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Healthy lives and well-being for all.

**SOCIAL REPORT
2023**



**we include
we care
AIFO**

Healthy lives and well-being for all.

SOCIAL REPORT 2023

SUMMARY

1. Drafting methodology
2. Identity and general information
3. Structure, governance, and administration
4. People working for the Association and stakeholders
5. Goals and activities
6. Economic and financial situation
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1 - DRAFTING METHODOLOGY

The Social Report is a valuable management and reporting tool concerning the activities and objectives that our Organisation has achieved and now wants to share with its stakeholders.

AIFO has drafted its Social Report based on the "Guidelines on social reporting and social impact assessment" adopted with Decree 4 July 2019 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, published on the Official Journal 186 of 9 August 2019, referred to in the Third Sector Code (Legislative Decree 117/2017), and consisting of 8 chapters as indicated in the Summary.

The principles and criteria guiding the drafting of the Social Report are completeness, relevance, transparency, neutrality, and clarity.

The President is responsible for the Social Report. This is drafted by a working group made up of a representative for each office and coordinated by the Communication and Fundraising Office. The information contained in this report was gathered through the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of AIFO's activities, including the administrative and financial ones, pertaining to the year 2023 (period from January 1 to December 31, 2023).

We draft this document objectively and in a way that is comparable with previously reports. In addition, the 2023 working group wanted to introduce some improvements in order to make it clearer and easier to read.

As a result, this Social Report differs from the previous ones as follows:

- more emphasis on the new Strategic and Programmatic Plan and Operational Plan, now summarised and presented more clearly;

- we do not just talk about our direct beneficiaries: we think of the impact that our activities have on people and of their leverage effect that turns direct beneficiaries into protagonists of change and multiplies the number of indirect beneficiaries
- information in the section “Goals and activities” is organised according to countries of reference and areas of activity;
- the most technical elements are included as attachments at the end of the document. This report was approved by AIFO's National Assembly on 22 June 2024. It is available on our website www.aifo.it and a hard copy can be requested via e-mail to info@aifo.

2 - IDENTITY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT US – VISION AND MISSION

AIFO believes that everyone has the right to a decent life, no matter where they live. We work every day around the world and in Italy to guarantee the access to medical care and social inclusion to vulnerable people. We fight against inequality and discrimination by means of International Cooperation projects and activities on the Italian territory. We collaborate with local entities and partners to concretely respond to the needs of sick people, children, women and people with disabilities. We support anyone who is in a disadvantaged situation. For over 60 years, AIFO has been fighting leprosy and protecting the universal right to health, happiness, and freedom.

In the poorest countries of the world, access to care, rehabilitation and inclusion is not always guaranteed because of inadequate health systems and the lack of resources. This is why we engage every day against all forms of social inequality to guarantee everyone the right to basic health care and social inclusion, as well as the possibility of a dignified and independent life, now and in the future.

AIFO is an Organisation for International Sociomedical Cooperation possessing three “souls”:

- **RAOUL FOLLEREAU'S LEGACY:** AIFO's history originates from his vision, it started from the fight against leprosy and aims to promote the “civilisation of love”
- **ITS NATURE AS AN ASSOCIATION AND MOVEMENT:** through a member network rooted in the territory, AIFO has always promoted fundraising campaigns to support significant health and inclusion projects all over the world. Since ever, it has been raising civil society's awareness on the Association issues and organising development education initiatives;

- **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION:** AIFO implements significant international sociomedical cooperation projects and has acquired experience and credibility on the issues of the right to health and inclusion.

These three souls are like three wheels of the same gear that must run in synchrony to move towards the future and innovation.

OUR VISION: global health, inclusion and dignity to ensure that no one is marginalised.

OUR MISSION: We work WITH and FOR vulnerable people and people with disabilities all over the world to ensure HEALTH, INCLUSION AND DIGNITY. We recognize the value of local resources and promote networks of people, communities, and institutions to generate fair and sustainable change. We contribute to strengthening health systems and making them inclusive; since 1999 we have been a non-governmental actor officially collaborating with the WHO.

Our values: - We stay committed to our inspirer's beliefs.

We stay committed to our inspirer's beliefs. Raoul Follereau is an iconic figure who inspires AIFO's action in Italy and worldwide. Not only did Follereau fight against leprosy, but his commitment extended to the fight against all forms of "leprosy", that is, of social injustice and indifference. Leprosy was not yet curable in his days and was one of his first challenges; but he soon realised that hunger and poverty also had to be tackled in order to eradicate the disease. Follereau fought to promote access to medical treatment that could stop the progression of the disease, focusing on the importance of improved national health systems. His life testified to love, commitment, and hope. For Follereau, love itself is the key to change: an inclusive love that can tear down the barriers causing wars and discrimination. Today, his vision is more contemporary than ever, and one that we strive to fulfil every day.

OUR PRINCIPLES

CARE - We focus on people and communities: our mission is caring, which means the capacity to prioritise people, their emotional resources, their family, their community.

INCLUSION - Nothing about us, without us. Building inclusive communities and rediscover the active role of people in society, because dignity resides in their uniqueness and their capacity to contribute to society in many different ways.

COLLABORATION - Our goal is to turn everyone into a protagonist of change. This is why we promote mutual respect, welcome diversity, and work with national and international partners and with local communities to join forces and improve people's quality of life.

TRANSPARENCY - We feel personally responsible for the efficient use of our resources and we adopt the highest level of transparency towards our contributors, our partners, and above all, our beneficiaries.

AGENDA 2030 GOALS

In our activities in Italy and abroad, we want to contribute to reach most of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations:

Goal 1 Ending poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2 Ending hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3 Health and well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4 Quality instruction: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5 Gender equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 10 Reducing inequality: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 16 Peace, justice, and strong institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17 Partnership for goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Please find more on this subject in the Attachments:

- Aims and Activities of General Interest
- Association history

WHAT WE DO: AREAS AND PROGRAMMES

We promote projects in low- and middle-income countries with serious social cohesion problems, in remote rural areas and in suburban areas where most poor and marginalised people live.

SUBJECT AREAS

Care area Our goal is to guarantee the right to basic medical care to everyone by promoting healthcare services at local level where the vulnerable live, as well as by strengthening national health systems. We develop health programmes at community level to promote the participation of individuals, their families, and civil society organisations. We reach the most isolated and distant places, right up to the last house.

Inclusion area We implement a Community-Based Inclusive Development approach (CBID) taking into account all areas of life of people with disabilities and the vulnerable groups. This ensures a stronger impact and better sustainability of projects designed to promote their inclusion. Health, education, employment, development of personal skills, and participation in society guide the necessary action to create a situation of freedom and equal opportunities in the communities they belong to. Ever since our foundation, we have promoted social inclusion as a means for strengthening cohesion and solidarity in local communities. Inspired by Follereau's vision, we started combating leprosy, a disease that has always caused severe disabilities and marginalisation, inequalities, and lack of access to basic rights. Over the years, we have enlarged our scope to reach all people made vulnerable by their social and economic context. We believe that vulnerability is a universal condition and a starting point to reconsider society, organisations, employment, power, and hierarchies. Therefore we promote processes to make societies more inclusive, including by overcoming physical and cultural barriers so that everyone can release their potential and have equal opportunities.

OUR METHODOLOGY

We promote the right to health and inclusion worldwide. We work side by side with people, communities, and local authorities to develop strategies and to find local resources to guarantee the access to health for everyone, especially the most fragile groups, and promote community healthcare. Our methodology contributes to better opportunities for vulnerable people and to strengthening the whole community.

PEOPLE WE WORK WITH: PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

AIFO IS PART OF NETWORKS, GROUPS OF SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS, NGO FEDERATIONS, AND ASSOCIATIONS:

FOCSIV - Federation of Christian Organisations for International Voluntary Service

AOI (through FOCSIV) Association of Italian Organisations for International Cooperation and Solidarity

COONGER Coordination of NGOs and international solidarity associations of the Emilia-Romagna region
RIDS Italian Disability and Development Network
ILEP International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations
IDDC International Disability and Development Consortium
BANCA ETICA Ethical finance institution in Italy
Italian Network on NTDs (Neglected Tropical Diseases)

MAP OF STAKEHOLDERS

Internal and external stakeholders are of crucial importance to AIFO if we want to network and share responsibilities in order to exert a positive impact on health and inclusion. Our long history and working experience at the international and national level has brought us a large network of contacts and talents that we collaborate with to achieve our mission. To these actors and their organisations we aim to transfer not only knowledge, but the real power to participate in activities. This is why collaboration and empowerment of civil society organisations in the various countries are a top strategic priority. The methodological approach used in AIFO projects includes direct involvement and knowledge of local communities, thus allowing us to work with a wide range of stakeholders. The graph shows different groups of stakeholders divided in internal and external to AIFO and illustrates their influence and involvement in connection with the projects' goals and outcomes.

Please find more on this subject in the Attachments:

- Details of Stakeholders

A NEW STRATEGIC AND PROGRAMMATIC PLAN 2023/2027

In June 2023, the National Assembly approved the new “Strategic and Programmatic Plan 2023-2027”, a document promoting impact and sustainability to be able to cope with future challenges.

The strategy is based on three key principles:

Impact: Implementing projects and actions that can contribute to improving people's live and the planet, in line with the goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

Sustainability: Ensuring AIFO's economic and organisational sustainability.

Innovation: Facing the future while preserving AIFO's roots, with a spirit of innovation and new ways of working and communicating.

The Strategic Plan was drawn up jointly with an inclusive approach by the Board of Directors, AIFO's organisational structure, our foreign divisions, our members, and other internal and external stakeholders.

The drafting was carried out in steps:

1. Analysis and monitoring of the international cooperation context in order to position AIFO. We analysed the current situation and outlined future perspectives using interviews, group work and questionnaires, and gathered the views of qualified stakeholders.
2. Reviewing the vision and mission
3. Establishing the strategic goals: After analysing and monitoring the contest, and guided by the Vision and Mission, we identified the strategic guidelines 2023-2027 to reach a “sustainable” organisation capable of mobilising people and resources to ensure the greatest impact in terms of health, inclusion and dignity.

The Strategic Plan was followed by a three-year Operational Plan, divided into Project Areas and composed of projects, economic forecasts, and impact indicators. On the whole, it was a synergic and programmatic effort that involved the entire organisational structure.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE ASSOCIATION

AIFO is a Third Sector Entity (ETS). We are a non-governmental Organisation (NGO) for International Sociomedical Cooperation, headquartered in Bologna (Italy) and operating sociomedical projects in Africa, Asia and South America. AIFO was founded in 1961 and legally recognised by Presidential Decree No. 561 of 3 July 1979.

It is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) eligible to operate in developing countries by AICS Decree 2016/337/00115/0 of 4 June 2016.

We are an ETS (Third Sector Entity) since registration in the Single National Register of Third Sector Entities on 28 August 2023.

The new Articles of Association were approved by the Assembly on 24 June 2023.

AIFO is a non-state actor in official relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO).

It is recognised as a Training Institution by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR)

Co-founder Member of FOCSIV - Federation of Christian Organisations for International Voluntary Service

Co-founder Member of RIDS - Italian Disability and Development Network

Co-founder member of ILEP - International Leprosy Federation

Co-founder member of IDDC - International Development Disability Consortium

3 - STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION

OUR GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

We are a democratic organisation with a large membership base and statutory bodies which ensure the pursuit of AIFO's values, vision, mission, and identity. (Articles of Association, Art. 4 and ff.):

Together with the Operational Structure composed of professionals and collaborators, the social body works to enhance the organisation's growth and sustainability.

Our democratic nature is also guaranteed by the yearly addition of new members who, by joining the Association, express their shared values and active participation in the life of our organisation.

As of December 31, 2023, our membership base was composed of 546 members organized in central and local divisions.

AIFO's 546 members operate totally free of charge to animate the territorial network that allows each and every member to fully participate in the democratic life of the association and to shape the decisions taken by the Regional Coordination Offices and then by the National Delegates elected in the National Assembly.

- 37 local groups made up of min. 5 members carrying out awareness-raising and fundraising activities in their territories

- 8 regional coordinating committee whose task is to promote synergy among local groups

STATUTORY BODIES

AIFO is represented by its statutory bodies which hold office for 3 years:

- the National Assembly
- the Board of Directors
- the Supervisory Body
- the Ethic and Disciplinary Committee

1) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is made up of AIFO associates and has the power to direct, manage and control the Association. The Directors perform their tasks free of charge.

The present Board of Directors was elected at AIFO's National Assembly on 26 November 2023 and will hold office until 2026. It performs all ordinary and extraordinary administration tasks not falling within the competence of the President and the National Assembly.

The Chairperson shall represent the Association, convene the Assembly and the Board of Directors, and is AIFO's legal representative.

In 2023, the Board of Directors met nine times both in person and electronically, as stipulated in the Articles of Association.

