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CLEAN WATER IN THE SLUMS OF EAST AFRICA

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Abstract. Researchers on human security now know that science has to deal with the water issues of our planet, which significantly determines the sense of security of human life. Where is no water, there is no life, so safety is lost. However, where it is present but not of adequate quality, unsafe for the biological organism, it is equally a hazard. As a result of all this, a humanitarian crisis, a catastrophe, and a disaster is developing, which the state bodies must prevent and restore in an ideal situation with the non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. Africa is most at risk today in this area because it is unable to provide clean water to its slums, but it is also unable to make other infrastructural developments. And to keep human life safe, that is, NGOs must act to give clean water to the people who live there.

Keywords: Africa; Slum; humanitarian mission; clean water; health crisis

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Introduction

Man and Earth are inseparable, and Earth and water are indivisible, too, and man could not live without Earth or water. Both elements need each other, but the parts also need a man to preserve or destroy them, but life cannot do without either. We now know that our planet was formed to have every opportunity to serve life, from the single-celled living being to the most complex organism. We know that everything on our Earth is there for life to live, but we also understand that the necessities of life, such as water, cannot be found the same way everywhere. There are places where there is a lot of water, and there are places where there is tiny, but there are places where, despite having water, it is not in the suitable composition or of the proper purity to be good for the more complex body of man. For a long time, the water problem did not appear in human societies. It is clear that more and more people are living on Earth, more and more people need to share the Earth's resources, more and more food, and water, and more energy are required (Giled, 2019).

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Formulation of the humanitarian problem

Our blue planet is largely covered in water, but there is still little fresh water available for consumption. A few decades ago, humanity realized that the freshwater supply of our Earth was not infinite (Treszkai, 2021). Until then, we believed that water scarcity could only occur in desertified areas of the Earth, but even there, water could be in limited form. We now know that the Earth's water resources are finite, water is not everywhere in the right quantity and of the right quality, and even if there were enough supplies, we humans get them polluted, rendered unusable, poisoned so that it would not be suitable for human and animal consumption. We must understand that life cannot exist without water, be it in any corner of the Earth. Even the tiniest element of life need water, and it does matter what quality it is. The water right is due to all living beings and the right to life. We need to look after our water resources like we look afterlife because life without water is impossible. Today, more and more scientists, researchers, and philosophers are asking questions (Giled, 2009; Monni, Iorio & Realini, 2018; Muniz et al., 2018; Moumen et al., 2019; Sjaifuddin, 2020; Shevyakova & Petrenko, 2021). How much is freshwater underground? How long will it be enough? Where and what proportion of freshwater supplies are there? Where can it run out the fastest? How many people, animals, and plants can the current water reserve supply? What to do if it may run out? Is it going to run out at all? Is it not possible that water is not even running out, but there are more and more people on Earth, and more and more people are engaging in irresponsible consumption and pollution? Can it be that we do not take care of our clean waters? Of course, we could ask many questions, but that is not the point; we need to look at why our planet has reached the end where we are desperately thinking about why there is not enough water or, if there is, why not in the excellent quality? Why isn't it clean?

Along with this problem, continents and countries are facing each other. There are continents where these issues are not yet formulated with great weight; they are not a cardinal issue in everyday life, as there is still enough fresh water in sufficient quantity and quality. But there are continents where this is a fundamental issue, a matter of existence, the main issue of survival, and not only because there is no water, but because it is unfit for human consumption, not even good for the wildlife, or even adequate to shower the vegetation of the area. An example of such a continent is Africa. Problems are also spread unevenly within continents where some countries are not yet struggling with water problems, but at the same time, some countries are dancing on the brink of disaster (Ramin, 2009). Today we are seeing water shortages on the Australian continent as well, but there are already water shortages on the North American continent. And to be honest, even Europe is not without water problems. In the southern part of Europe, the situation is not rosy either, with dried-up rivers, lakes, waterways, and streams occurring inside the continent (Giled, 2009). What is causing this? Researchers are looking for the answer, but it's not easy to understand since we know from the law of physics that nothing is lost, just transformed.

Of course, we need to ask which areas are most affected. What causes water scarcity or its deterioration? What processes does water scarcity or poor-quality water trigger? The direct consequence of the unresolved issues so far formulated is the emergence of a humanitarian catastrophe, making it impossible to survive. If there is no water or in poor quality, the danger of dying of thirst and developing infections all lead to humanitarian crises and disasters.

