

15 YEARS
OF HOPE
2002-2017

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Empowered people transform the world.



VISION**HOPE**



VISION**HOPE**

OUR VISION

Empowered people transform the world.

OUR MISSION

Together, we work with local communities to create sustainable solutions in the world's most difficult regions.

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of Vision Hope,

If you followed the events of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region) in 2017, one message seemed to be clear: give up hope. Over 10,000 civilians were killed in the war in Syria, 2,300 of them children. Thousands of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries found themselves forcibly deported back to Syria, and child marriage as a coping measure for extreme hardship rose. In Yemen, over 50,000 children died as a result of the conflict and its ensuing devastation to the country; cholera outbreaks, starvation, and the ever-present threat of land mines and war-related violence have turned Yemen into the world's greatest humanitarian catastrophe. Over 20 million Yemeni people — most of them children — are in need of life-saving emergency assistance.

These figures are not just numbers to us. They are the reasons why we continue to labor in the Middle East and North Africa to bring a message of hope. Despite the devastation, we are fulfilling our mission. Here are some of the highlights of 2017:

- Nine Tunisian youth, who were previously not engaged in education, employment, or training, opened their own businesses.
- Refugee children at the Family Centers in Jordan showed an 80% decrease in trauma symptoms.
- All of the schoolchildren at the Family Centers passed their classes.
- The Family Center in Manshia, Jordan expanded its reach by purchasing a bus; more women and children now participate in activities there.
- The Maternal Hospital in Ariha, Syria provided care to nearly 34,000 patients, 40% more than initially planned.
- An ambulance was purchased for the Maternal Hospital to enable women and children in acute distress to obtain emergency healthcare.
- Twenty women in Syria's Idlib Governorate were trained as community health workers so that the hospital can expand its services into isolated villages.
- A Cash for Work program in Yemen helped rebuild communities damaged by the war while providing an income to vulnerable families.
- A derelict orphanage in Yemen, which was no longer able to even provide food for the children in its care, was provided with a monthly supply of food. Children who had been forced to leave were able to return.

One of the Yemeni children who was able to return to the orphanage, after being exploited for child labor in a neighboring country, said, "When Vision Hope came to help us, we started to feel secure and that hope is still there. They brought hope to all the orphans." In this annual report, you will read many stories of people who found hope in 2017 after receiving assistance from different projects. They remind us that despite the crises in the MENA region, there is always the capacity to help people rebuild their lives and find hope for the future.

2017 was a difficult year for this region, but we choose to continue believing in the restorative power of hope.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthias Leibbrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and 'L'.

Matthias Leibbrand
Chief Executive Officer
Vision Hope International

A LETTER FROM PROF. DR. DR. THOMAS SCHIRRMACHER

Dear Friends of Vision Hope,

Perhaps nothing is more essential to man's being than hope. More than two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Plato claimed that hope, "the expectation of something good," was a definition of human existence. Emil Brunner, a Christian theologian who saw the devastation of Europe's two world wars, said, "Hope is to human existence what oxygen is for the lungs. Without oxygen, the patient dies from asphyxiation. Without hope, one suffers from the suffocation of despair, the paralysis of one's spiritual vigor due to a feeling of nothingness, of the absurdity of life."

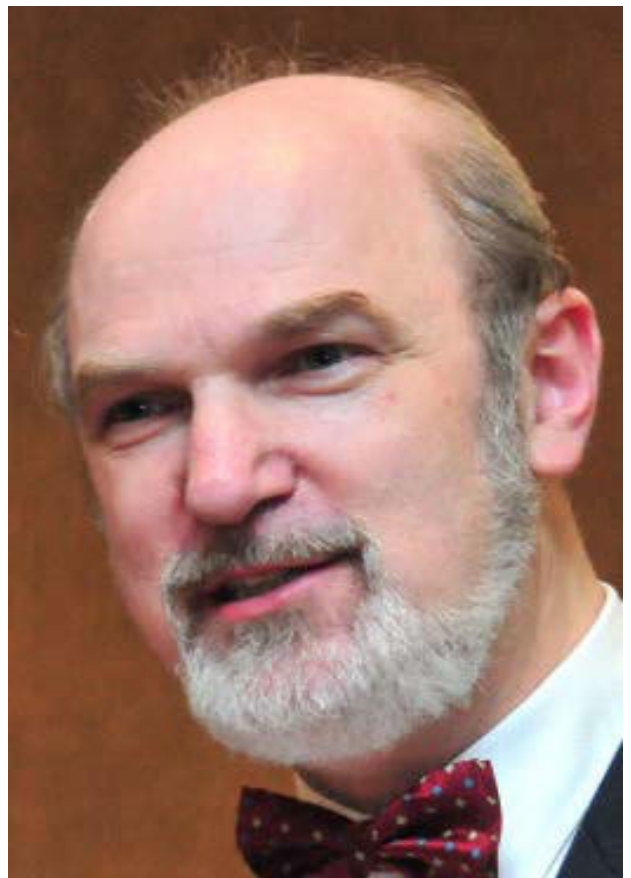
I thank Vision Hope for its vision to change societies in despair by changing the situation of men and women, of families and villages, by giving them hope for the near future, on which hope and power to change the wider future can be built.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Schirmacher

** President, International Council, International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt)*

** Ambassador for Human Rights and Associate Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance (New York, Bonn)*

** Director, International Institute for Religious Freedom (Bonn, Cape Town, Colombo, Brasilia)*





OUR STORY

Vision Hope International was founded in 2002 by Matthias Leibbrand after he saw the success of humanitarian projects that he had worked on in Yemen. He and some colleagues were inspired to form an organization, and in 2002, Vision Hope was officially registered in Kenzingen, Germany.

The founding of Vision Hope marked the beginning of a remarkable story in bringing together humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, and cooperation with local communities. Since 2002, Vision Hope has built a reputation for compassion and dedication to humanitarian work and for successful execution of complex projects. The organization continues to engage a growing number of enthusiastic supporters, local communities, and government bodies by collaborating with them in the field of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

OUR FOCUS

We are passionate about people. Empowering our beneficiaries with a new perspective and the ability to achieve a better life encourages and inspires us.

A young boy with dark hair and a serious expression is the central figure. He is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt under a tan, multi-pocketed vest. He is carrying a brown jacket over his shoulders. He is walking through a crowd of people, including a woman in a black hijab and a blue patterned headscarf, and a man in a yellow shirt and blue shawl. The background shows a building with blue and white walls. The text "THE PEOPLE WE SERVE" is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Vision Hope works in some of the most difficult areas of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), particularly among marginalized communities that have experienced systemic oppression, exploitation, and other forms of violence. These communities include vulnerable populations, such as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and disenfranchised youth.

Vision Hope develops its projects in partnership with local organizations already working in the communities, and strengthening those organizations remains at the center of its efforts. Local organizations benefit most and serve their communities best when Vision Hope allows them the opportunity to be responsible for the successful execution of the projects.

OUR CORE VALUES

LOVE

Genuine help is more than merely material assistance. We believe that long-term sustainable development is possible only in an environment conducive to positive human relationships that are based on respect, acceptance, and reconciliation.

PASSION

We cannot remain indifferent in the face of human suffering and despair. We fiercely fight misery with dedication and passion, and we celebrate every change for the better.

COURAGE

We operate in the world's most unstable territories despite the adversities and uncertainties present. We encourage others to take a stand against injustice and to support those who cannot help themselves.

TRUST

Authenticity and transparency inspire the way we work. Through open communication, we build the foundation for empathy and mutual trust that creates the optimal condition to resolve future problems and find new solutions together.

DIGNITY

We consider every human being unique, with his or her own inviolable dignity. That is why we strive to encourage and empower every individual with whom we work with the hope for a dignified life.

STANDARDS OF OUR WORK



BETWEEN CONCEPT AND COMPLETED PROJECT

The key element of every project at Vision Hope is the impact, and the strategy of achieving that impact. Once an aim is defined, we develop a project document that continues to serve as a point of reference for duration of the project. Our field staff document the baseline situation through initial needs assessments, baseline surveys, and a basic data collection system. This method allows us to monitor and evaluate the success of the planned project in achieving the intended goal. While the specifics of the goal vary, a central theme is helping beneficiaries in a useful and sustainable way. We emphasize project evaluations. Every experience, whether it be positive or negative, provides a profit of knowledge for the future. We always reference lessons learned from past projects when we begin with the first steps of new projects.

STATUTES IN BRIEF

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AID AND THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE IN NEED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

The association pursues its non-profit purposes in accordance with the German General Tax Code, especially through the advancement of development aid, public healthcare, training and education, youth assistance, and environmental protection. The association pursues its charitable purposes by assisting people in acute distress and supporting those who are dependent on the assistance of others due to their physical, mental, or inner condition.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE STATUTES IS REACHED THROUGH

- Informing the public and advancing activities that build awareness of the problems in developing countries. For this purpose, the association can produce, acquire, and distribute media of all kinds (books, CDs, audio, video, etc.).
- Carrying out initiatives and projects with a non-profit and charitable purpose (for example, in the areas of healthcare; social work with children, youth, and adults; people with special needs; measures for improvement of living conditions and infrastructure; and acquisition and transport of aid supplies).
- Providing help in natural disasters, famine, crop failure, etc.
- Assisting in self-help projects and the advancement of self-initiatives (for example, in the area of income generation).
- Implementing the rights of children, as documented in the relevant UN convention.
- Acting as a mediator for child and project sponsorships.
- Advancing measures for the protection of the environment through consulting the population and through project development (for example, reforestation measures against soil erosion, biotope and species protection, waste management, and development and utilization of alternative energy sources).
- Promoting a sustainable supply of drinking water and environmentally friendly waste-water disposal.
- Construction of sanitary facilities, accompanied by counseling in hygiene.
- Implementing teaching projects for the transfer of knowledge and skills for specific trades (for example, for prisoners and orphans to find work).
- Implementing measures which enable women, in particular, to participate in the national, guaranteed school education system.
- Providing occupational education (for example, computer courses, training courses for tradesmen, etc.) to improve the incomes of local people.
- Providing further training to assist teachers in improving the quality of teaching.
- Instructing on the basics of preventative healthcare and hygiene.
- Training of health personnel (for example, basic health workers and medical birth assistants).

