

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



PREPARED BY
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INTRODUCTION

Mercy Hands Europe (MHEurope) is a women-led non-profit organization created in 2019 and registered in Geneva, Switzerland, under the number CHE-276.231.231. MHEurope is the sister organization of Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid (MH), the largest local NGO in Iraq, founded in 2004. We work to safeguard the dignity, sustain human rights and build sustainable futures for people, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. We implement humanitarian and development projects in conflict or disaster-affected areas in Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine either directly through field missions, our sister organization, or other local partners. We focus primarily on education, protection, emergency, health and livelihood projects.

Our projects rely on the deep field experience of our local partners, their relationships, and contextual knowledge, coupled with MHEurope's expertise, the experience of its program managers, and its contacts with Swiss, European, and international institutions. This unique and strategic alliance allows us to promote solid and sustainable projects that can make a difference. Our goal is therefore to position ourselves as a mediator between stakeholders of the field and the one in Switzerland, Europe, and the international world to secure long-term sources of income, capacity building and sustainable futures for vulnerable communities.

Mercy Hands Europe was created to support the development of projects and find new donors for our sister organisation and local partners based in the conflict zones or elsewhere; to advocate for the challenges faced by the countries where our partners are based and to network with European, Swiss and international stakeholders; and to extend aid to neighboring countries through local organisations that can ensure sustainable actions.

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 represented for us the achievement of a great milestone: Mercy Hands Europe became economically sustainable. This was possible thanks to our amazing partners and donors that supported us in launching many different extending our successful existing projects, and improving them thanks to our lessons learned. Moreover, we will try to answer the numerous requests from partners in implementing new proposed ideas that will benefit new people with more activities.

Michela G. Maccabruni
Executive Director of Mercy Hands Europe

OUR TEAM IN 2022



Michela G. Maccabruni
Executive Director



Emma Baz
Programme Coordinator



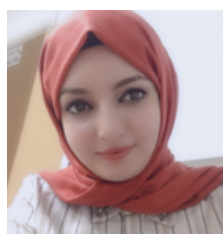
Christel Ceres
Administration and Project Writer



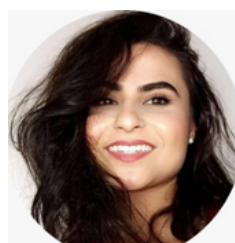
Aya Mohammed
Project Coordinator Iraq



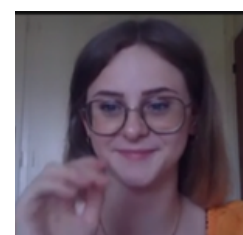
Diyala Hussein
Project Coordinator North-East Syria



Amani Mohamad
Lawyer and Manager of the Lawyers for Women Center



Ayse Alici
Volunteer Agriculture Programme Manager



Krista Tingbrand
Programme Manager



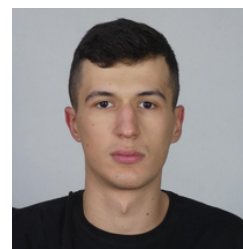
Léona Mancini
Programme Manager



Jamie Maaskant
Intern



Sahil Jain
Intern



Daniel Hlishych
Ukrainian field Officer



Maryam Z. Abduljabbar
Administrative and Project Writer



Intidhar Amri
Programme Coordinator



Marianna Lillo
Administrative and Project Writer



Nadia Barlocher
Project Manager



Synergie Fiduciare Service SA

External Accountability and Administration
Service

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Moosawi**
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Zina Attar
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Board Member



