



Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau
Annual Report 2005



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1. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1.1 SECTORS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



During 2005, AIFO has promoted and supported initiatives in three main areas - leprosy (integrated in primary health care), rehabilitation (physical, mental & socio-economic) and children.

Following the strategic guidelines, in 2005 AIFO continued its choice of promoting integrated and global approaches that must be focused around the persons, especially for marginalised and more vulnerable population groups.

From operational point of view, the activities of AIFO in the developing world is through the three regional offices based in Bangalore (India), Maputo (Mozambique) and Goiania (Brazil).

During 2005, AIFO supported 127 development initiatives in 25 countries with technical, financial and material resources.

These initiatives include scientific and research related activities. An additional 15 initiatives in developing countries were supported through ILEP (International Federation of Anti-leprosy Associations) member associations, for a total of 142 initiatives in 28 countries.

During the year, General Assembly of the Association approved "Strategic and programmatic plan 2006-2010", that defines the priority sectors of development and the strategic guidelines for development initiatives of the Association in Italy and abroad.

Fight against leprosy and Primary Health Care

Activities aimed at the fight against leprosy are the principle priority for AIFO. According to WHO, the global situation of leprosy in the world in 2005 was as follows: during 2005, a total of 296,499 new cases of leprosy were detected and at the end of 2005, there were 219,684 active cases of leprosy registered for treatment in the world. Table 1 shows the updated situation for different WHO regions (excluding European region).

Table 1: Leprosy situation by WHO region at the beginning of 2006

| WHO Region ^a | Registered Prevalence ^b at beginning of 2006 | New cases detected ^c during the year 2005 |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| African | 43 560 (0.56) | 45 179 (5.92) |
| Americas | 32 910 (0.39) | 41 952 (4.98) |
| South-East Asia | 133 422 (0.81) | 201 635 (12.17) |
| East Mediterranean | 4 024 (0.09) | 3 133 (0.67) |
| Western Pacific | 8 504 (0.05) | 7 137 (0.40) |
| Total | 222 562 | 299 036 |

a Population data from the United Nations Population Division (Reference: 2004 Revision, POP.DB.WPP.Rev.2004.2.F1. www.un.org/popin)

b Prevalence rate is shown in parenthesis as the number of cases per 10 000 population.

c Case-detection rate is shown in parenthesis as the number of cases per 100 000 population.

In AIFO supported initiatives related to the fight against leprosy, the following strategies are followed:

- Integrating leprosy control activities in primary health care for ensuring early diagnosis and adequate treatment of the disease (multidrug therapy for multibacillary and paucibacillary leprosy).
- Focus on new case detection, on persons presenting with visible disabilities and on children below 15 years.
- Ensure support for operational field research on the changing epidemiology of the disease. For example, keep surveillance for relapses and complications such as reactions.
- Promote programmes of physical and socio-economic rehabilitation, adopting the principles of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and integrating programmes of rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons in CBR programmes open to all persons with disabilities.
- Active collaboration with organisations of leprosy affected persons such as IDEA, Morhan, Handa, etc.
- Promoting activities of self-care for prevention of disabilities and activities of self-help groups.

During 2005, AIFO supported the following projects dealing with leprosy control, in collaboration with Governmental authorities:

Table 2: Leprosy projects supported by AIFO in 2005 covering large areas, usually in collaboration with national authorities

| Project Name | Country |
|---|---------------|
| - Project Luanda province | Angola |
| - Ghana - national leprosy programme | Ghana |
| - Mozambique – national leprosy programme | Mozambique |
| - Mozambique Nampula - Provincial leprosy control programme | Mozambique |
| - Mozambique Manica - Provincial leprosy, TB, HIV and PHC project | Mozambique |
| - Mozambique Inhambane – Provincial leprosy-TB project | Mozambique |
| - Guinea Bissau – National leprosy programme, TB control, HIV | Guinea Bissau |
| - Casa Betania | Capo Verde |
| - Acre – state leprosy control | Brazil |
| - Bahia - State leprosy control | Brazil |
| - Goias - State leprosy control | Brazil |
| - Pará - State Leprosy control | Brazil |
| - AIFO regional office in Brasile | Brazil |
| - Yunnan YNCDC– Provincial leprosy control | China |
| - UP Meerut MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - Orissa Angul – District leprosy control | India |
| - Orissa Boudh – District leprosy control | India |
| - Orissa Ganjam – District leprosy control | India |
| - Orissa Sambalpur– District leprosy control | India |
| - Orissa Sudargarh – District leprosy control | India |
| - Karnataka Bangalore MDT- District leprosy control | India |

| | |
|---|-------|
| - UP Bareilly MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - Karnataka Bellary & Koppal MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - Andhra Pradesh Chittoor MDT- District leprosy control | India |
| - UP Moradabad MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - UP Shahajahanpur MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - West Bengal Birbhum MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - Karnataka Raichur & Bagalkot MDT – District leprosy control | India |
| - AIFO regional office in India | India |
| - AIFO National MDT consultant | India |
| - NLEP Consultant | India |
| - Indian Leprosy Journal | India |

Table 3. Projects with mainly leprosy related activities run by non-governmental organisations and/or religious congregations

| Project Name | Country |
|---|--------------------|
| - Kangola | Angola |
| - Saurimo | Angola |
| - Chiulo | Angola |
| - Ituri - leprosy & TB | Dem. Rep. Of Congo |
| - Imperatriz | Brazil |
| - Porto Velho | Brazil |
| - Naob | Indonesia |
| - Nong Kang | Myanmar |
| - St. Theresa Colony | Myanmar |
| - Loilem | Myanmar |
| - Khulna | Bangladesh |
| - Karnataka - Bellary | India |
| - Karnataka - Bhalki | India |
| - Kerala - Cochin | India |
| - Andhra Pradesh - Gudivada | India |
| - Karnataka - Kollapur | India |
| - Karnataka - Mandya | India |
| - Andhra Pradesh - Nidadavole | India |
| - Karnataka - Shanta Jeeva Jyothi | India |
| - Andhra Pradesh - St. Catald | India |
| - Karnataka - Sumana Halli | India |
| - Andhra Pradesh - Warangal | India |
| - Goias - Santa Marta | Brazil |
| - Bahia - Morhan | Brazil |
| - Pará - Colonia do Prata | Brazil |
| - Goias - Ceres | Brazil |
| - Tocantins - Porto Nacional – COMSAUDE | Brazil |

Primari Health Care projects

Over the past 12 years, gradually the number of projects of primary health care supported by AIFO has increased. In these projects, the fight against leprosy is integrated in public health activities. For example, in Nampula province of Mozambique, the AIFO project co-funded by Italian Foreign

Ministry is in collaboration with department of community health of the provincial health services, dealing with 13 different community health programmes including leprosy. Some other projects of primary health care supported by AIFO include the following:

- Supporting primary health care in Kimbau in Bandundu region (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Strengthening of primary health care services in Pomoni district of Anjouan island (Comores islands)
- Strengthening of primary health care services in Digsia district (Eritrea)



- Support to primary health care in Kadem in south Nyanza province (Kenya)
- Support to control of Buruli ulcer in Amasaman in Ga district (Ghana)
- Support to primary health care in Rumbek diocese (South Sudan)

Rehabilitation projects (Physical, mental and Socio-economic rehabilitation)

Globally about 13 million leprosy affected persons have completed treatment with MDT in the last 15 years. Many of them have visible and invisible disabilities due to leprosy. Many others face discrimination and marginalisation, even if they do not have any disabilities. Promoting rehabilitation activities for persons affected with leprosy as well as, for other persons with physical and/or mental disabilities is a priority for AIFO. Often, such rehabilitation activities are part of all leprosy control activities, though occasionally

there are projects as in Nidadevol (India) that are involved exclusively in rehabilitation activities.

Community based rehabilitation (CBR) projects

For the last 15 years, AIFO has played a pioneering role in promoting the community based rehabilitation (CBR) approach in collaboration with Disability and Rehabilitation unit of World Health Organisation (WHO/DAR). CBR approach was initially proposed by WHO and other UN agencies in early eighties. With technical support of WHO/DAR, AIFO has collaborated with different national Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organisations for implementation of different strategies based on this approach.

During 2005, the different CBR projects supported by AIFO can be broadly divided into three main groups:

- Projects covering large national or state territories, managed in collaboration with the national Governments. Examples of such CBR projects supported by AIFO are in Mongolia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos (starting), etc.
- Projects in collaboration with national non-governmental



organisations (NGOs) that act as "resource organisations" by training and capacity building of smaller NGOs in their countries and act as multipliers of CBR projects. Examples of such CBR projects supported by AIFO are in Nepal, Pakistan, India, Liberia, Egypt, etc.

- Leprosy control or primary health care projects that are now enlarging their activities at community levels by adopting CBR approaches. There are many examples of this kind of projects in India, such as at Bhalki, Mandya, St Catald, etc.

Table 4: List of Rehabilitation projects (including community development activities)

| Project | Country |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| - Funda leprosy centre | Angola |
| - Hydro-electric project Kimbau | Dem. Rep. of Congo |
| - CRER – Goiania | Brazil |
| - Landless peasants movement (MST) | Brazil |
| - Lago do Aleixo | Brazil |
| - Handa Yunnan | China |
| - NCPEDP - SER | India |
| - Jagruty Society SER | India |

Table 5: List of community-based rehabilitation projects

| Project | Country |
|--|------------|
| Alexandria CBR | Egypt |
| Eritrea national CBR | Eritrea |
| Gardnersville Monrovia | Liberia |
| Korogocho CBR Nairobi | Kenya |
| CHF - CBR | Ghana |
| Somali Land CBR | Somalia |
| Santarem CBR | Brazil |
| Guyana CBR | Guyana |
| Vietnam CBR in northern provinces | Vietnam |
| Peshawar - RCPD | Pakistan |
| Watch Nepal | Nepal |
| Mongolia national CBR | Mongolia |
| National Federation of Persons with disabilities | Mongolia |
| Chittagong CBR | Bangladesh |
| Mangalagiri CBR | India |
| Mudhol CBR | India |
| Simdega CBR | India |
| We Care CBR - Bangalore | India |
| Tash CBR – Mumbai | India |
| Chandpur CBR | India |
| Assam CBR | India |
| Malavalli CBR Karnataka | India |
| Laos CBR | Laos |
| Indonesia CBR in South Sulawesi, Aceh e West Sumatra | Indonesia |
| PPCI DPO | Indonesia |

Children Projects



Historically AIFO had been associated with support for children living in leprosariums. Over the past many years, these activities have been transformed into projects for supporting most vulnerable groups of children. These projects are initiated only with ongoing projects involved in primary health care or leprosy related activities. AIFO supports development oriented activities under these projects. Some of the more significant projects under this group are given in table 6 below.

Table 6: List of children projects supported by AIFO in 2005

| AFRICA | LATIN AMERICA | ASIA |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pomoni - Comores islands | Amaralina (Bahia) Brazil | Yunnan Handa – China |
| Goma –Dem. Rep. Of Congo | Caxias (Maranhão) Brazil | Assam (Assam) India |
| Kadem – Kenya | Ceres (Goiàs) Brazil | Bangalore (Karnataka) India |
| Kimbau – Dem. Rep. of Congo | Goiàs Velho (Goiàs) Brazil | Bhalki (Karnataka) India |
| | Imperatriz (Maranhão) Brazil | Bidar (Karnataka) India |
| | Lago do Aleixo (Amazonas) Brazil | Chainpur (Bihar) India |
| | Compensa (Amazonas) Brazil | Cochin (Kerala) India |
| | Porto Nacional (Tocantins) Brazil | Dindigul (Tamil Nadu) India |
| | Yanomami (Amazonas) Brazil | Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) India |
| | | Nayee Asha (Uttar Pradesh) India |
| | | Warangal (Andhra Pradesh) India |

Emergency Projects

During 2005, 4 new projects dealing with emergency situation were initiated as a response to Tsumami in Asia and to the earthquake in Pakistan. These are as follows:

- Disability and Emergency project in Aceh province in Indonesia, cofunded by Tsumami Task Force of Italian Foreign Ministry (from 16.08.2005 to 16.03.2006)
- Emergency support to health systems in Pidie and Aceh Bedar districts of Aceh province in Indonesia, funded by ECHO (from 13.10.2005 to 12.05.2006)
- Emergency relief in Gudivada (Andhra Pradesh) in India



- Emergency support after the earthquake (through daily living materials sent in a container) in Pakistan

Co-funded projects

Table 7 shows all the co-funded projects including those that are in the initial starting phase. The co-funding partners included Italian Foreign Ministry, Government of Luxembourg, Italian Episcopal Conference and European Commission (EuropeAid and ECHO).

Table 7: Co-funded projects in 2005

| Project (Kind of activities and country) | Funding partners | Consortile | Duration years | Starting year |
|---|--|------------|----------------|---------------|
| GUINEA BISSAU Leprosy Ongoing | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg (FL) | FFL | 3 | 2003 |
| MOZAMBIQUE NP Leprosy Ongoing | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg (FL) | FFL | 3 | 2003 |
| GHANA NP Leprosy & Buruli ulcer Ongoing | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg (FL) | FFL | 3 | 2003 |
| MOZAMBIQUE NAMPULA Primari Health Care & Leprosy Ongoing | Italian Foreign Ministry | - | 3 | 2004 |
| CHINA YUNNAN Social-medical, Leprosy Started February 2006 | Italian Foreign Ministry | - | 3 | 2006 |
| NEPAL Community development/CBR Ongoing | European Union / EuropeAid Ex B7-6000 | GLRA - SF | 3 | 2003 |
| SUDAN RUMBEEK Primari Health Care Ongoing | Italian Episcopal Conference | | 3 | 2002 |
| BANGLADESH KHULNA Leprosy Ongoing | Italian Episcopal Conference | | 3 | 2004 |
| INDIA ASSAM CBR Ongoing | Italian Episcopal Conference | | 3 | 2004 |
| POMONI – COMORES UNION Primary Health Care Ongoing | Italian Episcopal Conference | | 3 | 2005 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|------|
| Eritrea DIGSA Started March 2006 | Italian Foreign Ministry | | | |
| Indonesia Tsunami Banda Aceh 16/08/2005 to 16/03/2006 | Italian Foreign Ministry Task Force Tsunami Indonesia | - | 8 months | 2005 |
| Emergency Indonesia Pidie e Besar 13/10/2005 to 12/05/2006 | ECHO - European Union | - | 7 months | 2005 |

Among the projects presented for co-funding, awaiting an answer is CBR project in Vietnam, presented to Italian Foreign Ministry.

Additional co-funding was also received for a number of projects from municipality, provincial and regional levels in Italy, often in collaboration with a local AIFO group.

1.2. INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

AIFO Personnel in Projects

All AIFO projects have personnel contracted directly by them. This list is limited to personnel having direct contract with AIFO/Italy and does not include such personnel that have contracts with the projects. On 31 December 2005, the following personnel with direct AIFO contracts was present in AIFO projects:

Regional coordination offices of AIFO:

- Ms. Deolinda Bitencourt de Santana, Goiania (Goias), Brazil
- Mr. Jose Manikkathan Varghese, Bangalore (Karnataka), India
- Mr. Massimo Tomaselli, Maputo, Mozambique

Country representative offices of AIFO:

- Dr. Wolfgang Hippke, Project head and AIFO representative; Ms. Maria Jane Campelo, rehabilitation consultant; Bissau, Guinea Bissau
- Ms. Rosa Fornabaio, Banda Aceh, Indonesia
- Ms. Tulgamaa Damdinsuren, Ulan Baator, Mongolia
- Mr. Lorenzo Pierdomenico, Hanoi, Vietnam (also for Laos)

Project personnel for AIFO Projects:

- Prof. Severio Grillone, Pomoni (Anjouan), Union of Comores islands
- Fr. George Abram, Takoradi, Ghana
- Mr. Christian Olivieri, Pidie, Indonesia
- Dr. Anna Cattane (Project head) and Mr. Nicola Eugenio Zicari (Administrator), Nampula, Mozambique

Project Missions and Significant Meetings

During 2005, 16 project missions were organised including one visit for Italian Foreign Ministry co-funded project in Nampula (Mozambique) and three for European Commission co-funded project in Nepal, and 12 visits for projects funded by AIFO.

Among the significant project meetings were the meeting of state level projects supported by AIFO in Brazil held at Belem (Parà) in June 2005 and the meeting of all projects supported by AIFO in India held at Humnabad in November 2005.

Sending medicines and materials to projects

In collaboration with AIFO groups, AIFO promotes collection of medicines and other materials (such as hospital equipment, other equipment, books, soap, blankets, dressing material, etc.) that are sent to projects asking for such materials through the two warehouses of AIFO based in Villa Adriana (Rome) and Bologna.

Through the Villa Adriana warehouse, 1,091 postal parcels of materials were sent to Angola, Benin, Camerun, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Togo, Uganda, Comores islands and Zambia.

In addition to materials sent to projects through postal parcels, 5 containers were sent to Democratic Republic of Congo (2), Union of Comores islands (1), Pakistan (1) and Liberia (1).

1.3 NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration with other International NGOs

AIFO is in official relationship with **World Health Organisation (WHO)** with active collaboration with **Disability & Rehabilitation team (WHO/DAR)**, leprosy and other units (Buruli ulcer, Filariasis, etc.).



AIFO actively collaborates for the projects with other international NGOs, especially with members of **International Anti-leprosy Associations (ILEP)** and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). AIFO is also a founding member of Circle of Solidarity Follereau Damien network (CDS). AIFO also collaborates actively with the international federation of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) called Disabled People's International (DPI).

During 2005, Dr. Sunil Deepak, Director of Medical Support Department of AIFO was the President of ILEP federation.

AIFO is a founding member of **Circle of Solidarity Follereau & Damien** that brings together organisations inspired by Raoul Follereau and Fr Damien.

During 2005, the collaboration with international NGOs included Luxembourg Raoul Follereau Association (in Mozambique, Ghana and Guinea Bissau), Fontilles Lucha contra la Lepra (Spain) in Nepal, Amigos de Raoul Follereau (Portugal) and Maõs Unidas P. Damião (Portugal).

Another important partner for collaborations is the network of organisations linked to **People's Health Movement(PHM)**. AIFO collaborated with PHM for the organisation of the second People's Health Assembly held in Cuenca (Ecuador).

AIFO also has a special relationship with international federation of organisations of persons affected with leprosy (**IDEA**). Significant activities in collaboration with IDEA during 2005 included support for IDEA organisations in Angola and Mozambique and the publication of a booklet "Peace: The fruit of Justice" available also as an online exhibition on AIFO website at the following address: <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/exhibitions/ideabook/idea1.htm>

AIFO and the Disability & Rehabilitation team of World Health Organisation (WHO/DAR)

AIFO has a rich collaboration with WHO/DAR. In 2005, a new three year joint action plan was signed between AIFO and WHO/DAR. The significant activities carried out under this collaboration included the following:



- Starting of a new joint initiative "A New Paradigm for Medical Care for Persons with Disabilities" - this multi-country action research project started an international meeting for the preparation of the research protocol, held in Rome in April 2005
- Collaboration with WHO/DAR and Regional Offices of WHO in Africa and Latina America for the organisation of regional meeting in Brazzaville (Congo) and Buenos Aires (Argentina) on implementation of UN Standard Rules.
- Collaboration for the preparation of guidelines on community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and on Medical Rehabilitation.
- Preparation of an online learning course on Buruli ulcer (accessible from the AIFO website at <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/courses/buruli/buruli1.htm>

Scientific Collaboration with Italian Institutions and Organisations

AIFO has a rich network of collaboration with Italian institutions and organisations. Among the more significant collaborations are joint activities with Fisioterapisti Senza Frontiere (FSF) for activities related to training of physiotherapists and with Italian Federation of Medical Students (SISM).

In collaboration with SISM and Faculty of Public Health and Epidemiology of University of Bologna, AIFO participated in the teaching of an elective module on Global Health. In collaboration with department of political sciences, AIFO also participated in teaching of module on development.

In collaboration with SISM, seven final year medical students had the possibility of visiting AIFO supported projects in Brazil and India. The students undergo a training programme before their departure and under the guidance of AIFO's Scientific activities office, the students are encouraged to use this visit to deepen their knowledge on specific aspects of public health issues during their visit.

Medical students, nursing students and physiotherapy students receive support from AIFO Scientific Activities office for preparation of graduation and post-graduate thesis on themes of leprosy and other issues of public health, while students from other disciplines receive support for conducting field research on issues of development and role of international NGOs.

AIFO is a member of the Italian National Commission on Hansen's disease under the Ministry of Health and supports the national reference laboratory on leprosy at San Martino hospital in Genova, under the guidance of Prof. Enrico Nunzi. AIFO also hosts the secretariat of Italian Association of Hansen disease specialists (SIHAN). In collaboration with SIHAN network of dermatologists and departments of tropical diseases all over Italy, AIFO conducts annual collection of data on new active leprosy in the country.

AIFO also hosts the secretariat for Italian Global Health Watch (OISG) that brings together Italian experts of international repute concerned about the issues of global health, health inequities and public health.

AIFO also participates in the regional coordination of NGOs in Emilia Romagna region of Italy (COONGER).

1.4 OTHER ACTIVITIES BY SCIENTIFIC OFFICE OF AIFO

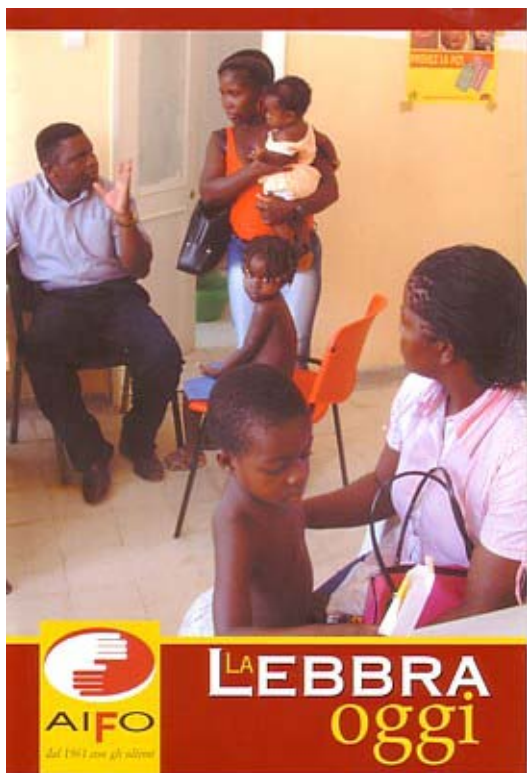


AIFO has an in-house scientific office that supports the different AIFO activities and organises specific activities of training, research and technical mentoring of AIFO supported projects (A separate report about beneficiaries of AIFO supported activities in 2005 is available in Annex). The office also maintains links with international federations and WHO, as well with universities in Italy. Some of the more training and research significant activities of AIFO during 2005

included the following:

International Workshop on Communication and Advocacy: This international workshop was organised at Montesilvano (Pescara) in October 2005 and looked at communication and advocacy strategies, especially focusing on communication on sensitive themes such as sexuality and domestic violence. Report of this workshop is accessible through the AIFO webpage the following address: <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/books/other/communication/index.htm>

Training courses and learning materials: AIFO gives a special priority to training and learning activities in all its projects.



Under the international federation of anti-leprosy associations (ILEP), AIFO coordinates the printing and distribution of ILEP teaching materials for Portuguese speaking Africa. During 2005, AIFO assisted in translation, publication and distribution of three ILEP learning guides in Portuguese (on diagnosis and treatment of leprosy, on leprosy reactions and on bacilloscopy examination). All these learning guides are also available from AIFO website at the following address:

<http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/books/leprosy/leprosy.htm>

AIFO has done pioneering work in providing online self-learning training courses on themes related to leprosy, community-based rehabilitation and tropical diseases. At present 13 online courses are available at http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/courses/online_courses.htm

AIFO also supports the International Leprosy Mailing list (LML) moderated by Dr Salvatore Noto based at San Martino hospital in Genova. Over the past years, this has the most widely read forum for discussions on different aspects of leprosy. Recent archives of the LML are also available at the AIFO website at <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/lml-archives/index.htm>

AIFO collaborates with Asia Pacific Disability and Rehabilitation Journal (APDRJ). Recent archives of APDRJ and related publications are also available on the AIFO website at the following address <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/apdrj/journal.htm>

In collaboration with University of Genova and National Research Laboratory on Leprosy (CIRLEP), every year AIFO organises a training course on leprosy. AIFO also runs a documentation centre providing access to scientific journals, books and multi-media materials on leprosy, CBR, public health and tropical diseases. This document centre is used often by university students.

2. DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

Promoting development education in Italy for a change of mentality is one of the priorities of AIFO. This activity involves the vast network of AIFO groups and coordinations spread all over Italy, and through them different local level institutions and bodies including local administrations and schools. A vast number of activities are organised directly by the AIFO groups and delegates and are not included in this report.

Some of the more significant development education activities organised directly by AIFO during 2005 included the following:

2.1 Training courses for school-teachers

AIFO office in Bologna was involved in organisation of three training courses for school-teachers under an initiative called "Education for Global Citizenship for Globalisation of Rights" co-funded by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The three courses were as follows:

- "Right to health, a right for selected few?", held in Rome from 1 March to 19 April 2005.
- "Together with the marginalised groups - experiences of bringing a change for justice", held in Ostuni (BR) from 31 March to 5 May 2005.
- "Health and Development" held in Caserta from 4 April to 9 May 2005.

2.2 Development Education Meetings for school children

This activity is carried out by many of the AIFO groups all over Italy, who plan development education meetings with the authorities of schools, mostly with middle and high schools as well as with professional training institutions. Usually such meetings are also an occasion to network with other non-governmental and voluntary associations present in those areas. The methodology used includes "classical" lessons approach as well as participatory and inter-active methodologies such as role playing, simulations etc. Speakers in such events include persons from developing countries who are visiting Italy and audio-visual materials such as DVDs, slides, etc. are also used frequently. Some examples of the meetings held in 2005 include the following:

- At the Social Services Professional Training Institute in Castelfranco Veneto (TV) a meeting was held on 28 January 2005 on the theme, "Development and Underdevelopment: Reasons, Facts and Actors of Underdevelopment - a case study from Africa".
- At the Morgagni high school of Rome, a meeting with Alberto Granado who talked about his memories of the visits together with Mr. Ernesto Che Guevara to the leprosariums in Latin America, on 11 May 2005.
- A series of meetings at the university course on cultural anthropology of Bologna university on the theme of "Traditional societies and Issues of Development and Cooperation" were held in the period from 18 April to 9 May 2005.



2.3 Inter-cultural education

AIFO also helps schools and other groups in reflections about inter-cultural education. Some examples of these activities include the following:

- A series of meetings on "Information - truths, silences and lies" for high school students of Caserta province in April-May 2005, co-funded by Campania region.
- A series of meetings in primary schools of Casagiove (CE) on the theme of "Negated Human Rights and Solidarity" during the school year 2004-05.
- A series of meetings on the theme of "Away your hands from children" on rights of children, at Due Carrare (PD), from 3 to 18 June 2005.



held in Caserta from 1 to 5 March 2005.

2.4 Exhibitions

- An exhibition of African objects called "Abunté - the meeting" was held in Bologna (19 - 23 January), Castelfranco Veneto - TV (19 March to 7 April), Marina di Camerota - SA (20 May to 31 August) and San Giovanni in Persiceto - BO (20 to 22 October) during 2005.
- An exhibition called "The Bourse and Life" that stimulated reflections about justice, imbalances and poverty in a globalised world in relation to areas of economy and finance was

2.5 Other meetings and seminars

- Participation in public meeting, "South-east Asia: future between emergency and reconstruction", Bologna, 1 February 2005.
- Public meeting with Prof. Serge Latouche on his last book, "End of the Western Dream - Discussions about Americanisation of the world", Imperia, 18 February 2005.
- Public meeting, "From Difference to Acceptance: the world as a home", Imola (BO), 12 April 2005.
- Seminar, "Experiences and Strategies of Peoples Health Movement", Bologna, 5 May 2005. This seminar was held as part of the initiative, "Decentralised Co-operation - a practice for peace", co-funded by Emilia Romagna region.
- Public meeting, "Reading does not go on exile", in collaboration with Fondazione Astalli, Imperia, 6 May 2005.
- A day of reflection on, "Peoples Health Movement and prospects for its development in Italy", Bologna, 7 May 2005.
- Speech on "Peoples Health Movement and its Charter" at the annual meeting of Provincial Association of Doctors, Padova, 22 October 2005.

2.6 Training & meetings for AIFO volunteers

These training courses are for persons belonging to different AIFO groups to aim to teach the meaning of being part of a voluntary organisation. Two national level training modules were held in Castel de Britti (BO) between February and March 2005. At the same time, different regions can also organise such courses, such as the course organised by Sardinia region on 4-5 June 2005.



The courses include an annual introductory course for families and adults who want to learn about AIFO's philosophy. The family course held in 2005 was on the theme of "Voluntarism - the duties of citizens and value of free service for common good", held in Cortona (AR) from 2 to 11 August 2005.

For the last four years, in collaboration with other non-governmental organisations of Emilia Romagna, AIFO organises a training course for persons willing to work in cooperation projects. During 2005, two such meetings were held in Bologna on 6 April and 24 September 2005.

Finally the National Conference of AIFO is a very special occasion that brings together persons from all the groups of AIFO to be together. This conference is held every two years. The theme of the conference held in 2005 was "Voluntarism - Donation and Free Service in the era of marketing - challenges, paths and choices" and it was held in Montesilvano (PE) on 22-23 October 2005.

2.7 Development education projects presented to Italian Foreign Ministry (MAE) and European Commission for co-funding

During 2005 a development education project co-funded by MAE (Education for global citizenship for globalising the rights) was completed in collaboration with other NGOs (Mani Tese and COE).

Another project (First festival of international cooperation) proposed jointly by NGOs of Emilia Romagna and co-funded by Emilia Romagna region was also started.

Finally two development education projects were presented to MAE for co-funding (on traditional medicine and on MDGs, in collaboration with other NGOs, both approved in 2005).

Finally another joint project with other European NGOs from IDDC federation was approved by European Commission on mainstreaming of disability issues in development cooperation.

2.8 Materials produced in 2005

Under the MAE co-funded project (Education for global citizenship for globalisation of rights) a book by Mr. Alberto Castagnola & Maurizio Rossi (The Health Market) was published.

In collaboration with some journalists of Italian state television Rai, a video was produced (The Big Sister - travelling with leprosy along with AIFO).

2.9 AIFO office in Rome

AIFO also maintains a small office in Rome that mainly deals with development education issues, helping groups to organise training courses, meetings, etc.

3. COMMUNICATION AND FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Communication instruments



The main instrument of communication of AIFO is its monthly magazine in Italian AdL that is published in 60,000 copies (except in January of each year, for the World Leprosy Day, when 85,000 copies are published). The magazine is used for presenting issues on development education as well as projects supported by AIFO.

AIFO Informazioni is a newsletter published every two months that provides practical information to members of different AIFO groups.

AIFO has an Italian website (www.aifo.it) that is updated almost daily and provides regular information about AIFO's work and on different areas of work including leprosy, disability, development education, etc.

Finally an electronic newsletter called AIFO News is published that is sent by email to about 450 persons.

3.2 AIFO on National media

During 2005, 290 stories were published about AIFO in the different printed and audio-visual media. Most of these stories came out at the occasion of World Leprosy Day in January 2005.

3.3 Strategic Alliances in Italy

AIFO is member of the national federation of NGOs, FOCSIV - Volontari Nel Mondo as well as of the general assembly of Italian NGOs. AIFO also collaborates with different movements and organisations in Italy such as Tavola della Pace, Lilliput Movement, Day of Ethical Financing, Civitas, Futura, etc.

3.4 Fund-Raising

Fund-raising in a systematic manner is only a recent activity of AIFO. Till now, fund-raising was mainly delegated to different groups of AIFO and through some appeals in the monthly magazine AdL.

AIFO's data base is composed of 268 thousand names of which about 25 thousand are active donors. The activities during 2005 included some mailing campaigns. It also includes selling small souvenirs, gifts, etc. from the world of alternative and just trading.

This activity is planned to be strengthened during the coming years.

3.5 Honey of Solidarity initiative

On the World Leprosy Day, for the last few years, volunteers of AIFO spread out in different city squares to offer honey produced by Alternative & Just Trade for creating awareness about AIFO's work and for collecting donations. On 30 January 2005, this event received collaboration from scouts with AIFO stands in 580 city squares with about 2,500 volunteers. At the end, more than 33 thousand honey pots were distributed for a total of 300 thousand Euros.

3.6 Witnesses of Solidarity

Every year in the month of January, AIFO invites some persons from the projects in developing countries to be the witnesses of solidarity, to visit different AIFO groups and to explain their work, their challenges and their successes. During January 2005 5 persons from Africa (Angola, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Comores islands) visited AIFO groups in Italy.

3.7 Collaboration with companies

AIFO has a code of ethics regarding collaboration with companies and thus takes great care in selecting the companies with whom collaboration can be started.

The companies with whom collaboration was carried out in 2005 included Fratelli Carli (a company based in Liguria region producing Mediterranean products like olives, oil, food products and natural cosmetics for supporting Nampula Primary health care project in Mozambique) and Italian telephone company Telecom for supporting activities in Mozambique.

**ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF AIFO
10 JUNE 2006**

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS¹

1. Dear delegate members,



The report of a year gone by is always an occasion to reflect globally on our work and to make projections about our future. Analysing the results of the management and comparing them with planned budget, allows to understand our basic tendencies, assess our structure and actions, analyse risks and opportunities. The documents provided to you are quite detailed in providing information about single items, their verification and their reliability. This report for 2005, explains our achievements in the past year.

Therefore I will not touch on the single items, if not in a summary way, but I would like to reason together with you all so that we can have a clearer idea of our future perspectives.

2. Last year our Association continued to promote and support development activities in three main areas that characterize us: leprosy (considering as part of primary health care); rehabilitation, including physical, mental and socio-economic rehabilitation, for persons with disabilities due to leprosy and due to other causes; children, especially more vulnerable needy children. As our Association supports projects by committing ourselves from a secure and reliable resource base, and not on the basis of imagined funds that we may collect, the funds collected by AIFO during 2004 were used in 2005 to support 127 development initiatives in 25 countries, and another 15 initiatives through other members of ILEP. Almost 50% of these initiatives are related to our priority mission, the fight against leprosy. The remaining initiatives are related to rehabilitation, primary health care, children and emergency action in areas affected by tsunami in South-east Asia and earthquake in Pakistan (these last initiatives are with support of ECHO). Our collaboration with local administrations and regions is proceeding and there has been a rise in our cofinanced projects (with IFM, EU, IEC).

This year also has been significant for an internal transition. The democratic electoral process involved 782 members of whom, 91 members are below 35 years of age. These members are grouped in 49 official Groups with 27 referral persons including 8 new reference persons. Among our 10 regional coordinators, 7 are new persons and half of the coordinators are women. Our national assembly has 40 delegate members, of whom more than 50% are new compared to our General Assembly in the period 2002-2005. During the last year, our old Board met six times, while the new Board met another seven times. Our education and training related activities (courses, meetings, projects) in collaboration with schools and with our Groups in Italy are too numerous to nominate here individually. Our traditional events like summer camps for adults and families held in Cortona and the biannual national conference was held in Montesilvano. During the year, more than 800,000 copies of our magazine AdL were distributed and there were discussions for giving it new graphics and format, that were implemented in February 2006.

¹ Extracts of the original speech made in Italian

3. Compared to our provisional budget, our balance shows some significant differences in both income and expenditure, that confirm the worrying trend of the past few years.

Private donations that are our point of strength and distinction from other big Italian NGOs are stable around 4 million Euro, with a slight increase of about 5% compared to 2004, but slightly less than our provisions. Income from testaments is less by about half a million Euro compared to our provisions and that is the biggest reason for the differences. While co-funding from Italian Foreign Ministry (IFM), European Union (EU) and local bodies is starting to increase. Thus in terms of our expenditure for development projects, planned in provisional budget at 5 million Euro has been respected.

Among the expenses, most painful is the expenses for "Information and Fund Collection (IFC)", that keep on increasing, even more than the provisions (almost 150,000 € more) but without a corresponding proportionate rise in income.

In synthesis, 77% of the resources went for development initiatives in Italy and abroad (including the costs of the project office) while 23% went to the cost of the structure including 12.5% for IFC. The costs are not excessive by themselves, but in terms of proportion they are. Thus same costs for 6 million € look completely different for a balance of 10 million €.

4. In this and our previous balances, there are structural weaknesses, that General Assembly must view carefully and follow-up with equal determination.

Ever since 1997, when the number of our donors went below 30,000, the annual number of donors continues to be between 25 to 26,000. IN the same way, the annual donations are stable around 4 million € since 1995. Our testaments continue to be around 10 per year without any significant increase.

5. Thus, what are the choices open to us?

Some clear directions have already been decided by the Board during the budget of current year and they will become even more evident in our provisional balance for 2007, that we shall be discussing in a few months.

It is necessary to reduce the contributions to some projects, safeguarding the essential activities and controlling the expenses. We are also discussing, in the medium term, of starting locally in countries, where conditions are suitable, preparation of project proposals and fund collection. In the short term, it is important to transform some projects financed exclusively by AIFO into co-financed projects. The item "testaments", with their enormous variations, while waiting for a more systematic plan for its re-launching, needs to be reviewed. Eventually we can decide to separate this item from other items of income, to avoid creating significantly different provisions of income, and use this income as a fund for strategic investments. The costs for IFC that have almost doubled in the past five years, need to be reduced for reducing expenses, and used more productively for a more efficient fund raising. All these choices related to the annual balance and the need for three year budgets for projects, may mean that we need to look at three year provisional plans rather than yearly plans. In this way, the activities of AIFO can be characterised by stronger sustainability in medium term, and in terms of greater responsibility towards the final beneficiaries.

6. There are even more radical choices to be made, if we wish to tackle not just the present situation but if we wish to build a innovative future, that is for expansion of ideas of Raoul Follereau, ideas of active love that he inspired us. We need a medium to long term strategy, we need an efficient and

efficacious operating structure, we need a vast, knowledgeable, responsible, competent, democratic and strongly motivated network of groups.

It was important to change the hardware of AIFO to change how it should do, and to change the software of its processes, to change how it functions. Some choices have already been made, other choices have been postponed. Thus came the decision by the Board of Directors to change the organisation of the structure. It has the objective of promoting better balance between the needs of efficiency and control (vertical system of rules, procedures, budget plans, information systems and reporting), and the needs of learning, innovation, flexibility and internal collaboration (horizontal level of learning organisation, direct contacts, rules of linking, team, task force, cross-cutting information systems). The principal operative choice was the decision to simplify the organisational framework, through one director and a different groupings of activities.

7. New spaces can open in Italy and abroad for the popular international solidarity activities of our Association. There are already discussions on new national law on development cooperation and for a new Italian policy in favour of fighting poverty and for promoting equitable and sustainable global development. We, FOCSIV and the Italian Assembly of NGOs must do all we can so that our Government can increase its commitment for reaching the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. We have to push so that our Government can increase the funds for development cooperation to 0.33% of GNP in this year and by 2011 we can reach our historical commitment of 0.70% of GNP. We must push for an annual national conference on development cooperation involving all national and international interested stakeholders. I propose therefore that in our next biannual national conference we look at deeper understanding of these issues enriched by the concrete testimonials of our projects. At international level, in the next few three years, our commitment towards disability and rehabilitation (DAR) is going to increase. The new UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is near conclusion and approval. In another two years, WHO will be publishing the World report on disability and rehabilitation, we are directly involved in its preparation as partners of WHO/DAR. We are already recognised for our expertise in the field of community based rehabilitation (CBR) and we are increasingly active in the field of rehabilitation, thus there will be an opportunity for us to increase our international profile to win over new volunteers and donors. We can not isolate ourselves from the main currents of development in the world where we are active. On the contrary, we need to get ready for all these.

8. In conclusion, we need to build the path to the future of AIFO, following the footsteps of Raoul Follereau, for a new awakening of the Association. Walking on this road means greater understanding about ourselves and knowing that new competencies are learned habits. We can all learn to be better by becoming aware that our own small egoisms, wrong inter-personal relationships and renouncing attitudes damage us. We can not allow ourselves to forget our choice of being volunteers, never forgetting even for a moment the values that we want to promote, remembering always next to us the presence of the marginalised and poorest persons. Then I am sure that we will not lack enthusiasm, tiredness won't overtake us, our souls will be illuminated. And the Association will grow. The persons who feel our call will increase, our members and our groups all over Italy will increase, our fund raising will increase and the initiatives that we support will increase. The quality of our work and our donation will increase. We will help in decreasing poverty, social exclusion and pain of other human beings. We will help in improving self-respect and dignity of human beings. We will increase, believe me, the love in the world.

Dr. Francesco Colizzi
President, Board of Directors
AIFO

AIFO Annual Balance 2005

| ACTIVE | 2005 | 2004 | PASSIVE | 2005 | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | NET PATRIMONY | | |
| <i>Non Tangible Assets</i> | | | <i>Free Patrimony</i> | | |
| Concessions, licences, rights | 13.059 | 20.968 | Available fund | 97.453 | 555.411 |
| <i>Tangible Assets</i> | | | <i>Bound patrimony</i> | | |
| Land & Building | 495.332 | 549.096 | Patrimony for projects | 3.640.406 | 4.602.557 |
| Equipment etc. | 54.420 | 59.434 | Bound reserve | 1.200.000 | 1.200.000 |
| Other assets | 17.666 | 18.445 | Total net patrimony | 4.937.859 | 6.357.968 |
| <i>Financial Investments</i> | | | Risk fund and costs | | |
| Participations | 8.041 | 8.041 | Misc. fund | 150.000 | 150.000 |
| Bank titles as guarantee | 801.588 | 330.875 | Risk fund project accounting | 129.972 | 233.552 |
| Total Assets | 1.390.106 | 986.859 | Total risk fund and costs | 279.972 | 383.552 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | Staff social fund | 411.846 | 356.662 |
| <i>Final residuals</i> | | | Debts | | |
| Promotional materials | 10.478 | 30.372 | Suppliers | 118.513 | 174.536 |
| <i>Short-term credits projects</i> | | | Other debts | 131.394 | 113.653 |
| Credits from other associations | 691.051 | 659.030 | Debts towards providence inst. | 51.107 | 47.905 |
| Credit from It. Foreign Ministry | 695.797 | 346.239 | Tax debts | 43.623 | 43.778 |
| Credit from Intern. bodies | 547.104 | 158.276 | Total debts | 344.637 | 379.872 |
| Credit from local bodies | 75.386 | 110.200 | Passive carryovers | 2.542.473 | 1.298.083 |
| <i>Long term credits projects</i> | | | Total passives | 3.578.928 | 2.418.169 |
| Credits from other associations | 65.548 | 153.657 | TOTAL PASSIVE & NET | 8.516.787 | 8.776.137 |
| Credits from Intern. bodies | 746.228 | 516.456 | PATRIMONY | | |
| Credits from EU | 254.134 | 0 | Order accounts | | |
| <i>Other credits</i> | | | Funds to be sent to projects | 6.215.508 | 5.880.359 |
| Credits on donations | 85.146 | 81.062 | Titles for bank guarantee | 500.000 | 330.875 |
| Other credits | 26.868 | 37.402 | Total order accounts | 6.715.508 | 6.211.234 |
| <i>Testaments</i> | | | | | |
| Testaments and mat. donation | 1.542.232 | 1.955.870 | | | |
| <i>Non fixed financial activities</i> | | | | | |
| Investments | 1.687.670 | 2.997.716 | | | |
| <i>Available cash</i> | | | | | |
| Cash box | 49.383 | 51.449 | | | |
| Bank & post | 630.456 | 671.785 | | | |
| Total circulating income | 7.107.481 | 7.769.514 | | | |
| Carry overs | 19.200 | 19.764 | | | |
| TOTAL ACTIVE | 8.516.787 | 8.776.137 | | | |

Annual balance 2005 certified by Price Waterhouse & Cooper