This purpose can also be reached through the acquisition of resources to support other tax-exempted corporations, which facilitate the same goals and purposes.

RESPONSIBILITY

CONTROL AND TRANSPARENCY

People and organizations often question whether their donations towards projects in developing countries are efficiently spent, if budgets are closely followed, if reporting is precise and transparent, and what measures are implemented in order to evaluate the success of projects. Vision Hope keeps these concerns in mind throughout every project.

Proper accounting is often a task that Vision Hope's partner organizations find overwhelming. Therefore, Vision Hope takes on the responsibility for all accounting on the project level or the country office level, according to the guidelines of the donors. The local partner organizations receive advance payments and are required to account for them before they receive additional funds.

EVALUATION AND REFLECTION

Vision Hope's financial reports are audited based on the project activities and budgets, which are agreed upon at the start of the project. The country office and CEO review all receipts and accounting.

Vision Hope uses an internal manual for project control to define organizational processes and procedures.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITING

According to Vision Hope bylaws, its accounting has to be checked by two competent internal auditors appointed by the board. In addition to this internal audit, the accounting is also to be confirmed by an independent external auditing company.

QUALITY STANDARDS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Vision Hope is signatory and therefore subject to the following international quality standards and codes:

- Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Sphere Standards for the implementation of emergency and disaster relief and rehabilitation projects.

Furthermore, Vision Hope follows the 12 basic guidelines of Germany's Coordination Committee for Humanitarian Aid.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ASSOCIATION

Vision Hope International is registered with the local registry of associations (VR 270382) at the city courts of Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. The association was accredited as a non-profit and charitable organization in 2002 by the fiscal authorities in Emmendingen, Germany (Tax ID 05070/50969).

MEMBERS

The vision and mission of Vision Hope are only possible through the support of the association's members. In addition to providing financial donations, Vision Hope's members lend their moral support to every project's staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders. Membership in the association is possible for individuals who are 16 years of age or older, as well as for corporate entities. By the end of 2017, Vision Hope International had 68 members, of which seven members composed the elected board.

MEMBER'S ASSEMBLY

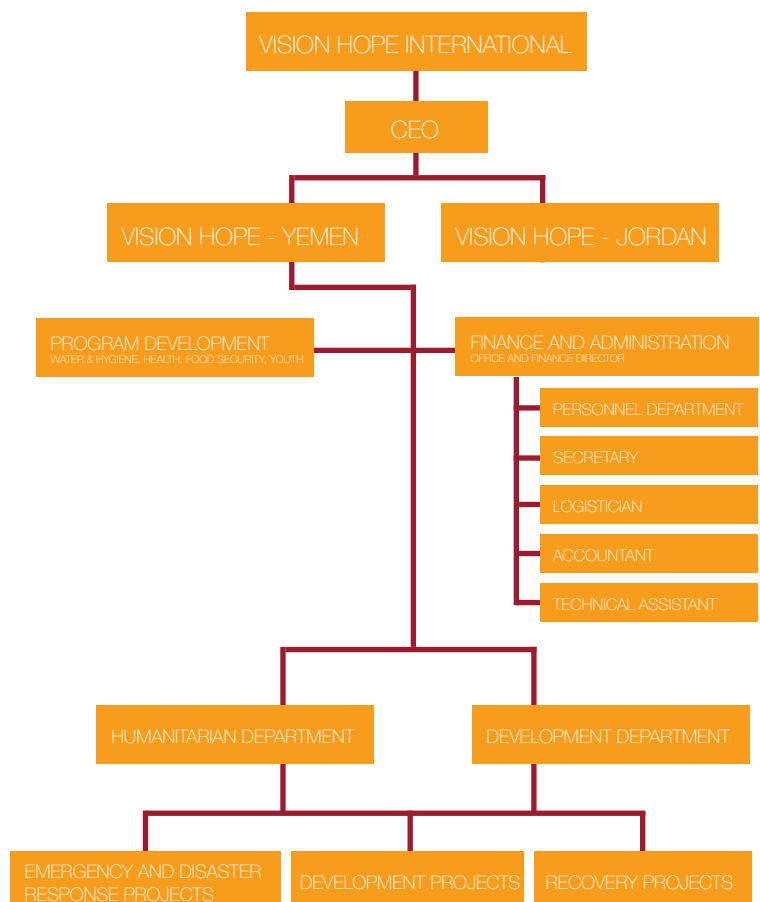
The acceptance of any new member is decided upon by the board following a written application. In case of refusal, the member's assembly will decide on the application. The member's assembly accepts the board's annual report, approves the budget, and elects and relieves the board.

BOARD

The board is responsible for the association's management and functions as its legal and extra-judicial representative. It appoints, supervises, and relieves the CEO. The board of Vision Hope International must consist of at least three and at most seven members: the chairman, his or her deputy, the secretary, the treasurer, and, as necessary, additional members. The board works voluntarily and is re-elected every three years.

COUNTRY OFFICES

As the country offices in their respective project locations largely operate independently, they are able to promptly respond to local developments on the ground. The Vision Hope headquarters in Germany supports the country offices regarding financial issues, quality assurance, and technical consultation during project implementation.



INTRODUCTION TO THE BOARD

Marcus Rose Chairman

Founder, consultant and mentor for NGOs
Berlin, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Long-term development of Vision Hope
- Public relations
- Installation of a wider foundation of volunteers

Marcus.Rose@vision-hope.org

Silvana Höpfner Treasurer

Public Administrator and Business Administrator
Munich, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Budget and Finances
- Internal controlling
- Project Accounting
- Counseling for Social Law

- Silvana.Hoepfner@vision-hope.org

Lars Schärer Secretary

Medical doctor and entrepreneur
Freiburg, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Secretary
- Organizational Development
- Quality Management
- Qualification work and academic cooperations

Lars.Schaerer@vision-hope.org

Rainer Weber Board Member

Rehabilitation Practitioner
Pfalzgrafenweiler, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Public Relations
- Representative for association in Baden-Württemberg
- Strategic Development

Rainer.Weber@vision-hope.org

Gerald Mall Deputy Chairman

Occupational therapist
Mannheim, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Organizing campaigns and charities

Gerald.Mall@vision-hope.org

Matthias Böhning Board Member

Policy Advisor
Cologne, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Strategic Stakeholder Management
- Public Affairs
- Political Communications
- Quality Control
- Fundraising and Donor Relations
- Organizational Development

Matthias.Boehning@vision-hope.org

Jens-Peter Kamp Board Member

Certified Engineer
Emmendingen, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Public relations
- Representative for association
- Strategic development

Jens-Peter.Kamp@vision-hope.org

Matthias Leibbrand CEO

Consultant in humanitarian aid and
development cooperation
Steinheim, Germany

Responsibilities:

- Overall management
- Public relations and fundraising
- Networking with other organizations
- Strategy formation

Matthias.Leibbrand@vision-hope.org

PARTNERSHIPS

UN OCHA

Since 2009, The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has been engaged in Yemen through its offices there, with the aims of coordinating humanitarian aid effectively and providing funding for projects. Vision Hope partners with UN OCHA to implement emergency projects in Yemen.

UN WFP

The World Food Programme, the food and nutrition assistance branch of the UN, has been present in Yemen since 2004 and supports the millions of people affected by the ongoing war. The WFP continues its support for emergency response to malnutrition and food insecurity by funding Vision Hope projects that save the lives of thousands of malnourished and food-insecure Yemenis.

UN WHO

The World Health Organization, the public health branch of the UN, strengthened its action in Yemen to face the second wave of the cholera outbreak in April 2017, which hit 21 out of Yemen's 23 governorates. WHO coordinates humanitarian actions and supports public health projects, including the one that Vision Hope implemented to address the crisis.

