



**Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau
(AIFO)
Annual Report 2004**

AIFO - BUILDING A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

MISSION

We work for promoting dignity and access to health for the most marginalized groups, especially for persons affected with leprosy and persons with disability and work together with them for fighting against social injustice.

VISION

**A world in which, right to health is a reality for every one,
A world without leprosy
A world where disabled persons have equal rights,
A world without the domination of unjust power system.**

OUR VALUES

We believe in a world, where relationships between all human beings are based on peace that comes from justice.

We believe in a world where every person can develop and live with dignity, safe from all discrimination.

We believe in collaboration among the people of the world where diversity and mutual support are valued.

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Part 1: Introduction and Organisational Structure

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO) is a non-profit non-governmental development organisation with head-office in Bologna. This office is the operational arm of the Association and is governed by a Board of Directors.

AIFO is a grassroots, people's democratic organisation with hundreds of volunteers spread all over the country through groups and three regional coordination offices in Italy. The volunteers, AIFO groups and coordination offices together constitute the Associative Base of AIFO. This Associative Base chooses the General Assembly of AIFO, the highest decision making body in AIFO. Every three years, the General Assembly of AIFO elects the Board of Directors of AIFO.

AIFO is an international organisation with regional international offices based in Bangalore (India), Goiania (Brazil) and Maputo (Mozambique). In addition, in many countries AIFO has a representative office.



Members of AIFO's Project Commission (November 2004)

AIFO operates mainly in medico-social field in developing world and in development education activities in Italy. AIFO's motto is, "Against Leprosy and Against All Leptosies". "Against all leptosies" means that AIFO intends to fight against the causes of leprosy including poverty, inequalities, unfair North-South relationships, denial of human rights, etc.

Started in 1961, inspired by the thoughts of French journalist Raoul Follereau, AIFO is active in four main areas:

- fight against leprosy as part of integrated primary health care;
- promotion of rights of persons with disabilities through community-based rehabilitation approach;
- support to needy children in risk situations;
- inter-culture through promotion of a just and tolerant world, where diversity is valued.

1.2 ORGANISATION

The Associative Base

AIFO is a grassroots, popular and democratic organisation, a network of AIFO groups spread all over Italy. The democratic and participatory organisational model of AIFO is rare among non-governmental development organisations. At the end of 2004, there were 35 official AIFO groups.

The basic peripheral unit of AIFO is an **AIFO Group**. AIFO groups can be very different, some with a few members or very large with hundreds of members. Some groups are recognised non-profit organisations in their own right, registered with local governments of their areas, while others are more informal. The group members, also called AIFO volunteers, must work for AIFO without any salaries or payments. AIFO volunteers, also called members, come from different backgrounds including office workers, housewives, retired persons, priests, etc. The official group members pay a yearly contribution to AIFO for the membership and this gives them the right to elect the regional and national assemblies of AIFO.

AIFO groups are organised in **Regional Assemblies** and elect their regional delegates and regional coordinators. Delegates to AIFO's **National Assembly** come from both individual groups as well as from the regional assemblies. AIFO's National Assembly meets at least once every year and is the supreme organ of the organisation, deciding the organisational strategies and electing the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

Every three years, National Assembly of AIFO elects the **Board of Directors**. At present, AIFO's Board of Directors is composed of 7 persons. **Dr Enzo Venza** is the President of Board of Directors and there are two vice-presidents – Dr Enzo Zecchini and Prof. Luigi Gravina. The Board takes all the decisions about use of AIFO funds according to the strategies approved by National Assembly.

The Board meets almost every month, though major financial decisions are mainly taken in November and June of each year. Last elections for AIFO's Board of Directors were held in May 2002 and the next elections are due in May 2005.

Strategic Directors

A group of six persons constitutes the office of Strategic Direction of AIFO, which is also the meeting place between Board of Directors and the central offices of AIFO, based in Bologna. These include two representatives from the Board of Directors and 4 persons from the paid staff at the AIFO office (director of projects division, director of administration division, director of Italian division and director of medical support department.)

AIFO's Management Office

AIFO's operational management is under three directors, Prof. Antnoio Landolfi - director of Italian division, Mr. Mario Consorti – director of administration division and Dr Giovanni Gazzoli – director of project division. Together they take all the decisions regarding the staff and ordinary functioning of offices and activities.

Project Division

Dr Giovanni Gazzoli is director of project division, which has a secretariat and project managers for **international activities**. During 2004, Project Division had three project managers – Ms. Francesca Ortali, Ms. Monica Tassoni and Ms. Simona Venturoli. Ms. Cinzia Cullice is the secretary of the division. During the year, Ms. Tassoni left for maternity leave and was replaced with Ms. Silvia Milella.

Italian Division

Prof. Antonio Landolfi is the director of Italian division. This division includes a project manager for development education (Ms. Enrica carnevali), communication department (Ms. Francesca Romiti, Mr. Davide Sacquegna and Mr. Gianfranco Cordisco) and donor services & fund raising department (Ms.

Tiziana Raisa, Ms. Laura Gandolfi, Mr. Patrizio Pasqualino, Raffaella Fogacci and Elisabetta Minarelli). In the last quarter of 2004, a civil service volunteer, Ms. Federica Donà joined this division for one year.

Administrative division

Mr. Mario Consorti is the director of Administration Division of AIFO. Administration Division includes general accounts (Ms. Paola Peri and Ms. Daniela Piombi), information technology support (Mr. Luca Dalla Rossa), project accounting (Ms. Ebe Albini), general secretariat (Mr. Angelo Agate), secretary to the Board of Directors (Ms. Barbara Zoli) and warehouse (Ms. Maria Pia Api).

Medical Support Department

Dr. Sunil Deepak is the director of Medical Support Department and is supported by Ms. Felicita Veluri. The departments works with different consultants and experts.

