

# **Dignity, Participation & Inclusion**



**AIFO Annual Report 2009**





Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)  
Annual Report 2009  
Prepared by Medical & Scientific Support Office  
June 2010

Cover image by Prof. Luigi Gravina  
Other Images from AIFO Archives

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Staff at AIFO Head-office in Bologna

Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO) is an Italian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), registered with Italian Health Ministry. It is recognized by Italian Foreign Ministry and European Commission, and has a Framework Partnership Agreement with ECHO. AIFO is in official relationship with World Health Organisation. The head-office of AIFO is in Via Borselli 4-6, 40135 Bologna, Italy, tel. +39-051-4393.211. Email: [info@aifo.it](mailto:info@aifo.it) and Website: <http://www.aifo.it/english/> (A longer version of this report is available on this website).

## Message from AIFO's President

Dear readers,

Welcome to the AIFO annual report 2009.



During the past year, a long lasting and aggressive economic crisis has enlarged the poverty of various South Countries of the world. This means more famines, less education for children, more untreated illnesses, more pain and solitude, and more early deaths.

The economic crisis has also been tough for us in Italy, where many families have been touched by greater difficulties, loss of many jobs, greater job insecurity and existential insecurity. For Italy, last year was also the year of earthquake in Abruzzo region, for which people donated widely and generously. It was an year of emergencies, of our combined dreams jolted by recurrent common nightmares.

It was also an year of struggles for our fund raising in support of projects, perhaps because our project support work is not related to emergencies, it is planned thinking of medium and long term impact, and has a low emotional impact on the public.

We have initiated our internal discussions on our second Strategic and Programme plan for the period 2011-2015. In 2011, we are going to celebrate 50 year of AIFO. Our aim is for maintaining the commitment for a world without leprosy and continuing our fight against “all leprosy of the world” as inspired by Raoul Follereau. To accomplish this task we need everyone to join together, the new and old members, our volunteers and our future friends, all are important and essential for taking AIFO in new directions and strengths.

I look forward to continuing partnerships with you, for helping to create “new dawns”, as Raoul Follereau used to say, for and together with the most marginalized persons.

Dr. Francesco Colizzi  
President AIFO

**AIFO's Board:** AIFO is a Grassroots organization with 66 official groups, organized in 11 regional coordinations and regional assemblies, who elect a seven member board every 3 years. Next elections of the Board are due in May 2011. Apart from the President of the Board, Dr Colizzi, other members of the Board are: Prof. Luigi Gravina (Vice-president), Ms. Anna Maria Bertino, Dr. Enrico Pupulin, Mr. Giulio Marchetti, Ms. Michela di Gennaro & Mr. Sergio Zovini.

# AIFO's International Project Activities in 2009



AIFO's projects of Development Cooperation and Emergency actions in Africa, Asia and South America have been implemented in 2009 on the basis of our “ **Guidelines for Promoting and Managing AIFO's Initiatives Abroad**”. These Guidelines are also available on our website. As a result of a rationalization process of AIFO activities, the number of AIFO supported projects has reduced from 115 in 2008 to 103 in 2009, with impact on the number of persons benefiting from the activities of these projects.

AIFO manages project-initiatives on the basis of “**Country Programmes**” and on the basis of “Action Plans”, agreed with local partners, usually for three years. In countries where number of projects is more, AIFO Country Coordinators are present. Their role is to ensure correct development of activities, facilitate monitoring and evaluation processes, consolidate local partnerships, identify new priority actions and to balance the actions in terms of typologies and beneficiaries.

During 2009, AIFO supported projects in 26 countries – 13 countries in Africa, 3 countries in Latin America and 10 countries in Asia. Ever since it started in 1961, AIFO's project activities have developed around the central theme of leprosy. With time, rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities due to leprosy and interventions for their children, have been extended to persons with other disabilities and to disadvantaged children. AIFO promotes the 3 kinds of project activities:

- Leprosy and Primary Health Care (PHC)
- Rehabilitation of persons with physical, mental and social disabilities
- Marginalized children.

**Fighting leprosy and its causes** is still a priority for AIFO. Actions of leprosy control are integrated in Primary Health Care Services . These activities are coordinated with International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and are integrated in primary health care. During 2009, AIFO supported 63 interventions in leprosy control and PHC.

AIFO also promotes community-based, multi-sectoral actions of **rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**. It collaborates with WHO (World Health Organization) and IDDC (International Disability and Development Consortium). During 2009, AIFO supported 24 interventions of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

AIFO also promotes initiatives in favour of **marginalized children**. In 2009, AIFO supported 13 initiatives related to marginalized children.

**Leprosy diagnosis and treatment:** During 2009, a total of **33,143 new cases** of leprosy were diagnosed in projects supported by AIFO.

The new global leprosy control strategy approved by WHO proposes community-based rehabilitation (CBR) as the most suitable strategy for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities due to leprosy. Apart from promoting inclusion of persons affected with leprosy in the CBR programmes, AIFO also supports specific rehabilitation actions including ulcers treatment, physiotherapy, rehabilitative surgery, procurement of material and orthopaedic equipment, etc. In 2009, more than **38 thousand persons** with complications due to leprosy benefited from these activities.

In endemic Countries various local associations of persons with leprosy have been constituted. They are the key partners of AIFO in promoting advocacy against stigma and discrimination and for fights for respect of their rights. In 2009, AIFO collaborated with 4 local associations of persons affected with leprosy. In addition, in 2009 more than **24 thousand persons** and their families have benefited from socio economic rehabilitation activities.

In most endemic countries, leprosy programs are part of **Primary Health Care (PHC)**. Often, AIFO supported projects are located in isolated and poor areas where health services are limited or missing. For this reason, AIFO supports leprosy control projects as part of PHC services, including mother and child programmes, malnutrition, other diseases due to poverty including neglected diseases such as, filariasis, African tripanosomiasis, leishmaniosis, etc. In 2009, AIFO supported PHC activities reached more than **156 thousand persons**.

### **Beneficiaries of AIFO Supported Projects (2009)**

<b>Kind of Activities</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Latin America</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Leprosy diagnosi &amp; treatment</b>	1,315	9,057	22,771	33.143
<b>Care for leprosy related complications</b>	506	17,286	20.268	38.060
<b>Socio-economic rehabilitation</b>	29	20	479	528
<b>Construction, repairs of houses</b>	-	-	360	360
<b>Formal &amp; informal education</b>	-	-	441	441
<b>Other beneficiaries of leprosy related activities</b>	604	2,555	19.929	23.088
<b>Primary Health Care</b>	32.877	-	123,686	156.553
<b>Total beneficiaries of leprosy &amp; PHC activities</b>	<b>35.321</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>187.934</b>	<b>252.173</b>
<b>Community-based Rehabilitation</b>	6.394	314	128.620	135.328
<b>Community development</b>	897	-	21,783	22,680
<b>Marginalized children</b>	2.170	200	28,894	31.264
<b>Total other beneficiaries</b>	<b>9.461</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>179.297</b>	<b>189.272</b>
<b>BENEFICIARIES 2009</b>	<b>44.782</b>	<b>29.432</b>	<b>367.231</b>	<b>441.445</b>

*Note: Some project data is missing*

AIFO privileges **Community Based rehabilitation (CBR)** strategy in projects focused on persons with disabilities. CBR is based on principles of participation, dignity and inclusion, involves all groups of persons with disabilities and promotes actions in 5 fields as explained in the CBR Matrix – health, education, occupation, social, emancipation. In 2009, more than **135 thousand persons** with disabilities, among them about 29% children, have benefited from AIFO supported Community Based Rehabilitation initiatives.

In 2009, AIFO supported projects for **Marginalized Children**, provided activities for health care, education and food-integration, and reached around **31 thousand children**.

**Co-fundings:** In 2009, AIFO directly managed 3 projects co-funded by Italian Foreign Ministry in Tocantins/Brazil, six provinces of Vietnam and Yunnan/China; and one project co-funded by European Union (in Mongolia). Additional three projects received c-funding from Italian Bishops' Conference and ten projects in different countries including Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique & Nepal, received co-funding from regional, provincial and local Governments in Italy.

**Country offices:** During 2009, there were **five country coordinator offices** of AIFO in Bangalore/India, Goiania/Brazil, Kinshasa/Democratic Rep. of Congo, Ulaan Baatar/Mongolia and Hanoi/Vietnam. In addition, there were **other country offices** of AIFO with staff for project management in Guinea Bissau, China, Kenya and Brazil.

**ILEP collaborations** included co-fundings with AFRF/France, DAHW/Germany, DFB/Belgium, Fairmed/Switzerland, FL/Luxembourg, Fontilles/Spain and SLC/Canada. Collaboration with **other non-governmental organizations** included DPI/Italy, Educaid/Italy, APRF/Portugal, Solidarietà e Servizio/Italy and Mãos Unidas/Portugal.

**Emergency projects:** AIFO signed the Framework Partnership Agreement with Humanitarian Office of European Commission (ECHO) in 2002. This agreement was renewed in 2007, for the period 2008-2012. During 2009, the most important emergency support projects managed by AIFO were in Goma/Democratic Republic of Congo (civil war) and northern part of Vietnam (following the Kammuri cyclone).

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# Medical and Scientific Support Activities in 2009



**International Collaborations:** In February 2009, AIFO coordinated the organization of 3 International training workshops on leprosy, mental health and Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), during the First CBR Congress held in Bangkok. People from 30 countries participated at these workshops. Different international partners collaborated in this effort. Collaborations with Disability and Rehabilitation team of WHO during 2009, also included the preparation of new CBR Guidelines and the World Report on Disability.

During 2009, AIFO participated in the WHO meeting on new **Global Strategy for Leprosy Control** for the period 2011-2015, and collaborates with Global Leprosy Programme of WHO through the ILEP Technical Commission.

AIFO continues to support the International **Leprosy Mailing List**, managed by Dr. Salvatore Noto. The archives of this electronic mailing list are available on AIFO website. AIFO website also hosts the **Asia Pacific Disability & Rehabilitation journal**.

In 2008, AIFO initiated an important research initiative looking at the impact of CBR in Mandya district in India, called **S-PARK/CBR Research**. This initiative involves different partners including WHO/DAR, different universities, international experts, DPI, etc. This research will be expected to conclude in 2012 and is geared towards improving our understanding of implementation and challenges of community-based rehabilitation.

During 2009, the **Quantitative Research component** of S-PARK/CBR in Mandya district was initiated with organization of a Scientific Advisory Group meeting in Bangalore in April 2009, finalization of research questionnaires and field survey for collecting the information.

Another multi-country research project initiated in 2009 was related to understanding the training and **learning needs of CBR workers**, in terms of the CBR Matrix, as proposed by the Disability and Rehabilitation team of World Health Organisation (WHO/DAR). 13 CBR projects from 7 countries participated in this research. All the data collected from this exercise has been put in a data analysis software and the analysis is being completed.

A textbook on leprosy in Italian (**Note di Leprologia**) written by Prof. Enrico Nunzi and Prof. Cesare Massone was published by AIFO. Together with Italian Society of Medical Students, visits to projects were organized and 13 university level students received support for their thesis work related to leprosy/CBR.

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# Education, Training & Cultural Activities in Italy



The **annual summer camp** organized by AIFO continues to be an important moment for capacity building of persons from the different AIFO groups. In 2009, the summer camp had 46 participants coming from 15 AIFO groups.

**Study visits** to the projects were organized in Mongolia and India. The study visit to Mongolia was limited to official delegates of AIFO groups and had the aim of learning about the community-based rehabilitation approach. The study visit in India was open to persons interested in learning about AIFO's work and included visits to AIFO supported projects in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

During 2009, AIFO also received the **official recognition from the Ministry of Education** regarding the training of school teachers. In November 2009, in collaboration with other NGOs, AIFO organized a series of workshops on project cycle and project management. In collaboration with Disabled Peoples International (DPI) and Province of Milan, AIFO was involved in organization of final event on human rights at the provincial legislative assembly.

On the occasion of World Disability Day, together with health department of Imola and school of physiotherapy, a seminar on "Resources for autonomy" was organized.

AIFO continues to be part of a dense **network of activities** with a series of partners all over the country, in initiatives that involve different AIFO groups and continue through out the year. During the year, significant collaborations and events were organized with Italian scouts movement (AGESCI), Popular Ethical bank, Alternative Trade organizations, Astalli center of Rome, Rita Levi Montalcini foundation, national institute for promotion of health of immigrants, etc.

12 AIFO groups were involved in organization of **training courses** in 51 schools, while 3 series of refresher courses for school teachers were also organized.

In collaboration with Association representing persons affected with leprosy, IDEA International, ILEP and the congregation of Fathers of Sacred Heart, AIFO participated in the **canonization ceremony of Fr Damien** in the Vatican and organized a series of events in that occasion, including a visit to the house of the Italian President and a meeting with Ambassador Donato Marra.

Twenty third biannual **international conference of AIFO** was organized in Assisi, its theme was "Walk of the marginalized persons towards universal citizenship".

A number of initiatives were in relation to the **World Leprosy Day** in January 2009, including the sale of "honey of solidarity" in almost one thousand city squares.

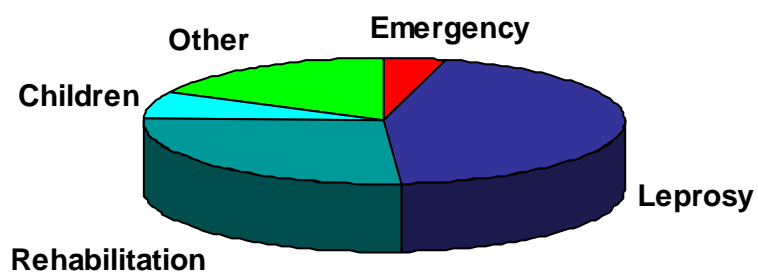
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# Annual Balance 2008 and 2009

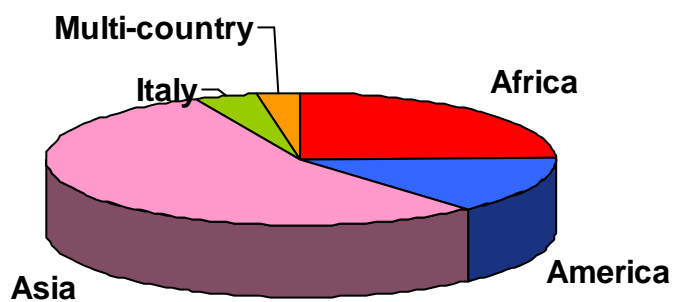
ACTIVE	2009	2008	PASSIVE	2009	2008
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			<b>NET PATRIMONY</b>		
<i>Non Tangible Assets</i>			<i>Free Patrimony</i>		
Concessions, licences, rights	19.957	2.218	Available fund	1.041.340	2.759.483
<i>Tangible Assets</i>			Re-evaluation reserve	848.958	848.958
Land & Building	951.904	1.280.000	Advance/loss of management	196.500	833
Equipment etc.	16.346	25.742	<i>Bound patrimony</i>		
Other assets	11.514	17.555	Patrimony for projects	1.983.237	1.114.053
<i>Financial Investments</i>			Bound reserve	600.000	600.000
Participations	9.984	8.566	<b>Total net patrimony</b>	<b>4.670.036</b>	<b>4.473.535</b>
Bank titles as guarantee	0	0	<b>Risk fund and costs</b>		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1.009.705</b>	<b>1.334.082</b>	Misc. fund	-	10.000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			Risk fund project accounting	39.027	47.617
<i>Final residuals</i>			<b>Total risk fund and costs</b>	<b>39.027</b>	<b>57.617</b>
Promotional materials	12.340	21.183	<b>Staff social fund</b>	<b>430.263</b>	<b>413.459</b>
<i>Short-term credits projects</i>			<b>Debts</b>		
Credits from other associations	519.679	560.850	Suppliers	122.739	135.994
Credit from It. Foreign Ministry	495.547	799.186	Other debts	126.503	110.321
Credit from Intern. Bodies	146.873	195.159	Debts towards providence inst.	47.985	46.850
Credit from local bodies	91.827	74.928	Tax debts	44.797	35.260
Credit for contributions through groups	40.366	32.016	<b>Total debts</b>	<b>342.024</b>	<b>328.425</b>
<i>Long term credits projects</i>			<b>Passive carryovers</b>	<b>1.470.125</b>	<b>2.270.337</b>
Credits from other associations	216.850	58.350	<b>Total passives</b>	<b>2.281.440</b>	<b>3.069.838</b>
Credits from Italian For. Min.	337.391	337.391	<b>TOTAL PASSIVE &amp; NET PATRIMONY</b>	<b>6.951.476</b>	<b>7.543.373</b>
Credits from Inter. Bodies	223.264	413.732	<b>Order accounts</b>		
Credits from local bodies	0	20.000	Funds to be sent to projects (short)	3.017.837	2.499.766
<i>Other credits</i>			Funds to be sent to projects (long)	591.496	1.059.456
Credits on donations	1.695	2.552	Funds for Dev Edu. (short)	48.376	41.217
Other credits	120.160	121.592	<b>Total commitments for projects</b>	<b>3.657.708</b>	<b>3.600.439</b>
<i>Testaments</i>			<b>Guarantees given</b>		
Testaments and mat. Donation	914.801	1.591.315	Titles as bank guarantees	-	-
<i>Non fixed financial activities</i>			<b>Guarantees received</b>		
Investments	1.304.997	991.782	Received from third parties	166.574	
<i>Available cash</i>			<b>Total guarantees received</b>	<b>166.574</b>	
Cash box	37.631	43.636			
Bank & post	1.457.689	929.116			
<b>Total circulating income</b>	<b>5.921.110</b>	<b>6.192.789</b>			
<b>Carry overs</b>	<b>20.660</b>	<b>16.503</b>			
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE</b>	<b>6.951.476</b>	<b>7.543.373</b>			

**Certified by Ernest & Young, and approved by AIFO General Assembly on 30 May 2010**

## Expenditure 2009 according to type of project



## Expenditure 2009 according to Geographical areas



**AIFO takes this opportunity to thank all our partners for their support and collaboration**



**Dignity, Participation & Inclusion**

