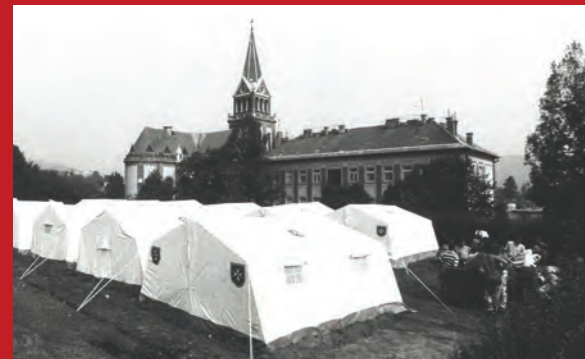


Born in humanitarian crisis

Timeline of the Hungarian Charity Service of Order of Malta



2005 Another significant event occurred in 2005: the **Nyikó River caused massive flood in Transylvania, Romania**. The HCSOM was one of the first charities in the field with its medical teams.

2008 HCSOM delivered much-needed humanitarian aid to the disaster-affected regions of the so-called **First Great Sichuan earthquake in China, Chengdu**.

2011 The HCSOM has started its WASH activities in **East Africa**. Until today the East African programmes remain at the forefront of the HCSOM.



2015 In response to the so-called migration crisis HCSOM has started to support **refugees in Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia** with varying capacities.

2016 Temporary close of the **Serbian-Hungarian border** – migrants were forced to progress towards Croatia thus our operations were shifted accordingly. The Croatian authorities directed the flow of migrants to the Southern borders of Hungary. HCSOM was the first Hungarian charity to provide assistance in Serbia.

2017 Capacity enhancement of an existing hospital to support the humanitarian demands of the population living in the war-torn regions of **East Aleppo, in Syria**. Enhancement of the existing institutional support system within the refugee camps of **Palestine and Jordan** and the improvement of the local educational, social and medical services assisting IDPs, migrants and the host population.

1989 HCSOM was born in an international humanitarian crisis when thousands of **East German refugees** flooded into the Hungarian capital. During the three months preceding the collapse of the Berlin wall 48,000 Germans fleeing their homeland found refuge and much needed aid in the arms of the newly begun Hungarian Charity Service. At the time this was the largest ever humanitarian assistance program in Europe unfolding in the backyard of a suburban parish church of Budapest.

1991 1992 During the following winter the **Romanian revolution** erupted and the newborn charity service was among the first responders delivering medical aid at the sight of the bloodshed. In the midst of the deadly **Yugoslavian war** we transferred hundreds of wounded victims to Hungarian hospitals and cared for the countless number of refugees.

1998 Medical missions in the late nineties deployed in the areas affected by the **massive flood in Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine**. The biggest flood in our recent history has occurred in the Tisza River Basin.

2004 In response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and **Sri Lanka's catastrophic tsunami** the Hungarian charity built a kindergarten in the town of Halpathota for 150 children in 2005. It was the third-largest earthquake ever recorded.



2005 Positioned a group of volunteer doctors at the site of **Pakistan's earthquakes** and set up medical clinics in tents. Shortly afterwards, in 2006 HCSOM deployed a doctors' mission following the eruption of the **Java Island volcano in Indonesia**.

The Sovereign Order of Malta: the oldest medical mission in the world

Upholding human dignity and caring for people in need

The Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation. A lay religious order of the Catholic Church since 1113 and a subject of international law, the Sovereign Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with over 100 states and the European Union, and permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is neutral, impartial and apolitical.

Today, the Order of Malta is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-day, its broad spectrum of social projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society. It is especially involved in helping people living in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees, and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival. Across the world, the Order of Malta is dedicated to the preservation of human dignity and the care of all those in need, regardless of their race or religion.

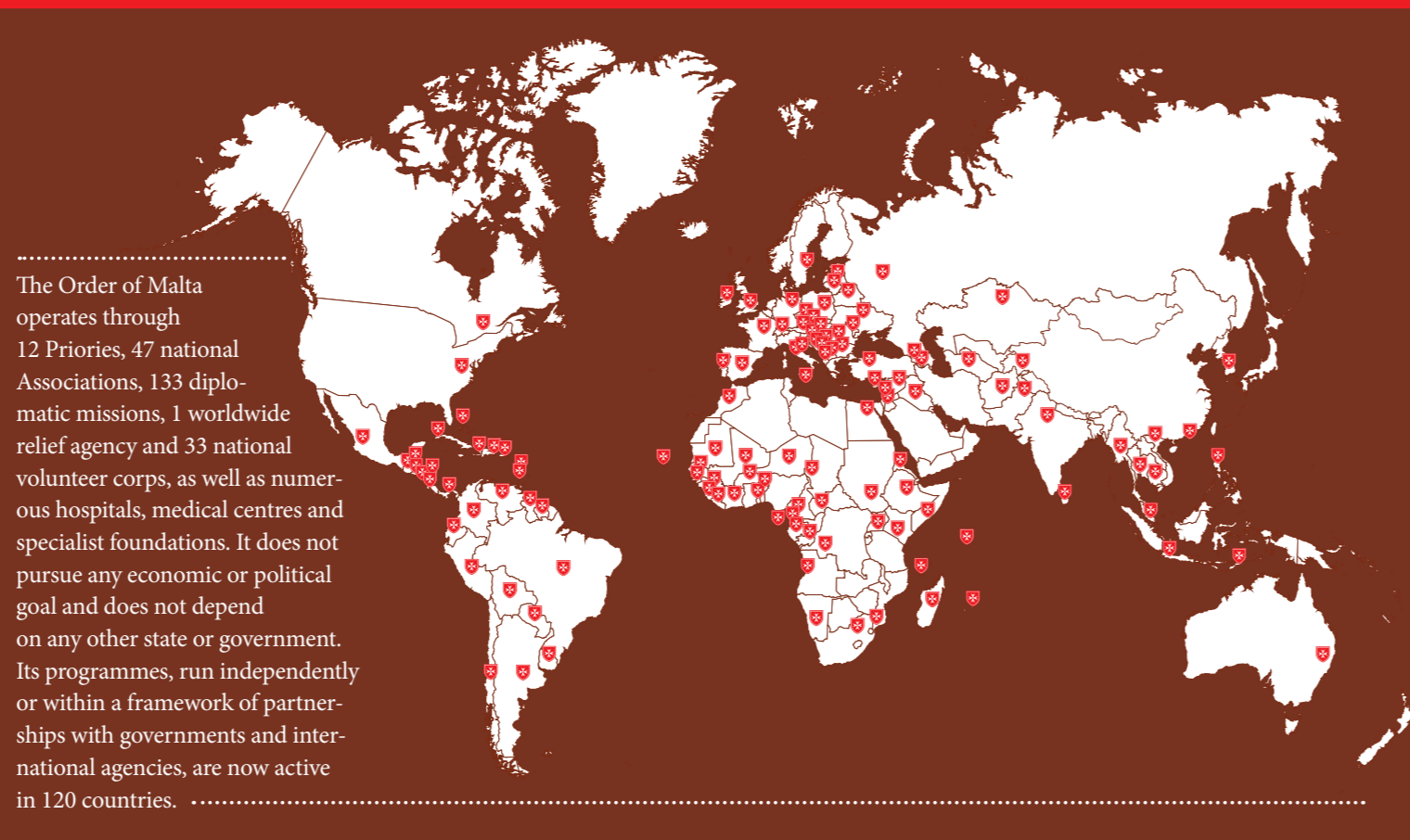
Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Order of Malta has a long history of service to the vulnerable and the sick. This 900-year history is reflected in its full name: Sovereign

Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Since 1834 the Order of Malta's government seat has been in Rome, where it is guaranteed extraterritorial rights.

The eight-pointed cross which symbolises the Order represents the eight Beatitudes and is thus a visual memento of its spirituality.

The Order of Malta remains true to its inspiring principles: testify the Faith and service to the suffering. Its members share the same vocation and strive together for solidarity, justice and peace. Based on the teaching of the Gospels and in the closest communion with the Holy See, they are involved in active and dynamic charity supported by faith. No Knight or Dame is such by privilege of birth or merits acquired, but for having answered to the call to be where there is a material or moral need, where there is suffering with its mystery.

Its 13,500 members, 80,000 permanent volunteers and qualified staff of 42,000 professionals – most of whom are medical personnel and paramedics – form an efficient network that includes everything from emergency relief for refugees and the displaced living through war and conflict, to intervention in areas hit by natural disasters, hospital work, medical care and social services.



The Order of Malta operates through 12 Pories, 47 national Associations, 133 diplomatic missions, 1 worldwide relief agency and 33 national volunteer corps, as well as numerous hospitals, medical centres and specialist foundations. It does not pursue any economic or political goal and does not depend on any other state or government. Its programmes, run independently or within a framework of partnerships with governments and international agencies, are now active in 120 countries.

Going to the Peripheries

International Development and Humanitarian Aid Projects Implemented by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta



Health, Water and Hygiene Projects in Africa and in the Middle East

About the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta is an independent non-governmental legal entity and one of the largest charity services in Hungary with an operating budget of over 31 million EUR in 2017. The organization is funded through government subsidies, international funding sources and private donors from Hungarian citizens. The Charity Service was founded as the relief organization of the Sovereign Order of Malta to provide relief to people in need – the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the disadvantaged, the homeless, refugees, pilgrims and the victims of natural disasters and conflicts primarily within Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta has developed social policy strategies and recommendations focusing on important themes that previously have not yet been highlighted on national or international levels.



"I really appreciate our Hungarian friends' longstanding efforts in the fields of water, sanitation and hygiene and for everything the Hungarians have achieved."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, 2012 – New York



Overseas presence

Beyond the aid provided in humanitarian crises during unexpected natural disasters or political conflicts on the national level, the organization has achieved significant results in the area of international development. In Africa as well as in the Middle East it has implemented several permanent infrastructural development programs which provide access to safe drinking water and basic hygiene services.

But why has the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta decided to assume a continuous overseas presence in the field of international humanitarian development? Or we could pose the question more generally – why should we be concerned with Africa, Asia or the Middle East? The answer lies in finding the adequate balance both in ratio and in relation to the acute problems affecting us and other nations of our world. We firmly believe that we can only fulfil our vocation well if we find the correct relation among the urgent needs affecting us and those around us – be it near or far. One must see and realize that the suffering millions of Pakistan or of the Horn of Africa often face crises far more severe than our own which inevitably compels one to compassion and action.



General overview

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in collaboration with its local partners implemented water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects in several East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda and in Tanzania in order to improve the inadequate infrastructure by providing shower and toilet access to vulnerable populations living in economically disadvantaged segregated settlements (frequently referred to as 'slums'). The total number of our beneficiaries is approximately 500,000 of which 70% are women and children. The project's short-term goal of creating the WASH sites was realized while the long-term objectives transferred the facility's management to the local community for sustainability of operations. With both short and long-term project goals achieved the need for assessing the effectiveness still exists, particularly in the area of humanitarian diplomacy.

The HCSOM has set up four water sanitation facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa which provide clean, legal and healthy drinking water and adequate hygiene in the segregated areas, in primary and secondary schools of East African metropolises. The facilities include toilets, showers as well as faucets with running water which provide inhabitants free access to potable water. These sanitation centres (WASH kiosks) provide the minimum necessary sanitary conditions for the local community. This is particularly important as they are often forced to pay well above the market price for drinking water supplied by cartels. Most families cannot afford the high costs and instead resort to tinkering illegal connections to the urban water supply, which break down frequently, exposing them to unsafe groundwater. As a result of the inadequate sanitation network wastewater flows freely in open ditches through the densely populated, hut-lined streets. The HCSOM also implements WASH programs in partnership with local charities and churches that have been active in programming supplying healthy drinking water in East Africa. The facilities have been realized with the support of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta and it also includes, in addition to the water supply and WASH facilities, a community hall for the use of the local population.

