

Annual Report 2006





Once again it is time to take a comprehensive look at the activities of our Association, to reflect on the way our resources have been used and to analyse if our future work can be improved. As usual, we would like to do this with passion, honesty and transparency.

One year we had presented our five year Strategic and Operational Plans for the period 2006-2010. There were lot of expectations linked to this whole exercise and we take note that its implementation has started a little slowly and there have been some uncertainties regarding some of the priority objectives, especially those linked to increase in funds and improvements in the efficiency and efficacy of our offices.

Keeping these issues in mind, Board of Directors have taken the decision to change from a Director's office composed of three persons to the nomination of one Director. This has been an important change that required lot of adjustments and complementary changes among the roles of different offices and personnel. Some of our personnel decided to leave us.

All these changes reflect in our General Balance that shows decrease in funds collection and in contributions to projects in the developing countries during 2006. Our contributions for the projects depended largely on our own fund-collection while the contributions received from public funds such as European Union and Italian Foreign Ministry remained limited.

Therefore, the challenges in front of us remain big. The logic imposes us to be cautious, yet in our endeavours to face these challenges we are resolutely optimistic.

In terms of the impact of our activities and the quality of our work, AIFO continued to be an organisation that is respected nationally and internationally. For example, during 2006, our international collaborations included the following:

- ◆ Our relationship and joint activities with the World Health Organisation (WHO), especially with the Disability & Rehabilitation team (DAR) was further reinforced with the starting of a multi-country joint action-research initiative called "New Paradigm of Medical Care for Persons with Disabilities".
- ◆ AIFO continued to play an active role in the International Anti-leprosy Federation (ILEP), where it coordinated the supply of learning material on leprosy to Portuguese speaking Africa.
- ◆ In collaboration with Italian Foreign Ministry, three Italian non-governmental organisations, Peoples' Health Movement and International Peoples' Health University, AIFO organised the South Asian conference on role of Traditional Medicine for reaching the goal of Health for All.
- ◆ AIFO coordinated the task group on community-based rehabilitation (CBR) in the International Disability & Development Consortium (IDDC).

AIFO wishes to a fully self-aware and active agent of change for a just and humane society in the developed and the developing world. As Raoul Follereau had said: "don't ask me, what can I do with all my limits? A drop of water falling down raises up the level of the sea, let us be that drop of water."

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AIFO, my best wishes to all of you.

Dr. Francesco Colizzi
President, Board of Directors

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1. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ITALY, MAINLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1.1. PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



1.1.1. SECTORS OF INTERVENTION OF AIFO

During 2006, AIFO supported projects in developing countries in three main sectors:

- Leprosy & primary health care;
- Rehabilitation (physical, mental, socio-economic);
- Vulnerable children.

All the project support of AIFO follow a five years' Strategic Plan (2006-2010) approved by the General Assembly of AIFO in December 2005. On the basis of this Strategic Plan a five years' operational plan has also been prepared that will guide the development of future actions of AIFO.

During 2006 AIFO supported 128 projects in 25 countries.

Table 1. AIFO Projects 2006

Projects sub-divided according to sector of intervention	No. of Projects
Leprosy & Primary health care projects	63
Rehabilitation projects	37
Projects with vulnerable children	23
Total	123

Management projects	5
Total Projects in 2006	128

To these we can add another 15 projects supported through other member associations of ILEP (International Anti-leprosy Federation) for a total of 143 projects in 28 countries.

*** Leprosy control and primary health care**

Projects dealing with leprosy affected persons including leprosy control, remain a priority for AIFO. According to WHO, At the beginning of 2006 there were 222,562 cases of leprosy registered for treatment, while during 2005, a total of 299,036 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed.

Table 2. Situation of leprosy in the world (2005)*

REGION	Cases registered for treatment at end of 2005 (31/12/2005)	New cases diagnosed in 2005
AFRICA	43,560	45,179
AMERICAS	32,910	41,952
EAST MEDITERRANEAN	4,024	3,133
SOUTH EAST ASIA	133,422	201,635
WEST PACIFIC	8,646	7,137
WORLD	222,562	299,036

* WHO Data, 2006 - Excluding Europe.

Along with leprosy control activities, AIFO promotes integration of leprosy-treatment in the primary health care services as well as activities for physical and social rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons (table 3).

Table 3. Leprosy-Primary Health Care projects supported by AIFO in 2006

AFRICA			
ANGOLA	CHIULO	CAPO VERDE	CASA BETANIA
	KANGOLA	GHANA	PROGRAMME PN
	LUANDA		BURULI
	SAURIMO	GUINEA BISSAU	PROGRAMME PN
KENIA	PROGRAMME PN	MOZAMBIQUE	INHAMBANE
	KADEM		MANICA
DEMOCRATIC	ITURI		NAMPULA

REP. OF CONGO			PROVINCE
	KIMBAU		NAMPULA NGO
COMORES	POMONI		PROGRAMME PN
ERITREA	DIGSA	SUDAN	RUMBEEK
SOUTH AMERICA			
BRAZIL	ACRE STE	CERES	IMPERATRIZ
	BAHIA STE	COLONIA DO PRATA	MORHAN BAHIA
	CAXIAS	GOIAS STE	PARA STE
	PORTO NACIONAL	PORTO VELHO	SANTA MARTA
ASIA			
BANGLADESH	KHULNA	CHINA	YUNNAN YNCDC
INDIA	ANGUL MDT	BHALKI	GANJAM MDT
	KARNATAKA MDT	BIRBHUM MDT	GUDIVADA
	BAREILLY MDT	BOUDH MDT	KOLLAPUR
	BELLARY	CHITTOOR MDT	MANDYA
	KOPPAL MDT	COCHIN	MEERUT MDT
	MORADABAD MDT	SHAHAJAHANPUR MDT	SUMANAHALLI
	NIDADAVOLE	SHANTA JEEVA JYOTHI	WARANGAL
	RAICHUR BAGALKOT MDT	ST. CATALD	
	SAMBALPUR MDT	SUDARGARH MDT	
INDONESIA	NAOB REHAB		
MYANMAR	LOILEM	NONG KANG	ST. THERESA

In the leprosy projects, AIFO places special attention towards building of organisations of persons affected with leprosy, helping in creating links between these organisations and IDEA International.

*** REHABILITATION (physical, mental, socio-economic)**

The second sector of intervention for AIFO, rehabilitation of persons with physical and mental disabilities, continues to develop new projects, especially based on community-based approaches. Table 4 presents the rehabilitation projects supported by AIFO.

Table 4. Rehabilitation projects

AFRICA			
ANGOLA	FUNDA	EGYPT	ALEXANDRIA CBR
ERITREA	NATIONAL CBR	GHANA	CHF PROJECT
KENYA	KOROGOCHO CBR	LIBERIA	MONROVIA-CBR
SOMALIA	SOMALILAND CBR		
SOUTH AMERICA			
BRAZIL	CRER GOIANIA	LAGO DE ALEXIO	COMPENSA
	MST	SANTAREM CBR	YANOMAMI

			MATURACA
GUYANA	NATIONAL CBR		
ASIA			
BANGLADESH	CHITTAGONG CBR	CHINA	YUNNAN HANDA
INDIA	ASSAM	CHANDPUR	JAGRUTY
	MALAVALLI	MANGALAGIRI	MUDHOL KJES
	NCPEDP	TASH MUMBAI	WE CARE
	SIMDEGA		
INDONESIA	ACEH CBR	WEST SUMATRA	SOUTH SULAWESI
	PPCI DPO		
LAOS	CBR	MONGOLIA	NATIONAL CBR
NEPAL	WATCH		NATIONAL FEDERATION DPO
PAKISTAN	PESHAWAR CBR	VIETNAM	CBR

AIFO promotes the community-based rehabilitation approach in its projects. A “Twin-track” strategy is used that aims for mainstreaming in to existing services and activities on one hand, and disability-specific activities on the other hand. This means working together with existing institutions as well civil society organisations.

*** Vulnerable children projects**

For more than a decade, AIFO has been promoting projects focusing on children in specific situations of vulnerability and risk (23 projects). The general framework for support to vulnerable children projects includes the following strategies:

- Only in areas where AIFO is already present with leprosy, primary health care and disability related activities.
- Promoting development and rehabilitation based approaches in these projects.
- Identification of projects using specific innovative and significant approaches for larger and multi-year support.

Table 5. AIFO – Vulnerable children projects in 2006

AFRICA	LATIN AMERICA	ASIA
KENIA – KADEM	BRAZIL - AMARALINA (BAHIA)	CHINA - YUNNAN HANDA
DEM. REP. OF CONGO - GOMA - KIMBAU	BRAZIL - CAXIAS (MARANHÃO)	INDIA – SILCHAR - ASSAM
COMORES ISLANDS POMONI	BRAZIL - CERES (GOIAS)	INDIA - BANGALORE (KARNATAKA)
	BRAZIL - GOIÁS VELHO (GOIÁS)	INDIA - BHALKI (KARNATAKA)
	BRAZIL - IMPERATRIZ (MARANHÃO)	INDIA - BIDAR (KARNATAKA)
	BRAZIL - LAGO DO ALEIXO (AMAZONAS)	INDIA - CHAINPUR (BIHAR)
	BRAZIL - PORTO	INDIA - COCHIN (KERALA)

	NACIONAL (TOCANTINS)	
	BRAZIL - YANOMAMI ST ISABEL (AMAZONAS)	INDIA - DINDIGUL (TAMIL NADU)
		INDIA - LUCKNOW (UTTAR PRADESH)
		INDIA - NAYEE ASHA (UTTAR PRADESH)
		INDIA - WARANGAL (A. P.)

1.1.2. CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

** Projects that finished in 2006 & On-going Projects*

Table 6. Co-funded Projects – On-going & those that finished in 2006

Project (Country & Sector of Intervention)	Funding body	Consortium partners	Duration Yrs	Starting year
MOZAMBIQUE NAMPULA Primary health care incl. leprosy On-going AID 7673/AIFO/MOZ	DGCS– Italian Foreign Ministry	-	3	2004
CHINA YUNNAN Leprosy control & SER On-going AID 7870/AIFO/CHN	DGCS– Italian Foreign Ministry	-	3	2006
NEPAL Community development, gender, PHC, CBR Ended in march 2006	European Union EuropeAid - Ex B7-6000	GLRA & SF	3	2003
SUDAN RUMBEK Primary Health Care Ended in June 2006	Italian Episcopal conference	-	3	2002
BANGLADESH KHULNA Leprosy Ended on 31.12.2006	Italian Episcopal conference	-	3	2004
INDIA ASSAM Community development, PHC, CBR Ended on 31.12.2006	Italian Episcopal conference	-	3	2004
POMONI – COMORES ISLANDS Primary Health Care On-going	Italian Episcopal conference	-	3	2005
Eritrea DIGSA (Only for conformity) AID 8070/AIFO/ERT	DGCS– Italian Foreign Ministry	AMI	2	2006

MONGOLIA Community Based Rehabilitation On-going	UNeable (United Nations)	-	1	2006
GUINEA BISSAU Leprosy & Tuberculosis On-going	Luxembourg Foreign Ministry (Through FL)	FL	3	2006
MOZAMBIQUE Leprosy NP & Nampula Primary Health Care On-going	Luxembourg Foreign Ministry (Through FL)	FL	3	2006
GHANA Leprosy PN & Buruli ulcer On-going	Luxembourg Foreign Ministry (Through FL)	FL	3	2006

*** New Projects presented for co-funding, awaiting response**

At present, only one project (Community-based rehabilitation in Vietnam) presented to DGCS – Italian Foreign Ministry is awaiting an answer about approval of funding.

Through local bodies at municipal, commune, provincial and regional levels, 28 co-funding approvals were received, mostly through AIFO local groups/member organisations.

1.2. EMERGENCY PROJECTS

During 2006 two emergency projects with public co-funding were completed. Both projects were in areas affected by tsunami:

- Aceh province/Indonesia “Disability and Emergency” project co-funded by DGCS – Italian Foreign Ministry through Task Force Indonesia Tsunami, started 16.08.05, completed on 16.03.06.
- Pidie district and Aceh Bedar district/Indonesia, emergency project co-funded by ECHO (AS/BUD/2005/02065 – File agreement: 05.11093), starting 13.10.05, completed on 12.06.06.

In addition, during 2006, AIFO also managed two additional emergency projects from its own private resources:

- Gudivada – Andhra Pradesh/India, emergency project in coastal areas affected by tsunami (on-going)
- North-West Frontier province/Pakistan, emergency project for persons affected the earthquake (On-going).

1.3. PERSONNEL IN AIFO PROJECTS

During 2006, the following personnel was working in AIFO supported projects (the list includes only the personnel having a direct contract with AIFO/Italy):

*** Three Regional Coordination offices of AIFO**

- Goiânia (Goiàs), Brazil, Coordinator: Ms. Deolinda Bitencourt de Santana
- Bangalore (Karnataka), India, Coordinator: Mr. Jose Manikkathan Varghese
- Maputo, Mozambique, Coordinator: Mr. Massimo Tomaselli, Administrator Ms. Caroline Valay up to 30/06/2006.

*** Four Country Representative offices of AIFO**

- Bissau, Guinea Bissau. Representative Dr Wolfgang Hippke, Consultant for rehabilitation: Ms. Maria Jane Campalo, (both completed on 31/12/2006).
- Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Representative: Ms. Rosa Fornabaio (also coordinator for the emergency project in Aceh co-funded by Italian Foreign Ministry (up to 2/04/2006).
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Representative: Ms. Tulgamaa Damdinsuren.
- Hanoi, for Vietnam & Laos, Representative: Mr Lorenzo Pierdomenico (upto 31/05/2006).

*** Five Project Management Offices**

- Mozambique - Nampula (Co-funded DGCS-Italian Foreign Ministry – AID 7673/AIFO/MOZ), project coordinator Dr Anna Cattane upto 2/12/2006; Project coordinator Dr Marco Scacchetti from 4/12/06; administrator: Mr Nicola Eugenio Zicari
- China - Yunnan (Co-funded DGCS-Italian Foreign Ministry - AID 7870/AIFO/CHN), project coordinator Dr Davide Olchini.
- Comores Islands – Anjouan island, Pomoni district, AIFO project coordinator: Mr Saverio Grillone
- Ghana – Takoradi, AIFO project coordinator Fr. Giorgio Abram.
- Indonesia ECHO Tsunami project PIDIE, project coordinator Mr Christian Olivieri up to 12/06/2006.

1.4. PROJECT MONITORING & EVALUATION MISSIONS

During 2006, the following monitoring and evaluation missions were carried out by personnel from AIFO/Italy:

Table 7. AIFO Monitoring & Evaluation Missions in 2006

MONTH	COUNTRY	COMMENT
JANUARY	Ghana	Evaluation of leprosy programme
FEBRUARY	Indonesia	Monitoring emergency projects funded by ECHO e DGCS/IFM
	China	Starting of project co-funded by DGCS/IFM
	Nepal	Final evaluation of EU co-funded project
APRIL	Mozambique	Mid-term evaluation PHC project co-funded by DGCS/IFM & training of physiotherapists for leprosy surgery

JUNE	Pakistan	Studio di fattibilità progetto emergenza (Post Terremoto)
JULY	Brazil	All Projects (26) meeting
	Guyana	National Assembly of Guyana CBR Programme
AUGUST	Mongolia	International workshop
	Kenya PN	Monitoring of leprosy NP and planning of future activities
	R.D. of Congo - Ituri	Project monitoring
	Liberia CBR	Monitoring of Project co-funded by Lombardy region; feasibility of new project
SEPTEMBER	Mozambique	Monitoring of project co-funded by DGCS/IFM in Nampula
OCTOBER	Guyana	Impact assessment of 20 years of collaboration
DECEMBER	India	South Asian workshop on traditional medicine in consortium with COE, co-funded by Italian Foreign Ministry
	Capo Verde	Discussions with Ministry of Health for possible new projects

1.5. SUPPLYING MATERIAL SUPPORT

** AIFO Material Warehouse of Bologna*

The material Warehouse managed by AIFO is used for collecting and sending medicines, medical materials & equipment, blankets, bandages, learning materials etc. During 2006, three containers with such material were sent to Liberia, Mongolia and Comores islands.

•AIFO Material Warehouse of Villa Adriana – Tivoli (Rome)

This material warehouse is involved in sending postal packages containing collected or bought materials (medicines, medical materials, soaps, bandages, etc.) mainly to health care projects run by religious congregations where AIFO does not provide other support. During 2006, this warehouse sent 559 postal packages.

This warehouse run by volunteers based in Tivoli near Rome, closed its collaboration with AIFO at the end of 2006.

1.6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NGOs (NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS)

During 2006, AIFO collaborated with different Italian and international NGOs for projects in developing countries including the following - Raoul Follereau Association Luxembourg

(FL – for projects in Mozambique, Ghana & Guinea Bissau); Fontilles Fight against leprosy & German Leprosy & TB Relief Organisation (SF/Spain & DAHW/Germany for project in Nepal); Portuguese Association Amigos de Raoul Follereau (APARF – Portugal for projects in Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Brazil); Portuguese Solidarity Organisation Maãos Unidas P. Damião (for projects in Mozambique, Brazil), Disabled Peoples International (DPI for projects in Mongolia & Italy); & Centro Orientamento Educativo (COE/Italy for an international meeting in South Asia).

1.7. OTHER COLLABORATIONS FOR RESEARCH, THESIS AND TRAINING

AIFO collaborates with different organisations and universities for activities related to research, preparation of thesis and training involving AIFO supported projects in developing countries. These activities are coordinated by Medical Support office of AIFO. Some examples of these collaborations include the following:

- Collaboration with Italian Society of Medical Students for organising visits of final year students of Bologna university to AIFO supported projects. During 2006, six medical students participated in these visits in India, Kenya and Brazil.
- Collaboration with university of Modena and Reggio Emilia and with the Italian Association Physiotherapists Without Borders for visits of physiotherapists and final year physiotherapy students to AIFO supported projects.
- Collaboration with NGO network called COONGER of Emilia Romagna region in Italy.

1.8 COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

AIFO is active in Africa, Asia and Americas. All the project activities are coordinated through a network of alliances and collaborations at international, regional and national levels by working together with other national and international Governmental institutions, bodies, non-governmental organisations and other civil society organisations. The aim of this networking and collaborations are to create synergies, avoid duplications, and promote sustainability.

Some of the more significant international partners and collaborators of AIFO are the following:

- **World Health Organisation (WHO):** WHO is a specialised agency of United Nations concerned with issues dealing with health. AIFO has a long history of collaboration with WHO, especially with the department of **Disability and Rehabilitation (WHO/DAR)**. In collaboration with WHO/DAR, at headquarters level in Geneva, at the regional offices level and at country levels, AIFO has been promoting different actions for improving access of persons with disabilities to health and rehabilitation services. A special interest of this joint collaboration has been promotion of community based rehabilitation programmes in different developing countries. Other areas of collaboration has been in terms of strengthening rehabilitation services in countries, improving implementation of UN Standard Rules for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, preparation of strategic documents, organisation of regional meetings, etc.

Apart from WHO/DAR, AIFO has also been collaborating with other departments such as mental health and substance abuse, leprosy, Buruli ulcer, filariasis, Leishmaniasis, etc.

Since 1999, AIFO is in **official relationship with WHO** and WHO/DAR is the focal point of this relationship.

- **Peoples' Health Movement (PHM):** PHM brings together federations, networks, organisations and concerned individuals from developed and developing world that are concerned about right to health. PHM started in 2000 when about 1500 persons from 92 countries of the world came together in Savar near Dhaka (Bangladesh) for the first Peoples' Health Assembly. **People's Charter of Health**, a consensus document coming out from this first Assembly is the Manifesto of PHM. Since the beginning AIFO believes in the ideas and aspirations of PHM and has been promoting awareness and action campaigns about PHM in both Italy and internationally, especially in Africa. AIFO regularly organises meetings & workshops on PHM issues.

During 2006, one key event organised in collaboration with PHM in South Asia and with International People's Health University (IPHU) was the meeting on traditional medicine organised in Bangalore (India) in December 2006.

AIFO has translated Peoples' Health Charter in Italian and during 2006 also around 5,000 copies of the Charter were distributed. AIFO is focal point for PHM in Italy.

- **International Anti-Leprosy Federation (ILEP):** AIFO is a founding member of ILEP and actively participates in all its activities at international level, as well as collaborates with different ILEP member organisations at country level. Till March 2006, Dr Sunil Deepak, head of Medical Support office of AIFO was President of ILEP. From April 2006, onwards Dr Enrico Pupulin from Board of Directors of AIFO is a member of ILEP's Board.

In ILEP, AIFO coordinates the distribution of teaching and learning materials for Portuguese speaking Africa. Around the end of 2005, AIFO had coordinated the Portuguese translation and printing of three ILEP technical guides. In collaboration with other ILEP member organisations, these guides were distributed to Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique in 2006.

- **International Consortium on Disability and Development (IDDC):** AIFO is a founding member of IDDC in 1995, that was registered as a federation in Bruxelles (Belgium) during 2006. IDDC brings together all the major international organisations involved in disability and rehabilitation programmes.

One of the significant areas of collaboration under IDDC in 2006, was the implementation of a European Project on mainstreaming of disability in development cooperation. AIFO is implementing the component related to Italy from this project.

In addition, Ms. Francesca Ortali from AIFO has been coordinating the task group of IDDC on community-based rehabilitation (CBR) especially in terms of IDDC contribution to development of CBR guidelines by WHO/DAR.

- **Circle of Solidarity Follereau-Damien (CdS):** CdS brings together organisations inspired by life, philosophy and ideas of Raoul Follereau and of Fr. Damien.
- **Disabled Peoples' International (DPI):** AIFO has a long standing collaboration with DPI that represents organisations of persons affected with leprosy. Through its field programmes AIFO promotes formation and strengthening of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs). For example, in collaboration with DPI and support from United Nations, AIFO organised training workshop for national level DPO in Mongolia in 2006.

AIFO also contributed to the process of approval of the new UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities through IDDC.

- **IDEA International:** IDEA brings together national organisations of persons affected with leprosy. As with DPI, AIFO firmly believes that in future programme work of AIFO must be based on strong partnerships with persons whose lives are directly influenced by the disability and by disease. Thus, apart from supporting IDEA at international level, AIFO supports formation and strengthening of IDEA national organisations where it is active. For example, during 2006, AIFO supported and facilitated the meeting of IDEA Mozambique.
- **Italian Global Health Watch (OISG):** OISG was formed in 2002 and brings together doctors, university professors, medical students, journalists and other persons concerned about issues of global health. A key aim of OISG is to promote training of medical students on global health and to publish a biannual report. AIFO shares the concerns and philosophy of OISG and supports it by hosting it in its office.
- **Italian Society of Hansenology (SIHAN):** SIHAN brings together persons living in Italy who have experience of working with leprosy. In collaboration with SIHAN, AIFO conducts survey of new cases of leprosy discovered in Italy every year. Each year, an average of 6-9 new cases of leprosy are discovered.

1.9 SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

AIFO has a scientific office also called Medical support office. Some of the more significant activities in terms of scientific research, publications, trainings, etc. include the following:

- **Research Programmes:** AIFO is managing a multi-country research project in collaboration with WHO, called "New Paradigm of Medical care for Persons with Disability". Some of the participating projects received funding from WHO/DAR. AIFO follows all the participating projects. A webpage has been created for this initiative: <http://www.aifo.it/english/proj/aifo-who/index.htm>

Other researches supported by AIFO in 2006 included a study on relationship between disability and poverty in Nepal.

- **Project support, monitoring and evaluation:** This includes organisation of consultancies and training courses for projects (for example, organising capacity

building training of grassroots organisation Koscobar in Kenya, and organising training of physiotherapists on reconstructive surgery for leprosy in Mozambique).

In terms of project monitoring, AIFO uses standard forms for collecting information from all projects (including leprosy forms, TB form, PHC form, CBR form, community development form, children project form, etc.). All the collected information is analysed and feedback is given to project managers in AIFO office as well to partners in the projects about their activities.

Formal evaluations are usually limited to projects using significant amount of funds, especially projects receiving public funds from Italian Foreign Ministry and European Commission. Since the projects usually follow a three year planning cycle, the evaluations are done at mid-term (18 months) and at the end (36 months). Evaluations organised in 2007 included mid-term evaluation of Nampula/Mozambique, final evaluation of WATCH/Nepal and impact assessment of Guyana CBR.

- **Publications and reports:** As coordinator of teaching and learning materials on leprosy for Portuguese speaking Africa, AIFO coordinated translation, publishing and distribution of the ILEP technical guides (guide 1: how to diagnose and treat leprosy, guide 2: how to recognise and treat reactions and, guide 3: making skin smears).

Volume 18 of AIFO's biannual publication called Health Cooperation Papers was prepared on forgotten diseases and was abandoned halfway as it was felt that it taking too long a period to collect all the articles while the articles collected were getting outdated very quickly. It has been decided to block preparation of new books in this series.

A report summarising the beneficiaries of different interventions supported by AIFO was prepared.

The report based on an international workshop organised in October 2005, on the theme of "**Communicating to communities on difficult themes like sexuality and domestic violence**" was also published and distributed. This report can also be downloaded in English, Italian and Portuguese versions from: <http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/books/other/communication/index.htm>

- **English website:** AIFO has an English section of its website designed and managed completely in house in the medical support office. Apart from books, manuals and documents related to leprosy, primary health care, community based rehabilitation, etc. the web site has the following specific sections: archives of **leprosy mailing list** managed by Dr Salvatore Noto (<http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/lml-archives/index.htm>); from 2002 onwards all the issues of **Asia Pacific Disability and Rehabilitation journal** and other related publications of the APDRJ published from Bangalore India (<http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/apdrj/journal.htm>); **online courses** on leprosy, community-based rehabilitation (CBR), Buruli ulcer, etc. http://www.aifo.it/english/resources/online/courses/online_courses.htm).

- **Collaboration with Universities and students:** The collaboration includes lessons on specific themes such as leprosy, tropical diseases, development, community-based rehabilitation, etc. as well as support to students for guidance, literature search, field visits, organisation of data collection, etc. for the preparation of undergraduate and post-graduate level thesis.
- **Documentation centre at AIFO office:** AIFO has a documentation centre that is open to students and researchers. This centre provides access to books, journals, audio-visual materials, etc. related to leprosy, community based rehabilitation, WHO publications, etc.

2. ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

“The problem of North-South relations is not that the South does not have words, but that the North does not have ears” (A partner in Kenya)

2.1. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

2.1.1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF DELEGATE MEMBERS

The General National Assemblies of AIFO in 2006 were held on 10-11 June in Frascati and on 25-26 November in Rome.

2.1.2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AIFO

The Board of Directors of AIFO is composed of following members: Aprile Dino, Colizzi Francesco (**Presidente**), Gravina Luigi (**Vicepresidente**), Minotti Emanuela (**Vicepresidente**), Lanfaloni Maria Assunta, Pupulin Enrico, Vassallo Giovanni.

2.1.3. REGIONAL COORDINATIONS OF AIFO

There are 10 Regional Coordinations of AIFO in Italy. There were 4 meetings during 2006 between the Board of Directors and Regional Coordinators on 14 May (Rome), 10 June (Frascati), 14-15 October (Bologna) and 25 November (Rome).

2.1.4. WORKING GROUPS

AIFO's Working Groups provide an opportunity to AIFO's groups spread all over Italy to interact and provide their views on strategies of AIFO. Each Regional Coordination nominates a member to each Working Group, composed also by Board members and some staff members from the head-office of AIFO in Bologna.

In 2006, there were six active Working Groups – Commercial Activities; Education & Training activities; Communication and Fund Raising; International Development Cooperation; Young members of AIFO; and, collecting and sending materials to projects.

2.1.5. AIFO MEMBERS & GROUPS

At the end of 2006, there were 52 official groups of AIFO with a total of 882 registered members. The groups are spread all over Italy including in the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

The groups are subdivided in to 10 regions, each with its own regional coordination. Each group has a reference person (group leader) and can send delegates to General Assembly in proportion to its number of registered members. Around 60% of group reference persons are women.

2.2. DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Development education means activities for information, awareness raising and education of general public on themes of justice, north-south relations, development, poverty, etc.

AIFO promotes different initiatives of development education that ask for an individual engagement, acceptance of opening oneself to others, till “others” can be recognised as persons, bearing their own significant and meaningful cultural and historical notions that have their own dignity of expression. The aim of these development education initiatives to equip the persons with essential notions for living I today’s world, that is characterized by inter-dependence between peoples and rapid diffusion of economic, cultural and technological globalisation, through information on themes of inter-culture and a responsible global consciousness. This follows the inspiration of AIFO’s founder, the late French journalist Mr. Raoul Follereau who had called for a “civilisation of love”.

The majority of development education activities promoted by AIFO are focused on schools through refresher courses for school teachers, thematic learning modules for students, twinning between Italian schools and schools in the developing countries where AIFO supports development projects. There are some activities aimed at more general public through initiatives such as summer camps for adults and families, learning visits to AIFO’s projects in developing countries, exhibitions, seminars, thematic meetings, etc.

During 2006, the significant initiatives of development education including the following:

2.2.1. REFRESHER COURSES FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

Two specific refresher courses for school teachers, recognised by Ministry of Education of Italy were organised in 2006:

- A course in the north-western city of Imperia, held from 23 February to 23 March 2006, titled “Not just words”.
- A course in the south-eastern city of Andria (BA), held from 23 February to 14 March 2006, titled “Negated Rights in South and Prospects for a Change”.

2.2.2. MEETINGS WITH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Meetings with school children are organised with all the different levels of schools in different cities where official AIFO groups are present. Often such meetings also involve other NGOs and institutions present locally. The methodology of intervention can vary from usual lecture kind of presentations to more interactive role plays, simulations,

witnesses from persons coming from developing world, films, slides, etc. AIFO itself produces many of the audio-visual and learning materials used for such meetings. Some of the significant initiatives in 2006 involving school children included the following:

- Meeting on International cooperation in Salvemini technical & Professional institute in Casalecchio di Reno (BO) as part of the initiative “23 March, lessons of peace”.
- Lesson on “Disability & International Cooperation” at the course on Disability and Human Rights at University of Padova, on 20 March 2006.
- Lesson on “Health & Participation – example from Community-based rehabilitation” during the module on Global Health, organised by Department of Medicine and Public Health of Bologna University, on 21 March 2006.
- Two meetings on “models of micro-development and autonomous growth in developing countries – example of Grameen Bank” for students of science high school Amoretti and Cassini high school, in Sanremo on 27 & 28 March 2006.
- Lesson on “Role of anthropology in development cooperation” for students of anthropology at Bologna University on 18 April 2006.
- Meeting with students of Institute of Communication Sciences of Barberigo of Montefiascone (VT) on international cooperation, on 26 May 2006.
- Meeting with students of Giulio Cesare high school on “Forgotten diseases – challenges” in Rome, on 27 May 2006.
- Lesson on “role of third sector in economy” for students of economy at University of Florence on 27 October 2006.
- Lesson on “How to face risk – health information for a safe experience in a project” as part of module on “Upside down world – adding value to your experience in a developing country” at department of Medicine and Public Health at Bologna University, on 14 December 2006.



2.2.3. PROJECTS OF INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

- School competition “On the wings of Peace” for primary and middle school students, Castelvetro (TP), January 2006.
- Inter-cultural learning module on the theme, “Immigration and relationships with different cultures” for higher secondary school children, Andria (BA), January-June 2006.

- Inter-cultural learning module on “Negated human rights of children” for students of primary schools, Andria (BA), September-December 2006.
- Inter-cultural learning module on the theme, “Fight against poverty and right to health: Understanding and working with the world of international cooperation” for students of high schools, Rome September-December 2006.
- Learning module on interdependent world on the theme “Travels in South of the World” for students of high schools, Rome, January-April 2006.
- Learning module on interdependent world on the theme “I wish a world shaped like a heart” for the students of primary schools, Chioggia (VE), January-May 2006.
- As part of the initiative “Down the hands from children”, a series of meetings in schools and diocese of Padova province, Due Carrare (PD), May-June 2006.

In addition, regular support is provided to teachers and educators through a column on inter-cultural education in AIFO’s monthly magazine *Amici dei Lebbrosi*. This column provides information about teaching instruments, suggested modules of teaching and exchange of experiences on the theme.

2.2.4. TWINNING

As part of educational activities, school children have the possibility to make direct contact with other cultures by twinning experiences with schools in the countries where AIFO supports development projects. Twinning experiences are used to share stories and experiences about daily lives of the students. During 2006, the following twinning experiences were carried out:

- Saint Joseph’s School Manikbond (Assam – India) with high school of “G. Chiarini – C. De Lollis”, Chieti;
- Nayee Asha School (Uttar Pradesh - India) with Primary school of Dolceacqua (IM);
- Fath Academy School, Korogocho (Kenia) with 3^o teaching circle of Vasto (CH);
- Scuola di Gardnerville (Liberia) with “Don Aldo Mei” Institute of San Leonardo in Treponzio (LU).

2.2.5. EXHIBITIONS

- Abunté, exhibition of African Handicraft objects was held by Saveriani Missionaries in Brescia from 8 November 2006 to 16 January 2007, as part of the initiative “Unmasking Africa”.
- Mongolia exhibition was organised in Cengio by the AIFO’s Regional Coordination in Liguria on 12 November 2006.

2.2.6. INTERNSHIP

During the year, AIFO provides opportunities of internship to school and university students, especially from Bologna city and neighbouring places. During 2006, internships included seven students of Leonardo da Vinci school and five students of Laura Bassi school.

2.3. TRAINING ACTIVITIES

During the year, in collaboration with groups in Italy and with partners in developing countries, AIFO organises a number of training activities that include seminars,

workshops, formal training courses, summer camps, meetings, study visits to projects, etc. These activities reached thousands of persons in 2006.

Some of the more significant training activities included the following: presentation of the prize winning AIFO documentary “India – the big sister” made by a journalist from Italian state TV RAI, Mr. Filippo Vendemmiati in 12 different cities of Italy; lessons for medical students on issues of tropical diseases, leprosy, global health, development, etc. in universities of Bologna, Florence, Pavia, Brescia, etc.; meeting on Women with Disability & Sexuality in collaboration with WHO (World Health Organisation) and DPI (Disabled Peoples International); international conference on Family & Citizenship organised by Veneto region of Italy; organisation of a series of meetings in different cities on promotion of inclusion as part of a European joint project on “Mainstreaming of Disability in European Co-operation policies”; international woman of the year award (Soroptimist award) by Valle d’Aosta region of Italy for Ms. Sarmila Shrestha from WATCH Nepal; south Asian regional meeting on traditional medicine in Bangalore (India) in collaboration with Italian NGO called COE and Italian Foreign Ministry; 5 training weekends for regional coordinators of AIFO; summer camp course for adults and families on voluntarism; orientation course for future volunteers in developing countries, in collaboration with two other Italian NGOs, CEFA and Amici dei Popoli; and, study visits in Mongolia and India.

2.4. DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROJECTS PRESENTED TO ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OR EUROPEAN UNION

Development education projects that concluded in 2006 or are on-going included the following – first festival of international development cooperation, in collaboration with other NGOs of Emilia Romagna region; Mainstreaming of Disability in Development Cooperation, jointly with Light of the World (Austria), co-funded by European Union; Traditional Medicine for reaching the goal of Health for All in collaboration with COE (Italy), co-funded by Italian Foreign Ministry; Millennium Development goals and decentralised cooperation, in collaboration with CESTAS (Italy), co-funded by Italian Foreign Ministry.

2.4.2. PRODUCTION OF NEW BOOKS & AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

AIFO regularly produces books, printed materials, exhibitions, audio-visuials, etc. Most of this material is in Italian, however some specific materials for developing countries are also produced. Some of the more significant materials produced during 2006 included the following: publication of the bilingual book in English and Italian, “Mahila – stories of women from Nepal” as part of EU funded project in Nepal; a learning module for school children “This world is for all of us”; an interactive multi-media exhibition, “Giving back childhood” on rights of children; a DVD about the biannual conference of AIFO held in October 2005.

3. COMMUNICATION & ITS INSTRUMENTS

Communication is a key aspect of AIFO’s activities. Different instruments of communication produced by AIFO include the following: monthly magazine in Italian Amici dei Lebbrosi printed in 60,000 copies each month; newsletter AF Informazioni for groups and active members in the field; website www.aifo.it updated daily; electronic newsletter AIFO News sent to about 700 addresses twice a month.

Some specific communication events include the campaign on world leprosy day (WLD) in January each other. Over the past few years WLD is celebrated by sale of honey in city squares, under the initiative called “solidarity honey”. In January 2006, more than 3,000 volunteers were mobilised to make WLD stands in 720 city squares. Another specific initiative lined to WLD was organisation of the tour of African Footsteps involving a dance and music group of composed of disabled persons from Ghana. Partners from five countries in Africa were invited to Italy in January 2006 to speak in meetings and workshops as testimonials of the projects supported by AIFO.

4. FUND COLLECTION

AIFO has a data base of about 270,000 persons/bodies from which around 25,000 were donors active in 2006 including individuals, families, diocese, etc.

Many of the events related to WLD mentioned above under communication had key importance for fund-raising of AIFO. Other fund-raising activities included three campaigns of direct mailing. To find new donors a folder was distributed to the readers of a weekly magazine called Famiglia Cristiana. Thirteen AIFO groups collaborated for another campaign called Giving back Childhood. For Christmas, persons are invited to contribute for AIFO’s projects.

As far as fund collection from commercial enterprises is concerned, AIFO has its guidelines for working with private companies, approved by its General Assembly in 2004 after three years of discussions. Thus AIFO’s fund collection from commercial companies is very recent and during 2006, contributions were accepted from the following Italian companies – Fratelli Carli – Linea Mediterranea, company based in city of Imperia, is involved in production of olive oil, tuna fish, vinegar, vines and natural cosmetics and is supporting AIFO’s work in Mozambique; & Telecom Spa, based in Puglia region is involved in production of thermoplastic materials.

AIFO Annual Balance 2006

ACTIVE	2006	2005	PASSIVE	2006	2005
FIXED ASSETS			NET PATRIMONY		
<i>Non Tangible Assets</i>			<i>Free Patrimony</i>		
Concessions, licences, rights	8.029	13.059	Available fund	20.518	97.453
<i>Tangible Assets</i>			<i>Bound patrimony</i>		
Land & Building	473.901	495.332	Patrimony for projects	2.787.740	3.640.406
Equipment etc.	44.877	54.420	Bound reserve	1.142.602	1.200.000
Other assets	12.992	17.666	Total net patrimony	3.950.860	4.937.859
<i>Financial Investments</i>			Risk fund and costs		
Participations	8.041	8.041	Misc. fund	233.669	150.000
Bank titles as guarantee	492.738	801.588	Risk fund project accounting	156.854	129.972
Total Assets	1.040.578	1.390.106	Total risk fund and costs	390.523	279.972
CURRENT ASSETS			Staff social fund	388.606	411.846
<i>Final residuals</i>			Debts		
Promotional materials	56.538	10.478	Suppliers	166.120	118.513
<i>Short-term credits projects</i>			Other debts	135.591	131.394
Credits from other associations	596.710	691.051	Debts towards providence inst.	47.913	51.107
Credit from It. Foreign Ministry	856.827	695.797	Tax debts	41.331	43.623
Credit from Intern. bodies	298.442	547.104	Total debts	390.955	344.637
Credit from local bodies	69.087	75.386	Passive carryovers	1.376.292	2.542.473
<i>Long term credits projects</i>			Total passives	2.546.376	3.578.928
Credits from other associations	0	65.548	TOTAL PASSIVE & NET PATRIMONY	6.497.236	8.516.787
Credits from Intern. bodies	238.000	746.228	Order accounts		
Credits from EU	0	254.134	Funds to be sent to projects	4.173.165	6.215.508
<i>Other credits</i>			Funds for Dev Edu. (short)	98.400	-
Credits on donations	166.172	85.146	Titles for bank guarantee	492.738	500.000
Other credits	23.581	26.868	Total order accounts	4.764.303	6.715.508
<i>Testaments</i>					
Testaments and mat. donation	1.425.583	1.542.232			
<i>Non fixed financial activities</i>					
Investments	1.037.769	1.687.670			
<i>Available cash</i>					
Cash box	46.502	49.383			
Bank & post	636.736	630.456			
Total circulating income	5.451.947	7.107.481			
Carry overs	4.711	19.200			
TOTAL ACTIVE	6.497.236	8.516.787			

Annual balance 2006 certified by Price Waterhouse & Cooper