DIRECTOR	INSTITUTIONAL ROLE	1ST ELECTION DATE (ongoing)
Lissoni Antonio	Chairperson, Legal Representative	15/06/2014
Bertino Anna Maria	Vice-President	26/11/2023
Cavallo Francesco	Director	26/11/2023
Scicchitano Generoso	Director	26/11/2023
Meregalli Renato	Director	26/11/2023
Simonetto Maria	Director	05/12/2020
Sordi Giuliana	Director	26/11/2023

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly of Members is the expression of the entire membership and is the highest decision-making body of the Association. The National Assembly operates free of charge. It shall express its opinion and deliberate on approving the Financial Statements and the Social Report, as well as strategic documents such as the Strategic Plan, the Vision, and Mission. The National Assembly shall elect the Board of Directors. The current AIFO National Assembly, elected for the three-year period 2021/2024 by resolution 99/21, remains in office for three years and consists of 49 members. In 2023, it met twice: in June in Bologna and in November in Rome.

SUPERVISORY BODY

The Supervisory Body is a collegiate body composed of 3 members. Pursuant to Art. 30 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, it shall meet periodically at least every 90 days. The Supervisory Body carries out supervisory activities on compliance with the law and the Articles of Association and on compliance with the principles of proper administration, as well as on the adequacy of the organisational, administrative, and accounting structure and its actual functioning. It is also responsible for certifying that the organisation's Social Report was drawn up in accordance with legal guidelines.

In 2023, the Supervisory Body's remuneration was € 19,771.29.

SUPERVISOR	ROLE
Fioritti Alberto	President
Chersoni Enea	Active member
Luzzana Nicola	Active member

BOARD OF ARBITRATORS

Also elected in November 2023 by the National Assembly, term of office 2023-2026 free of charge.

The Board of Arbitrators is called upon to resolve any disputes between members or within the Association.

There has never been a need to convene it.

ARBITRATOR	ROLE
Bacchi Reggiani Giuseppe	President
Melloni Alberto	Active member
Mengoli Don Giovanni	Active member

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The general activities of the Association are supervised, organised, planned, and implemented by our Organisational Structure based in Bologna.

The Association and its Operational Structure are managed by the Directorate General in line with the programmes approved by statutory bodies and the resulting strategic guidelines. The Directorate directly reports to the Chairperson and the Board of Directors in accordance with the powers conferred on them by the Articles of Association.

The Directorate General avails itself of the following internal offices to perform its tasks:

- Foreign Projects Office
- Italian Projects Office
- Communication and Fundraising Office
- Reporting and Planning Office
- Administration and Management Control Office

OFFICES ABROAD

Brazil – San Paulo

Guinea Bissau - Bissau

Liberia - Monrovia

Mozambique - Maputo

Tunisia - Tunis

India - Bangalore

Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar

REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, AND OPERATIONAL POLICIES

We have adopted internal procedures and regulations to optimise the management of our Association and organisational structures. Procedures, codes and regulations are an essential requirement in view of our Association's eligibility for funding from bodies such as the European Union and AICS-Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The importance of these documents is also strategic for a proper functioning of the organisation as they allow us to work with better synergy, transparency, sustainability, and effectiveness.

- Manual of Operational Policies, Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Procedures for Financial Monitoring of Foreign Divisions
- Regulations for Managing the Association and its Democratic Life

More details of our procedures and regulations are available in the Attachments.

4 - PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE ASSOCIATION

We pursue our mission with passion and dedication every day. Our collaborators in Italy and abroad are motivated and protagonists of the change we want to bring about in the world.

In 2023 we invested a lot of energy in improving AIFO's human resources management, devising new ways of leading, coaching, acquiring, and developing skills in order to achieve professional growth and greater organisational and operational capacity.

PEOPLE IN ITALY

Over the period covered by this Social Report, we worked with following staff:

- 14 with employee contracts, of which 12 women (average age 48) and 2 men (average age 57)
- 9 with collaboration contracts (*COCOCO, coordinated continuous collaboration*) of which 5 women (average age 42) and 4 men (average age 56)
- 3 with internship agreements, all of them women (average age 37), one working in Guinea Bissau for a while.

Distribution by gender	ITALY
F	19
M	6
Total	25

Roles by gender	ITALY
Collaborators	11
F	7
M	4
Employees	11

F	11
Managers - Executives	3
F	1
M	2
Total	25

Age groups by gender	ITALY
20-29 years	3
F	3
30-39 years	3
F	2
M	1
40-49 years	6
F	5
M	1
50-59 years	10
F	9
M	1
60-69 years	2
M	2
70-71 years	1
M	1
Total	25

PEOPLE ABROAD

The following people worked on AIFO projects abroad in 2023:

- 9 with collaboration contracts, of which 6 women (average age 36) and 3 men (average age 44)
- 120 people, of which 10 were expatriates. The countries with the higher number of staff are Mozambique (39), Liberia (28) and Guinea Bissau (24).

Of the total 129 people in foreign countries, 57 are women (average age 37) and 72 men (average age 41).

In addition to the staff working abroad, AIFO avails itself of foreign coordination groups which, since 2013, have been managed by independent partner organisations (Brasa in Brazil, Friends of Raoul Follereau in India).

Distribution by gender	ABROAD
F	56
M	72
Total	128

Age groups by gender	ABROAD
F	1
M	1
20-29 years	20
F	16
M	4
30-39 years	49
F	20
M	29
40-49 years	41
F	15
M	26
50-57 years	2
F	1
M	1
50-59 years	10
F	2
M	8
60-69 years	5
F	2
M	3
Total	128

Type of contract	ABROAD
CCC Collaborators	9
F	6
M	3
Local	119
F	50
M	69
Total	128

Number of staff divided by country	ABROAD
China	2
Guinea Bissau	30
Liberia	29
Mongolia	3
Mozambique	59
Tunisia	5
Total	128

CONTRACTS AND REMUNERATIONS

ITALY AND ABROAD

AIFO employee in Italy are hired under a national collective agreement for the trade sector. Collaborators have coordinated continuous collaboration contracts (COCOCO) as established by the national collective agreement signed by AOI - Italian NGOs Association and the main labour unions.

AIFO employees abroad are hired with contracts depending on the law of the specific countries.

No remunerations to subordinate or self-employed employees exceed 40% of those envisaged by the collective agreements for the same qualifications, as established by Article 51 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of 15/06/2015.

As for employees with a national collective contract, the remuneration limits and differences are in accordance with the parameters set out in Article 16 of Legislative Decree no. 117 of 03/07/2017

.Type of contract	Total	Men	Women
NCC trade contract tertiary sector	14	2	12
AOI-Labour unions Project workers	18	7	11
Internships	3	0	3
Volunteers	3	0	3
TOTAL	38	9	29

Total annual costs	Gross remuneration in €	Total cost for the Association in €
Employees	493,811	704,621
Collaborators	360,662	426,324
Interns	3,800	3,800

HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND STRATEGY

We are well aware that putting people at the centre is the approach that best delivers long-lasting results. Because of this, and because we know the potential of each single person, we wish to acknowledge the added value that each employee and collaborator brings to the development of our organisation.

- 1) STAFF COHESION** - 2023 was a very eventful year, where we organised many opportunities for exchange and co-operation between headquarters offices, management, the Board of Directors and the National Assembly of Members. These are a few examples:
 - AIFO staff attending the National Assemblies of Members on some occasions: training activities, opinions exchange, cooperative work.
 - An annual retreat with all employees and collaborators in Italy to share the results achieved during the year and communicate the goals of the following year for each internal office. A retreat is also an opportunity to improve work and synergy between offices.

- A monthly online meeting with all employees and collaborators in Italy to update and share challenges and achievements in the short and medium term.
- A monthly meeting between Foreign Coordinators and Foreign Projects Office to create connections and exchange good practices between countries and areas of action.
- Regular meetings between managers and coordinators of the various offices, inter-office working groups, country and multi-country tables, mixed working groups between employees and members on different subjects and areas of AIFO action.

In 2024 we are increasing these opportunities that are valuable for the development and sustainability of our association.

2) TRAINING AND OCCUPATIONAL WELL-BEING

In order to promote occupational well-being and sustained professional motivation, our staff was trained on various specific issues:

- Fundraising from private individuals
- Institutional fundraising
- Leadership
- New AICS procedures
- Office 365
- Work safety

Part of the staff also benefited from remote working. In 2023, this way of working continued according to individual agreements with employees.

3) WORKERS' HEALTH AND SAFETY

Employees in Italy are supervised by experienced personnel in the fields of safety and health. Occupational health and safety regulations (Legislative Decree 81/2008) are fully complied with.

INSURANCE POLICIES FOR STAFF IN ITALY AND ABROAD

AIFO relies on various insurance companies according to operational and structural needs:

- Active insurance policies for expatriates and their children, for short and long missions
- Active insurance policies for head-office employees, volunteers, and members
- Active insurance policies on the premises

Further details on insurance policies are available in the Attachments.

VOLUNTEERS

3 volunteers worked at AIFO'S office in Italy during the year. None of them were paid or reimbursed for their voluntary service.

SOCIAL BASE

The Board of Directors, the National Assembly, the Regional Coordinators, the Group Representatives, and in general, the entire AIFO Social Base performs its role and functions for free.

SUPERVISORY BODY

In 2023, the Supervisory Body's gross remuneration was € 19,771.29

5 - PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES, RESULTS

FROM BENEFICIARIES TO PROTAGONISTS

The actions promoted and managed by AIFO pay full attention to the needs of vulnerable people in poverty contexts, especially children, women and people with disabilities. Our initiatives are based on sustainability, rooted in the communities, and implemented in a network with local programmes and institutions to maximise their impact. For us, acting at community level in this way means engaging in complex processes of change. Data about beneficiaries is the easiest tool to get an overview of our impact and an effective indicator of the work done. Each project generates specific annual reports that illustrate and describe the activities carried out, with details of the difficulties and challenges we had to face. This monitoring activity consisting of data collection and the preparation of technical reports, requires us to define as 'beneficiaries' the people reached by our actions. However, we at AIFO believe that this term is reductive. We prefer to call them protagonists, a word acknowledging their active role which is essential for the success of our initiative. The protagonists of our projects are the people whom we involve in training and awareness raising programmes, whose skills and competence we want to reinforce along with their rights and opportunities, and who can, in turn, become multipliers of the same actions. For quite some now we have decided to invest heavily in training people. We want our actions to generate a multiplier effect: each person who is aware, trained and active, can spread knowledge, skills and practices to others, thus amplifying the overall impact of our project. For example: training government officials, professional technical trainers, health workers, and cooperate with them has a stronger impact and provides better sustainability of the initiatives that we promote. Our cooperation projects promote human rights (Human Rights-Based Approach) and are designed to respond to

co-identified needs, with a view to overcoming stereotypes. Starting with this Social Report, we would like to emphasise that, as established in the Strategic Plan approved in June 2023, we are working towards being able to assess the multiplier effect and impact generated by our actions. We provide training on healthcare and inclusion to people who will later have a cascade effect on their communities.

“Let people manage their own projects, exercise their skills to the full, and regain confidence and dignity” Mr. Zhang Lian Hua, resident of an isolated village in Yunnan - China / former leper hospital.

The following tables and graphs provide an overview of the protagonists (beneficiaries) of initiatives we supported in Africa, Asia, and South America in 2023.

Total people reached by AIFO in 2023	Africa	Asia	South America	Total 2023
Area: Care	101,499	3,171	7,246	111,916
Area: Inclusion	107,630	1,600	9,432	118,662
Total 2023	209,129	4,771	16,678	230,578

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES ABROAD

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

AIFO has always focused on the health and inclusion of the most vulnerable people in the world. These goals are key to our two priority areas of intervention. These programmes incorporate initiatives and partnerships, promote synergies and coordination, and maximise the impact of available resources. In international cooperation, specialising in a few priority areas is essential to address complex and interconnected challenges at global level. Thanks to its programmes, the Organisation can take a strategic approach to large-scale issues such as promoting the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities and fostering community care and health by strengthening local health systems. Areas of intervention support a long-term and sustainable vision to address complex challenges in a more effective, long-lasting and sustainable way. The sustainability of our action is also guaranteed by managing all activities (and monitoring management by means of an annual data collection system) in collaboration with local partners in the countries where we operate (NGOs, people's movements, governments, local authorities, and religious congregations). This network of local partners facilitates the contact and participation of protagonists in project management, the correct analysis of external risks and of the necessary

preconditions for activity development, the respect of local cultures and traditions, and the sustainability of project results verified by means of annually collected data (formal collection system).

CARE AREA

The right to health is an essential part of internationally recognised fundamental human rights. In its Constitution, the World Health Organisation affirms that “The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.” Our aim is to guarantee the right to basic health to everyone by promoting health care near to where the most vulnerable people live, strengthening national health systems, and promoting strategies to improve the quality of life by means of a global approach that takes into account all health factors, especially the social ones. For AIFO, the right to health is a priority and the reason why we have decided to focus on primary health care to people with disabilities and fragile people.

INCLUSION AREA

The motto guiding our projects is “Nothing about us, without us” (enshrined in Article 4, par. 3 of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities). This principle applies not only to people with disabilities but to all vulnerable people. Our aim is to promote processes to make societies more inclusive: we work to overcome physical and cultural barriers so that everyone can release their potential and have equal opportunities. Wanting to support and implement collaboration that is inclusive and as horizontal as possible, we pay particular attention to the context where people live. We cooperate with the community they belong to and with the civil society organisations operating in their region. By applying a Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach to guarantee sustainability and a strong socio-cultural impact, we want to improve the life of the whole community, starting from the active involvement of people who are normally excluded and discriminated against: people with disabilities. Their contribution can direct the community towards guaranteeing fundamental rights to all, including the most disadvantaged citizens, such as health, education, work, dignity, the enjoyment of social relations, the possibility of participating in community decisions and determining their own life.