By responding to and recovering from humanitarian disasters, the government's public bodies are fighting with the intuitions of non-governmental organizations that are being formed for this purpose. The United Nations and its accredited subdivisions, non-governmental organizations of democratic states, associations taking on humanitarian tasks, and all charitable and religious organizations can provide adequate answers to emerging and existing humanitarian crises and disasters. Today, such organizations work in all parts of the world to deal with famines, water shortages, natural and humanitarian disasters, and the resulting migrations (Solymári, 2020) (Solymári & Janet, 2020). Such an area is Central and Eastern Africa, or, as we know it, the Easter part of the

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Sub-Saharan region, one of the poor regions in Africa, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Vast slums have emerged in the cities of these states, where human life is on the brink of disaster, where today, the biggest struggle for survival in everyday life is taking place (Solymári, 2012; Czirják, 2018).

Africa Yesterday and Today (Brief historical overview of Africa)

The African continent has a large area, medium-size population, and a very modest economy, covering 1/5 of the planet's land area with a population of around 1.2 billion today, accounting for only 3.5% of the global economy. This is very small compared to the land area and the mineral reserves available on the continent (Búr, 2005a; Gyuris & Szabó, 2020). Its land is quite diverse, with vast deserts, savannas, rainforests, and a wide variety of climates. We know there are two-seasonal rain belts and one-seasonal rain belts, but it also has zonal deserts. Currently, the UN recognizes 54 of the 56 states on the continent, 2 of which have disputed status (Western Sahara, Somaliland). The continent has relatively few islands, and its coastline is pretty monotonous. The biggest problem for the states is the border disputes, as the current borders are from the colonization era, and decolonization did not change them. The current borders were inherited; they did not follow and do not follow the ethnic, tribal areas. There were even occasions when they were drawn with a ruler by the great powers of that time (Búr, 2005b). Therefore, the continent is full of ethnic disputes and social conflicts, as its ethnic diversity, religious relations, and linguistic and cultural pluralism put it in a difficult position. And this partly led to the persistence of armed conflicts on the African continent, which various peace operations can only manage ephemerally. (Besenyő, 2019). To the best of our knowledge, the number of languages spoken on the continent is between 1,500 and 2,000. And the languages spoken by the colonists, such as English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, have been added to them. In addition to its ancient tribal religions, Africa could not avoid the influence of world religions because North Africa mostly followed Islam due to the Arabs. In contrast, the southern part mostly follows Christianity due to colonizers and missionaries (Búr, 2006; Besenyő, 2010).

We know from our historical studies that it is the cradle of humanity, and thanks to its climate and natural treasures, we can believe it. Ignoring the prehistoric details, we cannot fail to mention one of the earliest and most powerful empires in our ancient history that developed here. Ancient Egypt, created along the Nile, is the most beautiful and valuable empire in our ancient past. This empire grew in the area of Northeaster Africa, where the continent's most prominent and longest freshwater river is located because life and civilization are impossible without water. Its history, to our knowledge, dates back to the fourth millennium BC, when the existence of small communities alone defined the area. Still, it is beautiful to see that these loose little communities were already pursuing the science of channel construction, often in collaboration. The archaic era of the empire and its civilization were also affected by water 4,000 years before Christ. Its economy, culture, and religion were defined by its freshwater river. From the loose communities living side-by-side, the institution of the kingdom grew by the end of the fourth millennium, an institution capable of moving and controlling the systems of vast empires: roughly 3,000 BC, the I.-II. Dynasty of the Archaic Period began its reign, during which a millennial rule process began in North-Easter Africa, where one of the most beautiful and wealthiest civilizations in our ancient history unfolded. Our historical sources can trace this rich and valuable era until the start of the Common Era. During this time, we can map more than 20 dynasties and their rulers along with their well-defined historical significance (Polányi, 1973).

The rise of the Roman Empire and its expansion does not deprive Africa of its significance. Although it cannot be considered a power factor, its economic importance is enormous. Think of the history of the Roman Empire, when Egypt was an essential supplier of grain, without which the Romans would have starved (Ferenczy & Maróti, 1998; Normann, 2002).