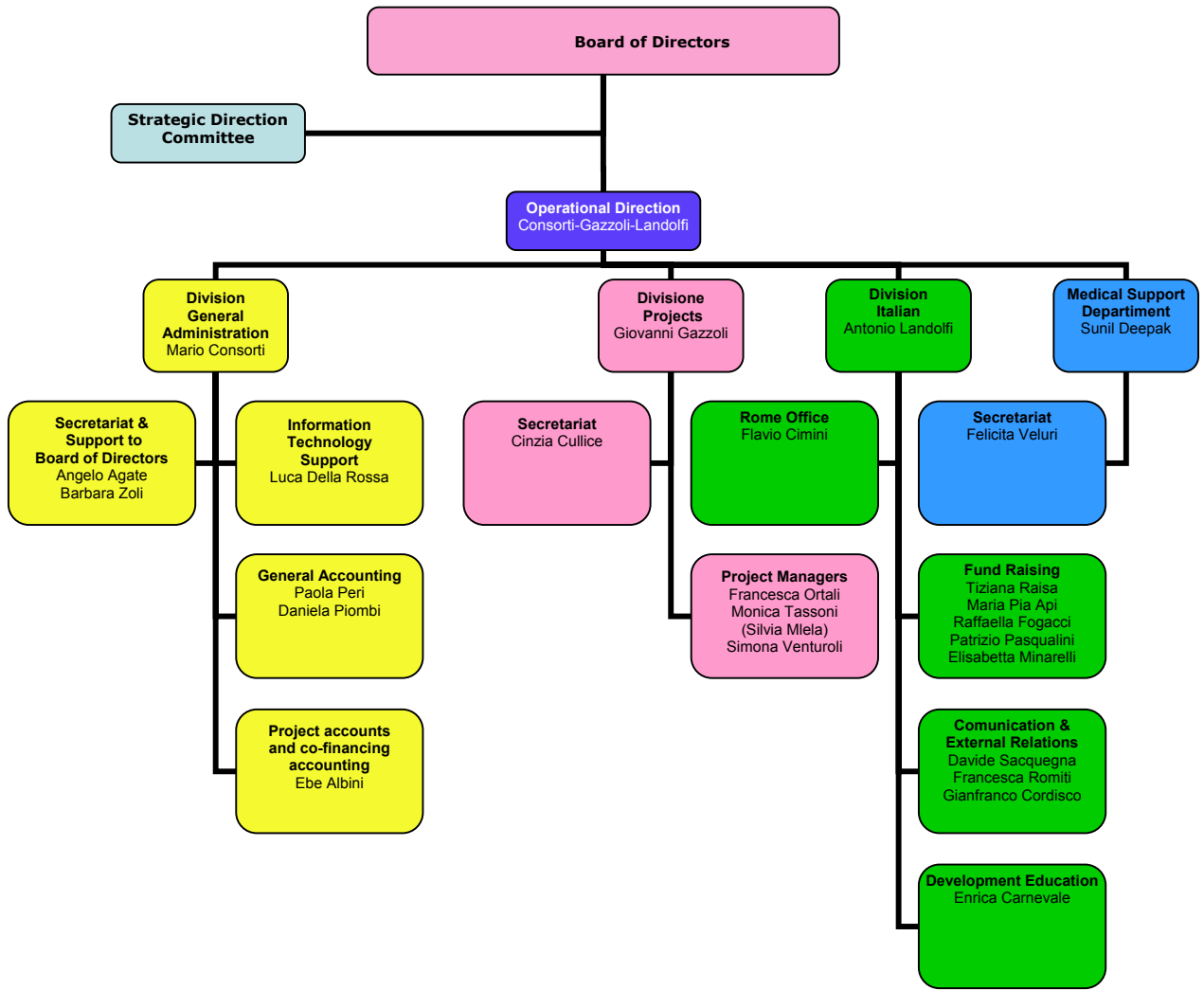
Other Collaborators

Additional paid staff for limited periods such as around world leprosy day or for specific events can also be there. Often, in AIFO offices there are different internists, who come to work for limited periods as part of their practical work experience or for working on specific projects. For example, during 2004, Mr. Faustin Akafack collaborated for preparation of an exhibition of African objects, **Abunté**.

Rome office

AIFO has a small office in Rome with a full-time collaborator, Mr. Flavio Cimini.

Organisational Structure of AIFO (Dec. 2004) On the next page.



Part 2: International Project Support Activities

2.1 AIFO STRATEGIES AND AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

In 2004 AIFO continued to promote and support initiatives in the following specific areas:

- Leprosy and Primary Health Care
- Disability and Rehabilitation
- Vulnerable children

In line with its strategies, during 2004 AIFO supported projects through a global and integrated approach, focusing at beneficiaries, particularly the marginalised and vulnerable groups and persons.

This means being aware of historical, social and cultural contexts of local communities, promoting the best use of existing local resources. One of main goals of AIFO supported activities in developing countries is strengthening the participation of beneficiaries in decision making, involving them in identifying the project activities aimed at determining the best approach to uplift their life conditions. The major tools in this strategy are the sense of partnership, meaning equal dignity, mutual trust and full respect with all local partners, who are the real protagonists of interventions. Stronger collaboration with all the stake-holders including government institutions and local groups (religious, NGOs social and community movements), is an important asset for all projects supported by our Association.

From the operational point of view, AIFO has three regional coordination offices in countries where it has a stronger presence:

- in Bangalore, India (under Mr. M. V. Jose)
- in Maputo, Mozambique (under Mr. Massimo Tomaselli)
- in Goiania, Brazil (under Ms. Delinda Bittencourt de Santana)



Deolinda and Jose, AIFO regional coordinators in Brazil and India (2nd and 3rd from left) with Giovanni, Director of Project Division (2nd from right) and friends at an AIFO meeting

In addition, there are other countries where AIFO has country representatives. In 2004, AIFO provided technical, financial and material resources support to 113 initiatives in 24 countries worldwide. In addition, AIFO supported 15 initiatives through members of ILEP (International Federation of Anti-leprosy Organisations). Thus, during 2004 AIFO supported 128 projects in 27 country worldwide.

2.2 LEPROSY CONTROL AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

2.2.1 Situation of leprosy in the world

Leprosy related activities continue to be the chief priority in AIFO interventions in developing countries. At the end of 2003, according to the data from World Health Organisation (WHO) the situation of leprosy showed that 453,497 cases were registered for treatment worldwide (Prevalence) and 513,793 new cases were diagnosed during the year. (Table 1).

Table 1. Worldwide global leprosy situation (2003)*

| REGION | Number of cases registered at the end 2003 (31/12/2003) | New cases diagnosed in 2003 |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| AFRICA | 51.175 | 46.968 |
| AMERICA | 83.233 | 51.082 |
| EASTEN MEDITERANEAN | 5.780 | 3.944 |
| SOUTH EAST ASIAN | 302.860 | 405.609 |
| WESTERN PACIFIC | 10.449 | 6.190 |
| WORLD | 453.497 | 513.793 |

*WHO data, Europe excluded



Children celebrating a function at the Nidadevole Leprosy centre in Andhra Pradesh (India)

In 1991, the World Health Assembly decided the goal of "Leprosy elimination by 2000" and defined the meaning of "elimination" as "to reduce the number of active cases, (persons registered for specific anti-leprosy treatment), to less than 1 for 10.000 inhabitants." This goal was later postponed to 2005. The idea of "elimination" of leprosy brought commitment from governments and voluntary organisations all over the world and till now about 14 million leprosy patients have received specific anti-leprosy treatment and have been declared "cured". This is a huge achievement for the fight against leprosy.

Yet the continuing challenges to fight leprosy remain. The main factor determining the disease burden in any country is the number of new cases detected annually by the programmes. During the year 2003, 18 countries detected more than 1,000 new cases of leprosy and together these countries contributed to 97% of annual global case detection. The situation of leprosy in these 18 countries highlights (table 2)

these continuing challenges as 13 of these countries had detected *more new cases* of leprosy in 2003 compared to the situation ten years ago in 1993.

