporary knowledge transfer in order to lay the foundation for adequately facing socio-economic adversities. In the face of repeated phases of crisis, it has been shown time and again in Burkina Faso and Mali that the ability to fall back on solid core competencies

has proven its worth. Schooling for children, but also specialised schooling and vocational training, as well as training and further training of special skills for young people, represent a major focus here. In this context, HOPE'87 and HOPE'87-Burkina Faso attach particular importance to enforcing access to project facilities for girls and boys as well as for disabled and disadvantaged young people in equal measure, in order to counteract structural disadvantages already in childhood and adolescence and to broaden the scope of action.

This project, carried out with the aim to strengthen the educational system and contribute to an inclusive and high-quality education in Burkina Faso and Mali, began in April 2022 and ended in August 2023. It was financially supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

Not only did the project train key national education officials in both countries and produce an advocacy paper for inclusive and quality education, it also increased the inclusive capacity of the school infrastructure in the Koloko and Finkolo communities. Specifically, the implementation of the project made it possible i) to build and renovate essential infrastructure (latrines and access ramps for the disabled) for the proper functioning of schools, colleges and high schools, ii) to equip the classrooms of ten classes, training centres and education partners with computers, iii) to organise national workshops in Burkina Faso (Koloko) and Mali (Finkolo and Sikasso) with a view to strengthening the knowledge in the use of digital technologies of teachers and education partners, iv) to organise a sub-regional workshop (Burkina Faso and Mali) which took place in Orodara in Burkina Faso and finally to implement an awareness and information programme on HIV AIDS for the benefit of pupils in the two countries.

The results achieved by this project were well above the expectations of education stakeholders in both countries. After conclusion of the project, all actors are now committed to implementing the recommendations of the workshops in order to improve the quality of education in the two countries, to make it inclusive by acquiring the necessary equipment while taking into account the needs of disadvantaged groups. Overall, more than 1,000 children and almost 100 pedagogues were reached by the project.

A fountain for Sanoukoro, Mali

This project was implemented by United Teams - the strategic alliance of the YOU Foundation and HOPE'87 in partnership with the local NGO HOPE'87-Burkina Faso and the rural community of Finkolo in Mali.

Drinking water is not sufficiently available in villages in Mali. The municipality of Finkolo is no exception to this fact and the village of Sanoukoro had real problems in meeting the drinking water needs of the entire population of the village. Thanks to the support from the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need, the village of Sanoukoro benefited from a borehole equipped with a manual pump in May 2023. The drilled borehole is complete with a manual pump, a coping, a fence, a canal and a cesspool.

The implementation of the project helped increase access to safe drinking water for 400 people in Mali (SDGs 1, 3 and 6) through the



provision of safe drinking water and rational and sustainable management of the borehole through the establishment and training of a water committee. In addition, the project helped to protect 150 students aged 7 to 15 from accidents due to road insecurity as these students had to cross the road to access a water source on the other side of the international trunk road connecting Burkina Faso and Mali.



Our habitat and our values of peace "Woro Tatinguè na woro gnègnèguè" in the Senufo language

This cultural project on the Senufo habitat began in January 2023 and is scheduled to end in December 2023. It is funded by UNESCO through its Participation Programme. Its objective is to protect, restore and promote the Senufo culture in Burkina Faso (Koloko and Bobo-Dioulasso) and in Côte d'Ivoire (Korhogo).

During the implementation period, the following activities were carried out: i) informing and sensitising stakeholders, ii) planning activities, iii) selecting experts and consultants as well as participants from the three countries, iv) organising workshops and the symposium, v) organising preparatory meetings with implementing partners such as the Senufo Centre of Bobo-Dioulasso and vi) finalising the schedule of the planned project activities.

Resilience and income generation in the Sahel

This project was implemented in partnership with the municipalities of Koloko in Burkina Faso and Finkolo in Mali by United Teams - the strategic alliance of the YOU Foundation and the NGO HOPE'87-Burkina Faso from July 2020 to December 2022 and financed by ZF hilft and the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need.

The ambitious programme has contributed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with regard to the SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 6 (clean water and sanitation) and 13 (climate action) through support for the sustainable development for approximately 33,000 inhabitants in the two countries. The main areas concerned were those of education, health, water and sanitation, poultry farming, animal husbandry, income generation, food security, the environment as well as sport and culture under the relevant concept "helping people to help themselves". All planned results were achieved during the implementation period, despite the very difficult security context and the continued deterioration of the purchasing power of smallholders in both countries who were impacted by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis and the war in Ukraine.

Through its activities, the project has contributed to strengthening the organisational capacity of beneficiary smallholders through the approach to support them to help themselves and has improved the knowledge of households in the areas of market gardening, poultry farming, production of infant flour, compost, agriculture, nutrition, environment and management through training and empowerment of smallholders. Furthermore, their income increased, improving their living conditions. Through the mobility and logistics approach, several tons of agricultural products, inputs and raw materials were transported to production sites and markets in the best conditions (product preservation, reduction in transport costs, speed of delivery). The food security approach has contributed to improving the nutritional status of households including children aged 6 to 59 and has regularly provided drinking water. Through the approach to promote environmental



protection and increase resilience to climate change, tons of waste have been collected and turned into compost, thousands of seedlings have been produced to fertilise the poor soils of small farmers and a waste disposal and processing system has been put in place. Finally, through the sports approach to promote peace, education and cultural exchange, populations have strengthened their social cohesion through sporting events, football teams have improved their practice through the construction of a football stadium regional in Koloko and referees and assistants have been trained to better manage sporting events.

The project has also contributed to increasing the revenue of local businesses and service providers in many areas such as buildings and public works, metal welding, wood carpentry, aggregate sellers etc., to promoting the consumption of local products, e.g. in small restaurants, and to creating a job opportunity for many young people who were indirect beneficiaries of the project.



INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS BURKINA FASO

Government Authorities

- Mr Maurice Konaté, President of the Special Delegation of the city Ouagadougou
- Father Mathieu Traoré, Director of the Cultural Centre René Fournier, Bobo-Dioulasso
- H.E. Mr Aboubakar Nacanabo, Minister of Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso
- Mr Inoussa Ouiminga, Director General of cooperation, Ministry of Finance
- Ms Alimatou Zongo/Kaboré, Director of Promotion of Partnership, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development
- Mr Issa Ouattara, Director of the Regional Development Agency
- Mr Eric Bourgou, Responsible for NGO's, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development
- Mr Germain Nana, Head of service, Direction of Promotion of Partnership, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development
- Mr Yamba Yaméogo, President of Special Delegation of the District of Koloko
- Mr Wimou Tissanane Désiré Luc Hien, President of Special Delegation of the District of Kangala
- Mr Abdoulaye Traore, President of Special Delegation of the District of Bama

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Wolfram Vetter, Head of the Delegation of the EU in Burkina Faso
- H.E. Ambassador Gerlinde Paschinger, former Ambassador of Austria to Burkina Faso, with residence in Dakar, Sénégal
- H.E. Ambassador Ursula Fahringer, Ambassador of Austria to Burkina Faso, with residence in Dakar, Sénégal
- H.E. Ambassador Dieudonné Kere, Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Austria

Agencies

- Mr Michael König, Head of the Office of the Austrian Development Agency in Ouagadougou
- Mr Fatié Ouattara, Former Secretary General of the National Commission of UNESCO, Burkina Faso
- Mr Vincent Sedogo, New Secretary General of the National Commission of UNESCO, Burkina Faso
- Ms Salemberé, Programme Officer, Education, ADC Burkina Faso

NGOs

- Mr Guillaume Doukhoum, Country Representative, SOS Sahel International, Burkina Faso
- Mr Pierre Michailard, Programme Officer, Conseil Départemental du territoire de Belfort, France
- Mr Omer Kaboré, OXFAM BF Country Director

INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS MALI

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- Mr Bougouzanga Coulibaly, Governor of the region of Sikasso
- Mr Kalfa Sanogo, Mayor of Sikasso
- Mr Daniel Dembélé, Prefet of Sikasso
- Mr Drissa Ouattara, Mayor of Finkolo
- Mr Bakémo Daniogo, Director of the Teaching Academy of Sikasso
- Mr Moukeilou Maïga, Director of the Bougoula School

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Dr Caroline Gudenus, former Ambassador of Austria to Mali
- H.E. Ambassador Gerlinde Paschinger, former Ambassador of Austria to Mali, with residence in Dakar, Sénégal
- H.E. Ambassador Ursula Fahringer, Ambassador of Austria to Mali, with residence in Dakar, Sénégal
- H.E. Ambassador Kodjo Lougué, Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Mali

Agencies

- Mr Bruno Ssenyondo (M.Afr), Director of the Senoufo Centre, Sikasso

NGOs

- Ms Caroline Pagnan Ballo, President of the local NGO "Tout Pour l'Enfant" Sikasso
- Mr Ambroise Ballo, Programme Officer, ACOD NGO, Sikasso
- Association of Community Health in Bougoula and Kaféla
- Association of Children's parents in Bougoula and Kaféla
- Mothers' Association in Bougoula and Kaféla
- Mr Adama Nama Coulibaly, NGO IACR, Siguida Conseils, Sikasso

INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS IVORY COAST

Government Authorities

- Mr Issa Coulibaly, Head of the Canton of Korhogo
- Mr Mamadou Coulibaly, Deputy of the Head of the Canton of Korhogo
- Mr Lanza Coulibaly, Mayor of Korhogo
- Mr Soumahoro, Secretary general of the mayor of Korhogo

These countries' programmes contribute directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



BURUNDI

PROGRAMME: Alleviating poverty among the population of the province of Kirundo, Bugabira commune, through the use of the Umuhivu tree, contributing to environmental protection and increasing the resilience of the population to climate change as well as combating food shortage through the construction of a community rice storage for the inhabitants of Munyika Hill in the province of Cibitoke, Rugombo commune

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
| The traditional tree “Umuhivu“ in the fight against poverty and climate change | Bugabira commune, Kirundo province | 900 direct beneficiaries and more than 5,000 indirect beneficiaries | Goals 1, 2, 5, 13 |
| A community rice storage for Munyika Hill | Munyika Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province | 750 | Goals 1, 2 |

Jadon NSENGIYUMVA - Economist

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OF HOPE’87 BURUNDI,
AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOPE’87 NETWORK



SUMMARY

Burundi is one of the countries of the Great Lakes region in East-Central Africa and among the poorest countries in the world. The socio-political situation it has experienced within the last years and the one it is currently going through have left their mark on the lives of the population. The transition to peace and political stability that Burundi regained in 2003 was disrupted on the eve of the 2015 elections. Although the active conflict has diminished, peace and reconciliation remain fragile and unpredictable.