We do not have extensive historical resources for the whole of Africa throughout the long middle Ages. Still, until the first era of Western discoveries, we could highlight the continent's significance through the Arab world. Think

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of the Empire of Mali, which is no longer to be found in the north of the continent but south of the Sahara, in the upper reaches of the Niger River. This empire flourished as early as the 14th century and became famous for its vast gold reserves. This extensive stock of shiny gold is arousing the interest and envy of the Euro-Mediterranean area (Fernandez-Armesto, 2001a). To the best of our knowledge, this state existed until the beginning of the 17th century; among the admirers of her heydays is the Portuguese court. Bypassing the Ottoman Empire, these Portuguese circled the continent in the late 15th and early 16th centuries to get to India, the land of coveted spices. In addition to Mali, we can also mention Ethiopia, whose history dates thousands of years back and during which time it rose rapidly and irresistibly so that in addition to embracing Christianity, it became an essential player in the gold, ivory, and slave trade. The region of Zimbabwe may also have played an important role between the 12th and 16th centuries, as Portuguese sources reported that Zimbabwe's (buildings serving political and administrative functions south of Zambezi) revealed a colossal civilization (Fernandez-Armesto, 2001b).

The transition from the Middle Ages to the New Age is not Africa's most beautiful historical period. The history of the Western discoveries sealed the continent's fate, as we do not encounter serious, politically strong states on the continent at that time, as the continent is full of tiny ethnic groups that have taken a distinctive cultural and civilizational path that bears no resemblance to European development, nor to any public body of Western civilization. At the end of the middle Ages, for economic reasons, Europe had to break within its confines to refill its pantries because it seemed to run out of its noble treasures and food (Normann, 2002). Africa was not spared by its economic hunger either. Although the continent's rich minerals were not being exploited at this time, it was only during the colonization era that the slave trade reached enormous proportions. Serious accomplices in this were the prominent lords of the local leadership. They carried out the gathering and capture of the enslaved people and then sold them to the leaders of the ships moored on the west coast, transporting the valuable labor force straight to the new world. Unfortunately, the slave trade has claimed many African lives. There have been cases where almost the entire male population of an area has been sold as enslaved people, putting the tribe's survival or regeneration in danger. Some slaves transported from Africa to America did not even arrive at the destination because many lost their lives at sea before landing. It is estimated that almost 12,5 million enslaved Black people set sail, and about 1,8 million did not survive (Fernandez-Armesto, 2001c).

Africa was the most important source of the slave trade in the New World until the mid-19th century, when slavery was already becoming an undesirable phenomenon in North America, too. The Industrial Revolution, the development of Western civilization, the rearrangement of the world economy, and the desire for new raw materials were all enormous incentives for the rapid occupation of Africa. And although Africa was still a continent with many mysteries, we could see that the European powers were invading Africa with almost no resistance (Normann, 2002). All this was because the Europeans arrived in Africa with a substantial industrial and technical superiority. The last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century seem to be short periods. Yet, it was enough for Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Portugal to divide the territory of Africa among themselves and dominate, exploit and partially transform it for decades after World War II. The borders of the occupied new states were redrawn, often using a ruler, ignoring tribal-ethnic and cultural differences, which would later remain sources of enormous tensions. So the "Scramble for Africa," or as others have said, the "Race for Africa," is a crucial period in human history because if the occupation of Africa had not occurred, we would be facing a completely different Africa today (Normann, 2002).

The bloody battles of the two world wars pretty much avoided the African continents; there were numerous battles only in the northern areas and primarily amongst European armies. After World War I, many European colonialists regarded their colonies as the primary source of their reconstruction because they sought to use and sell its raw materials and thus mitigate their losses as efficiently as possible. The local population has not been found fit to hold public office, so expert staff who did not know the needs of the people living there were transported from the colonial states (Búr, 2006). The subjugated state thus received an apparatus of experts from

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outside who sought to live the hitherto traditional European way of life, which was utterly unfamiliar to the natives.

The decolonization of Africa, which began in the middle of the 20th century, cannot be sought only in the interior of Africa. The end of the II. World War, the establishment of the United Nations, and the independence of India have all contributed to the liberation of the African colonial states from the superpowers. Of course, the ideal of Pan-Africanism, which has existed since the 18th century and ultimately until the end of the 20th century, may have played a role, but the 54 states were never fully consolidated into an alliance. One well-defined phenomenon of getting independent is Africanization. We know for sure that in 1960 there were almost 6 million Europeans on the continent, most of whom were technicians, doctors, and civil servants. As soon as the colonizer left the country, the so-called takeover of power began. Positions are filled with local people. Boundaries are redrawn, names places and geographical names regain their original African name. Gaining strength is not going smoothly either. In 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established in Ethiopia, which did not want a federation, but the management of the organization of African sovereign states. The Organization of African Unity is finally reaping its benefits within the African Union, which was set up in 2002 and has 53 members (Normann, 2002; Búr, 2006).