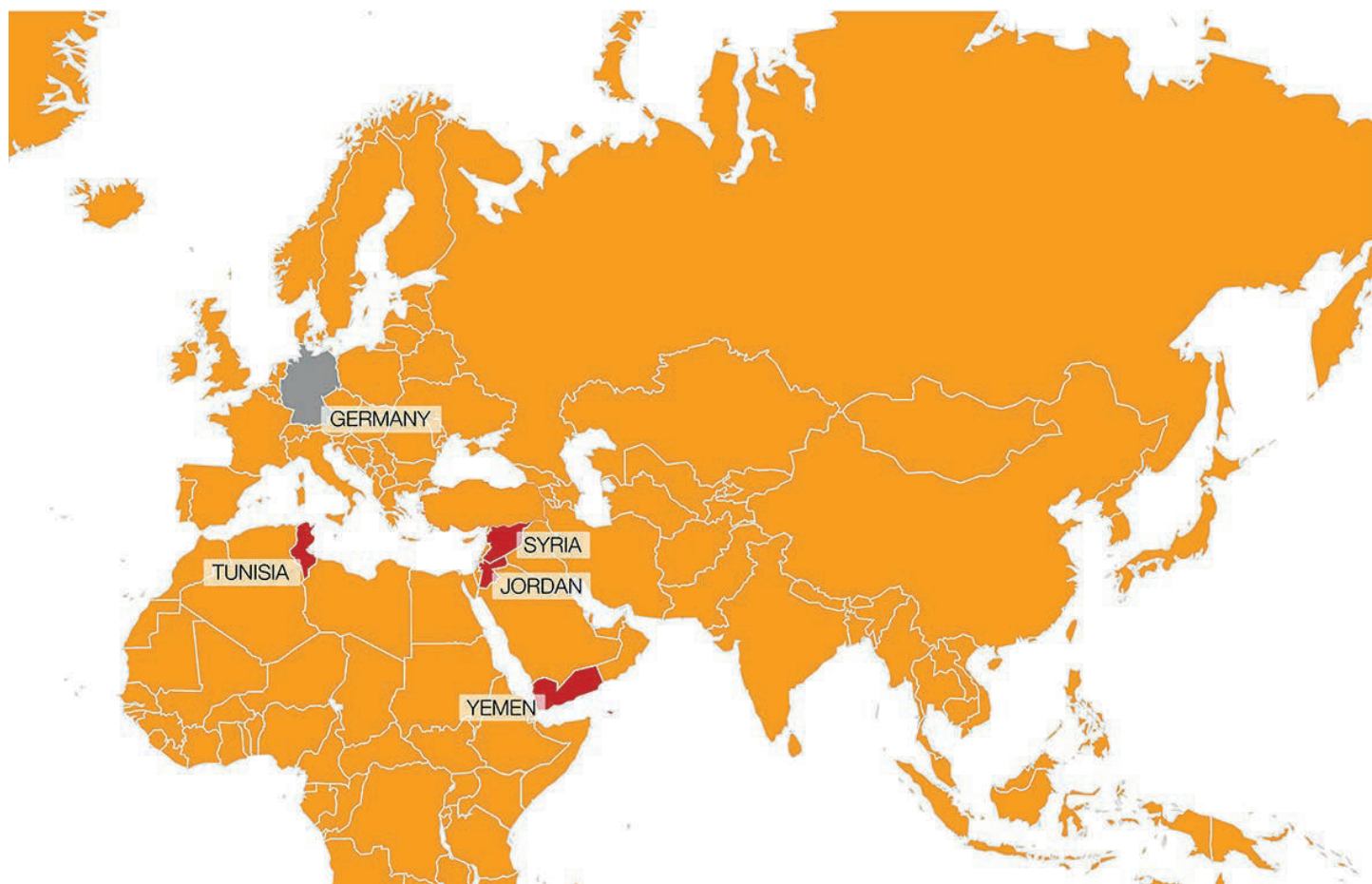
BMZ

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is the branch of Germany's government designated for achieving international development goals. The BMZ continues to support Vision Hope in the implementation of development projects, such as the Family Centers in Jordan and the Youth Development Program in Tunisia.

TEARFUND

Tearfund is an NGO, motivated by Christian principles, that aims to end poverty. It is based in the UK and helps fund Vision Hope projects, such as cholera response and rainwater harvesting.

OUR PROJECT MAP



JORDAN

TUNISIA

YEMEN

SYRIA

GERMANY

JORDAN



Jordan, an oasis of stability in the Middle East, is known for its beautiful landscapes, ancient heritage, diverse population, and warm and hospitable culture. This hospitality extends to 740,160 officially registered refugees that resided in Jordan in early 2018, with estimates of the total number, including unregistered ones, being well over one million. More than 85% are of Syrian origin, having fled the violence and poverty in their home country. Though safe from physical harm, the refugee population faces a wide array of challenges, with the Jordanian government willing to help but lacking the resources to do so to the extent needed. The work of international organizations such as Vision Hope is therefore necessary to contribute to a dignified life for refugees in Jordan.

KINDERGARTEN

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND PLAY-BASED EDUCATION

BENEFICIARIES:	226 children (in 2017)
PROJECT DURATION:	September 2016 to August 2019
DONOR:	Private Donations
PROJECT LOCATION	Manshia, Mafraq Governorate and Karak, Karak Governorate, Jordan
PROJECT BUDGET:	97,500 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Manshia Bani Hassan (Manshia) and Branches of Mercy (Karak)

BACKGROUND

Jordanian society places a strong emphasis on schooling; however, there are few educational opportunities for refugee children. They are five times less likely to attend school than their local peers, and their classes, which are often below the national standard, are sometimes separate from those of Jordanian children. The result of this system is poor social cohesion within communities that host large numbers of Syrians, as well as Syrian children quickly falling behind in their education.

Kindergarten presents an opportunity to intervene and help children get a head start that increases their chances of staying in school and achieve the same educational success as Jordanian children. In addition, transgenerational trauma passed on from parents or caregivers who experienced the violence in Syria can be addressed through play- and art-based curricula and therapy. To these ends, Vision Hope partners with two Jordanian NGOs to implement two Hope Kindergartens in the north and south of Jordan.



- NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FOR 154 CHILDREN
- REGULAR VISITS FROM PEDIATRICIAN AND DENTIST
- PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

KINDERGARTEN

PROJECT OUTLINE

The Hope Kindergartens opened in 2013 (Manshia) and 2014 (Karak), with the help of two local partner organizations dedicated to education, training, and integration of refugees. The kindergartens are based on a Montessori-style curriculum, which emphasizes creativity, interactive learning, and play while also teaching the same essentials as other preschools, such as numbers, letters, and shapes. In addition, therapeutic art activities, psychosocial support, music, structured playtime, and storytelling provide the children with opportunities for psychological growth. The success of the educational measures has prompted wide acceptance of the play-based approach, which was initially viewed with skepticism.

To avoid negative sentiments against refugees and increase interaction between the Jordanian and Syrian population, the services of the kindergarten are offered to children of all nationalities. Syrian refugee families pay a reduced fee, and full scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and provide children from the most severely disadvantaged families with the opportunity to attend kindergarten at no cost.



2017 ACTIVITIES

2017 marked the fourth year since the first Hope Kindergarten opened its doors, and it continues to show the success of the previous years. More than 650 children have attended, 226 of those in the year of 2017. They are provided with pre-primary education – including learning Arabic and English letters and numbers – in a safe recreational place. The activities include songs, music, free play outside and indoors, storytelling, and arts and crafts. Additionally, the children receive psychological support during all activities with an emphasis on play and art therapy. To ensure good physical health, a pediatrician and a dentist visit the kindergartens at least three times per year.

The kindergartens are run by Syrians and Jordanians who attain gainful employment from the project. A team of nine is employed in Manshia and eight in Karak specifically for the kindergarten, which is located in the same facilities as the Family Centers. The communities therefore profit directly and indirectly from the existence of the kindergartens through service provision, job creation, improved social cohesion, high-quality education at very low costs, and economic stimulation through local supply procurements.

FAMILY CENTERS

LIFE SKILLS AND EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BENEFICIARIES:	360 children, 220 young women, 220 mothers
PROJECT DURATION:	September 2016 to August 2019
DONOR:	BMZ
PROJECT LOCATION	Manshia, Mafrqa Governorate and Karak, Karak Governorate, Jordan
PROJECT BUDGET:	555,555 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Manshia Bani Hassan (Manshia) and Branches of Mercy (Karak)

BACKGROUND

The successful implementation of the kindergartens prompted Vision Hope and its local partners to recognize the need for greater inclusion of whole families into its programs. Refugee families have few economic opportunities, often leading to exhausted savings and debt. More and more are adopting severe coping strategies, such as reducing food consumption; withdrawing children from schools; or taking on informal, exploitative, or dangerous employment. In Jordan's rural areas, refugees compete with the local population for water, work, and housing, leading to animosity between the groups.

Many refugee households are headed by male relatives of women whose husbands were killed or imprisoned in the war; these families tend to have more severe levels of trauma and impoverishment, and the males who lead them are sometimes teenage boys. Child marriage is an increasingly common means of coping with high levels of economic deprivation; girls who marry young have vastly diminished potential for staying in school and finding employment and are prone to a repeated cycle of poverty and vulnerability.



FAMILY CENTERS

PROJECT OUTLINE

With different assistance programs designed to help people at all stages of life, the two Family Centers – which are located in the same facilities as the kindergartens – help refugees and poor Jordanians manage the effects of their traumatic experiences, gain life skills, and form bonds among each other to improve social cohesion.

In the After-School Program, Syrian and Jordanian children receive homework help and engage in age-appropriate activities that are designed to help them resolve their traumas and improve academic performance. In the Young Women's Program, girls between the ages of 15 and 25 develop personal and professional competencies through life-skills classes, computer courses, and handicraft activities. These measures improve their psychological well-being and help them achieve greater self-determination, thereby reducing the risk of early marriage.

In the Women's Program, Syrian and Jordanian mothers participate in activities, such as cooking and sewing classes, and receive individual and group therapy. Through the engagement of Vision Hope, a Women's Employment Program was initiated with GFA and GIZ in cooperation with our local partners. This program allows qualified women to receive training and a small grant so that they can earn an income by opening their own businesses.



2017 ACTIVITIES

The first year of activities for the Family Center, after a preparatory phase in 2016, showed great success for all target groups. All participating children reached the required standard for passing in school (compared to 50% before project implementation) and three quarters improved their grades in the main subjects (Arabic, math, and English) by ten percentage points. A psychological evaluation showed a reduction of trauma symptoms by 80%. These indicators show a significant improvement of psychological well-being and academic performance.

All participating young women and mothers also greatly benefited from the Family Center's activities. The classes and therapeutic offers were well-received, and assessments showed substantial improvements in their emotional states, conflict-solving abilities, and self-confidence. Many of the participating women also report the formation of friendships between Syrian and Jordanian women lead to increased understanding of the struggles of the two communities and improved social cohesion.

To ensure that the programs are accessible, a bus at the Manshia Family Center was purchased with a generous donation of €50,000 to provide safe, reliable, and culturally appropriate transportation to the centers to ensure a maximum reach of the programs.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE WITH A BUS

"I want to complete my studies and become a lawyer so that I can defend my family, my community, and my country."

