



**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL REPORT 2019



CONTENTS

KEY STATISTICS	2
INTRODUCTION: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	4
CENTRAL AMERICA: GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA	6
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT: INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ARTICULATION	8
HAITI	10
COLOMBIA	13
COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT: PEACE BUILDING	15
PERU	16
COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT: EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	19
VENEZUELA	21
COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT: LOCALISATION AND LOCAL ALLIANCES	22
FOCUS: CASH TRANSFER AS A HUMANITARIAN TOOL	25
FOCUS: COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES	26
FOCUS: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO ERADICATE HUNGER	29
FOCUS: REDAC STUDY IN GUATEMALA	30
FOCUS: MIGRATION	32
CONTACTS	34



IN 2019, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER...



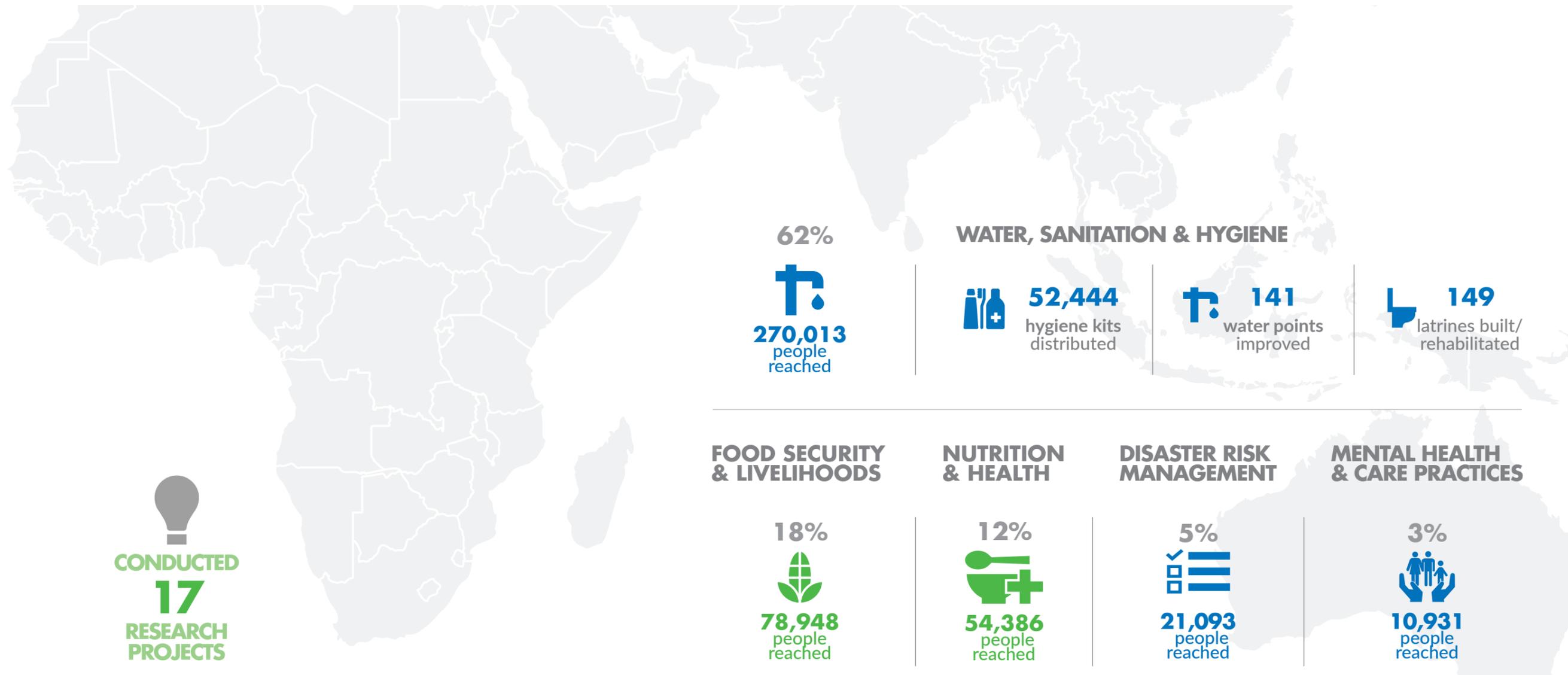

DELIVERED
90
PROJECTS


REACHED
435,371
PEOPLE


EMPLOYED
471
PEOPLE


CONDUCTED
17
RESEARCH
PROJECTS

* Countries where Action Against Hunger leads a regional consortium



...IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Benedetta Lettera

Head of
Operations
Latin America

In 2019, the humanitarian situation that has generated the greatest concern in Latin America is surely the socio-economic situation affecting Venezuela, where an estimated 7 million people need humanitarian attention, of whom 2.6 million have been prioritised in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019, which has been widely under-financed. In fact, the biggest constraint on the provision of humanitarian assistance in the country is still funding, according to the United Nations. Added to this is the growing flow of people leaving the country (4.5 million estimated for 2019 and 6.5 by 2020) and who are seeking refuge in the countries of the region, mainly Colombia and Peru, where the urgency of the humanitarian response for migrants and refugees is now added to the structural deficiencies of access to services and rights of the local population of the border areas and the most depressed urban areas. The great effort of all countries in the region to welcome migrants and join forces for the humanitarian response and integration of migrants, has been formalized in a number of regional initiatives, such as the establishment of a coordination platform and a Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants (RMRP, in its Spanish acronym) which by 2019 had prioritized the care of 2.2 million migrants and refugees, but also in this case funding has been low (48%).

On the other hand, the humanitarian situation in Haiti (the poorest country in the region) remains dire: there are 1.2 million at risk of famine, and in some communities more than 30% of the population suffers from chronic malnutrition.

In Central America, violence and poverty drive thousands of people to go to the United States, but the tightening of

migration and transit conditions is causing situations of extreme vulnerability and humanitarian need that tend to be poorly addressed and have little visibility. Added to this is the exposure to natural disasters (one-third of the region's population lives in high-risk areas) and the recurrence of phenomena such as droughts in the Dry Corridor, which puts thousands of people at risk each year.

These humanitarian crises unfold in a regional context where living conditions continue to worsen: in 2019 the number of people in poverty and extreme poverty increases (estimates project 27 million more poor people than in 2014), and there is increasing hunger (6.5%) and food insecurity, which affects 188 million people.

Given this contextual situation, we have had a significant increase in our operations in the region: in 2019 we have reached 435,371 people, we have increased our geographical presence in all countries and we have started working in large cities such as Lima and Bogota, and we have also integrated health, protection and prevention of gender-based violence in most of our interventions. Financially, in Central and South America our growth between 2018 and 2019 has been of 183%, and this trend is growing by 2020 (+207%).

This increased capacity to meet the needs of the population is possible thanks to the trust provided by local actors and international stakeholders and the great commitment and professionalism of our team in the region.

Many thanks to all of them.
Benedetta Lettera



CENTRAL AMERICA

GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA

During 2019, the Central American context has remained vulnerable to socio-economic, environmental, and climate shocks, resulting in greater political insecurity and instability. In Nicaragua, the consequences of the socio-political crisis since April 2018 have had a particular impact on the livelihoods of a large proportion of the population and contributed to the forced and mass migration of young people. In this context, the space for action by civil society and humanitarian organizations has been reduced. The migration of hundreds of thousands of people from the countries of the so-called Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala), has been particularly visible through the Migrant Caravans.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger's key areas of intervention and positioning have been, the coordination of the Consortium of Humanitarian Organizations composed of 7 European organizations. Through this consortium, ECHO-funded **FOOD ASSISTANCE** reached 18,188 people in 4 departments of Guatemala's Dry Corridor, and contributed to the prevention, identification, diagnosis and referencing for

4,903 children under five at risk of malnutrition. This grant also allowed for the capacity building of health personnel, and resilience strengthening of families vulnerable to recurring food crises. Our efforts focused on the positioning of the Consortium, and the visibility and impact on the Food and Nutrition Security situation of communities of the Dry Corridor. This will allow us to expand the scope and scale by 2020 of coordinated food assistance and Food and Nutrition Security monitoring at the regional level (Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador).

In the department of Sololá (Guatemala), we have started a **WATER AND SANITATION** project that will benefit more than 195,000 people in 120 communities (12 municipalities). The activities, which will last for 3 years, are focused on strengthening the capacity to manage community and municipal water and sanitation systems, to make them more effective and sustainable. To this end, the project focuses on improving the management of existing water and sanitation systems and strengthening the competencies and processes of community and municipal structures associated with these



systems. The project will also work on strengthening financial management, improving water and sanitation systems in health and primary schools and improving water quality monitoring for regulatory compliance, as well as hygiene awareness and promotion campaigns culturally adapted to the intervention zone.

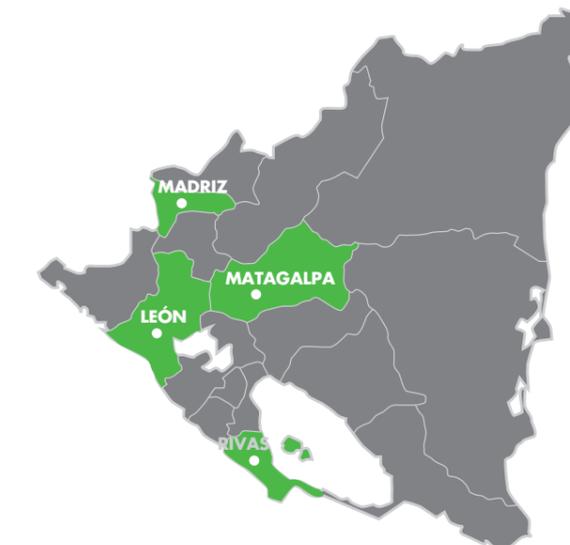
In turn, in our prioritised line of action of **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN RISK MANAGEMENT**, we have managed to position, in alliance with national and regional private and public sector actors (including the Chambers of Tourism of Guatemala and Nicaragua), the issue of resilience of the Central American tourism sector in areas of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation. This intervention has allowed us to develop and validate methodological frameworks and tools that facilitate the assessment of natural and human-induced disasters' impact on livelihoods, the certification of resilient businesses, and the elaboration of business continuation plans, applicable and transferable to different sectors.

Working on **MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT** is becoming increasingly important for our mission, given the increase in migration flows from Central America. In addition to facing greater limitations in destination countries, migration transits can be full of risks, uncertainty and violations of rights. In 2019, we have focused our efforts on conducting studies and pilot initiatives to explore the links between

migration and development in territories of origin with high migration flows.

OUR PRIORITY IN 2020 is to continue to respond to the food, livelihoods, and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable households, through food assistance and the priority actions of Nexus. We will also work to give greater impetus to evidence-based advocacy and knowledge dissemination at regional level, focused on the absence of social protection network policies and programmes tailored to the response of shocks and crises. In the field of development, we will continue to promote a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach that seeks to generate alternatives for sustainable development at the territorial level. This includes productive projects through alliances of agri-food cooperatives, migrant cooperatives and public-private partnerships, integrating specialised technical assistance from international cooperatives and universities, and collective remittance initiatives. Another priority will be the approach to child malnutrition in Guatemala, with the integration of new tools and methods for the prevention and care of malnutrition cases, such as the

development of the SAM-Photo pilot, social audit processes and the strengthening of first health care. In addition, we want to maintain and scale up our public-private partnership initiatives in risk management, seeking replication of models in other economic sectors.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ARTICULATION

In Central America, we work on institutional strengthening and capacity transfers with Ministry of Health and the Secretary of Food and Nutrition Security of Guatemala. Training technical staff of health directorates in the prevention and identification of child malnutrition is key to the work of Food and Nutrition Security monitors and contributes to the follow-up and early warning through Municipal Situation Rooms, as well as rural extensionists to improve family and community agriculture adapted to adverse weather conditions.

Moreover, in 2019 we consolidated our collaboration with a dozen European and local humanitarian NGOs in the field of food assistance in Guatemala, which will allow us to extend this shared work approach to four Central American countries in 2020. In terms of risk management, we have expanded our collaboration with business associations committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), such as UNIRSE (Nicaragua) and CENTRARSE (Guatemala), as

well as the Private Institute for Climate Change Research (ICC). Moreover, the cooperation with the chambers of tourism of Guatemala and Nicaragua, and Central American integration agencies, such as CPREDENAC (risk management) or SITCA (tourism), allowed us to position in regional agendas, issues related to resilience and DRR in the tourism sector. There has been special interest in the alliances with academic actors, such as the Global Institute of Food Security of McGill University (Canada), the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG-CIGEO-Nicaragua), FLACSO (Guatemala), or the spin-off GIS4TECH of the University of Granada (Spain). In Nicaragua, we have promoted working with agri-food cooperatives, involving counterpart cooperatives in Spain, in addition to launching activities of Education for Development aimed at Spanish cooperatives, through an alliance with ACODEA, an agri-agency that promotes the participation of the Spanish agricultural and cooperative sector to provide ideas and technical assistance in development cooperation actions.



HAITI


202,676


20,359


34,350


172
STAFF


OPERATING
SINCE
1985


REACHED
257,385
IN 2019

As poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is highly vulnerable to food insecurity. In 2019, a political crisis led to violent unrest and increased gang activity, shutting down cities, roads, and cutting communities off from humanitarian aid.

35 per cent of the Haitian population – 3.67 million people – are in urgent need of emergency food assistance. This serious hunger crisis, driven by political volatility, longtime economic struggles, and recurrent natural and man-made disasters, is only expected to grow as access to basic necessities, including food, health care, and safe sanitation, is hampered by unrest.

Without action, an anticipated 1.2 million people could be left one step away from famine between March and June 2020. Overall, the number of Haitians facing serious food insecurity is expected to increase to 4.1 million, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. Rural areas in the North West,

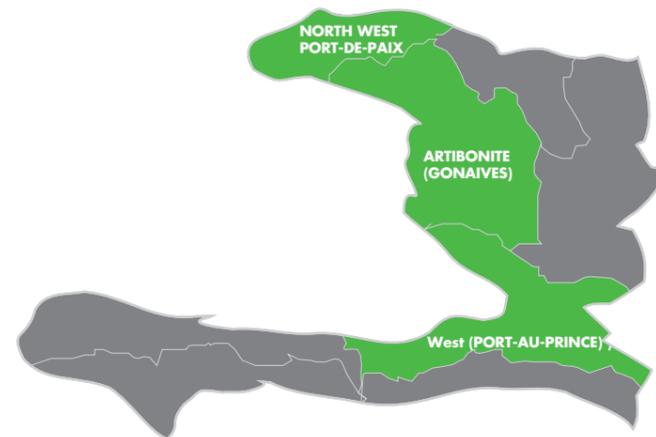
Artibonite, Nippes, and Grand’Anse are among the most affected, and have the highest percentage of people in need of immediate assistance. Their needs are compounded by a drop in agricultural production following the 2018 drought.

The most vulnerable populations are particularly hard-hit by security issues, inflation and severe shortages in gas, food, and essential medicines. With fewer employment opportunities in rural areas, many men are moving to urban areas, leaving vulnerable women, children, and the elderly behind and at risk of exploitation and gender-based violence. Many mothers are struggling to support their households by working long hours in addition to childcare and household responsibilities.

As a result of economic, social, and political instability, malnutrition has reached alarming levels and is expected to worsen in the months ahead. In some communities, such as Thiotte and Belle-Anse, the rate of

acute malnutrition exceeds 10 per cent, a serious emergency by World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

Despite numerous security and access challenges, in 2019, Action Against Hunger’s teams in Haiti reached 257,385 people in needs. We worked to improve food security, access to livelihoods, availability of clean water and safe sanitation, prevented the spread of water-borne diseases such as cholera, supported care groups to educate parents on health and nutrition, and screened for malnutrition.



Our programmes provided 34,350 people with **CASH TRANSFERS**, giving vulnerable populations the funds needed to buy food, medicine, and other necessities while supporting local markets. Our **WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE** teams distributed 39,331, rehabilitated 18 water points, and built or repaired 95 latrines. Our staff also worked to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases through community education and promotion of home water treatments. Our **NUTRITION AND HEALTH** projects reached 20,359 through our parent care groups, which aim to improve health and nutrition, and through diagnosis and referrals of malnourished children.

Thanks to efforts led by communities, organisations like Action Against Hunger, and local authorities, the fight against cholera has achieved tremendous progress: the last suspected case of the deadly illness was reported in February 2019. Action Against Hunger and its partners continue to support increased access to clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene practices to prevent future outbreaks of cholera.





COLOMBIA


55,964


20,478


19,037


11,718


7,851


175
STAFF


OPERATING
SINCE
1998


REACHED
115,048
IN 2019

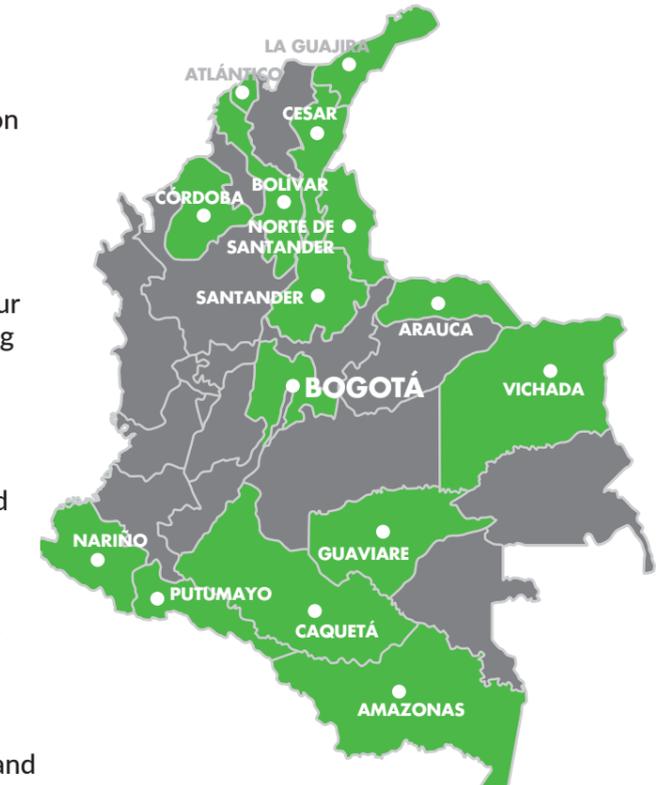
Multiple humanitarian agendas coexist in Colombia. On the one hand, the emergency response due to the humanitarian impact that the violence generated by various armed actors, who continue to generate displacement and confinement in rural areas of the country, still have on the population.

On the other hand, the need to work on the stabilisation of the post-conflict and on the implementation of peace agreements that include a series of commitments in the territories, especially rural ones, to have better conditions of development and integration of ex-combatants, and finally the humanitarian emergency linked to the situation in Venezuela that has generated the largest migration flow on the continent. Official data indicate that by the end of 2019, more than 1.63 million people from Venezuela lived in Colombia.

In this context, Action Against Hunger has developed a country programme that has allowed us to serve 115,048 people,

focused on three lines: (i) Attention to the population affected by conflict and violence, (ii) Strengthening the emergency response and stabilisation of the population within the framework of migration flows from Venezuela and (iii) Supporting the rehabilitation of communities and stabilisation of building peace.

During 2019, we have focused our work on urban contexts (including Bogota) and the main border areas (Guajira, Vichada, Norte de Santander and Nariño) to serve Venezuelan migrants and host communities. We have prioritised **HEALTH AND NUTRITION CARE**, strengthening public institutions (secretariats, health subnet, Ministry of Health, ICBF-Colombian Institute of Family Welfare), making nutritional assessments, as well as the treatment of acute malnutrition and trainings in health and nutrition.



We have also worked in mental health and psychological first aid serving 3,287 people (67% women) in community days of training and awareness-raising. In relation to **FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**, we have carried out activities to deliver seed kits, food aid, training for employment and employability through the “VIVES” approach, training in agricultural practices and in disaster risk in food security, in rural areas in the process of post-conflict stabilisation, within the framework of the economic and productive recovery of the territories. In addition, 4,640 people affected by migration flows from Venezuela have benefited through the delivery of multipurpose money transfers, which allow to cover the basic needs in the first phase of urgency. In the **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SECTOR**, we have made kit delivery, built infrastructures for access to basic sanitation and safe water, carried out trainings on good hygiene practices and water resource management. Finally, we have worked with the National Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) and the departmental and municipal committees in the departments of Putumayo and Guajira, affected by climate crises (floods and drought), conducting **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION** trainings in communities and for government officials, contributing to the implementation of contingency plans, and the development of infrastructures and evacuation routes to strengthen early warning systems.

At the operational level, in 2019, we have made an important commitment of articulation through different strategic alliances and consortia, which

has allowed us to increase the impact on the territories and enhance the experience and technical complementarity of each organisation. We have achieved important partnerships with the public and private sectors and have developed new types of work on food security that complement and provide subsistence alternatives to farmers in forest reserve areas and minimise risks of deforestation (European Union peace funds). In relation to multi-purpose money transfers for attending the population affected by migration movements from Venezuela, we lead, in partnership with NRC and DRC, one of the largest projects in the country, while responding to humanitarian needs arising from conflict situations, we participate in another humanitarian consortium (MAPA) that through a multisectoral and integrated emergency response has reached 24,060 people in need.

BY 2020, OUR GOAL IS to reach 180,000 people affected by both Venezuela’s migration phenomenon, which are mainly in urban areas, as well as the population affected by the conflict, which is in rural areas. We want to continue to grow and increase our capacity of coverage in order to reach the areas in greatest humanitarian need efficiently and with quality and to maintain and scale up our interventions in employability both for post-conflict stabilisation with people in the process of reintegration, and with Venezuelan migrants with a vocation for permanence, fostering lasting solutions.



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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

PEACE BUILDING

During 2019, the work we carried out in the framework of stabilisation and peace-building processes in the department of Putumayo in the south of the country, where most FARC guerrillas were historically concentrated, was key. With the signing of the peace agreements in 2016, the delivery zones of weapons, known as local or “veredal” areas, were created. This is where the guerrillas concentrated and began their process of disarmament and that would subsequently become the ETCR (Territorial Spaces of Training and Reincorporation). In these spaces, ex-combatants would begin their transit process to civilian life, through the improvement of their skills, training, accompaniment in access to basic services and subsidies, with the accompaniment and support of civil society organisations and the State, while implementing public policies designed to stabilise these reception areas (or local/“veredal” centres) to ensure integration processes correctly.

This is how during 2019 and for 18 months we have implemented a project in partnership with universities, public institutions such as the National Agency for Reincorporation (ARN) and local

counterparts, which aimed at contributing to the defence of human rights, the promotion of peace and democratic values, benefiting 109 FARC ex-combatants in the improving their skills for employment and entrepreneurship in rural areas, providing them with seed capital to start productive projects.

As part of this project, we worked with the Javeriana University for the assessment of impacts on peace and conflict with a focus on reconciliation (EIPC-R) that allowed, together with host communities, leaders and ex-combatants, to identify the different elements that contributed to peace or generated conflicts in order to jointly define strategies for peace-building in their territories. We also conducted research on historic memory, to support truth and non-repetition processes together with the University of Extremadura, and other research on new masculinities and gender in the framework of disarmament and reintegration, carried out by the local counterpart Casa Amazonia. These studies have allowed us to better understand the dynamics of the reintegration process to adapt our activities to them.

PERU



In 2019, Peru's social, political and economic context has been highly unstable. Following the dissolution of the Congress, new leaders have taken control of local and regional governments, economic growth has been reduced to less than 3%, and hunger has grown, now affecting the 9.7% of the population. Peru has received a constant flow of migrants from Venezuela, which is starting to generate xenophobic reactions as politicians, mayors and even ministers publicly show their rejection of this population. Moreover, the media have begun a campaign of criminalisation of Venezuelans, encouraging people to "protect themselves" from them while the Central Government has started publicly expelling Venezuelans. Meanwhile, Venezuelan citizens are increasing the intensity of complains about their employers for their illegal and unethical labor practices, such as payment below the legal minimum wage or the absence of contracts.

In 2019, Action Against Hunger implemented a comprehensive response to the humanitarian emergency situation following the arrival of more than 850,000 Venezuelans to the country (80% in Metropolitan Lima). Furthermore, we worked on strengthening capacities at the regional, municipal and community levels to reduce the high levels of child malnutrition in rural areas of Puno or Ayacucho and to improve employment and entrepreneurship among young people and women in northern Lima.

Our humanitarian response in Metropolitan Lima is focused on six areas:

- 1. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:** Improving shelter and water and sanitation infrastructure for Venezuelan migrants, including the delivery of dignity kits;
- 2. HEALTH:** Providing mental health care, social-emotional support, counseling and educational campaigns on sexual and reproductive health. We have also started key interventions to increase access to public health services;
- 3. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:** Conducting participatory evaluations, identifying risk levels, improving shelters equipment and training of populations and managers in disaster response;
- 4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING:** Facilitating access of vulnerable populations to the Integrated Health Insurance System (SIS), in collaboration with the Migrations National Superintendence, and the Integrated Health Networks of Northern Lima Authority. We also have strengthened Venezuelan organisations in their management, strategy definition and reinforcement of their role in coordination and consultation forums;
- 5. PROTECTION:** Through integration campaigns, we are working on the prevention of gender-based violence, advice for administrative regularisation and the fight against xenophobia.



- 6. LIVELIHOODS:** Through our employment and entrepreneurship methodology (VIVES), 97% of Venezuelan entrepreneur participants now have formal operational businesses. This not only generates incomes and employment, but also strengthens their self-esteem, builds support networks and articulate themselves through economies of scale. We also introduced this programme for the vulnerable Peruvian host population (women and young people) in Metropolitan Lima, as a mechanism for the empowerment and prevention of gender-based violence, to promote economic independence and equality.

We continued working in Ayacucho, Apurimac, Puno and Cuzco, building decent housing that increases resistance to frost, family bio-gardens, and recovering ancestral tools such as Charqui to improve family diet. We are training families and health promoters in nutrition using an intercultural approach, as well as conducting training with professionals from the Ministry of Health to improve DRR and strengthen community authorities to develop programs for the prevention of anemia and malnutrition in their districts.

We established key alliances with the **PRIVATE SECTOR**, either to develop projects

(Transportadora de Gas del Perú) or to promote adequate nutrition and encourage appropriate practices for early childhood development (Seguros RIMAC, MINSUR and Sanchez Romero supermarkets). In addition, we continued our work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion, and the Fundación Lima of the Municipality of Lima, among others.

We maintain an active participation in working groups such as "Round Table for the Fight against Poverty", the Refugees and Migrants Working Group, the Humanitarian National Network, and the Perú 2021 Hunger 0 Working group, for example.

Thanks to our strategy of collaborative and direct work with the beneficiaries, we have generated supportive and collaboration networks with **ORGANISATIONS OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN PERU** in different areas, as well as with shelters and grassroots **PERUVIAN ORGANISATIONS** in migrant hosting communities, thus strengthening our humanitarian response. In addition, we work actively with the Peruvian Universities Cayetano Heredia and San Ignacio de Loyola to provide

technical and academic support to our projects.

Our **PRIORITY IN 2020** is to continue responding to the humanitarian needs of the Venezuelan migrant population and host communities, as well as continuing to strengthen the resilience of the Peruvian population. There is a need for greater involvement of the private sector and local governments in risk management and disaster risk reduction. We will focus on the integration of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee community in Peru through the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship with our VIVES methodology, and by strengthening capacities for employment and entrepreneurship among the most vulnerable in urban areas of Peru (with special attention to financial independence as a tool to struggles against gender gender-based violence).

In addition, we want to maintain and scale up our interventions on anemia and chronic malnutrition, where we continue to achieve impressive and sustained results over time, and to strengthen the capacities for addressing early childhood development as a tool to improve rural and urban population health.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The implementation of our methodology for employment and entrepreneurship (VIVES) in Peru has generated a before and after not only for the beneficiary population, but for the Peruvian institutions and organisations that have accompanied us in the process.

With VIVES, we have incorporated the use of dynamic and innovative tools to support Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the launching of enterprises. This has required a process of adaptation to Peruvian labor environment, to local partners and their real capacities, and the incorporation of a multidisciplinary team: VIVES specialists, psychologists and health professionals, who accompanied the process of strengthening soft skills and reinforcing self-confidence.

We have accomplished that 33 Venezuelan entrepreneurs have transformed a viable business idea into sustainable realities (97% of the participants) thanks to our training program, advice for the formalisation of the business and the delivery of seed capital by Actin Against the Hunger.

Our VIVES methodology has served as a lever for change among the entrepreneurs, who have generated networks of collaboration with other enterprises, as well as the generation of employment and economies of scale through the articulation mechanisms promoted.



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VENEZUELA



Political conflict continued to set the tone in Venezuela during 2019. Although initiatives to encourage political dialogue continued, and there was an expectation of a democratic solution to the differences between the government and the opposition, discussions stagnated. The socio-economic and humanitarian consequences of this impasse were the maintenance and aggravation of economic degradation, and with it: increasing unemployment, hyperinflation, the dismantling of industry and production, the deterioration of services, in particular health, education, energy, drinking water and sanitation. All of this has had a significant impact on people's quality of life, highlighted by an increase in unmet basic needs and an expanding humanitarian response. The Venezuelan situation has also led to unprecedented migration at the regional level.

At Action Against Hunger we have ensured that our response supports analysis and action at the regional level, integrating our Venezuela, Colombia and Peru offices, and focusing on a humanitarian response to save lives, reduce the suffering of people, protect and empower them. We have a dual vision of mitigating the causes of

involuntary migration, and facilitating the inclusion with human quality for those who have been forced to leave Venezuela.

In Venezuela we adapt our work to address the unique characteristics of each territory, with a focus on gender equity, respecting and incorporating cultural elements, and seeking to optimise the identification of people with a greater vulnerability to develop malnutrition. Priority has been given to children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities and older adults with severe illnesses. Considering the lack of official figures, we and our local partners implemented different strategies (surveys, anthropometric measurement days, etc.) in order to have quality information in the field, so we can identify the most vulnerable people, and adapt the humanitarian response according to their needs.

During 2019, our activities in Venezuela have been developed along two strategic lines:

To save and protect lives: We prioritise immediate needs in the areas of **FOOD SECURITY** (distribution of prepared food

in school canteens and community centers) and **LIVELIHOODS** (cash transfers, agricultural inputs and technical assistance for families and small producers), **NUTRITION** (identification of cases at risk of malnutrition, treatment and referral), **HEALTH** (counselling on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, psychosocial care and referral) and water supply, sanitation and hygiene (**WASH**) (rehabilitation and maintenance of drinking water and sanitation systems in public schools, community centers and communities, water treatment, as well as distribution of hygiene kits).

To increase local capacities: We provide **TECHNICAL TRAINING** for local counterparts, institutional staff, families and individual beneficiaries, and members of water and sanitation tables. In total, 16,823 people (53% women and 47% men) have benefited from the activities carried out during 2019; in particular, 705 girls and 560 boys were assisted during nutritional control, treatment and referral days.

IN 2020, OUR PRIORITY IS to extend activities to reach more people with increased vulnerability. According to the analyses we have conducted, this will include those in an urban environment, adolescents and especially girls, single mothers who are heads of household, and older adults with serious illnesses. Preventive health practices with pregnant and lactating women will be strengthened (breastfeeding counselling, identification of signs

of care for prevalent childhood diseases, etc.), improvement of sanitary conditions, access to drinking water, and promotion of hygiene habits at the household level. Similarly, work will be done on mental health with young people, and particularly on the prevention of violence, juvenile crime and teenage pregnancy. For better geographical management, we are opening a new office in Maracaibo.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

LOCALISATION AND LOCAL ALLIANCES

At Action Against Hunger we believe that cooperation with local actors is key to improving our activities in the countries where we work. In Venezuela, since we started to operations in the country in 2018, we have been implementing activities through local partners who have many years of experience, with a solid and recognised specialism in socioeconomic development. Like most local Venezuelan NGOs, given the new situation in the country, these organisations have had to change their focus and specialise in humanitarian response. To this end, one of our main lines of work in Venezuela is to accompany

this process of training and specialisation in humanitarian principles and mechanisms, through the daily work of our international experts. This training process has been two-way, as it has been key for us to better understand the contextual reality in the communities and neighborhoods where our local partners work. We can say that, in these years of collaboration, mutual learning has been a fundamental element for the good quality of the activities that we implement together. In 2020, we want to continue strengthening technical assistance and capacity building of our current and future local partners, while improving

our knowledge of the context and the acceptance by the beneficiary population, the communities and the government institutions thanks to our alliance with local partners.

Other important coordination efforts that we have developed in 2019 and that will continue in 2020, have been the active participation in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Food Security, Nutrition, and Health clusters. This has allowed harmonisation with the Humanitarian Response Plan, which we also helped to develop in partnership with OCHA.



WE ARE FOCUSED ON

CASH TRANSFERS AS A HUMANITARIAN TOOL

In 2019, we launched a major humanitarian aid project designed to help people of Venezuelan origin living in extremely vulnerable situations in **COLOMBIA**, as well as Colombian families from host communities who face socio-economic exclusion. This aid will reach **70,000 PEOPLE IN 2020** and will take the form of cash transfers, through debit cards delivered to individuals and families selected according to vulnerability criteria agreed with the Colombian Government.

Cash transfers, also used to support families of the **GUATEMALAN DRY CORRIDOR**, are a form of aid that has gradually become the new humanitarian standard due to a significant number of advantages. The first is that cash allows people in need to choose which foods, supplies or expenses they consider essential. This

generally translates into improved family care and access to health services (including payment for medicines), education, transportation, debt repayment, or basic housing improvements. The ability of aid recipients to choose what to do with the support they receive gives them greater dignity and increases psychosocial well-being among transfer recipients.

Another significant advantage of cash over other forms of aid is the **INCREASED EFFICIENCY** of the process. For example, when we compare the operating costs of food distributions and cash, the cost of delivery for distributions is often double or triple that of giving cash directly to people in need. The distribution of cash also has a positive indirect effect in **BOOSTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY**, as transfer recipients spend this income in the same territories in

which they are located; the multiplier effect ranges from \$1.5 to \$2.5 per USD transferred, something that could not happen with other aid modalities.

The use of digital payments, such as those we encourage in Colombia, provides greater security, cost-efficiency, speed and flexibility. That is why the humanitarian sector increasingly uses digital financial services (DFS), which opens the door to new frameworks of collaboration and alliance with private companies specialising in financial and payment management. It also opens the door to engage with companies and cooperatives specialised in the reception of remittances sent by emigrated relatives, the most common mode of support used by households in Latin America, and a new field of work and collaboration in which we will be entering in 2020.



WE ARE FOCUSED ON

COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES

The private sector is increasingly aware of the role they must play in the social and environmental development of Latin America's most vulnerable communities. Territories are highly complex; populations survive with limited resources, weak presence of state services and a high prevalence of poverty, child malnutrition and anemia. These scenarios demand a permanent dialogue and synergy among multiple actors in order to achieve high-impact and sustained results.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Since 2016, and with the support of the European Union, we have been working on community resilience in the region by developing interventions that seek to reduce the impact of climate shocks and natural disasters. We do this by advising large, medium and small businesses to carry out risk-based self-diagnostics, and guide them in the adoption of disaster preparedness and mitigation measures. We do not do it alone, but serve as a bridge between public institutions, civil society, trade unions and individual companies. One of the greatest

achievements in this process has been the standardisation of business risk management tools that are now a model for the Central American region. We have also promoted the **CERTIFICATION** of "resilient tourism companies" by applying agreed criteria between government entities and business organisations. This resulted in the integration of a 6th chapter on DRR for the assessment and certification system for the tourism quality (SICCS seal) in micro, small and medium businesses, approved and signed of at regional level by SICA and eight ministries. This experience is a good example of working in a coordinated way with a whole economic sector. We have provided support along the entire tourism value chain; from the design and construction of seismic-resistant hotel infrastructure, to the training of owners, managers and employees to attend emergencies, and the promotion of the concept of resilient tourism.

The overall impact of these interventions has made it possible to highlight the **SOCIAL VALUE** of the private sector in the construction of resilient tourist destinations, and the importance of coordinated work between authorities and communities in preventing disasters from

limiting **SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH**. This joint effort has made it possible to position the issue of resilience in one of the economic and job creation sectors that contribute the most to the direct development of the population and the Gross Domestic Product of each of these countries, thereby taking solid steps to develop a scalable model with the private sector.

ALLIANCE FOR WATER SUPPLY IN COLOMBIA'S LA GUAJIRA DESERT

The **PUBLIC WORKS TAX DEDUCTION LAW** (Obras por Impuestos, in Spanish) is a state initiative in Colombia that allows high level taxpayers to pay up to 50 percent of their taxes towards projects in the most vulnerable parts of the country. In 2019, the company ENEL embarked upon wind energy generation projects in partment of Guajira, in an area which suffers greatly from the combined effects of climate crises and limited state presence. Particularly impacted are the rural communities that live there, such as the **WAYUU INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**, who face constant challenges in

accessing drinking water. Together with ENEL and in coordination with the Vice-Ministry of Water and Basic Sanitation, we are designing a project that not only improves access to water in these communities, but also strengthens their capacities for the sustainable management of this fundamental resource in the future. The water distribution system will be fully operational by October 2020, benefiting 2,600 people from 22 communities.

PREVENTION, DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF ANEMIA IN PERU

In 2019, we started the "Anemia NO" project in collaboration with Transportadora de Gas del Perú (TGP). The project targets indigenous communities in Camaná, a very remote location three days into in the Peruvian jungle which remains one of the most vulnerable areas of the country. This project supports **MACHIGUENGA INDIGENOUS FAMILIES** lacking water and sanitation systems by promoting measures that contribute to the improvement of water quality. By doing this, the project aims to reduce acute respiratory infections, acute diarrheal diseases, chronic malnutrition, anaemia and skin diseases with high prevalence in children under five years of age.

"Anemia NO" also works with health posts, authorities and leaders in Camaná to strengthen the capacity of families to prevent and control anaemia. To this end, it incorporates communal bio-gardens as a strategy to ensure the availability of nutritious food for children under 5 years of age and pregnant women. All this is coupled with a community strategy of nutritional monitoring and joint decision-making which strengthens the ownership of the project by the community, ensuring its future sustainability.



WE ARE FOCUSED ON

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO ERADICATE HUNGER

The fight against hunger has to be a commitment not only from organisations and the cooperation system, but above all, from people and local systems. For this, our work in Latin America includes activities aimed at generating knowledge about the problem of hunger and fostering the commitment of citizens through actions and mobilisation events.

SUPPORTER-OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS IN PUBLIC SPACES

INVOLVING CITIZENS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER. We believe that it is important to get citizens directly involved in our organisation. This is why, in 2019, we started an affiliation campaign in Colombia and Peru, where we already count almost 1,000 members.

RUN AGAINST HUNGER

INVOLVING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER. The Run Against Hunger is an international, pedagogical, solidarity and sport project that we run in more than two thousand schools around the world.

We promote values such as equality, justice, dignity, freedom, integrity, professionalism and

respect for Human Rights. We give rise to the spirit of solidarity amongst young people and encourage healthy habits through nutrition and sports. In fact, the Run Against Hunger aims to build a society more committed to social causes that ensures sustainability, social, environmental and economic development of the world.

In Colombia, Peru and Guatemala, in 2019, we have achieved to have more than 19,000 students participating in this campaign.

RESTAURANTS AGAINST HUNGER

INVOLVING THE GASTRONOMIC SECTOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER. As leaders and experts in food and nutrition, our relationship with the hospitality and gastronomic sector is clear. Thus, 'Restaurants Against Hunger' emerged eight years ago in Peru, giving chefs and businessmen of the catering world the opportunity to join our cause. A growing sector that allows us to enjoy a solidarity dish whilst contributing to providing food.

In 2019, more than 260 solidarity restaurants in Peru, Colombia and Guatemala participated in this campaign obtaining funds that will serve to see our projects grow in the region.



WE ARE FOCUSED ON

STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACUTE AND CHRONIC MALNUTRITION (REDAC) IN GUATEMALA: "MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE"

In Guatemala, about half of children under the age of 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition, the highest percentage in the entire Latin America, and one of the highest in the world. **CHRONIC MALNUTRITION** results in **UNDERSIZE FOR THEIR AGE**, compared with the average height a child should have at a certain age. Delayed growth is the result among others of poor nutrition, especially in protein foods, aggravated by poor sanitation and limited access to safe water. The widespread chronic malnutrition overlaps with the incidence of **ACUTE CHILD MALNUTRITION** (or **LOW WEIGHT FOR SIZE**), the most severe type of malnutrition, which even puts the lives of children at risk. When both pathologies affect the same child, the underlying chronic malnutrition makes it difficult to diagnose acute malnutrition, preventing it from being identified and treated.