The decolonization of Africa in the mid-1970s, amidst huge hopes, gave the impression that its underdevelopment was not an African peculiarity but a consequence of the invaders that its occupation had hindered. Nevertheless, ethnic conflicts have not diminished but intensified. It is enough to think only of tribalism, regionalism, or particularism. Above all these conflicts existed the religious problems. Along with Arabization, the Islamic religion gained a foothold on the continent, just as missionaries and colonizers took their Christian faith to Africa. Thus, the continent is almost split under the auspices of the two religions, and we have not even mentioned the local tribal folk religions or customs (Búr, 2006).

With the advent of colonizers, urbanization processes are also underway, and once Europeans leave the continent, urban growth is not slowing down but even accelerating. And Africa faced an economic crisis back then, as it does today, too (Búr, 2005). Population growth is also a massive problem because economic development cannot keep up with the demographic explosion, and the surplus rural population is trying to move to the nearest big city in the hope of a better life ("Malteser International Annual Report", 2009; "Malteser International Annual Report", 2018). Population growth is also a generator of poverty, and the persistence of poverty is also a source of unhealthy living conditions (Alaazi & Aganah, 2019). It is no less important to mention that the independence of African states has not lived up to their economic hopes. One of the reasons is that the leaders of states are not taking over power in a democratic way, or if they are, their behavior is changing in their governance process (Búr, 2006). Financial resources are not spent for the benefit of their people and countries but are ending up in one of the different foreign banking systems in a way that can never be followed. Many of Africa's leaders are among the most corrupt in the world, and globalization does not help this but even opens up more space for local leaders to exploit their people (Klopp & Paller, 2019). These leaders greatly enjoy the powerful support of one of the leading political superpowers who, nonetheless, are collecting tariffs for it. Although we can say that Africa has the poorest population in the world, Africa itself has vast natural resources. However, we can state, and this is shared by international organizations, that the main causes of the continent's poverty are to be found in local corruption, regular and unsolvable political crises, local tribal conflicts, and ongoing religious conflicts, all of which have led to a petrified and perpetual civil war (Búr, 2005b; Berger, 2006; UN-HABITAT, 1986-2013).

The slums

Humanity only encountered the concept of the slum in its modern era. To the best of our knowledge, the emergence of slums can already be seen in the first stages of the advancement of the Industrial Revolution

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(Czirják, 2015). The growth of cities was also due to the deprivation of the large numbers of people living in the countryside from their livelihoods from farming, land reforms, the liberation of the peasantry, the emergence of machinery, and the development of industry driving large masses into cities. As the land no longer provided a decent livelihood for the people living in the villages, the establishment and growth of the factories had a pleasing effect on these people, who moved to the cities in the hope of a better livelihood by taking up factory work. These processes accelerated in the 17th century, culminating throughout the 20th century, and continue. The expression slum has become known worldwide from the English word slum; not coincidentally, the first large and significant such slum in the world grew in London (Czirják 2018). The point is that poverty was prevalent in the slums, as they were characterized by a very crowded, huge population, in poor-quality flats, if the prefabricated buildings built there can be called flats at all. The slums on the outskirts of London are very different from the enormous slums that will later form around the world, as the homes are, in principle, built of stone and brick, but of poor quality, in a small and crowded place (Czirják, 2018). They had very narrow streets, no proper hygiene facilities, no toilets, and no sewers were developed, so the carrying off drainage water and waste matter was not solved. Often, those who moved here undertook to live in the slums hoping they would move on from here as soon as they had the financial opportunity, but unfortunately, this was very rare. Thanks to the development of sound economic potential and a social network, London's slums disappeared and were eradicated by the 20th century and are now seen by researchers as a bad memory or a good example (Ramin, 2009).

But let's see what happens in the rest of the world? The glorious 20th century has unfortunately dumped a lot on humanity. Of course, we know that the technical advances of the 20th century have had both advantages and disadvantages. The worldwide development of the industry has brought with it a lot of humanitarian problems, wars, and natural disasters. By the beginning of the 20th century, the number and proportions of slums in Europe and the more developed parts of the world will begin to decline, but this is not the case in the developing parts of the world. The most endangered continent on Earth is "Black Africa," where, according to the United Nations, 56% of the urban population lived in slums at the beginning of the 21st century. In South Asia, it is about 30%, 24% in Oceania and similar proportions in the rest of Asia, but unfortunately, Latin America is also affected by around 20%. It is currently estimated that 1 billion people live in slums and are projected to reach 2 billion by the middle of the 21st century ("Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2016–2030: UNICEF's Strategy for WASH" 2016-2030). It is also undisputed that today's Roma segregation in Hungary can also be classified here, as we encounter this phenomenon in about 300 settlements. The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta undertakes the task of achieving change at these places within the framework of the "Felzárkózó Települések" (Advancing Settlements) program (Romhányi, Solymári & Tihanyi, 2021).