Maram is a teenage girl who fled the violence in Syria with her mother, Fatima, and her sister, Amal; they all now live near Vision Hope's Family Center in Manshia. Because Maram and her sister lacked reliable transportation to get to school, they quickly fell into the passive, home-bound lifestyle that is all too common among refugees.

In order to ensure that Syrian refugees and low-income Jordanians can attend activities at the Family Center, Vision Hope purchased a bus in October 2017. With reliable transportation, the girls began participating in Vision Hope's Young Women's Program. They are now learning valuable life skills and receiving the psychosocial support they need.

"I feel safe in the Family Center. It helped me get rid of the fear and get out of the sadness I was living in. This is a place where I can feel relaxed. I can meet friends. I can learn a lot of things, like computers and how to deal with conflict."

Providing life-skills training and therapeutic support isn't enough to ensure that Maram and Amal can live meaningful, self-determined lives; they needed the opportunity to finish their education. To this end, staff at the Family Center connected the girls with the transportation and financial assistance that they need to return to school. Today, both sisters dream of attending university and becoming lawyers so that they can help rebuild Syria and make it a safe, peaceful place to live.

SYRIA

A close-up photograph of a newborn baby lying in a hospital bed. The baby is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing medical equipment and a white cloth. The word "SYRIA" is overlaid in the top left corner in a large, white, sans-serif font.

The civil war in Syria is one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today and contributes to a higher total number of refugees worldwide than ever previously experienced. Since 2011, the conflict has shown no signs of slowing, peace talks have continuously failed, and the desperate situation on the ground has further deteriorated. Vision Hope is using its expertise to contribute to improving the situation of the most vulnerable people in Syria: women, newborns, and children.

MATERNAL HOSPITAL

STRENGTHENING MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD HEALTHCARE

BENEFICIARIES:	10,352 women, 10,918 children
PROJECT DURATION:	April 2016 to December 2021
DONOR:	BMZ
PROJECT LOCATION:	Ariha, Idlib Governorate, Syria
PROJECT BUDGET:	2.95 million Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Violet Syria, UNFPA

BACKGROUND

Seven years into Syria's civil war, the country's infrastructure — including its previously thriving healthcare system — is destroyed. Most doctors fled at the beginning of the war, leaving the civilian population in a state of crisis. Healthcare facilities are now frequent targets of bombings and other attacks, and Syria is considered the most dangerous country in the world for medical providers. The people most in need of healthcare are civilians, who often must travel long distances through war zones to access the services they need. Vision Hope prioritizes providing accessible, life-saving healthcare to women, newborns, and children in areas where healthcare structures were severely damaged due to the war.



MATERNAL HOSPITAL

PROJECT OUTLINE

To implement a means of sustainably providing healthcare within Syria, in April 2016, Vision Hope and the NGO Violet Syria, in cooperation with the Idlib Health Directorate (IHD), began rehabilitation of an abandoned building in Idlib Governorate to transform it into a hospital. They completed the rehabilitation in July 2016, and the Violet Maternity Hospital now has been providing care to an average of 900 women and 910 children every month since its inception; these numbers include 220 childbirths, with 50 of these deliveries being Cesarean section. In addition to addressing acute needs, such as delivering babies, the hospital provides preventative treatments, such as laboratory tests; incubator care for newborns; medications; and an ambulance service.

To provide care in more remote areas, Vision Hope and Violet Syria trained 10 community health workers to provide care in a decentralized manner and educate the population about important health topics, such as pregnancy and caring for newborns.



2017 ACTIVITIES

The number of beneficiaries in 2017 reflects the great success of the Maternal Hospital project in Syria. An average of 2,800 consultations were conducted each month, three times the number of patients when the hospital first opened in 2016 and 40% more than anticipated for 2017. The hospital provided life-saving obstetric and pediatric care, such as normal deliveries, cesarean deliveries, incubator care, and vaccinations, to the most vulnerable women and children.

Vision Hope provided funds to support and train 68 healthcare and administrative staff so that they can continue to provide high-quality, professional healthcare to civilians in Idlib Governorate. It also helped equip the hospital with important medical devices, including hospital beds, ultrasounds, incubators and monitors, sterilization units, and a laboratory. Because Syrian buildings frequently experience power cuts, it helped the hospital purchase two emergency power generators and a solar panel. Critically, Vision Hope purchased an ambulance so that the hospital can reach people who are in emergency situations.

A medical training center was created with the long-term goal of training the staff in the implementation of a decentralized health system so that the hospital can expand its reach. In coordination with UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities), twenty women received a scholarship and training to become community health workers. An additional 10 women will undergo a training to become midwives in 2018. These qualified women will be able to provide care directly to communities that are isolated from healthcare structures.



BRINGING HOPE TO SYRIA

When 18-month-old Hasan's parents brought him to the Violet Maternal Hospital, they had little hope. As the war ravaged not only the Syrian healthcare system but also the economy, many civilians — including Hasan's parents — now have no money to pay for the little healthcare that still exists. The Violet Maternal Hospital, though, provides quality care to all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

After making the dangerous 10-kilometer journey through a war zone to reach the hospital, the toddler had a high fever and was delirious. Laboratory tests and X-rays confirmed a diagnosis of blood infection and pneumonia, both of which are life-threatening conditions.

Hospital staff began to treat Hasan immediately. He remained in the hospital for a month while doctors and nurses worked tirelessly to provide him with the care that he needed. Today, Hasan is a happy and healthy two-year-old, and his parents cannot express enough gratitude for the kind and professional care that he received.

TUNISIA



In Tunisia, youth have long been marginalized from social participation. They are not recognized as responsible and active citizens, and their opinions carry little weight. Even after the Jasmine Revolution – which removed many legal barriers to youth participation in civil society – powerful cultural barriers still remain. Widespread unemployment, poor social integration, and overall disenfranchisement create attitudes of apathy and passivity, which make youth likely to enter a cycle of poverty, but also vulnerable to radicalization.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BENEFICIARIES:	700 Youth
PROJECT DURATION:	September 2016 to August 2018
DONOR:	BMZ
PROJECT LOCATION:	Tunis, Tunisia
PROJECT BUDGET:	200,000 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Nour al-Hayat

BACKGROUND

Seven years after the Arab Spring brought about a new government in Tunisia, many people are disillusioned with their prospects and the change that the revolution actually brought. A lack of economic opportunities has stymied promised reforms, and the first generation of youth to come out of the revolution has faced high unemployment. A lack of job opportunities means that even well-educated people are unable to find gainful employment. Among highly-skilled youth between the ages of 15 and 29, the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 45%. They are socially and economically marginalized due to a lack of participation opportunities, and their voices are often unheard.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT OUTLINE

In Greater Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, Vision Hope partners with the local NGO Nour al-Hayat and various community-based organizations to lead youth development programs for the most severely underprivileged youth who are not in education, employment, or training. In those programs, the youth learn valuable life skills, including career planning, CV and cover letter writing, job search skills, and teamwork and leadership skills. Through the program, they are empowered to overcome their social and economic problems by developing sustainable, income-generating activities. Using the skills they learn, they carry out civil society initiatives that they design and implement themselves. Rather than retaining apathetic and passive attitudes or embracing radical ideologies, the youth become better integrated into civil society and have opportunities for social and economic development.

Out of the 700 program participants throughout the project duration, an independent committee selects 25 to receive training and coaching with the goal of developing their own employment plans. They have the opportunity to apply for small business grant aiming at either starting their own small projects or securing specific training that allows them to get a job or an internship. These measures not only generate incomes for the participants, but also have the potential to contribute to the country's economic growth.



2017 ACTIVITIES

In 2017, a variety of activities — targeting youth and the capacity of the local NGO — took place. In Training of Trainer measures, 20 youth trainers were prepared for conducting youth development programs. Additionally, 20 educators were trained on the experiential learning approach and animation skills needed to teach the targeted young people.

298 young people participated in youth development activities and received training, which increased their employability, improved their life skills, and provided them with hope and perspectives for their future. Several of the participants have already succeeded in securing employment. 216 youth participated in civil society activities, and many others have started volunteering in community-based organizations or founded their own informal youth clubs. In contrast to their former, passive lifestyles, they are now actively engaging in civic life and contributing to their communities.

In cooperation with a local association, 12 youths were selected to develop an employment plan and received continuous coaching throughout the process. Out of those, nine participants started their own projects, one is now employed, and two have completed an internship, showing an impressive success of the program.



YEMEN

Yemen, the poorest and least developed country in the Middle East, is in the midst of a humanitarian catastrophe. The armed conflict that spread across the country in March 2015 turned into a proxy war, with air strikes and blockades from other countries further fueling tribal and sectarian violence among Yemenis. Targeted destruction of waterways and food supply routes, widespread outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, chronic malnutrition, and a destroyed economy have caused an estimated 21 million people – 80% of the population – to now be in need of humanitarian assistance.

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

BENEFICIARIES:	29,177 households (175,062 individuals) monthly average
PROJECT DURATION:	January 2017 to December 2017
DONOR:	World Food Programme (WFP)
PROJECT LOCATION	Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	6,472,366 Euro

BACKGROUND

Yemen is facing a humanitarian crisis on an enormous scale; after over two years of fighting, the country is on the brink of famine. Over 60% of the population has had to adopt emergency survival techniques to deal with a lack of food, and over 40% routinely go to bed hungry. Children in particular are affected by high levels of malnutrition and starvation. The widespread food insecurity and acute malnutrition are mainly caused by increasing levels of poverty and severe political instability.

Hajja is the governorate hosting the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) - nearly 376,000 in 2018; this high number places a very large burden on the already vulnerable host communities. Hodeidah is under similar pressures, with more than 104,000 IDPs residing in the governorate. As a result, food security in these areas is in an emergency state.