Topic importance

The inherent challenges of providing WASH programs:

1. Economically disadvantaged areas rarely dissolve. Often the initial goal of being a temporary facility evolves into long-term challenges that require community infrastructure planning. The benefits of program assessment will provide insight into the transition from short to long-term planning strategies that will translate into specific practices for the WASH humanitarian community at large.
2. WASH facilities in economically disadvantaged areas are vulnerable to corruption. Humanitarian field workers are confronted with local, illegal water vendors and potentially inflated costs of commodities thus they need safeguards that protect the fundamental principles of the humanitarian space. Refining humanitarian policies and guidelines will equip locals with tools that support humanitarian principles of ethics and equal access to WASH resources.
3. Relevant decision makers and opinion leaders must be engaged in ethical WASH program implementation. Documenting best practices is essential to providing long-term assurance that WASH activities will continue to support the so-called humanitarian cluster system and respect the diverse cultural context of nations.

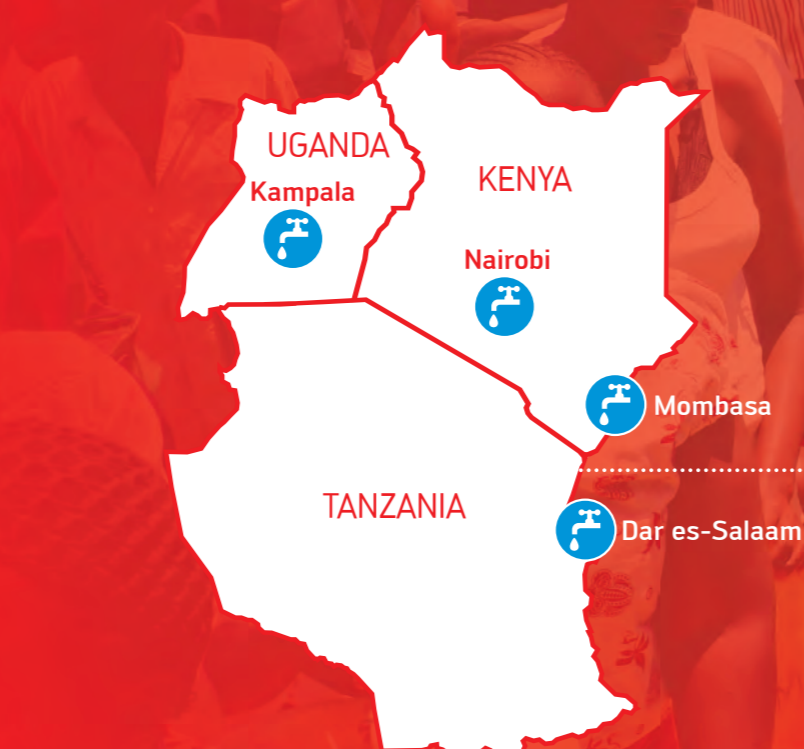


Summary

Effective WASH actions rely upon the principles of sound humanitarian policies. Given that humanitarian diplomacy, assistance and international development require long-term relationship building, examining programs that develop and respect the humanitarian space of coordination and collaboration, are often the most successful, e.g., the long-standing models of international organizations. The sometimes gap filler activities of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta could have a lasting impact on exerting influence on decision makers across the world and supporting humanitarian diplomacy so that it may become a responsibility and not just a choice.

Uganda

In 2013 the Hungarian Charity Service developed complex water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) programs in Kampala's segregated and severely disadvantaged communities. As a result the inhabitants gained much-needed access to legal and clean drinking water as well as to basic hygiene services. Access to water is provided by four 2500 litre cement containers that collect rain water from the specially designed rooftops. Additionally, two bio-latrines were also constructed with flush toilets, a sewer system and an anaerobic digester bio gas extractor and processor unit. This is a 'classic-and-unique', ecological and sustainable technology which is aimed at improving the living conditions of the settlements' inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable – women, children and the elderly. The program also contains instructional elements whereby the local beneficiaries can receive instructions to familiarize themselves with the new technology and how it is applied towards basic hygiene practices. The centres greatly reduce the stress on the environment and the risk of spreading infectious diseases.