The inhabitants of slums live their daily lives amid great dangers, poverty, lack of employment opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, the spread of diseases and epidemics, and the presence of crime in slums all make their mark on the daily lives of those living there (Kofi, 2021). Typhoid, cholera, tuberculosis, and all forms of AIDS are among the most common diseases in today's slums in Africa, and children are most at risk, with around 40% dying before the age of five (Solymári, 2012). Most importantly, these slums have massive water shortages, severe lack of hygiene, malnutrition, and a highly polluted environment, if one can talk about the environment at all (Albuquerque, Guedes, 2021) (Tibaijuka, 2007). People face almost the same problems in all parts of the world, be it in Mexico (Mexico City), Brazil (Sao Paulo), Indonesia (Jakarta), China (Shanghai), India (Mumbai), the Philippines (Manila), or Africa (Cairo, Casablanca, Lagos, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Kampala, Mombasa, Dar es Salaam), etc. Despite all this, we must see that perhaps the worst conditions are still in the slums of Africa (Madden, 2020). But even within Africa, huge differences can be observed ("Every child lives in a safe and clean environment", 2020). In the present study, we focus on the most severe slums in Sub-Saharan Africa, namely the four cities of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, where the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta has carried out huge and large-scale interventions in the slums of four major municipalities. The most common problems in these slums are rapid demographic growth, a lack of employment opportunities, a lack of clean drinking water, a high level of infection and crime, the spread of diseases and malnutrition, and the sexual

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exploitation of minors (Wado & Bangha, 2020). It is part of the history of the development of slums in Africa that the processes of colonization and then decolonization contributed to the urbanization of a rapidly growing population.

The rapid urbanization process surprised the leaders of African states because they were by no means prepared to create housing conditions for the vast rural masses (Harrisberg, 2019). The groups that arrived in the cities settled where they had the opportunity to build from what they had just found, so neither the ownership norms prevailed nor the city's building regulations, if there were any (Collord, Goodfellow & Asante, 2021). The large population settling in the quickly made tumbledown cottages in a small area tried to create closed communities with humanitarian rationalities. Because several people crowded together to create a residential area, those people tried to help each other and protect each other, and this is so to this day (Nagy-György, 2019). The negligence of states, the lack of a concept of urbanization policy, corruption, and economic problems, which could be examined in a global context, are constantly generating the problems of slums (Collord, Goodfellow & Asante, 2021). The reevaluation of the continent's rich raw materials and the possibility of exploiting the existing labor force on the continent may be at the heart of the rethought Africa policy of the former colonial states, not by capitalist approaches but by developing humanitarian ideologies and a focus on the well-being of local people. It would be essential to move in this direction in cooperation with local leaders and NGOs. By civil society, we do not necessarily mean locally established organizations but various UN agencies, charities, and non-profit organizations from all over the world that want to help. Mass of such organizations has been appearing in these settlements for decades. Still, due to the weak state will, the resistance of corrupt local political systems makes the conditions very difficult and opaque ("Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2016-2030: UNICEF's Strategy for WASH" 2016-2030; UN-HABITAT, 2019). The European Union has already developed the concept of an African presence, which it seeks to implement through its Member States to the extent of their economic competencies (Besenyő, 2020). The US is also beginning to discover that the lack of rebuilding of their policies in Africa will be a significant competitive disadvantage in the global space. Therefore, its financial contribution has also entered a growth path in the light of all that it seems that China does not want to be left out of the 'recolonization' of the modern African continent either. (Arimah, 2017; Shittu et al., 2020).

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in Africa

The history of establishing the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta begins at the moment of the regime change in Central and Eastern Europe. It is formed in a year when it is most needed. The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta is not present-day conception. Several abbreviated names are used in the common Hungarian language: Maltese, Johannes, John Knights, The order formation could not be accurately determined by the researchers either, but the foundations certainly seem to have been laid down before the first crusade. The years 1070, but perhaps later the years 1113 or 1120, have a decisive certainty that brotherhood will be formed therein Jerusalem, which in the beginning will only nurture and care, and is not a military order. Only later, perhaps in the model of the Knights Templar, will it take on a military role (Török & Legeza, 2009; Hunyadi, 2019; Romhányi, Solymári & Tihanyi, 2021). The order appeared in Hungary almost in its initial period and in the whole of Europe. They will do much service to the Christian armies fighting for the Holy Land at the time, both in caring for the poor and caring for the sick, but their military role will also be enormous in this age. With the loss of the Holy Land, the order does not end, it persisted on the island of Cyprus until the end of the 13th century, and as the Knights Templar ceased, with the wealth of the Templars and many members of the temple, it grew stronger and stronger. After Cyprus, the island of Rhodes is acquired, and from there, the island of Malta became their home until almost the end of the 18th century. After losing the island of Malta, Rome will finally be their center (Hunyadi, 2019). The spirit and members of this order established the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in 1989, which will be registered on February 10th. Of course, this does not mean that it had no precedent until then and just appeared out of nowhere since, as

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it has been already mentioned, they have existed in Hungary since the middle of the 12th century (Romhányi, Solymári & Tihanyi, 2021). Their presence simply has not always been tolerated throughout history.

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta is an aid organization of the Association of Hungarian Knights of Malta within the Sovereign Knights of Malta, which due to the Central European regime changes and its 1989 establishment, became one of the most prominent charitable non-government organizations in Hungary and the region. Its greatness is unquestionably reflected in its national reach, following the country's administrative rationalization, according to which it has a National Centre and seven areas. Its activities are not limited to the borders of Hungary. Still, as an organization of the Sovereign of Knights of Malta, it participates almost worldwide. It acts out its charitable, humanitarian, and security duties set out in its Charter, making it a member and active participant in the international Maltese organization. Its activities cover the entire Carpathian Basin, but it is present everywhere in the world, where humanitarian and natural disasters occur and is present in all segments of the security of human life. Its presence affects almost every continent in this way. In North America, in cooperation with the Hungarians living there, it manages and organizes procurement of medical devices of significant value and delivers them to those parts of the world where it is very much needed. The most significant presence, as well as cooperation with local organizations, is in Venezuela in South America, especially since the political situation has deteriorated significantly and the economy has been in decline, so the livelihoods of the people there have been a significant concern. We could highlight many countries in Europe, but perhaps the most important are Ukraine, Romania, and Serbia. In these countries, the organization has been active since its inception, as the humanitarian problems that have arisen there have not been resolved since then; indeed, more and more have surfaced. Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine can be highlighted in the Middle East. These countries have been facing severe asylum and health problems in recent years, which is why the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta carries out its most extraordinary possible health activities here. In Asia, Pakistan and Thailand are the main focus of the organization's efforts to help people affected by natural disasters and mitigate the difficulties of local migration ("Hol Dolgozunk – Afrika/ Kenya, Uganda, Tanzánia", 2010-22).

The Service of the Charity in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

Its activities in the three countries, the humanitarian and technical tasks of the organization, which are called to restore and ensure the safety of the inhabitants of the slums living there, are unique in the history of the Hungarians of the 21st century. As Hungary joined the European Union, it has created an opportunity for Hungarian non-governmental organizations to launch high-level professional tenders and establish ever more comprehensive cooperation with other international institutions through partnerships. This also had the advantage that the NGO, which is essentially known and active in the Carpathian Basin, could get into an internationally and professionally recognized field. Thus, in the years after 2010, the focus was on three states of Sub-Saharan Africa which have provided and continue to provide crucial ground for the fulfillment of the goals and missions set out in its memorandum of association. According to international organizations, almost a billion Africans currently live in slums or highly impoverished neighborhoods; if this continues, it could double by 2050. In this area, there are scores of problems faced by humanity, such as malaria, typhoid, dysentery, and cholera. Still, in addition to these, modern diseases such as AIDS and asthma reared their head.

Kenya: This country is a republic that gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1963. As a state on the shores of the Indian Ocean, it is an essential economic factor in the region. Its capital is Nairobi, home to one of the largest slums in the area, Kibera. The country is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, and the International Monetary Fund. Its currency is the Kenyan Shilling, perhaps the most dynamically developing country in the region in recent times. About 54 million people live in a predominantly Christian nation, and the official languages spoken are Sahelian and English. Poverty is prevalent, with substantial social inequalities exacerbated by the unexpected effects of ongoing global climate change. Most of the rural population who have moved to cities live in slums where there are no conditions for a healthy and dignified lifestyle. The most basic

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shortcomings are no drainage system for clean drinking water, no sewerage system for sewage, no electricity, and no network of public health institutions. As a result, the most basic human need, such as clean drinking water, is lacking. The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta has launched four programs in Kenya, two considered closed and two still ongoing. In order:

- 1. Establishment of a Sanitation Centre at Kibera slum Nairobi
- 2. Establishment of a Rehabilitation Centre at Bangladesh slum Mombasa
- 3. Impact assessment for a water and sanitation project in Africa
- 4. Kenya Representation Program on Kibera slum

The program, which took place in the Kambi Muru district of Nairobi's Kibera slum, ran from 2011 to 2012, with the most significant financial sponsor being the Metropolitan Waterworks (Budapest), and partner organizations were the Kenyan NGO Maji Na Ufanisi (Water and Development) and the Nairobi City Council. The implementation cost of the program reached ten million forints. There were good reasons for the construction: the slum, which has a population of almost 1 million, has no sanitation facilities, no toilets, and sewers to drain biowaste. People use pits dug into the ground for this purpose, surrounded only by a few shales, and when heavy rain arrives, it washes the feces out of the holes, bespreading the area and causing a high risk of infection. The concept of 'flying toilet' has also become established here, meaning a full bag is just sent flying. Although pipelines can be seen on the narrow streets, these carry stolen water from the urban water system. They are perforated, fragmented tubes in which the water reaches its destination already infected and is sold at a high price. As a result, 40% of children born here die before the age of five. That is why a rehabilitation center had to be set up to help and protect the most vulnerable, children, women, and the elderly. This sanitation center provides clean drinking water by officially connecting to the city's water system, filling the water tanks with thousands of liters from there, and then selling it for a symbolic amount to the residents of the slum. The revenue is used to maintain the facility and pay those working there as employees. The facility not only provides clean drinking water but also has rainwater collection tanks. The water collected is used in the toilet systems also constructed here. Moreover, showers have also been set up, which also greatly serve those who work here, as it is easier for them to find a job when they are clean and tidy. It can also be mentioned that the drainage system has also been developed ("Hol Dolgozunk – Afrika/ Kenya, Uganda, Tanzánia", 2010-22).

The next similar project by the Charity Service could have also been implemented in one of the Kenyan cities, in a slum in Mombasa called Bangladesh. This project was accomplished between 2012 and 2013 with the support of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and private donors, amounting to approximately HUF 15 million. The partner organization for this project was the local NGO Maji Na Ufanis (Water and Development) and the Water Board of the City Council of Mombasa. In this case, too, the Charity Service established a complex hygiene center, which had the exact solution requirements as in the case of Kibera. The problem was similar here, the official plumbing system was missing, the sewerage system was missing, and the removal of biological waste from the area was unresolved, leading to severe infection hubs. Water purification systems thus provide a solution for thousands of people living on the site; without water and hygiene, young children, women, and the elderly are most at risk. Thus, according to the report of the Charity Service, a legal drinking water system was constructed in this slum, as well as toilets, showers, and a rainwater collection tank using modern technology. Here, too, WASH (Water Sanitation Hygiene Alliance International) has been entrusted with the operation of the center, and its revenue is used to pay for the staff and to run and maintain the hygiene center (Romhányi, Solymári & Tihanyi, 2021) ("Hol Dolgozunk – Afrika/ Kenya, Uganda, Tanzánia", 2010-22).

The Impact Assessment for Water and Hygiene Projects in Africa program only started in 2019 and was scheduled to end in 2021, but unfortunately, the pandemic also slowed it down. The Charity Service funded the project from its resources, and the budget is planned for about HUF 3 million. Their partners, in this case, are the

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Natural Capital Trust and the University of Nairobi. The program aims to examine the influence of the already established centers on the lives of the people living in the slums, as well as to gather experience to lay the foundations for new similar rehabilitation centers. Another intention of the program is to support the work of local professionals and researchers so that local civilians, with this knowledge, can put their resources to work and use external resources as well.

A project called Kenya's Representation Program from Kibera's Slum started in 2021 and is scheduled to run until 2023 unless the pandemic prevents it. This time the implementation of this program is funded by the Hungary Helps Agency and about 30 million will be allocated to it. Of course, the partnership here is also with the Natural Capital Trust, as any program can only be run with Hungary Helps if a local organization is involved. This program is very different from the previous ones, as the goal of the Charity Service is to research and help a unique phenomenon here. It should be noted that the supply of slums is provided by the rural population of the countries, who have livelihood problems and therefore migrate to the parts of the larger cities where the poorest classes live, and because they are also very poverty-stricken, could not rent or buy acceptable property elsewhere. The slum is meant to be a springboard, hoping that if they have the money, they will be able to move out, but unfortunately, very few will succeed. So, this program examines and tracks the lives of those moving from rural to urban environments. In the program, 50 families are selected who have moved from the countryside to the city and aim to relocate to their rural residence. They are getting prepared with training, so they have the proper knowledge to make a living. The Charity Service also provides financial support to help them implement their business plan. After the move, they stay in touch for a year, and the families can receive assistance if needed. It is also essential for them to be a retaining and valuable member of their community, not just for their family. This may make it possible for rural-urban migration to decline or if it can happen to be stopped. And even if that is a very distant dream, the trend is to get reversed, so the inhabitants of the urban slum can see an opportunity in rural life again, even keeping their traditions (Treszkai, 2021).