Table 2: Comparative case detection and prevalence in top 18 countries during 1993 and 2003

| | Country | New cases 1993 | New cases 2003 | Prevalence 1993 | Prevalence 2003 |
|----|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Angola | 339 | 2933 | 3600 | 3776 |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 6943 | 8712 | 22334 | 6754 |
| 3 | Brazil | 34235 | 49206 | 223539 | 79908 |
| 4 | China | 3755 | 1404 | 20003 | 3261 |
| 5 | Cote d'Ivoire | 2186 | 1205 | 3762 | 1021 |
| 6 | D.R. Congo | 3927 | 7165 | 8190 | 7165 |
| 7 | Egypt | 1042 | 1412 | 3338 | 2380 |
| 8 | Ethiopia | 4090 | 5193 | 15673 | 5852 |
| 9 | India | 456000 | 367143 | 995285 | 265781 |
| 10 | Indonesia | 12638 | 14641 | 70961 | 18083 |
| 11 | Madagascar | 740 | 5104 | 5369 | 5514 |
| 12 | Mozambique | 1930 | 5907 | 12838 | 6810 |
| 13 | Myanmar | 12018 | 3808 | 56410 | 2778 |
| 14 | Nepal | 6152 | 8046 | 17756 | 7549 |
| 15 | Nigeria | 4381 | 4799 | 33196 | 5243 |
| 16 | Philippines | 3442 | 2397 | 15441 | 3334 |
| 17 | Sri Lanka | 944 | 1925 | 1709 | 1317 |
| 18 | Tanzania | 2731 | 5279 | 3674 | 5420 |
| | Total | 570563 | 496279 | 1539839 | 431672 |
| | Total Global (%) | 590933 (97%) | 513806 (97%) | 1671497 (92%) | 453513 (95%) |

2.2.2 AIFO strategies during 2004 for the fight against leprosy:

To integrate leprosy programmes into primary health care services: Health services in developing countries are facing many challenges and health emergencies such as tuberculosis, AIDS, Malaria. At the same time public health services continue to be penalised by budget cuts, privatisation, limitation of staff, lack of medicines and reagents, etc. In such situation, it is important to strengthen the primary health care services. Thus AIFO promotes integration of leprosy control services in general health care services.

To focus our attention on countries with bigger number of new cases of leprosy: Up to now at international level, epidemiological monitoring of leprosy situation has focused on prevalence of leprosy. This strategy was correct when MDT treatment lasted many years, as it gave an indication of work load. Today leprosy treatment lasts from 6 to 12 months and often the prevalence of registered cases is less than incidence of newly diagnosed cases. For this reason, AIFO believes that today new case detection is much better indicator to understand the importance of leprosy in a community and to calculate the work load. Another challenge is dismantling of all leprosy services in countries that had reached the "elimination goal" and where lack of leprosy control services (both as specific programmes and as part of general health services), can lead to decreasing number of new cases with rise in percentage of new cases with visible deformities.

To ensure field level operational research: Controlling a complex disease such as leprosy with a deep social impact, it is not enough just to distribute medicines and to hope that one day we shall have a world without leprosy. Fundamental and field level research is important to strengthen the fight against leprosy for the future. AIFO has decided to focus mainly on field level operational research related to leprosy linking it with community based rehabilitation strategies for prevention of disabilities and rehabilitation.



Operational Research: CBR workers of MOB-Mandya and SRMAB Malavalli projects (Karnataka, India) discussing difficulties of integrating leprosy affected persons in CBR activities (Dec. 2004)

2.2.3 AIFO Supported Leprosy Control Projects

In 2004 AIFO supported activities in the following leprosy projects in collaboration with the different partners including national Governments and NGOs including lay organisations and religious congregations:

AIFO supported leprosy control projects in collaboration with Governments: 26 projects in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Brazil, China and India.

AIFO supported leprosy control activities in collaboration with non-governmental organisations: in India, Nepal, Mozambique and Brazil.

AIFO supported leprosy control activities in collaboration with religious congregations: in Angola, Cabo Verde, democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Brazil, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh & India.

2.2.4 Primary Health Care (PHC)

The concept of primary health care and the objective of Health for All by the year 2000 were launched in 1978 at the Alma Ata conference. Yet often primary health care services have received only ideological support while in practice, PHC services are challenged by lack of resources and personnel. While there is attention towards the major killer diseases of today – AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, it is often forgotten that without basic health services at the most peripheral levels, no sustainable programme to fight any disease is feasible. It is for this reason that AIFO has chosen to strengthen primary health care services and community health services in all its interventions.

During the last decades there has been a gradual increase in the number of projects supported by AIFO extending their activities to primary health care (PHC) activities, where earlier AIFO was involved only in leprosy related vertical activities. A good example of this strategic change is the AIFO-supported project in Nampula Province in the north of Mozambique (co-financed by Italian Foreign Ministry), that deals with all community health projects of Provincial Health Department.

Some other significant Primary Health Care projects supported by AIFO in 2004: Many of the projects in the tables above defined as “leprosy projects” are also engaged in primary health care activities. Some examples of significant PHC projects are given here:

- Primary health care project in Bandundu region covering Kimbau district in Democratic Republic of Congo
- Primary Health Care in Pomoni district of Anjouan island in Comores Union in the Indian ocean
- Primary Health Care and social support in Digsa district in Eritrea
- Primary Health care project in Kadem district in South Nyanza Province, Kenya
- Buruli ulcer control Project through PHC in Amasaman (Ga District) and Akwuapim (South District) in Ghana.
- Primary Health Care in Rumbek Diocese area of South Sudan.



Role play on oral rehydration therapy in Peshawar (Pakistan)

2.3 DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION

Persons with disability constitute between 0.5% in developing countries to more than 15% of populations in the developed countries. While part of this disparity is due to the way disability is defined and the related information is collected, it is also a sign of higher morbidity and mortality of disabled children and adults in developing and poor countries.

AIFO has been traditionally involved with disability and rehabilitation programmes in its leprosy activities, promoting prevention of disabilities and medical and socio-economic rehabilitation of persons with leprosy related disabilities.

Since early nineties, AIFO has enlarged its work for persons with leprosy related disabilities to all disabled persons including persons with mental and physical disabilities. For these interventions AIFO focuses on community-based rehabilitation approach and works in close collaboration with disability and rehabilitation team of World Health Organisation (WHO/DAR).

2.3.1 Rehabilitation needs of leprosy affected persons

Around 14 million people have been "cured" of leprosy in the world. Many of them need support for prevention of disabilities, medical rehabilitation and socio-economic rehabilitation. According to WHO, among these there are about 2 million persons with visible deformities and another 2 million persons with loss of sensation in hands and/or feet with risk of developing other disabilities and complications. However, these are only estimates and it is important for all AIFO supported projects dealing with leprosy to understand the dimension of this need in their project areas. Since many of these persons requiring different kinds of rehabilitation support activities live in areas where there are no other rehabilitation centres, AIFO promotes use of all rehabilitation centres for all the disabled persons and not only for persons with leprosy related disabilities.

AIFO supported projects involved in socio-economic rehabilitation and community-development activities: Majority of projects supported by AIFO are involved in some such activities. However these activities assume an important role in projects in Angola, Brazil, Kenya, China and India.

2.3.2 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Community based rehabilitation (CBR) is one of the service delivery approaches for providing rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. The other service delivery approaches include institution-based rehabilitation and outreach rehabilitation services. AIFO has decided to focus its support for community-based rehabilitation approach.