Tanzania

In 2015 the focus of the organization's capacity enhancement project was one of Dar es Salaam's severely underprivileged elementary schools. The WASH program consisted of building a new 5000 litre water collection tank and the renovation of an existing drilled water well. In addition, a high capacity hygiene unit was built complete with a sewage system and two existing sanitation units were renovated as well. The facilities were developed using the closed loop equipment in order to reduce the environmental impact. Lastly, the Charity Service refurbished the electrical system and established instructional and social spaces for communal use. The project's instructional elements ensure that community members learn about practicing good hygiene and receive training in the maintenance of the newly built amenities. By establishing basic hygiene services and providing access to clean drinking water the project contributed to improving children's health, and significantly reduced the spread of infectious diseases.

Nairobi, Kenya

In 2011 (renovated in 2016) the organization established its first sanitation centre where access to basic and minimum hygiene services such as legal potable water, six showers, laundry facilities, six hygienic toilets were secured for use by the local population in Kibera, Nairobi's (perhaps Africa's) largest segregated community. A ten thousand litre rain water collection tank was constructed. The approximately 50 m2 stone building serves the needs of thousands of people.

Mombasa, Kenya

In 2012 the Hungarian Charity Service decided to construct the very first complex sanitation centre in one of Mombasa's slums providing the inhabitants access to legal and clean drinking water. Along with access to water the organization developed six toilets and six shower facilities, a 10,000 litre container for collecting rain water as well as a water circulating system and communal classroom spaces. The project's primary goal was to improve the health of children and mothers, reduce infant mortality rates and the spread of communicable diseases. With this unique initiative the HCSOM has been delivering this service in Mombasa's largest slum as a sole and single provider.

Lebanon

The project seeks to ensure the availability of medical and social facilities for Syrian refugees and the needy host communities by providing food kits, medical drugs and fuel. The main focus area is along the Syrian border and the regions of the Bekaa valley, East and North of Tripoli, in Lebanon.



Jordan, Palestine

The program activities focus primarily on migrants, refugees and IDPs, in general the local population in need with special focus on vulnerable groups in the areas or Jordan, between Amman and the Dead Seas and along the Syrian border and in Palestine's Ramallah and Bethlehem regions. The project aims to strengthen and supplement the institutional support system within the refugee camps, connect with the existing medical and psychosocial service providers and improve those if necessary, improve the local medical facilities, support the current educational programs both within the refugee camps and among the local community, expand the capacity of local schools, support the activities of Christian communities through capacity building and material aid, increase the competencies of local community leaders by establishing efficient mobilization and networking tools.

Summary

The current Middle East program package aims to support vulnerable local communities facing continuous hardships as well as migrant groups either travelling through or permanently established in the region by improving their quality of life, strengthening their commitment of remaining close to their homeland, building the strenght of local communities while also improving their physical and spiritual well-being.



Syria

The program aims to enhance the capacity of an existing hospital by developing a comprehensive medical edifice that can support the humanitarian demands of the population living in the war-torn regions of East Aleppo, in Syria. In addition to the hospital, it is designed to enhance the medical services provided by a mobile Hospitainer that is regularly deployed in the areas where the displaced population concentrate. Material support for the effective functioning of the hospital and the mobile medical unit as well as wage compensation for the doctors and medical staff working in the hospital are all vital elements of the program.



General overview

During the past decade the primary focus of the Charity Service's support has been the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa assuming a continuous presence in several countries critically in need. The Middle East is a key concern and of particular importance to the organization's focus where it is committed to providing humanitarian assistance based primarily on social need without racial, ethnic or religious bias.

Stemming from the Charity Service's distinctive character it gives singular attention to the help and support of the Christians communities and all religious minorities that suffer from the instability and violence within the region as a means of expressing solidarity and compassion towards our brothers who for their faith alone are enduring horrendous acts of violence, discrimination and religious persecution.