Persistent food insecurity, very high poverty rates, extreme inflation and low levels of education are among the many obstacles to the country’s future development. It is one of the least developed countries in the world, with more than two-thirds of the population living below the poverty line. The 2022 World Hunger Index describes the situation in Burundi as “extremely alarming“, with 52 percent of children under 5 stunted and even higher levels of malnutrition among rural communities. Combined with an extremely young population (more than half of the population is under 17), and an average birth rate of six children per woman, the situation is truly worrying.

While Burundi’s unemployment rate is close to 15% (2022), it is important to mention that 87.2% of Burundi’s working population lives on less than \$1.25 a day as most of them work in agriculture with little production. This entrenched poverty, resulting from a lack of financial resources, leaves young people vulnerable to external factors. This affects both young men and women, but in different ways. Young women are more vulnerable to gender-based violence, resulting in a large number of unwanted pregnancies before they have finished school. Some young women may also resort to prostitution as a means of earning money. Young Burundians often fall into petty crime, such as domestic theft and drug trafficking. They are also particularly vulnerable to recruitment into violent factions of political youth groups.

To help change this negative situation, HOPE’87-Burundi, with the help of its financial partners, has been contributing to the country’s development by mobilising activities to alleviate the suffering of extremely poor communities.



ACTIVITIES

The traditional tree “Umuhivu“ in the fight against poverty and climate change

The aim of this project is to combat poverty through the use of derivatives of the traditional Umuhivu tree and the climate change in the Northern province of Kirundo, Burundi and thus to contribute to environmental protection and climate change mitigation in Kirundo province, Bugabira municipality.

The project’s beneficiaries are the inhabitants of Bugabira commune, especially the returning refugees and the local Batwa. The project directly



targets 900 beneficiaries (100 members per hill and thus more than 5,000 indirect beneficiaries), of which women as pillars of the rural economy take up 65%. There is a special focus on Batwa women and fishermen who are fishing in the lakes Cohoha and Gacamirindi.

The first dimension of the project is to help alleviate poverty and to promote the development of the population of the province of Kirundo, in the commune of Bugabira. They traditionally lived exclusively on pottery and blacksmithing, which is no longer profitable for them due to competition from modern materials. The project helps to strengthen the artisanal methods of blacksmithing, pottery and basket weaving by modern production methods based on derivatives of the traditional Umuhivu tree, from which the project derives its name, to make them more profitable.

Furthermore, through community work, the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship and the protection of flora and fauna, the project's activities contribute to the strengthening of the Burundian economy. This is achieved by increasing the income of the indigenous Batwa communities so they are able to sustainably secure their livelihood.

The second dimension of the project is to fight climate change in order to increase the resilience of the population in Kirundo province. To achieve this goal, awareness-raising sessions on climate change, its causes and consequences for the riparian zones of lakes Cohoha and Gacamirindi are organised. Moreover, community environmental clubs are set up and the Umuhivu tree is planted at the lakeshore of the two environmentally contaminated lakes so the fish stock can grow in the shade of the trees. The activities further contribute to significantly increasing the productivity of the arable land in the Bugabira commune. This is achieved thanks to the reduction of erosion following the planting of Umuhivu trees, thus improving the income of the farming population. It also contributes to securing the rights of the nine Batwa cooperatives on the nine hills in Burundi's multi-ethnic society through creating a better administrative and technical framework. This second part of the project is implemented in partnership with the government to raise awareness about environmental protection and the fight against climate change as a response to the operationalisation of the Burundian National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA), elaborated by the government in 2007.

This project is generously financed by the "Deutsche Postcode Lottery (Germany)" and implemented by UNITED TEAMS - the strategic alliance of the YOU Foundation and HOPE'87.

A community rice storage for Munyiaka Hill

This project, which is facilitated by the funding from the City of Vienna, provides a solution for efficient storage and conservation of rice in the rural area Munyiaka Hill, Rugombo province.

The commune of Rugombo, where the project is being implemented, is largely located on the Imbo plain, a low-lying region. The majority of the population of this commune grows rice and has developed

marshes and irrigation canals that increase rice production and thus provide a real driving force for agricultural development.

Despite all these advantages for increasing agricultural rice production, there is still a widespread storage problem. All the farmers in the same locality produce the same product at the same time, but as they have no storage system, they are all forced to sell their rice at the same time, at the same place and to the same traders. Furthermore, small producers have to contend with the shortage of storage granaries and have to pay considerable storage costs to the owners of these stocks.

HOPE'87-Burundi started this project in order to relieve this storage burden on rice farmers. A community granary was built as an effective storage and preservation solution, which on one hand enables small-scale producers to store part of their production and sell it at the most favourable time, and on the other hand makes them more resilient to food and nutritional shocks during the lean periods. The project further offers training in agricultural techniques and practices such as harvesting and post-harvest procedures to the farmers, training for community savings and credit associations (ACEC) as well as training in sustainable income-generating activities (IGAs) to contribute to the economic self-determination and empowerment of the beneficiaries.



INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

Government Authorities

- Albert Hatungimana, Governor of Kirundo province
- Eric Twizeyimana, Administrator of Bugabira commune
- Imelde Sabushimike, Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender
- Dr Sanctus Niragira, Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock
- Gilbert Manirakiza, Administrator of Rugombo commune
- Carême Bizoza, Governor of Cibitoke province

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Claude Bochu, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Burundi
- H.E. Willy Nyamitwe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Burundi to the African Union

Agencies

- Kristien van Buyten, Chief child protection, UNICEF
- Silas Mugiraneza, Head of Education in Emergencies, UNICEF Burundi

NGOs

- Jolien Van Ooijen, Country Director CORDAID
- Denise Bantegeyeko
- Ciza Charles, Legal representative of Batwa Action for Integral Development and Assistance to the Vulnerable

This country's programme contributes directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



SENEGAL

PROGRAMME: Contributing to the fight against poverty by restoring the human dignity of the population in Senegal’s urban and peri-urban areas through capacity-building with a focus on education, training, health, infrastructure, agriculture and diversification of sources of income

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| Job twinning and assistance for small businesses in Baraka | Baraka Sicap Liberté VI, Dakar Baraka Sicap Liberté VI, Dakar | 495 | Goals 1, 4 |
| School food for Baraka Kids | Baraka Sicap Liberté VI, Dakar | 150 | Goals 2, 3 |
| Kids of Baraka let’s dance | Baraka Sicap Liberté VI, Dakar | 40 | Goals 2, 3 |
| RECOUVRER - Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable persons in Western Africa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic | Mampatim, Médina Cherif, Bagadadji and Dialamberé, Kolda | 11,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 |
| Strengthening maternal health at the FAI health post in Médina Chérif | Médina Chérif, Kolda | 8,000 | Goals 3, 5, 6 |
| Women’s empowerment in the Casamance | Mampatim & Médina Chérif | 300 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 |

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Boubacar MANE - Geographer



SUMMARY

Senegal’s economy regained momentum in 2021, thanks to a combination of factors, including better control of the COVID-19 pandemic, following a vaccination campaign, and a satisfactory recovery in activities in the secondary and tertiary sectors. In a favourable global economic context marked by a recovery from the 2020 recession, the economy of the Republic of Senegal has also returned to its pre-COVID-19 growth path, supported by the revival of structuring investments as part of the ongoing implementation of the Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE) projects and programmes included in the Adjusted and Accelerated Priority Action Plan (PAP2A).

The year 2022 was devoted to consolidating the recovery begun in 2021, despite the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, concerns regarding geopolitical tensions persist, notably the Russian-Ukrainian war and the embargo in Mali, which have had a negative impact on supply chains. The economic activity of Senegal in 2022 will benefit from the expected effects of the various measures to support the national economy as part of the effective implementation of the priority structuring projects set out in the PAP2A, particularly in the agricultural sector.

As part of the mission to support the PSE and the Economic and Social Resilience Programme (PRES), Senegal’s ambition is to revive its economy through a structural transformation in order to promote sustainable and inclusive growth and provide decent jobs.

In this context, HOPE’87-Senegal, in collaboration with its technical and financial partners, continues to consolidate the actions initiated by the government through various projects since 2021. Particular emphasis is placed on combating food insecurity in rural areas, children’s education, vocational training for young people and their integration into the job market, the inclusion of people living with disabilities and on improving the health of the population, especially of women and children, by targeting vulnerable households with the reinforcement of gender equality.



ACTIVITIES

Job twinning and assistance for small businesses in Baraka

This vocational training project aims to strengthen artisans in Baraka in the creation of income-generating activities and to contribute to better employability and quality of production and services. It is implemented as part of the Cité Baraka project, with the purpose of economic value creation, and was initiated by United Teams - the strategic alliance of the YOU Foundation and HOPE’87 and is funded by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany.

Through this project, Baraka artisans are offered opportunities to become future entrepreneurs and are provided with specific coaching and capacity building in production, quality control, building up reserve funds, access to banks and credits, professional marketing and commercialisation as well as the acquisition of new information and communication technologies, management and marketing.