In response to this problem, the Action Against Hunger teams and partner of the Humanitarian

Consortium in Guatemala, since 2018 have been working in a coordinated way in the use of the same protocols and tools of nutritional diagnosis, as well as in the specialised statistical analysis of the generated databases. This work has shown that the diagnostic tests of Weight/Size (W/S) measurement, officially recognised by the Ministry of Health of Guatemala and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), test also recommended for the diagnosis of acute malnutrition by the World Health Organization (WHO), diagnose two different groups of population and that the relationship between the two indicators varies markedly. Some previous studies indicate that, in contexts where chronic malnutrition is high, such as Guatemala, the MUAC could identify more cases of acute malnutrition as an independent indicator of height. The most relevant results of the contrast of indicators of acute malnutrition in the sample of the REDAC study conducted by Action Against Hunger demonstrate the

study's baseline hypothesis indicating that **CHRONIC MALNUTRITION MASKS ACUTE MALNUTRITION** and, in general, all results support the need to include the **MUAC AS A COMMON ANTHROPOMETRIC INDICATOR FOR THE SCREENING OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION** in populations with high prevalence of chronic malnutrition, such as vulnerable Guatemalan populations in need of food assistance.

This research result is very relevant, since the use of the MUAC would allow to diagnose almost twice as many children with acute malnutrition, and therefore facilitate them to obtain the essential treatment they require, given the severity of their nutritional status and, thus, have more impact on infant mortality. These results also guide the advocacy work that Action Against Hunger carries out among authorities and decision-makers in Guatemala.



WE ARE FOCUSED ON

MIGRATION

In an increasingly globalised and fast-moving world, talking about migration means increasingly talking about our surroundings, our family history or our personal journey. Unfortunately, not all migratory movements are free and voluntary and not all migratory experiences are stories of success and achievements: many men, women and children lose their lives along the way, disappearing from all statistics. Others suffer all kinds of violence during the journey or have to overcome considerable difficulties and risks upon their arrival, which include, the risk of failure or forced return.

Hunger is increasingly a cause and effect of this forced migration, which means it is becoming even more urgent for Action against Hunger to be able to address this migration issue from a more holistic perspective, and not only in terms of working with the migrants themselves, but also in understanding and working on the changes that migratory movements cause in the communities of origin and destination as well as their effect on the causes and consequences of hunger.

When it comes to Latin America, we are facing two main migratory movements that are very different in terms of characteristics and visibility: on the one hand, the largest migratory flow in the recent history of the region is taking place

because of the situation in **VENEZUELA** (it is expected that by 2020 6.5 million Venezuelans will have left their country), and on the other hand, inequality and violence are increasingly leading **CENTRAL AMERICANS** to seek refuge across borders. In addition to Nicaraguan migrants, an average of 10% of the population from the north of Central America have set out on the road to the north: The Mexico-United States corridor is, by far, the world's main migration corridor, and one of the most violent.

Faced with this situation, we developed a regional programme in order to work with migrants from an analytical perspective on the causes and impact in the countries of origin, like Guatemala, Nicaragua or Venezuela, as well as humanitarian assistance for migrants and socio-occupational reintegration in the destination countries, like Colombia and Peru.

In **CENTRAL AMERICA**, we focused our efforts in 2019 on carrying out studies and pilot initiatives researching the link between migration and development, focused on territories of origin with high migration flows, the use of remittances, reinstatement of social and human capital of returnees, as well as the link between the diaspora and communities of origin that allow for new approaches such as the promotion of social and productive projects through migrant

cooperatives with joint funding through public resources and collective remittances.

We also worked on establishing an analytic framework that allows us to assess and estimate the migratory intentions amongst young people. This exploratory work enabled us to establish contacts and relationships with research centres, universities and national and international organisations, with the aim of developing and promoting initiatives in 2020 that improve the positive effects of migration in the destination and origin countries, while reducing its negative consequences.

This work in the communities of origin, in **VENEZUELA**, resulted in the humanitarian assistance work that we carried out to contribute to reducing the causes that result in this unprecedented migratory movement. By 2020, we hope to be able to implement the analysis tools in this country that we developed in Central America.

With regards to the arrival communities, in 2019 most of our actions focused on aid for migrants and the receiving communities of **COLOMBIA** where, by working in the border departments and in Bogota, we reached more than 22,100 people from Venezuela. Our actions focused on water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and

health (with a particular focus on mental health) and the protection and delivery of cash.

In **PERU**, we decided to focus our work in Lima, where most Venezuelan migrants and refugees gather. Aside from the work in the shelters that accommodate people who have no other means of refuge, we are working with the Peruvian and Venezuelan civil societies as well as with institutions for the social and labour integration of migrants and vulnerable Peruvians.

At the end of 2019, we wanted to revise our programme structure, designed according to the various stages of the migration journey (origin, transit and destination), by developing an analysis of the causal routes, thus being able to identify and create individual and collective changes for the people and territories experiencing the various aspects of this

migration phenomenon.

The theory of change that we created, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, is based upon addressing three areas of change:

- Working with **PEOPLE**, to encourage their autonomy and integration
- Working on the **ECOSYSTEM**, to create inclusive territories, where territory means living spaces that are the result of social interactions between people, institutions, businesses and organisations, that express a common identity and purpose
- Working with **INSTITUTIONS** for good governance

We will work with this approach in 2020, by maintaining the fight against **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** as a cross-cutting priority focus,

because women involved in the migration process are exposed to more risks.

In methodological terms, the main approaches that we wish to promote are related to **CONFIDENCE-BUILDING** and a need to maintain a great **ADAPTABILITY** and **RELEVANCE** of actions. We have therefore identified the following cross-cutting approaches:

- **DIALOGICAL COMMUNICATION**, active listening as a basic principle in all interrelationships that we wish to promote
- Creating **MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ANALYSES**, which create quantitative information, but mainly qualitative information to understand the dynamics that we wish to change in more depth
- **ACTION LEARNING**, which ensures a capacity to quickly incorporate the changes



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FOR FOOD.
AGAINST
HUNGER
AND
MALNUTRITION.

**FOR CLEAN
WATER.**
AGAINST KILLER
DISEASES.

**FOR CHILDREN
THAT GROW
UP STRONG.**
AGAINST LIVES
CUT SHORT.

**FOR CROPS
THIS YEAR,
AND NEXT.**
AGAINST
DROUGHT
AND DISASTER.

**FOR CHANGING
MINDS.**
AGAINST
IGNORANCE
AND
INDIFFERENCE.

**FOR FREEDOM
FROM HUNGER.
FOR EVERYONE.
FOR GOOD.**

**FOR ACTION.
AGAINST
HUNGER.**