The resulting social and political uncertainties create fertile grounds for extremist interpretations of culture, politics and religion where Christians and other minorities often become particularly vulnerable and resort to fleeing the ensuing insecurities. The region's current large-scale displacement, migration and refugee crisis has inundated the countries of the Middle East as well as Europe, creating new challenges for re-weaving the tapestry of social unity. In an effort to try and put an end to the senseless suffering the international community as well as all able and good-willed persons ought to mobilize and join their forces in order to promote peace and stability in the Middle East, recognizing that while the continued use of heavily armed militant forces may be essential for the time being, it should not be the sole instrument used to conquer the radical groups. Providing equitable humanitarian and development assistance, fostering the building of open and inclusive societies, negotiating ceasefires and most importantly safeguarding those who with the courage of the martyrs have resolved to remain in their beloved homeland are just a few means for peaceful interventions.

Topic importance

1. The Middle East, often referred to as the cradle of Christianity, is of fundamental significance to the Charity Service as it is genuinely committed to preserving – to the extent possible – the rich inheritance of the ancient Christian communities who are now forced to flee the unspeakable violence and terror devastating their homeland.

– a.) The first disciples of Christ, the apostles and the blood of the martyrs have left behind a richly cultivated „land flowing with milk and honey” (Exod. 3:17) where Christian communities have been flourishing throughout the centuries but are now in danger of disappearing entirely as a result of the vehement and seemingly unending persecution and religious discrimination in the regions of the Middle East. Consequently, Christians have become a minority in a land that was, some two thousand years ago, the birthplace of Christianity. The Charity Service, an organization with intrinsic Christian values, is genuinely devoted to expressing solidarity and compassion towards its Eastern brethren and sharing if necessary a common fate in order to demonstrate that they're not forgotten by the West.

– b. For us westerners the obligation is inestimable – we ought to open our hearts and ears and extend a helping hand towards the Christian communities and all religious and non-religious minorities enduring significant adversities as a result of the rise of religious radicalism in the East. The number of Christians are diminishing at an alarming rate as they're forced to flee the increasingly hostile environment in order to protect their own lives and that of their loved ones.

2. Those travelling through Hungary via the Balkans migratory routes are identified more often than not as originating from countries of the Middle East.

– a. The majority of the refugees and migrants travelling through and requesting refugee status in Hungary arrive primarily from 3 countries all of which are in the regions of the Middle East

– b. The Hungarian Charity Service echoes that aid ought to be provided right where it is most needed, thus rather than removing and replacing the needs and the needy efforts should be directed to bringing the help directly to them.

3. The Middle East represents one of today's primary conflict zones
 - a. The Arab Spring of 2011 has spread as a seemingly uncontrollable wave of wildfires first through the regions of North Africa and then through the Arab world. It also affected the countries of the Middle East many of which have plunged into turmoil due to the collapse of their already fragile economic and political situations.
 - b. In 2011 at the onset of Syria's civil war the country was shaken to its foundations and the ensuing effects are still felt today. A major exodus is under way in the entire region with millions throughout the Middle East emigrating. In addition to fleeing discrimination and persecution from extremists, Christians emigrate in search of educational and economic opportunities. As local populations dwindle, communities are also becoming increasingly frail and fragmented, minority groups remaining in isolated pockets becoming all the more vulnerable. Recognizing the special role of the Christian presence in the Middle East in bearing witness to faith and in fostering fraternity, unity, and dialogue, we ought to condemn the atrocities unceasingly and urge the international community to address the needs of minorities "above all by promoting peace through negotiation and diplomacy... and stopping as soon as possible the violence..." (Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Christians in the Middle East)
 - c. The multi-generational, 50-60 year old Palestinian refugee camps have been dependent on humanitarian aid for several decades. Today's political and armed conflicts unfairly suppress the daily needs of those who have been living in these conditions for many generations. Continuous support is required so as to allow today's generation of migrants a better chance for a future, a culture and a native language to call their own. Without intervention, they're predestined to follow the fate of their predecessors.