

AIFO ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE

2019





Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)

Organisation for International Health Cooperation

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Non-Governmental Organisation since 1961; in Official Relationship with the World Health Organisation Recognised as training organisation by Italian Ministry of Education; University & Research, Founding member of FOCSIV – Volunteers Around the World, ILEP – International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, Circle of Solidarity Follereau-Damien, & IDDC – International Development & Disability Consortium; Legally recognised by DPR 561 of 03 July 1979; Recognised as international NGO for work in the developing countries by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) by decree 2016/337/00115/O of 4th April 2016

Annual Report & Social Balance 2019, Coordinated & Edited by AIFO

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Through our Social Balance, for the last 13 years, AIFO presents its projects and their outcomes in a transparent way so that all those who follow us can have all the information for understanding the reasons underlying the choices we make, our objectives and the impact of our work around the world.

The roots of our action and our inspirations comes from the past, from the life and ideas of Raoul Follereau, even while our activities adapt to the changing situations to ensure effectiveness.

Our long experience of working in the field of leprosy, in terms of health-care and especially in terms of working with marginalised and discriminated persons, has been a learning for our Association, that has guided us in our work with all the people and groups who are excluded and marginalised because of their “diversity”. The basic principle of our work is to contribute to the creation of inclusive communities which do not leave behind anyone – from persons affected with leprosy to vulnerable children, to women victims of violence and to persons with disabilities.

Today AIFO works together with the international solidarity networks as well as, with the local networks of organisations involved in community development, who can identify the aspects related to fragility and vulnerability of specific groups and build locally appropriate solutions.

The Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach combines human rights of persons with community development and ensures durable and sustainable changes, because they work with local communities and aim for lasting changes.

Over the past few years, in our interventions we have focused on aspects related to collaboration with local universities and promotion of south-to-south exchange of experiences, with a strengthening of national health systems, to improve the services in peripheral areas and hard-to-reach communities.

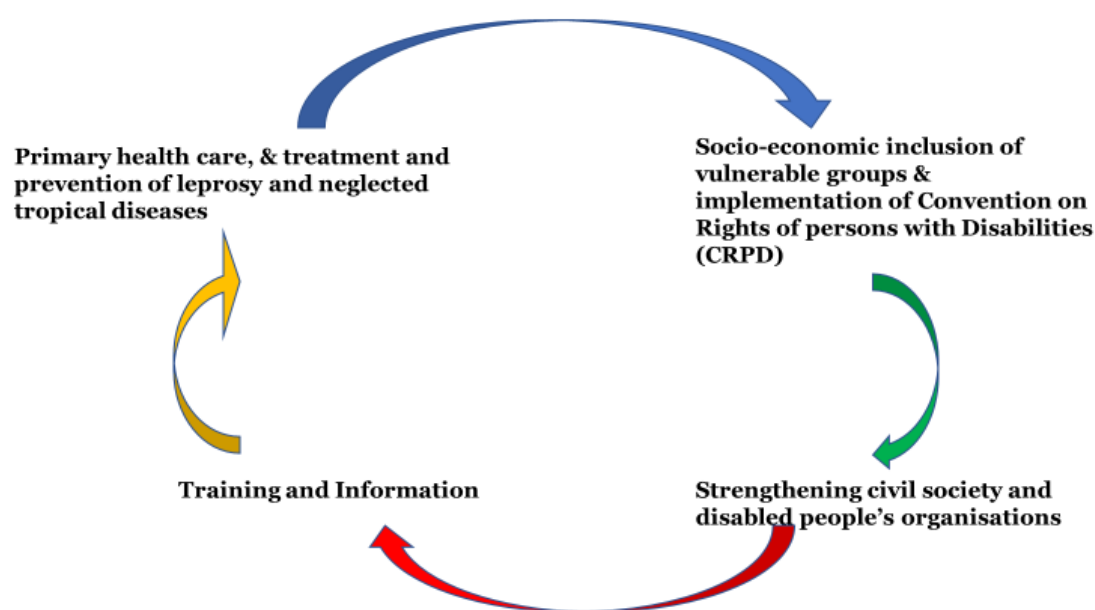
We have chosen a harder pathway, one that does not stop at bringing succour, but also promotes development without excluding anyone. We strive for promoting inclusion of marginalised and excluded persons in their own communities, so that human rights of everyone are respected.

Antonio Lissoni
President AIFO

ABOUT AIFO

Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO) is a NGO, active since 1961 in international cooperation programmes promoting social inclusion of and working together with the most marginalised and excluded groups.

AIFO is a grassroots organisation with around 15,000 supporters and 40 official groups in Italy. During 2019, it had 52 projects in 12 countries with around 326,112 beneficiaries. It has adopted the Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach, as shown in the graph below:



Specific Context

AIFO's work comes under the general framework of UN Agenda 2030, specifically under objective 3 – ensuring health and wellbeing for all and all age-groups, and objective 10 - reducing inequalities within and between nations. It works through international cooperation projects dealing with global health, environment and justice, and with the objective of strengthening practical approaches to sustainable development; though a global pact on secure migration and international protection of refugees; for a dialogue against xenophobia and exploitation; for strengthening the systems of integration; and for a Europe of hope, solidarity and hospitality.