CBR Volunteer during a home visit (South Sulawesi, Indonesia)

The idea of CBR was initially promoted by WHO for bringing medical rehabilitation activities in areas where there were no other medical rehabilitation services. Similar approach was adopted also by other UNO agencies in early eighties, to help and support disabled persons in developing countries living largely in rural areas with no access to educational and occupational services.

At present, CBR is seen as a comprehensive strategy, considering the person in its fullness and complexity, promoting multi-sectoral activities for achieving equal opportunities and full participation of disabled persons in family and community life and in the society.

AIFO has a big experience in community based rehabilitation programmes, with interventions involving persons with different kinds of disabilities, both physical and mental, including those related to leprosy. Initially these projects focused on medical aspects of rehabilitation but now strategy has enlarged to respond to needs like economic self sufficiency, education and training. CBR projects are seen by AIFO as medium to long term processes, as part of a community development. Among this kind of projects AIFO gives priority to:

- Promote awareness and discussions among disabled persons, their families and their communities on difficulties related to implementation of human rights and the role in communal actions related to vulnerable groups.
- Support the creation of grass root organisations and related networking.
- Operate through community volunteers and community workers in order to teach disabled persons and their families simple rehabilitation techniques for daily activities and production of simple orthopaedic tools.
- Work through teachers and community members to provide children the access to formal inclusive education: promote the approach child to child to reach disabled children, and promote informal education for disabled adults.
- Work through community groups and village groups to promote saving scheme, subsidised credit funds, mutual help and co-operatives for economic self-sufficiency of disabled persons respecting local knowledge, culture and environment and promote vocational training courses for disabled youth and adults and their families.
- Work with national organisations of disabled persons (DPOs) to enforce and promote internal leadership ability and advocacy; promote networking with similar organisation at all levels.
- Work with national, provincial, district and local administrative governments, to reinforce referral system of specialised services.

CBR projects supported by AIFO can be divided in three main groups

1. **Projects in collaboration with Governments covering large geographical areas (provinces and districts)** - these projects are in Mongolia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Eritrea.
2. **Projects in collaborations with local NGOs that operate as resource-support organisations (RSOs) centres for promoting capacity-building and training of other small NGOs and grass root organisations** - these kind of projects are in Nepal, Pakistan, Liberia and Egypt.
3. **Leprosy control projects or Primary health care projects that have enlarged their activities to CBR** – these include Bellary, Kollapur, Nuzvid, Cochin, Mandya projects in India e Digsa project in Eritrea.



Vocational Training under TASH CBR programme (Mumbai, India)

2.4 VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Together with maternal mortality, infant mortality is a key indicator of the progress of a society. Every year, more than 10 million children die due to easily preventable sickness such as diarrhoea, measles, respiratory infections and malaria. There are different countries in sub-saharan Africa where 25 to 30% of children die before they are 5 years old. For this reason, AIFO has decided to promote projects focusing on vulnerable groups of children – child workers, children from ethnic and other minority groups, etc.

It is evident that if rights and well being of children will not be safeguarded by Governments, national organisations and their international partners, then development objectives can not be reached. In 2000 UN member States committed themselves to reach 8 international development goals (**Millennium Development Goals** - MDGs) by the year 2015. Significantly, six of these goals are related to children. AIFO's commitment towards vulnerable children is part of efforts to reach the MDGs.

2.4.1 Children Projects

AIFO since few years is promoting projects for vulnerable children in needy situations. The strategic lines adopted by AIFO in 2004 for developing these projects include:

- Strengthening children projects where the association is present with leprosy control/primary health care and rehabilitation projects
- Promoting these projects through development and rehabilitation approaches
- Identifying innovative and significant projects to develop stronger and long-term support

Major projects with activities targeted at vulnerable children groups are in China, India, Comores islands, democratic republic of Congo, Kenya and Brazil.



Children from landless peasants project in Brazil

2.5 STAFF EMPLOYED IN PROJECTS

AIFO supported projects in developing countries employ large number of local personnel. As a policy AIFO restricts the role of expatriate staff in its projects to absolute minimum. The situation of personnel in individual projects can be seen from individual project reports. Here only the situation of specific, significant staff is presented, including expatriates and national staff holding key roles. On 31 December 2004, the following staff was employed in AIFO supported projects

Expatriate Medical Doctors: Dr. Maria Grazia Angrisani – Guinea Bissau; Dr. Anna Cattane – Nampula Province, Mozambique.

Expatriate Administrators: Ms. Caroline Valay – Mozambique; Mr. Nicola Zicari – Mozambique.

Co-ordinators of AIFO Regional Offices: Mr. Massimo Tomaselli – based in Mozambique; Ms. Deolinda Bittencourt De Santana – based in Brazil; Mr. Jose Manikkathan Vaghese – based in India.

CBR Projects Co-ordinators and/or country representatives: Mr. Lorenzo Pierdomenico – Vietnam; Ms. Tulgamma Damdinsuren – Mongolia; Fr. George Abram, Ghana; Prof. Severio Grillane, Anjouan, Comores.

Special Project/country reference persons: Ms. Geraldine Mason Halls – Guyana; Dr. S. Nurshanty, Indonesia; Dr. Chiara Castellani, Kimbau-Kenge, D. R. of Congo.

Staff for hydroelectric construction project: Ing. Renato Bovolo – Congo D.R.

2.6 HUMANITARIAN AID

AIFO has chosen to focus on activities that promote development and its involvement in emergency relief services is limited to countries where AIFO is already present and has a country office or representative. In such situations, in case of any national emergencies and disasters, AIFO has played a key role in providing humanitarian care. In some countries that are affected by long-drawn civil wars such as Guinea Bissau, Liberia, democratic Republic of Congo, etc., apart from development projects, AIFO has been involved in humanitarian relief. At the end of 2004, the tsunami disaster saw strong involvement of AIFO in Tamilnadu (India) and Aceh (Indonesia). AIFO is an accredited partner of ECHO.

AIFO also manages two warehouses in Italy for collection and supply of emergency relief materials to countries.

2.6.1 Bologna International humanitarian aid warehouse of AIFO

Humanitarian aid is an important part of AIFO activities. This aid is provided for emergency situations in countries where AIFO is already active as well as for supporting health-care, educational and training activities in AIFO supported projects. Materials collected through volunteers and sent to projects and countries include teaching and learning materials, toys, medicines, hospital equipment, woollen blankets, bandages, etc. In 2004, 9 containers with humanitarian aid were sent to Mongolia (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (4), Comores islands (1), Pakistan (1) and Liberia (1).

2.6.2 Villa Adriana-Tivoli (Rome) International humanitarian aid warehouse of AIFO

This warehouse working mainly through unpaid volunteers collects and sends mainly medical care materials including medicines. Unused medicines are collected, checked, sorted by volunteers and then a selected list of medicines based on essential drugs list are sent to projects in different parts of the world. In 2004, 1.600 parcels of material were sent to Angola, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Comores islands, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Mali, Benin, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.