We at AIFO work specifically towards:

- The control and elimination of leprosy and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). We want to improve the living conditions of people affected by NTDs, including leprosy, by working on primary care and breaking the link between poverty, disease and disability.

- The prevention and control of non-transmittable chronic diseases (NCDs). We want to reduce mortality due to NCDs, particularly diabetes, hypertension and cervix cancer by strengthening the national and local health service.
- Maternal and infant health. We want to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant mortality; improve the access, quality, and use of maternal and child health services; raise community awareness about women's and children rights as well as maternal and child health.

EMERGENCY AND POST-EMERGENCY PROJECTS

EMERGENCY AND POST-EMERGENCY IN MOZAMBIQUE

Since 2017, Mozambique has had to deal with multiple humanitarian emergencies that have accumulated over the years: the passage of two tornadoes, attacks by Islamic armed groups, drought in the southern part of the country, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, the country is still struggling with the consequences of these various emergencies which, in spite of their very nature, are becoming chronic.

The region most severely impacted is Cabo Delgado, where we go on implementing our development projects adapted to the different emergency contexts. These are medium-term multi-sector projects, implemented in partnerships, and always designed to pursue sustainable development so that the communities find within themselves the skills and confidence that are required to react to emergencies. Their main focus is on the most discriminated groups, particularly people with disabilities and women, the latter being often victims of violence and among the most affected in these situations.

More specifically, in 2023, AIFO implemented a UNFPA-funded project in Cabo Delgado and other provinces. The project title is *"Essential services for women and girls with disabilities to respond to gender-based violence (GBV) in Centres for Internally Displaced People and Host Communities in Cabo Delgado."* The project activities included training of representatives of government institutions and civil society on GBV issues, community awareness-raising, vocational training courses, and the provision of start-up kits for micro-enterprise activities. In addition, the organisation of a youth hackathon for the implementation of innovative digital solutions to promote the employment of persons with disabilities. Particularly significant was a *Survey about the inclusion of people with disabilities in coordination platforms on Social Protection and GBV and the accessibility of their related services*. The survey produced a report providing guidance and guidelines, a very important tool for all (governmental and non-governmental) service providers in the provinces concerned.

DIRECT MANAGEMENT: COUNTRIES AND PROJECTS

GUINEA BISSAU

THE GUINEAN CONTEXT

Guinea-Bissau is among the 20 poorest countries in the world. Its human development index is one of the lowest on Earth and over two thirds of the population live below the poverty line. The country has never enjoyed peace and stability: its recent history is marked by coups d'état, internal conflicts and political crises.

CARE The National Health System is very unstable, the supplies and maintenance of health centres and hospitals are not regular. Strikes are frequent among healthcare staff who often do not receive a salary.

INCLUSION The nearly 14,000 persons with disabilities still lack inclusive public policies. The State does not support them financially and they are deprived of many civil rights.

AIFO IN GUINEA BISSAU

We started working in the country when we signed the first agreement with the Guinean Ministry of Health. While maintaining our commitment to leprosy control, over the last 10 years our actions have expanded towards the inclusion of the most vulnerable such as women, people with disabilities, and young people at risk of migration. Current projects aim at strengthening the capacities of persons with disabilities for them to gain autonomy and an independent life. We remain the reference NGO in the country for the National Leprosy Control Programme.

Present since 1978

Country regions: Bissau and Cumura

Care area: 154 protagonists, 4 projects

Inclusion area: 21 protagonists, 3 projects

Project	Funding body	Leading institution	Project start	Duration
CARE Support to the National Leprosy Control Programme.	French Raoul Follereau Foundation - FRF and Leprosy Relief Canada - SLC (ILEP)	AIFO	01/01/2023	1 year
CARE Supporting local communities in the fight against malnutrition in the Gabu Region	Italian Government (Presidency of the Council of Ministers - 8 per thousand)	AIFO	01/10/2023	1 year

CARE Strengthening the institutional capacity of the 6 regional health departments in managing community health programmes, especially the payment of premiums to ASC.	UNICEF	AIFO	05/05/2022	2 years
CARE Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (Onchocerciasis)	END FUND	AIFO	01/11/2023	1 year
INCLUSION Involving everyone in building our future: Policies, training, and employment for inclusive business	AICS AID 12590/09/4	Mani Tese	01/11/2022	3 years
INCLUSION Unleashing the potential: Empowering women with disabilities through financial inclusion in the Biombo Region (Blue economy)	UNDP	AIFO	01/09/2023	1 year
INCLUSION Microcredit funds for income-generating activities	ADIC	AIFO	22/03/2023	1 year

The Protagonists' voice - The story of Nazaré “My name is Nazaré and I am the owner of Kume Sabi

Restaurant in Gabu. I have always had so much passion for cooking and I would have liked to have my own business, not least to have a job that would make me independent. Participating in the project allowed me to put all these things together.

AIFO has helped me a lot. I participated in several trainings, most of them concerning running a business. During the project, we established that I was one of the people ready to receive funding, so I was able to set up this restaurant.

The small garden in front of my house was empty and unused. The project gave me the idea of making it a shared space where I could develop my restaurant business.

There are many challenges and they come up every day, starting with the use of electricity which is coming and going and is clearly a big problem for everyone in the restaurant business. But our idea, our hope in the

future is to be able to open a place that is more appropriate, comfortable, and spacious, and that is a real restaurant where everyone can feel at home. I want to be the owner of that restaurant’.

TUNISIA

TUNISIAN CONTEXT

In 2022, Tunisia ranked 97th among 191 countries in the Human Development Index. Agriculture suffers from climate change, harvest have even halved over the past few years. The last decade was marked by periods of internal political instability and socio-economic crisis which caused the country's economic growth to slow down. Today, the country is still facing two main challenges: the economy and migration. INCLUSION Education and training programmes are not accessible. People with disabilities who manage to find work have no possibility to access training programmes and no prospects for growth. The pandemic has made people with disabilities even poorer, a situation from which it will be increasingly difficult to get out. This fuels a vicious circle of disability, poverty and social hardship.

AIFO IN TUNISIA

AIFO is recognised as a technical assistant to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS) for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and works to encourage ministries to adopt inclusive policies. We operate with a priority goal: improving the access of persons with disabilities to public vocational training centres. This is why we collaborate with job centre delegates and training centre directors. Our second goal is to improve the quality of training offered to people with disabilities in special education centres, To this end, we cooperate with MAS delegates and the civil society organisations that run the centres. We are presently launching an awareness-raising and training campaign about the inclusion of people with disabilities, with a special focus on inclusive training and employment.

Present since 2008

Country regions: Governorates of Tunis, Le Kef, Kesserine and Medenine

Inclusion area: 96,295 protagonists, 4 projects

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
INCLUSION Training on disability provided by the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs	Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs AICS	AIFO	23/01/2020	54 months

INCLUSION DICOO	National Youth Agency (European Union)	AIFO	01/08/2023	18 months
INCLUSION Vocational training for the labour inclusion of people with disabilities (PUVI)	AICS	AIFO	01/09/2022	3 years
INCLUSION Towards inclusive work: Training and information to people with disabilities	RER Emilia-Romagna Region	AIFO	25/11/2022	18 months

The Protagonists' voice - The story of Khadija fighting for accessibility in Tunisia

“I have always felt the need and the difficulty to travel long distances to go to school or see my friends. It is always my mother who drives me, and now it is my brother, otherwise I take a taxi. In other words, it is very complicated! Public transport in Tunisia is inadequate and taxis drive you crazy because not all of them accept to take the wheelchair and put it in the bonnet. And I am not the only one to have this problem. We people with reduced mobility... I feel that we are disadvantaged in our society. In spite of the obstacles I have faced throughout my life, I have always kept a positive attitude and wanted to co-create a solution to improve the lives of people like me. Because if we don't achieve accessibility, society will never be inclusive. Here in Tunisia you won't easily meet people with disabilities if you don't go and look for them. You won't find them on the street. Furthermore, the media only show poor and miserable people, although there are very intelligent and skilled ones whom we do not see because of discrimination and the fact that the country does not ensure accessibility. Whereas accessibility is a right! If you take someone healthy and put them in a disabling environment, they will become disabled. Similarly, if you place a disabled person in an adapted environment, he or she will no longer be disabled. I was lucky, I could always count on my family's support and I had invaluable teachers at school. After finishing my studies, I started looking for other people with disabilities to share my dream! I want to change the community I live in and that's why I launched the startup HAWKAR to make travel easy and possible. We want to make disabled people free and independent.”

LIBERIA

LIBERIAN CONTEXT

The Liberian population hit 5.2 million in 2022 and is made up mainly of young people under 35 years of age. Despite its potential natural resources, Liberia is plagued by civil wars, Ebola and COVID-19, and

belongs to the world's 20 economically poorest countries. The country's challenges are exacerbated by poor infrastructure and widespread corruption, discouraging international investments. With a 2022 Human Development Index of 0.487, Liberia belongs to the low category of human development, ranking 177th out of 193 countries.

INCLUSION Almost 20% of the population have some disability. Mental disability has been one of the most widespread problems since the long civil war. In Liberia, people with disabilities have to face very difficult economic and living conditions. They cannot take part in the social life of local communities or access the labour market, therefore they are deprived of any opportunity to exercise their fundamental rights, such as those to education, employment, and health.

AIFO IN LIBERIA

AIFO has been operating in Liberia since the civil war, providing support to the population in emergency situations. Even during the Ebola epidemics, we did not leave the country and went on supporting the population. AIFO's action has then focused on promoting the rights of people with disabilities, improving health services, and providing psycho-social support, including through the Community-Based Inclusive Development approach. The ongoing project CADL - Coordinated Action on Disability in Liberia involves all actors and stakeholders to ensure economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, which is an important means of escaping poverty and enjoying other rights such as the right to actively participate in political and social activities.

Present since 1997

Country regions:

Inclusion area: 2,016 protagonists, 2 projects

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
INCLUSION CAD-L Social and economic empowerment of people with disabilities	SIDA (Swedish Cooperation Agency)	AIFO	01/09/2021	48 months
INCLUSION Title: VOICE (Social and economic empowerment of people with disabilities)	UE	AIFO	01/03/2021	24 months

The Protagonists' voice - The story of Maima and the experience of women with disabilities

"I was so happy when I heard that people with disabilities are so important to AIFO! What I will carry with me from my training about sexual reproductive health and rights, is that family planning is important for all women. The training taught me that we must always protect ourselves, because unprotected sex can cause several diseases. But using condoms, both male and female, will prevent sexually transmitted diseases. I also learnt how important it is to be respectful of our children's rights. They have the right to privacy and the right to talk about what they wish. I learned a lot from this training, and I am thankful to have heard about it. Now I feel ready to transfer what I have learnt to other people, both to those with disabilities and those who don't have any. I will never stop saying thank you for this attention to my situation, now I feel much stronger."

MOZAMBIQUE

THE MOZAMBIKAN CONTEXT

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its Human Development Index ranks 183rd out of 193 countries, and yet, its economic growth rate is one of the highest on the African continent and the GDP has increased by 8% over the last few years. Although access to services has improved in recent years, there are still significant gaps in health, education, public transport, social protection, and access to employment. There are also considerable disparities between rural and urban/peri-urban areas and between the different provinces of the country.

CARE The country is currently facing a double challenge in terms of diseases: in addition to the age-old problem of infectious diseases, there is an increasing need to cope with non-transmissible diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cancer, which accounts for one third of the country's deaths. Over 3,183 new cases of leprosy emerged in 2021, placing Mozambique second in Africa and fifth in the world in terms of the number of cases. The overall management is complicated by the shortage of qualified human resources

INCLUSION People with disabilities are socially and economically more disadvantaged than the rest of the population. According to the 2017 census, the prevalence of disability in Mozambique is 2.6% and an estimated 49% of people with disabilities are women. These figures are underestimated and have been heavily criticized by Mozambican Organisations of people with disabilities.

AIFO IN MOZAMBIQUE

AIFO has been working in Mozambique since 1974, when it began its collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MISAU) in support of the Leprosy Eradication Programme, a collaboration that is still going on today. Now AIFO has reinforced its action by combining the fight against leprosy with that against other non-transmissible diseases and maternal and child health. Great commitment is put into the implementation of actions for

promoting the rights of people with disabilities, from inclusive education and training to inclusive employment and to the fight against violence towards vulnerable people.