In line with its work over the past 60 years in the area of disabilities due to leprosy, in all the countries where it works, AIFO is committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), for the participation and inclusion of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in all institutions involved in activities related to their human rights.

Mission e Vision



AIFO Strategic & Programmatic Plan

The on-going Strategic Plan of AIFO (2016 – 2020) will terminate in June 2020, and includes a general and six specific objectives.

General Objective

To implement programmes centred in social and health sectors, focusing on the fight against underdevelopment, poverty, malnutrition and marginalisation which lead to persistence and diffusion of serious conditions, especially leprosy as well as, physical, mental and social disabilities.

Specific Objectives

There are six specific objectives of the Strategic Plan, sub-divided in 2 groups:

(a) Focusing on Emerging Countries, especially Poor and Isolated Areas:

- To work for the elimination of leprosy through prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, integrated in the primary health services and through community involvement and action.
- To promote, sustain and coordinate rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development projects aimed at persons with disabilities & their organisations with a special attention towards persons with leprosy-related disabilities and towards persons facing marginalisation, poverty and exclusion, especially women and children in vulnerable situations.
- Promoting a culture of peace where rights of everyone are respected, where all have equal opportunities for human development in a context of social inclusion.

(b) Focusing on Italy and Other Resource Rich Areas:

- Promoting civil society campaigns to support our work in emerging countries.
- Promoting and nurturing European initiatives focusing on young persons, about inter-cultural education, citizenship, the difficult relationship between international cooperation and the complexity of migration. In this regard, organising training & learning opportunities for school teachers and health professionals.
- Promoting a culture of peace and a society where the rights of all the persons are respected, such as equal opportunities for human development in a context of social inclusion, with a special attention towards new poverties, disability and lack of self-sufficiency.

Along with the Strategic Plan, the General Assembly of AIFO also has the following 3 Programmatic Objectives:

- To strengthen the presence, identity and visibility of the Association and its activities in Italy and the world.
- To increase the efficiency and efficacy of its office, reduce its running costs, improve its organisation and the professionalism of its human resources.

- To increase the financial resources available for supporting its activities in Italy and in the world, and to strengthen the fund-collection for this purpose.

In 2017, the Board of Directors of AIFO had proposed the setting up of a foundation for improving the efficiency and efficacy of AIFO's work, which was approved by its General Assembly. Consequently, in 2019, the General Assembly of AIFO approved its new Statute which will become operative after its registration with RUNTS, the National Register for the Third Sector in Italy.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION & EMERGENCY PROJECTS

ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS

AIFO promotes initiatives in terms of Country-Programmes, each with its action-plans. Countries with a large number of on-going projects (India, Brazil and Mongolia) have a Coordination Office – in Brazil and India, these are two local organisations closely linked to AIFO – BRASA (Brasil Saúde e Ação) and Amici Trust/Aifo India. The staff of the coordination offices and the local associations, have multiple roles including development of activities of the country programme, information and communication, fund collection, feasibility studies, preparation of project reports, and networking with different partners and agencies, both local and international, engaged in similar areas of work.

Kind of Projects & Beneficiaries

There are 2 kinds of projects promoted by AIFO:

- Primary health care and community health care with a special attention towards the fight against leprosy including diagnosis, treatment, prevention & rehabilitation of related disabilities.
- Rehabilitation of persons with physical and psycho-social disabilities

Activities reaching out to children in vulnerable situations including children with leprosy, children with disabilities, and children living in remote areas with difficulties in accessing education and health services, are a specific target group for both kinds of above projects.

During 2019, AIFO supported 52 projects in 12 countries – 6 in Africa, 2 in central and south America and 4 in Asia. Information regarding kind of geographical areas, project-activities and partners is presented in the table below.

Table 1: AIFO Projects in Different Geographical Areas in 2019

Continents	N. of Projects
Africa	20
Asia	17
Centre & South America	12
Multi-country Projects	3
Total	52

Table 2: Kind of Activities in the AIFO Projects in 2019

Kind of Activities	N. of Projects
Leprosy/Primary Health Care	23
Rehabilitation	23
Coordination/Management projects	6
Total	52

Table 3: Different Kind of Partners in AIFO Projects in 2019

Kind of Partners	N. of Projects
NGO/Local Movements	14
Governments	14
Congregations/Faith based Organisations	4
Multiple Partners	14
Coordination/Management teams	6
Total	52

Table 4: Co-Funded Projects Managed by Other Organisations in Consortium with AIFO (active in 2019)