Emergency aid sent by AIFO is received in Liberia

Part 3 - Interventions In Italy

AIFO's activities in Italy are managed by Italian Division at the AIFO head-office in Bologna. The activities can be grouped according to the 3 departments of Italian Division under the following sub-headings: development education activities, communication and external relations activities and fund-raising activities. Same activities may have links with all the three departments and thus there may be a little repetition in the report.

3.1. DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

AIFO has a very long history of development education activities. In terms of strategies, development education activities are part of AIFO's mission and thus receive equal importance as the support to projects in developing countries. Since AIFO is a grass-roots organisation, it involves volunteers, members, groups and regional co-ordinations spread all over the country. Thus the development education activities of AIFO are not limited to ideas and plans coming from the head-office in Bologna but these are enriched by inputs coming from this wide popular base through a participatory process.

Development education activities promoted by AIFO have three fundamental goals:

- To promote understanding about global consciousness so that people can understand the links between their own lives and those of other persons and all other living organisms (knowledge)
- To promote understanding of issues that link to social injustice, exploitation, oppression, threat to sustainable life-styles, denial of human rights so that persons take up clear personal positions regarding these issues (ethical positions)
- To convert the acquired knowledge into actions that promote justice, equality, respect of human rights, understanding, brotherhood and sisterhood. (skills)

For development education activities, AIFO places a great emphasis on activities involving school children and school teachers. These include refresher courses for school teachers, meetings, exhibitions and play related activities for school children, twinning between Italian students and students from developing countries. Other activities of development education are targeted at general public, AIFO grassroots groups and volunteers and these include summer camps, organisation of visits to AIFO supported projects in developing countries, seminars, weekend meetings, thematic training courses, etc.

Some of the more significant development education activities organised by AIFO in 2004 are explained below.

3.1.1 Refresher courses for school teachers

- Refresher training course for school teachers in Imperia, "Right to health: dream or reality" as part of the project "Education to global citizenship to globalise rights", that was co-financed by Italian Foreign Ministry.
- A series of 6 training workshops for school teachers in Sanremo on the theme of Inter-culture
- Refresher course for school teachers in Savona, "Rice for all". This course was organised in collaboration with two other NGOs, CIDI-Savona and COOP-Liguria.

3.1.2 School workshops

The workshops are organised for different levels of school children including primary schools. Often, other NGOs are also involved in these workshops that use participatory methodologies. Some times persons coming from AIFO supported projects in developing countries are involved in these workshops. Different educational materials produced by AIFO such as slide shows, video-cassettes, posters, books, etc. are also used during these workshops.

- Kaledo competition: "Kaledo" is a special board-game devised by an AIFO member based in Naples, that aims to provide knowledge about correct eating habits. "Eat well, so that all can eat" is the theme of this board-game. Competition involving different school in Naples city were organised.
- Intercultural education workshop with pupils from grade 7 to grade 10 in state schools in BASELGA DI PINE' (TN).
- Intercultural education workshop with pupils from grades 5, 6, 8 and 9 in the city of THIENE (VI).
- Traditional societies and development and co-operation: A module on this theme was conducted by AIFO as part of the Cultural Anthropology Course at Bologna University.
- Tobin tax and its implications were discussed in a school workshop in the city of Sanremo.
- Workshops on "Social and health promotion activities in favour of rural and tribal communities in North-East India - An experience of international co-operation" in the city of SANREMO.
- A series of awareness-raising meetings in high schools on issues of justice and equality in cities of Sanremo, Pieve di Teco and Vallecrosia. These meetings were organised in collaboration with Astalli Centre for political refugees in Rome.
- Meetings with high school students on the theme of "Poverty and Health"
- Series of 4 seminars for high school students "Media: Truth, Silence, lies" in the cities of Maddaloni and Caserta, in collaboration with the Group for civil living and human development.

3.1.3 Intercultural Education Project

AIFO promotes greater awareness about cultural and other diversities among different population groups in the world, so that diversities are seen as positive values, to be nurtured and supported. For this, through its monthly magazine AdL, AIFO publishes a regular column on "Inter-culture education". Some of the significant activities in this sense during the past year included the following:

- School project on Education to globalisation on “Raoul Follereau – testimonial of peace, justice and solidarity” in collaboration with International League for Rights and Liberation of People, with different schools in Rome.
- Intercultural project with high schools of Andria.

3.1.5 Exhibitions

AIFO has an important archive of exhibitions on themes of cultural diversity, environment, human rights, health care, important international personalities such as Raoul Follereau, Fr Damien, etc. In addition, every year new exhibitions are prepared. Some of the important activities organised by AIFO during 2004 included:

- Abunté: This exhibition uses African handicraft objects to promote reflections about safeguarding of cultural diversity and traditional knowledge in Africa. The exhibition is composed of text panels, photographs, specific objects of handicrafts, daily use objects as well as sacred objects. The exhibition also uses multi-media presentations to provoke and promote discussions.
- “Tutti giù per terra” (Everyone down on the ground) exhibition on the impact of war.
- Photographic exhibition “Sguardi dal mondo” (Looks from the World).



Abunté exhibition in Bologna

3.1.6 Public Meetings

- Conference on the figure and teachings of Raoul Follereau, Sassari, Francavilla del Mare
- Public meeting on Right to Health, Medicina
- Meeting at International co-operation and development school in Rome on mapping emergency interventions for promoting peace in Asia.
- Organisation of an AIFO stand at the “No Excuse 2015” campaign, Rome
- Public meeting on “Health a right or a commodity” with Dr. Chiara Castellani, Bologna
- Public meeting on Africa with Fr. Kizito, in collaboration with AMANI and Donati Centre of Bologna.
- Public meeting “Taking back the ownership of UNO”, Padova
- Public meeting on peace and globalisation, “World citizens for a world of peace”, Cagliari.
- Conference on “People’s Health: People for Health” in collaboration with Medical Association, Arezzo
- Conference “AIFO along with the poor for defending human rights” in collaboration with Municipal library of Santa Margherita Ligure.

3.1.7 Capacity Building for AIFO Groups

For AIFO the capacity building of its group members is a priority so that persons volunteering for AIFO can be effective catalysts for a change in society.

- Inter-regional capacity building workshop for AIFO groups from Liguria, Piemonte and Valle d'Aosta, at Vicoforte di Mondovì
- Capacity building on youth issues for AIFO groups in Veneto region, Feltre (BL)
- First module of training guide for AIFO members, Rome

3.1.8 Thematic summer camp for adults and families

Summer camps are organised in the mountains, where entire families can come together to reflect on issues of sustainable development, relationship between humans and nature, fighting against social injustice, etc. During these camps, serious discussions alternate with nature walks, treks and games.

- "Citizens of the world for a world of peace", Cortona

3.1.9 Orientation courses for over-seas volunteers on international cooperation

Every year a number of persons, mainly young persons who have just finished university education, contact AIFO expressing interest in working overseas in a development project. For such persons, AIFO in collaboration with other NGOs, organises orientation courses with the aim of explaining the challenges of working in development projects.