Uganda: The history of the country has been fascinating. First of all, it is essential to note that Uganda has a very advantageous position within Africa, as it is adorned with many streams and rivers, and there are also plenty of lakes and many savannas. There was a kingdom in this country that lasted for centuries, which was abolished by the English colonizers in the late 19th century, creating the Ugandan Protectorate with the Kampala center, which lasted until 1962. The period after the decolonization did not turn out well either because bloody dictators took turns, and military coups and civil wars did not escape its territory either. The conflicts in the neighboring countries have also left their mark on the land, resulting in millions of refugees coming here, thus generating high unemployment. Its economy is starting to recover, and poverty is slowly being reduced, but the country still has a long way to go. The slums of the Kampala Kironde Zone are nowhere near the size of the Nairobi Kibera. Still, its dimension is not negligible either, as it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people may live in similar sheds, one-room barracks quickly built by rubbish, in many cases families of up to ten members. There is no legal waterpipe system here either, no sewers, and, more importantly, no public health system, and access to health care in the city is costly and cannot be paid for by slum dwellers.

The program of the Charity Service started here in 2013 and was completed in 2014. The program's sponsor was the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the implementation cost about 15 million forints. Their local partners were SSWARS (Sustainable Sanitation and Water Renewal System) and UWASNET (Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network). As the problem is the same as in Kenya's slums, the Charity Service has set itself the goal of creating almost the same complex hygienic development here as in Kibera. The aim was also to provide clean drinking water to as many thousands of people as possible, create flush toilets, build a sewer system, reduce the number of infections by draining bio-waste, and increase the system's efficiency by setting up rainwater collection tanks. An anaerobic biogas producing unit has also been set up here so residents can use the gas generated by the chemical process for lighting and heating. With this ecological step, an essential aspect of

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pollution has been reduced, so not only has the public health of the residents improved but the environmental impact has also been lowered.

Tanzania: This nation is different from the previous two countries. Although its history of colonization is similar, as the English were the colonizers here as well, the difference is more in the fact that we do not encounter such slums as in the big cities of the previous two countries. There is also poverty here, but impoverished streets and smaller townships are more noticeable, where the infrastructure is incomplete. In terms of population, it is the largest and also much larger in area, with some 13 million of its 58 million people living in deep poverty, which is not small or negligible. The Charity Service started its program in 2014 in one of the schools in Dar Salaam, the capital, which the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supported with HUF 15 million. The partners, in this case, are SAWA, Tawasa.net, and the City Council. The program took place in an elementary school attended by 1,200 children, where the entire water network of the school was renovated, and new toilets were created that boys and girls could use separately. Developing a rainwater collection system will also help the institution operate more efficiently ("Hol Dolgozunk – Afrika/ Kenya, Uganda, Tanzánia" 2010-22).

Africa's prospects - is there any hope? Conclusions

The vision of Africa's young population and overcoming past problems is not just a task for Africa (Fodor, 2008). It is the part of our Earth that is the cradle of humanity, with thousands of cultures lined up before us, hundreds of languages exist, and not to mention treasures that, due to their geographical location, are unique and special, nowhere else on Earth can be found. The continent had a peculiar development until the 19th century, avoided by modern industrialization, which would not have been to its disadvantage but rather to its advantage; however, the greedy behavior of the Western imperialist world had diverted this mainland in a terrible direction. With this in mind, those parts of the world that have practically completely exploited these ethnic groups should feel responsible for this continent, not forgetting, leaving them alone, or even exploiting these countries, but helping them conceptually through development programs so that the highest environmental standards can prevail. Today, the world is again seeing an opportunity to revitalize its policies in Africa. The US, China, India, and many European countries are rethinking their policies, however, not entirely selflessly, keeping in mind the perspectives of those who live there, but with a pragmatic approach. Africa is rich in mineral resources, several states are members of OPEC, several environmentally conscious industrial facilities are being constructed, and many high-quality research centers are being set up in many African megalopolises, but the developed world needs to take note that not only their interest can prevail

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