Project	Funding Organisation	Leading Partner	Duration
Mongolia: Closing the gap, a rights-based approach towards independent living for persons with disabilities	EU - EIDHR	Tegsh Niigem	2 yrs
Mongolia: Inspired+Mongolia	European Partnership for Democracy	Tegsh Niigem	15 months
Mongolia: Research on National Assistive Technology Capacity Assessment	Global Disability Hub	Tegsh Niigem	3 months
Brazil: Women's Voices – Creating a communication network of women with disabilities	Rehab. International	BRASA	1 yr
Maroc: Young persons as initiators of inclusive development	EU DEVCO	OVCI	3 yrs
Palestine: Let's Start Up – training women with disabilities for start-ups	AICS	Educ-aid	3 yrs
Multi-Country – Bridging the Gap II	EU (DCI-HUM)	FIIAPP	4 yrs
Mozambique: Prevention and Control of Non-Infective Diseases	AICS	CUAMM	3 yrs
Mozambique: Mother & Child health in Cabo Delgado	AICS	CUAMM	3 yrs

Table 5: Projects Funded by Regional & Local Authorities (active in 2019)

Funders	Sector	Project	Duration
Emilia Romagna region	Health, Rehabilitation, Development	Well-Being – Integrated Pathways to Health & Rural Development in Mozambique	1 yr
Emilia Romagna region	Primary Health Care	Intermediate Care: Comparison & Transference of Management Instruments between Italy & Brazil	1 yr
Agrate Brianza Municipality	Rehabilitation	Economic Independence & Social Emancipation of Women in Gabu, Guinea Bissau	6 months
Emilia Romagna region (with AVSI)	Health & Rehabilitation	Strengthening institutions & institutional governance in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique	1yr
Emilia Romagna region	Rehabilitation	VAI – Valorising autonomy & inclusion of young persons with disabilities in Mozambique	1 yr

Table 6: Projects Co-Funded by Italian Agency of Development Cooperation (active in 2019)

Project	Code	Started in	Duration
Liberia: Disability & Start-Up – When the civil society is leading inclusive development	AID 11516	2018	3 yrs
Guinea Bissau: No Kuida di nô mindjeres: Promoting autonomy of women for an inclusive society	AID 10953	2017	2 yrs
Guinea Bissau: Juntas – Women empowerment in Gabu region	AID 1884	2019	2 yrs
Mozambique: PIN - Participatory Pathways to Economic Inclusion of young persons with disabilities	AID 11460	2018	2 yrs

Table 7: Projects Co-Funded by International Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Others) and Donors

Project	Funder	Started in	Duration
Guinea Bissau: Community health for reducing neonatal, child & maternal mortality in Gabu	UNICEF/UE	2017	2 yrs
China: MIND – Mental health innovative training programme in Heilongjiang Province	US Embassy Beijing	2018	1 yr
China: Engaging civil society on human rights of persons with mental health conditions	US Embassy Beijing	2019	1 yr

Table 8: Project Co-Funded by 8x1000 (CEI, Valdese church & State management) Active in 2019

Project	Funder	Started in	Duration
India: Preventing sexual & Gender-based violence against women and girls in Assam state	Valdes Table	2018	1 yr
Guinea Bissau: Empowerment of women and food security in Gabu region	State management 8x1000	2018	1 yr

EMERGENCY PROJECTS

Earthquake in Nepal

Immediately following the earthquake on 25 April 2015, AIFO initiated the emergency humanitarian support intervention through Amici Trust India (Coordination office in India) in collaboration with Sumanahalli project in Bangalore which has previous experience in managing humanitarian support following natural disasters. An initiative was developed together with WATCH Nepal, a local partner active in community health & development. AIFO launched an emergency appeal for fund collection and these were transferred to Nepal through Amici Trust, which also supervised and monitored the field activities. In the first phase (2015) food, basic life support and temporary housing were provided for 300 poor families, which continued till 2018. In 2019, through WATCH Nepal, support was provided to 250 poor families for income generation activities, which will continue in 2020.

IDAI Cyclone in Mozambique

Floods following a tropical cyclone (IDAI) on 14th March 2019 had caused wide-spread destruction of homes, schools, health centres and other buildings, while the sources of drinkable water had become contaminated. A lot of infrastructure was damaged. The

worse-hit areas were in central part of Mozambique – in the provinces of Manica, Sofala and Zambezia. AIFO provided emergency help kits to families hit by the disaster. The help-kits included drinking water, seeds, home equipment, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, bags and tarpaulin. It was conducted between July to October 2019 in Manica province and 1,250 families received the kits.

UNICEF Supported Cyclone help in Mozambique

It was an inclusive emergency support project providing psychosocial and socio-economic support to persons with disabilities in areas hit by IDAI cyclone and the resulting floods in Manica province.

This project includes the following activities:

- Strengthening the community support systems through training of case managers and facilitators of self-help groups of persons with disabilities on emergency preparedness and support during disasters.
- Strengthening governmental and local humanitarian organisations through training on protection of persons with disabilities during emergencies and organisation of disability-inclusive support services based on the principles of human rights.
- Sensitising the communities through group discussions on needs of persons with disabilities during emergencies.
- Psychosocial support through sports and recreational activities to persons affected by the cyclone.

The project started in November 2019 will conclude in March 2020 and will directly benefit around one thousand persons with disabilities living in Manica province.