**Francesca
Grandi**
Board Member



Michael Hyden
Board Member



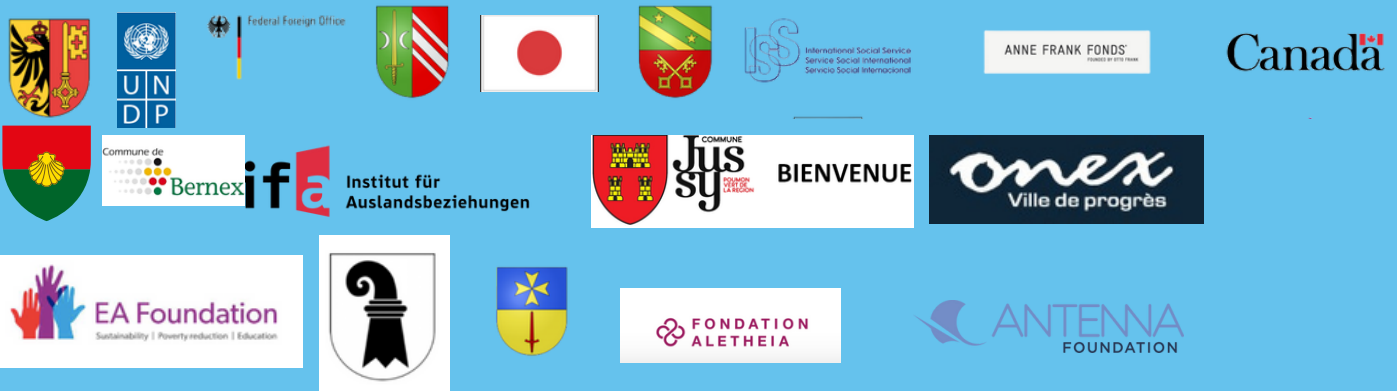
Macias Cynthia
Board Member

2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

- **9** projects have been implemented in 2022 (Pages 6-11)
- 2 new Countries have been reached: Syria and Ukraine, besides Iraq.



- 14 new donors for a total of 19 joined our mission and projects.



- New board members join our team, which is now gender-balanced (page 4)
- We hired an external accountability company to ensure the transparency and fairness of all our administration and finance. (Page 4)
- We joined the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)



ALL THIS LEAD US TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A GREAT MILESTONE: SINCE APRIL 2022 WE HAVE REACHED THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF MHEUROPE, WHICH IS NOW RELYING ONLY ON ITS PROJECTS AND NO MORE ON THE SPONSORIZATION OF THE SISTER ORGANIZATION.



IMPLEMENTED AND ONGOING PROJECTS

PROTECTION

Psychosocial and legal support for Iraqi and Syrian families



North-East Syria and Iraq



THE GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK ORGANISATION



Starting date: January 2020

Closing date: Open end (cases are ongoing)



60 beneficiaries targeted to date

MHEurope and the International Social Service Switzerland work together to provide Iraqi and North East Syrian families with social, legal, and psychological support, and to strengthen child welfare and child protection systems in Iraq. We focus on supporting Iraqi families and children confronted with cross-border issues, as a consequence of migration or displacement. We provide social, psychological, and legal assistance in cases of violence, abuse, divorce, and mental instability, through our team of social workers, lawyers, psychologists, and translators. Till now, our team of lawyers and social workers handled more than 20 cases, providing assistance to 55 individuals (children, mothers, and families).



Referral Center for Child Counseling and Women's Empowerment



Talafar, Nineveh Governorate, Iraq



Starting date: December 1, 2021

Ending Date: May 30th, 2022



ANNE FRANK FONDS®
FOUNDED BY OTTO FRANK



More than 330 beneficiaries targeted

Nearly 4 years have passed since Talafar District was liberated from ISIL's military occupation, but significant challenges still prevent the recovery of the area. Lack of livelihoods and access to basic services pushes groups to normalise negative behaviors such as gender-based violence (GBV). Children and women are particularly vulnerable. The project aims to open and run a referral center to provide psychological support to children and survivors of GBV in Talafar.



Providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Community-Based Reintegration



Ninewa, Salah Al Din & Anbar, Iraq



Starting date: November 1, 2021

Ending date: August 31st, 2022



1825 beneficiaries

The project aims to strengthen community psychosocial reintegration support for children and adults formerly associated with ISIL, victims of GBV, and selected community members by providing free services by psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as training in basic psychosocial skills in post-conflict settings.



AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD

Beekeeping Programme in Syria



Al-Bab, Al-Bab district, Syria



Starting date: April 1st, 2022

Duration: 12 months



50 direct beneficiaries

Beekeeping has been a traditional industry in Syria and the Al-Bab district since before the crisis. However, 10 years of conflict have led to the collapse of the local economy, the consequent displacement of people, as well as the decline in the number of bees in the region and opportunities for Syrian beekeepers. In collaboration with our local partner, the International Agricultural Cooperation Organization, we are working to relaunch beekeeping in the region. To do so, we have targeted 50 beekeepers, of which 10 novice women, given them the adequate training and tools, put in place 3 cooperatives and given them constant guidance. In November 2022, we even organized a Honey Fair in Al-Bab, which was a huge success.