Present since 1974

Country regions: Provinces of Maputo, Manica, Nampula, Sofala, Zambesia, and Cabo Delgado

Care area: 98,067 protagonists, 3 projects

Inclusion area: 9,348 protagonists, 5 projects

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
CARE Health Without Barriers. Prevention and control of non-transmittable diseases in Mozambique.	AICS AID 012590/01/4	AIFO	01/07/2022	3 years
CARE MANICA Leprosy	SLC - Leprosy Relief Canada (ILEP)	AIFO	01/01/2023	1 year
CARE NAMPULA Leprosy	FF - Fontilles (ILEP)	AIFO	01/01/2023	1 year
INCLUSION Inclusive and gender responsive access to essential social services (promotion of the rights of people with disabilities)	UNFPA	AIFO	01/01/2023	1 year
INCLUSION EduIn. Inclusive quality education in early childhood in Mozambique	AICS AID 012590/08/1	TDH	01/10/2022	3 years
INCLUSION JOVENS. Youth against gender violence in Mozambique	RER (Emilia-Romagna Region)	AIFO	30/11/2021	14 months
INCLUSION ISM. Inclusive Schools in Mozambique	RER (Emilia-Romagna Region)	AIFO	14/09/2023	14 months
INCLUSION COMSAUDE. Basic health services for the communities	RER (Emilia-Romagna Region)	AIFO	25/11/2022	14 months

The Protagonists' voice - Helder Massinga, AIFO Coordinator of the Educ-IN AIFO project in Mozambique

“Dear AIFO friends, over the last 3 weeks I have been training activists who will identify barriers to school access for children with disabilities in Nampula, Mozambique. In the next project actions, these activists will be in close contact with the children’s families. With them, they will try to identify the limits to inclusive education in order to design ways to overcome those limits. The training we have just completed was really valuable, it implied awareness-raising and commitment on the part of the activists. At the same time, we are finalising material that will help them raise awareness among families, teachers, and communities. Mozambique suffers from the burden of bureaucracy which means that not everything goes as we planned. However, our commitment is concrete and we already have evidence that our efforts can have a major impact. In these days of training courses for activists, we have already mobilised one school that we first visited during the selection process. What I am going to tell you is already a success for us! After AIFO's visit, and even before knowing whether her school would be selected by the project, the headmistress of this school in Nampula has already taken a step forward. Soon after our first visit she realised that in her role she could change the story of some children, so she went to the relevant community to mobilise people and raise awareness among the families of children with disabilities. Within a few weeks, she had already had an access ramp built in the school and, in addition to the 3 children with disabilities who were already attending school, she included 5 more children who will now be able to participate actively. This headmistress continues to motivate teachers and the community, she has become an agent of change because she has recognised its potential and importance.”

MONGOLIA

MONGOLIAN CONTEXT

Mongolia is a very large country (about 1,565,000 square km) with 2,712,315 inhabitants. Most of them live in the capital city Ulaan Baatar, one third is nomadic. After 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, changes in the political and economic system brought about an increase in poverty and social uncertainty, with strong inequalities in the distribution of internal wealth. Today, poverty continues to increase, especially among the most vulnerable people.

CARE After 1989, a transition took place from a highly centralised healthcare system to a decentralised one based on general practitioners, but the new system has not been functioning properly due to considerable financial constraints. The poorest groups of the population have limited possibilities of access to local healthcare facilities.

INCLUSION The Mongolian government does not provide any support to people with disabilities, except for an employment promotion fund.

AIFO IN MONGOLIA

AIFO has operated in Mongolia for over 40 years. It promotes rehabilitation initiatives and the social inclusion of people with disabilities in collaboration with local governmental and non-governmental partners. In 2006 we contributed to creating Tegsh Niigem-TN, a local NGO for the promotion of social inclusion of people with disabilities by means of a Community-Based Inclusive Development approach. We support the activity of Mongolian organisations of People with Disabilities (OPD), particularly their action to promote and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Through TN, we organise and manage training programmes on CBID principles. Over the years, AIFO, TN and their partners have joined efforts to reach important and sustainable goals for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities and their social inclusion. In Mongolia too, we addressed disability starting from enhancing people's dignity by ensuring employment, autonomy, health, and education.

Present since 1980

Country regions: Ulaan Baatar but our action has an impact on the whole country

Inclusion area: 383 protagonists, 2 projects

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
INCLUSION Labour inclusion of people with disabilities (Coffee Shop)	Waldensian Church	AIFO	01/01/2023	6 months
INCLUSIONE RATA - Rapid assessment of assistive technologies	WHO	AIFO	01/06/2023	3 months

The Protagonists' voice - Tuki, AIFO's country coordinator in Mongolia

"Mongolia is trying to shift from a medical approach to a social approach to disability. People with disabilities now have the possibility to express their opinion, they can negotiate and assert their rights with competence and self-confidence. AIFO's most important contribution consisted in changing the attitude towards people with disabilities at medical and social level. As our inspirer Raoul Follereau used to say, "There is only one sky for the whole world", meaning that only together can we live in peace and mutual respect, working together so that no one is left on the margins of society."

BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN CONTEXT

With a population of about 213.4 million people, Brazil has to face various social and economic challenges. The 9.3% unemployment rate hides a high level of informal work and 4.6% of children are affected by child labour.

CARE Food security is a crucial aspect, with 55.2% of households affected by food insecurity and 9% suffering from hunger. The situation is made even worse by the pandemics and the loss of social rights.

Leprosy continues to be a matter of concern because of poor diagnosis and unreported cases potentially three times the official figures.

INCLUSION People with disabilities struggle for employment and only 40% of jobs dedicated to them are actually filled.

AIFO IN BRAZIL

AIFO has been active in Brazil since its establishment in 1961 and has operated as a foreign NGO recognised by the Brazilian government until 2013, when it handed over the management of its activities to the local association BRASA. We promote human rights, the improvement of the quality of life, the social inclusion of people with disabilities, and the fight against leprosy. In this specific field, we promote a debate about stigma and discrimination of people with leprosy to contribute to early diagnosis and to break the chain of disease transmission, thereby establishing collaboration practices. Our SonhAção project is designed to contribute to strengthening local medical care at community level and partnership networks between the Emilia-Romagna region (Italy) and three Brazilian entities: the indigenous territory of Barê in the Amazon, the State of Espírito Santo, and 12 municipalities near the city of Mossoró, in the North-Eastern part of the country.

Present since 1961

Country regions: San Paulo, Mossoró, Barê, Espírito Santo

Care area: 7,246 protagonists, 2 projects

Inclusion area: 1,217 protagonists, 1 project

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
CARE SonhAção - Dreams in action: an Italy-Brazil dialogue for local community-oriented assistance	RER	COSPE	01/12/2022	1 year

CARE Mossorò project	Various Brazilian entities	BRASA	01/01/2023	1 year
INCLUSION Women's Voices - Creating a communication network of women with disabilities in Brazil	Waldensian Church	AIFO	01/06/2023	1 year

The Protagonists' voice - Telma and the San Paulo women

Telma is a woman with disability. She was married for eight years to a man who, during one of many acts of violence, caused her injuries that made her a paraplegic. "I decided to separate from him when I woke up from fainting and saw my children crying". Only then did she find the courage to leave her partner, but after that, she was isolated by her community that did not understand her. "To fight other people's prejudice, I had to fight prejudice within myself." The fact that she is able to raise her children is a reason for pride. "I thought I was alone, but then I realised I wasn't. Vozes Femininas gave me force to raise my voice and be proud of the woman I have become." Telma's life is now a source of inspiration for other women, to persuade them to report assaults and other forms of violence often committed by their partners. Her courage is an example for other women.

INDIA

INDIAN CONTEXT

With 1.37 billion inhabitants, India is the second most populated country in the world. Despite the recent economic growth, the country has to face significant social and economic challenges. Two third of the Indian population live in poverty, and the hardest hit are women and children. The lack of jobs in rural areas forces many to move to big cities, where life conditions are even worse: social exclusion, violated rights, illiteracy, no healthcare and medical structures, children and families living on the streets, in slum and shantytowns.

CARE Epidemic diseases require holistic attention to poorly serviced populations and prompt policy changes to mitigate economic stress factors.

INCLUSION Social problems are persisting, especially discrimination against people with leprosy. Despite its national elimination as a public health problem in 2005, real life situations still show continuous challenges in accessing care and addressing the stigma.

AIFO IN INDIA

AIFO has worked in the country since 1961 and is part of the National Leprosy Control Programme, a plan to fight the disease that still has tragic consequences in the country. The North-Eastern region of India still faces many challenges: the majority of the population is tribal and difficult to reach, with poor quality of life, and all development parameters are low. In addition, knowledge about the disease is decreasing, which leads to delays in diagnosis and treatment by the public health system. Through the local association Friends of AIFO Trust we work to eradicate the disease in collaboration with the Indian government and other agencies of the International Federation of Leprosy Associations - ILEP (See the section “Projects run by other organisations in partnership with AIFO”). We promote the rehabilitation of people affected by leprosy and the inclusive development of people with different kinds of disabilities by means of a Community-Based Inclusive Development approach.

Present since 1961

Country regions: Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar.

Care area: 2,695 protagonists

Inclusion area: 1,217 protagonists

Number of projects: 1

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
CARE Leprosy control in the North-Eastern Indian states	AIFO	Friends Trust India	01/01/2023	1 year

The Protagonists’ voice - The story of Arup who wants to be a teacher

“A spot on my left forearm alerted my father who took me to a check-up organised by AIFO India. Until then I was unaware of what was going on. AIFO helped me diagnose leprosy at an early stage and with their help I received all the information on how to get medicines for the disease and recover.” Arup lives with his family in Northern India, a very poor area. He was lucky: AIFO arrived just in time. Actively searching for leprosy cases is one of the most important ways to stop the disease and to allow people to picture and build a better future. “Now I am studying in class eight, and I want to become a teacher later on.”

CHINA

CHINESE CONTEXT

In 2021, the Chinese per-capita GDP was 12,000 dollars; its 0.788 Human Development Index ranks 75th in the world. However, reality shows that China is still a very poor country. Income inequality is very high and hundreds of million of Chinese live in poverty. At least 600 million people live on as little as 100 dollars per month (3.3 dollars per day) and 75.6% of them live in rural areas.

AIFO IN CHINA

AIFO has operated in China since 1989 and collaborated in leprosy control programmes in Nanjing and Yunnan, but its commitment in the fight against leprosy has involved other regions, too. Since 2011, we have undertaken a significant and high-quality programme in the field of rehabilitation and inclusion of people with disabilities, giving special emphasis to actions for mental health. The strategic partner we collaborate with in the field of inclusion and rehabilitation is OVCI.

Present since 1989

Country regions: Beijing Xicheng District, Jiangsu Province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Henan Province

Care area: 65 protagonists, 1 project

Project (type and title)	Funding body	Leading Association	Project start	Duration
INCLUSION Tech for Life	US Embassy in Beijing	AIFO	01/09/2022	1 year

PROJECTS RUN BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AIFO

AIFO supports projects managed by other Italian and international civil society organisations (OVCI - Our family; ILEP: Fontilles, French Raoul Follereau Foundation - FRF; The Leprosy Mission International – TLMI; Leprosy Review – Lepra UK). All these projects are in line with AIFO's areas of action.

Area: Care

Madagascar

“Support to the National Leprosy Control Programme in Madagascar” managed by French Raoul Follereau Foundation - FRF

India

“Leprosy control and Rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu and Bihar”

Democratic Republic of Congo

“Support to the National Leprosy Control Programme in DRC” managed by Fontilles

Multi-country

Publication of a Scientific Magazine (Leprosy Review) managed by Lepra UK.

Area: Inclusion

Morocco

“Inclusion and Rehabilitation of Young People with Disabilities” managed by OVCI _ Our family

ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

In 2023, AIFO established a Project Department Italy in order to

- coordinate the many awareness-raising, training and fundraising activities carried out across Italy by our members and volunteers;
- organise new actions to apply in Italy the good practices learnt in our initiatives abroad, in the healthcare and inclusion areas, and improve the living conditions of discriminated people, especially people with disabilities, those suffering from social stigma, women, and migrants. AIFO success story demonstrates that working to assert the rights and dignity of discriminated people is beneficial to the whole community.

Our reference targets are doctors, healthcare and social operators, teachers and educators, people with disabilities, migrants, and the youth.

ITALY PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY PROJECTS

The general goal of Project Italy is to help create a society where discriminated people can enjoy better physical and mental health and fully participate in social and economic life, live a dignified and inclusive life, and be protagonists in all decisions affecting them.

This general goal is based on two fundamental pillars that we have adopted since 2023:

1. Contributing to health improvement: we aim to contribute to improving the physical and mental health of discriminated people in Italy, with a special focus on people with disabilities, ensuring that they have access to adequate health services, therapies, and the medical support they need to manage their health conditions in the best possible way and to lead a life that is as healthy and independent as possible.
2. Promoting dignity and social inclusion: we want to break down the social, cultural and economic barriers that often, even in Italy, leave people with disabilities isolated and discriminated against or made vulnerable.

Our aim is to enable them to actively participate in society, have a voice in their community, and find a place within it.

We are implementing following project lines:

- Care
- Reinforcement of the member base
- GCE - Global citizenship education
- Leprosy Plan

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND FOCUS ON THREE SPECIAL PROJECTS

The issues we focus on in our activities in Italy are: global citizenship education, and the promotion of rights and health of people with disabilities or vulnerable people. Thanks to the geographical distribution of our 37 groups of members and volunteers, we promote awareness-raising and training activities in schools, cities, and outside formal settings. We see global citizenship education as a process to positively transform the relationships between human beings, communities, and the contexts in which we live. We wish to promote awareness and responsibility, encouraging individuals and communities to enjoy and advocate their rights, and to assume their responsibilities in a global perspective of mobilisation and sharing. The final aim is to achieve social justice, that is, a situation where everyone's rights are protected and recognised.

Education and training activities in Italy were organised as follows:

- school and extra-school training courses for teachers and students
- training and awareness-raising meetings
- school competition
- agreements with schools, local bodies, and other associations
- public opinion campaigns
- summer camps

The issues addressed and the in-depth studies concerned:

- global health
- social inclusion
- fight against discriminations

Thanks to the efforts of 17 local groups and the collaboration of the SCHOOL GROUP (made up of AIFO members and staff), in 2023 the Italian Projects office totalled 59 initiatives in schools of all levels in 10

Italian regions. A total of about 5.000 students and over 150 teachers were involved in awareness-raising meetings on the topics of inclusion, health, peace, and solidarity in general.

The following are three special projects:

1) FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL INCLUSIVE COOPERATION

The eighth edition of the Festival of International Cooperation “Mare Omnium - Sustainable and Inclusive Cities and Communities in the Mediterranean Sea” was organised from 18 to 22 October 2023 in collaboration with RIDS - Italian Disability and Development Network (including AIFO, FISH, DPI, EducAid and OVCI) and the cooperative La coda di Ulisse. Through multiple meetings and seminars in [.....] Italian cities, the initiative explored different aspects of Goal 11 of the UN 2015-2030 Agenda “Sustainable Cities and Communities” with a focus on the Mediterranean Sea, intended as a place of sharing and civil coexistence, open to anyone who sails its waters either to pursue the art of coexistence or because driven by hope in the future. The Festival aims to become a reference point of participation and action for members, civil society, organisations and institutions working across the territory and sharing the noble mission of promoting inclusion and global coexistence. The title of the 2024 Festival will be "Inclusive Cooperation in the Mediterranean". This edition will be devoted to the active inclusion of people with disabilities as active protagonists of international cooperation actions and projects.

2) SCHOOL COMPETITION 2023

The AIFO school competition reached its 13th edition in the school ye 2022/23.

At a time when Europe is once again experiencing the drama of war at its doorstep, the concept of strength as a synonym for prevarication over others and destruction, and the concept of wealth as a synonym for exploitation and domination, are once again making headlines.

The competition title: "A country is not great because it is strong; a country is not great because it is rich; a country is great only if it is capable of much love" (R. Follereau).

The aim of this competition is to make students meditate on a number of topics:

- human rights
- equality among peoples and persons
- a culture of peace and non-violence
- global citizenship and the value of an active and conscious commitment
- the fight against inequalities and discrimination

3) TRAINING COURSE FOR TEACHERS 2023/2024

Our training course for teachers is a great opportunity to be trained in global citizenship education, engagement, peace, reception, inclusion, non-discrimination, health for all. The course aims to provide teachers, educators, support teachers, and third sector workers with knowledge and skills to be applied in their educational activities focusing on the 2030 Agenda.

In 2023, the course “Organising the Good Epidemic” provided teachers and education and training professionals (90 participants) with:

- 21 experts in International Cooperation and Third Sector
- a 22-hour online course
- 6 Sustainable Development Goals directly addressed
- 5 correspondences from abroad (Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Tunisia, Brazil, Mongolia)
- GCE credits - AIFO is recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)

Activities organised by AIFO Local Groups in Italy

<i>With our activities we reached...</i>	Total number
Students	over 5,000
Teachers	over 150
Medical and paramedical staff	over 200
General public	over 10,000

	Total number
Events for schools	17
Training sessions for Local Health Authority	2
International Cooperation Festival events	36
Awareness-raising events	150

	Total number
Cities reached by group initiatives	over 100
Regions reached by group initiatives	15

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - WHO

Since 1999, AIFO has been the only Italian NGO recognised as a non-state actor in an official relationship with the WHO. In 1988 it started a collaboration with the WHO Disability and Rehabilitation Unit (DAR) to promote the Community-Based Rehabilitation approach (CBR) in the projects supported by AIFO. The collaboration with WHO/DAR was officialised in 1996, and in 1999 AIFO obtained the WHO’s official recognition as a non-state actor in an official relationship. It participates as a Non-State Actor in the World Health Assembly in Geneva. The new technical cooperation agreement 2023-2025 with WHO, specifically

with the DAR Unit, defines joint objectives and activities to be developed in the field of rehabilitation and social inclusion of people with disabilities.

Areas of AIFO-WHO collaboration

The areas of activity covered by the WHO-AIFO Collaboration Plan include: raising public awareness of the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative; providing technical contributions for the development of WHO tools to support the implementation of the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative; providing technical support to Ministries of Health for enhancing rehabilitation in health systems.

Practical examples of AIFO's activities in collaboration with WHO are: the translation of guides and tools developed by WHO; technical support to the development of a set of interventions for rehabilitation; and technical assistance to the Ministries of Health of Guinea Bissau and Liberia.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ANTI-LEPROSY ASSOCIATIONS - ILEP

We are co-founders of the Federation that coordinates the fight against leprosy and its causes. During the year, we participated in ILEP meetings and managed activities and information exchange with other ILEP organisations in our respective countries of operation.

In January 2023, an International Leprosy Symposium was organised in the Vatican.

That same month we organised the Symposium "Leave No One Behind" with the French Raoul Follereau Foundation and the Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative, in collaboration with the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

The initiative's aim was to raise awareness, collect funds, enhance the network of worldwide operators treating leprosy patients, and coordinate new interventions to eradicate Hansen's disease.

The symposium brought together health and human rights experts, delegates from the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, NGOs, religious groups, and people affected by Hansen's disease and other tropical diseases to discuss the necessary actions to reach the goal of "zero leprosy" and build a society where no one is left behind. The event was opened by a message by Pope Francis to the participants, calling on them not to discard leprosy victims and to build an inclusive society.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM - IDDC

We are co-founders of the consortium of civil society organisations aiming to promote inclusive international development cooperation and humanitarian action, with a focus on the full and effective implementation of human rights for all persons with disabilities. We are particularly active in the Community-Based Inclusive Development Working Group. In 2023, the collaboration focused on drafting the Community 2030 document together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights (OHCHR), which is committed to supporting the inclusion of disability (mainstream) in human rights policies and the development of specific policies on disabilities.

ITALIAN DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK - RIDS

We are co-founder of the Network that in Italy, together with DPI Italia, EducAid and FISH, represents a common interest and mutual collaboration for national and international development cooperation initiatives addressed to people with disabilities. To fully implement Articles 11 and 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), RIDS operates to ensure that the development cooperation system pays attention to disability from an inclusive perspective. RIDS is inspired by the principle of empowerment and is committed to raising awareness and giving a voice to people with disabilities and their organisations, so that they can debate their rights with public and private institutions and civil society. In 2023, the Network's activities included the start of an Erasmus+ project called DICOO to train people with disabilities as experts in inclusive international cooperation.

ITALIAN NETWORK ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Following the new roadmap 2021-30 for NTDs launched by the WHO, a coalition of scientific societies (SolPa, SIMET, SIMIT), institutions (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Istituto di Ricerche farmacologiche Mario Negri, University of Milan Centro MACH) in Italy, Foundations (Fondazione Ivo de Carneri and PHLIdC in Pemba), and NGOs (AIFO, Sightsavers Italia) was created to support progress towards the "last mile" that separates us from the control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases, including leprosy, which are an effect and cause of poverty and marginalisation all over the world.

By means of advocacy, training, research, and international cooperation, the network aims to coordinate efforts towards the organisation of useful interventions against NTDs in our country and in countries where they are endemic.

ITALIAN SECRETARIAT OF MEDICINE STUDENTS - SISM

We continue our activities in collaboration with SISM and according to the Convention signed with them for awareness-raising and training activities on Global Health and Neglected Tropical Diseases addressed to the population, medical students, and young school students.

ITALIAN GUIDES AND SCOUTS ASSOCIATION - AGESCI

In 2023, after many years of informal collaboration, we signed and activated a Convention with AGESCI for awareness-raising and training activities on Global Health and Inclusion issues addressed to the population and to Italian scouts of all ages.

COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Communication and fundraising are two extremely important aspects for AIFO. Although their purposes are different, they are two complementary parts of a whole strategy to attract a wider and more responsive public, promoting participation and trust in healthcare and inclusion initiatives. Communication is meant to consciously convey AIFO's mission and issues, raising public awareness on the importance of guaranteeing the protection of rights and consolidating AIFO's reputation through media, offline and online tools, and events. By means of these activities we establish long-lasting relationships with supporters, keep them updated and motivated over time, ensure the fulfilment of AIFO's mission and thereby the promotion of health and inclusion in the world, starting from the people made vulnerable by the context in which they live.

COMMUNICATION

We have always paid great attention to respecting everyone's dignity, fragility and vulnerability, as well as their skills and potential.

This is why we choose to respectfully give voice to the people we reach, in order to advocate their rights and dignity.

In every communication initiative, we pay a special attention to narrating the issues and action areas we stand for, highlighting our methodologies which are not always easy to convey.

NEW COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

As we renewed AIFO's vision and mission contained in the Strategic Plan 23-27, we started to reflect and study the drafting of our new Communication Guidelines in order to improve our visibility and awareness. The document was approved by the Board of Directors and its final draft was completed in the first part of 2024.

This Social Report is the first AIFO document that has adopted the new guidelines and the new Association brand. In our opinion, this new visual identity portrays us more clearly and allows us to look ahead and be more appealing to the public that does not yet know us.

The new brand was officially presented at the AIFO National Assembly in June 2024.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND CHANNELS

Communication activities and editorial plans for online and offline tools are developed in synergy. We devote much attention to the content of our communication so as to meet the need of supporters and stakeholders to be involved and informed about the results of AIFO's actions.

Communication and fundraising offline tools

- Institutional newsletter: here we can periodically update supporters with the latest news from the Association. It is distributed every two months. In 2023 we sent out 23 newsletters and thematic e-mails (DEM), 35% were opened.
- Two periodical publications: "*Amici di Follereau*" and "*Speciale per te*" ("*Friends of Follereau*" and "*Special for You*" respectively). Specific communications and appeals on individual projects and initiatives. Periodical magazines are important to further investigate the topics we are dealing with and provide updates on active projects. In 2023 we produced five issues of "*Friends of Follereau*" and two issues of "*Special for You*".
- At Easter and Christmas, we sent out two appeals to support specific projects.

During the year we sent over 300,000 communications using these means.

Communication and fundraising online tools

Website: www.aifo.it

Users: 9,616

Sessions: 13,667

Facebook profile

Coverage: 413,734

Followers: 4,660

Impressions: 1,700,963

Visits: 11,395

Instagram profile

Coverage: 50,504

Followers: 520

Visits: 773

LinkedIn profile

Impressions: 11,677

Followers: 1,179

Single visualisations: 5,766

YouTube channel

Impressions: 33,992

Subscribers: 334

Views: 3,075

COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

70th WORLD LEPROSY DAY

World Leprosy Day (WLD) is the most important national awareness-raising and fundraising event for our projects. It deeply involves staff, members, volunteers and supporters all over Italy. On 29 January 2023 we celebrated the 70th edition. The campaign was supported by a message of His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the Sunday Angelus. and the following organisations confirmed their valuable support at national level: AGESCI (Italian Guides and Scouts Association), Gi.Fra (Italian Franciscan Youth), SISM (Italian Secretariat of Medicine Students) and FOCSIV (Volunteers in the World).

We wish to thank the many organisations and friends who supported us in the implementation of this major and widespread event, which has increasingly become our symbol of the fight “against all leprosies” such as hunger, poverty, social injustice, selfishness, and indifference.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The International Day for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities falls on 3 December every year. It is an occasion to raise awareness and spread better understanding of disability issues and of the socio-cultural and physical barriers that we still have to break down, in Italy and abroad.

This year we published a press release in the national media presenting AIFO's efforts for the active inclusion of people with disabilities and mentioning that, according to UN estimates, more than one billion people (about 15% of the world population) live with some form of disability.

In collaboration with AICS and other NGOs, we produced and released a video to promote the international cooperation projects we implement in order to break down barriers and foster inclusion in Italy and abroad. Mobilising and raising society's awareness is one of our priorities, in Italy and in foreign countries, to pursue an inclusive, fair and sustainable development for all.

We can also contribute to a culture of inclusion thanks to our territorial groups which organize annual meetings - from October to December - addressed to citizens and to students at all education levels.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities create value as well as links between beneficiaries of our actions on the ground and supporters who decide to play an active role for change.

People who choose to support the Association with small and large donations do so in many ways: one-off or regular donations, memorial donations, testamentary bequests, and the "5 per thousand" contribution. Having loyal donors who believe in our mission and who understand the importance of supporting our activities abroad and in Italy, is essential for us to plan actions and projects and to be sustainable. They guarantee that we will achieve the goals we set ourselves with and for the most fragile people.

79% of AIFO's donors started supporting our projects over 10 years ago.

DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Our individual donors are considered as primary stakeholders. In addition to the communication tools described above, we have adopted specific donor care tools to thank them and inform those who regularly support our institutional activities. We communicate with supporters to send them thank-you letters and, in 2023, we distributed a questionnaire aimed at gathering suggestions on the relevance of our information. The questionnaire also gave us an insight into our donors and allowed us to share and strengthen common values. Our 2024 planning takes into account what emerged from the answers of almost 1,000 supporters.

"I am a loyal AIFO donor, I must say that you are the association I love most. I am starting to think about my will so I would be happy to receive AIFO's bequest guide"

"I have known you since I was at university, I learned about your work through Nigrizia and Follereau's books. I am among the young people who sent postcards to the UN back then. I will not fail to mention you in my will". Testimonies of two donors who filled in the Questionnaire.

MAJOR DONORS PROGRAMME

AIFO's Major Donors Programme was launched in 2023 in line with the Strategic Plan 2023-2027, in order to further involve the Association's most generous donors in our ongoing projects.

The programme and its resources are devoted to developing the relationship with these supporters by informing them about the Association's activities and projects, thus creating a solid and transparent relationship based on trust. We want to establish a direct dialogue with these donors, get to know their wishes, and propose them to support the projects that are closest to their hearts.

For the programme to be fully implemented, it requires a continuous dialogue between the Communication and Fundraising Office and the Foreign and Italy Projects Office, in order to identify the activities and projects that need the most support.

The meetings I participated in convinced me that this was a serious organisation. In those meetings, witnesses spoke about certain issues, and it was all done in a sincere and transparent atmosphere, so you really felt you could trust them.

AIFO showed us how this money will be used, in an African country, Guinea Bissau. Knowing where and how donations will be used is always appreciated, it strengthens your action" Massimo, major Donor

We would like to thank all the donors who continuously and significantly support the association, helping to make health and inclusion become a reality for so many people.

BEQUESTS CAMPAIGN

The solidarity will is a concrete help to our projects. Those who spontaneously make this choice in favour of our projects know that it will generate other acts of justice towards vulnerable people on the margins of societies, giving them new hope for the future. In 60 years, over 300 donors have indicated AIFO among the beneficiaries of their wills in order to promote greater inclusion and a fairer world. They actively participate in building a more humane society, as Raoul Follereau advocated. In 2023, our Bequests Campaign obtained the sponsorship and collaboration of the National Council of Notaries. In addition, it was promoted by a special appeal sent to our supporters and the diffusion of a promotional video featuring a testimonial - one of our donors, members and activists.

This free service for people wishing to obtain information on testamentary legacies is active and carried out with confidentiality and dedication. Informing is the right way to enable people to choose responsibly so as to protect their heirs, if any, and to give a future to their values.

5 PER THOUSAND CAMPAIGN

AIFO is registered in the permanent list of 5 per thousand beneficiaries. Its revenues are allocated to projects in Italy and abroad to promote health and inclusion among the most vulnerable people. “Il tuo 5x1000 è unico” (Your 5 per thousand is unique) was the slogan of our 2023 campaign, implying that each taxpayer has only one possibility for choosing whom to give this contribution. Therefore, each taxpayer is important because he or she concretely enables the promotion of health and inclusion of the most fragile people.

FUNDRAISING AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESSES

The philosophy underlying our projects is that of long-term sustainability, of substantial change in the situation we work for. At national and international level, sustainability can only be achieved with a collective effort to mobilise more resources by signing collaboration agreements and creating innovative solutions, including with the for-profit sector. To achieve greater impact, funding from public donors or individual private supporters is not enough

We firmly believe that promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (or Corporate Civil Responsibility) can create partnerships focused on improving the well-being of the world's entire population.

In line with this strong belief, starting in the second half of the year we worked on drafting the “Guidelines for Partnerships and Fundraising from Businesses”. Our goal is to establish an internal programme to guide fundraising and collaborations with Companies and Private Foundations, as well as to define the

requirements and working methodology to ensure consistency of values, protect reputations, and diversify funding sources.

We wish to thank all the businesses that already support the association and contribute to the achievement of AIFO's mission.

Focus on the 20-year partnership between AIFO and MEDITERRANEAN

A RENEWED PARTNERSHIP

AIFO and Mediterranea Cosmetics (Bcorp) have been collaborating for over 20 years. They have jointly provided sustained support to AIFO projects in Mozambique to ensure access to health and care to the country's most vulnerable population. Each year was marked by an initiative responding to specific and urgent needs. Just a few examples: we built a well for a hospital, supported displaced survivors of devastating climatic events, rebuilt the headquarters of the association of people with disabilities in Nampula, ensured diagnosis, treatment and inclusion to leprosy patients and, over the past few years, we supported an orphanage for girls and young people in vulnerable situations. In 2023, the 21st anniversary of our partnership, "Progetto Insieme" focused on Italy: we devoted our efforts to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and empowering fragile women.

We have instituted AIFO's Award "Women for Inclusion". In 2023, it was awarded by our president Antonio Lissoni to Valentina Tafuni, a human rights activist and president of Hayat Aps, engaged in cooperation between Italy and the Middle East. The event took place on December 1st in Bologna.

With this award we wish to give voice and visibility to valiant women whose stories can transmit awareness, power, and dignity. This is what we have done abroad for years, day after day, as these women can be a multiplying example of what we would like to see in the world. We need positive female models to inspire other women and the entire community with concrete experiences of courage, commitment, leadership, and change.

Valentina Tafuni: "I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for thinking of me as someone who can embody the values you intend to promote with this award, which I absolutely share! I sincerely hope I can live up to it, and I am truly honoured. I also believe that I only represent the beginning of a common challenge on the road to inclusion. The idea that this can go beyond me and have a collective and measurable impact makes me even more proud. This is the best sense of my and our commitment, also as Hayat".

Lucio Carli: "The pledge we made 20 years ago with AIFO through "Project Together" is a matter of mutual trust involving our two entities working together to implement not only projects but common values".

Details of our fundraising results are available in Chapter 6 of this Social Report.

6 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Financial Statements are drawn up pursuant to Article 13 of Legislative Decree 117/2017 and Decree No. 39/2020 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and composed of a Balance Sheet, an Income Statement, and a Mission Statement. All activities undertaken by AIFO are managed in line with its institutional purposes. The Financial Statements have been subject to auditing. All administrative duties are also subject to control by the Supervisory Body.

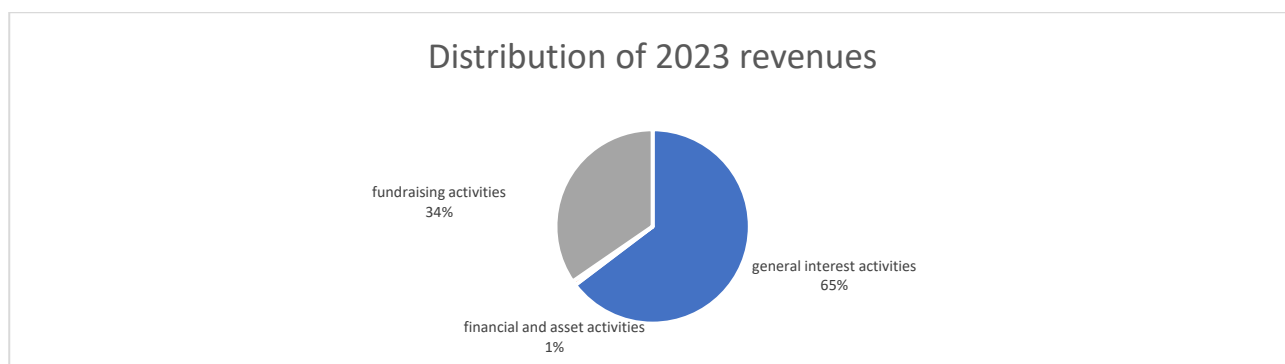
INCOME STATEMENT

The Financial Statements for the year 2023 show a 16% decrease in revenues compared to the previous year, mainly due to two reasons: lower revenues from bequests, and a decrease in project activities abroad due to delays in their implementation, which will be postponed to the following financial years. These revenues are in fact directly proportional to charges, as they accrue as a counterpart to them.

Revenues	2023	2022
A) Earnings, income and revenues from general interest activities	2,833,017	3,288,663
B) Earnings, income and revenues from other activities	-	-
C) Earnings, income and revenues from fundraising activities	1,515,036	1,921,774
D) Earnings, income and revenues from financial and assets activities	31,306	18,188
E) Revenues from general support activities	-	-
Total	4,379,359	5,228,625

The following graph illustrates the composition of 2023 revenues.

65% comes from general interest activities, i.e. direct revenues of project activities. 34% comes from fundraising from private individuals, both in regular campaigns and in occasional fundraising events such as World Leprosy Day. The remaining 1% consists in financial and assets income.



Revenues from the "5 per thousand" fund-raising campaign show a decrease as compared to the previous year (- € 8,431). These revenues are allocated to supporting institutional and general interest activities.

	2023	2022	Difference
5 per thousand contributions	64,937	73,368	8,431

Focus on Fundraising activities

Fundraising activities as a whole generated a positive operating result of € 971,837 with a total decrease of € 571,797 as compared to 2022. The reduction was due to increased investments and lower revenues from bequests.

Fundraising activities	2023	2022
Earnings	1,515,036	1,921,774
Costs	543,199	378,140
Surplus	971,837	1,543,634

If specifically analysed, data in the following table show the positive trend in revenues from fundraising activities related to regular campaigns which increased by € 151,690 if compared to 2022. On the other hand, testamentary bequests show a significant decrease by € 523,678. The item “Testamentary bequests” follows the same negative trend as in the previous financial year: € 83,285 in 2023 as compared to € 606,963 in 2022. The only public event contained in the Occasional Fundraising section is the one concerning World Leprosy Day.

Earnings, income and revenues from fundraising activities	2023	2022	Difference
Regular campaigns	1,101,813	950,123	151,690
Testamentary bequests	83,285	606,963	-523,678
Subtotal regular fundraising	1,185,098	1,557,086	-371,988
Occasional campaign “World Leprosy Day”	329,938	364,687	-34,749
Total	1,515,036	1,921,773	-406,737

The initiative related to World Leprosy Day is still one of the main activities promoted throughout Italy, mobilising a very high number of members, volunteers and other associations that take part in the event. Members play an important role in involving others. The following graph shows a slight decrease.

Summary of World Leprosy Day fundraising	Year 2023
Collected funds	329,938
Initiative costs	154,389
Funds to be allocated	175,549

The difference between costs and revenues amounts to € 175,549 allocated to social and healthcare activities to guarantee health and inclusion to our project beneficiaries; especially in the fight and control of leprosy and other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in the countries where we operate.

Charges

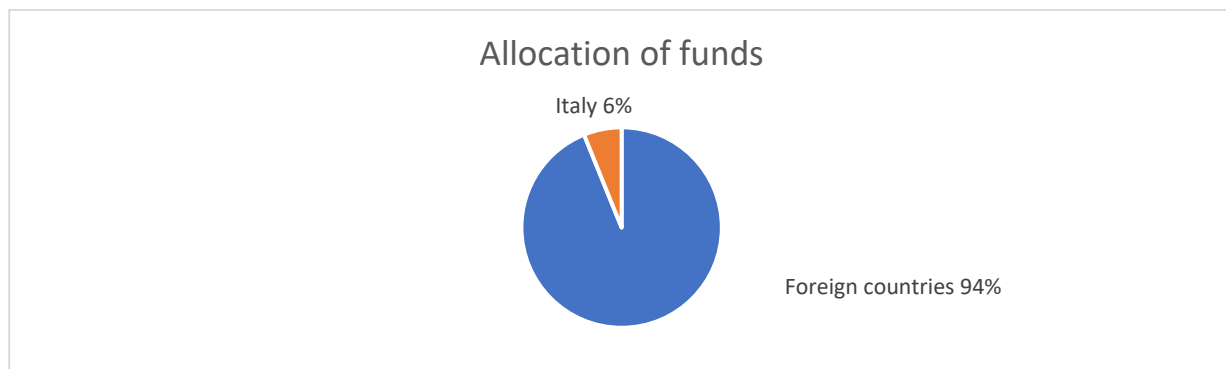
Costs are recorded in the Financial Statements as follows.

Charges	2023	2022
A) Costs and charges of General Interest Activities	3,487,666	4,312,621
B) Costs, charges and revenues from other activities	-	-
C) Costs, charges and revenues of Fundraising activities	543,199	378,140
D) Costs, charges and revenues of Financial and assets activities	13,867	96,143
E) Costs and charges for general support activities	699,515	755,917
Total	4,744,247	5,542,820

As already mentioned when describing Revenues from General Activities, a decrease in comparison to 2022 was due to a reduction in project activities abroad caused by delays in their implementation, which will be postponed to the following financial years. General Interest Activities account for 74% of the Financial Statements. A decrease in charges from financial and assets activities followed an extraordinary write-down made in 2022 on the association's property for € 90,000. General support charges decreased by € 56,402.

Funds collected in 2023 both through the fund-raising activities mentioned above and the assignment of projects to both public and private financing bodies were allocated to the implementation of care and Inclusion programmes which are common to all projects carried out by AIFO. Of these, 6% were allocated to activities in Italy and 94% abroad in the territories where AIFO has been working for years.

The following graph shows the allocation of funds.



Details of allocation of funds divided per country:

Allocation of funds, per country	%
Mozambique	31%
Liberia	29%
Tunisia	11%
Guinea Bissau	11%
Brazil	5%
Mongolia	4%
India	3%
China	1%
Italy	6%
Total	100%

Similarly to last year, the country with the largest number of ongoing projects and the highest level of expenditure is Mozambique (31%), followed by Liberia (29%) where AIFO is implementing an important financial project supported by the Swedish cooperation that alone accounts for almost all the funds managed in 2023. Guinea Bissau and Tunisia account for 11% each of the total value. The other foreign countries, i.e. Brazil, Mongolia, India, and China account for 13% and Italian activities cover the remaining 6%.

End notes

The financial year 2023 ended with an operating deficit of € 392,534 (it was € 347,363 in 2022). As in the previous financial year, the loss was primarily due to the significant drop in revenues from bequests in the last two financial years. This trend has led AIFO management bodies to treat this activity as an extraordinary component.

Similarly to 2022, in 2023 the Association's management bodies worked hard to react to present problems and to the difficult challenges AIFO will face in the near future.

The analysis of our Financial Statements of the previous years is key to interpreting the results and goals achieved by the Association, particularly with regard to the many external events that, in recent years, have exerted an unprecedented influence on AIFO's management strategy and all third-sector operators. As a result, they had to design new operational models and new development strategies.

AIFO owns very high net assets amounting to € 4,266,555 as of December 31, 2022. This allows our management to face the ongoing significant change to achieve the economic balance. In fact, AIFO is strongly reacting to this situation. It is reorganising itself, studying new processes and procedures, and adopting a Multi-year Strategic Plan to guide it in such a complex scenario. The Multi-Year Strategic Plan includes not only a budgetary consolidation but also a growth in the volumes managed by AIFO up to 2027, therefore greater impact of our action in the world.

The 2023 deficit amounting to € 392,535 was covered by AIFO's free assets, bringing the total net assets as of December 31, 2023 to € 3,874,021.

The 2023 deficit should be seen not as a loss resulting from management dynamics, but as the Association's intention to disburse part of its assets (thus generating a deficit) to the advantage of those benefiting from AIFO's activities or its partners.

All AIFO's activities are based on people, on values, on the material assets and the expertise that the Association has built throughout its important history, which makes it a credible player in the national and international arena.

7 - FURTHER INFORMATION

SIE - SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION

AIFO has always paid particular attention to the short, medium, and long term evaluation, both qualitative and quantitative, of the effects of its activities carried out in development cooperation and emergency projects. More specifically, AIFO has adopted a standard procedure for measuring impact which defines the purposes, tool and methodology used in the projects in order to establish the sustainable 'added value' created by the activities in the territories where the Association operates. The main purpose of measuring social impact is to verify, analyse and possibly redefine the expected short and long term effects of the promoted initiatives, using and if necessary modifying the quantitative and qualitative indicators defined in the initial feasibility study. Stakeholders of the various initiatives participate in the evaluation process (participatory model) and are constantly informed about the development and changes achieved by the promoted actions. Accordingly, the measurement process has two functions for AIFO:

- **internal:** in the planning phase, identify more effective actions, starting from the critical elements and finding corrective measures;
- **external:** communicate to stakeholders the actual effectiveness and efficiency of initiatives.

Scope of the Association's action

The promoted actions produce changes that affect the quality of life of individual direct beneficiaries (micro level), the organisation and its relationship with the other stakeholders (meso level), society as a whole meaning citizenship, political representation, intermediate subjects (macro level).

Due to international cooperation projects, AIFO's contribution in terms of added value production is multidimensional:

- capacity to perceive local needs in the regions where it operates, to create partnership networks, and to involve people belonging to vulnerable categories (social dimension);
- dissemination of the values of justice, equity, tolerance, solidarity, and mutuality in foreign countries and in Italy, in line with its mission (human rights dimension/Human Right Based Approach);
- possibility of activating economic resources and promoting social entrepreneurship (economic dimension);
- contributing to strengthening subsidiarity at different institutional levels by influencing local policies, establishing public-private partnerships and sharing common visions and objectives with institutions (institutional/advocacy dimension).

The measuring process

The essential steps of AIFO's measuring process to evaluate the impact of its promoted activities, regardless of which kind, are:

- defining the scope of analysis, in order to provide indications as to the following steps in the process and ensure its feasibility;
- involving stakeholders;
- measuring the identified indicators;
- analysis and discussion in order to understand and determine the change brought about: assessment of the short/medium-term effect (outcome) achieved, based on the products of the activities (output) and the contribution to the desired long-term effect (long-term impact), establishing whether the achieved change may also be due to factors other than the implemented project;
- communication and dissemination of achievements and of "lessons learnt".

This process takes place in different time periods: before (ex ante), during (in itinere), at the end (final) or after (ex-post) the project implementation:

- before the implementation of a cooperation project, in order to establish its feasibility or to define the context and needs (ex-ante evaluation), and also to identify valid, reliable and relevant indicators (qualitative and quantitative) to be used in later assessments;
- during the project (in-itinere evaluation) in order to examine partial results and detect any situations that need to be corrected, complementing the process evaluation (monitoring) that goes together with the development of activities;
- final assessment of outcome assessment in order to verify whether or not the desired and pre-established short/medium-term effects have been achieved;
- assessment after the end of the project, to verify the sustainability over time of what has been achieved.

The in-itinere and final evaluations can be independent from each other and carried out by external bodies/consultants, based on specific terms of reference.

The following tools are generally used to collect the information needed for impact measurement:

- flow statistics (monitoring systems already in place in the project area);
- systematisation of data/information already produced by the Association;
- standardised tools for collecting information on population and beneficiaries;
- specific tools related to the defined outcomes and the long-term impact of initiatives.

Data quality is a priority at all stages of social impact measurement: quality data is essential to correctly measure the change produced by projects. Accordingly, time and effort are necessary in the overall management of the project cycle to ensure that all data collected is quality data and is communicated to all stakeholders in an appropriate manner.

Methodology

In its management and evaluation system of international cooperation initiatives, including for the measurement of their social impact, AIFO integrates and adopts the “Theory of Change” approach. This approach can facilitate and guarantee the participation of stakeholders as well as measure and enhance the real change brought about by initiatives. It is a management and evaluation system concerning the changes produced by projects, which allows to determine and explain the reasons why the desired change should be generated and to assess the effectiveness of a programme or project (ex-ante, in itinere, at the end and ex-post).

Conclusions

Based on the aforementioned, we can say that AIFO’s social impact measurement is made to:

- decide whether a programme/project shall be implemented, based on the estimated impact assessment (ex-ante);

- decide whether an ongoing project shall be continued (in itinere);
- decide whether a project shall be continued after its termination, based on the outcomes (final stage);
- decide whether a project shall be replicated in the same geographical area or adapted to different contexts (ex-post);
- ensure the continuity of a stakeholder network, particularly the communities where the initiative was implemented, by informing stakeholders and sharing the outcomes with them.

In short, the measurement results are used internally by the organisation to learn from the change process and redefine its operational strategy; at the same time, they are used externally to ensure dissemination and sharing of the effects/changes produced by the implemented cooperation initiatives.

7.2 SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION OF TWO PROJECT INITIATIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

AIFO implemented two important actions in the country in 2023. Their outcomes and impact are illustrated below.

PROJECT TITLE: JOVENS - YOUTH AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

AIFO managed the initiative as leading association, in partnership with OPEN GROUP (a social cooperative based in Bologna), Forum of Mozambican Associations of People with Disabilities (FAMOD), REDE UNIDA (Brazilian network of civil society associations). The project was approved by the Emilia Romagna Region (ERR), it started on 30 November 2021 and ended on 31 January 2023. Planned duration: 12 months Actual duration: 14 months

Total budget: € 89,740 / ERR funds: 62,818 EUR

The rationale of the initiative

Mozambique is one of the countries with the highest occurrence of gender-based violence (GBV). The project implemented the planned activities with the participation of local youth in order to reduce the number of GBV cases.

General goal: To contribute to reducing gender-based violence by raising awareness in the communities of Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique.

Specific goal: To improve knowledge and competence about women's and girls rights among secondary school students in the Montepuez and Balama districts, in order to prevent early marriage and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

Expected results:

-60 students at secondary schools in Montepuez and Balama trained to become activists and peer counsellors.

-Female students victims of violence identified and protected by the school community thanks to the School Alarm System (SAS).

-Local stakeholders have acquired knowledge, methodologies and new tools to stand up to gender violence, including exchange activities with Brazil.

-Students in 4 secondary schools in the Balama and Montepuez districts and local communities informed and trained on the issue of GBV.

Main activities:

-Training of activist students on GBV and establishment of the School Alarm System in the Balama and Montepuez districts.

-Awareness-raising campaigns on GBV in schools and local communities

-Information and awareness-raising activities in the Emilia-Romagna region

Project outcomes and impact

Outcomes

In Mozambique we provided prevention and early detection of violence and abuse episodes, as well as follow-up and psycho-social support to female students who were victims of violence. This included training 60 activist students (male and female) in 4 secondary schools, the establishment and management of an effective school alarm system (SAS) to guide victims to the necessary support services, and the exchange of best practices between Brazil and Mozambique.

Raising the awareness of local community to help reduce episodes of gender violence and early marriage was made possible by educational activities in schools involving 16,404 students (male and female) and the organisation of community awareness-raising initiatives in the districts where our action took place. The dissemination of radio spots and IEC materials reached an audience of 255,492 people.

To raise awareness in Emilia-Romagna on the issue of gender-based violence, two webinars were organised with the titles "Let's raise our voice: young people against gender-based violence" and "Young people for the protection of women's rights in Emilia-Romagna and in the world" to present the project and the activities carried out in Mozambique to male and female students of several high schools in Bologna and its province. In addition, the creation of various graphic materials distributed in the region gave visibility to the project and the issue of GBV.

Impact

Because of its results, the project made a significant contribution to the fight against GBV in the two districts of Cabo Delgado Province. The creation of "cantinhos" and School Alert Systems in schools, the involvement

of the responsible local institutions, and the partnership established between Mozambique and Brazil will enable the initiative to be sustainable over time.

By focusing on young people, the project has improved their knowledge and skills on issues related to protecting women's rights. The local youth involved are currently acting as agents of change and spreading information and discussion on the best possible actions to tackle gender-based violence (*main impact at the end of the project*).

PROJECT TITLE: COMSAUDE – BASIC HEALTH SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

GOAL 3: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages

AIFO managed the initiative as leading association, in partnership with Doctors for Africa Modena-Reggio Emilia (working in close collaboration with the NGO Medici con l'Africa-Cuamm from March 2004), the Healthcare Directorate of Cabo Delgado province, E35 Foundation for International Projects (promoted by the Reggio Emilia municipality).

The project was approved by the Emilia Romagna Region (ERR), it started on 25 November 2022 and ended on 31 January 2024. Planned duration: 12 months Actual duration: 14 months

Total budget: € 77,230 / ERR funds: € 54,061

In Mozambique, maternal and newborn mortality rates remain high and the country's epidemiological profile is beginning to be influenced by the growing impact of chronic non- transmissible diseases (NCDs). In this context, the Cabo Delgado Province is one of the most marginalised provinces and is currently considered the most fragile area of the country. In recent years, droughts, cyclones, floods, and socio-political instability have caused a drastic deterioration as to what concerns the economy and access to basic services in the province.

The rationale of the initiative

General goal: to contribute to reducing maternal and newborn mortality and the death rate from major chronic non- transmissible diseases (CNDs) in Mozambique by providing access to inclusive and quality healthcare and promoting well-being for all.

Specific goal: the population living in the area covered by the Chuiba Health Centre, including people with disabilities, have access to maternal and childcare services and to prevention and treatment services for chronic non-transmissible diseases.

The project wanted to ensure access to and availability of maternal and childcare services as well as prevention and treatment of three CNDs (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and precancerous lesions of the cervix), involving governmental and non-governmental partners and focusing on access for persons with disabilities. The action supported health programmes organised by the local Healthcare Directorate in order to increase access and quality of diagnosis and treatment (including in areas far from city centres) by implementing community-based activities such as mobile brigades ad community awareness actions. In order

to sustainably achieve the specific goal, the project proposed a multi-stakeholder strategy by reducing inequalities in access to services and ensuring strong community involvement.

Expected results

- Improved quality of maternal-newborn and childcare services and NCDs services at the Chuiba Health Centre
- Local health care actions regularly implemented in communities in the project area

Main activities

- Support to basic health programmes (mother-child health and control of non-transmittable diseases)
- Implementation of a community health programme
- Information and awareness-raising activities in the Emilia-Romagna region

Project outcomes and impact

Outcomes

The action has improved the quality of maternal/neonatal services and NCDs control services at the Chuiba Health Centre thanks to the training activities we implemented (upgrading and re-training of local staff) and the distribution of the necessary materials and equipment.

Local communities are made aware of the prevention of NCDs (Non-transmissible Chronic diseases), including in the most distant areas, thanks to the visits paid by the “Integrated Mobile Health Brigades” to local communities.

The awareness-raising action in the region Emilia-Romagna consisted of two public events available to all citizens: one in February 2023 in the province of Modena, and the second one in December 2023 in Reggio Emilia. In addition, a video summarising the project activities was distributed in the Internet and social media channels of all partners.

Impact

Thanks to the results achieved, the project contributed to reorganising maternal and child health programmes and to the prevention of the main non-transmissible chronic diseases in the Chuiba Health Centre area in Pemba City. The training programme, the provision of equipment, and the launch of community outreach activities in collaboration with the Healthcare Directorate, will support the initiative's sustainability after the project is completed.

The regular visits paid by the Mobile Health Brigades presently guarantee health care even in the most remote communities, increasing access to treatment and prevention of NCDs (*Regular Neighbourhood Care - Project Impact*)

8 - Monitoring performed by the Supervisory Body

SUPERVISORY BODY REPORT

Social Report as of December 31, 2023

TO THE MEMBERS OF ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA AMICI DI RAOUL FOLLEREAU (AIFO)

Report on the monitoring activity and its outcomes

Pursuant to Article 30, par. 7 of the Third Sector Code and Article 10 par. 2 of the Articles of Association of Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (hereinafter also called “the Organisation”), we have monitored the Organisation's compliance with civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes in drafting the 2023 Social Report, with specific focus on the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Third Sector Code. The monitoring was carried out in accordance with the current regulatory framework, and concerned in particular the following:

- checking that one or more activities of general interest referred to in Article 5, par. 1 are carried out on an exclusive or primary basis for civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes, in compliance with the particular rules governing their exercise, or activities other than those indicated in Article 5, par. 1 of the Third Sector Code, provided that they are within the limits of the statutory provisions and comply with the criteria of secondary and instrumental role established by Ministerial Decree No. 107 of 19 May 2021;
- as for fundraising activities carried out during the reporting period, the compliance with the principles of truthfulness, transparency and fairness towards supporters and the public. This was verified - pending the issuance of ministerial guidelines pursuant to Article 7 of the Third Sector Code - on the basis of a general survey of existing regulations and best practices in use;
- the pursuit of the non-profit nature of the organisation, through the allocation of its assets (including all its components: revenues, income, earnings however denominated) for the conduct of its statutory activities;
- the respect of the prohibition to distribute, even indirectly, profits, management surpluses, funds and reserves to founders, associates, workers and collaborators, directors and other members of the corporate bodies, taking into account the indexes referred to in Article 8, par. 3, letters a) to e) of the Third Sector Code.

Declaration of conformity of the Social Report with the Guidelines provided for in Decree 4 July 2019 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies

Pursuant to Article 30, par. 7 of the Third Sector Code and Article 10, par. 2 of the Articles of Association of Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau, in the financial year 2023 we checked the conformity of the Social Report prepared by the Organisation with the Guidelines for drafting the Social Report of Third Sector

Entities, issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies with Ministerial Decree 4 July 2019 in accordance with Article 14 of the Third Sector Code.

The Organisation has declared that its Social Report for the financial year 2023 is drafted in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

Without prejudice to the Board of Directors' responsibility for preparing the Social Report in accordance with the terms and deadlines set forth in the rules governing its drafting, according to the law, the Supervisory Body is responsible for certifying that the Social Report complies with the Guidelines of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

The Supervisory Body is also responsible for establishing whether the Social Report content is clearly inconsistent with the Financial Statements data and/or with the information and data at its disposal.

To this end, we have verified whether the Social Report content faithfully represents the activity carried out by the Organisation and is in line with the information requirements provided for by the relevant ministerial Guidelines. Our conduct was guided by the provisions of the Rules of Conduct for the Supervisory Body of Third Sector Entities published by CNDCEC in December 2020. In this respect, we also verified the following aspects:

- conformity of the Social Report structure to the division into sections set out in par. 6 of the Guidelines;
- whether the Social Report contains the information referred to in the specific sub-sections clearly provided for in Par. 6 of the Guidelines;
- compliance with the principles for drafting the Social Report set forth in Par. 5 of the Guidelines, including the principles of relevance and completeness, which may entail the need to supplement the information explicitly required by the Guidelines.

Based on our activity, no evidence has come to our attention to suggest that the 2023 Social Report of "Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau" has not been drawn up, in all its significant aspects, in compliance with the provisions of the Guidelines set out in Ministerial Decree 4 July 2019.

Bologna, 5 June 2024

The Supervisory Body

Dott. Alberto Fioritti

Dott. Enea Chersoni

Dott. Nicola Luzzana

ATTACHMENTS

CHAPTER 2

STATUTORY ACTIVITIES RE. ARTICLE 5 Leg. Decree 117/2017

General Interest Activities To achieve the aims and purposes referred to in paragraph 1 and with the intention of acting in favour of the entire community, the Association performs the following activities of general interest, hereinafter referred to with the corresponding letters of Article 5, par. 1 of the Third Sector Code, supplemented on the basis of AIFO's mission:

- **i** organization and management of cultural, artistic, or recreational activities of social interest; promotion of the culture and practice of voluntary work and awareness-raising activities on national and global active citizenship, with particular attention being paid to contributing to a culture of peace, justice, solidarity, and respect for the environment in order to fight the structural causes of poverty, oppression, and any forms of marginalization; organization of initiatives on development education and intercultural education and, as part of these, professional training and development programs aimed primarily at students and at management and teaching staff of Italian schools, including the relevant teaching material.
 - **n** development cooperation pursuant to Law No. 125 of August 11, 2014, as amended. More specifically, the Association promotes, supports, coordinates action to fight Hansen's disease by means of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation; it promotes, supports, and coordinates targeted social and health projects specifically designed for people with disabilities and for children, particularly through basic health interventions, rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities, sponsorship of minors living in extreme hardship and underdevelopment, and the fight against gender discrimination.
 - **o** education and information activities within or in favour of fair-trade supply chains in disadvantaged economic areas
 - **r** humanitarian reception and social integration of migrants;
 - **u** charity, long-distance support, free supply of food or products or provision of services to support disadvantaged people;
 - **v** promotion of the culture of legality, peace among peoples, and non-violence;
 - **w** promotion and protection of human, civil, social, and political rights;
- promotion of equal opportunities and mutual help initiative, including time banks and solidarity purchasing groups.

AIFO HISTORY

This **AIFO timeline** retraces some important stages of over **60 years of our commitment** to combating inequality and marginalisation and to achieve a culture of justice and inclusion.

1960s - THE BEGINNING

1961 - In Bologna, a group of Combonian missionaries and volunteers founded AIFO, inspired by Raoul Follereau's message of love and justice. This was the beginning of our work with the world's poorest people.

Thousands of volunteers in Italy actively collected funds, blankets, and bandages to send to the missions treating people affected by leprosy. Leper colonies were still a reality back then.

1970s - THE LEGACY

AIFO was particularly involved in the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of people affected by leprosy, as well as their reintegration into the community.

1972 - AIFO was among the founding members of FOCSIV, the Federation of Christian International Voluntary Service Organisations.

1977 - Raoul Follereau died in Paris, his legacy becoming the mission of AIFO, which continues his work around the world.

1979 - AIFO was recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an International Health Cooperation Organisation, one of the first in Italy.

1980s - THE METHODOLOGY

During these years, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs began to entrust and finance the first basic health projects to AIFO.

1985 – AIFO was among the first NGOs to support the Community-Based Rehabilitation approach (CBR) promoted by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

1988 - AIFO started to carry out its first CBR projects aimed at people with all types of disabilities. It was at this moment that AIFO developed the methodology of emancipatory research on disability at community level.

1990s - DISABILITY

1993 - AIFO brought together in Rome 10 international NGOs active in the field of disability. This meeting led to the founding of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) with the goal of sharing information and expertise, making work in the disability field more effective and efficient.

A great deal of advocacy work started with governments, international agencies and other donors and development agencies commenced to promote the rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.

1999 - WHO recognised AIFO as a non-state actor in an official relationship with WHO. This status is still valid today.

2000s - THE CHALLENGES

AIFO designed initiatives within its Country Strategies and Programmes, focusing actions in priority areas of the world.

2006 - AIFO began promoting in all the countries in which it worked, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted in New York by the United Nations General Assembly.

2010 - AIFO became a founding member of RIDS - Rete Italiana Disabilità e Sviluppo (Italian Disability and Development Network), established to promote advocacy actions, exchange good practices and promote CRPD in Italy and abroad.

2010s - THE STRATEGIES

2013 - Some of AIFO's Country Coordination Offices became local non-profit organisations and partners independent from AIFO to strengthen and empower local communities.

2016 - AIFO made a first attempt at Circular Cooperation: Emancipatory Research in Ponte San Nicolò (PD).

AIFO was active in protecting people with disabilities in various humanitarian emergencies: the earthquake in Nepal, the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, the war emergency and floods in Mozambique, the Covid-19 pandemic.

2020s - THE COMMUNITY

2020 - The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the centrality of health and the fact that all human beings are interconnected. It showed the importance of strong and sustainable health systems, of supportive and inclusive communities able to guarantee access to health for all, down to the poorest villages. AIFO embraced and promoted the approach of global health for all, ranging from grassroots health to the strengthening of fair, solidarity-based, sustainable, and inclusive health systems.

2021 - AIFO followed the WHO 21-30 Roadmap for the Fight and Eradication of Leprosy and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). AIFO was part of the main international networks for the elimination of NTDs, promoting a multi-sectoral approach: prevention, early diagnosis, control, and socio-economic inclusion.

2022 - AIFO began a process of internal reorganisation and drafting of the new Strategic and Programmatic Plan and the new Operational Plan 2023-2027.

DETAILS OF STAKEHOLDER (<https://www.aifo.it/articoli/stakeholders/>)

CHAPTER 3

OPERATING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Manual of Operational Policies, Code of Ethics and Conduct (2020)

- Policy of the Association and Code of Ethics
- Human resources policy
- Reporting and complaint policy
- Health and safety policy
- Gender policy
- Policy on sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse

- Policy on the protection of children and vulnerable people
- Policy on modern slavery
- Policy on conflict of interest
- Anti-corruption and alert policy
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy
- Photo and video consent policy
- Procurement policy for goods and services
- Programme quality policy
- Monitoring and evaluation policy
- Policies on the use of technological facilities
- Financial and administrative policy
- Policy on internal and external audits

Procedures for the Financial Monitoring of Foreign Locations (2017)

- Procedures for parametrisation and implementation of the accounting information system at headquarters and branch offices.
- Procedures for management control and implementation of cost analysis (2017).
- Procedures for the supervision of financial reports of donors and project beneficiaries, as well as audits commissioned by donors
- Procedures for the Accounting Management of Testamentary Bequests and Offerings (2014).
- Procedures for the development and monitoring of procedures for the procurement of goods and services (2017)
- Procedures on Conflict-of-Interest Management (2018).
- Security procedures for personnel serving abroad (2016);
- Procedures for the Management of Development Cooperation Initiatives;
- Procedures/Guidelines on security in foreign countries

For managing the Association and its democratic life, as established by the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors approved the following rules and regulations:

- Internal rules for the Board of Directors functioning approved by Resolution 116/2008.
- Rules for the functioning of the Association's bodies and local structures, approved by resolution 12/2020
- Rules of Organisation, Administration, Accounting, approved on 12/09/2009.
- Rules for the conduct of the National Assembly approved by resolution 3/2006.
- Electoral Regulations, approved by the National Assembly on 29/11/2008.
- Personnel and Staff Regulations (2013).

CHAPTER 4

ACTIVE INSURANCE POLICIES FOR EXPATRIATES AND THEIR CHILDREN, FOR SHORT AND LONG MISSIONS

Europassistance resident

- Reimbursement of medical expenses due to illness
- Reimbursement of medical expenses due to accident

Generali - Accident and Death

- Death from accident, tropical disease and war
- Permanent invalidity from accident and war
- Permanent invalidity from tropical disease and general illness
- Repatriation of mortal remains
- Reimbursement of medical expenses
- Daily hospitalisation allowance
- Daily convalescence allowance
- Daily plastering allowance

Generali - Hospitalization

- Daily hospitalisation allowance for illness (including Covid 19)
- Daily convalescence allowance

Generali - Illness

- Hospitalisation
- Medical treatment expenses
- Pharmaceutical expenditure
- Home birth costs
- Check-up during pregnancy
- Dental care expenditure
- Expenses after returning to country of origin

Unipolsai - Third Party Liability

Third Party Liability - insured sum

ACTIVE INSURANCE POLICIES FOR HEAD OFFICE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND MEMBERS

ITAS_MUTUA_accident and sickness coverage for employees, occasional volunteers, non-occasional volunteers and directors

- Permanent invalidity
- Death
- Hospitalisation allowance due to accident
- Hospitalisation allowance due to illness
- Reimbursement of medical expenses due to accident
- Legal protection
- Third party liability
 - Damage from products supplied or sold
 - Liability towards employees
 - Personal liability of employees
 - Directors' asset liability

ACTIVE INSURANCE POLICIES ON THE PREMISES

ITAS_MUTUA_Offices

Fire Section:

- Building
- Contents
- Third party claims
- Pipeline search and restoration/occlusion
- Rainwater/floods, flooding
- Earthquakes

Electrical and Electronics Section

- Electrical, first risk

Theft Section

- Theft of contents
- Transport of valuable goods



Healthy lives and well-being for all.



**AIFO - Associazione Italiana
Amici di Raoul Follereau ETS**

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