- 20 COMMUNITY MOBILIZERS HIRED
- 10 DISTRICTS TARGETED
- 14,313.82 MT OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

PROJECT OUTLINE

Since 2012, Vision Hope has partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to implement food security and nutrition projects in Yemen. In 2015, it partnered with local NGOs, councils, and community leaders to respond to the WFP's call to provide emergency food assistance in Hajja Governorate, where it covered seven districts. The following year, when the situation worsened, Vision Hope expanded its coverage to include three districts within Hodeidah Governorate.

The 2017 Emergency Food Distribution project built on Vision Hope's previous successes in providing emergency food aid to severely food-insecure households in Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates. The project only targeted the most vulnerable people who have no source of income or means of accessing food, as well as child and maternal cases of acute malnutrition.

WFP trucks transported food to Vision Hope warehouses, from which it was distributed to 36 distribution points throughout Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates. Beneficiary selection occurred through Food Assistance Committees (FAC), which were run in villages by local councils and leaders who were encouraged to take ownership of the project. Through the FACs, Vision Hope distributed the food rations — which consisted of goods such as legumes, flour, and oil — to selected beneficiaries once a month at the distribution points in the 10 targeted districts in the Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates.

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Emergency Food Distribution Project had the goal of improving food security for households in conflict-affected districts of Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates.

The project worked mostly through preexisting community networks. Twenty community mobilizers, tasked with registration and identification of beneficiaries, acted as liaisons between beneficiaries, community-based organizations, and the project team to ensure the targeting criteria of the emergency food distributions were applied in a transparent manner. Three members for each of the six districts were selected as community mobilizers, with an additional two hired by Vision Hope to lead the community mobilizer team.

Beneficiaries received distribution cards to appropriately identify them at food distribution points. To take into account safety issues for female-headed households, time schedules were adjusted to meet the needs of women.

Some of the districts did not receive scheduled transports of food for some months because of conflict-related challenges. However, the goal of improving food security for targeted households was met, as 34,510 families received monthly rations of food.



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

REBUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BENEFICIARIES:	2,500 Families
PROJECT DURATION:	November 2017 to June 2022
DONOR:	BMZ
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	4,000,000 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Solidarity Social Foundation for Development (SSFD) and National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR)

BACKGROUND

Due to the prolonged war, agriculture in many parts of Yemen has been decimated. Thousands of small farmers in Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates have had to sell off 70% to 100% of their livestock, from which they derived both their nourishment and their livelihoods, in order to meet immediate needs. As a result, they now have severely limited diets and few to no income possibilities. Many of these farmers no longer have the means to buy the seeds or equipment that they need to produce nutritious food, and food insecurity is now a normal part of life for many Yemenis. In rural areas, entire villages have poor Individual Dietary Diversity Scores (IDDS) and Minimal Acceptable Diet Scores (MADS), and the percentage of the population at risk of starvation is 70% — 13 million people.



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

PROJECT OUTLINE

One of Vision Hope's most important values is sustainability. The provision of emergency food aid is sometimes necessary, but unsustainable and will, in the long term, increase dependence on humanitarian organizations, decrease farmers' incentives to grow food, and erode the population's resilience. The Food Security and Agriculture Project is a sustainable solution that addresses food insecurity in rural villages by empowering families to meet their own dietary needs and provide for themselves a livelihood through farming.

Vision Hope's Food Security and Agriculture Project equips rural households with seeds and agricultural equipment for the purpose of agricultural expansion, as well as animals like hens, goats, and sheep for the purpose of meeting dietary and livelihood needs. The animals not only provide essentials like eggs and milk but also reproduce, thereby further improving the food security and livelihoods of the farmers and the wider communities.

Because the Food Security and Agriculture project is aimed at creating a sustainable food supply and source of income, the project reduces food insecurity and restores the autonomy and dignity of targeted communities. The people's dependence on foreign aid is decreased, while their IDDS and MADS improve.



2017 ACTIVITIES

As this is a multi-year project that began in 2017, activities done in 2017 focused on preparations necessary for the project to be successful. Vision Hope determined that it will work with two local NGOs — SSFD and NFDHR — to implement the project, and all concerned parties signed the necessary agreements for working together. Together, they planned trainings that will strengthen the capacities of SSFD and NFDHR so that they will continue to be successful in implementing projects in Yemen. Vision Hope also began coordinating agreements with the concerned government bodies, such as the agriculture office, in order to get necessary permits and approval.

Additionally, representatives from Vision Hope, SSFD, and NFDHR made several field visits to rural areas of Hajja and Hodeidah Governorates to begin the process of nominating which villages should benefit from the project. The necessary implementation procedures were completed in such a manner that the project can be successfully implemented.

HAJJA ORPHANAGE

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS

BENEFICIARIES:	85 orphans and 9 staff members
PROJECT DURATION:	February 2017 to January 2018
DONOR:	Donations from Vision Hope supporters
PROJECT LOCATION	Hajja Governorate, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	28,152 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Hajja Orphanage

BACKGROUND

Yemen's civil war, which began in March 2015, led to the collapse of the country and an estimated 50,000 children becoming orphans. Many of these orphaned children are severely traumatized because they experienced live shelling, aerial bombardments, and even watched their family members die. Yemeni orphanages, such as the Hajja Orphanage in Hajja City, previously relied on government support to provide food, shelter, and education to orphaned children. However, with the collapse of virtually all of the country's infrastructure and social services, as of December 2015 the government no longer provides support for orphans. There was no money for essentials, including staff salaries or food; as a result, many children were forced onto the streets or moved to live with relatives that were too poor to care for them.



HAJJA ORPHANAGE

PROJECT OUTLINE

In September 2016, the situation at Hajja Orphanage became so dire that it no longer had the capacity to care for the children, and the staff asked those with living relatives to leave. Thirty-five of the children had no relatives and, because the orphanage had no resources, had to stop attending school so that they could beg for food on the streets. Going door-to-door begging for food resulted in many children being harassed; some of them developed negative coping strategies such as theft. When Vision Hope began supporting the orphanage in February 2017, its condition was deplorable: there was no food, water, or electricity, and the staff had been working without salaries for over a year.

Vision Hope provided essential food support to the orphanage on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, as well as the salary for a cook, thereby enabling the children to return to school instead of begging. Children who were previously asked to leave the orphanage were able to return and benefit from better nutrition and a stable food supply.

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Hajja Orphanage project had two goals: to provide the orphanage with enough food for 85 children and to limit the leakage of children from the orphanage due to lack of food.

As the Hajja Orphanage is a social service that is historically run by Yemen's government, Vision Hope coordinated its activities with both the orphanage's administration and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Vision Hope trained the orphanage staff on how to carry out the project and selected an orphanage employee to serve as project supervisor.

Getting quotes on the price of food and other supplies enabled the supervisor to make the necessary purchases at the lowest possible cost. He carried out ongoing supervision, such as recording the amount of food and supplies in stock and maintaining a database on the number of children receiving care at the orphanage.

Both project goals were accomplished. Vision Hope secured a stable supply of food throughout the duration of the project, and the number of children living at the orphanage increased from 30 to 79. At one point, Hajja Orphanage provided care to as many as 85 children.





RESTORING HOPE AMONG ORPHANS

Yassin, who turned 14 in 2017, lived at the Hajja Orphanage with his two brothers after his father succumbed to an aneurysm and his oldest brother died in the war. The brothers were happy at the orphanage, but when the administration said that the orphanage could no longer provide food, Yassin left to go live with his uncle. Though Yassin was only 12, his uncle convinced him to go work in Saudi Arabia, leading to what he called the hardest period of his life.

When Yassin learned that Vision Hope was supporting the orphanage and there was food available, he decided to return. He said, "I don't worry anymore about food. Vision Hope provided us with food and also with hope. Before, no one cared about us; no one felt our suffering. When Vision Hope came to help us, we felt that hope came to all the orphans."

MATERNAL & CHILD NUTRITION

PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF TO MALNOURISHED CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND NURSING MOTHERS

BENEFICIARIES:	18,447 children and 10,436 pregnant and nursing mothers
PROJECT DURATION:	January to December 2017
DONOR:	World Food Programme (WFP)
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hajja and al-Mahweet Governorates, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	338,902 Euro
PROJECT PARTNERS:	Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population, Hajja Governorate Health Office, al-Mahweet Governorate Health Office

BACKGROUND

The devastating consequences of Yemen's war — including manipulation of food supply routes and blockades of Yemeni ports — have caused high numbers of people, especially IDPs, to experience moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), who have high nutritional needs, are facing especially dire consequences of MAM, and SAM; many are no longer able to eat and must be fed nutritional supplements until their conditions stabilize. In cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), Vision Hope started the Maternal and Child Nutrition Program in Hajja and al-Mahweet Governorates in July 2017, through which it provides nutritional supplements to treat cases of MAM for children under five, as well as blanket feeding for children under 2 and PLWs.



- 54,212 CHILDREN TREATED
- 16,411 WOMEN SUPPORTED
- RATES OF CHILD AND MATERNAL MORTALITY REDUCED

MATERNAL & CHILD NUTRITION

PROJECT OUTLINE

The Maternal and Child Nutrition Program reaches women and children with MAM in some of the hardest-to-reach areas of Hajja and al-Mahweet Governorates, with seven and three districts targeted, respectively.

People with advanced MAM must be treated in a health facility, as their bodies are no longer capable of digesting food; however, many Yemeni health facilities sustained severe damage as a result of the ongoing war. In cooperation with the WFP and the health offices of Hajja and al-Mahweet Governorates, Vision Hope implemented a local, community-based program to manage and treat cases of MAM. It provided supplies and trained health workers and community nutritional volunteers to screen for malnutrition, hand out food supplements to women and children who could be treated without a healthcare professional, and refer the most severe cases — including cases of SAM — to supported health facilities. Additionally, it provided blanket feeding for PLWs and children under two in order to prevent the development of malnutrition.