Migrations: Regional Initiative of Emergency in West Africa to strengthen resilience and protection of migrants and returning migrants (AICS/AID 11274)

Under the project “Mais Comunidade, Mais Força: Building inclusive communities for strengthening the resilience of persons vulnerable to risk of migration in Guinea Bissau”, Duration 18 months (1st October 2018 to 28th March 2020) in Boé e Sonaco e Gabù (Gabù region) and the national capital Bissau.

Through a participatory approach, the project aims to develop a programme of social and economic inclusion of persons at risk of migration, facilitating the re-integration of migrants returning back to their original villages. It contributes to controlling the irregular emigration from Guinea Bissau.

The activities of this project include:

- Development of local, inclusive and sustainable private sector through training on setting up start-ups and mini-enterprise and provision of seed-funds for starting income generation activities through small-scale enterprise.
- Protection of vulnerable population groups through creating a baseline data of returning migrants, facilitating creation of peer-support civil-society organisations, cultural and sports activities, and documenting good practices for sharing locally and in Italy.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES FROM AIFO'S PROJECTS

RERSUS & Intermediate Care Project in Brazil

It is presented as an example of innovative and best practices from projects developed by AIFO in 2019.

This project of Emilia Romagna region focuses on sharing of management instruments between Brazil and Italy. From 25 February to 3 March 2019, as apart of this project, a first seminar on intermediate level of health care was organised.

Intermediate care and territorial assistance are understood as care services outside the usual health infrastructure and usually involving community groups. Through territorial assistance, the health services, systems, processes, activities and professionals involved in community care, try to reach as close as possible to where people live. This project focuses on issues related to ageing and chronic conditions.

Demographic transition with ageing populations and increase in chronic conditions, has increased the importance of this issue. AIFO with its three decades of experience in community-based programmes could provide a specific input to this process. A photography exhibition "Territories in Dialogue" was organised.

In an exchange with the Brazilian health systems, the project reflected on the role of public health in reaching out to disadvantaged population groups starting from an



intermediate care approach already experimented in the health services of Emilia Romagna region, with the aim of promoting inclusion of marginalised and excluded population groups. Thus, the project became an opportunity for collaboration and exchange of ideas, experiences and expertise through activities of training, research and evaluation, and promoted an integration between hospital services,

community services and socio-familial domains of users for an optimisation of resources and reduction of wastage.

Similar models of services, which take their inspiration from AIFO's work in community-based rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development, can also be useful to test in disasters and emergency situations, in which communities and people's skills play a central role in finding solutions, to reach the more fragile and marginalised groups.

Fight Against Leprosy

In the World Health Organisation (WHO), today leprosy is included among the neglected diseases. It continues to be a significant problem in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. According to the WHO (2019), there were 208,619 new cases of leprosy in the world in 2018. India with 120,334 new cases topped the list, followed by Brazil (28,660 new cases) and Indonesia (17,017 new cases). Together these 3 countries represented 79.6% of total cases of leprosy in the world. Other countries with more than one thousand new cases in 2018 included Bangladesh, D. R. of Congo, Ethiopia, Philippines, Madagascar, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. As the following table shows, the reduction in the number of new cases between 2012 to 2018 has been very slow. Though the global data shows a small decrease in the total number of new cases compared to 2017, in 4 regions, there was a small increase. These small increases and decreases in the number of new cases in countries across the years may be related to operational reasons and are probably linked with a variable percentage of hidden cases in different regions.

Table 9: New Cases of Leprosy 2012-2018

Region	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Africa	20,599	20,911	18,280	21,219	20,705	20,828	20,586
America	36,178	33,084	33,276	28,806	27,368	29,127	30,957
Middle-East	4,235	1,680	2,342	2,167	2,858	3,563	4,338
SE Asia	166,445	155,385	154,834	156,118	163,094	153,487	148,495
W. Pacific	5,400	4,596	4,335	3,645	3,914	4,140	4,193
Europe	-	-	-	18	32	37	50
Total	232,857	215,656	213,067	211,973	217,971	211,182	208,619

For the fight against leprosy, AIFO follows the strategies decided by ILEP, the international federation of which AIFO is a founding member. These include – interrupting the chain of transmission, use of uniform MDT, chemo-prophylaxis with Rifampicin, disability prevention and promoting social inclusion of affected persons.

BENEFICIARIES OF AIFO PROJECTS IN 2019

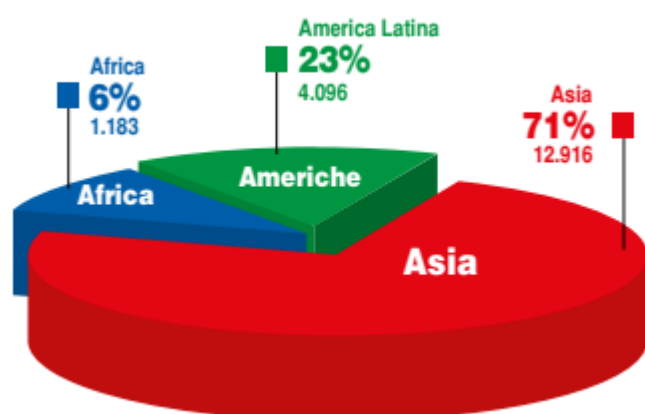
Every year AIFO collects some specific information from projects regarding the persons benefiting from the different project activities through some a standardised monitoring system. This allows a comparison of beneficiaries of AIFO projects across the years.

Table 10: Beneficiaries of AIFO Projects in 2019

Project Activities	Africa	Americas	Asia	Total
Diagnosis & treatment of leprosy	1,183	4,096	12,916	18,195
Care of leprosy-related complications	2,602	24,903	13,560	41,065
Socio-economic rehab & housing	36,370	8,526	103	44,999
Primary health care (PHC)	88,578	60,025	538	149,141
Total for leprosy & PHC	128,733	97,550	27,117	253,400
Community-Based Inclusive Development	4,643	49,911	1,950	56,504
Community Development	7,720	8,101	150	15,971
Children Projects	-	-	237	237
Total other beneficiaries	12,363	58,012	2,337	72,712
Grand Total 2019	141,096	155,562	29,454	326,112

Leprosy & Primary Health Care (PHC): During 2019, the following new cases of leprosy were diagnosed & treated in AIFO projects –

- 1,183 persons in Africa including 9.9% children and 84.1% MB cases
- 4,096 persons in Americas including 6.1% children and 76.3% MB cases
- 12,916 persons in Asia including 6.8% children and 57.2% MB cases



All together, there were 18,195 new cases of leprosy diagnosed and treated in AIFO projects in 2019. The percentage of children among the new cases remains substantially same over the past few years. However, in many countries the data collection is not completely reliable. The graph on the left presents the situation of new cases in AIFO projects in 2019.

Rehabilitation of Persons with leprosy-related

disabilities: The activities for the rehabilitation of persons with leprosy related disabilities are integrated in Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) projects, though there are a few specific projects as well. During 2019, a total of 41,065 persons with leprosy-related disabilities benefited from the following rehabilitation activities:

- Rehabilitation surgery including ophthalmic surgery - 3,912 persons
- Ulcer and wound care – 9,341 persons
- Protective footwear – 8,718 persons
- Treatment of neuritis and lepro-reactions -1,309 persons
- Provision of assistive products - 1,780 persons
- Members of self-help groups for prevention of disabilities – 1,403 persons

Today, majority of the old leprosariums have been closed and most persons receive services through day clinics and out-patient clinics. However, there are still a few old leprosariums where old and disabled persons are living as they are not able to live on their own. During 2019, AIFO provided support to 10,605 persons living in the old leprosariums.

An important activity for these projects is to promote community self-help groups where persons can provide peer support for prevention of new disabilities and avoiding worsening of existing disabilities.

Socio-Economic Rehabilitation: Social stigma and discrimination continue to be a serious issue of persons affected with leprosy. Therefore, socio-economic rehabilitation of affected persons is an important component of AIFO activities. During 2019, a total of 44,999 persons benefited from SE Rehabilitation, including the following specific activities:



- Micro-credits for income generation and skills training courses – 488 families
- House building or repair – 37 families
- Formal & informal education for children and adults – 44,029 persons

- Social assistance & food supplements – 445 persons

Primary Health Care:

AIFO's work for leprosy control is integrated into primary health and community health programmes, which provide additional services such as mother-and-child health and control of other tropical diseases. During 2019, the primary health care activities in AIFO supported projects benefited 149,141 persons, including the following activities:

- Persons with dermatological conditions 38,614 persons
- Respiratory infections 1,142 persons
- Intestinal parasitosis 1,832 persons
- Severe malnutrition 661 persons, mainly children
- Diarrhoea 620 persons, mainly children
- Anaemia 861 persons, mostly women

Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)

These projects are targeted at 2 main groups – persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups including poor persons and ethnic minorities. These

projects have a special focus on women and children. Some groups of persons with disabilities including persons with leprosy and persons with mental health problems, face greater barriers in benefiting from the development programmes and thus, the CBID project take extra-care for their inclusion.

During 2019, in the CBID projects supported by AIFO a total of 56,504 persons with disabilities benefited from the different activities including the following:

- 1,671 persons received assistive products
- 10,928 persons, mostly children, received scholarships for education
- 21,992 persons received loans and trainings for income generation
- 10,216 persons with disabilities received home visits of rehabilitation workers
- 12,378 persons became members of community Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- 7,890 persons were members of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)

Other vulnerable population groups benefiting from CBID projects were 15,971 persons including the following beneficiaries:

- 6,677 poor persons/families
- 1,580 ethnic minority groups
- 3,680 women
- 4,034 young persons and others

Vulnerable Children Projects

All the projects supported by AIFO have a special attention towards children, especially children affected with leprosy and children with disabilities. In the primary health care projects, children are among the chief beneficiaries (vaccinations, intestinal parasitosis, diarrhoea and respiratory infections). During 2019, 26,835 children benefited from AIFO activities, as shown in table 11.