- A series of 3 workshops on international co-operation organised in collaboration with two other NGOs based in Bologna, CEFA and Amici dei Popoli

3.1.10 Study Tours in Projects

For persons supporting AIFO's work as well for persons who want to understand AIFO's work or wish to understand the challenges of working with the poor for promoting development, AIFO organises study tours that include visits to projects and staying there for 1-2 weeks. During 2004, such study tours were organised in India and Brazil.



AIFO group visiting India gets a taste of Indian cooking

3.2 COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

For its communication activities, AIFO observes the following principles: to ensure that beneficiaries are seen as main actors and not simple receivers of our interventions; create strong links and networks with other stakeholders involved in development and give voice to those who has no voice. The general objectives of AIFO's communications are:

- 1) Building awareness about the AIFO logo in relation to main areas of AIFO's work - leprosy, primary health care, disability and inter-culture.
- 2) Building awareness on AIFO's vision of sustainable development where project partners in developing countries are the main actors.
- 3) Promotion of inter-culture and political awareness on important social issues.

The principal target of these communication strategies continues to focus on the catholic groups in Italy, with whom institutional relations are forged. Gradually growing attention is now being paid to lay and non-church groups that are involved in health, social and immigration areas.

AIFO has specific communication needs targeting its own groups and coordination offices. Communication office provides support for organisation of the two general assemblies of the organisation.

Indicators showing success of the communication strategies of AIFO include the following:

- AIFO is seen as authoritative and reliable source of information for leprosy related issues and community development issues;
- Press coverage for the opinion campaigns launched by AIFO
- Growing request of partnerships by institutions and associations interested in the field of development
- Positive feed backs from the media.

3.2.1 Communication Instruments

- **AdL** A monthly magazine (Amici dei Lebbrosi), the house organ of the association. Every month, about 90.000 copies are distributed, that increase to 192,000 copies in January, during the world leprosy day.
- **AF INFORMAZIONI** This is a bimonthly news letter targeted to AIFO group members and active collaborators.
- **Website in Italian** (www.aifo.it) is daily updated. While the Italian site is geared mainly towards AIFO groups and general public in Italy, the site also has an English section that is geared mainly to providing teaching and learning materials. The English site (<http://www.aifo.it/english/index.htm>) also provides documents in collaboration with WHO and the archives of Asian Pacific Disability & Rehabilitation Journal.
- **AIFONEWS** This is an electronic mailing list targeted mainly to young persons with about 400 addresses.

3.2.2 Distribution Of Awareness Material

AIFO prepares different Awareness materials (including leaflets, posters, audiovisuals etc.) every year for different target groups. The target groups include members of AIFO groups, individuals, AIFO volunteers, parishes, schools and other institutions linked to AIFO.

3.2.3 Organisation of Specific Events

World Leprosy Day: The main events organised by AIFO are in relation with World Leprosy Day. The activities reached the peak on 25th January on world leprosy day 2004. Honey initiative, volunteers and scouts offering honey bottles for creating awareness about AIFO's work, was held in 447 Italian squares. The Pope spoke about leprosy affected persons and AIFO's work that received wide press coverage. Four persons coming from AIFO supported projects were invited to Italy as testimonials, and numerous public meetings were organised with them by the AIFO groups in different cities.

Dances of Light: An important special event in January 2004 was "Dances of light", a tour of a dancer company coming from Shree Ramana Maharishi Accademy in India. They toured in 11 Italian cities. Different events organised by AIFO as well as radio and TV advertisements of AIFO's work received wide press coverage at national and local levels.



Jute bags made in Sumanahalli (India) are used for the Honey initiative in Italy for World Leprosy Day

3.3 FUND RAISING

The fund-raising activities of AIFO can be sub-grouped into two main categories – fund-raising from individual donors and private sources and fund-raising for public funds. The fund-raising from individuals and private sources is the responsibility of AIFO’s fund-raising department while fund-raising for public resources is responsibility of Projects Division.

AIFO’s fund-raising department has two goals – creating awareness in Italy about leprosy and development issues; and to collect funds for supporting the AIFO activities. After long debates and reflections, AIFO has elaborated a policy document on ethical fund-raising that guides all its fund-raising activities. For example, AIFO strives for balanced messages in its fund-raising that do not create negative image of the poor and needy persons, that precludes use of shocking images or words. Donors and supporters of AIFO are provided regular updates about the project activities and encouraged to create links with those projects.

AIFO has a donors’ database with 65.000 names including 25.000 regular donors, families, parish, dioceses, firms. Testaments represent an important source of resources for AIFO.

In the second half of 2004, fund-raising department of AIFO was incorporated in to Italian Division and renamed as “Donors service and fund raising”. Some specific events linked to fund-raising initiatives are as follows:

3.3.1 Fund-raising linked to World Leprosy Day (WLD)



Scouts and AIFO volunteers for the “Honey for Solidarity” initiative

WLD is the key event for AIFO to communicate about its initiatives, to promote awareness and for fund raising. In 2004, WLD related activities raised about 1.6 million Euro (January, February and March 2004 donations). Two key activities for fund-raising were linked with WLD:

Honey for solidarity: As mentioned earlier, this initiative was carried out in 447 city squares and had collaborations with scouts, alternative trade network and many other NGOs.

Direct Mailing: Direct mailing was tried for the second time in 2004 with a campaign that reached about 250,000 homes.

3.3.2 Fund-raising through Membership Campaign

AIFO publishes a monthly magazine, AdL. A subscription campaign for this magazine was carried out that included distribution of 3,000 small posters along with a free subscription to libraries, parishes and other public institutions. At present AdL goes out to about 91,000 homes.

3.3.3 Fund-raising through AIFO Website in Italian

The Italian part of the AIFO website has also been renovated. It now offers the possibility of making online donations. The website also offers Christmas cards, greeting cards, AIFO T-shirts, etc. The Italian website can be accessed at www.aifo.it (below, one of the new greeting cards from AIFO, with paintings donated by artist Umberto Gamba).



3.3.4 Testaments & Fund-raising

Testaments are an important part of fund-raising activities of AIFO. AIFO provides informative material and legal consultancy to its donors on testaments, and has a permanent campaign under the patronage of National Council of Notaries. Testaments contribute to about 10% of annual income of the Association.

3.3.5 Relationship With Firms for Fund-raising

Relationships with commercial organisations has lot of opportunities and yet poses many ethical questions. For this reason, AIFO has decided to adopt an ethical behaviour code that guides its relations with commercial organisations and the possibilities of receiving funds from them. This document is a

result of long debate in general assembly of AIFO was finally approved by the General Assembly on 11th-12th December 2004. In 2004, AIFO accepted support from the following commercial organisations:

FRATELLI CARLI S.P.A: An Italian company involved in production of olive oil, vinegar, tuna fish, pesto sauce, olives, patè, wines as well as a line of natural cosmetics called "mediterranean Line" based on olive oil. They support AIFO's work in Mozambique since 2002.

TELECOM S.P.A.: An Italian company involved in thermoplastic material processing. They supported AIFO's work in Mozambique in 2004.

"AIFO Xmas 2004" – firms and AIFO together against leprosy": This initiative started in 2001. It proposes to selected companies to support AIFO's work for leprosy activities as well as, health and social development activities in developing countries. Companies are asked to give to AIFO the amount of funds they would have used for buying official Christmas gifts to their staff and collaborators.

3.3.6 Fund-raising for Public Funds by Projects Division

A. Projects Presented for Co-financing to Italian Foreign Affair Ministry, European Union and Italian Episcopal Conference during 2004

On-going and newly approved projects: During 2004 there were 8 on-going projects - 3 with Luxembourg Foreign Affair Ministry, 3 with Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI), 1 with Italian Foreign Affair Ministry (MAAEE) and 1 with European Union. One new project that was presented to Italian Foreign Ministry in 2003, completed the approval process and started in 2004 (Nampula PHC Project, Mozambique – 7673/AIFO/MOZ).

Projects presented for co-financing from public funding before 2004, still waiting for approval: There are two projects presented in previous years to Italian Foreign Ministry, that are still waiting for completion of approval process (CBR project in Vietnam and PHC project in Diga, Eritrea).

B. Decentralised Co-operation - Co-financing with Municipalities, Provinces and Regions in Italy

These co-financing activities come under the "decentralised co-operation" (Local and Regional Institutions in Italy have the possibility to allocate some resources to international co-operation projects). Similar policy is also promoted by European Union, recognising in decentralised co-operation the efficient tool to promote projects in developing countries.

In 2004 AIFO continued positive collaboration with numerous decentralised and Regional Institutions, directly from AIFO office in Bologna as well as through AIFO groups. During 2004, 10 projects received co-financing through this initiative. A number of new projects were also presented for co-financing under the decentralized co-operation programme, that still await a decision.

C. Presentation Of New Projects For Cofinancing

Projects presented in 2004 to European Union (EU) and Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI): During the year, 6 new project documents were presented for co-financing, one to Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) and 5 to European Union. The project presented to CEI was approved. Among the 5 projects presented to EU, 2 were not approved while the other 3 are still waiting for an answer.

Part 4 - Medical Support Department

Medical Support Department (MSD) of AIFO has horizontal functions, linking with all the divisions and offices of AIFO, providing support to each of them. For example, MSD supports Communications and External Relations department of Italian Division for preparing information about leprosy in the world and it supports Projects Division for project monitoring and evaluation activities.

4.1 Scientific Publications

In 2004 the association published a new book in Italian “La lebbra oggi” (Leprosy today) written by Prof. Enrico Nunzi and Dr. Andrea Clapasson. This book is targeted at persons in AIFO groups as well as Italian health professionals, especially dermatologists.

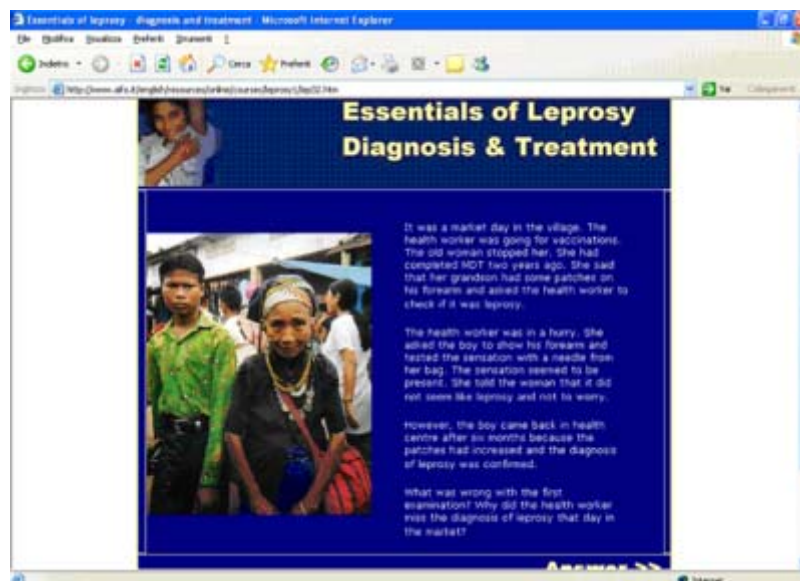


New publication of AIFO in 2004 – “La Lebbra Oggi” (Leprosy Today)

The preparation of volume 18 of the biannual scientific series of the AIFO publication (International Health Co-operation Papers or Quaderni) is being followed by Prof. Francesco Castelli, from the University of Brescia (Italy). This volume will discuss tropical diseases. The preparation of this volume was supposed to be completed by the end of 2004, however there has been some delay. Hopefully the volume will be completed by end of May 2005.

4.2 Internet-based Learning Materials and Training Courses

In 2004, the Medical Support Department of AIFO in collaboration with Technical Commission of ILEP (ITC) and Disability and Rehabilitation team of WHO (WHO/DAR) initiated the preparation of internet-based self-learning courses and exhibitions on leprosy, community-based rehabilitation, primary health care, etc. During 2005, these courses will have wider distribution through CD-Roms by e-TALC (a British NGO on Low-Cost Teaching materials) and translated into other languages. The AIFO webpage in English has been completely renovated and provides access to reports and documents, especially dealing with leprosy, primary health care and CBR. All these resources are available from the following website: <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources.htm>



One of the web-based self-learning courses on AIFO's English website

4.3 Project Missions

Project supervision missions are carried out mainly by project managers. Some times external consultants and/or MSD may also be involved. During 2004, supervision missions were carried out in the following projects: Nepal WATCH, Kenya Kadem and Korogocho, Angola Luanda, Brazil state leprosy programmes (Acre, Bahia, Goias and Para), Guyana, Democratic Republic of Congo Ituri, China Yunnan, Egypt Alexandria, India (Warangal, Chainpur, Nayee Asha) and Bangladesh Khulna.

Other missions for feasibility studies were also carried out – Brazil Porto Nacional and Kenya NP.

Regular monitoring and supervision is also carried out by the three regional offices of AIFO in Brazil, Mozambique and India as well as by country representatives and CBR coordinators in other countries.

4.4 Training Courses

During 2004 a 2 days long course on leprosy was organised jointly with University of Genoa. This course received training credits from Italian Health Ministry and was directed towards Italian doctors and nurses.

4.5 Leprosy Related Activities in Italy

For last two decades AIFO supports the national leprosy reference centre and research laboratory based at San Martino hospital in Genoa. AIFO is also a member of the Italian national committee on Hansen's disease. AIFO has a fund to support the leprosy affected persons in Italy, especially poor emigrants. Together with Italian Society of Hansen disease specialists and departments of dermatology and tropical diseases all over Italy, AIFO helps in conduction of yearly data collection about leprosy. Finally, during 2004 AIFO also supported the preparation of leprosy website and running of Leprosy mailing list under the guidance of Dr Salvatore Noto at CEFPAS university in Sicily.

4.6 Research Activities

Medical Support Department of AIFO conducts multi-centre research studies. It also supports researchers and university students including medical students to conduct reviews and researches related to the activities of AIFO. Some of these studies are carried out in collaboration of the field projects supported by AIFO.

4.7 Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Medical Support Department (MSD) of AIFO in collaboration with the Project Division collects standard information and data from all projects. For some of this information, modules prepared by ILEP are used, while other modules are prepared specifically for AIFO. On the basis of this information, a yearly report about beneficiaries of AIFO supported projects is prepared. At the same time, these reports allow regular project monitoring and monitoring reports are used to provide feedback to the projects.

MSD also organises independent evaluations for significant projects of AIFO through outside consultants. During 2004, such an evaluation was organised for EU supported consortial project in Nepal. In addition, a more participatory evaluation was organised for the four state level leprosy projects in Brazil (Acre, Bahia, Para and Goias).

4.8 AIFO Document Centre

AIFO has a document centre on leprosy, CBR and development issues with more than 1500 volumes and many specialised magazines and scientific journals. The Documents centre is open for public consultation through appointment.

Part 5 - Networking and Collaborations

5.1 COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

AIFO has a wide network of collaboration with international organisations and movements, especially those linked to ILEP (International Anti-leprosy Federation), IDDC (International Disability and Development Consortium) and PHM (People's Health Movement).

5.1.1 Joint Projects in Collaboration With International NGOs

In 2004 new or on-going collaborations with other European NGOs were linked to the following projects:

- Raoul Follereau Association-Luxembourg: "Soutien au Programme National de Lutte à la Lèpre et Tuberculose en Mozambique, avec projet.pilote de santé primaire dans la Province de Nampula".
- Raoul Follereau Association – Luxembourg: " Primary Health care in Ghana: Support to Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programmes".
- Raoul Follereau Association – Luxembourg: "Soutien au Programme National à la Tuberculose et à la Lèpre en Guinée Bissau.
- Raoul Follereau Association – Luxembourg: "Promoting integrated development in three Provinces of Indonesia focusing on persons with disabilities ".
- Fontilles Lucha contra la Lepra (Spain) and Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulosehilfe (Germany): "Promoting Health and Integrated Community Development among marginalised rural groups, especially women in Nepal".

5.1.2 WHO – World Health Organisation

AIFO is officially recognised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and collaborates with different departments of WHO. AIFO has special relations with Disability and Rehabilitation Unit of WHO (WHO/DAR) and department of communicable diseases. In 2004, the joint work plan between WHO/DAR and AIFO for the period 2005-07 was signed. At the same time, the Executive Board of WHO renewed official relationship with AIFO for the period 2005-07.

In 2004 in collaboration with WHO/DAR, AIFO participated in various initiatives such as:

- Organisation of an international meeting on defining new guide lines for community based rehabilitation programmes;
- Organisation of a regional meeting in AFRO (Brazzaville) for 7 African English speaking countries on UN standard rules application for equal opportunities;
- Up dating of the report on the situation of rehabilitation services in 29 African countries;
- Preparation of a report on strategies for strengthening of rehabilitation services.



WHO/DAR regional meeting on implementation of UN Standard Rules in AFRO office in Brazzaville

5.1.3 ILEP – International Federation Of Leprosy Association

AIFO is a founding member of International Federation of Leprosy Associations (ILEP), with its head-office in London. ILEP started in 1966 and brings together all the international organisations that are active in the fight against leprosy. AIFO represents Italy in the federation. There are strong links with ILEP members for co-ordination of leprosy activities on the territory, for the organisation of mutual actions and for joint co-financing of significant projects. The director of AIFO's Medical support department, Dr. Sunil Deepak, is the present President of ILEP for the period 2002-06.

5.1.4 IDDC - International Disability And Development Consortium

AIFO is founder member of International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), that brings together international non-governmental organisations, national federations, organisation of disabled persons and national networking of NGOs, PDOs and service associations working on disability in developing countries. In IDDC, Ms. Francesca Ortali of AIFO is the coordinator for the working group on CBR.

5.1.5 CDS – Circle Of Solidarity Follereau - Damien

The consortium hosts various international organisation inspired by Raoul Follereau and Father Damien. The main objective of this Federation is to promote awareness about the thoughts, philosophies and works of Mr. Raoul Follereau and Fr. Damien.

5.1.6 PHM – People's Health Movement

In December 2000, 1453 representatives of associations and grass roots movements coming from 92 countries, came together in Savar (Bangladesh) for the first People's Health Assembly and came up with the "People Health Charter". AIFO's General Assembly has adopted the People's Health Charter and AIFO is the focal point in Italy for initiatives linked to PHM.



Pam Zinkin, European coordinator of PHM with AIFO's Project Division

5.2 NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS IN ITALY

During the year, AIFO participated in a wide variety of joint initiatives organised by other Italian NGOs, networks, federations and networks.

Italian Medical Students Association (SISM): Since 2001 AIFO collaborates with the Bologna branch of SISM. The collaboration includes organisation of training modules on issues of tropical medicine and global health. At the same time, AIFO facilitates field visits of medical students in AIFO supported projects for carrying out specific research studies. During 2004, 17 medical students visited AIFO projects in Brazil, Comores islands, Kenya and India.

Universities, public institutions and NGOs: AIFO accepts internships of graduate and post-graduate students, including those preparing their thesis, especially for thesis related to leprosy, disability and primary health care. AIFO also receives volunteers doing civil service.

Physiotherapists Without Borders (FSF): AIFO collaborates regularly with FSF for organising of joint initiatives, training courses, field visits to CBR projects and support to physiotherapy students for their thesis.

Disability Documentation Centre of Bologna (CDH): AIFO collaborates regularly with CDH for creating common data base of books, thesis and manuals related to disability, publication of articles on CBR in the CDH magazine (Accaparlante) and organisation of joint events.

Regional NGO coordination body (COONGER): This body brings together all the NGOs based in Emilia Romagna province, especially those based in and around Bologna.

Italian Health Watch (OISG): OISG is a network of medical professionals and activists that look into aspects of global health, effects of globalisation, north-south relationships, etc. AIFO office in Bologna also hosts the secretariat of OISG.

Italian Society of Hansenology (SIHAN): This is a professional body bringing together Italian specialists in leprosy. AIFO office in Bologna holds the secretariat for SIHAN.

FOCSIV – Volontari nel Mondo: AIFO is a founding member of the Italian NGO network. At the same time, AIFO is part of national network uniting all Italian NGOs (**Assemblea delle ONG**).

CNAL – National Alliances of Italian Bishop's Conference with Lay Organisations: AIFO is member of CNAL committee.

Part 6 - Conclusions & Annexes

2004 has been an year of consolidation and expansion for AIFO. In terms of geographic coverage of AIFO's interventions, there has been a gradual tendency to focus these in specific areas, where leprosy is still a problem and where AIFO has long experience. At the same time, new projects in areas that have been crushed by wars and disasters (for example, Aceh in Indonesia, Rumbek in Sudan, Ituri in Democratic Republic of Congo, Monrovia in Liberia, Guinea Bissau national programme, etc.) continue to developed and strengthened.

AIFO manages to bring together two challenging aspects of NGO world – (1) a grassroots organisation based on volunteers with a capillary network and (2) an organisation that is proud of its professionalism that is based on principles of equality and dignity of all human beings and a firm conviction that people must be in-charge of their own destinies.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Beneficiaries of AIFO projects in 2004

Annex 2: Annual balance 2004 certified by Price, Waterhouse and Cooper