In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL completed the second year of its three-year strategy, of which one objective is to promote its presence in the most difficult areas, where needs are significant, both to the humanitarian community and the general public. We have definitely made progress on this front! In a humanitarian environment which is growing more rigid, with a tendency to protect itself from risks rather than to overcome them, our organization has once again demonstrated its professionalism and its commitment to provide aid where it is most needed.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL continues to answer the call for assistance in northeastern Syria, where many regional and international forces are fighting one another, in the heart of the Venezuelan crisis where our organization is discovering a new humanitarian geography, in the context of urgent mobilization in Mozambique following a devastating hurricane or to face a new Ebola outbreak in the DRC. Sadly, intervention in conflict zones takes an ever-increasing part in our actions each year. While we can rejoice about the lasting ceasefire in South Sudan, the situations in Yemen or in Borno State in Nigeria are deteriorating and new areas of tension are continuing to emerge, in English-speaking Cameroon for example.

In order to underline the actual situation in the field and the constraints that this imposes on our interventions, we are increasing our representation in humanitarian governance bodies (WASH and Log global clusters, Start Network, ALNAP, French Water Partnership, etc.) to bring the voice of the field and affected populations to the forums that shape the organization of tomorrow’s humanitarian aid. In the same way, the continuation of our web-series De vos propres yeux allows us to bring the general public closer to our humanitarian action and to raise awareness about the situation of those living in forgotten crises, since it is also our duty of solidarity to the general public. This commitment to meet growing humanitarian needs has brought strong growth to our organization, whose budget has increased by more than 25% in 2019, partly thanks to the development of French and American funding. But growth also means increased responsibility, vigilance, especially regarding security issues, the fight against abuse, fraud and exploitation, and adaptation to increasingly restrictive international legal frameworks for humanitarian aid. These must not, however, distract us from our primary mission: saving lives.

In our commitment to provide access to drinking water and sanitation for all, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL assists populations affected by conflicts, epidemics and natural disasters. For 40 years, our humanitarian teams have been committed to providing aid during the most severe crises. Our mission is to assist all whose health and lives are at risk, as quickly and effectively as possible, by covering their basic needs: water, food and shelter. Once the initial crisis is over, and emergency aid has been distributed in person by our teams, we then support the most vulnerable individuals as they reclaim their livelihoods and their autonomy, so that they can stand up with dignity to face the challenges of an uncertain future. Our work would not be effective – or even possible – without our unshakeable determination to always uphold the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, impartiality and neutrality.

WWW.SOLIDARITES.ORG
KEY FIGURES

1980-2019
Since our first mission to Afghanistan, we have taken action in more than 30 countries worldwide to hand-deliver vital assistance that enables these countries’ people to preserve their dignity and regain their means of self-sufficiency.

106 MILLION EUROS IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

92.8% OF OUR RESOURCES WERE DEVOTED TO OUR HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS FOR DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS
This figure represents a strategic choice, reflecting our commitment to humanitarian work.

2,350 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES
Our humanitarian teams are composed of experts in the areas of water and sanitation, food security, and reconstruction, as well as logistics, management, and more.

40 BUSINESS PARTNERS
supported our programs.

53,829 ACTIVE DONORS
Guaranteeing our independence and our responsiveness, our donors provide essential financial support, allowing us to respond rapidly to populations in danger.

4.6 MILLION PEOPLE HELPED
with respect for their culture and dignity, solely on the basis of their vital needs.

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106 MILLION EUROS IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2019, YEAR 2 OF OUR 2018-2020 STRATEGY

In 2017, while setting our strategy for the 2018-2020 triennium, we emphasized that we wanted to focus on humanitarian impact. “In 2020, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL will respond to the vital needs—food, water, shelter—of victims of armed conflicts and populations affected by natural disasters or health crises, in countries and situations where the capacity to respond is very limited. The organization will be particularly committed to access to drinking water and sanitation. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s humanitarian action will adhere to the commitments of responsiveness, operational agility and impact. As an independent, non-demonstrational, apolitical organization, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL will act in the sole interest of those assisted, from the initial emergency response for populations in need through to crisis recovery activities.”

2019 is the second year of implementation of this strategy. Let’s take a look at our achievements.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND ACCESS

More than ever, in 2019, humanitarian impact and access remained our priorities, forming the foundation of our commitment. Syria became our largest mission, with the DRC moving into second place. Generally speaking, our action in all countries demonstrates our capacity for access, which we wanted to precisely define and “shine” in an internal note that was approved by our steering committee in February 2019. “Humanitarian access relates to humanitarian actors’ ability to reach people affected by crisis, as well as an affected population’s ability to access humanitarian assistance and services, in a manner consistent with core humanitarian principles and the do no harm intention.”

If I had to choose a few specific examples demonstrating our capacity for access, I would mention our Ebola response in eastern DRC, in areas that are difficult to access due to the presence of armed groups, or our action in northern Burkina Faso. In Oujilo, an area plagued by the exactions of radical groups that cause massive population displacements, where few humanitarian organizations are able to intervene. We have been able to take action to assist displaced populations, and thus consolidate our activities in the Sahel, which have been expanding since 2018.

4 M DIMENSION

We wanted to give our action a 4M dimension (multi-year, multi-partner, multi-country, multi-sector). For the year 2019, I would like to emphasize the growing proportion of funding contracts that go beyond one year, 26% of the 107 contracts signed and the growing proportion of contracts signed as a consortium, 30% in 2019, where we are project leader or partner.

DEMONSTRATION AND ADVOCACY

We remain determined to put our expertise acquired in the field to good use. Thus, in 2019, we joined the board of directors of Start, a network of some fifty international and local humanitarian NGOs, which offers an innovative response to the issues of localizing and providing effective humanitarian aid, particularly through the shared management by NGOs of emergency response funding (Start Fund). We have also joined the SAGs (Strategic Advisory Groups, the equivalent of boards of directors of the Logistics and WASH clusters). These global clusters allow SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL to present its experience and know-how to influence the evolution of humanitarian architecture and standards in relation to issues directly arising from the field. At the same time, we are still part of the board of directors of the French Water Partnership (FWP), which brings together private, public, research and international solidarity actors that specialize in water. The aim is to ensure that humanitarian issues are taken into account in global water governance and to include this theme in the 2021 World Water Forum in Dakar.

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH VERY POSITIVE RESULTS

At our last Annual General Meeting in 2019, we were pleased that the 2018 accounts were again in the black after a deficit year in 2017. Today, I am pleased to share with you the organization’s excellent results for 2019, showing an overall budget of almost 108 million euros. For the first time since the creation of our organization, we have passed the 100 million mark. This 25% growth between 2018 and 2019 is exceptional and illustrates the very strong commitment of our teams, to whom we extend our congratulations.

The other point of satisfaction is a positive financial result of more than 1.6 million euros. We have decided that 700,000 euros of this surplus will be used to create dedicated positions at headquarters to support our growth as of 2020. This capacity-building measure is in addition and complements the actions we took in 2018 to benefit our expatriates and in 2019 to review the salary scale for head office staff.

In terms of results, one of the subjects requiring attention is fundraising. For 2019, we had set a target of 2 million euros net. The annual accounts indicate that we are below this target, at 1.7 million euros. This shortfall of 300,000 euros can be explained in part by the transport strikes at the end of the year, but it is also certainly true that the fundraising target was too high. In 2020, the net target will therefore be set at just under 1.2 million euros, and we hope for a pleasant surprise rather than the opposite.

Finally, we are still aware of the need to improve our business model. In 2019, the organization set up a private partnership development unit, in order to drastically increase the proportion of funding from this source.

IN CONCLUSION

Faced with increasingly complex contexts, in the 15 countries in which we operated in 2019, our expertise, responsiveness and agility have enabled us to assist more people, who have placed their trust in us, while paying constant attention to quality and respect.
Responding to multiple crises in the Sahel

The Sahel region, plagued by multiple security, food and climate crises, is home to 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In this tormented context, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL intends to develop its operations in order to respond in an integrated and effective manner to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Insecurity due to armed conflict as well as climate change disrupting the agricultural seasons are both contributing to a drastic deterioration in food and nutritional security. By 2020, at least 13 million people will be in a situation of crisis or emergency-level food insecurity. Malnutrition will affect 1.6 million children under 5 years of age, who will suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

The Sahel is also plagued by multiple armed conflicts that cause large-scale forced population displacements and have resulted in 4.5 million internally displaced persons and refugees. The resurgence of attacks and military operations is further weakening populations that are already extremely vulnerable. The region surrounding the triple border between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger experienced an upsurge of violence in 2019 with non-state armed groups gaining ground against state and local authorities struggling to contain the crisis. In the Lake Chad Basin, the conflict that began in Nigeria in 2009 has continued to spread to the border regions of Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Finally, the Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable to climate shocks. Temperatures there are rising 1.5 times faster than in the rest of the world. Extreme droughts and frequent floods (see our article p.25) as well as the deterioration of agricultural land, disrupt and threaten the livelihoods of millions of people.

In this tormented regional context, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, which is present in these six countries, intends to develop its operations to meet the needs of the most vulnerable through integrated and appropriate programs.
Since 2014, the Venezuelan crisis has led to the exile of more than 4.3 million people, many of them to Colombia. Following a needs assessment, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL decided to open a mission in December 2019 in Bucaramanga, in the northeast of the country, where hundreds of migrants pass through every day. Our teams are working in several shelters along their journey to improve reception conditions, in particular by rehabilitating health facilities.

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai struck Mozambique with a rare degree of violence. Nearly 1.8 million people were affected and left without shelter or access to drinking water. In Beira, the country’s second largest city and an endemic cholera zone, the destruction of water treatment infrastructure raised fears of a resurgence of the disease. In response to this large-scale crisis and drawing on its expertise in the fight against cholera, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL sent in its teams and emergency stock.

In February 2019, Haiti recorded its last confirmed case of cholera. This shows that the elimination plan developed by the Haitian authorities, with the help of their partners, has come to fruition. However, the actors involved in the fight against the epidemic, including SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, remain vigilant. Investments are still necessary to prevent the risk of future outbreaks and to finally enable the poorest Haitian citizens to live in a cholera-free environment.
Our reality: Taking risks to help wherever there is need

In 2019, our teams kept up the fight to pursue their actions and carry out new interventions in the most difficult-to-access areas around the world, in order to provide relief for the most disadvantaged populations.

Humanitarian access, again and again: these words sum up the combat that has once again dominated 2019 at SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL.

This imperative, which implies that humanitarian actors should know how to reach vulnerable populations, has never before been claimed by so many – in some cases inappropriately – until it has become an empty concept without meaning nor intention.

And yet in 2019, at SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, this term has taken on the significance of a harsh, pressing reality: that we must expose ourselves and take risks to help the populations most at risk.

This is what we did in Syria, where we continued our rehabilitation of water treatment plants and our emergency response in very difficult-to-access areas, despite the fact that the withdrawal of American troops triggered a Turkish, Syrian and Russian military confrontation in the northeast and northwest of the country. This is what we commenced in Yemen, when we decided to launch emergency operations in Al Mokha and Al Turbah, where, once again, no one wanted to go.

In the North and Central North regions of Burkina Faso, amid a context of escalating insecurity, we consolidated our response to provide emergency shelters and access to water for populations displaced by conflict. More broadly speaking, in the Sahel and Lake Chad regions, we were able to strike a balance between the principle of independence and the urgency of providing assistance to populations that the world has forgotten. And all this at a time when humanitarian and development aid is under threat from the growing politicization of humanitarian funding over the issues surrounding the fight against terrorism and migration.

In Colombia, humanitarian access has meant heading off the beaten track and reinventing our action, for example around Bucaramanga, where we have set up a support system as close as possible to the “caminantes”, Venezuelan migrants exhausted by their long journey on the roads.

In Myanmar and Bangladesh, we had to keep up the same level of mobilization to prevent the Rohingyas communities from falling into oblivion once again and being displaced with impunity to unhealthy sites. Our success in this regard has been relative in Yangon, the strong involvement of our Country Director in humanitarian advocacy only managed to limit this inexorable slide, while the international community refuses to intervene.

This shows that humanitarian access is also punctuated by obstacles, or even failures: in Haiti, despite all our energy, we have not been able to maintain our essential presence in Martissant, one of the neighbourhoods most plagued by gang violence, where humanitarian aid is absolutely necessary.

Humanitarian access has a financial and human cost, which is not insignificant. It represents a risk, but this risk can save lives.

We are SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, we are more than 2,300 humanitarian workers throughout the world and we declare again and again: no, humanitarian access is not a fashionable concept. It is our reality!
In 2019, the Emergency Department implemented its new strategy by redefining its role and responsibilities within the organization. These solid foundations have enabled the department to meet the needs of populations in new intervention settings, to consolidate the presence and position of SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s recently opened missions and to strengthen the rapid response culture within the organization.

Throughout the year, the Emergency Department gave high priority to our NGO’s operations in Burkina Faso, affected by a security crisis with serious humanitarian consequences. The Emergency Department supported the scaling up of our teams’ response on this mission, which began at the end of 2018.

Special attention was also paid to the crisis in Yemen, the Emergency Response team was sent in to open a base and implement a rapid response mechanism throughout the south of the country. Exploratory missions, needs assessments and finally a WASH response followed one another in Colombia, which has become the country hosting the second-largest number of refugees in the world. Discovering the Latin American context, our teams established a strategy to improve reception and transit conditions on the roads around Bucaramanga.

Our emergency teams were also mobilized to meet the water and shelter needs of the Mozambican populations hit by Cyclone Idai, particularly in the city of Beira, which is located in a cholera endemic area. Operations lasted just over a month, during which we responded to the aftermath of the disaster.

The Emergency Department also conducted an exploratory mission in Niger and supported the opening of a new base in southwest Cameroon in response to the active conflict in the English-speaking region. In addition, our teams supported several countries in various ways through the development of emergency strategies or by filling key vacancies in Nigeria, DRC, Syria and Bangladesh.

The private partnerships revolution

characterized by one time donations to support single projects, but that partnerships are built on relationships between institutions that have shared values and goals, and that complement each other in terms of expertise, vision and ability to adapt their working methods to protect the environment and support people and communities.

Looking forward we continue to reach out to the private sector and foundations to develop holistic partnerships with a diverse and dynamic mix of socially-conscious partners, and by maximizing learning and operational opportunities including skills sponsorships, technical assistance, in-kind support and financial contributions, which will make a real difference to people in need and help improve international humanitarian assistance as a whole.

Times are changing and we are keen to hear from partners who want to join us in shaping the future of collaboration in humanitarian aid and are interested in finding new and innovative ways of coming together to make the world a better place.

COLOMBIA

CONTEXT

Since 2014, Venezuela has been sinking into a political and economic crisis with dramatic consequences. The general deterioration in living conditions has led to the exile of more than 4.3 million people, many of whom (0.6 million) have fled to Colombia. Some of these migrants now live in precarious conditions, with multiple needs, including housing, health, water and sanitation, and protection. According to the United Nations, this migration crisis has become the second largest in the world, just after the one in Syria. For the past four years, the flow of migrants has not diminished. In 2019, thousands of families continued to flock to northern Colombia, heading for Bogota, Medellin or other large urban areas. Known as “caminantes”, these migrants walk every day without any means of subsistence, along a dangerous and difficult road between Cucuta and Bucaramanga.

OUR ACTION

Following an initial assessment phase, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s emergency teams decided to work with several local organizations to improve reception conditions in four shelters around the city of Bucaramanga: Bochalema, La Laguna, La Fortuna and Curti. In October 2019, our teams began to improve water supply, rehabilitation of handwashing points and sanitation conditions (solutions for controlling and disposing of sludge) to provide migrants with access to more dignified facilities during their journey and to prevent outbreaks of diseases related to poor hygiene. A partnership has also been established with a health actor with the aim of eventually improving shelter facilities, healthcare and providing a hot meal to these populations in transit.

Team

2 international staff, 4 national staff

Partners

Unicef, Première Urgence Internationale

Budget

€0.05 million

Population

Population of 49.6 million

90th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

Improvement of reception conditions for migrants 9,393 people

• Improvement of hygiene conditions in shelters
• Rehabilitation of handwashing points
• Rehabilitation of latrines
• Rehabilitation of sludge treatment systems
• Distribution of hygiene kits
MOZAMBIQUE

CONTEXT
On the night of March 14-15, 2019, Cyclone Idai hit the west coast of Mozambique. High winds of up to 209 km/h and intense rainfall caused widespread destruction and flooding, particularly in the provinces of Sofala, Manica, Zambezia, and Tete. Nearly 1.8 million people were affected. Since the country was already facing structural development problems, the destruction of crops and food stocks, the loss of livestock, the inaccessibility of fields and the disappearance of agricultural tools, as well as the displacement of more than 70,000 people, created significant needs in terms of food security, shelter, as well as water, hygiene, sanitation and health. Following the floods, a cholera epidemic broke out in Beira, the country’s second largest city, making an emergency response for access to drinking water crucial.

OUR ACTION
Faced with the scale of the crisis and drawing on its expertise in the fight against cholera, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL took action in Beira, and also in the rural districts of Sofala and Buzi, overcoming numerous logistical constraints to transport its emergency stocks to these remote areas. Some 800 hygiene kits and 1,129 shelter kits were distributed. In partnership with the Veolia Foundation, two water purification plants were deployed so that people who had lost access to their water points could protect themselves from water-borne diseases. Our teams also worked with Electriciens Sans Frontières to restore a small water network in Pavo. For about a month and a half, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL focused on an emergency response to the consequences of the disaster. Our teams thus contributed to controlling the cholera epidemic in coordination with other water and medical actors. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL then took the decision to withdraw, considering it more relevant to leave room, during the reconstruction phase, for the already active civil society.

Team
4 international staff, 4 national staff

Partners
Fondation Veolia, Electriciens Sans Frontières (ESF), Fondation Vinci, Smart Pharma, Fondation BIC

Budget
€128,075

Population
Population of 27.2 million

180th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL
SYRIA

CONTEXT
In 2019, the Syrian conflict continued, leading to new population movements (there are now over 6.1 million internally displaced persons) and the destruction of vital infrastructure in the northeast and northwest of the country. While the shifting dynamics of the crisis undermined humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, needs remained extremely high: 14.5 million people needed water, hygiene and sanitation assistance; 13.2 million people required medical assistance; and 9 million people were in need of food assistance.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, despite the highly volatile environment, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL demonstrated extraordinary adaptability by scaling up its assistance to reach half a million of the most vulnerable people, in the most difficult-to-access or underserved areas of the country. In the northeast, our teams carried out ambitious rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, restoring access to drinking water for more than 100,000 people. In the northwest, they also launched a transition process to provide a more sustainable WASH response in camps for displaced persons, while providing vital assistance to thousands of people fleeing the intense fighting in the city of Idlib.

Team
52 international staff, 291 national staff
Partners
ECHO, IcSP, OCHA CBPF, Unicef, CDCS, USAID, OFDA
Budget
€23.32 M
Population
Population of 16.9 million
154th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

IRAQ

CONTEXT
In 2019, Iraq was destabilized by social and political tensions. Two years after fighting ended against the Islamic state, displaced populations were still particularly vulnerable, either suffering from the effects of uncoordinated camp closures or unable to return to their communities of origin. As a result, 1.8 million displaced persons were in dire need of water, sanitation, hygiene and health services. Added to this were 250,000 Syrian refugees with unmet humanitarian needs and 4 million returnees with no access to basic services and facing social cohesion and security problems.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL consolidated its reputation as a key player in the WASH sector by coordinating a broad response, with a dozen partners, in the regions of Iraq most impacted by recent conflicts. Our teams thus refocused their activities on the displaced persons camps in Nineveh province, as well as on returnee areas outside the camps. They also confirmed their expertise in emergency situations by intervening in camps for refugees who fled northeastern Syria in October 2019.

Team
7 international staff, 24 national staff
Partners
OCHA CBPF, CDCS
Budget
€1.55 M
Population
Population of 38.4 million
120th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Table: Strategic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number of Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multisectoral response to emergencies</td>
<td>326,389 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to restore basic essential services</td>
<td>264,991 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to basic WASH services in IDP camps</td>
<td>34,551 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable, integrated access to WASH and health services</td>
<td>125,330 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL
ZAYNAB JUMA

4 KEY DATES

1990
Born in Lebanon

2011
Degree in biochemistry

2015
Teacher for Syrian refugee children

2018
Hygiene promotion officer for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL

CONTEXT

2019 was a difficult year for Lebanon. The country’s political and economic situation continued to deteriorate until the announcement of new austerity measures caused a massive social uprising and paralyzed the country’s economy. The already precarious situation of Syrian (about 1.5 million people) and Palestinian refugees living in the country worsened, and the same was true for the most vulnerable Lebanese people. It is estimated that 73% of Syrian refugee families now live below the poverty line, compared to 68% in 2018. Their access to basic services (water, sanitation, housing) has further deteriorated.

OUR ACTION

In the context of this worsening crisis, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has continued and strengthened its essential water, hygiene and sanitation programs to meet the needs of about 80,000 Syrian refugees, as well as its activities to provide shelter and rehabilitate substandard housing. Our teams have extended their programs to support local populations as well. They also took emergency action during the major storms that hit the north of the country in January 2019.

Team
12 international staff, 115 national staff
Partners
ECHO, EuropeAid, CDCS, Unicef, BPRM, DFID, UN-Habitat, UNHCR
Budget
€7.95 M
Population
Population of 6.8 million
93rd out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Access to basic services and protection
48,157 people
- Water distribution by tanker truck
- Maintenance and emptying of latrines
- Improving access to water and sanitation
- Rehabilitation of substandard housing to limit protection risks
- Working with WASH service providers (tanker trucks and pump-out trucks) to regulate market prices

Reduction of conflicts between communities
36,291 people
- Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure
- Solid waste management
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Rehabilitation of communal urban infrastructure

Multisectoral response to emergencies
36,051 people
- Distribution of cash
- Distribution of shelter kits
- Water pumping
- Construction of latrines
- Waterproofing of dwellings

COMMITMENT

For the past two years, Zaynab Juma has been a hygiene promotion officer for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL. It comes naturally to this 30-year-old Lebanese woman to help Syrian refugees.

I WANTED TO SUPPORT SYRIAN REFUGEES

I was born and live in the Baalbeck region, in the north of Lebanon. I’m married and have a two-year-old child. I got a degree in biochemistry and started working for the Ministry of Public Health on vaccination campaigns. I then worked as a laboratory assistant before moving into teaching. I gave lessons in the afternoon during the sessions reserved for Syrian refugee children. Then, in 2018, I started working for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL as a hygiene promotion officer. I applied because I wanted to continue supporting Syrian refugees affected by the crisis. Their presence is not always welcomed by the Lebanese, but my family and friends supported me a lot: ‘We are all human beings, and we feel the refugees’ pain.

I REALISED HOW LUCKY I WAS

When I first entered a makeshift camp a year and a half ago, I was shocked by the poverty that the refugees had to endure. I realised how lucky I was to have a job and decent living conditions. I took a deep breath and walked around the tents to meet the people living in them. I have a lot of empathy with them and it’s my responsibility to support them by doing my job. Along with eight other field workers, we go to camps around the city of Zahlé every day to carry out hygiene promotion activities, initiate clean-up campaigns, assess people’s needs and form management committees.

I DON’T BRING MATERIAL THINGS, JUST MY EMOTIONS

I’m constantly looking for new ideas to hold the children’s attention. I use paint or glitter to make them understand in a fun way how bacteria spread and the importance of them to wash their hands regularly. What I like most is seeing the impact of our work on the lives of the refugees. When they say “thank you” it’s sincere and rewarding.

“I was shocked by the poverty that the refugees had to endure”
Yemen: public infrastructures are weakened and under pressure

For the past two years, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams have contributed to the rehabilitation of the Al Khalifa hospital in the town of Al Turbah, in central Yemen, where more than 43,000 new displaced persons were registered in 2019. This project “enabled a trusting relationship to be rebuilt with the population”, explains THOMAS JANNY, MIDDLE EAST DESK MANAGER.

In 2018 and 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams in Yemen worked relentlessly to renovate the healthcare facilities and water supply of the Al Khalifa hospital. Today, the hospital is equipped with a long-term, high-quality water supply, a modern liquid waste management system, operational sanitation facilities (toilets, showers) and a solid waste treatment system, including an incinerator. Hospital staff also received training in the use of these new installations to ensure their upkeep and durability.

As Yemen suffers from recurrent cholera epidemics, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL also paid particular attention to the complete renovation of the Cholera Treatment Center (ICTC), which requires specific expertise to provide the best care while protecting caregivers.

With the renovation of the Al Khalifa hospital, we also enabled medical staff to work in good conditions. Imagine this: the toilets were out of order and there was no waste management. This hampered the fight against the epidemic, reduced the quality of patient care, and, more broadly, undermined patient trust in the health-care system”, explains Thomas Janny, Middle East Desk Manager for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL. “So, we met the identified specific needs and reinforced the hospital’s overall capacity, so as to provide specialized care for cholera cases and improve the preparation of teams for future endemic peaks.”

Sanitation issues and lack of appropriate facilities at the Al Khalifa hospital were also discouraging caregivers, in particular doctors who often came from other provinces and were reluctant to work in a hospital that did not allow them to treat patients properly. “The deputy director told me that our interventions had considerably modified the commitment of doctors. Before, they only came for a month or a month and a half, and then they left again. Despondent at the lack of care facilities. But the renovations provided much better working conditions and care for patients, which convinced medical staff to become involved long-term. It also enabled a trusting relationship to be rebuilt with the population, who previously regarded hospital services with mistrust”, explains Thomas Janny.
Mali

Context
In 2019, the security situation in Mali deteriorated further, and widespread armed and intercommunity violence, particularly in the center and north of the country, led to new population displacements. As of September 2019, there were 187,139 internally displaced persons, approximately 67,000 more than in 2018. Depriving people of their livelihoods and exacerbating pressure on the resources of host communities, these displacements have worsened the humanitarian situation in the country. In 2019, 548,300 people suffering from severe food insecurity needed assistance. Pressure has also increased on water resources, which are insufficient and otherwise impacted by the hazards of climate change, leading people to consume unsafe water and thus expose themselves to water-borne diseases.

Our Action
In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL established itself as a key rapid response player by developing a specific emergency mechanism to provide water, sanitation and hygiene assistance and unconditional cash assistance to meet the needs of populations displaced by conflicts and natural disasters. Our teams have thus expanded their activities in the regions of Gao, Menaka and the San circle. They also continued their assistance and resilience projects, teams have thus expanded their activities in the displaced by conflicts and natural disasters. Our cash assistance to meet the needs of populations impacted by the hazards of climate change, leading people to consume unsafe water and thus expose themselves to water-borne diseases.

Mali, torn between droughts and floods

In the Sahelian countries, two out of three people make their living from agriculture and livestock. But climate change is having devastating consequences. Under the combined effect of drought and floods, land is deteriorating and losing its fertility. Insufficient rain-fed irrigation means that crops fail or are destroyed, while livestock struggle to find water for drinking and sufficient pasture. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that agricultural yields will fall by 20% per decade in some areas of the Sahel by the end of the 21st century. The depletion of natural resources in the region has become a source of conflict between farmers and herders, especially since climate change has altered the routes and periods of livestock transhumance, which now often cross cultivated land during the agricultural season. The economic impact is obvious for agro-pastoral populations whose crops or livestock are affected. But the rest of the population, which relies on local products to eat, is also impacted by price inflation and the scarcity of these products on the markets.

The Sahelian population is trapped in a vicious circle: this negative economic impact is further compounded by natural disasters such as floods, which damage the infrastructures that enable both production and trade: roads, bridges, dams, buildings, irrigation networks, etc. The current context, in addition to prevailing uncertainty in rural areas where climate change is slowly degrading the land, has been pushing many people to migrate to urban centres. The latter are considered to be safe, less dependent on the natural resources-based economy and therefore less affected by natural phenomena. As urban areas become more densely populated, this is likely to lead to overexploitation of natural resources and water supply networks. According to UN projections, the population of the six French-speaking Sahel countries will increase six-fold by 2050. Moreover, since the surface water table is drying up, traditional open-well water supply systems are no longer viable in the region. However, the technical capacities and financial means of the Sahelian countries to carry out deep drilling are severely limited. As a result, NGOs such as SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL have to dig deeper and deeper to find water.

Today in the Sahel, the challenges for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s water access programs are:
- to respond to the urgent need for drinking water access and thus assist the greatest number of vulnerable populations faced with scarce resources;
- to promote a multi-use water response (water for people, water for agriculture and water for livestock);
- to support local authorities and communities to improve water management and governance in the Sahel.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Multisectoral response to emergencies 18,509 people
- Distribution of drinking water kits
- Rehabilitation of water supply systems
- Rehabilitation of latrines
- Unconditional cash distribution
- Distribution of non-food items and shelter kits

Access to basic services and infrastructure 67,829 people
- Construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities
- Unconditional cash distribution during the lean season
- Screening of child malnutrition and referral of severe cases
- Distribution of WASH kits for severely malnourished children in health centres
- Promotion of good feeding and nutrition practices for young children

Empowerment and resilience of vulnerable populations 12,288 people
- Seasonal cash distribution
- Economic and agro-pastoral recovery
- Support for disaster risk mitigation
- Support for the coordination and governance of food and nutrition security
BURKINA FASO

CONTEXT
In 2019, the conflict in Burkina Faso between security forces and radical armed groups escalated with increasingly frequent incidents. Between January and December, the number of displaced persons exploded from 87,000 to 560,000. This situation created immense needs in terms of shelter and access to water and sanitation, and also exacerbated the food and nutritional insecurity of the population, particularly due to an early lean season. Displaced persons are struggling to meet their own needs in reception areas that have exceeded their capacity, while populations remaining in unstable areas are deprived of assistance. As of October 2019, there were more than 1.2 million people in need of food aid in the country.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, in response to the exponential increase in needs, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL expanded and diversified its activities to assist displaced persons and host communities in the Sahel, North Central and North regions. We continued to rehabilitate water infrastructures and increase access to water in the Djibo area, as well as participating in the rapid response to provide displaced persons with emergency assistance, particularly in terms of shelter and sanitation. Our teams also worked to build humanitarian access to the most complex areas in terms of security.

Team
8 international staff, 82 national staff
Partners
CDCS, Start Fund, The ELMA Relief Fondation, Unicef, USAID/OFDA, ECHO
Budget
€1.85 M
Population
Population of 19.7 million
182nd out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Rapid multisectoral response to assist displaced persons
44,947 people
- Rehabilitation of hand pumps
- Construction of emergency latrines
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Distribution of hygiene kits and shelters

Access to essential services in conflict zones
21,185 people
- Rehabilitation of water points
- Creation of water management committees
- Preliminary study to consolidate and extend the Djibo water network
- Construction of family latrines in reception areas
- Construction of WASH infrastructure in health centres and schools
- Promotion of good hygiene practices

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In Burkina Faso, the number of people displaced by conflicts exploded in 2019, worsening the country’s already dire humanitarian situation.
Cameroon: still much to be done in the Makary region

The Far North region of Cameroon is overwhelmed by the populations fleeing the war with Boko Haram. The humanitarian needs are immense. Despite the security situation, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is continuing its activities.

Draped in red fabric, Sadia Abdoulaye comes out of her shelter. It is a small, straw hut among others in Abainkour, in the Logone-et-Chari department of Makary, near the Lake Chad basin. In her arms she holds her son Moussa and a black plastic container. She is going to one of the water points built by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, where other women are fetching their own supplies of water. “Before Boko Haram killed my husband, but I was able to flee with my son,” says this mother. “When we arrived here, there were many difficulties: we had no latrines, and we had no water.” Since 2017, our teams have been working in this poor and landlocked region in the northern half of Cameroon, near the Lake Chad basin. In her arms she holds her son Moussa and a black plastic container. She is going to one of the water points built by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, where other women are fetching their own supplies of water. “Before Boko Haram killed my husband, but I was able to flee with my son.”

“Without humanitarian assistance, the situation in the Makary region can only get worse.”

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL

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SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL

LAKE CHAD CAMEROON

OUR MISSIONS

LAKE CHAD CAMEROON

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MALI

Our missions

IN CAMEROON
CHAD

CONTEXT
At the heart of the multiple crises that are shaking its neighbours, Chad remained in 2019 one of the most exposed countries worldwide to conflicts, population displacements and health emergencies (chronic diseases, epidemics) as well as to climate hazards. The lack of access to water for human consumption and agropastoral activities continued to have a negative impact on the livelihoods and health of the population. More than 3.5 million people were in a state of food insecurity. 665,000 children under the age of five were also affected by acute malnutrition.

OUR ACTION
For the first time in 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL teams opened a base in the Logone-Oriental region, in the south of the country, to sustainably improve the living conditions of indigenous populations, returnees and Central African refugees. In addition, our teams provided an initial response to the urgent need for water, sanitation and hygiene in 20 villages and the town of Gokri. From January to July 2019. They also continued their emergency and resilience activities in the province of Batha (Sahelian strip), to assist populations suffering from food and nutritional insecurity, due to climate shocks (droughts, floods, poor harvests, etc.).

Team
8 international staff, 65 national staff

Partners
ECHO, WFP, Caritas/EU

Budget
€2.13 M

BENEFICIARIES
8 international staff, 65 national staff

Population
15.1 million

Planning
8th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

Food Security and Livelihood Enhancement
115,547 people

• Unconditional cash distribution during the lean season
• “Cash for Work” for the rehabilitation of productive and essential infrastructures
• Construction and rehabilitation of water points and support for their proper management
• Promotion and creation of AVECs (Village Savings and Credit Associations)
• Enrollment of the poorest households on the Unified Social Register to improve their access to social rights
• Agricultural recovery (distribution of supplies and training)
• Malnutrition screening and referral of severe cases
• Distribution of nutritional supplements to children under the age of 2 during the lean season
• Promotion of good hygiene, food and nutritional practices through women’s clubs

Fighting water-borne diseases and potential epidemics
8,947 people

• Construction and rehabilitation of water points
• Support for good management of water points
• Distribution of WASH kits
• Promotion of good hygiene practices

NIGERIA

CONTEXT
In 2019, the consequences of the conflict between the army and the Boko Haram group in northeastern Nigeria worsened, with 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, up from 7.1 million in 2018. Right in the midst of the clashes, Borno State was particularly hard hit with 3 million people suffering from food insecurity, 31% more than in 2018. WASH and health needs also increased, particularly in the overcrowded displaced persons camps where the risk of epidemics was high. Faced with a growing number of security incidents, humanitarian access to the most vulnerable populations remained a daily challenge.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, with the deteriorating security situation, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL focused its operations on Borno State, both in Maiduguri, and also in the most remote, hard-to-reach areas such as Monguno, Nyala and Dikwa. In order to meet the vital needs of the populations displaced by the conflict and the host communities. Our teams also continued their early recovery activities to support agriculture and livestock rearing. The mission also coordinated the working group to organize the preparation and response of WASH actors to cholera epidemics.

Team
18 international staff, 205 national staff

Partners
OFDA, ECHO, EU, CDC, NHF, WFP, Unicef

Budget
€6.98 M

BENEFICIARIES
339,786

Population
15.8 million

Planning
158th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Access to basic services and infrastructures
224,994 people

• Construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities
• Emergency shelters
• Improvement of WASH in health centres
• Distribution of WASH kits to fight severe acute malnutrition
• Promotion of good hygiene practices
• Support for waste management
• Distribution of food coupons

Empowerment and resilience of vulnerable populations
16,773 people

• Improvement of access and WASH management in health centres, markets and communities in conjunction with the authorities
• Support for agricultural recovery and markets
• Livestock distribution

Multisectoral response to emergencies
98,019 people

• Emergency water supply by truck
• Distribution of WASH kits
• Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure
• Construction of emergency latrines
• Promotion of good hygiene practices
• Response to epidemics
• Distribution of non-food items and shelter kits
CAR
Central African Republic

CONTEXT
In 2019, despite the signature of a peace agreement, the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic continued to be of concern, with ongoing clashes between the government and several armed groups in parts of the country. This increased the vulnerability of internally displaced persons (estimated at 581,362 in 2019) and host communities. 1.8 million people were affected by food insecurity, representing nearly 32% of the population. Access to WASH also remained problematic, particularly in rural areas, exposing populations to health risks.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL continued its emergency responses to meet the needs of displaced and returnee populations, as well as its activities to support access to basic goods and services, and to build resilience. In particular, our teams set up a WASH project in health and community settings to strengthen the health system and fight water-borne diseases and potential epidemics. Despite insecurity and access difficulties, they worked in the Kaga Bandoro area to provide the population with access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. Faced with significant food security needs, they also carried out advocacy work to press for funding to implement projects in this field.

Team
18 international staff, 108 national staff

Partners
ECHO, CIAA, UNICEF, CIDA, OFDA, UNDP (CHF), WFP, Mentor Initiative/DFID

Budget
€5.31 M

Population
Population of 5.7 million

188th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Multisectoral response to emergencies
182,264 people
- Construction and rehabilitation of water points
- Strengthening the management of water points
- Construction of latrines and showers
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Distribution of shelter kits
- Distribution of non-food items and feminine hygiene products

Access to basic services and infrastructures
58,100 people
- Rehabilitation and construction of boreholes and hand pumps
- Strengthening the governance of water points
- Distribution of WASH kits and promotion of good hygiene practices
- Reconstruction of semi-durable shelters
- Agricultural recovery (distribution of supplies, promotion of bio-pesticides, etc.)
- Relaunch of livestock rearing (distribution of small ruminants, veterinary care, etc.)

Reduction of morbidity due to waterborne diseases
12,300 people
- Implementation of WASH responses in health centres
- Rehabilitation of community water points
- Strengthening the management of water points
- Development of a community sanitation system
- Promotion of good hygiene practices

Despite insecurity, our teams continue to improve access to water and sanitation for displaced populations and host communities.
DRC
Democratic republic of Congo

CONTEXT
In 2019, the multiple crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained acute, with more than 15 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6 million chronically malnourished children. While violence decreased in the Kasaïs and Tanganyika, it intensified in other regions, particularly in Ituri and the Kivus. In 2019, there were 5 million internally displaced persons and 880,000 refugees in the country. At the same time, the lack of water supplies and, more generally, the failure of basic services continued to provide a breeding ground for epidemics (Ebola, cholera, measles).

OUR ACTION
In 2019, faced with immense multisectoral needs, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL took action on three fronts at once, carrying out rapid response activities to shocks (inter-ethnic conflicts causing population displacements), assisting the recovery of vulnerable populations and reducing the impact and prevalence of water-borne diseases or diseases with epidemic potential. In particular, our teams adapted their procedures to access the most remote areas and thus provide assistance to more than 1.5 million people. They also played a part in fighting the 10th Ebola outbreak in the country.

Team
26 international staff, 210 national staff

Partners
ECHO, DFID, UNICEF, Pooled Fund, French water agencies, CDC, GAC, SDC

Budget
€11.94 M

Population
Population of 95.7 million
179th out of 189 on the Human Development Index

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Multisectoral response to emergencies
914,895 people
- Emergency WASH assistance
- Chlorination of water points
- Construction of emergency latrines
- Distribution of cash and food coupons
- Organization of fairs
- Distribution of shelter kits

Empowerment and resilience of vulnerable populations
281,382 people
- Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools
- Agricultural and group training
- Support for the establishment of income-generating activities
- Support for the construction of traditional shelters
- Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure
- Major rehabilitation of water networks and reinforcement of their management

Reduction of morbidity due to waterborne diseases
344,453 people
- Construction and rehabilitation of water points
- Improvement of WASH services in health centres
- Home disinfection
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Support for fecal sludge and waste management

By helping villagers to rehabilitate their water sources, our teams are helping to fight water-borne diseases and epidemics.
SOUTH SUDAN

CONTEXT
In 2019, the implementation, albeit laborious, of the peace agreement initiated in 2018 continued in South Sudan. Nevertheless, the humanitarian situation remained dramatic due to limited means of production, insufficient basic services, persistent displacement and return movements, as well as high inflation and the effects of climate change.

In 2019, 5.35 million people were still suffering from food insecurity, representing 54% of the population. Although no outbreaks of cholera and Ebola were reported in 2019, the country remained on high alert due to ongoing epidemics in neighbouring Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL re-launched its WASH emergency response capacity covering the entire country and strengthened its multisectoral response with an Integrated Health, Nutrition and WASH program in Raja County to reduce mortality from acute malnutrition among children under five years of age. Our teams also continued their activities in Upper Nile State, continuing to provide emergency drinking water to vulnerable populations in Aburoc and improving access to basic services.

I WAS IMMEDIATELY VERY EXCITED
When SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL contacted me about this project, I was immediately very excited. The situation of migrants, whether they are refugees or internally displaced people, is of great concern to me. In addition, South Sudan is a country we never hear about in France. I was concerned, living for several days under curfews has left me in a constant state of fear. It is very stressful.

IMPRESSED BY THE TEAMS’ PROWESS
I had some clichés in my head about humanitarian workers who work in comfort, and for whom you might think that carrying out their daily activities is not a difficult task. But in South Sudan, it is just the opposite. To reach the Aburoc camp, we had to take a plane, a boat, and drive 4 hours in a tractor. It really is the back of beyond! So I was impressed when I was told that during the dry season, water was transported by tanker truck from the river opposite. To reach the Aburoc camp, we had to take a plane, a boat, and drive 4 hours in a tractor. It really is the back of beyond! So I was impressed when I was told that during the dry season, water was transported by tanker truck from the river.

PEOPLE BORN DURING WAR
I was shocked when I realised that all the people we met—except an old lady with whom we had dinner one evening in Aburoc—were born during war and have known only war. To escape the massacres, they had to flee within their own country. Imagine if Paris fell under attack and all Parisians were forced to seek refuge in Marseille. It sounds crazy! So when we talk about peace to these people, it is normal that they do not believe in it.

4 KEY DATES
1985 Birth
2014 Creation of the YouTube channel Bapt&Gael
2015 Leading role in the movie Père Fils Thérapie!
2019 With Your Own Eyes season 4

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Multi-sectoral response to emergencies 93,673 people
- Emergency distribution of WASH kits
- Construction and rehabilitation of water points
- Chlorination of water points
- Construction of emergency latrines
- Promotion of good hygiene and nutrition practices
- Distribution of drinking water by truck and surface water treatment
- Emergency food distribution for the very vulnerable

Access to basic services and infrastructures 104,075 people
- Rehabilitation of sustainable WASH infrastructures (solar panels)
- Improvement of WASH services in health centres
- Support for the establishment of income-generating activities
- Distribution of agricultural supplies
- Formation of farmer groups

197,748 BENEFICIARIES

SOUTH SUDAN

With Your Own Eyes documentary series on devospropresyeux.org

BAPTISTE LORBER

“CONFLICT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN”

I WAS NOT EXPECTING SUCH CHAOS

SOUTH SUDAN Baptiste Lorber, a young French actor, agreed to take part in the fourth season of With Your Own Eyes and meet displaced people in South Sudan. We would be escorted by security agents. Honestly, I was not expecting to find such chaos. South Sudan is a devastated country, with no infrastructure, and with an entire economy to rebuild.

“I was not expecting such chaos”
HAITI

CONTEXT
In 2019, Haiti was hit hard by sociopolitical conflicts and the protest movement “pay si lak” (blockad country), marked by demonstrations that led to the suspension of all activity for several weeks. This situation, in addition to the consequences of previous natural disasters, has exacerbated humanitarian needs and in particular worsened the country’s nutritional crisis. In 2019, more than 4 million Haitians, a third of the population, were food insecure. After years of fighting against cholera and despite the fact that access to basic WASH and health services is still far from sufficient, a victory was nevertheless achieved: no new cases of cholera have been recorded since February 2019.

OUR ACTION
Due to the extent of food security and livelihood needs, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL implemented projects to strengthen the agricultural and fisheries sectors in the Grand’Anse department, combined with emergency food distributions (cash and vouchers). Our teams also carried out disaster preparedness activities in the Croix-des-Bouquets and Carrefour communes, located in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Finally, they remained on high alert to prevent cholera by continuing their preparedness activities and rapid response to outbreaks.

Multisectoral emergency preparedness and response

- Strengthening the coordination of actors
- Rapid response to outbreaks
- Home disinfection
- Promotion of good hygiene practices

Access to basic services and infrastructures

- Improvement of the alert and monitoring system
- Distribution of water by truck, and of WASH kits
- Distribution of cash and food vouchers
- Rehabilitation of community shelters
- Disaster risk reduction
- Implementation of community contingency plans

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Reduction of morbidity due to waterborne diseases

- Improvement of the alert and monitoring system
- Strengthening the coordination of actors
- Rapid response to outbreaks
- Home disinfection
- Promotion of good hygiene practices

Multisectoral emergency preparedness and response

- Multi-sector rapid assessments
- Distribution of water by truck, and of WASH kits
- Support for the production of home water treatment systems
- Distribution of cash and food vouchers
- Rehabilitation of community shelters
- Disaster risk reduction
- Implementation of community contingency plans

Access to basic services and infrastructures

- Construction and rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure
- Improvement of waste management
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Agricultural and fish farming recovery in rural areas
- Strengthening local water governance

Haiti: Last confirmed case of cholera in 2019

Since February 2019, no new cholera cases have been recorded in Haiti, which had been ravaged by the disease for ten years. This victory has been made possible by the combined efforts and coordination of all the actors fighting the epidemic.

In October 2010, in the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated the country, the disease left 9,792 people dead and over 82,000 were admitted to hospital. To fight the epidemic, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and the National Directorate for Water Supply and Sanitation (DINEPA) drew up a 10-year plan to eradicate cholera (2012-2022), with the support of technical and financial partners. This plan comprises three main strategic priorities: coordination and support for decision-making, access to preventative and curative treatment and combating transmission of the disease.

The organization of regular meetings that brought together all the actors working in the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health fields, in the various regions of the country, enabled more effective epidemiological surveillance at the institutional and community level.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has been actively fighting cholera in Haiti since 2010, with support from its main funding partners, and has played an important role in coordinating the various actors. It provided technical support to collect epidemiological data, analyse this data and map out at-risk areas.

In keeping with its mandate, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL deployed teams to the most remote, difficult-to-reach areas in order to save lives. It also played a leading role in setting up departmental investigation commissions in the West, South East and Nippes departments to consolidate operations in response to cholera outbreaks.

VIGILANCE

The results achieved since February 2019 bear witness to the successful cholera eradication activities in Haiti, but the lessons learnt in 2014 mean that all actors must remain extremely vigilant. The battle is not yet over, investments must be made to reduce risks, in order to consolidate the progress already achieved and, in time, to enable the poorest Haitian communities to live in a cholera-free environment.

Finally, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL also provided logistical support to transport joint teams and take Cary-Blair samples (containers used to collect and store stool samples) to the national laboratory.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams also organized training sessions to help state institutions, their partners and community focal points gain greater autonomy.

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SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams participated in all sectoral meetings, not only to stimulate discussions but also to suggest solutions. The creation of joint teams with the National Directorate for Water Supply and Sanitation bolstered “knock-out” operations.

Actions to support other partners were also carried out in other departments throughout the country. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL also provided logistical support to transport joint teams and take Cary-Blair samples (containers used to collect and store stool samples) to the national laboratory.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams also organized training sessions to help state institutions, their partners and community focal points gain greater autonomy.

Finally, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL worked with universities to carry out scientific studies so as to confirm or refute certain assumptions, in particular regarding home disinfection or environmental conditions.

The results achieved since February 2019 bear witness to the successful cholera eradication activities in Haiti, but the lessons learnt in 2014 mean that all actors must remain extremely vigilant. The battle is not yet over, investments must be made to reduce risks, in order to consolidate the progress already achieved and, in time, to enable the poorest Haitian communities to live in a cholera-free environment.
BANGLADESH

CONTEXT

In 2019, Bangladesh was once again hit by several natural disasters (cyclones, floods and droughts). These natural hazards, combined with extreme poverty, exacerbated the already high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. With the country’s growing population, access to resources (water, land, shelter) also remained a major problem, particularly in urban areas. In addition, the situation of the Rohingya refugees remains critical. In 2019, more than 900,000 of them were still living in camps or host villages in extremely precarious conditions. The issue of access to the camps remained a central concern for humanitarian workers.

OUR ACTION

In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams continued their work to assist Rohingya refugees and host populations, by improving their access to drinking water and basic services in the Cox’s Bazar districts, and through food security and livelihoods programs in Teknaf. They also continued their activities in the shantytowns of Dhaka to help local populations strengthen their governance regarding their claims and access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Finally, they remained active in the Satkhira district, which is particularly affected by climate hazards, to improve small farmers’ ability to cope with shocks.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Multisectoral response to emergencies

116,130 people

- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Construction and rehabilitation of water points
- Construction of emergency latrines
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Distribution of non-food vouchers
- “Cash-for-work” and support to resume economic or agricultural activities
- Income-generating activities

Empowerment and resilience of vulnerable populations

47,701 people

- Mitigation activities for identified disaster risks (road rehabilitation, creation of dikes, etc.)
- Rehabilitation of infrastructure
- Formation of disaster risk management committees
- Capacity-building for local authorities in charge of risk management

Sustainable and inclusive access to resources

49,495 people

- Strengthening local populations’ governance on WASH
- Training of community focal points
- Promotion of good hygiene and waste management practices
- Identification and inclusion of marginalized groups

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s teams have been working in the Teknaf area, located in the south of the Cox’s Bazar district, for almost ten years. They provide access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for the most vulnerable refugees and host communities through the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure (wells, latrines, etc.), the distribution of hygiene kits and the organization of hygiene awareness and waste management campaigns.

To fight food insecurity and strengthen the livelihoods of these populations, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is also implementing agricultural, income generating and cash-for-work activities, as well as disaster risk reduction projects in order to raise awareness, train and prepare both communities to cope with the high risks of natural disasters in the region.

Two years later, more than 900,000 Rohingyas are still living in refugee camps or host villages in Bangladesh where living conditions are extremely poor. Access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as well as health and education is limited. Under the combined effect of overcrowdation and poverty, violence and insecurity issues have increased around the camps, particularly affecting the most vulnerable populations.

The situation is even more alarming since the neighbouring host populations are also vulnerable. Repeatedly hit by floods, Bangladesh is facing the consequences of climate change head on. Erosion and hyper-saline soils make farming difficult and threaten the livelihoods of the population. Food insecurity and malnutrition are on the increase. These nutritional issues are worsened by the poor bacteriological quality of the water, as well as the presence of arsenic in the main water sources of the country. Outbreaks of infectious diseases are a major concern, especially during the monsoon season.

In November 2018 and August 2019, the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar announced two successive plans to “repatriate” the Rohingyas to Myanmar, but most of them refuse to return until their safety and rights are guaranteed. In fact, since 1982, the Burmese Constitution no longer recognizes the Rohingyas as one of the country’s ethnic groups.

Two years after their massive migration, over 900,000 Rohingyas are still living in refugee camps in Bangladesh where living conditions are particularly difficult. Stateless and with no prospects of returning to their country, they are completely dependent on the humanitarian aid they receive.

Several upsurges of intra-community violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar led to massive population migrations. Between the end of 2016 and October 2017, 740,000 Rohingyas of Muslim origin fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. They spoke of the murders, tortures and even rapes that their community suffered. Hundreds of thousands of other refugees had also fled to Bangladesh during previous years.

In November 2018 and August 2019, the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar announced two successive plans to “repatriate” the Rohingyas to Myanmar, but most of them refuse to return until their safety and rights are guaranteed. In fact, since 1982, the Burmese Constitution no longer recognizes the Rohingyas as one of the country’s ethnic groups.

BANGLADESH

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SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL
CONTEX
In 2019, the political situation in Myanmar between the civilian government and the military became tense in the run-up to the elections scheduled for 2020. In Rakhine State, the conflict between the Burmese army and the Arakan army continued, displacing an additional 35,000 people. Despite international pressure, living conditions for Rohingyas still confined to camps, like freedom of movement and access to essential services, did not improve. In Kachin State, the situation remained relatively calm but volatile due to conflicts in neighbouring Shan State and increased tensions between the Burmese military and several ethnic groups that had not signed the national ceasefire. Humanitarian needs, particularly food insecurity, remained high due to the persistence of these crises, chronic poverty, and climate hazards.

OUR ACTION
In 2019, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL teams once again took action to maintain access to the most vulnerable populations in Rakhine and Kachin States and to continue to meet their needs in terms of WASH, food security and livelihoods. Actively involved in the country’s humanitarian coordination, our teams have also strengthened their partnerships with local actors and worked to consolidate their own expertise in order to find more sustainable solutions to the protracted crisis affecting the Rohingyas and populations displaced by conflict.

Team
18 international staff, 331 national staff
Partners
ECHO, OFDA, USAID, DFID/HARP-Facility, MHF (OCHA), Unicef, CIAA, CDCS
Budget
€5.63 M
Population
Population of 53.8 million

157,493
BENEFICIARIES

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS
Access to basic services and infrastructures 34,813 people
- Treatment and distribution of drinking water
- Construction and maintenance of WASH infrastructure
- Promotion of good hygiene practices
- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Fecal sludge and waste treatment and management
- “Cash for Work” support
- Supporting or boosting livelihoods
- Humanitarian advocacy
Multisectoral response to emergencies 122,890 people
- Distribution of drinking water and hygiene kits
- Distribution of non-food items and shelter kits
- Conditional cash distribution
- Food distribution

Access to Rohingya populations, who are still confined to camps or villages without freedom of movement, remains a daily challenge for our teams.
The year 2019 was marked by very strong growth in operating volume, which rose from €816M in 2018 to €1,015M in 2019, an increase of 25%. Syria became the largest mission ($233M), ahead of the Democratic Republic of Congo ($130M) and Lebanon ($179M).

The total amount of resources raised in 2019 also rose sharply (+11%), from €1,071M in 2018 to €1,181M in 2019 (including in-kind contributions). SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s three main donors are Europe, the United Nations and USAID.

European funding increased by 28%, largely as a result of signing contracts through a funding mechanism other than ECHO or EuropeAid, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Although it has fallen from 2018 (-30.7%), the volume of private funding remained above €300M for the third consecutive year, mainly due to multi-year contracts signed with other NGOs that are themselves lead partners in consortiums.

Fundraising from the general public increased by 16% to €4.4M in 2019, compared to €3.8M in 2018 and €4.1M in 2017. In addition, public fundraising costs decreased by 13%, which considerably increases the net resources available for the implementation of our missions.

Operating expenses increased by 21% from €25M in 2018 to €27M in 2019, mainly due to financial and exceptional expenses.

Those items give a positive result of €1,598,589. As a result, the organization’s capital reserves increased by €3.8 million at December 31, 2019.

Approved at the AGM on 19 September 2020.

TREASURER’S REPORT

FREDERIC DESREUS
TREASURER

Washington, D.C., 24 June 2020
**VOLUME OF ACTIVITY BY MISSION**

With 25% of the volume, Syria represents the mission with the largest financial volume, more than twice than last year. This strong increase reflects SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s commitment to the war-affected populations, in particular through the implementation in the Syrian Northeast of the consortium contract signed at the end of 2019. Although its volume is decreasing slightly (-1.5% compared to 2019), the Democratic Republic of Congo remains a major field of intervention for SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, with 17% of the volume. Finally, with a volume increasing by 3% compared to 2019, Lebanon remains the third largest mission in terms of financial volume and accounts for 8% of the volume.

One mission opening took place in 2019: Colombia, where, in the context of the economic and migratory crisis, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL intervenes to reinforce access to water and improve hygiene conditions for migrant populations coming from Venezuela.

No mission closures occurred in 2019.

The financial volume of the other missions is globally increasing compared to 2019. Yemen and Burkina Faso opened in 2017 and 2019, respectively, continue to grow. On the other hand, the financial volume is decreasing in Bangladesh (decrease in funding in the context of the Rohingya crisis at the end of 2017) and South Sudan (withdrawal of many funders in this humanitarian field).

The year 2019 was also marked by an emergency intervention in Mozambique following the passage of Cyclone Idai. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL rapidly deployed its support teams with drinking water purification equipment, shelter kits and hygiene kits to enable the affected populations to have access to clean water and to protect themselves against diseases such as cholera.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL had a total of 16 operational missions as of December 31, 2019.

**BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE ON 2019**

The portion of expenses dedicated to international humanitarian missions has been stable since 2015, slightly increasing in 2019 and representing 92.8% of total expenditure.

Expenditure on “Operational Support” – direct head office expenses relating to mission management – decreased slightly (-3.4% of expenditure in 2019 against 3.6% in 2018 and in 2017). This primarily included head office posts specifically devoted to the technical assistance and support of our missions – desk teams and a part of our HR, logistics and institutional development teams.

In 2019, fundraising expenses decreased by 10% compared to 2018, representing €3.2 million. This category includes the costs associated with fundraising from the general public, as well as fundraising from grants and private funds.

Information and communication expenses rose slightly (+5%) reaching €30.0 million in 2019, excluding in-kind contributions. €30.0 million against €24.8 million in 2018. Head office expenses, excluding provisions for charges and financial or non-recurring expenses, remained stable around €2 million, excluding provisions.

**SOURCES OF FUNDING UTILIZED**

31.8% of the funds raised from the general public were used to finance social missions and 68.2% for fundraising expenses. These resources are essential because they have a leveraging effect to obtain institutional funds. That is why SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL continues to invest in developing them.

Including in-kind contributions, resources utilized in 2019 increased by 23%, from €86.3 million to €106.8 million. Excluding in-kind contributions, they rose from €82.2 million to €104.1 million.

Total funds collected in this financial year increased by 10%, reaching €118.9 million. This includes the total volume of all committed funding and in-kind contributions, for a total of €116.2 million in financial resources (+34.5%) and of €2.6 million in in-kind contributions (-34.5%).

**CERTIFIED “DON EN CONFIANCE”**

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is certified by the Chartered Committee of Don en Confiance, an organization that accredits and monitors French fundraising organizations and foundations. This means that SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, like nearly 90 other organizations, is committed to respecting principles of statutory operation and nonprofit management, financial transparency, rigorous management, communication quality and fundraising activity.

The figures shown here were derived from our 2019 accounts, which were certified by the independent statutory auditor ACA News.

For more information: www.comiteecharte.org
THANK YOU
TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR THEIR LOYAL AND GENEROUS SUPPORT
FOR OUR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

European Commission
- DG-ECHO
- EuropeAid

American Cooperation
- Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
- BPRM

United Nations Agencies
- UNICEF
- OCHA
- UNHCR
- UN-Habitat
- WFP
- Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF)

French Cooperation
- AFD
- CIAA
- CDCS

International Organizations
- IOM

Other Partners
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- British Cooperation (DFID)
- Swiss Cooperation (SDC)
- Start Fund

THE FRENCH PUBLIC BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT US

- Agence de l’eau Loire-Bretagne
- Agence de l’eau Artois-Picardie
- Agence de l’eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse
- Sénéo
- Syndicat des Eaux d’Île-de-France (SEDIF)
- Ville de Paris
- Ville de Blois
- Commune de Laroque de Fa
- Communauté d’agglomération de Béthune-Bruay Artois Lys Romane (CABBALR)
- Communauté d’agglomération du Pays Voironnais
- Agence d’urbanisme et de développement du Pays de Saint Omer

OUR PARTNER BUSINESSES AND FOUNDATIONS

- Alpak Transports
- Althémis
- Altitoo
- Amplegest
- Angarde
- Armor
- Atanar Technologies
- Auboueix
- Association Quit la Mandarine
- Bryan Cave
- Buying Peers
- CITAF La Baronne
- Coralie Diebold Consulting EURL
- Crédit Coopératif
- Credit Municipal de Toulouse
- Eleos Label
- Fondation Agir pour l’accès à l’eau et le développement
- Fondation BIC
- Fondation Orange
- Fondation Veolia
- Fondation de Lille
- Fonds de dotation Agnès B.
- Fondation Orange
- Fondation Vinci
- F&F Beverages
- Gandee
- Goodman
- Grosvenor
- GSF Propreté
- Hello Snooze
- Hool
- INK Global
- Innate
- Lilo
- Les cycles de l’immobilier
- Menard Vibro
- Netpresse
- Piscines Magiline
- Pilotes PLV
- Smart Pharma
- Start Network
- Suricats Consulting
- WeGive
- Wavestone