Children in	Africa	Latin America	Asia	Total
Children Projects	-	237	-	237
Leprosy Projects	117	248	873	1,238
CBID Projects	45	32	6,067	6,144
Primary Health Care	19,124	-	92	19,216
Total	19,286	517	7,032	26,835

COMMUNICATION

Passing Away of Dr. Martinho Nhanca in Guinea Bissau

AIFO is sad to announce the passing away of Dr Martinho Nhanca, its representative in Guinea Bissau. Dr Martinho had been associated with AIFO over the past 30 years and was the only dermatologist of Guinea Bissau. His absence will be sorely felt in the Cumura hospital and by the persons affected with leprosy in the country. AIFO expresses its heartfelt condolences to Dr. Martinho's family and all the colleagues.

The image below shows Dr Martinho (standing) along with a group of leprosy affected persons.



SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES & COLLABORATIONS

Social & Health sector archives: AIFO hosts a documentation centre with old archives of documents, books, manuals and videos related to social and health sectors, from the second half of 20th century, most of which has not been digitalised. This material relates especially to the themes of disabilities and leprosy. It is available to students and researchers.

World Health Organisation (WHO): AIFO is in official relationship with the World Health Organisation and has on-going collaborations in the departments of disability & rehabilitation (DAR), assistive technology and neglected tropical diseases.

In 2017, AIFO had signed the joint action plan for 3 years with DAR (under Dr Alarcos Cieza), which defines the objectives and activities to be developed in relation to rehabilitation and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Following this agreement, different activities of exchange and workshops have been organised on the theme of Rehabilitation 2030 and specific instruments for use at community level. In 2019, AIFO participated in the international meeting of Rehabilitation 2030 and was part of 2 working groups for the preparation of guidelines (related to stroke and spinal cord lesions).

In 2019, AIFO also collaborated with WHO and Global Disability Innovation hub for carrying out national capacity assessment of assistive technology (ATA-C) in Mongolia.

International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP): Vice-President of AIFO, Dr Antonio Giovanni Farris, participated in the annual assembly of ILEP held in Greenville (USA) and in the international leprosy congress held in Manila (Philippines). The congress was a significant opportunity for specialists, scientists, researchers and field workers to share new developments in the fight against leprosy for reaching the goal of “Zero Leprosy”.

International Disability & Development Consortium (IDDC): IDDC promotes international development cooperation and humanitarian action for a world inclusive of persons with disabilities and the respect of their human rights. AIFO is part of different working groups in the federation including Inclusive Development, European Union and Health.

As part of IDDC, together with members from Austria and Spain, AIFO is also participating in the “Bridging the Gap – II” project.

4th Regional Asia-Pacific Congress on Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID): This congress was held in Ulaanbataar (Mongolia) in July 2019 and AIFO played an active role in it, organising an international workshop on “CBID and DPOs”, chairing some congress sessions and making presentations in different sessions.

A significant aspect of AIFO’s participation in this congress was through the participation of representatives of the persons with disabilities who were the researchers in an emancipatory research programme in Mongolia.

Congress “Essere Persona” (To be a Person): AIFO together with other Italian partner organisations (Don Gnocchi Association and OVCI – La Nostra Famiglia) was the organiser of this congress held in Milan in April 2019. This congress had representatives of AICS (Italian Agency of Development Cooperation), WHO, Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs), universities and professionals, who spoke about the different challenges and perspectives of promoting inclusive development and respect of human rights of persons with disabilities.

ESSERE PERSONA

**LA DISABILITÀ
NEL MONDO:
QUALI DIRITTI,
INCLUSIONE
E RIABILITAZIONE?**






5-6 aprile 2019
Centro Congressi Fondazione Cariplo via Romagnosi 8, Milano
 Con interventi di alti rappresentanti di ONU,
 OMS (Organizzazione Mondiale della Salute),
 AICS (Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo)



Media partner



Con il Patrocinio del Comune di Milano



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TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

In line with its strategic and operational objectives, AIFO is actively engaged in organisation of training and educational activities in Italy, focusing specifically on the school students and teachers. Among its principal activities in Italy are the following:

- Organisation of summer camps
- Training opportunities for members and volunteers and study-travel tours for young persons
- School competitions
- Awareness campaigns

Many of these activities are carried out through the official AIFO groups spread all over the country, while some of the annual events are organised at national and international levels.

Summer Camp in Sorrento: This camp held in July 2019 had the theme of “To be a person - how to give back dignity to marginalised persons who live among us”. It was coordinated AIFO member Agostino Crocco and different volunteers from the region. It was an opportunity for groups, families and young persons to be together and to exchange ideas and experiences. Fr. Alex Zanolli, an old friend and collaborator of AIFO, who has been working with the poor and marginalised persons in Naples, spoke to the participants, to share information about his own work and the challenges he faces and to talk about his opinions on how to change the world for better. The participants also visited some of the local women groups, cooperatives and associations.



Peace Festival: Together with the local governments of a large number of communes and municipalities in the area of Reno-Galliera surrounding Bologna, a peace festival was organised in April 2019. Accompanied by a well-known Italian TV personality, Patrizio Roversi, the festival included a peace march to connect the central city squares of 3 towns and concluded in the central square of San Giorgio di Piano. A large number of local voluntary associations took part in the initiative by setting up their stands in the peace gardens. Different local schools and student councils also took part in this initiative.

Cooperation Festival: This was organised by the Ostuni group of AIFO in October 2019, in collaboration with RIDS (Italian Network on Disability and Development), under the patronage of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). It included around 30 events on the theme of international cooperation and inclusion of marginalised persons. Different activities related to this festival were held in different towns around the city of Ostuni in Apulia region of Italy. It included a seminar for school teachers, a training course for journalists and a training course for health professionals.

School Competition: During 2018-19, a competition aimed at children of primary, middle and senior schools was organised around the theme of “Love is the only truth: the first sign of love is justice and peace is the fruit of justice”. This competition promoted reflection on 3 themes – challenges facing minors in difficult situations, migrations and poverty. Around 70 schools took part in this competition. The winners for different levels of the schools were decided by a jury.

Upgrading Training Courses for School Teachers: AIFO is recognised as a trainer for conducting upgrading training courses for school teachers by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR). An upgrading training course for school teachers was held in Rimini in January-March 2019 on the theme of “The World is my home”. 35 school teachers took part in this training.

Another training course for teachers was held in Imperia from October to December 2019. 40 school teachers took part in this course.

Exhibitions: AIFO has different photography exhibitions which are held in collaboration with other events organised by the association. Groups can also organise some of these exhibitions as independent events.

National Civil Service: Since 2005, in collaboration with the Italian NGO federation FOCSIV, annually AIFO hosts 2 volunteers as a part of the Italian national volunteer service programme.

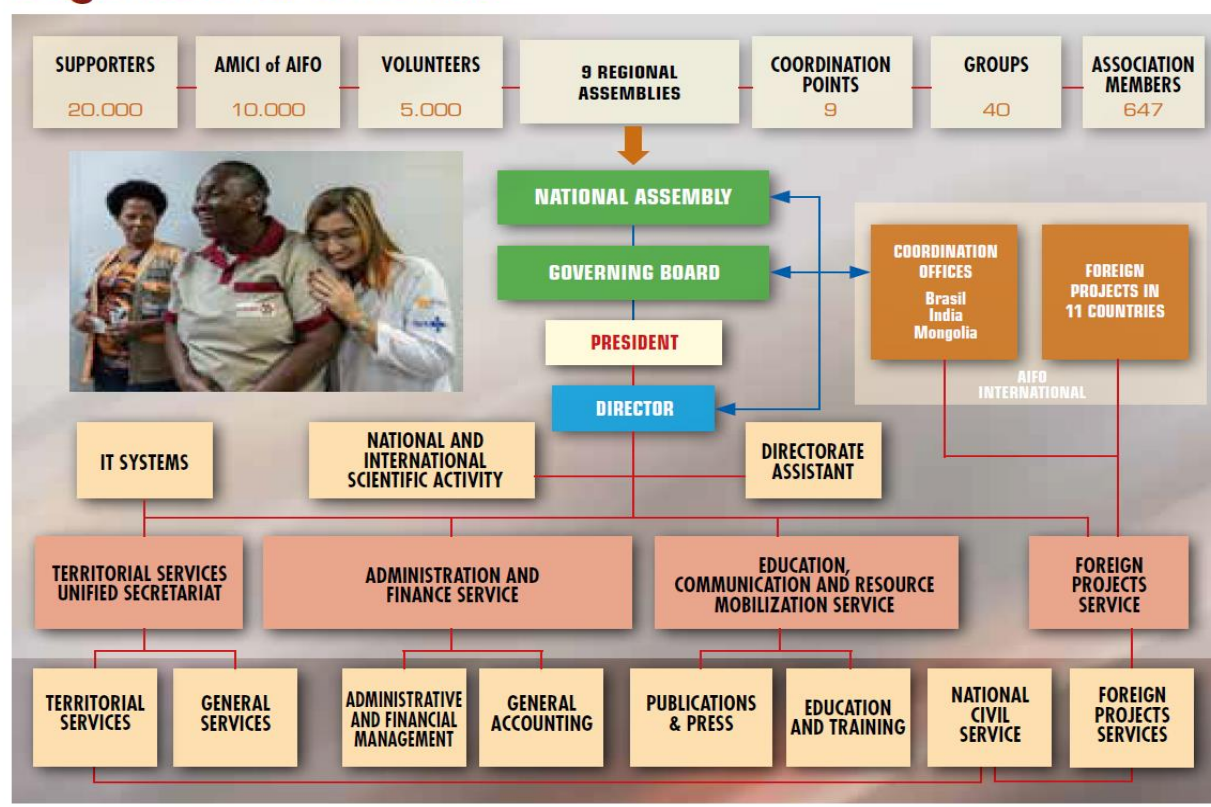
AIFO ORGANISATION & SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

AIFO is a democratic grass-roots organisation spread all over Italy, organised in official groups which send a representative to its national assembly. The groups are sub-divided into 9 regional coordinations. In 2019, the national assembly was composed of 36 delegates, 9 regional coordinators and 7 elected board members (Board of Directors). The general assembly met twice in 2019. In June 2019, the National Assembly approved a variation in the Statue of AIFO, which envisages setting up of an AIFO Foundation to support the work of the Association. The new Statue will become operative after its registration with RUNTS, the National Register for the Third Sector in Italy in 2020.