Strengthening the Civil Society and Rule of Law in Iraq as a Tool for Peacebuilding Phase I



Erbil and Baghdad, Iraq



if Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen



Starting date: April 4 2022

Duration: 3 months



90 direct beneficiaries

strengthening the rule of law and democratization in Iraq focused on capacity building that addressed coordination and protection systems through targeting three (3) spheres of influence: (1) Civil society organization working on human rights violations including torture, GBV and enforced disappearances, (2) Iraqi criminal justice and prison system, and (3) community police officers.



Strengthening the Civil Society and Rule of Law in Iraq as a Tool for Peacebuilding Phase II



Erbil and Baghdad, Iraq



Starting date: November 2022

Duration: 3 months



ifa Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen



60 direct beneficiaries

Aimed at delivering advanced training to Iraqi civil societies (CSOs), lawyers, journalists and academic community on how to engage with UN human rights mechanisms. In particular, we trained the participants to meet the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) during their November 2022 country visit.

During the first training, the CSOs have: (i) Understood how to write international reports on the application of international human rights standards in Iraq; (ii) Learned about the upcoming visit of the CED to Iraq.

In the 2nd training, the 30 lawyers, journalists and academics have understood how to: (i) Promote Human Rights international standards set by UN working groups and Committees; (ii) Scrutinise the Iraqi government's obligation to implement recommendations of UN treaty bodies.

In the 3rd meeting there was a joint interactive roundtable between professionals and CSOs representatives. The participants: (i) Discussed individual articles of the CED and demonstrated their understanding of the application of these protections; (ii) Discussed their expectations of the opportunity to engage with the CED; (iii) Gave an outlook of how this intensive work will help benefit their networks, including the families of those who have disappeared.

In the final event, our selected participants met with the CED, and: (i) Engaged with a UN treaty body mechanism for the first time; (ii) Prepare accurate case-files to be shared with the CED; (iii) Were empowered to engage with the CED delegation in a constructive manner



Cultivation of Hibiscus Sabdariffa

Tea Flowers to Treat Hypertension



Domiz camp, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq



Starting date: July 2022,
Ongoing



ANTENNA
FOUNDATION



6 direct and 100 indirect
beneficiaries

Addressing the prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension in Iraq, we are aiming at enabling access to affordable natural mitigation practices that can be adopted by economically vulnerable families who have members diagnosed with hypertension. In parallel with health outcomes, livelihood outcomes also include enabling new market access to Hibiscus tea. To date, refugee families were given seeds and trained to cultivate, harvest, and dry the Hibiscus petals. Next step is to make available the seeds and the tea for families whose members suffer from hypertension.



EDUCATION

Expanding the Empowerment of Girls and Women through IT and Coding Education in Shatt Al-Arab



Shatt Al Arab, Basra, Iraq



Starting date: September 2022

Duration: December 2022



214 beneficiaries (177 girls, 25 blind students and 12 teachers)

In the district of Shatt Al-Arab, Iraq, women have fewer social, economic, and educational opportunities than men. Early marriage, household responsibilities, a perceived lack of job opportunities, and conservative gender norms limit girls' access to secondary school and eventual employment. The goal of our project is therefore to empower girls by improving their computer/coding skills and to train teachers in computer/coding. In addition, as a pilot project, we also targeted a school for blind children to give them access to basic computer skills. In total, we thus provided classes to 177 girls (ages 12-13) of 10 public schools in Shatt al-Arab, as well as 25 blind girls and boys from the Al-Noor Institute. We also trained 12 local teachers or volunteers from the schools in computer/coding.



Emergency

Provision of Non Food Items (NFIs) to IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in Ukraine