Because of the damage that many health facilities sustained, Vision Hope coordinated with the Hajja Governorate Health Office to provide them with food supplements for the worst cases of MAM, training on how to treat these cases, technical support and capacity-building, and financial incentives, as many healthcare workers are no longer being compensated for their work. The result has been fewer cases of MAM, reduced rates of child and maternal mortality, children having the opportunity to grow and develop, and PLWs being able to better care for their children.

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Maternal and Child Nutrition project had two goals: to save lives by reducing acute malnutrition among nursing mothers and under-five children in Hajja and al-Mahweet Governorates, and to provide technical support and capacity building to health facilities so that they can target and treat MAM.

Vision Hope worked to strengthen the capacities of 73 targeted health facilities so that they could implement blanket feeding programs for cases of MAM. Capacity-building efforts focused on training of staff and support of outpatient therapeutic programs so that they can target MAM through supplementary feeding programs, and preparing the health facilities to receive, register, treat, follow-up, and monitor cases of acute malnutrition.

Beneficiaries with MAM received Plumpy'Sup, a nutritionally dense peanut-based supplement, and wheat soya blend plus (WSB++). Field officers conducted supervisory visits to the families to ensure that they were using the supplements correctly and to raise awareness for preventing recurrence of acute malnutrition. Beneficiaries still suffering from acute malnutrition after four months were referred to a hospital to detect the underlying cause of malnutrition.

The project's first goal was accomplished, as under-five children that were treated for MAM experienced a 75% recovery rate and the mortality rate fell below 1%. The project's second goal was accomplished, as the targeted health facilities implemented the necessary supplementary feeding programs.

EMERGENCY CHOLERA RESPONSE

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CHOLERA

BENEFICIARIES:	16,376 suspected cholera cases
PROJECT DURATION:	February 2017 to November 2017
DONOR:	Yemen Humanitarian Pool Fund of UN OCHA, Tearfund UK
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hajja Governorate, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	1,307,402 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Implemented by Vision Hope

BACKGROUND

In 2016, because of the war, the Yemeni government stopped remunerating public-sector personnel; unpaid health and sanitation workers went on strike, leading to a build-up of trash and human waste in city streets. During the rainy season, the accumulated refuse seeped into the water supply, causing epidemics of deadly water-borne diseases, most notably cholera. Targeted destruction of water and health infrastructure through air strikes, the collapse of the government and economy, and severe malnutrition led to Yemen's cholera outbreak being the worst in recorded history, with over one million cases and 2000 deaths in 2017. Within Yemen, the cholera epidemic hit Hajja Governorate particularly hard; compared with the national average, people living in Hajja Governorate have a 50% greater chance of contracting the disease. Because of the severity of the epidemic and its previous experience with the local communities there, Vision Hope implemented its cholera response in this Governorate.



EMERGENCY CHOLERA RESPONSE

PROJECT OUTLINE

Critically, Yemen's failing healthcare system has led to cholera spreading as a healthcare-associated infection. Because many of Yemen's healthcare facilities lack the equipment and institutional knowledge to adequately clean and sanitize treatment areas, patients at these centres who are being treated for other ailments are at a high risk of contracting cholera. Additionally, many health facilities in Hajja Governorate lack the medications, consumables, and knowledge necessary to respond to the needs of cholera patients.

Vision Hope identified health facilities in five districts in Hajja Governorate, then expanded to an additional nine districts to cover a total of 56 facilities. It supported these facilities by equipping them with all needed equipment, establishing diarrhea treatment centers and providing chlorine, oral rehydration solution, cleaning supplies, medicine, and water trucking. In each facility, Vision Hope representatives trained the staff on case management, infection control, chlorination, and cleaning for the health workers and cleaning staff.

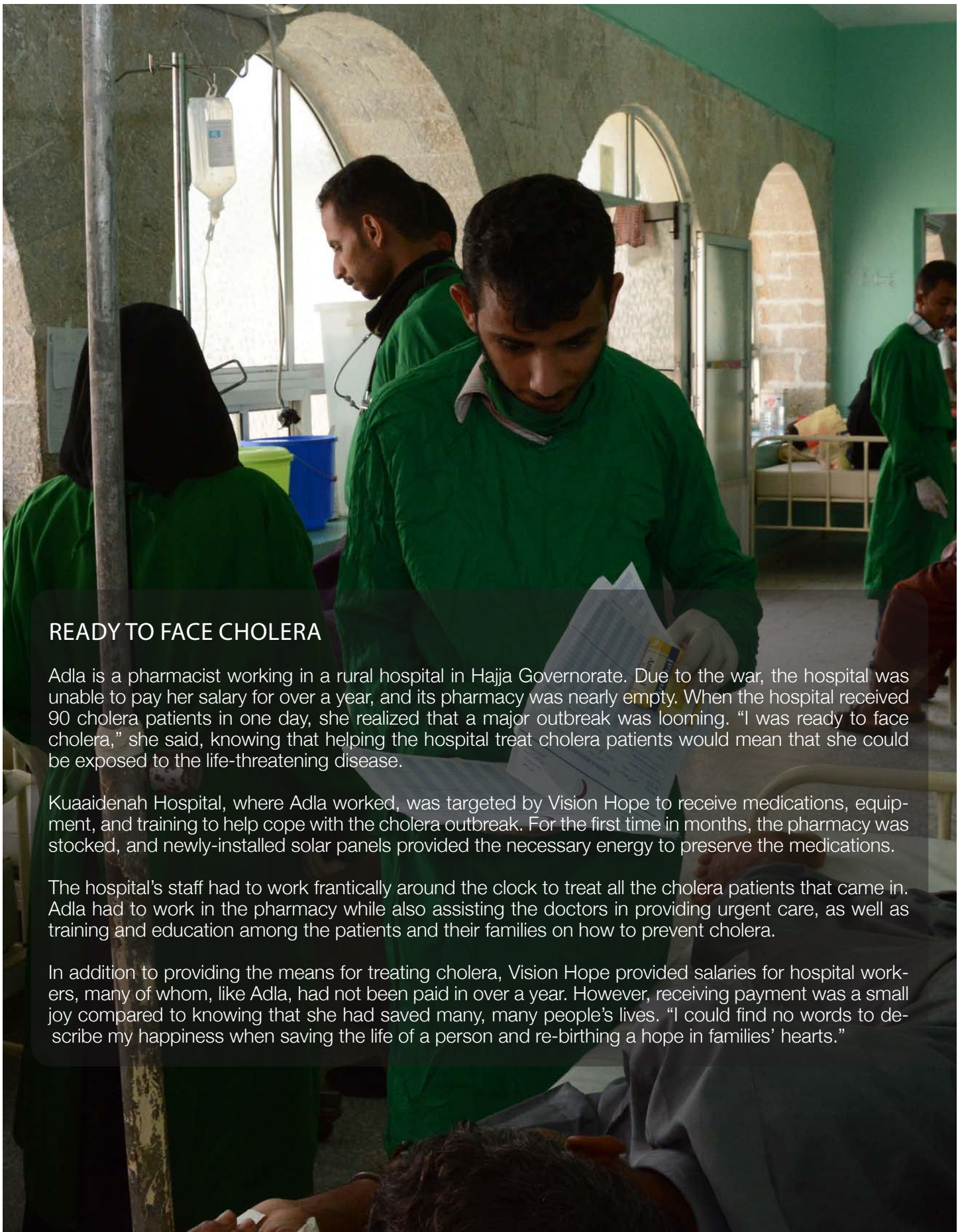
Vision Hope trained 20 community hygiene promoters to visit households throughout Hajja Governorate and educate families on cholera prevention. The promoters equipped families with cholera prevention kits, which provided essentials to meet basic hygiene needs and reduce cholera transmission; these essentials included soaps, detergent, jerry cans, and chlorination tablets.

2017 ACTIVITIES

The goal of the cholera response project was twofold: to support 17 health facilities (initial goal) to treat cholera and to provide hygiene kits to 50 households in the community of every person with a confirmed case of cholera.

Vision Hope conducted four sessions of training on cholera prevention, treatment, and case management, as well as the importance of WASH and chlorination, for 119 health workers from 56 health facilities in Hajja Governorate, thereby far exceeding the initial target of 17 facilities. It also selected 20 skilled Hygiene Promoters to travel to remote villages in the targeted districts in order to educate cholera patients and their relatives, as well as distribute cholera prevention kits. Half of the group of hygiene promoters were female to make an effort to reach women. These training and education efforts resulted in a sufficient level of readiness of health facilities and health workers to address the cholera outbreak, as well as increased knowledge among local populations on how to prevent cholera.

To build up the capacities for the targeted health facilities so that they can treat cholera cases, Vision Hope provided the following medicines: 15,000 bottles of Ciprofloxacin 500mg; 15,000 bottles of Doxycycline 100 mg; 2,500 bottles of Erythromycin syrup 125 mg; 2,500 bottles of Erythromycin syrup 200 mg; 15,000 of Naldexac acid, 30,000 of Tetracycline 500 mg, 5,000 tablets of Zinc and 10,000 of oral rehydration solution. It also provided medical equipment, including gloves and syringes. To ensure proper cleaning and thereby mitigating the spread of cholera within the health facilities, it provided chlorine kits and cleaning materials and also established 200 foot- and hand-washing stations. The targeted health facilities saved the lives of cholera patients because they were able to get help quickly instead of having to travel to health centers that are far away. Additional cholera cases were prevented because of the improved cleaning and sanitation at the health facilities and the cholera prevention kits distributed. The project was therefore executed successfully, and both of the goals were accomplished.