AIFO's Board of Directors had its last elections in June 2017 and is due to have new elections in June 2020. It composed of the following board members – Mr. Antonio Lissoni (President), Dr (Mr.) Antonio Giovanni Farris (Vice-President), Dr. (Ms.) Anna Maria Pisano, Mr. Domenico La Torre, Mr. Generoso Scicchitano, Mr. Libero Ponticelli and Mr. Francesco Platini. During 2019, the Board of Directors met 9 times.

The Board of Directors are supported by a Finance Committee (Collegio dei Sindaci), who met 4 times during the year. AIFO's annual balance was certified by Ernst & Young and is attached to this report.

Organizational structure



AIFO's head-office is located in Bologna. In 2019, AIFO had a staff of 14 persons (8 women and 6 men), along with 2 journalist collaborators (for the monthly magazine), and 2 volunteers from the Italian National Volunteer Civil Service. In addition to these persons in the AIFO-office, there were 16 persons working as collaborators in different AIFO projects, 12 of whom were based outside Italy. (Below - Visit of Ambassador of Mozambique in Italy to AIFO Office, 2019)



During 2019, AIFO had 40 officially recognised groups and 647 registered members. Out of the 40 groups, 4 are registered as individual associations. The image below shows some of the delegates to the National Assembly in 2019.



Networking & Stakeholders: A key goal of AIFO is to build networks with other actors involved in international development cooperation. The present situation of this world of associations continues to face difficulties and thus limiting its opportunities. In spite of these limitations, during 2019, the Association continued to strengthen its relationships with partners like DIsabled People's International (DPI – Italy), EducAid, FISH (Italian DPO Federation) and other institutions. Building common action with other partner organisations ensures efficacy of its activities and greater impact.

Communication & Awareness Raising: These activities follow the multi-year strategic plan of the Association.

A role in AIFO communication instruments is played by its monthly magazine which goes out to around 20,000 subscribers, while in April and November, it goes out in around 60,000 copies to all the donors and partners. During 2019, around 350,000 copies of the magazine were distributed.

AIFO also issues press releases to the different news outlets and social media in relation to specific issues. Video films touching on different issues of development cooperation and AIFO projects are also distributed through different communication channels – during 2019, 19 such videos were distributed.

AIFO also runs specific campaigns, the most important of which is the annual **World Leprosy Day (WLD) campaign** carried out around the last Sunday of January every year. In 2019, this campaign involved referees and trainers of football championships, and its theme was “Never again discriminations and leprosy in the World”. As part of this campaign, on 26 and 27 January 2019, all stadiums showed an AIFO banner during the A-series of football championship matches.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, during his travel to Panama, on the occasion of the WLD, remembered AIFO during his Angelus with the following words: “A special salute to AIFO and to persons affected with leprosy and to all those who accompany them and are close to them during their journey in search of human dignity”.

During the WLD campaign, almost 5000 AIFO group members, friends and volunteers sold honey in the 543 city squares, to collect funds for AIFO and to raise public awareness about AIFO's work.

A second poster campaign was titled “This is AIFO, We are AIFO”, to create awareness about aims and mission of the Association. Persons from different AIFO projects around the world were invited to speak on their own experiences as “We are AIFO”.

A third campaign was on the World Disability Day, 3 December. For this campaign, organised jointly with the Italian Network on Disability and Development (RIDS), there were meetings and seminars on themes related to disability and human rights.

AIFO also has a website, a Facebook page and a YouTube channel.

Fund Collection Activities: Over the past many years, AIFO is experiencing a slow and gradual decline in its fund collections from individual donors. From more than 13,000 donors in 2013, in 2019 it had around 8,500 donors. In spite of this and the on-going crisis, the decrease in amount of funds collected by AIFO has been relatively limited - compared to 1.6 million Euro in 2018, the fund collection was 1.4 million Euro

in 2019. On the other hand, over the past few years, the amount of funds for AIFO in persons' testaments has steadily increased.

AIFO continues to work with companies willing to provide part of their profits to its projects. This includes an almost 20 years of collaboration with the company Mediterranea of Carli Brothers which has been funding AIFO's work in Mozambique.

Another activity of its fund-raising is asking persons to nominate AIFO during the filing of their annual tax-returns, so that 0.05% of their taxes are given to the Association. During 2018, the last year for which this information is available, almost 2,700 persons in Italy chose AIFO for this nomination.

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