Uzhhorod, Ukraine



Starting date: March 1st, 2022

Duration: 2 months



Grace
Initiative
Global

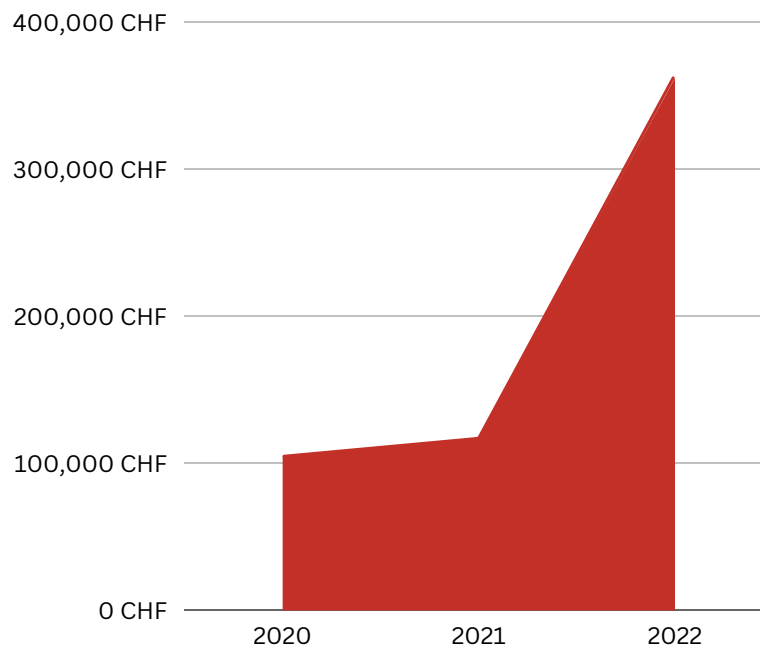


100 beneficiaries

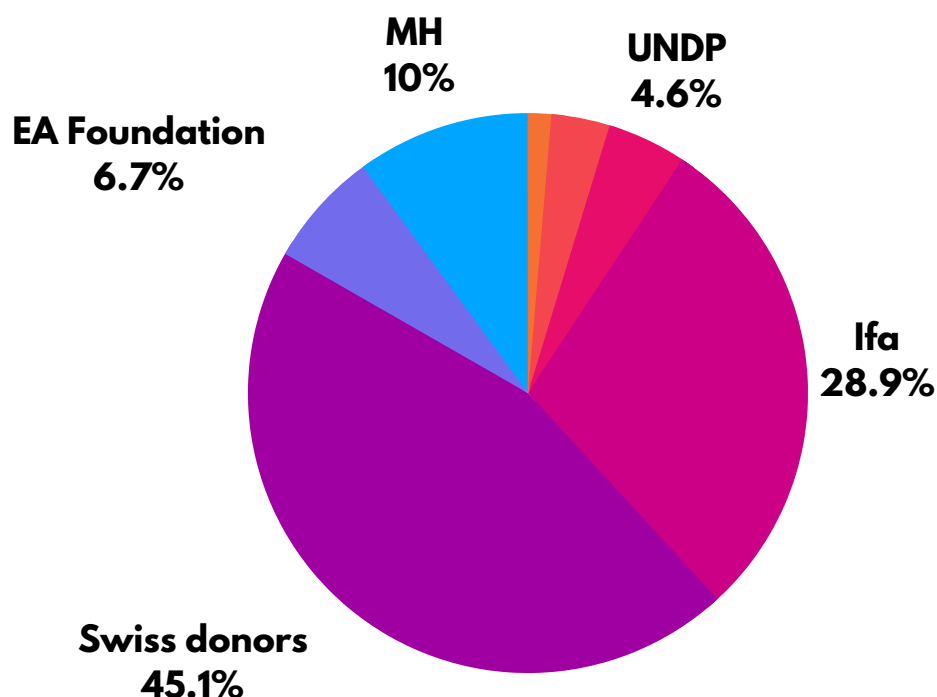
With the help of Ukrainian volunteers, we were able to map out 30 collective settlements of IDPs in Uzhhorod. The IDPs were forcibly displaced following Kyiv oblast and took shelter in schools, gyms, and other nonresidential buildings. We trained Ukrainian volunteers on rapid needs assessment for NFIs, and we provisioned NFIs to 100 IDPs.