READY TO FACE CHOLERA

Adla is a pharmacist working in a rural hospital in Hajja Governorate. Due to the war, the hospital was unable to pay her salary for over a year, and its pharmacy was nearly empty. When the hospital received 90 cholera patients in one day, she realized that a major outbreak was looming. “I was ready to face cholera,” she said, knowing that helping the hospital treat cholera patients would mean that she could be exposed to the life-threatening disease.

Kuaaidenah Hospital, where Adla worked, was targeted by Vision Hope to receive medications, equipment, and training to help cope with the cholera outbreak. For the first time in months, the pharmacy was stocked, and newly-installed solar panels provided the necessary energy to preserve the medications.

The hospital’s staff had to work frantically around the clock to treat all the cholera patients that came in. Adla had to work in the pharmacy while also assisting the doctors in providing urgent care, as well as training and education among the patients and their families on how to prevent cholera.

In addition to providing the means for treating cholera, Vision Hope provided salaries for hospital workers, many of whom, like Adla, had not been paid in over a year. However, receiving payment was a small joy compared to knowing that she had saved many, many people’s lives. “I could find no words to describe my happiness when saving the life of a person and re-birthing a hope in families’ hearts.”

RAINWATER HARVESTING AND SANITATION

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BENEFICIARIES:	303 households (2,020 individuals)
PROJECT DURATION:	July 2017 to February 2018
DONOR:	Tearfund UK, Cornerstone Trust
PROJECT LOCATION	Hajja Governorate, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	237,354 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Solidarity Social Foundation for Development (SSFD)

BACKGROUND

Prior to the outbreak of Yemen's war in 2015, its water supply was so stressed that some experts predicted it would be the first country to run out of usable water. Many farmers drilled wells that are hundreds of meters deep, causing severe depletion of groundwater, and clashes over diminishing water resources killed approximately 4000 people per year.

The civil war plunged the country into a water emergency. Air strikes and other attacks deliberately targeted the water infrastructure, and a lack of fuel means that water pumps for wells are now unusable. Destruction of the water supply led to water scarcity becoming a driver of the conflict; additionally, lack of clean water coupled with poor hygiene and sanitation awareness caused outbreaks of preventable diarrheal diseases, such as cholera.



RAINWATER HARVESTING AND SANITATION

PROJECT OUTLINE

In remote mountain areas of Hajja Governorate, women and girls frequently travel four hours or more each day to collect water for their families. They are unable to attend school or engage in other empowering ventures, and collecting water outside of their villages further stresses the water supply. However, precipitation is sufficiently high — 400mm per year — to harvest rainwater.

In collaboration with a local NGO, Solidarity Social Foundation for Development (SSFD), Vision Hope built eight water cisterns in Hajja Governorate through the Rainwater Harvest and Sanitation Project (RWHS). The cisterns sustainably provide water for a total of 303 families who run small farms. RWHS is not intended to be a temporary solution, but rather it fundamentally addresses the critical issue of water scarcity.

To ensure sustainability, Vision Hope trained local water-user committees to encourage the correct usage and maintenance of the cistern. Additionally, Vision Hope trained eight hygiene promoters to educate local families about hygiene standards, proper use of water filters, general water hygiene, and water storage, as well as to distribute water filters. Their efforts help ensure that drinking water is clean and reduce the potential for deadly outbreaks of diarrheal diseases.

2017 ACTIVITIES

The RWHS project had the goal of improving the supply of clean water to rural villages in Hajja Governorate.

In cooperation with SSFD, RWHS built on Vision Hope's previous successes in addressing the water needs of rural locations in Yemen. The project targeted eight villages by building in each one a cistern to harvest rainwater; each cistern can hold 400 square meters of water. In addition, Vision Hope and SSFD trained hygiene promoters to distribute water filters and educate families about water hygiene, and also formed water-user committees to ensure proper use of the cisterns by the villagers. In order to maintain the cleanliness of the water, Vision Hope and SSFD rehabilitated 103 toilets and built 200 dry toilets with a sewage system.

The implementation of this project faced several challenges, many of which were due to the state of war in Yemen and inaccessibility of the targeted villages. These challenges included - as mentioned - difficulty accessing the villages, rises in commodity prices and exchange rates, additional time needed for construction, and a late rainy season. Despite the challenges, the overall goal of improving the supply of clean water was met, as 303 families now have access to clean drinking water year-round.



“FOR THE FIRST TIME I WAS ABLE TO HELP OTHERS”

Waleed is a 35-year-old man who survived a spinal fever when he was only two years old. The illness left him with a disability in which the right side of his body is weak and atrophied. Stigmas associated with disabilities meant that, despite his abilities in construction, he rarely found work and often had to rely on his father to provide financially for him, his wife, and his daughter. When the ravages of Yemen’s civil war came to his village, his father was no longer able to provide financial support because he no longer had a salary.

When Waleed made an offer to contract with SSFD to build a cistern in his village, his application was given preference because SSFD prioritizes helping those with disabilities achieve higher levels of independence. For most of Waleed’s life, he has had to rely on others to help him, but by constructing the cistern in his village, he was able to contribute to his family and his community. Despite his disability, the quality of the construction that he provided is one of the highest in the history of SSFD, and he is now seen as an active member in his society. He proved to his community what people with disabilities can achieve, and proved to himself and his family that he can provide for them.

CASH FOR WORK

REDUCING FOOD INSECURITY AND REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

BENEFICIARIES:	556 families
PROJECT DURATION:	July 2016 to October 2017
DONOR:	World Food Programme (WFP)
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hajja Governorate, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	1,545,306.43 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Local councils in the targeted districts

BACKGROUND

The war in Yemen has completely destroyed the economy. In 2016, when the government was no longer able to pay the salaries of public workers, approximately 1.25 million Yemenis lost their livelihoods and hundreds of thousands of families became destitute. Ongoing air strikes decimated the country's already-fragile infrastructure, exports sank to nearly zero, the Yemeni riyal crashed, and unemployment soared.

The extreme economic instability created a sharp rise in food insecurity. Farmers who still have the capacity to produce food lack the fuel necessary to transport it. In areas where food is available for purchase, many people are unable to buy it because their households have no income. Approximately 17 million Yemenis — over 60% of the population — have adopted negative coping strategies, such as skipping meals and eating more bread instead of nutritious vegetables, to deal with this food insecurity. Over half of the country is now in a crisis or emergency state of food insecurity.

While food aid is necessary in emergency situations, relying on foreign actors, over the long term, erodes the resilience of local communities. For this reason, Vision Hope partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to implement a cash-for-work program in Hajja Governorate, through which the most vulnerable families earn an income to buy food by working to rebuild their communities.



CASH FOR WORK

PROJECT OUTLINE

Vision Hope partnered with local councils, as well as tribal and religious leaders, to identify 556 households most in need of food and income, particularly households headed by women, the elderly, or disabled, as well as households of internally displaced persons (IDPs). They received a monthly wage in exchange for work that rebuilt infrastructure. In addition to reduced food insecurity among the most vulnerable households, the larger communities experienced an improved quality of life and increased resilience.

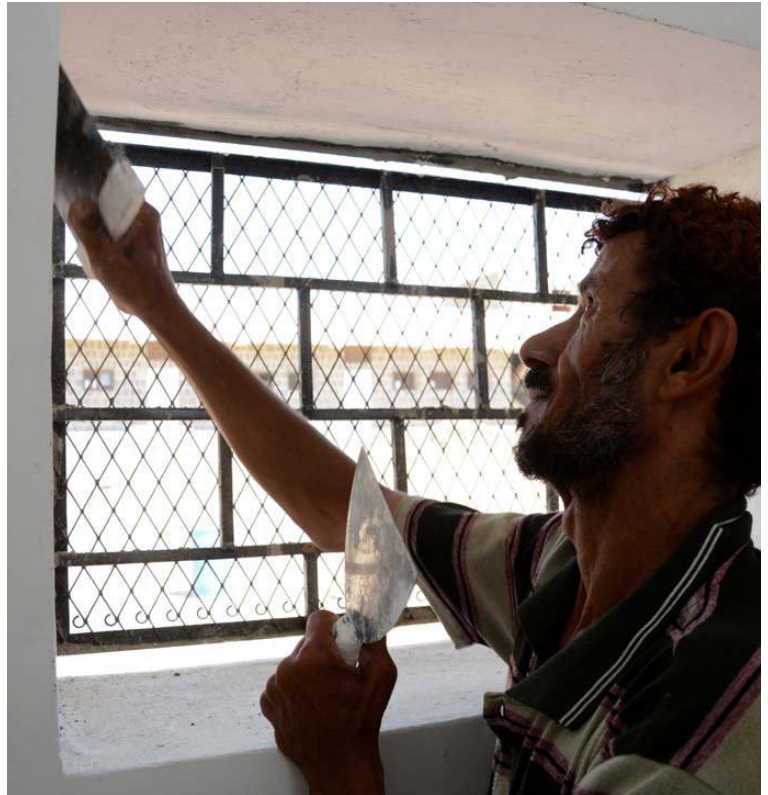
2017 ACTIVITIES

The Cash for Work program had two goals: reducing food insecurity among vulnerable households and empowering women and other underprivileged members of society to earn an income for their families.

After Vision Hope determined which villages to target and obtained the necessary permits from the local authorities, representatives worked through local networks to determine which households would participate as beneficiaries in the project. Data about the beneficiaries was sent to WFP, which provided the wages.

Next, representatives put beneficiaries into committees to determine which projects should be done, and into working groups to complete the projects. Each working group was given the equipment and training necessary to complete a project that would help rebuild the local community. Beneficiaries built roads, schools, wells, and other infrastructure, and also made clothes and other goods. The project manager conducted regular supervision and data collection, which he shared with WFP.

The project faced some challenges, including obtaining necessary permits, price fluctuations due to extreme economic instability, and inaccessibility of some of the targeted villages. Despite the challenges, the projects goals were met, as beneficiaries obtained better access to food, and 71 female-headed households were represented.





THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS FOR
YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT IN OUR WORK



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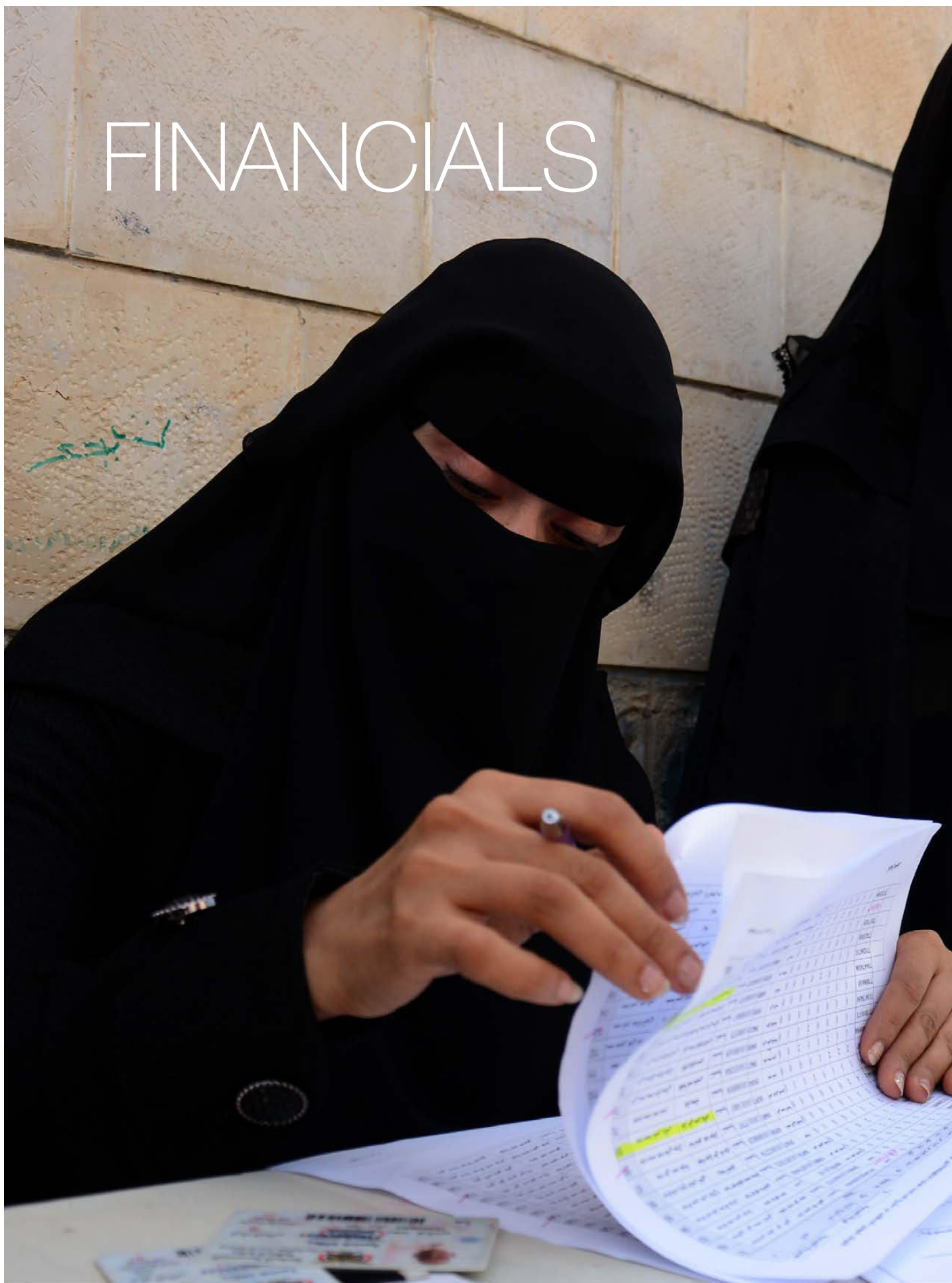
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Schublade 10 e.V.
Stichting NADA (Niederlande)
Swiss Relief - Schweiz hilft

COMPANIES

Credo Vermögensmanagement GmbH, Nürnberg
Edeka-Markt Timm-Zinth, Offenburg
mbi GmbH, Hüttenberg
msg medien-service-gmbh, Frankfurt
Schubert Packaging Systems GmbH, Crailsheim
Schneider GmbH + Co.KG, Fronhausen
SML Carwellness GmbH, Höpfigheim
Würth Elektronik GmbH, Schopfheim

FINANCIALS



FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET - DECEMBER 31, 2016

A.	Assets		
1.	Intangible fixed assets (Software)		653.00
2.	Office assets		3.00
3.	Vehicles		45,947.00
4.	Commodities Summary		5,509.00
5.	Balance in Cashbooks and Bank Accounts		
	Cashbook Germany	230.22	
	Postbank 624 520 751	135,958.40	
	Volksbank Freiburg Euro	120,255.09	
	Volksbank Freiburg USD	26,430.45	
	Business Sparcard 3017929325	7,383.52	
	Business Sparcard 3018491972	5,065.91	
	Paypal	2,024.99	
	Stripekonto	612.06	
	Bank and Cashbook Jordan	1,224.16	
	Bank and Cashbook Yemen	646,345.74	945,530.54
6.	Money in Transfer		275.000,00
7.	Secured Project Funding		7,218,770.70
8.	Receivables Project Partners		80,359.74
9.	Other Assets		40.73
	Sum of Assets		8,571,813.71
B.	Accruals/Liabilities		
1.	Liabilities from Income and Church Tax		4,301.64
2.	Grants/ Donations to Forward		8,064,603.70
3.	Accruals		4,000.00
	Sum of Accruals/Liabilities		8,072,905.34
C.	Net Assets		
1.	Sum of Assets		8,571,813.71
2.	Sum of Accruals/ Liabilities		8,072,905.34
	Net Assets		498,908.37

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 (in EUR)

A.	Income from donations and grants	Amount	Percentage
1.	Donations from members	19,569.00	0.47 %
2.	Donations from private donors	76,064.96	1.84 %
3.	Earmarked donations from companies, associations, schools, churches, foundations	181,111.13	4.38 %
4.	Income from partner organizations abroad	54,179.69	1.31 %
5.	Institutional grants	3,627,782.97	87.76 %
6.	Donations collected during events	640.81	0.02 %
Subtotal		3,959,348.56	95.78 %
B.	Other Income		
1.	Interest	6.45	0.00 %
2.	Liquidation to Forward Donations	166,483.60	4.03 %
3.	Income from Disposal of Assets	6,967.01	0.17 %
4.	Income from Lectures	1,000.00	0.02 %
Subtotal		174,457.06	4.22 %
Sum Income		4,133,805.62	100.00 %

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 (IN EUR)

A.	Project Expenses	Amount	Percentage
1.	Project funding Yemen	2,743,818.80	66.57 %
2.	Project funding Jordan	358,626.24	8.70 %
3.	Project funding Tunisia	92,037.83	2.23 %
4.	Project funding Syria	741,864.40	18.00 %
5.	Project Support	45,296.50	1.10 %
7.	Educational Work in Germany	4,071.61	0.10 %
Subtotal		3,985,715.38	96.70 %
B.	Expenses for Administration, Fundraising, and Public Relations		
1.	Staff costs	66,386.05	1.61 %
2.	Administrative costs	62,704.07	1.52 %
3.	Fundraising and public relations	7,125.99	0.17 %
Subtotal		136,216.11	3.30 %
Sum Disposition of Funds		4,121,931.49	100.00 %

Annual Result	11,874.13	
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FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET - DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS (EUR)		
A. Fixed Assets		
I.	Intangible Assets	653.00
II.	Fixed Assets	51,459.00
B. Current Assets		
I.	Receivables and other Assets	
1.	Assured Project Funding	7,218,770.70
2.	Money in Transfer	275,000.00
3.	Other Assets	80,400.47
II.	Cash and Deposits with Financial Institutions	945,530.54
Sum Assets		8,571,813.71

LIABILITIES (EUR)		
A. Capital		
I.	Association Capital	50,000.00
II.	Retained Earnings	437,034.24
III.	Annual Result	11,874.13
B. Special reserves with an equity portion		
I.	Designated Funds	8,064,603.70
C. Accruals		
I.	Accruals	4,000.00
D. Liabilities		
I.	Liabilities from Income and Church Tax	4,301.64
Sum Accruals/Liabilities		8,571,813.71

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

To the Board of Directors of Vision Hope International e.V.,

We have audited the financial statements of Vision Hope International e.V. consisting of the related income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, the cash flow statement and the balance statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes from 1st January to 31st December 2017. The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IDW. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with § 317 HGB (German Commercial Code) and IDW guidelines. Those Standards require that we perform procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Vision Hope International e.V. as at 31 December, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with § 317 HGB and IDW.

Stuttgart, 25 September 2018



E. Assmann
Auditor





VISION HOPE INTERNATIONAL E.V.

CARL-HELBING-STR. 19
79312 EMMENDINGEN
GERMANY

PHONE: +49 7641 9679354
EMAIL: INFO@VISION-HOPE.ORG
WWW.VISION-HOPE.ORG

BANK ACCOUNT:
POSTBANK KARLSRUHE
IBAN DE69660100750624520751
BIC PBNKDEFF