At the end of the various training courses, these craftsmen and craftswomen get a training certificate, which facilitates their integration into the labour market. The trades are legally constituted as Groupement d’Intérêt Economique (G.I.E.) and have their own trade register and National Identification Number of Companies and Associations (NINEA). Three trades, namely a hairdressing salon, a tailoring shop and



a dry cleaner, which are located in the basement of building G of the newly constructed Cité Baraka, once a slum-area, have already successfully initiated their activities. They started their activities with the use of simple management and accounting tools. For better bookkeeping, each of the trades has an invoicing system, an input/output journal and a petty cash register.

The setup of other trades, such as carpenters, masons, painters, farmworkers, aluminium carpenters, metal workers and women working in the processing of fish, fruit and vegetables, will also follow soon. To enable production, the craftsmen will have access to the quality materials they need for their production activities in a hardware store located on the premises.

This project is highly supported by the Senegalese Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training, Apprenticeship and Integration, with which the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need has signed a partnership agreement in March 2021 to make their training schools, which are approved by the Senegalese government, available to the artisans of Cité Baraka.



School food for Baraka Kids

The aim of this project is to contribute to improving the nutritional status of children aged 3 to 6 years at Baraka Liberté 6 in Dakar. This is ensured by enabling them to attend the Baraka school where they have access to healthy and sustainable school meals and where their nutritional status is monitored. The project, which is implemented by HOPE'87 and financed by the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need, is thus committed to fighting malnutrition among Baraka's children in line with the 2nd Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2) with the aim to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Malnutrition screenings carried out in Baraka by the Centre de Santé de Liberté 6 in October 2021 showed that 70 of Baraka's children aged 3 to 6 years were suffering from moderate acute malnutrition due to protein and energy deficiencies. Most of these children come from vulnerable families, where the members of the household are constantly on the lookout for work and don't have the time to provide their children with a sufficient quantity and quality of food.

To help improve the nutritional situation of these children, HOPE'87 in collaboration with the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need decided to support the project "School food for Baraka kids" in order to enable kindergarten children to have access to healthy food, which is essential for their growth. The programme was also extended to the children in the introductory class at Baraka elementary school and now provides food for a total of 150 children aged 3 to 6 years.



Kids of Baraka let's dance

The project "Kids of Baraka let's dance", which is supported by the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need, has recently started in the Cité Baraka with the aim to enable children to positively express their emotions, stimulate their creativity and channel their energies through dancing. This project is in line with the 3rd Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3 - good health and well-being) as it contributes to empowering people to live healthy lives and promotes well-being among the kids and their families in Baraka.

The activities of this project are implemented in partnership with the "Dance Hall", an urban dance centre in Dakar dedicated to amateurs, which is open

to children, teenagers and adults. As part of the activities, the "Dance Hall" team travels to Baraka's elementary school playground to teach choreography and dance to children aged 7 to 16 years. They are divided into 3 groups of 15 children each, which makes up a total of 45 children who take part in dance activities twice a week for one hour per session. This dancing activity complements the school activities of the children, and the "Dance Hall" team encourages the children to do well at school.



RECOURRER - Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable persons in Western Africa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

The resilience project, which is funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation, is implemented by seven Austrian NGOs - HOPE'87, the Red Cross, Light for the World, Horizont3000, Jugend Eine Welt and ICEP under the leadership of CARITAS Austria - which have joined forces in a consortium for a multi-country project operating in Burkina Faso and Senegal. This project focuses on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable people to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences in the different sectors of WASH, health, food security and capacity building to better protect themselves against the pandemic.

This project is in line with the Nexus strategy, which links humanitarian and development interventions through medium- and long-term actions. The aim of the project is to mitigate the social and economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in Senegal. This is achieved through strengthening the resilience of producers affected by the consequences of COVID-19 and related emergencies in the southern Senegalese communities of Mampatim, Médina Chérif, Dialamberé and Bagadadji, Department of Kolda.

Therefore, HOPE'87-Senegal has developed activities aimed at increasing agricultural production to cope with the economic impact of the pandemic on producers in the intervention zone. To this end, 5,000 farmers have been trained in new agricultural production techniques through the introduction of short-cycle seed varieties adapted to climate change. They have collaborated with technical services to improve their income and compensate for losses that occurred during the country's containment phase, which had the purpose to contain the spread of the virus.

Through this project, HOPE'87-Senegal has contributed to the development of agricultural production by sowing 2,500 hectares with rice, millet, sorghum and cowpea varieties, for a production of around 17,000 tonnes during the 2021-2022 agricultural season. This significant production has prompted the project to train women in the processing of agricultural products in order to improve the nutrition of children aged 0 to 5 years and pregnant women.

At the level of health, awareness-raising activities on the coronavirus have continued with the distribution of health kits (7,500 1-litre bottles of soap and 3,700 1-litre bottles of bleach) and hydro-alcoholic gels (68,000 bottles of 250 ml) to producers.



Strengthening maternal health at the FAI health post in Médina Chérif

The FAI health post, part of the Kolda health district health map, was built in 2009 by the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need and its partner Dr Siegfried Axtmann of Fly Ambulance International (FAI) in the community of Médina Chérif, Kolda, Senegal. With the presence of technical staff assigned by the State of Senegal, the Médina Chérif FAI health post serves nearly 8,000 direct beneficiaries, including 5,000 women of reproductive age, and is a focal point for women from the surrounding communities.



Within the last year, the maternity ward has been upgraded with ultrasound equipment and a laboratory to enable the midwife to carry out ultrasounds and blood tests on site. Now, regular specific antenatal care is provided there to pregnant women in a welcoming environment, including ultrasound examinations and blood tests. This has made it possible to detect high-risk pregnancies in time and thus reduce emergency evacuations to the Kolda regional hospital. The centre has also contributed to fewer home births and improved the maternal health

of women in the community of Medina Chérif.

In addition, education sessions are held on the importance of antenatal and postnatal check-ups, family planning and vaccination of children under five against the target diseases of the expanded vaccination programme (tetanus, tuberculosis, hepatitis, measles and yellow fever). Moreover, with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the health staff of the FAI health post has implemented a programme to raise awareness about hygienic measures and to strengthen immunisation activities against COVID-19.

Women's empowerment in Casamance

The aim of this project, which is financed by Deutsche Postcode Lotterie (Germany), is to improve food security and reduce poverty among women in the Casamance by strengthening their agricultural production activities and increasing their income through economic empowerment. The areas of implementation are the communities of Mampatim and Médina Chérif in the Department of Kolda in Southern Senegal, whose populations of around 40,422 inhabitants live mainly on rain-fed agriculture, which is affected by climate change.

To cope with the impact of climate change, the women farmers have organised themselves into producer groups to combat the food insecurity that directly affects them. The women are organised into 22 groups with a total of 300 members and have been active in farming with cereal production as well as winter gardening and processing on a small scale, with previously only limited production. As part

of their efforts to diversify agricultural production and to overcome nutritional deficiencies, these women manage their own community micro-credit scheme, the Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de Crédit (AVEC), which is a solidarity trust that gives women an average of 50 to 70 euros on credit so they are able to carry out their desired business activities.



To strengthen the production of these women, this project aims to support them with the introduction of new cereal varieties with a short cycle and high yields, the promotion of winter gardening (sweet potatoes, cowpeas and other vegetables), the planting of fruit trees as well as through training in the production of protein-rich flour to prevent malnutrition among children aged 0 to 3 years. These activities are combined with strengthening local non-governmental organisations and entrepreneurship training to ensure job creation in rural areas and significantly improve women's incomes while addressing malnutrition. Furthermore, existing AVECs have been strengthened to enable women to obtain higher loans of 100 to 150 euros.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

Government Authorities

- H.E. Mr Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal
- H.E. Mr Abdoulaye Saydou Sow, Minister of Urbanism, Housing and Public Hygiene
- H.E. Dr Marie Khemesse Diouf, Minister of Health and Social Affairs
- H.E. Mr Cheikh Tidiane Sall, Ambassador, Head of Protocol of the Presidency of the Republic of Senegal
- Mr Alhassane Sall, Governor of Dakar
- Mr Mor Talla Tine, Prefect of Dakar
- Mr Diadia Dia, Prefect of the Department of Kolda
- Mr Alhassane Faye, Sub-Prefect of Mampatim

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Ursula Fahringer, Ambassador of Austria to Senegal
- H.E. Ambassador Sönke Siemon, Ambassador of Germany to Senegal

Agencies

- Mr Ibrahima Mbaye, Agéroute Ziguinchor
- Mr Bocar Balde, DG SODAGRI
- Mr Waly Diouf, Coordinator PNAR (Programme National d'Autosuffisance en Riz)
- Mr Papa Balla Diongue, Chef of the project Promovilles

NGOs

- European Platform of NGOs in Dakar
- Mr Dame Sall, African Meeting for Integrated Development (RADI)
- Mr Martin Ndecky, World Vision Kolda
- Mr Léon Sarr, Caritas Tamba
- Mr Alpha Sao, Representative of the CNAAS Agency of Kolda
- Ms Elisabeth Thioye, SOCODEVI

This country's programme contributes directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



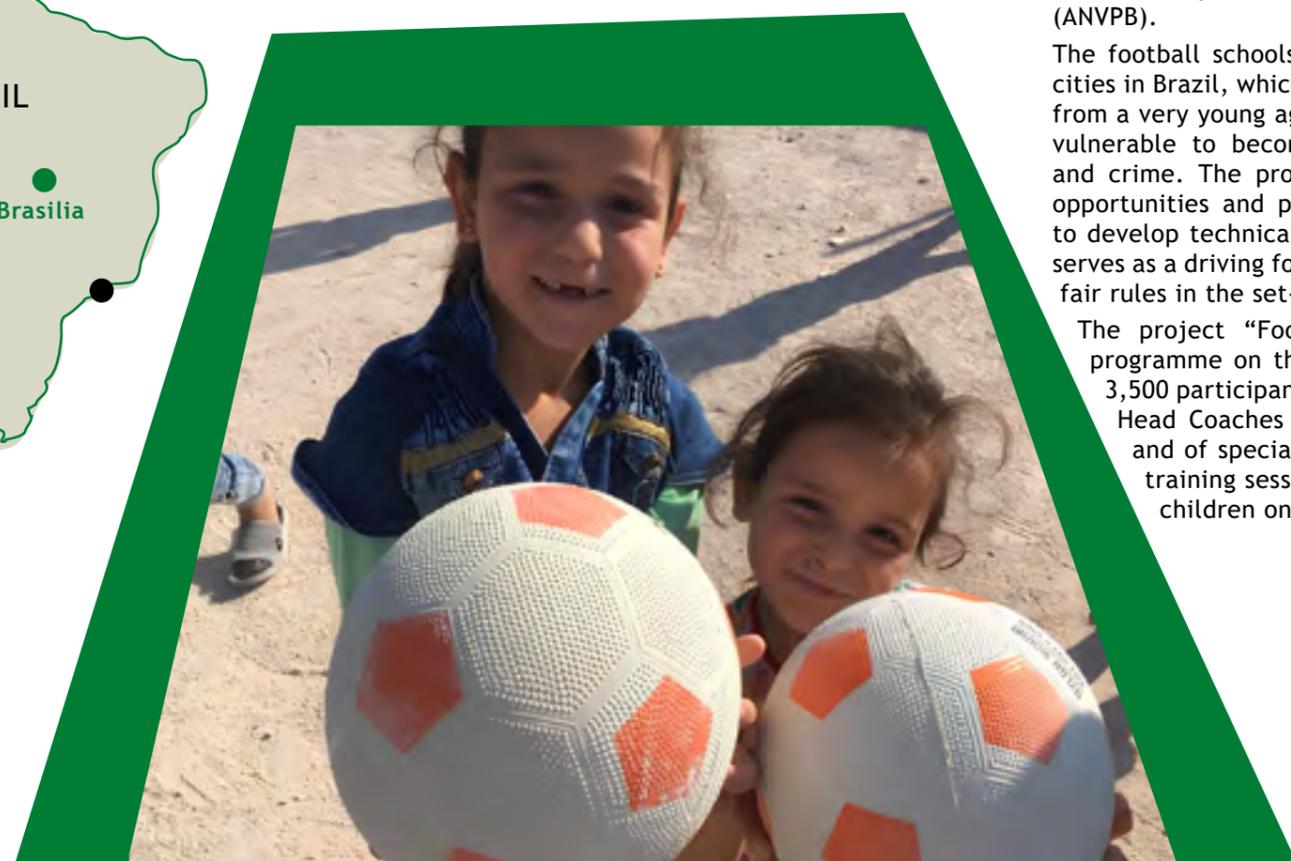
BRAZIL

PROGRAMME: Strengthening vocational education for vulnerable youth and young adults through online courses and offering opportunities and perspectives to children to develop their social and emotional competence as well as their sport skills by teaching them football and futsal

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Base Brazil Football Schools - Living a Dream, violence and crime prevention based on a national passion | Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 3,500 | Goals 3, 4, 5, 11, 16 |
| HOPE'87 - EDUCATION+ Vocational Education in Brazil - educational opportunities based on online-platforms for socially challenged youth | Sao Paulo and countrywide (online programmes) | 12,500 participants directly involved; 250,000 people indirectly involved | Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 |

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Markus SCHRUF -
Football Coach and Manager



SUMMARY

Historically, the economy of Brazil is the largest both in Latin America and the southern hemisphere in nominal terms as well as the third largest in the Americas. In 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazil had the 10th largest gross domestic product (GDP) and the 8th largest purchasing power parity in the world.

At first sight, these numbers and positions prove a steadily developing economic power of Brazil. However, it has fluctuated significantly during the past decade due to a period of a long recession eight years ago and a political landscape used to corruption at an epic scale. The country is also still recovering from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which worsened existing health problems due to widespread disbelief in science, a lack of investment in research and in the public health service and overcrowding of hospitals, causing the death of thousands of people.

HOPE'87 has been supporting young people living in the favelas and socio-economically weakly developed areas through a long-standing football and education project since 2014, an early childhood education project during 2021 and, since 2022, has been offering a vocational education programme for youngsters and young adults.

ACTIVITIES

Base Brazil Football Schools - Living a Dream, violence and crime prevention based on a national passion

This project was initiated by HOPE'87 in collaboration with the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need during the time of the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Brazil to support youth and sports organisations in the country. Ever since, the Base Brazil network of 25 football schools has been supporting young children to achieve their dream to become an athlete and to succeed in their academic career, following the Base Brazil slogan "Living a Dream".

Together with the partner organisation Non-Violence Project Foundation (NVPF), which provides the coaches, the programme "Football for Peace - Living a Dream" offers a well-rounded educational programme for boys and girls. It features the two components of sports education in football and futsal as well as the implementation of the life skill programmes of the Non-Violence Project Foundation and its Brazilian subsidiary Associação Non-Violence Project Brazil (ANVPB).

The football schools are mostly located in the so-called favelas of big cities in Brazil, which are socially very depressed areas, exposing children from a very young age to the pitfalls of life in the streets. It makes them vulnerable to become part of gangs, confronting them with violence and crime. The programme offers a safe haven to those children and opportunities and perspectives through football and futsal. The goal is to develop technical skills as well as social competences. The sport thus serves as a driving force to learn in a playful way how to compete following fair rules in the set-up of a sports team.

The project "Football for Peace" offers its sport and educational programme on the fields and in the classrooms for the approximately 3,500 participants. Highlights within the last year were the visits of the Head Coaches of WWSA Brazil (Worldwide Soccer Academies Brazil) and of specially trained NVP Coaches who conducted education and training sessions for the football school's coaches as well as for the children on the football field and in the class rooms.

HOPE'87 - EDUCATION+

Vocational Education in Brazil - educational opportunities based on online-platforms for socially challenged youth

Through this project, online courses are offered to young people (16-25 years of age) who are searching for a job, and to small entrepreneurs who live in poor regions. The aim is to provide understanding and knowledge of basic work and business models as well as technical and linguistic terms as basic knowledge of English is still not very common in the favelas.

The project is carried out with the project partner ed+, an online platform for training operational workers, informal workers and small entrepreneurs in Brazil. They are mainly located in poor regions and slums (favelas) with the vision to realise the dream of a better life for people without access to professional training and entrepreneurship. Together with ed+, HOPE'87 develops vocational education programmes and offers them on an online platform with free training courses in the favelas of Brazil. The programmes are prepared and presented by trainers who live and work in these regions themselves.

The platform is quick and easy to use and accessible from any smartphone. The courses can all be accessed online and are organised in short, topic-oriented segments. At the end of each video session, a test must be completed to receive the certificate, for which at least 70% of the total number of points are required. After completing the course and receiving the certificate, the course participants have the opportunity to present themselves directly on the job market through the online job portal of ed+ media partner "Amarelinho", one of Brazil's most important platforms for offering jobs and employment for operative and small businesses.



INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

Project Partners

- Non-Violence-Project (NVP Foundation)
- Universidade de São Paulo (USP/CEPEUSP)
- Municipalities in the location of the football schools and the ed+ programmes
- Escola Total in Rio de Janeiro and Santos
- National Commission of Brazil for UNESCO
- CUFA, Central Única das Favelas (ONG)
- Founder Institute Sao Paulo / Campinas, State of Sao Paulo

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Dr Stefan Scholz, Ambassador of Austria to Brazil
- Mr Klaus Hofstädter, Commercial Consul Austria
- Mr Stefan Nemetz, Commercial Vice-Consul Austria

Brazil's programme contributes directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



BANGLADESH

PROGRAMME: Strengthening education for vulnerable children and working children, empowering of youth through skills training as well as humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugees and people affected by the 2023 cold wave

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|---|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Model Night School for Child Workers and Street Children | Jurain, Old Dhaka City | 338 | Goals 1, 4 |
| STYLE (Skills Training for female Youth and Life-skills Education) - a COVID-19 response to support women in Bangladesh | Keranigonj Sub district Dhaka | 454 | Goals 1, 5, 8 |
| Health Care for Children & Women | Jurain, Old Dhaka City | 2,311 | Goal 3 |
| A Bright Future for Child Labourers and Street Children in Bangladesh - Early Childhood Development Centre | Shampur and Hazaribagh Area, Dhaka City | 400 | Goals 1, 4 |
| Hope Technical Training Centre - HTTC | Jurain, Old Dhaka City Polaspur, Sirajdikhan, Munsigonj | 108 | Goals 1, 4 |
| Mobile Quality School (MQS) | Chittagong and Dhaka | 614 | Goal 4 |
| Humanitarian Response for Rohingya Refugees | Ukhiya Rohingya Camp in Cox's Bazar district and Bhasan Char refugee Camps in Noakhali District, Sub District Hatiya | 30,976 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 |
| Humanitarian Support to Cold Wave affected People | Dhaka city slum areas Challanbil under Tarash Upazilla of Sirajganj district, Bhatgram Union under Sadullapur Upazila of Gaibandha district and Chittagong city slum areas | 1,300 | Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 |



SUMMARY

Sharing borders with India and Myanmar, Bangladesh is blessed with a vast river system and a lush landscape. Dhaka, the capital and biggest city of Bangladesh, is the country's financial, political and social centre point. Chittagong, the biggest seaport, is the second-largest city.

Bangladesh has an approximate population of 172 million people and a population density of 1,330 people per square kilometre. In addition to this overpopulation, due to its geographical location, the country is also prone to natural calamities, which often hit especially the poor very hard.

Bangladesh's journey from its struggle for independence in 1971 to its current state of resilience and transformation is truly inspiring. The country has overcome numerous challenges to become an emerging economy and is a shining example of social progress. As the nation moves forward, it stands as a testament to the strength and determination of its people and its potential for continued growth and prosperity. Bangladesh has also made notable progress in healthcare, education and the empowerment of women and has achieved significant improvements in reducing maternal and child mortality rates. Furthermore, education has been a priority for Bangladesh, with initiatives to increase literacy rates and access to quality education.

Despite this progress, many children and youth still do not have access to education, and health care is not accessible to everyone. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of people have lost their jobs, and with the unemployment rate, the poverty rate increased proportionally, which has since negatively affected the country's economy. Furthermore, Bangladesh has become the refuge for nearly one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, making it one of the largest protracted refugee situations in the world.

In this context, HOPE'87-Bangladesh, in cooperation with its development partners, continues to implement projects with the aim of improving the social conditions of people in need in a sustainable manner. These very successful projects include three night schools and two mobile quality schools for the underprivileged children of the local communities, two youth training centres, two health care centres as well as the humanitarian aid response projects for Rohingya refugees and for people affected by the cold wave in the beginning of 2023.



COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Mohd. Rezaul KARIM -
Social Worker

ACTIVITIES

Model Night School for Child Workers and Street Children

The night school programme is one of the eldest pilot projects of HOPE'87 in Bangladesh - it was initiated by the voluntary spirit of young people of the local community in the year 1990. To keep street and working children safe, promote literacy and reintegrate them back into their community, HOPE'87 established its own night school in Dhaka with the support of the City of Vienna in 2012. Since then, three night schools have been offering evening classes and late-night lessons in the old city of Dhaka, which provide primary school education to approximately 600 underprivileged street children, child workers and orphans every year. In total, already over 1,600 children have received access to primary education (classes I to V) through this programme.

Children living in low income families in Bangladesh are frequently deprived of their right to education. The majority of them are illiterate and have either never been enrolled, or have dropped out of the formal education system. A recent research carried out by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics shows that 30% of street children live in the open, 36% of children never went to school, 91% of children are involved in child labour and 50% of children are facing violence at their workplace as well as in their families.

To counter this negative situation, this project aims to provide basic education in a flexible and dynamic learning environment for the street and working children, who would otherwise not be able to attend school during the day due to their living conditions. During the reporting period, 338 students enrolled in the night school system and received access to basic primary education, which will help them subsequently to continue secondary school education in a regular school.

STYLE - Skills Training for female Youth and Life-skills Education

One third of the population of Bangladesh is comprised of youth (aged 15 to 30 years), which makes up a total of 54 million young people. Most of them do not have access to quality education and leisure time activities.

HOPE'87 launched the STYLE-project with the aim to empower the youth, especially girls and young women, by strengthening their skills and voices for economic self-reliance in order to take a leadership role in the community. The project provides demand-driven skills training in various technical professions such as basic computer training with a spoken English course, tailoring, handicraft, block-batik as well as life skills and career development counselling for female trainees. Through this training, the working capacity and possible employability of unemployed women in Dhaka District is being improved.

During the reporting period, 454 girls and female students have completed the above-mentioned courses. The project further distributed start-up capital to interested students who are planning to set up their own enterprises or home-based income generating small businesses.





Health Care for Children & Women

To provide access to primary health services for people living in slums and homeless people, HOPE'87 has been providing free health care services since 1998 through its weekly health post. The main component of this special project is a weekly health camp for people in need in Dhaka, which provides regular primary health treatment, free medical check-ups, prescriptions and medications. The health camp mostly concentrates on female patients, pregnant women and children as well as physically challenged and elderly people in the community.

Last year, HOPE'87 started this weekly health post activity through a van, which moves to different places every day of the week. The van is equipped with all the necessary medical equipment as well as a doctor, a nurse and volunteers, providing primary health care to the populations of poor areas where no other primary health care services are available. In addition, an emergency help line number was created through which people in need can call out for emergency primary medical care and rescue services. Patients who are referred to the hospital for admission are being assisted by the Hospital Social Welfare Office in their transportation to different government hospitals.

During the last year, the weekly health camp has provided health care services to more than 60,261 patients and to 2,311 patients (thereof 1,325 female, 218 male and 768 children). During the reporting period, two eye cataract camps were arranged where 78 vulnerable women and elderly people were provided with cataract operation services from the Prime Bank Eye Hospital, Dhaka. Furthermore, weekly briefing sessions were conducted for families on different health issues in order to raise awareness of the importance of the prevention of different diseases and thus contribute to the families' safety.



A Bright Future for Child Labourers and Street Children in Bangladesh - Early Childhood Development Centre

Through this project, four Early Childcare Development Centres were established in Dhaka District and one in Chittagong District. The project admitted 100 pre-primary students, aged 4 to 6 years, to the units and already 300 children were admitted for primary school-level education (6 to 12 years of age), with further admissions ongoing. Annual examinations were

conducted for class one to class five.

The project has provided textbooks, conducted early childhood care classes and arranged computer training for children at night and mobile schools. Furthermore, educational materials, including pens, pencils, exercise books, school bags, toys, puzzles and uniforms as well as winter clothes were purchased and distributed among the students. To reduce the dropout rates, cooked food and regular lunch boxes are provided to the 400 students. School fee support was provided to underprivileged students.

The project further conducted bi-monthly school management committee meetings to discuss attendance and protect children from hazardous work. Moreover, monthly orientation sessions were held on children's rights and the protection of marginalised children. In addition, psycho-social care for children in need is made available.

During the reporting period, the project completed the renovation of the night school and other spaces, equipped them with new child-friendly furniture and completed the colouring and renovation of child-friendly washrooms. The project also organised various children's events for the celebration of international and national days as well as extra-curricular activities such as swimming training, drawing competitions, an annual sports programme and tours to the Padma Bridge, Dhaka Children Park, and to Dhaka National Zoo.

HOPE Technical Training Centre - HTTC

The HOPE Technical Training Centre was set up in 2001 with the financial support of the European Commission and the Austrian Development Cooperation and is affiliated with the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). Through technical training, the centre has been creating employment and self-employment opportunities to unemployed young people and those who dropped out of education. Since its inception, 4,055 young people have been trained in various trades.

During the reporting period, the centre has provided practical training on basic computer application and tailoring courses for 108 unemployed young people and students. Each trade operates its training courses with a duration of three to six months, offering a flexible time of the courses. The successful trainees of welding trade and electrical house wiring subsequently went abroad to carry out their job.

Mobile Quality School

The Mobile Quality School Project is providing quality education for the underprivileged children of the local communities in the areas of Dhaka and Chittagong, in which poverty is still a major problem. The purpose of this project is to convey quality formal education at primary school level to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged working children and children who dropped out of school on the basis of equity, quality, inclusivity, affordability, cost effectiveness and financial sustainability.

Therefore, the project provides two mobile schools for the poor in Bangladesh, which are set up in converted buses, on the inside decorated as class rooms in a child-friendly

way. The bus drives daily to four or five different mobile school stations in or next to slum areas and remains for three hours at each station. Through this mobile school, a flexible and dynamic learning system in the streets is set up by offering even the poorest children a chance to study. 40 children can take part in a class during each shift. Thus, this project gives children, who are unable to attend a regular school, the opportunity to pursue their school education from grade one to five.

Within the last year, a total of 614 students (56% girls, 44% boys) had access to education at the Mobile Quality Schools in Dhaka and Chittagong district, including co-curricular activities such as sports, art classes, swimming classes as well as health check-ups.

This project started in 2018 with the enormous financial support of ZF hilft and the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need (Germany). Since the end of the funding period in 2020, the mobile school buses have continued their regular schooling programme with the financial assistance of the local Orion Group in Dhaka, and the Arif Tanvir Foundation and Orko Healthcare support the Chittagong mobile school for its smooth operation.



Humanitarian Response for Rohingya Refugees

Since the violence began in Rakhine State, Myanmar, in August 2017, about 727,219 Rohingya have fled across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Together with previously displaced people, Bangladesh is currently hosting over 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar district and Bhasan Char Island who rely on humanitarian assistance for food and other life-saving needs.

The influx of the Rohingya has also affected people of the host communities, who had already been considered economically vulnerable and lacking basic services prior to the arrival of the Rohingya refugees. In this context, to ensure a healthy life in the community, this humanitarian response project aims to provide health services, regular medication and follow-ups to the vulnerable Rohingya refugees as well as to the host community, with a special focus on pregnant women and persons with disabilities.

To contribute to the survival and the protection against risks of the beneficiaries, the project has been providing necessary medicine distribution and lifesaving medical treatments at health posts in Cox's Bazar and a 20-bed government hospital in Bhasan Char. In addition, special health camps for skin, eye, and gynaecological disorders were set up, providing medicine and treatments to 1,666 Rohingya patients. The Cox's Bazar's health team served 15,351 patients during the reporting period, including 4,540 females, 6,465 children and 4,346 males while the Bhasan Char Rohingya Camp provided patient screening support to 15,625 patients including 8,281 females, 3,906 males and 3,438 children.

The project also organised psychosocial counselling as well as awareness-raising sessions during patient screenings to help overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasising cleanliness, hand washing, masks, hygienic sanitation, and water purification. Around 3,450 refugees were reached through these activities.

Furthermore, sports equipment was provided to Rohingya youth, aiming to enhance their physical and mental development. To provide livelihood skills training for refugee women, a training centre was established at Bhasan Char Camp, which aims to strengthen creativity, capacity, and self-esteem. Therefore, 20 Rohingya refugee women were equipped with sewing machines in order to start their businesses and thus improve their livelihoods and support their families financially. During the reporting period, 17 training batches with 20 participants, altogether a total of 340 girls and young women, participated in this training.

HOPE'87 expresses its gratitude to its partner, the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need and to the donor ZF hilft for their valuable support and cooperation.



Humanitarian Support to Cold Wave affected People

On January 18th, 2023, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department reported a cold wave sweeping over various districts, including Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh divisions and Tangail. The weather remained dry but very cold, and night and day temperatures remained nearly unchanged. The cold wave caused crop losses and long-term negative impacts on Bangladesh's economy. Fog covered roads and highways, disrupting ferry services, ports and air traffic schedules. The people who were most vulnerable to this cold wave were the underprivileged and poor in rural areas, with women, children, and the elderly being the most affected.



To help these people overcome the cold wave, HOPE'87-Bangladesh distributed blankets to 1,000 most affected families as well as food packages to 500 vulnerable female-headed households and their children, including soybean oil, noodles, toasted biscuits and Vaseline. According to the project plan, the project team assessed the cold wave-affected areas and listed the most vulnerable families in the targeted areas of Dhaka city slum areas, Challanbil areas under Tarash Upazilla of Sirajganj district, Bhatgram Union under Sadullapur Upazila of Gaibandha district and the Chittagong city slum areas. The distributions took place through the HOPE'87 night school and mobile quality school programmes.



INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

Government Authorities

- Mr Mahfuzar Rahman, Additional Commissioner for Refugee Relief and Repatriation (Deputy Secretary), Bhasan Char Rohingya Camp, Noakhali district
- Mr Md. Monjur Alam, Senior Assistant Secretary, Office of the Refugee Relief & Repatriation Commissioner, Cox's Bazar
- Mr Abu Toha M. R. H. Bhuiyan, Health Coordinator, Office of the Refugee Relief & Repatriation Commissioner, Cox's Bazar
- Mr Md. Sarwar Jahan, Assistant Health Coordinator, Office of the Refugee Relief & Repatriation Commissioner, Cox's Bazar
- Mr Sujit Kumar Chanda, Senior Assistant Secretary, Office of the Refugee Relief & Repatriation Commissioner, Cox's Bazar

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Katharina Wieser, Austrian Ambassador to Bangladesh
- H.E. Tasvir Ul Islam, Honorary Consul of Austria to Bangladesh
- Doris Jones, Senior Business Analyst, Austrian Embassy, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA, New Delhi, India

Agencies

- Mr Choudhury Khaled Masood, Managing Editor, The Business Standard, Orion Group
- Mr Reinhard Brazda, Division Manager, VACE Systemtechnik GmbH, Linz, Austria
- Mr Md. Asefur Rahman, Administrative & Finance Officer, Footsteps, Dhaka
- BUILD - a Leading Public-Private Dialogue Platform in Bangladesh
- Mr Shamim Khan, Managing Director, Orko Health Ltd.

NGOs

- Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA)
- Moonlight Development Society

This country's programme contributes directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



PAKISTAN

PROGRAMME: Enhancing access to quality education in emergencies by creating welcoming and child-friendly environments, providing teacher training and promoting blended learning solutions, reducing gender gaps and ensuring gender equality in education by implementing inclusive and equitable practices, addressing socio-cultural barriers and empowering girls through mentorship and life skills training, supporting youth to increase their resilience against the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by offering skills training as well as changing perspectives of migration by stimulating economic development and promoting youth employment through providing income-generating opportunities

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Access for out-of-school Children to Education and Safe Schools in Pakistan (ACCESS) | Districts Peshawar, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, Lakki Marwat, Haripur, Bajaur, Orakzai, Khyber, Mohmand, Kurram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan - Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) | 223,887 | Goals 3, 4, 5 |
| Smart and Intelligent Learning in Education (SmILE) | District Peshawar - Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) | 8,746 | Goals 4, 5, 10 |
| Fighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan (FICP) | District Peshawar - Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) | 2,650 | Goals 1, 4, 8 |
| Changing perspectives of migration - Stimulating economic development and improving employment conditions for Afghan and Pakistani youth (CPSE-1) | Lahore (Punjab province) and Karachi (Sindh province). Beneficiaries from other locations can also join for online training programmes (locations; Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Islamabad etc.) | 650 | Goals 1, 4, 8 |
| Relief, recovery and rehabilitation work for flood affected students | Dera Ismail Khan - Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) | 175 | Goals 4, 5, 6 |

SUMMARY

Pakistan ranks 161st out of 192 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) and 125th out of 163 countries on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Global Rank, having improved by four ranks compared to last year as the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives along with the Federal SDGs Support Unit are actively collaborating with the federal ministries and line departments in order to ensure the effective implementation of the SDGs in Pakistan.

Despite these efforts to improve the situation, Pakistan's youth as well as Afghan refugee children are in urgent need of support to be able to attend school and get quality education also in situations of emergencies. Therefore, HOPE'87 together with its partners has been implementing five projects within the last year that provide access to education for out-of-school children and quality education for secondary school students. They also improve the employment conditions for and enhance the skills of Afghan and Pakistani youth in order to increase their income as well as their resilience against the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE AND REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR CENTRAL & SOUTH(EAST) ASIA

Muhammad Shoab HAIDER -
Civil Engineer

ACTIVITIES

Access for out-of-school Children to Education and Safe Schools in Pakistan (ACCESS)

The aim of the ACCESS project, which has been successfully completed, was to provide access to education services to out-of-school children, promote quality education, improvement in learning outcomes of students and to strengthen the capacity of government institutions with a focus on the elementary grades level of education. By focusing on creating a child and girl-friendly environment and training teachers, the project worked towards reducing dropout rates and improving learning outcomes of students.

The project has achieved great results, some of which are: 153,101 out-of-school children (of whom 75,995 are girls) have been newly enrolled, including 30,048 Afghan refugees (of whom 12,887 are girls) who are now studying in a safe and secure learning environment; 1,742 Afghan students (of whom 852 are girls) have been enrolled in 12 low-cost private schools through education voucher schemes and have been provided with school uniforms, bags, books, shoes and stationery items; 1,107

new community schools/learning spaces have been established for out-of-school children in areas where formal educational infrastructure was previously unavailable or inaccessible due to unsafe routes and they have been equipped with furniture, school supplies and teaching learning material (TLM); 14,117 school teachers (of whom 6,132 are women) have been trained in quality education, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).

The project was co-funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and implemented jointly with the Elementary & Secondary Education Foundation (ESEF)/National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and the Merged Areas Education Foundation (MEF), to which all HOPE'87 expresses its gratitude!

Smart and Intelligent Learning in Education (SmILE)

The SmILE project aims to deliver high-quality education to secondary school students in the district of Peshawar, province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aligning with the goals of the Education Sector Plan and the Sustainable Development Strategy 2019.

So far, the key achievements of the project have been the establishment of 21 smart classrooms in seven public schools, the provision of enhanced learning environment to more than 8,799 students (6,094 girls/women) from grade 6 to 10, including setting up the schools on a learning management system for in-school offline and online usage at home, enrolling users, and offering mentoring support to teachers; the training of 170 school teachers (of whom 122 are women) in the learn smart classroom system with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively implement the learning management system; a refresher training of 163 teachers; the training of 169 students (of whom 142 are girls) as IT squad to assist teachers to effectively use the digital learning solution in the classrooms as well as the organisation of student sessions. These have the aim of raising the awareness among students about the various features and functionalities of the smart classroom platform in order to familiarise them with the utilisation of the learn smart classrooms to be able to continue their education also remotely from their homes.

HOPE'87 expresses its gratitude to the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Ministry of Elementary and Secondary Education (MoE&SE), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for co-funding this project as well as to the consortium partner Knowledge Platform for their invaluable support and collaboration.



Fighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan (FICP)

The aim of this project is to enhance the competencies and skills of Afghan and Pakistani youth in order to increase their income in response to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project is co-funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Government of Austria and is being implemented in the district of Peshawar, province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

As key achievements of the project, the following activities have been carried out so far: 2,650 Afghan and Pakistani youth were identified for skills enhancement and livelihood development and 2,151 were provided with two months specialised skills training in the fields of digital skills, arts and crafts, marble mosaic design, 21st century skills education, skilled worker for construction and renovation, tailoring and embroidery and a bio-technology course for the medical lab (basic as well as advanced); a three days training was conducted for Afghan and Pakistani youth on team building, strategic time management, mental health, psycho-social support and sustainable livelihood approaches; five days of training were held for 746 Afghan and Pakistani youth on the development of business plans and marketing strategies, budgeting and financial projection; incubation support was provided to 1,320 Afghan and Pakistani youth through mentoring, the provision of fully equipped work stations and the assistance in developing products, gigs and samples, in

mobilising resources, converting ideas into products and services as well as in finding internships and jobs; 26 exposure visits were arranged for the trainees in order to enhance their understanding of various businesses and their operations, serving as a practical learning experience and allowing the trainees to see the real-life business scenarios and interaction with industry professionals; furthermore, shared working spaces were provided for different skills with the necessary tools for income generation.

HOPE'87 expresses its appreciation to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection as well as to the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their generous support and co-funding of this project.





Changing perspectives of migration - Stimulating economic development and improving employment conditions for Afghan and Pakistani youth (CPSE-1)

This project is implemented by HOPE'87 together with the Foundation for Youth Employment Pakistan (FYEP) and is co-funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria, Microsoft and McKinsey & Co. It aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions and empower Afghan and Pakistani youth by providing comprehensive training-to-placement programmes, with the target to train 650 young people in the programmes Junior Full Stack Developer, Freelance and Retail Sales Associate.

So far, the key achievements of the project have been the mobilisation of activities to raise awareness about the programmes amongst students of universities and other individuals through publicity on the websites of FYEP and NeXskill, the No 1 Digital IT Training Institute in Lahore and social media channels as well as targeted community outreach to disadvantaged groups; the organisation of focus group discussions with students, alumni and instructors of the International Institute of Entrepreneurship to inform about the programme curriculum and the target learner profile; the development of an online freelancing programme by engaging two local small and medium enterprises to support the compilation of the curriculum by providing

localised, industry-specific information; the

organisation of 15 days of "Train-the-Trainer" training with instructors of selected institutes for training, 7 days of "Train-the-Mentor" training and 7 days of training with the project manager and coordinators to acquaint them with the systems and programme tools, the recruitment process for the programme and the data requirements at each stage of the programme lifecycle; as well as the training of 83 youth (of whom 42 are girls) in a freelancing programme at a successful graduation rate of 86%. Upon completion of the training phase, graduates moved into the apprenticeship phase of the programme, which concluded in August 2023. Learners were also surveyed by the end of the training phase to share their views on the programme quality and their personal satisfaction with the content, showing quite encouraging results as 85% of the learners shared that they were highly satisfied or satisfied with the programme, 84% of the learners were satisfied with the curriculum and 81% of the learners were highly confident or confident with their ability to achieve their professional goals. A total of 130 learners have been enrolled in the Junior Full Stack Developer programme, 35 have been enrolled in the Retail Sales Associate programme and 65 learners (Afghan Refugees) have been enrolled in the freelancing programme.

Relief, recovery and rehabilitation work for flood affected students

The devastating 2022 floods in Pakistan resulted in widespread destruction and loss of life. With 1,739 fatalities, including 647 children, and around eight million people displaced, these floods have marked the deadliest natural disaster in the country since 2010. This project aimed to rehabilitate the flood affected school "Government Girls Community Model School Thatha Baluchan" in the district Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has 170 girl students and five teachers, by restoring the school to a functional state in order to provide an improved educational environment and enhance the learning process for its students. The project was implemented by HOPE'87 and co-funded by ANT Hiroshima (Japan).

The floodwaters demolished the school's boundary wall, damaged furniture, books, and school records and left sludge in the premises. To rehabilitate the school, several activities were undertaken to restore the school to its functional state, including cleaning of debris, removal of mud and sludge, the repair of damaged benches, replacement of broken window glass as well as whitewashing of six rooms, the veranda, boundary walls, doors and windows.

The school has now regained its functionality and resumed regular classes, bringing happiness to the students, teachers and the community. The students now have clean and safe classrooms to sit in and learn as well as clean drinking water, which ensures the students' well-being. Moreover, the learning and teaching processes have been enhanced, enabling a better educational experience for the students. The rehabilitation of the "Government Girls Community Model School" in the District Dera Ismail Khan has thus marked a significant milestone in the post-disaster recovery efforts. Through the dedicated efforts of the project team and the support of various stakeholders, the school has undergone a remarkable transformation, providing an improved learning environment for the students and fostering a sense of hope and resilience within the community. 170 female students and five teachers, who previously faced challenges and disruptions due to the flood damage, have now returned to the school, eager to resume their education in a safer and more conducive environment.



INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS PAKISTAN

Government Authorities

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)
- Ministry of Interior (MoI)
- Economic Affairs Division (EAD)
- States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP (ESED)
- Elementary and Secondary Elementary Foundation KP (ESEF)
- Merged Area Education Foundation (MEF)
- Directorate of Elementary & Secondary Education (DoE&SE)
- Directorate of Professional Development (DPD)
- Directorate of Curriculum and Teachers Education (DCTE)
- Rescue 1122
- School Safety Cell
- Private Schools Regulatory Authority (PSRA)
- Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR)
- Planning and Development Department (P&DD)
- Creative Innovative Unit (CIU), KP
- Directorate of Science and Technology (DOST), KP
- Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR)

Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Andrea Wicke, Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan
- H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria
- H.E. Ambassador Riina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan

Agencies

- Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
- Delegation of the European Commission to Pakistan (Europe Aid Office)
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Organisation (ECHO)
- European Union (EU)
- United Nations Office for Coordination and Humanitarian Assistance
- UNICEF- Pakistan
- United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS)
- Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
- Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria

NGOs

- Comprehensive Health and Education Forum International - CHEFI
- Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF)

Private Sector Partner

- Knowledge Platform
- Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences)

This programme contributes directly to the achievement of the following SDGs:



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

PROGRAMME: Emergency aid for refugees from Ukraine with special attention to women, boys, girls and people with special needs seeking protection in the Republic of Moldova as well as addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through strengthening socially disadvantaged small farms engaged in agriculture in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova

| PROJECTS | LOCATION | N° OF BENEFICIARIES | SDGs |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Together in the fight against the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova and Burkina Faso, a multi-country Burkina Faso and Moldova project | Countrywide | 2,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 17 |
| Humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova | Countrywide | more than 44,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, 17 |
| Support to Ukrainian refugees, mainly women, boys and girls in the Republic of Moldova | Chisinau, Balti and Falesti | more than 8,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, 17 |
| Creating an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova | Countrywide | 4,500 | Goals 1, 4, 5, 16, 17 |
| Promotion of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova through gender mainstreaming in family and education institutions | Countrywide | 10,000 | Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17 |
| Educational training programmes and activities on responsible consumption in the Republic of Moldova | Countrywide | 2,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 17 |
| Psychical recovery and reintegration into social life for children and youth suffering from cancer in the Republic of Moldova | Countrywide | 3,000 | Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 17 |
| Conservation and encouragement of cultural expression in the agricultural sector of rural communities in the Republic of Moldova | Countrywide | 2,000 | Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 17 |

SUMMARY

Following the Russian invasion of the Ukrainian territory in February 2022, many Ukrainians fled their country to seek shelter in the Republic of Moldova. The longer the war continues, the more people leave and the smaller are the hopes of returning to their home country. For more than 80,000 Ukrainians, the Republic of Moldova constitutes, if not forever, a country of long-term stay. However, the Republic of Moldova, being one of the poorest European countries itself, cannot cover the numerous needs of the refugees on its own, which are both immediate and long-term. Along with the many refugees arriving and staying in the Republic of Moldova, the inhabitants of the country have been dealing with difficulties, especially socially disadvantaged small farmers in rural areas who are still struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their livelihood.

Therefore, HOPE'87 together with its partners has been implementing significant agricultural projects designed to support the smallholder farming system affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as humanitarian aid projects. These have been targeting refugees who have fled from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova so they can resume their lives and get new perspectives for their future. The help provided by the projects is not only very much welcomed by the refugees, who often express their gratitude towards the international sponsors of the projects, but also by the Moldovan government.

CHAIRPERSON OF SPERANTA 87, AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOPE'87 NETWORK

Dumitru DRUMEA



ACTIVITIES

Together in the fight against the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova and Burkina Faso

This innovative social project, which is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, supports people involved in agricultural projects in rural areas. The aim is to ensure the access of Moldovan farmers to regional and international markets by training them in accounting skills, environmental legislation and organic farming. As part of the project, an online platform was created to promote small-scale farming to bring together groups of producers in order to reduce logistic costs and form effective pricing. The project is implemented especially in the region of ATU Gagauzia and is targeting around 300 members of the agricultural community, including families, people with disabilities, and young people living in rural areas.

The key goal of the project was to establish sustainable cooperation between producers, consumers and government regulators. This includes creating alternative trade opportunities, contributing to the creation of production cooperatives, strengthening consumer protection and quality control of farm products on subsistence farms in rural areas. The focus is on the socially unprotected population without sufficient capacity for self-financing and the formation of a consumer protection system for food; the introduction and development of advanced agricultural technologies to increase the rate and amount of production and improving their quality to the level of world standards; increasing the added value and economic efficiency in the value chain of agricultural products as well as increasing the income of agricultural producers and reducing the poverty level in rural areas.

The following agricultural sectors were included: viticulture, grain crops, nut farming, cattle breeding, bee keeping, poultry farming, vegetable growing, greenhouse farming, horticulture, dairy processing, almond growing, mushroom growing and condiments production, along with other side activities.

Humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova

With the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the Republic of Moldova has become one of the main destinations for the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees, 90% of which are women and children. Due to the large number of displaced people entering the Republic of Moldova, an urgent humanitarian emergency situation has arisen. HOPE'87 together with its local partner organisation SPERANTA 87 Moldova was among the first organisations to start its humanitarian aid project for the Ukrainian refugees in April 2022.

In the beginning, the refugees needed any kind of help as they were lacking mainly everything due to their abrupt departure from their home country. Thanks to the prompt action of HOPE'87 and SPERANTA 87, the refugees could quickly be provided with the essential goods they so urgently needed, reaching over 35,000 beneficiaries within the first nine months of the crisis alone.





In order to identify all the refugees in need, the team of SPERANTA 87 travelled across the Republic of Moldova and established contact with refugee organisations as they knew where the refugees lived and helped gather them for the distribution of humanitarian aid supplies. This way, also refugees in more remote areas could be identified and so far, more than 44,000 Ukrainian refugees living or transitioning through the Republic of Moldova have been provided with ready-made meals and other food items. These include tea, wheat, cereals, sugar and vegetable oil as well as with non-food items, including hygiene products, washing powder, school material, educational games and toys, baby

products, sets of clothes for children and youth and first-aid kits, containing a variety of the most common medicines like paracetamol, ibuprofen etc. and medical products like plasters. The project team further organised events for the distribution of humanitarian help on special occasions such as the Children's Day and the first and last days of the school year. During these events, over 2,000 children were provided with humanitarian support.

Another focus of the project is to provide psychological help to the women refugees through a psychologist who regularly accompanies the team of SPERANTA 87 to talk with the beneficiaries about the issues they are facing. Special attention is given to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence (GBV) and information is provided about the relevant aid organisations and hotlines the women can turn to in case of abuse.

A further important factor is to help the pets of the Ukrainian refugees to whom they are psychologically attached to and who faced a lot of stress while fleeing the country. Therefore, the project also provides help to animals in the form of food and vitamins.

Our gratitude goes to the YOU Foundation - Education for Children in Need and its partners RTL - Wir helfen Kindern, Deutsche Postcode Lotterie, ZF hilft and the Rotary Club Neuss as well as the many private donors.

Support to Ukrainian refugees, mainly women, boys and girls in the Republic of Moldova

The aim of the project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), was to provide Ukrainian refugees with essential food and non-food aid, focusing on women, boys and girls from different backgrounds in the towns of Balti, Falesti and Chisinau.

The project began in May 2022 and ended in August 2023. During these 16 months, the team managed to reach and support more than 8,000 Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova. Of these, 45% were women aged between 18 and 60, 25% were children aged between 0 and 14, 20% were teenagers aged between 14 and 18 and 10% were elderly people or men. Beneficiaries received basic food items, including ready

meals, fruit, milk and fruit juices, as well as daily hygiene products such as shampoo, toothpaste and household products, and school supplies. To illustrate the scale of the action, the local partner SPERANTA 87 supervised the preparation and distribution of more than 60,000 portions of ready-to-eat meals.

The goods were distributed both inside and outside the reception and accommodation centres, as a considerable number of refugees live in private accommodation and often receive no assistance.

To enable refugees to express their gratitude to donors, SPERANTA 87 organised a drawing competition entitled "Ukraine, Austria and Moldova - peace forever". As part of the competition, children from families who had received aid demonstrated their artistic talent by drawing pictures. SPERANTA 87 will make these drawings available to donors. In addition, these drawings were presented to UN organisations active in Moldova during SPERANTA 87's activities.

We would like to thank the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for generously funding this humanitarian aid project for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

Creating an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova

Since Russia started a war against Ukraine in February 2022, millions of people have fled the Ukraine, looking for a safe haven in other countries. The Republic of Moldova along with Poland are hosting the largest number of refugees, of which the majority are women and children.

An effective and equitable humanitarian assistance for refugees cannot be achieved without understanding and responding to their gender and age-related needs and constraints as well as to the risks they face due to pre-existing gender norms, stereotypes and unequal power relations. Therefore, the humanitarian response and resilience building efforts must ensure that the different situations, needs, priorities and capacities of affected refugees and host community populations of all genders, ages and diversities, including the most vulnerable and marginalised population groups, are considered and addressed when designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating humanitarian assistance.

That is why HOPE'87 with its local partner SPERANTA 87 Moldova and in close cooperation with UNESCO realised the educational project "Creating an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Moldova", which includes seminars, training and special literature with the objective of forming children's, parents' as well as teachers' resilience in times of war-related crisis. The purpose of the seminars and training is to inform pupils and parents how to cope with the challenges of war stress, how to adapt to new conditions when separated from family members and how to avoid abuse and exploitation. They also inform teachers how to work with refugee children in conditions of war-related crisis and how to avoid abuse and exploitation of refugees.



Promotion of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova through gender mainstreaming in family and education institutions

Despite the Moldovan legislative framework for equality between women and men being in line with international commitments, implementation lags behind, and women still face discrimination and inequality in social, economic, and political life, lacking effective opportunities for participation in decision-making in public and private sectors. 40.59% of the members of Parliament are women, 21.83% of mayors, 36.51% of local councillors, and 27.08% of district councillors - which is far below international standards and the country's commitments under the nationally and internationally agreed goals. Gender-based violence is also still widespread in the country and has even been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The strategy for ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2017-2021 and the Action Plan on its implementation include the intervention areas family protection and education. These focus on the need for gender awareness of the specialists in the field of education with the aim of minimising the influence of gender stereotypes in the choice of profession. Therefore, the development of education services sensitive to the needs of girls and boys in connection with family issues is an important precondition in promoting and ensuring gender equality within society.

During the last years, progress has already been recorded in the field of engendering education through different programmes and projects that focused on gender awareness of students and teachers at a general level, at high school level as well as at vocational education level. HOPE'87 together with UNESCO also implemented different activities dedicated to the topic of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova. These include meetings and discussions with teachers and students from secondary and high school classes, as well as the development, publishing and disseminating of educational-informative materials. Despite this progress in the field, the government and civil society organisations pointed out several gaps in gender equality promotion that still exist.

In this regard, an international conference dedicated to families and education through gender lenses was organised on May 11th, 2023. The conference focused on the role of families and family-oriented policies in promoting education of boys and girls and explored the connection between the role of families in gender roles, education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. It further highlighted the importance of all caregivers in families, be it parents, grandparents or siblings and the importance of parental education for the welfare of their children. It focused on good practices for a work-family balance that assists parents in their educational and caregiving roles and on gender education in schools and universities.

Educational training programmes and activities on responsible consumption in the Republic of Moldova

The goal of this project is to facilitate responsible consumption practices in the Republic of Moldova through educational training programmes and thus contribute to the improvement of the state of the environment.



The project started with the preparation of the situation analysis on the current state of consumption in the development regions of Moldova (North, Centre and South) with the collection of data on the main consumption patterns of the population. The team of HOPE'87 visited these regions, met with local communities and held consultation meetings with local public and sectoral authorities and other stakeholders in order to identify the main expectations from the educational and training activities and subsequently develop proposals and recommendations on social and economic development, health issues as well as the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

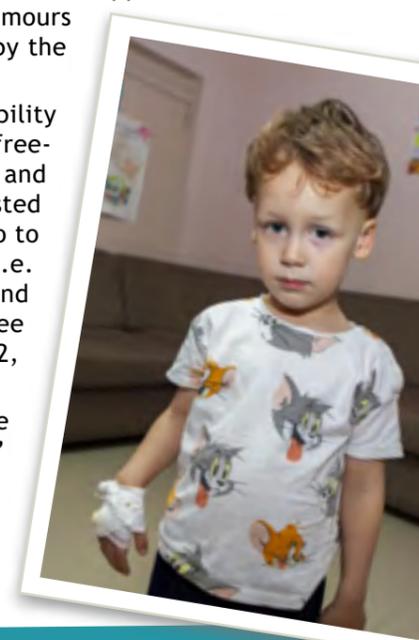
Furthermore, lectures, presentations and training on responsible consumption were organised in all administrative units of the Republic of Moldova, reaching around 1,000 people. These activities included the discussion of the current situation in regard to the use and consumption of different products, goods and technologies, an estimation of the use of natural and cultural heritage to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the development of nutrient reduction measures aimed at social and economic development as well as proposals for planning of local agendas.

Psychical recovery and reintegration into social life for children and youth suffering from cancer in the Republic of Moldova

From 2010 to 2013, the project "HOPE for the children of Moldova - establishment of a bone marrow transplantation unit and an educational unit for long-term hospitalised children in the Institute of Oncology in Chisinau" was implemented. The objective is the support of the physical recovery of children and youth suffering from malignant tumours and their reintegration into social life. This project was then co-financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and UNESCO.

In order to ensure the long-term social, institutional and financial sustainability of the project, a solution had to be found to further guarantee an access free-of-charge for all children-patients to the services of the Education Centre and its medical facilities. Therefore, a "sustainability-guarantee" was requested from the government of the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure and also to be able to demand at a later stage accountability of the relevant partners, i.e. the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finances and the Institute of Oncology, regardless of any electoral changes. This guarantee was finally given with the Government Decision No. 471 of July 2nd, 2012, published in the official journal of the Republic of Moldova.

The follow-up-project "Psychical recovery and reintegration into social life for children and youth suffering from cancer in the Republic of Moldova" was implemented by HOPE'87 together with its local partner SPERANTA 87, in cooperation with the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova. The project beneficiary



- the Institute of Oncology of the Republic of Moldova - is located in the capital Chisinau.

As a follow-up in this domain, HOPE'87 and SPERANTA 87, in close cooperation with the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, developed and published an information and methodological guide with the title "Practical recommendations on how to work with children and youth suffering from cancer" for psychologists, educators, teachers, parents, volunteers and the staff of the Institute of Oncology.

Furthermore, the National Conference "10 Years of Activities. Achievements and Aspirations" dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Educational Centre for children on long-term treatment at the Institute of Oncology was organised on March 23rd, 2023. Among many other participants, it was attended by H.E. Maia Sandu, the President of the Republic of Moldova and Mr Robert Ottitsch, Secretary General of HOPE'87.

Conservation and encouragement of cultural expression in the agricultural sector of rural communities in the Republic of Moldova

The main goal of this project is to preserve traditional agricultural practices of rural communities and encourage cultural expression in the agricultural sector in order to make them available to the younger generation, promote an inter-generational dialogue and prepare recommendations for a win-win solution that, on one hand, preserves cultural traditions and on the other hand improves local governance.

Specifically, the project contributes to the analysis of current opportunities to preserve and encourage local cultural traditions in the field of traditional animal breeding practices, the facilitation of public activities such as education, training, public lectures and presentations on relevant case-studies of the field as well as to more efficient local governance and regional and local cooperation through the compilation of proposals and recommendations for further cultural development based on gender, environmental, research and educational issues.

The beneficiaries of this project are the local public, including especially vulnerable groups of the population (youth, women, elderly people etc.), civil society, sectoral authorities, rural communities and private households, universities, colleges, research institutions and museums and the Ministry of Culture as well as relevant NGOs dealing with the matter of cultural conservation.

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- H.E. Felicia Bechtoldt, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
- H.E. Irina Vlah, Boscan (Prime Minister) of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia
- Ms Olesea Tonasoglo, Deputy of the Boscan of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and responsible for Social and Education Issues
- Ms Natalia Cojocar, Director, Investment Agency of Gagauzia
- Ms Olesea Kovric, Deputy Director, Investment Agency of Gagauzia
- Prof. Constantin Rusnac, Secretary General, National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO
- Ms Angela Cutasevici, Vice Mayor for Education of Chisinau Municipality, Former State Secretary in Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Research of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr Igor Șarov, Rector of the State University of Moldova
- Ms Valentina Chicu, adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova in the field of education and research
- Mr Ruslan Baltaga, Director, IMSP Institute of Oncology
- Ms Irina Certan, Director of the Centre for refugees "Patria - Lukoil", Chisinau

- Mr Tambur Veaceslav, Vice President, Falesti, Office of the chairman of the district
- Ms Olga Nastas, Rezeni, City Hall, Social assistant
- Ms Maria Sirbu, Straseni, City Hall, Secretary
- Ms Nadejda Krjanovskaia, City Hall, Representative
- Mr Nikolai Grigorishin, Mayor of Balti
- Mr Tudor Gorea, Vice president of the Olympic Committee of the Republic of Moldova
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Diplomatic Representatives

- H.E. Ambassador Stella Avalone, Ambassador of Austria to Moldova
- Mr Gero Stuller, former Attaché for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection at the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau
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