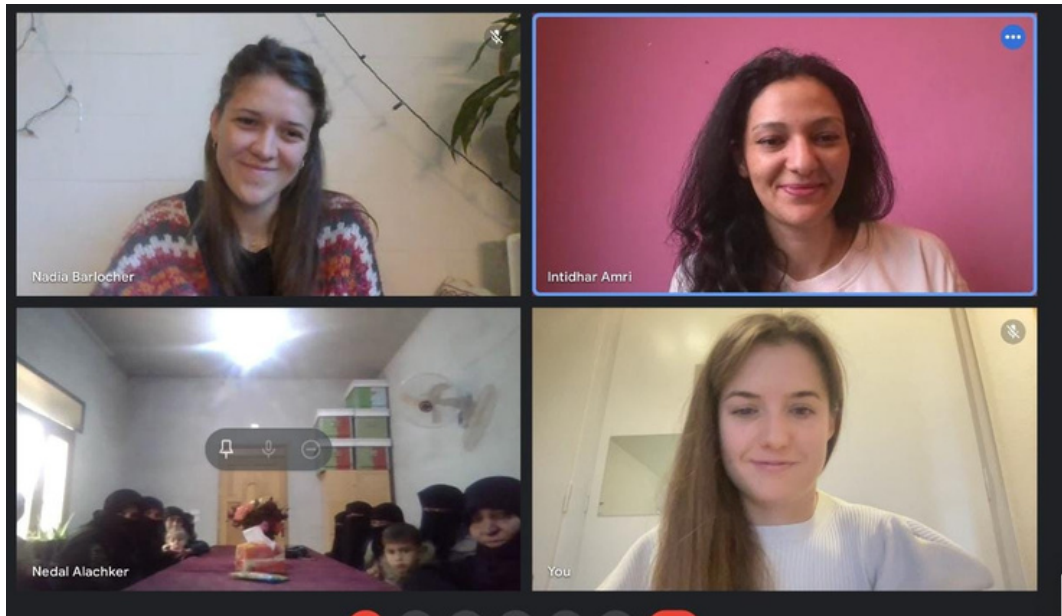
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Meanwhile in 2020 MHEurope was exclusively financed by our sister organization Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid for a total of 104'848 CHF; in 2021, we started to receive some grants for our protect, incrementing our income till 117'042,65 CHF. A big change happened in 2022, where we reached to the economical self sustainability only through our project, for a total of 362'041,88 CHF, divided in:



WORKSHOP TO ADVANCE PROGRAMMING OWNED AND DESIGNED BY AFFECTED POPULATION



Towards a Localized Rural Women Empowerment Programming

As part of our commitment to the participation of women in all phases of the project from design to implementation, we organized an exclusive webinar on December 7th, 2022, with women beekeepers to share feedback and lessons learnt. The input would ensure our commitment to the women-owned and women-led design of agricultural livelihoods in Northern Syria.

BEEKEEPING FAIR IN AL-BAB



The 3 days local Honey Fair, held in Al-Bab, Syria, enabled our beneficiaries to promote and commercialize the products from their beekeeping activities. In addition to incredible honey, there was a variety of other products: hand cream, anti-burn cream, bee venom, propolis, honey-infused nuts, beewax candles, bee shaped stuffed toys, etc.

The 2'000 visitors, who could taste the honey and exchange on beekeeping, were very enthusiastic about the event. School also came to learn about the bees and their honey production.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

on November 15th, 2022, Mercy Hands Europe became part of International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). ICVA is a global network of non-governmental organisations whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

on October 13th, 2022, Mercy Hands Europe was invited by Republique et Canton de Geneve to discover the results of an interdisciplinary territorial study around jardin des nations carried out between 2020 and 2021, by the canton, the City of Geneva, the communes of Grand-Saconnex and Pregny-Chambésy, with the participation of the Swiss Mission,



Genève
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Peace, Rights and Well-Being



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

2023 STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Long-term Goals

- To be economically independent and always more "sustainable"
- To help local organizations in more LMI (Low and Middle Income) regions
- To develop projects in Europe

Objectives for 2023

Donors

- Retain current donors with scale-up projects
- Attract new donors based on demonstrated implemented projects in education, agriculture and protection
- Attain Swiss-based Zewo certification based on Swiss donors' recommendations and regulations
- Launch new fundraisings through individual donation

Programs: Expanding Activities

- Scale up the current successful projects
- Create and implement at least one new project
- Develop one case study per project implemented
- Expand the activity in one new Country (i.e. Ethiopia)

II. Finances: Ensure at least 3 months of sustainability for the HQ.

- Ensure at least 9K of income each month through project participation.
- Ensure the salary of our staff in Geneva through participation in projects.
- Ensure to have a reserve of 27k CHF to be able to survive 3 months in case of emergency.

III. Advocacy: Making MHEurope better known in Switzerland and Europe

- Submit more projects with MHEurope as the lead applicant.
- Continue and improve visibility on social media and website.
- Join existing networks, groups, NGO federations, and clusters.
- Organise events (in person) to connect field partner organisations with European, Swiss, and international stakeholders.
- Develop a broader network of Swiss, European, and international partners.

IV. Capacity building

- Improve MHEurope's tools (i.e. new software and systems).
- Strengthen the capacity of the team through specialized courses.
- Organize field visits.
- Improve the quality of the projects.

SUMMARY OF TIMELINE



Follow us on social media:

