

VOLONTARIATO INTERNAZIONALE
PER LO SVILUPPO



Insieme, per un mondo possibile

Summary Report on Operations 2016

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

VIS has completed the amendment of its bylaws.

Our “Stop Human Trafficking! – They’re Human Beings” campaign against human trafficking continued, in partnership with the Don Bosco Missions. Cf. www.stoptratta.org

MAIN OFFICES	2 (ROME HQ AND OPERATIONAL OFFICE IN BRESCIA)
MEMBERS	3
VOLUNTEERS	67
ACTIVE DONORS	2.220 (217 NEW)
DISTANCE SUPPORT DONORS	309
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS	9
DEVELOPMENT OPERATORS	49
CIVILIAN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS	22
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	21
COLLABORATORS	4
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ¹	58
EMERGENCY PROJECTS ¹	13
DEVELOPMENT/EMERGENCY PROJECT COUNTRIES ²	25
COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING THE SALESIAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICES (PDO)	36 (34 IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND 2 IN THE CARIBBEAN)
ONLINE COURSE PARTICIPANTS	210
SUPERIOR TRAINING PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS	253
SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN SOLIDARITY TWINNINGS	30
TOTAL INCOME	9,693,840 euros

¹ The figure also includes the completed projects whose activities continued with residual funds and which, therefore, produced operating effects in 2016 as well. The projects are highlighted in the country sections.

² The figure also includes as 1 unit the PDO project involving 34 African countries, 1 Caribbean country and Italy.

THE IDENTITY OF VIS

AN OVERVIEW OF VIS

VIS - International Volunteer Service for Development is a non-governmental organization that deals with **international development cooperation and solidarity**, including through the tools of distance support and support for Salesian missions worldwide. VIS is also an **educational agency that promotes and organizes awareness-raising, education, development training and global citizenship activities**.

The organization, established in 1986 thanks to the National Centre of Salesian Works (CNOS), has since expanded in the world thanks to the commitment and passion of international volunteers and development operators who have chosen to serve the weaker segments of the population, throughout the World, with competence and dedication, and currently operates in Italy and in another 41 countries.

Our operations and projects are inspired by the teachings of Don Bosco, a great man whose vision and modern and effective educational system were ahead of their time, and which he considered lynchpins for overcoming the injustices and inequalities of the historical period in which he lived, but which are still extraordinarily valid in Italy and worldwide today.

Our motto is "*Working together to build a possible world*", which exemplifies our intention to build networks in Italy, in Europe and worldwide, to improve the living conditions of vulnerable young children and their communities, convinced as we are that training and education can combat the root causes of extreme poverty.

Through our international cooperation programmes we aim to:

- Guarantee education, training and support for poorer children and youths;
- Welcome and provide a peaceful growth for children, street children, minors who are victims of violence, male and female former child soldiers;
- Foster vocational training, access to employment and the social re-integration of young people;
- Guarantee support to teachers and educators, for their training;
- Promote and protect the rights of children and youths;
- Foster the development of local communities and create the conditions for a true alternative to irregular migration;
- Foster access to information and training through new technologies (online platforms), on issues of international cooperation and the promotion and protection of human rights.

VIS is an NGO registered with the Civil Society Organisations register kept by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, as well as the register of non-profit organizations kept by DR Lazio of the Internal Revenue Agency.

We have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, in the field of human rights and are a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) of the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

AFRICA ANGOLA

Capital: Luanda

Population: 25,000,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 30.1%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.533 (ranking 150th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 6,937 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 1991

Year of official recognition: 2001

IN 2016

Expat operators: 5

Expat operators under civilian service programmes: 3

Development projects financed by public entities: 1

Development projects financed by private parties: 2

Distance Support Projects: 1

Expenses incurred: € 314,057

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Child education and protection

Vocational training and integration

Capacity building and strengthening local players and partners

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
The Road to Life: from street people to responsible citizens ¹	65,232	European Commission
Development projects financed by private parties		
Social rehabilitation and launching of programmes for ensuring the independence of youths at risk	149,959	CEI
<i>Ana Jetu</i> – Our children: projects for welcoming street children and/or adolescents, training and raising awareness in support of parenting and for promoting education	74,197	CEI
Distance Support Projects		
Shelter for street children “Casa Magone” and families “Casa Mama Margarida”	7,418	Private donors
Solidarity Twinings	1,327	Private donors
Other expenses incurred in the	15,924	Private donors

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Country		

¹ Original title: *A Estrada para a Vida: de cidadãos de rua a cidadãos responsáveis*

In 2016, VIS focused primarily on **Phase 2 of the "Road to Life!" project** launched in 2009, aimed at the recovery, support and social and family reintegration of street and / or vulnerable children to Luanda. At this stage, developed through a project funded by the European Commission and one by the CEI 8x1000 funds, our commitment was mainly focused on two actions: enabling young people leaving the Salesian network for the protection of the rights of children to begin an independent life, and consolidating their self-esteem and social responsibility, also through awareness raising actions and testimonies by them.

In 2016, we refurbished and opened a **semi-autonomous home** in Catete, while the activities in the existing semi-autonomous home in Luanda were ongoing. The two homes have welcomed 30 young people, who have been able to take advantage of guidance and employment services.

We also continued our **commitment against sexual abuse and harassment**, continuing the plan launched in the past; the results obtained in 2016 are considered satisfactory by the local psychological counselling team. Furthermore, we also intensified the psychological support programmes offered to all young people in the various rehabilitation centres.

Youth-protagonist actions were intensified: "ex-street children" have become development actors in their own country. In 2016, they staged theatrical and musical performances, published a poetry book "A Poetry Anthology of the Young People of Kala-Kala" and organized a photo exhibition "One Click to the Future" at the offices of the EU Delegation in Angola.

In 2016, we also printed, presented and distributed a "Manual of Moral and Civic Education" intended for use in secondary schools.

During the year, the **final evaluation of the 2nd phase of the "Road to Life" project was carried out by a specialised external consultant** who, besides highlighting the success of the entire project, offered a series of useful remarks to improve the quality of the project as a whole.

Angola, from 2014, is also one of the Countries involved in the **development programme of the Salesian Planning and Development Office (PDO)** and in 2016 has benefited from the support and capacity-building actions envisaged by it.

In 2016, activities were also carried out in **Luena, in the province of Moxico, in support of street children**, under the CEI- backed project featuring the construction and opening of the first shelter called "Ana Jetu". The project has been implemented in partnership with the local Diocese, which in December 2016, at its completion, took over the running of the shelter. We expect to maintain our operations in the province of Moxico, with our own volunteers and especially young people engaged in the civilian service programmes in the Don Bosco youth centre in Luena.

The strong points in all the projects were: a tendency towards (developing) professional skills, continuous training, a high number of trainees from 4 Universities and 2 Higher education institutions and the proactive collaboration of the local law enforcement officers. Difficulties remain for the local operators, who, despite the training provided and the technical and specialist support of VIS, are nevertheless unable to manage different needs and complex phenomena.

The key goals of future actions will be to ensure the sustainability of the projects involving more vulnerable children and youths, strengthening our partnership with the Salesians and the local authorities, to enable them to tackle the problem more effectively. We shall also be engaged in monitoring the family reintegration processes, institutional capacity-building for protecting and promoting the rights of more vulnerable youths and technical and professional training targeting the emerging needs of the labour market.

BURUNDI

Capital: Bujumbura
 Population: 11,200,000 inhabitants
 Poverty rate: 64.6%
 Human Development Index (HDI): 0.404 (184th su 188 Paesi, UNDP 2016)
 Per capital income: 693 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 2004
 Year of official recognition: 2004

IN 2016

Expat operators: 1
 Development projects financed by public entities: 3
 Development projects financed by private parties: 1
 Distance Support Projects: 1
 Mission Support Projects: 2
 Expenses incurred: € 469,399

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Vocational training and integration
 Developing business and micro-enterprise activities

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
Success laboratories – building the capacity to generate income and technical and entrepreneurial skills by young people who have dropped out of school or have no schooling at all in Burundi, through training programmes.	0 ³	AFD
Building the future – strengthening the role of the civil society organizations in the EFTP sector, through the establishment of a system of partnerships by the DCTP for the BTP sector	28,456	European Commission
FEMMES - FEMMes Entrepreneures – Promoting female empowerment by improving the income-generating capacity of female workers in the informal sector in Bujumbura	33,728 ⁴	Local Authority of Rome
Development projects financed by private		

3 In 2016, VIS incurred charges, but the amount recorded in the financial statements is 0 as a result of prepaid expenses.

4 The project was completed in the previous years and the relevant charges recorded in 2016 because the balance of the project was paid to VIS by the Financing Entity in the year in question.

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
parties		
Bâtir l'avenir	75,000	Museke Foundation
Distance Support Projects		
Project for the rehabilitation of street children - Cité des Jeunes Don Bosco, Buterere, family shelter "Maison Béthanie"	4,551	Private donors
Mission Support Projects		
Works for the construction of the Marian Educational Centre	326,515	Private donors
Support to the activities of the Marian Education Centre		Private donors
Other expenses incurred in the Country	1,149	Private donors

The strong points of the VIS mission in Burundi are the experience built up and consolidated in the fields of **vocational training** and **economic development**; in 2016, a year characterised by a high degree of precariousness and instability in the Country, our NGO focused on its commitment in these sectors, with the implementation of two integrated projects.

The project – cofinanced by the French Development Agency AFD – was carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the CHASAA (Chamber of Commerce for Art and Crafts), for the purpose of **training vulnerable youths in crafts required by the local market**, such as car mechanics, carpenters, tailors, agrifood processing and plumbing, in order to improve their job opportunities. The project was carried out in three provinces in the Country, in the public training centres of Gihanga (province of Bubanza), Kinama (province of Bujumbura) and Muramvya (in the province with the same name). The project also involved and valorised several informal enterprises (located in urban areas) supported by a TVET programme completed previously, and other enterprises/facilities were identified (in rural areas), for which a development plan has been developed.

The second project – launched in March 2016 and lasting 42 months – is cofinanced by the European Commission and has the purpose of training vulnerable youths, not currently engaged in any formal education, in the building construction sector. There is a special focus on **collaboration with local enterprises** in order to match work demand and supply, to increase job opportunities; in parallel, we will support start-ups and micro-enterprises, to foster self-employment among vulnerable youths. The project concerns three provinces of Burundi, Gitega, Kayanza and Bujumbura, and also features the participation and involvement of the Museke Foundation based in Brescia, an Italian non-profit organisation that is historically very active in the Country.

VIS continued to strengthen its relationship with the private trade associations for the **development of a public-private partnership in the field of vocational training**. In particular, we strengthened our collaboration with the employers' organization, the Chamber of Crafts and the Chamber of Building Contractors for fostering dual training programmes, combining theoretical training and hands-on experience at the enterprises, and by adjusting the training programmes to the job market needs. At the same time, we continued to work with the government authorities – and in particular with the Ministry of Education and Labour – to **define the qualification procedures for vocational training centres and craft enterprises** consistently with the job market needs.

In 2016, we also continued to support both the **Maison Béthanie shelter for vulnerable girls**, operated by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, within the framework of a partnership

launched in 2011, and the **Marian education centre of Buterere** thanks to the Mission Support contributions received.

Therefore, over the last year, and despite the very difficult political, social and safety conditions in the Country, which also caused suspensions of operations, we nevertheless managed to continue the projects in a regular manner.

Thanks to our activities, we are still a focal point in the Country, for local economic development, which can be promoted and fostered through vocational training, work integration and the struggle against the social and economic marginalisation of the more vulnerable young people. This commitment shall be maintained in the future, although it needs to be adapted to take into account the fragility and instability of the local situation.

Mettere in formato BOX



FONDAZIONE
MUSEKE ONLUS

The Museke Foundation was established on 24 June 2009 with the name Fondazione Museke – Onlus. Its purpose is to sponsor and carry out social, economic and cultural projects targeting vulnerable and needy persons. In particular, its activities are mainly focused on developing countries, in the social, healthcare and training fields.

VIS and Museke Foundation have a longstanding collaboration in a number of sectors and have entered into a partnership agreement for the programme "Building the future – strengthening the role of the civil society organizations in the EFTP sector, through the establishment of a system of partnerships for developing Technical and Professional Skills (DCTP) for the BTP sector".

ETHIOPIA

Capital: Addis Ababa

Population: 99,400,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 29.6%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.448 (174th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 1,530 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 1998

Year of official recognition: 2005

IN 2016

Expat operators: 5

Development projects financed by public entities: 3

Development projects financed by private parties: 6

Emergency projects financed by public entities: 1

Emergency projects financed by private parties: 1

Distance Support Projects: 3

Mission Support Projects: 3

Expenses incurred: € 1,468,650

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Water and healthcare

Child education and protection

Emergency and reconstruction

Vocational training and integration

Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises

Capacity building and strengthening local players and partners

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
<i>Print your future!</i> Development in the graphics and printing sector in Ethiopia	586,721	AICS/MAECI
Reducing poverty and food insecurity in the Somali Region	65,347	PCM (Presidency of the Council of Ministers)
A drop for life! Building a well and a rainwater collection tank in the region of Tigray.	4,500	Autonomous Province of Trento
Development projects financed by private parties		
Rehabilitation and reintegration of children at risk and children in conflict with the justice systems	67,312	UNODC
Strengthening the resilience of the population engaging in agricultural and sheep-rearing activities in the areas of Obal and Awbare, to tackle the recurrent drought situations	47,224	Ayuntamiento de Vitoria (Spanish Decentralised Cooperation)

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Water supply for a community living in the Somali Region (Jijiga, district of Awbare, village of Mulale)	59,042	JUNTA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN (Cooperazione Decentrata Spagnola)
Water for life in Jijiga, Somali Region, Ethiopia	30,830	DBN Mission Prokur
<i>Print your future!</i> Development in the graphics and printing and other emerging sectors in Ethiopia	45,304	CEI 8xmille
Integrated projects for improving water supply and promoting education in the farming and sheep-rearing communities in the Somali Region and the region of Tigray (9 development projects)	278,810	Private donors
Emergency projects financed by public entities		
Strategies and opportunities: basic integrated services for promoting job creation and countering illegal migration in the Region of Tigray	207,852	AICS/MAECI
Emergency projects financed by private parties		
Save lives in rural assets: Emergency Water Trucking in Awbare Woreda – Somali Regional State	44,952	Private donors
Distance Support Projects		
Distance support for university students in Jijiga		
Supporting vulnerable children in the Don Bosco centres in Mekanissa	20,266	Private donors
Supporting educational and training activities for the boys and girls attending the Salesian centres of the <i>Visitatoria</i> of Africa Ethiopia-Eritrea (mission area)		
Mission Support Projects		

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
150 vocational training scholarships in Ethiopia – Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation	8,621	
Tackling the irregular migration emergency in Ethiopia: water supply in the areas of Saesietsaeda-Emba/Adigrat		Private donors
Supporting missionary activities in the <i>Visitatoria</i> Africa-Ethiopia Eritrea		
Other expenses incurred in the Country	1,869	Private donors

In 2016, besides our commitment in the priority areas (education, vocational training and water supply and healthcare), at VIS we also **expanded our operations to include new target groups, such as potential migrants and young people at risk of illegal migration, as well as returning migrants**. In 2016, the Country crossed a political crisis due to the growing tensions within a society characterised by deep ethnic divisions and culminating in the proclamation of the **state of emergency by the Ethiopian government on 9 October 2016**. Despite the situation determining a period of instability, VIS continued to operate in the Country thanks to our strong partnership with deep-rooted partners, such as the Salesian Inspectorate, the Daughters of Mary Auxiliatrix, the Daughters of Charity, the NGO DGMDA (Don Gianmaria Memorial Development Association) and the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat.

As part of the “*Print your future!*” project, in 2016 we implemented technical and professional programmes for the purpose of improving the skills of Ethiopian workers and enhancing work integration opportunities of young people. In particular, 1,125 young men and women took part in training courses in the fields of graphic arts and printing, tailoring, food preparation and catering, woodworking and bamboo crafts, mechanics, leatherworking, ITC and building construction. The courses were carried out at the Salesian technical schools in the region of Tigray (Mekelle and Adwa), and in Gambella and Addis Ababa. In June 2016, we **completed the construction of the first graphics and printing school in the Country**: besides classrooms, the school also features a printing facility fully equipped with printing machines and serving the twofold purpose of training centre and business, for ensuring the school’s economic sustainability.

In May 2016, we **launched an emergency project for the prevention of irregular migration in the region of Tigray** (north, on the border with Eritrea), for the purpose of tackling irregular migrations by improving local job and income generating opportunities, access to basic services and raising awareness about the risks involved by migration for the potential migrants. VIS is the project leader, implemented as part of a consortium with other Italian-based NGOs (CISP, CCM, CIAI). In 2016, 460 young people at risk of migration were trained in agriculture and setting up micro-enterprises; furthermore, 26 rotating funds for micro-lending were set up, for promoting 24 individual businesses and 2 cooperatives.

In the **water supply and healthcare** sectors we implemented a project in the Somali Region providing for the digging and completion of 2 deep wells, water supply for the local population, the distribution of water for livestock, the creation of irrigation systems for crops, the supply of basic

sanitation services and hygiene and healthcare training. In the region of Tigray we excavated 7 shallow wells with manual pumps.

The strengths of VIS in Ethiopia are the **capacity to operate across the Country, thanks to our partnership with strongly-rooted local partners** who are capable of easily identifying the needs of the various communities they work in.

Our weaknesses are the result of the difficulties entailed in directly implementing the Community projects. In fact, **we need to build our capacity to collaborate with our local partners**, providing for a greater involvement of VIS in the joint implementation of the activities.

The priority goals for 2017 are:

- strengthening vocational training based on skills and on **support for innovative approaches with regard to market needs**;
- **countering irregular migration** through vocational training and economic development projects for target groups (potential and returning migrants);
- **water supply and healthcare**: we confirm the commitment of VIS in this sector, in both operational terms and with regard to the presence of clusters at national and local level;
- **support to refugee communities in the region of Gambella** an area featuring a continuous flow of refugees from South Sudan.

Tesfay: Drawing dreams? We can do it in Ethiopia too!

(storia dal campo in box)

I'm Tesfay, I'm 20 years old and I live in Addis Ababa with my mother and three brothers. We moved here from southern Ethiopia when I was just a small child. My mother tells me that we left our village due to the problems with my father; in rural communities, in fact, it is not common for a wife to separate from her husband because of domestic violence, most women just suffer in silence. But my mother was different. She saved herself, me and my brothers and with a great deal of courage invented a new life for us here in Addis. She gave me an education, also thanks to the Don Bosco school, which accepted me free of charge.

I've always been good at school because, since middle school, I knew I wanted to become an advertising graphic designer. I would have liked to study graphic design at uni, but found no suitable programmes there. But I didn't want to give up my dreams. Thank to VIS and to Don Bosco Mekkanissa I've finally found what I was looking for. Don Bosco is the first school in Ethiopia that certifies qualifications in the graphic design and printing sector. At the moment I'm learning many interesting things, like how to use Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Silk screen software!

During the day I attend the graphic design courses at the Don Bosco school, while in the evenings I go to a business administration course at University. Despite also learning about economics, which will undoubtedly serve me in my academic career, I'm certain that I will be work in the design field, because this is what I believe life has in store for me.

Thanks to the VIS and Don Bosco courses I am fulfilling my dreams at 20, so I want to encourage my peers to do the same, we can pursue our dreams here in Ethiopia too!

MADAGASCAR

Capital: Antananarivo
 Population: 24,200,000 inhabitants
 Poverty rate: 75.3%
 Human Development Index (HDI): 0.512 (158th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)
 Per capital income: 1,373 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 1991
 Year of official recognition: 1992

IN 2016
 Expat operators: 4
 Expat operators under civilian service programmes: 3
 Development projects financed by private parties: 1
 Emergency projects financed by private parties: 1
 Distance Support Projects: 1
 Mission Support Projects: 1
 Expenses incurred: € 241,490

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Child education and protection
 Vocational training and integration
 Promotion and protection of human rights
 Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises
 Capacity building and strengthening local players and partners

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by private parties		
Construction and refurbishment of schools in Madagascar	38,781	Telma Foundation
Emergency projects financed by private parties		
Madagascar emergency after the Chedza cyclone	1,118	Private Donors
Distance Support Projects		
With VIS alongside vulnerable children in the TAIZA project of Fianarantsoa	1,899	Private Donors
Mission Support Projects		
Support to the Missions of Ankililoaka, Betafo, Mahajanga, Tulear, Ivato Centro Notre Dame de Clairvaux, Bemaneviky and Fianarantsoa	199,641	Private Donors
Other expenses incurred in the Country	52	Private Donors

VIS operates in the planning and development office (PDO) of the Salesian Inspectorate with two expat operators who are responsible for coordinating the office's activities. In 2016, we helped

institutionalise the Don Bosco Madagascar NGO as a product of the PDO development, aimed at clearly defining the mandate and articles of association of the PDO and regularly assessing its mission. The VIS operators have, therefore, served at this new Don Bosco Madagascar NGO.

Regarding the projects implemented in this Country, we worked at the **construction and refurbishment of 9 schools** in Madagascar, thanks to the funds provided by the Telma Foundation, aimed at rehabilitating and, in some cases, installing and furnishing – in rather vulnerable and inaccessible areas – establishments for promoting the basic right to education.

The trial period of the curriculum reformulation process started in the 2016/2017 school year, based on the previously developed teaching guides.

Our work with the Platform for the development of technical and professional skills (networks of NGOs and local organizations) continued in the year, also thanks to the active participation of all the local staff.

Following our participation in the definition and implementation of the **new nationwide policy on vocational training and employment** (PNEFP), VIS in partnership with the NGOs IECD (Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement) and OIF (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie) has developed and successfully completed a technical assistance project for the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, acting as an operational team for the definition and implementation of the new policy guidelines. In particular, we worked to improve the sectoral governance system, with a view to strengthening relations with the private sector and for the quality development of the national Vocational Training Centres, including the opening of new Job Centres, based on the experience at Don Bosco Madagascar.

Regarding the **volunteer experiences**, in 2016 we focused on promoting volunteering as a service for our neighbours. The civilian services were centred on the completion of the service period of three volunteers and the arrival, in September, of 4 new operators. Two of them are currently working in Ivato, in the Planning and Development Office (PDO) and the communications and marketing, design and fund-searching/project development sectors. The other two are at the Tulear work, where they engaged in the Rinaldi school, support the social team in remedial teaching programme for minors with difficulties and the creation of a teaching manual in Italian and Malagasy.

Regarding **support to missionary activities**, in 2016 the biggest amounts of funds were raised by the Sicilian Inspectorate and the VIS committees in Sardinia and Lazio, which we used to help the pupils of the rural schools in the missionary districts of Ankililoaka, Ijely, Bemaneviky and Betafo. Together with the Salesians, the rural communities have built primary schools to enable their children to complete at least this basic level of education. A part of the funds are also used to support the *rattrapage* schools of Betafo, Tuléar and Ivato, which are schools dedicated to remedial teaching for pre-adolescents with no or limited primary schooling.

The large-scale educational work carried out by the oratories has been possible also thanks to the support by the former Italian regional committees.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Capital: Kinshasa

Population: 77,300,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 63.6%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.435 (176th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 737 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 2002

Year of official recognition: 2010

IN 2016

Expat operators: 5

Development projects financed by public entities: 2

Development projects financed by private parties: 3

Emergency projects financed by private parties: 1

Distance Support Projects: 3

Mission Support Projects: 2

Expenses incurred: € 640,486

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Water and healthcare

Higher training

Child education and protection

Vocational training and integration

Promotion and protection of human rights

Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises

Rural development and valorisation of natural resources

Capacity building and strengthening local players and partners

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
Active and responsible participation of the Civil Society Organizations in the sustainable growth and development of the Province of North Kivu	100,987	European Commission
Let's cultivate our rights – The integrated development of the rural communities of Shasha and Nyangoma in North and South Kivu	18,158	Autonomous Province of Trento
Development projects financed by private parties		
Training and employment for a possible tomorrow! Fostering the social and economic development of vulnerable young people in the provinces of North Kivu and East Kasai	168,319	CEI
"From the Earth springs Life" – Creation of a pole for the development of rural enterprises and the capacity building of the human and social capital surrounding the Salesian farm	163,665	Private Donors

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
enterprises of Shasha and Nyangoma, DRC		
Promoting the right to education and medical and health assistance for marginalised children and youths attending the Salesian work of Meutu Don Bosco at Mbuji Mayi	16,740	Private donors
Emergency projects financed by private parties		
Emergency projects at Goma	3,239	Italian Conference of Bishops
Distance Support Projects		
Centre des Jeunes Don Bosco Ngangi in Goma		Private donors
Don Bosco Muetu Centre in Mbuji Mayi	126,363	Private donors
Don Bosco Uvira support school for children		Private donors
Mission Support Projects		
Support to the missionary activities of don Piero Gavioli sdb		Private donors
Support to the Pointe Noire Mission – don Valentino Favaro	41,908	Private donors
Solidarity Twinnings	1,100	Private donors
Other expenses incurred in the Country	6	Private donors

VIS has been operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2002, **primarily in the city of Goma**, and in Shasha and Nyangoma, in South Kivu. These regions have been destabilised by the wars breaking out there in the last few decades, and in which there have been a continuous string of emergencies affecting a number of areas, safety, education, health, housing, water, food, electricity. The **Salesian community of “Centre des Jeunes Don Bosco Ngangi”** in Goma, in partnership with VIS, plays a primary role in education (literacy, primary and secondary education ad vocational training), in sheltering/protecting children and vulnerable youths (street children, army associates, children accused of witchcraft, children from dysfunctional backgrounds, unaccompanied minors, child mothers and the victims of sexual violence, children abandoned by their families, orphans, etc.), support to households with financial problems (free medical care and micro-credit activities), rural development and the socio-economic reintegration of marginalised young people and women, with short tailoring, cooking, crafts and hairdressing programmes.

In 2016, the activities of VIS focused on the technical support to the services provided at the centre, to the networking and partnership programmes with several Civil Society Organizations, with regard to rural development projects in the area of the Salesian plantations of Shasha and Nyangoma, as well as capacity-building projects targeting the local personnel and young people, with training in teaching, healthcare, farming and child protection. Thanks to public and private funding, from the Italian Conference of Bishops and the European Union, for example, **the operators and international volunteers of VIS have served in the following project areas:**

- child education and protection (sheltering minors in situations of extreme vulnerability in the facilities of the centre);
- promoting and protecting human rights (establishment of 20 Civil Society Organizations);

- strengthening the role of the Civil Society Organizations in the development of the region, in the fields of agriculture, vocational training and child protection;
- agricultural development and food security (training farmers and building a hospitality centre for training staff at Shasha);
- promoting the right to employment of young people in North Kivu and East Kasai (strengthening the laboratories, training and rotation lending programmes).

Furthermore, the personnel also provided assistance in the Project Office, proposing, coordinating and monitoring the design activities linked directly to the PDO created in Goma (and responsible for both North and South Kivu) and the Don Bosco Centre; in the central government sector, also with regard to the training of administrative staff and the management of human resources and logistics.

In 2016, the **beneficiaries of the Don Bosco Centre in Ngangi** were: 2,532 primary, secondary and vocational training school pupils, 552 remedial class pupils, 50 children reunited with their families or in serious economic hardship with scholarships, 250 beneficiaries of microcredit, 33 resident girls with their 15 children, 184 street children, abused or abandoned and sheltered at the centre, aged above 5 years, 81 children (abandoned children, orphans or other children momentarily sheltered at the centre) aged between 0 and 5, 79 girls or adult women attending training programmes, 72 Civil Society Organizations.

In 2017, VIS will continue supporting the Don Bosco Ngangi Centre activities and will also focus on the capacity-building of the Goma PDO, also in the administrative/financial field. Regarding the rural sector, we intend to formulate, with the PDO, medium-to-long term programmes for developing the two plantations and supporting the local community; we will continue to support the vocational training operations and protect children through the two projects backed by the European Commission and the CEI.

FOCUS: “VIS in West Africa”

VIS started operating in West Africa in 2015, as part of the **PDO project** “Co-partners in development: building a multiactor partnership in 35 ACP Countries”, with the purpose of supporting the Planning and Development Offices of the two Salesian Inspectorates operating in the region, AFO and AFW; this strategic positioning has given the NGO the opportunity to analyse the needs of the local youths and launch new lines of action and projects in their favour, supporting the Salesian projects in the area.

In 2016, our activities in West Africa targeted two different areas of action. With regard to the **PDO project**, we supported the processes of institutional transformation of the Planning and Development Office of the Inspectorate of English-speaking West Africa (AFW), which will be completed in 2017 and will enable a more effective coordination of the Salesian operations in the area. Furthermore, the “national antennas” of the two Salesian Planning and Development Offices of the AFW and AFO Inspectorates have been supported in the processes for structuring and building the capacity to manage the development actions.

The second field of action is the “**Stop Human Trafficking**” campaign, in which, in collaboration with the Don Bosco Missions and numerous local partners, in April and May 2016 we carried out awareness-raising campaigns for the prevention of irregular migration. In **Senegal**, through the media, meetings at schools and itinerant theatrical performances, touching the areas most concerned by migration (Dakar and Tambacounda), the campaign reached **300,000 people**. In **Ghana**, awareness-raising meetings, the circulation of a video-documentary, the distribution of gadgets and other advertising materials, posters, billboards, stickers and T-shirts, over **448,000 people** were informed.

In November 2016, VIS decided to **reorganise and strengthen** its presence in this area by opening a **VIS Regional Coordination Office** in Dakar, sending two new operators and expanding

its operations. The first step in this direction will be the **strategic planning by VIS for the eleven target Countries**, in which the two Salesian Inspectorates AFO and AFW operate, including the communication aspects.

Several lines of action envisaged for the 2017-2020 period are:

1. **Support to the Salesian Inspectorate services**, in particular the Planning and Development Offices and the strengthening of the “national antennas”, in continuity with the PDO project;
2. **Continuing the “Stop Human Trafficking”** project and the further investigation of its three components:
 - a. knowledge of the migratory phenomenon, by creating a pool of universities/research centres interested in research actions on migration;
 - b. informing and raising awareness among young people, to reveal the risks of migration and the local training/employment opportunities, alongside regular migration;
 - c. implementing ad hoc projects for tackling illegal migration.
3. **Technical/vocational training and social and labour integration;**
4. Actions for promoting and protecting the **rights of at-risk children;**
5. **Higher training**, in particular, with regard to teacher/trainer training programmes and courses on the issues of international development and cooperation.

VIS is scheduled to complete its **strategic planning** by the first half of 2017, outlining the project Countries and lines of action for the various sectors, obtained after feasibility missions initiated in 2016 (Ghana and Togo) and which will continue in 2017 (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Guinea, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Benin).

LATIN AMERICA BOLIVIA

Capital: La Paz
 Population: 10,700,000 inhabitants
 Poverty rate: 38.6%
 Human Development Index (HDI): 0.674 (118th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)
 Per capital income: 6,476 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 2003
 Year of official recognition: 2013

IN 2016

Expat operators: 3
 Expat operators under civilian service programmes: 6
 Development projects financed by private parties: 2
 Distance Support Projects: 1
 Mission Support Projects: 2
 Expenses incurred: € 266,177

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Higher training
 Child education and protection
 Promotion and protection of human rights

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by private parties		
D.A.I. Bolivia – Childhood Rights in Bolivia	50,000	CEI
Strengthening IT teaching programmes	3,370	Private donors
Distance Support Projects		
Don Bosco Santa Cruz de la Sierra project	2,857	Private donors
Mission Support Projects		
Salesian Mission of Cochabamba Indipendencia – Fr. Tomás Mamani	182,155	Private donors
Salesian Mission of Cochabamba - Kami – Fr. Serafino Chiesa		Private donors
Other expenses incurred in the Country	27,795	Private donors

In 2016, VIS continued its “**D.A.I. – Children’s rights in Bolivia**” child rights project financed by the CEI with the 8xmille. The aim of the project is to encourage children and adolescents attending the educational, social and pastoral services operated by the Salesians to exercise their rights. The project is grounded on three pillars: “knowledge, experience and assertion”.

Regarding the component “**Let’s learn about children’s rights**”, VIS has jointly managed, with the Salesian University and the Defensoría del Pueblo (a public human rights protection agency) the 1st Level Master in Children’s Rights, a 270 hour programme for training trainers, teachers and social workers featuring 6 modules. Of the 307 enrollees, organized in 3 courses, 73% actually completed the programme. The Master’s programme proved an innovative initiative because it combined classroom teaching with an online platform created and managed by the Salesian University, where enrollees could view videorecorded lessons, download study materials, take their exams and participate in interactive forums.

This led to the introduction, in 2016, of a second **Master0s programme for 50 street teachers** with a similar approach as the Children’s rights programme, developed in partnership with the National Network for the Defence of Children and Adolescents living on the streets, an umbrella organization that brings together 40 public and civil society institutions cofinanced by UNICEF.

Regarding “**Let’s practice children’s rights**”, a team of Bolivian operators and civilian service volunteers developed play/learn activities in the suburbs of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in the “Plan 3000” district, for the purpose of identifying situations of domestic violence, and school and family abandonment, with a view to fostering preventive psychological and social actions. The team worked in a difficult social context, characterised by high crime rates, managing to help 180 adolescents in the district, plus 200 parents or family members who participated in a parenting training programme.

These initiatives are part of the VIS support actions carried out since 2003 in favour of the Salesian work called the “Don Bosco Project” (PDB) at Santa Cruz. The PDB is a network of centres providing a shelter for and the rehabilitation and social/family reintegration of children, adolescents and young people going to the streets or at high social risk; in 2016, the PDB supported about 1,000 children, helping them out of situations of violence, marginalisation and family disintegration. In 2016, we continued a **computer literacy project** targeting about 400 adolescents in the PDB, cofinanced by the STMicroelectronics Foundation.

In 2016, VIS also supported both the “Oficina de Proyectos para Bolivia” and helped it set up a new 2016-2020 programme for assisting this Salesian NGO in its transformation from project office to entity capable of carrying out **planning and development** activities, and the Salesian Inspectorate of Bolivia in the process of development of and participation in:

- a restructuring process of the Salesian works in Bolivia;
- a new pastoral and educational project by the Salesian Inspectorates (PEPSI);
- an innovative project by lay actors.

For 2017, VIS intends to:

- implement the component “Let’s assert children’s rights” of the “D.A.I. Bolivia” project;
- strengthen support for the planning processes of several priority Salesian works;
- strengthen the role of the “Oficina de Proyectos para Bolivia”, as a Salesian planning and development entity, also on the basis of regional projects;
- promoting youth volunteer activities;
- launching a new 1st Level Master’s programme on the “right of children to a family”.

Johnny: I like living here, but I don’t want to go to the dentist’s!

(Storia dal campo Bolivia, mettere in formato box)

I’m Johnny, I’m 8 years old and I live at Santa Cruz, in Bolivia. With my little brother Felipe and my sister Martha we lived with my dad in the Plan3000 district, near Don Vincente’s school (Salesian).

One day I met Cristi, a teacher who used to come to us to let us play. We used to meet in the school playground instead of going to the streets. Together with her we learnt important things like taking care of our bodies and the rights of us children.

One afternoon, Felipe didn’t want to play and kept to himself, in silence. Cristi asked me why my brother was angry and I told her that we lived alone with our dad. He mends shoes and works on

the street and he can't do heavy jobs because he's not well. The day before he had gone out drinking with his friends and spent all the money he was supposed to buy food with. Felipe was angry because he hadn't eaten. Two days later, together with a lady wearing a green shirt with the word "Defensoría" (a social worker) Cristi came to see the room where the 4 of us lived together. They asked my dad a lot of questions: if he or we slept on the floor, why we didn't have a stove to cook our meals, and what we lived on. My sister told her that she would get us ready and take us to school and that our dad sometimes came home drunk and so we let him sleep alone in the bed, because we love him.

Cristi and the other lady spoke to my dad for a long time and that evening they took us to "Mano Amiga", the children's shelter of Proyecto Don Bosco. At first we were scared, I didn't know what to expect. Cristi has told me that we'd be alright there, but I didn't know whether or not to believe her. Then, when we entered "Mano Amiga", sister Lenny (a coordinator of Mano Amiga) welcomed us with a big smile and the children living there showed us around: each had his own bed! Now we go to a school nearby and sometimes we even have cake to eat!

I have a lot of friends and sister Lenny always make sure that we have all we need. I like living here, but... I don't like going to the dentist's! My dad visits us every 2 weeks and together with the parents of my new friends he takes part in meetings where they teach them how to love us, at least, that's what he tells us.

HAITI

Capital: Port au Prince

Population: 10,700,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 58.5%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.403 (163th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 1,658 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 2010

IN 2016

Expat operators: 2

Development projects financed by public entities: 1

Development projects financed by private parties: 4

Emergency projects financed by private parties: 1

Distance Support Projects: 1

Mission Support Projects: 1

Expenses incurred: € 301,640

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Water and healthcare

Child education and protection

Emergency and reconstruction

Vocational training and integration

Promotion and protection of human rights

Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises

Capacity building and strengthening local players and partners

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by private parties		
Lakou Atelier – Port-Au-Prince reconstruction project	90,262	Caritas Italiana
Technical supervision of the construction works of the select enterprise of the Petite Soeurs de l'Evangile di Père de Foucauld	15,302	Caritas Italiana
Emergency projects financed by public entities		
Promotion and protection of the rights of street and other children of Port au Prince, through the improvement and strengthening of the Country's social protection system	8,256	Autonomous Province of Trento
Emergency projects financed by private parties		
Development of post-emergency activities in Haiti in aid of the earthquake-hit population	11,351	CEI

STAND - UP!		
Reconstruction activities and support in favour of the earthquake-hit population of Haiti, to help in a gradual return to normal living conditions	30,974	Caritas Italiana
DWA POU YOUN DEMEN MIYO! – Protection projects for street and at-risk children and youths – Port au Prince	43,697	Caritas Italiana
Leve Kampe! Poverty reduction project targeting the more vulnerable families of Carrefour, Port au Prince – Haiti	42,465	Caritas Italiana
M'alez Lakay Mwen – My Safe Home	57,419	Don Bosco Missions
Distance Support Projects		
Lakou Atelier – Port-Au-Prince reconstruction project	1,614	Private donors
Mission Support Projects		
Support to missions in Haiti	300	Private donors

In 2016, VIS worked in the Country consolidating the projects already under way in 2015 and launching new projects in the south department, in the following areas:

Education. The reconstruction of the vocational training centre at Lakou for street children (about 250 beneficiaries) and of the kindergarten for the children of single mothers (about 25 children) continued throughout the year. Due to the inefficiencies of the construction contractor, the work will be completed in June 2017.

Teacher training. We implemented the fifth session of training and refresher courses for the teachers of two primary schools at Cité Soleil, involving 22 teachers and staff members. We also achieved the goal of qualifying the entire teaching staff, which is now fully qualified for teaching.

Poverty reduction. We continued the “LEVE, KANPE!” project for vulnerable families in Cité Soleil, implementing Income Generating Activities thanks to a rotating fund mechanism associated with the reimbursement of the loans paid out over the previous two years. Globally, at Cité Soleil, we granted 171 micro-credit loans, through a team of 2 operators coordinated by a VIS expat worker.

Child/youth protection. We completed the fitting out of the “Saint François de Sales” youth centre in the district of “Projet Drouillard” (Cité Soleil). The centre is in an area plagued by armed bands, whose strong influence there has hindered the launching of several of the project activities, and which were carried out, instead, in other project areas, within the framework of other child protection projects backed by the same funder.

We also continued the project supporting the **Lakay-Lakou centre** for the social and work reintegration of the young people at risk of ending up on the streets, by improving the services and enhancing the team of operators there. The actions there were also strengthened and consolidated using the funds of the local branch of “Reducing community violence” of the MINUSTHA (UN Mission in Haiti), furthermore, 90 young people were trained and attended an internship programme in the local enterprises, setting up 27 micro-enterprises.

In the social field, 12 young people with serious family situations received housing support and teacher monitoring.

The so-called “Sectoral table for young people in street situations”, the nationwide network of Civil Society Organizations launched in previous years, met up on a more regular basis and focused on

identifying the beneficiaries and on carrying out an analysis of the school integration problems of the beneficiaries.

VIS also participated in the organisation and implementation of a large-scale event aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of children with the Institute for Social Well-being and Research (an operational department of the Ministry of Social Affairs), in connection with the Children's Day celebrations.

In the field of training, we produced a theoretical and practical guide targeting teachers involved in providing assistance to children in street situations and continued our collaboration with the Little Sisters of Jesus engaged in the technical supervision of the youth centre.

Emergency. After hurricane Matthew, VIS has supported the Salesians in analysing the needs of about 200 needy families, leading to the development of housing rehabilitation project and for reducing the vulnerability to environmental disasters launched at the end of 2016.

In 2016, moreover, we continued the activities associated with the "*Co-partners in development*" project financed by the European Commission, the most important result of which is the general development of the strategic plan of the Rinaldi Foundation. Established in 2009 by the Salesian congregation of Haiti, the Foundation acts as a planning and development office for the Salesians in the Country.

In 2017, we expect to complete the vocational training school in Lakou, end our collaboration project with the Little Sisters of Jesus, strengthen the services for social and employment reintegration, consolidate the network with the Civil Society Organizations dealing with street children and children in street situations and disseminate/promote the theoretical and practical teaching guide developed in 2016. Furthermore, we will implement the strategic plan by the Rinaldi Foundation and launch an awareness-raising campaign on the rights of children in the Country.

PERU

Capital: Lima

Population: 31,400,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 21.8%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.740 (87th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 11,672 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 2006

Year of official recognition: 2012

IN 2016

Expat operators: 1

Development projects financed by private parties: 1

Expenses incurred: € 125,542

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises

Rural development and valorisation of natural resources

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by private parties		
Indigenous communities and natural resources in the Amazon region: strengthening the organised growers working in the Achuar Shakaim cooperative as an example of human and sustainable development for the marginalised people of the Peruvian rainforest	119,473	CEI
Other expenses incurred in the Country	6,069	Private donors

In 2016, we continued the VIS actions launched in 2010 to help the families of the indigenous Achuar growers – gathered in the Shakaim cooperative – who live in the Amazon rainforest, by promoting production chain based on the **valorisation of the local natural resources**.

The programme is integrated with the pastoral work by the Salesian missionaries in the area and is achieved through a partnership with the Bioselva Association and the Don Bosco Foundation.

In this context, in 2016, we completed a locally financed project by our local partner Bioselva, using the money from the Peru-USA debt conversion fund (FONDAM – Fondo de las Américas), started in 2013, to consolidate the production chain of the oil for cosmetic purposes extracted from the fruit of the ungurahui palm tree in 10 Achuar communities. At the same time, we completed the project in support of FONDAM and aimed at the reforestation of the degraded areas, through agriculture and forestry systems. Furthermore, as operational partner to the Terra Nuova NGO, we participated in a project financed by the latter and the FIP (Fondo Italo Peruviano), aimed at promoting a system for the organic certification of indigenous projects in the areas of Loreto and Ucayali, especially for sacha inchi oil.

In 2016, we also launched a new 3-year project cofinanced by the CEI with the 8xmille funds and aimed at the **consolidation of the Shakaim cooperative, with regard to its membership and production and marketing activities**.

Thanks to all these activities combined, in 2016 we were able to intensify the production of sachá inchi oil (agriculture) and, in part, of the ungurahui oil (forestry).

In 2016, we carried out **actions in 19 Achuar communities, involving 144 sachá inchi and ungurahui producers**, increasing and improving the quality of the output thanks to:

- ✓ frequent technical assistance missions targeting growers and producers living up to 2 days river navigation away from the base of S. Lorenzo by the project coordinator and technicians;
- ✓ the use of organic fertilisers and manure for restoring the productivity of impoverished soils due to intense cultivation and to combat plant parasites;
- ✓ improvements in the harvesting, drying and storage techniques;
- ✓ the purchase of equipment for the harvesting/processing facility of the cooperative at S. Lorenzo.

The sound and effective management of the project activities has enabled us to **build a relationship based on trust with the producers**, who are at one and the same time the beneficiaries and builders of their own development, grouped in the Shakaim Cooperative.

Generally speaking, the work technique put into place was the one based on the “**Campesino to Campesino**” approach, which entails a horizontal transmission of knowledge and experience (promoter-producer, both Achuar, the first beneficiaries of ad hoc training), to encourage participation and the taking of responsibility. Therefore, we have managed to renew and intensify the enthusiasm of the beneficiaries participating in the training seminars and who are integrating in the organisation and management of the cooperative.

Regarding the sale of the products, we have recorded enormous improvements, thanks to the conclusion of a **commercial agreement with a local undertaking, ensuring a minimum guaranteed price for the sachá inchi**.

In 2017, we intend to: intensify the institutional building of the Achuar Cooperative, broaden and diversify the marketing channels, improve the quality and quantity of the output of ungurahui, and better organise the production chain of aguaje, which is still rather weak.

ASIA AND OCEANIA MYANMAR

Capital: Naypyidaw

Population: 53,900,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: n.d.

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.556 (145th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: n.d.

Start of activities in the Country: 2012

IN 2016

Development projects financed by private parties: 1

Expenses incurred: € 33,333

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Vocational training and integration

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by private parties		
Focus on youths: launching a vocational training facility for vulnerable young people and dropouts in the suburbs of Yangon	33,243	CEI
Other expenses incurred in the Country	90	Private donors

VIS has been collaborating with the Salesian Inspectorate of Myanmar since 2012, in connection with the presentation of project proposals targeting vulnerable young people. This collaboration has enabled us, in 2013, to present a project to the Italian Conference of Bishops and obtain a contribution for **a project for building a vocational training facility** (the Don Bosco Vocational Training Center - DBVTC) at Hlaing Tharyar, the largest district created around the city of Yangon. Despite being the Country's largest economic centre, the enormous growth of its population has created a clear separation between the wealthy districts and the satellite cities, such as the district of Hlaing Tharyar where the facility is based, and which is where the poorer segments of the city's population, forced out of the city centre by the high property prices, have relocated to. This is where thousands of unemployed people and squatters flock to, as well as underemployed workers seeking employment. Since 2008, the district has also been home to the refugees fleeing the areas hit by cyclone Nargis, and is now home to about 340,000 inhabitants, most of them migrants.

The project under way, which includes actions aimed at these target groups, features **two lines of action: infrastructure construction and teaching/training and capacity building**.

In 2016, we completed the construction of the Don Bosco Vocational Training Center and fitted out all the classrooms and other training and teaching facilities with the requisite instruments and equipment, as well as the practical areas of the centre, including the laboratories and workshops, ready to host the first two courses, information technology and aluminium welding/working.

In a first stage of the project, we built an aluminium welding and working workshop, classrooms for the information technology course and a guidance/orientation room. In phase two, the centre was

enlarged with a community room (used for the theory classes of the aluminium welding/working course), a study room, a canteen, toilets and restrooms and two offices.

In the first quarter of 2016, we carried out a mission for the purpose of monitoring and assessing – the actual monitoring and assessment work being carried out by a VIS expert – the actions carried out and completed to date and defining the future projects in the Country. In particular, we launched a first analysis for assessing the possibility of networking the new vocational training centre of Yangon with the other Salesian training facilities in the Country, in order to strengthen and develop the activities of the Salesian training centres aimed at educating and rehabilitating street children and young people.

In 2017, we expect to support the local partner in the definition of the teaching architecture of the centre, developing the necessary teaching and technical contents of the courses to be implemented there and structuring the related curricula, as well as building its networking capacity with both the other Salesian facilities and the private enterprises and public institutions, with a view to increasingly foster the work integration of the young students.

MIDDLE EAST PALESTINE

Capital: East Jerusalem and Ramallah
 Population: 4,700,000 inhabitants
 Poverty rate: 25.8%
 Human Development Index (HDI): 0.684 (114th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)
 Per capital income: 4,715 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 1986
 Year of official recognition: 2010 in Palestine, 2009 in Israel

IN 2016
 Expat operators: 3
 Expat operators under civilian service programmes: 4
 Development projects financed by public entities: 4
 Development projects financed by private parties: 3
 Distance Support Projects: 2
 Expenses incurred: € 516,498

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Higher training
 Child education and protection
 Vocational training and integration
 Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises
 Rural development and valorisation of natural resources

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
N.O.I. Young People in Palestine – New integration and employment opportunities for vulnerable Palestinian youths (1 PAL 449)	347,021	AICS/MAECI
N.O.I. Young People in Palestine – New integration and employment opportunities for vulnerable Palestinian youths (5 PAL 570)	24,995	Autonomous Province of Trento
G.re.en Palestine: Growth of Renewable Energies in Palestine! Promoting economic development in Palestine through renewable energy (5 PAL 588)	581	REGION OF LOMBARDY
Valorisation of the craft sector and intensifying the synergies between the local players in the area of Bethlehem for the creation of a crafts district	13,647	Autonomous Province of Trento
Development projects financed by private parties		

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Promoting sustainable development in the area of Bethlehem and Jerusalem, by valorising and strengthening local arts and wine-production activities	36,629	CEI 8xmille
Organising and launching a Master's degree programme in Governance and Administration in the Public Sector – MGAPS – at the University of Bethlehem (3 PAL 400)	58,213	CEI 8xmille
Improving the skills of psychologists, teachers and consultants engaged in the psychological and social rehabilitation of young Palestinians affected by post-traumatic stress disorders related to the occupation (51 PAL 581)	15,598	Don Bosco Missions, Turin
Distance Support Projects		
Project for supporting the Salesian technical school	2,783	Private donors
Project for supporting the Salesian arts centre in Bethlehem		
Other expenses incurred in the Country	17,030	Private donors

In 2016, we had the opportunity to **relaunch our presence in Palestine**, thanks to the approval, in 2015, of a 3-year project by AICS/MAECI, which enabled us, in January 2016, to launch a new multi-sector activities involving all the local VIS staff and part of the HQ staff as well. The project, cofinanced by AICS, with a share of about 69%, also obtained in 2016 the support of the Autonomous Province of Trento and of the Region of Lombardy, which cofinanced the rest of the project, which has two goals:

- improving the psychological and social support to minors affected by post-traumatic stress disorders, as a result of the social/political situation;
- enhancing the efficiency of the Palestinian public and private vocational training system and broadening it to include new environmental protection areas;
- improving the income and quality of life of the target communities.

In the first weeks of 2016 we entered into ad hoc agreements with the local partners (Guidance and Training Centre in Bethlehem, the Salesian technical school, the Deir Debwan Industrial Secondary School in Ramallah and the Palestine Ministry of Education); we then started working at the **training courses for psychologists for identifying and counselling the minors with emotional/behavioural and learning disorders** (56 teachers and 23 social workers trained in 7 schools), with the assistance of the Salesian University Institute of Venice (IUSVE). We implemented the first psychological and social treatment support programmes for 90 minors who were beneficiaries of the individual treatment plans – PTI.

We also held 18 meetings with the school management staff to monitor and assess the progress achieved with the minors treated under the PTI plans; finally, we granted 27 scholarships to the

children undergoing counselling, to enable them to attend the courses in mechanics, electronics, mechatronics, carpentry, olive woodworking, mother of pearl working and ceramics.

Two expert **renewable energy** consultants also carried out an in-depth study on the type of equipment to be purchased for the laboratories and workshops and the curriculum for the new renewable energy courses, as well as the preliminary studies for installing the photovoltaic panels at the two schools. All the activities were carried out in synergy with the local authorities: the Ministry of Education and the Energy Authority.

Finally, we hired a new manager for the employment office inside the Salesian technical school, to intensify its links with the world of labour; we also conducted an important study on the local crafts market and took the first steps to **intensify the Bethlehem crafts platform**.

Regarding the higher training projects **coordinated by VIS at the University of Bethlehem**, in 2016 28 students completed the Master's degree programme in International Cooperation and Development (MICAD) and 23 new students started the programme. Furthermore, we also intensified the presence of VIS at the University of Bethlehem: 26 students enrolled in the first edition of the "Specialized Program in Governance and Administration in the Public Sector", which will end in February 2017.

Finally, with regard to the projects approaching conclusion, we made the final expenses for purchasing a tank carrier for bulk wine transport for the **Salesian Winery of Cremisan, which, over the last year, has made an enormous progress towards its management independence and self-sustainability**, reaping a great deal of success and receiving a great deal of acknowledgements for the excellent quality of its wines.

In 2017, we will focus on continuing our activities regarding the AICS, PAT and Region of Lombardy projects, stressing the development of renewable energy and the social and economic relaunching of the local context. New projects might be developed for the psychological and social recovery of the area of Massafer Yatta, one of the most marginalised and at-risk areas of all the West Bank.

Nisreen: I can see the future, even if I live in Palestine

(storia dal campo mettere in formato box)

I'm Nisreen, I'm a Palestinian girl from Hebron, blind since birth. At five I started attending the Helen Keller School for blind students or with impaired eyesight in East Jerusalem.

The school was residential and I remember that, before the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, my parents would visit me often and take me home for the holidays and on weekends. After the Accords, the situation became more complicated because Palestinians had less freedom of movement. When I turned 12 I enrolled in the Lutheran school of Ramallah, an ordinary school. Then the political and social situation worsened after the second Intifada: the Israeli Authorities started building a wall and it was no longer safe to travel. So, when in 2002 I had to choose which university to go to, I preferred to enrol in Hebron University, to be near my family.

After graduating in English literature it was hard for me to find a job as a blind person. Then, in 2008, the Palestinian Ministry of Education took part in a project providing for the hiring of a number of disabled people and so I started working as an English teacher in a school for blind children in Hebron, where I still work today, despite the fact that teaching is not the work I aim to do for the rest of my life.

My strength is my family, which has always supported me and encouraged me to live my life to the full, without restrictions. One of the most important teachings from my mother is to understand and appreciate the value and importance of education, because "money comes and goes, but an

education is always there for you". This is why I decided to enrol in the MICAD⁵ degree programme at the University of Bethlehem and I am very satisfied with the academic career I have embarked on. Thanks to the programme I have met many new people from different cultures, experiences and ways of thinking, which greatly encourage me and enable me never to stop learning.

I am firmly convinced that the MICAD will help me fulfil my dream of finding a job in government, and I am already thinking of taking a doctorate after completing the MICAD because, like my mother says, "we must always strive to reach the highest level, whatever we do!"

EUROPE

ALBANIA

Capital: Tirana

Population: 2,900,000 inhabitants

Poverty rate: 14.3%

Human Development Index (HDI): 0.764 (75th out of 188 Countries, UNDP 2016)

Per capital income: 10,397 \$

Start of activities in the Country: 1994

Year of official recognition: 2002

IN 2016

Expat operators: 5

Development projects financed by public entities: 6

Development projects financed by private parties: 3

Distance Support Projects: 1

Expenses incurred: € 1,113,707

VIS PROJECT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Vocational training and integration

Development of economic activities and micro-enterprises

Rural development and valorisation of natural resources

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
Bukë, kripë e zemër: food, tradition and culture. Co-development processes in marginale areas of northern and southern Albania	867,021	MAECI
Essedra – Environmentally sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas	41,718	European Commission
Regional development and improving employment and income for young people in northern Albania	28,807	Autonomous Province of Trento
Terra Madre Balkans 2016	50,285	Ministry of Agriculture of Albania
Terra Madre Balkans 2016	16,828	AICS – Tirana
A model of Sustainable Rural Development	9,738	Albanian Government
Development projects financed by private parties		
A bridge between persons and communities in the village of Vermosh,	14,000	Private donors

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
northern Albania		
Development support in the commune of Kelmend	79,379	Private donors
Shkrel Youth Music Project and the Rehabilitation of Health Centres		
Distance Support Projects		
Support to Breglumasi, Tirana – “Lulet e Jetes” kindergarten and “Dallendyshet” day centre	264	Private donors
Solidarity Twinnings	750	Private donors
Other expenses incurred in the Country	4,919	Private donors

² Original title: *MONTEAL - Investing to sustainable human and local economic development through participatory tourism management in cross-border area of Kelmend, Shkrel (Albania), Andrijevice, Berane and Plave (Montenegro)*

In 2016, we continued the project financed by the MAECI and private donors, for the purpose of **improving the socio-economic conditions of the population in the districts of Malesi and Madhe, in the district of Permet and in the surrounding mountain areas** (north Albania) by intensifying production activities, improving agriculture and tourism, encouraging the beneficiaries to take part in the development processes and creating a communication/exchange network among the local communities. The project is implemented by a consortium, of which VIS is the lead company, for the activities in the north, and the with the NGO Cesvi, as a partner for the south.

The projects carried out in 2016 covered the following fields:

Micro-credit: 165 in the north and 68 in the south, primarily in agriculture, animal husbandry and tourism;

Provision of mini-grants for setting up micro-enterprises in the fields of agriculture, catering and tourism services: 10 mini-grants approved and disbursed in the north and 12 in the south in 2016, plus support to 6 mini-grants in 2015;

Support to community activities

- At the **infrastructure and environmental level:** the refurbishment of two healthcare facilities in Kelmend, the consortium of Tamara, the water reservoir at Razma (Shkrel), a primary school at Xhaj (Shkrel), the renovation of the gardens in the city of Përmet with the planting of roses and trees in the city of Këlcyrë, the purchase of the necessary technology and vehicles for collecting urban waste in the city of Këlcyrë, the construction of a water reservoir for livestock, sewerage works in the town of Kutal, a drinking water storage facility and external network for the district of Skutaraq and the village of Maleshovë, an external water supply network in the village of Kaludh, the partial reconstruction of the aqueduct in the villages of Çarshovë, Riban, Zhepë and Pëllunbar,
- **economic and tourism sectors:** the continued support to the traditional restaurant “Buke Kripe e Zemer” managed by a local consortium and the producers of Vermosh and Lopushe for the marketing and improvement of the quality of the Mishavine cheese (a new Slow Food product), the installation of a centralised heating system in the guesthouses of Kelmend and the promotion of tourism in the city of Përmet;
- **social and educational sectors:** the organisation of training programmes for improving tourism services (catering, accommodation, local guides), workshops in the schools of Shkrel on the area’s local nature assets and the safeguarding of the local caves and fauna, the organisation of the 55th anniversary of the Përmet basketball team and the reconstruction of the sports facilities of the city of Këlcyrë. Furthermore, at Përmet, a classroom of the "Meleq Gosnishti" school has been transformed into a museum, the

interiors of the "Durim Qypi" stadium have been refurbished, materials have been supplied to the "Nonda Bulka" school and the "City Stone" monument restored;

- **services:** support to the consortium called "The spirit of Kelmend" for promoting tourism and local products, cultural activities, participation in local trade fairs, support to local and regional development projects and traditional feasts.

Vocational training courses

- training for honey producers, in partnership with Agronomi Senza Frontiere;
- training on the standards for the production of craft cheeses with an expert from Slow Food;
- training on the sustainable management of biodiversity for tourism development purposes;
- training for the guesthouses on client management and health and hygiene standards;
- vocational training course for hotel staff/receptionist at Permet, in partnership with the Regional Vocational Training Centre at Girocastro (with Cesvi)
- vocational training course for local tourist guides with the Regional Vocational Training Centre at Girocastro (with Cesvi).

Trade shows and national events

VIS has participated in various national events, as part of the ESSEDRA project VIS has participated in the organisation of 4 *Terra Madre Days* at Shkrel, Fishta, Kelmend and Elbasan involving producers from various parts of 'Albania. To which we must add local events and traditional feasts.

VIS has also organised (with another two NGOs of Scutari) a 2-day conference on tourism, involving players and authorities from 3 different municipalities.

Of particular importance and impact was the organisation, by VIS, of **Terra Madre Balkans** at Tirana, in partnership with Slow Food, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian Cooperation agencies, an event for promoting sustainable development in the region, with the participation of over 350 delegates from 12 Countries.

In southern Albania too, as part of the MAECI project, the partner NGO Cesvi participated in the trade fairs of Fier, Elbasan, Albanian Climbing Festival Përmet, and NBS Tirana.

International trade shows and events

Participation with a delegation of local producers in the Salone del Gusto event in Turin, Blej Shqip at Pristina and the Niksic show; exchanging experiences at the Convivium Slow Food event at Bjielo Polje, anniversary of the independence of Albania at Pistoia, 26-27 November 2016 (with Cesvi)

Regional visibility and promotion:

In 2016, we participated in a number of media events and activities for regional promotion, such as a TV spot for the Terra Madre Balkans event, with related features and the constant involvement of the local media during the organised events. Articles published in the national tourism magazine TRAVEL and the printing and production of new tourism materials for promoting the area of Malesi and Madhe have also enhanced the visibility of the event.

The stakeholder participation and exchange approach typical of the project and the regional management activities, alongside the synergies between the north and the south of the Country, continue to be innovative and to produce a strong sense of belonging, standing out as the key **strengths of the project**. The principal **weakness** is represented by the geographical extension and marginal nature of certain target areas, which make mobility difficult, enhancing the employment of human and financial resources.

In 2017, we will continue the regional promotion actions and projects also aimed at improving youth and female employment, with the funds of the MAECI, the European Commission and private donors.

Drita: six years ago she worked harvesting medicinal herbs ... today she promotes development in Albania

(storia dal campo mettere in formato box)

I'm Drita Tanazi, I am 29 years old, born and raised in the village of Tamare-Kelmend (northern Albania) and I come from a family of 5 members. My dream was to attend University, unfortunately, this dream came to nothing because of the financial hardships of my family and the mentality that still prevails in my area, whereby it is disreputable for a girl to leave her house and move to another city alone, even if she would be staying in an all-female facility to study at university. My fate was to enter a marriage combined by family, like all my peers.

The only time I was allowed out was during the summer to harvest medicinal herbs. We'd wake up at 3 in the morning, walk for 2 hours along a dangerous and slippery track, with the risk of falling into a ravine, and then back the same way, but this time with a 25 kilo sack on my shoulders. I did this for 5 years, no less!

In 2011, though, I overheard 2 young Italians who were here "on a project". Shyly I approached them and soon after I was offered a place in a summer school. I accepted happily and was quite satisfied. To my great surprise they offered me a job at the local VIS project office. On 1 June 2011 my "real" life started. My life, in fact, changed completely and that of my parents as well. My work became an important means for supporting them and a great opportunity for me to go out and see the wide world.

I've been working with VIS for 6 years now, an experience that has created a solid base for my future career. I have acquired specific knowledge, built up a great deal of self-esteem, established relationships with different people and situations, giving a "witness account" of the results achieved in my area, such as the certification as a Slow Food product of our Mishavin cheese. Today, I am a Local Development Agent for VIS projects, through which we promote our area at national and international trade fairs and shows, such as Terra Madre Torino – where I served as the standard-bearer for Albania – and Terra Madre Balkans. I have participated in and organised training programmes and study tours, conferences, workshops and have even appeared on TV shows. I have also won the Successful Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Areas prize awarded by UN Women in Albania. Today I am the President of the "Fryma e Kelmendit" Consortium, which groups economic and tourism enterprises in Kelmend. My experience with VIS has decidedly enriched both my knowledge and my inner world.

Mettere in formato BOX

VIS AND THE ITALIAN CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS: an almost 30-year long partnership within the Church!



From the first years of its establishment, VIS, as an organisation sponsored by the Salesian Congregation, established a stable dialogue and fruitful partnership with the *Service for charity projects in Third-world Countries* (SICTM), established in 1990 by the Italian Conference of Bishops (CEI).

The Service operates to ensure solidarity and cooperation between the Churches in favour of the local populations in poor countries and promote the integral development of the local people and communities, according to the social doctrine of the Catholic Church: therefore, the mission of VIS is fully consistent with that of the CEI Organisation.

Since 2000, VIS has carried out over 90 projects, some of which are still under way, using the funds provided by the 8xmille managed by the ad hoc CEI Committee, in Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Oceania, Europe. The main fields of collaboration are actions in support of children, young people and women who find themselves in situations of extreme vulnerability, groups which are primarily supported through literacy and education, vocational training and micro-enterprise projects. All the actions focus specifically on local participation and are identified, studied and defined based on the requests received from and in full cooperation with the local Churches; furthermore, special care is taken to involve the local communities, ensuring their active collaboration in the execution of the project, specifically collaborating, in this respect, with the Salesians of Don Bosco, as well as with the organisations and state institutions operating in the target Countries.

Today, our collaboration with the CEI's SICTM office focuses primarily on programmes for preventing and constraining irregular migration and human trafficking in West and East Africa, as well as in developing educational, technical and professional opportunities for more vulnerable children and youths, in particular in crisis areas such as the Middle East. This partnership, in which VIS acts as a cooperation tool between the Churches, supports and implements the message of emancipation and freedom of the poor proclaimed and pursued by Pope Francis.

PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING THE SALESIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES - PDO

Geographical area: ACP Countries – Africa – Caribbean – Pacific

36 Countries involved: 2 Caribbean Countries (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and 34 African Countries: Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Cameroon, Congo – Brazzaville, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Sudan, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, DR of Congo, Mauritius.

Start date: 2014

Duration of project: 4 years

Expat operators: 3

Expenses incurred: € 901,609

VIS PROJECT FIELDS IN THE COUNTRIES

Child education and protection

Vocational training and work integration

Promotion and protection of human rights

	Expenses incurred (in €)	Financial backers
Development projects financed by public entities		
Co-partners in development: building up and enhancing multi-actor partnerships [...] addressed to vulnerable youth in 35 ACP Countries	476,753	European Commission
Development projects financed by private parties		
Co-partners in development: building up and enhancing multi-actor partnerships [...] addressed to vulnerable youth in 35 ACP Countries	424,856	Private donors

The “Co-partners in development” project aims to contribute to the achievement of the goal set by the Salesian Family (2015 Roadmap) for the development and/or strengthening of the planning and development offices (PDO) of the Salesians in 36 African and Caribbean Countries. Many times the Salesians have stated that the PDO shall play a key role in each Inspectorate, with a view to implementing the Salesian educational and vocational training strategies (POI and PEPS), aimed at reducing poverty and primarily targeting the more marginalised young people. These strategies must be grounded on the effectiveness of development (transparency, accountability, networking), according to a holistic approach based on human rights and striving to ensure the full and significant participation of the beneficiaries in the development processes.

Although the project is implemented by VIS, right from the early stages it has involved all the members of the Don Bosco Network, the Salesian partners in the 14 Inspectorates concerned and, above all, the General Councillors of the Congregation interested in the programme. Therefore, the project may be seen as a concrete tool made available by VIS to the Salesian Family, for achieving the ambitious purpose, established at the 2011 international meeting held in Hyderabad, to develop the PDO and transform them into agents for integral development and an integral part of the Salesian animation and government structure required by the relevant Inspectorate.

FOCUS: THE “STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!” & MIGR-ACTION CAMPAIGNS

The “**Stop Human Trafficking! – They’re Human Beings**” campaign, carried out by VIS and the Don Bosco Missions, is the “Salesian response” to the severe humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, caused by the growing flows of migrants and refugees towards Europe.

The campaign offers a vision of the phenomenon, and the related problems, grounded on human rights: ensuring the protection and promotion of the freedom and right of each person to a dignified life in any part of the world, to build and fulfil one’s existence either in one’s home Country or to safely and successfully develop a migratory project. For this reason, “Stop Human Trafficking” includes, in a complementary manner, both the duty – based on the principle of solidarity – to welcome, promote and include migrants and refugees within our society, and the duty to development cooperation and the promotion of rights in the Countries of origin and transit. At the heart of the campaign are human beings and their rights, which should overcome the prejudicial distinctions based on the motivations and factors of migration, and those between trafficking and smuggling, between exploitation, slavery and aiding and abetting irregular migration, because more and more often the journey itself is becoming a gallery of various forms of deprivation of rights and freedoms.

“Stop Human Trafficking” is not just a communication and fundraising campaign, but an integrated programme of *Migr-Actions*, implemented both in Italy and in several Countries of origin and transit.

In particular, in our Country:

- awareness-raising, training and information on the phenomenon of migration, on the social inclusion and non-discrimination processes, the relevant approaches and tools (of a legal, cultural, practical and other nature) that need to be adopted to ensure the protection of rights, the reception and full integration of migrants and refugees;
- initial and secondary reception, educational/vocational training processes, actions aimed at ensuring employment and social inclusion, through the establishment of a network of services provided by all the Salesian players operating in our Country in favour of migrants, unaccompanied foreign minors, humanitarian protection applicants and victims of trafficking (for sexual and exploitation purposes).

In several Sub-Saharan African countries most hardly hit by human trafficking and irregular migration, the campaign aims to:

- prevent and/or counter irregular migration and human trafficking at the roots through widespread and in-depth awareness-raising and information campaigns on the risks involved in irregular migration, on the channels of regular migration, on the opportunities for fulfilment and development in one’s home Country;
- promote training, employment and economic opportunities through integrated actions and incentives to local development.

The main beneficiaries of the programme are youths and returning migrants.

“Stop Human Trafficking”: the reception and integration system in Italy

In Italy, the commitment of VIS – in partnership with a number of (Salesian and other) organisations – is primarily aimed at the reception of migrants, but also at raising awareness and promoting intercultural understanding and non-discrimination. Our reception activities are carried out primarily in Sicily, where thousands upon thousands of young people arrive after having risked their lives first in the desert and then in the Mediterranean sea. To better coordinate this reception, the Salesian Family, in 2014, created the **Don Bosco Island**, a temporary special purpose association established by the SDB (Don Bosco Salesians), FMA (Daughters of Mary Auxiliatrix), the SCS-CNOS Federation (Salesians for Social Work), VIS, VIDES (International Women and Development Volunteers) and two Salesian cooperation organisations, Metacometa and Don Bosco 2000.

Don Bosco Island has the purpose of coordinating the various activities carried out in several Sicilian cities. The most innovative project is undoubtedly that of the Colonia Don Bosco facility, located in the heart of “La Plaja” beach in Catania: four hectares on the sea shore, with an initial reception centre and several areas for animation activities. The purpose is to create an *oratory of*

peoples, by creating a reception facility and multicultural oratory, a citadel of integration, for effectively promoting multiculturalism and reception.

The initial reception centre currently hosts about sixty unaccompanied foreign minors from Sub-Saharan African Countries. A multidisciplinary team comprising experts in various fields welcomes the migrants and encourages the integration of the young Africans within the civil society of Catania. Of particular interest is the involvement of the city's oratories in these activities.

In Palermo, the first to open their doors – about 30 years ago – to migrants were the Salesians of the Santa Chiara work, in the popular district of Ballarò, in the ancient heart of the city. Santa Chiara has become a focal point for all migrants living in Palermo, thanks to the many services it provides, from Italian language courses to a job centre. This facility, besides housing an extraordinary multi-ethnic kindergarten, is now preparing to open a reception centre for migrants from the recent mass landings. In San Gregorio (CT), for many years now, the local Salesians have been welcoming minors in difficult conditions, also from African Countries, while in Camporeale (PA) the organisation "A braccia aperte" runs an initial reception centre for unaccompanied foreign minors.

In Sicily, the Daughters of Mary Auxiliatrix also provide reception activities: in Cammarata (AG), where they operate a reception centre for a dozen migrant minors (coordinated by the SPRAR of the Ministry of the Interior), while in Agrigento, in the heart of the city, the oratory of the FMA has become a centre for reception and integration for the hundreds of migrant youths living in the province.

There are also two Salesian cooperation organisations that participate in the activities of the Don Bosco Island: Don Bosco 2000 and Metacometa. The former has been running a youth centre, since 1999, at Piazza Armerina (EN), which, in 2011, became a centre for the migrants arriving by sea from the North African coast. At the Piazza oratory, which has become a multi-ethnic space where cultures and religions from various parts of the world mix. The Don Bosco 2000 organisation also operates a "widespread community" in the centre of Aidone (EN), where about a hundred migrants are housed in lodgings rented for this purpose. Two different models of integration united by the same Salesian matrix.

Instead, Metacometa organises foster care for unaccompanied children with Italian families. Its network now comprises about 20 families. The organisation, based in Giarre (CT), is launching a new experience welcoming migrant women in difficult conditions. The project also includes the reception of mothers with children, who are initially welcomed in a community and then transferred to individual lodgings where they can live independently.

"Stop Human Trafficking": the communication campaign in Italy

In Italy, the goal of the campaign is to raise awareness within the civil society and the institutions, about the issue of human trafficking and irregular migration and the related contribution by VIS and its partners.

The focus of the campaign is the website www.stoptratta.org and the social media channels of "Stop Tratta". The updates relating to the campaign and its issues, as well as the articles and features in the papers and on TV (including LA7 and TV2000), radio and websites can all be consulted on the website.

Of significance, in 2016, besides the media coverage of the campaign, was the "*Message in a bottle*" meeting with the press, during which the campaign was presented, with several stories of migrants who had arrived in Italy or return migrants. Understanding who these people are, the reasons for which they leave, the context in which they live can help people understand the situation and clearly explain one of the cornerstones of the campaign: leaving one's country should be a choice, not the only thing to do.

Further activities were carried out in schools, with the competition "Qui si tratta di esseri/e umani" jointly organised by VIS and the Ministry of Education, the details of which are set out in the presentation of our activities relating to education to global citizenship.

In November 2016, the RAI 3 programme *Presa Diretta* recorded a feature "Ghana Stop Human Trafficking!", which was then aired on 20/02/2017. The presenter of the show, Riccardo Iacona, together with a reporter Elena Marzano, accompanied by a delegation of ours, conducted an investigation on the ground, in Ghana, on human trafficking, highlighting the "Stop Human Trafficking" programme as a concrete alternative to irregular migration.

“Stop Human Trafficking” in the Countries of origin and transit of the migrants

A detailed overview of the activities carried out in the Countries of origin and transit of the migrants is contained in the specific surveys for each Country, to which reference should therefore be made. Here we would only like to highlight that, in 2016, various information, awareness-raising and development campaigns were carried out in Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia, while identification and viability activities were launched and will be continued in 2017 in various West African countries, including Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Mali and Guinea Conakry (see the focus on West Africa).

The key characteristics of the projects launched in 2016 to counter irregular migration are:

- in **Ghana** (Sunyani): a training project in eco-sustainable agriculture, aimed at developing the agricultural skills of young people and return migrants in the Brong Ahafo Region. During 2016, the teaching staff was trained and two teaching greenhouses were built. The “Green House” project was presented at the #COP22 Climate Conference. The courses started recently.
- in **Senegal** the programme is active on two fronts: Dakar and Tambacounda. In Dakar, the training activities offered by the Don Bosco vocational training Centre have been expanded and intensified. The local development support project in Tambacounda, financed by the Dakar-based AICS, was launched at the end of 2016 and will continue in 2017.
- In **Ethiopia** “Stop Human Trafficking” has launched dedicated projects in Addis Ababa and Shire (comprising vocational training programmes in the Mekanissa school for Eritrean refugees and the construction of a computer laboratory) and multiple actions in the region of Tigray, aimed at improving economic opportunities through vocational training and active support of income generating activities (especially in agriculture, animal husbandry and small-scale trade), to ensure access to basic commodities and services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This section of the social balance sheet presents the highlights of the VIS income statement for 2016, compared to the previous year.

The figures have been extracted from the financial statements for 2016, as audited by *BDO Italia* and the Board of Statutory Auditors, in relation to their ordinary activities envisaged in the bylaws.

The financial statements and notes to the accounts may be consulted, for further information, at the following website address <http://www.volint.it/vis/bilancio>.

Unlike the figures shown in the preceding sections on “Action Tools “ and “VIS Worldwide”, the following financial information has been extracted from the financial statements at 31/12/2016 and, therefore, have been defined in accordance with the accrual principle and the so-called “adjustment entries”, which, on the one hand, take into account the income and expenses recorded in the previous year and, on the other hand, employ the related asset and liability items for correct recording purposes. This measurement system, however, sometimes leads to discrepancies between the figures presented in the tables featured in the preceding sections and the consolidated figures in the financial statements shown below.

OVERVIEW

In 2016, VIS recorded a total income of € 9,693,840, down by € 1,020,642 year-over-year. Instead, operating expenses totalled € 9,690,511, down by € 1,015,705 year-over-year.

The operating profit totalled € 3,329, compared to a profit in 2015 of € 8,266.

The following table contains an overview of the financial data broken down by areas of operation:

CONTO ECONOMICO	2016	2015	Diff.ze +/-	Diff.ze +/- %
GESTIONE CARATTERISTICA				
PROVENTI DA ATTIVITA' TIPICHE	6.568.796	6.630.736	-61.940	-0,93%
ONERI DA ATTIVITA' TIPICHE	- 8.185.021	- 8.107.228	77.793	0,96%
Saldo gestione Attività Tipica	- 1.616.225	- 1.476.492	139.733	9,46%
PROVENTI DA ATTIVITA' PROMOZIONALI E DI RACCOLTA FONDI	2.793.447	2.463.598	329.849	13,39%
ONERI DA ATTIVITA' PROMOZIONALI E DI RACCOLTA FONDI	- 515.729	- 392.691	123.037	31,33%
Saldo gestione Attività Promozionale e di Raccolta Fondi	2.277.718	2.070.907	206.811	9,99%
SALDO GESTIONE CARATTERISTICA	661.493	594.414	67.078	11,28%
GESTIONE ATTIVITA' ACCESSORIE				
PROVENTI DA ATTIVITA' ACCESSORIE	243.978	1.506.544	-1.262.567	-83,81%
ONERI DA ATTIVITA' ACCESSORIE	- 330.491	- 1.578.753	-1.248.262	-79,07%
Saldo gestione Attività Accessorie	- 86.513	72.208	14.305	19,81%
ATTIVITA' FINANZIARIE E PATRIMONIALI				
PROVENTI DA ATTIVITA' FINANZIARIE E PATRIMONIALI	6.898	30.691	-23.794	-77,53%
ONERI FINANZIARI E PATRIMONIALI	- 25.515	- 13.564	11.951	88,11%
Saldo gestione Attività Finanziarie e Patrimoniali	- 18.617	17.127	1.490	8,70%
GESTIONE STRAORDINARIA				
PROVENTI STRAORDINARI	80.723	82.912	-2.190	-2,64%
ONERI STRAORDINARI	- 94.970	- 23.294	71.677	307,71%
Saldo gestione Straordinaria	- 14.248	59.618	-73.866	-123,90%
ONERI DA ATTIVITA' DI SUPPORTO GENERALE	- 500.354	- 558.054	-57.700	-10,34%
IMPOSTE D'ESERCIZIO	- 38.431	- 32.632	5.799	17,77%
Risultato di Esercizio	3.329	8.266	-4.937	-59,73%

The **core management** highlights the income and expenses relating to core and promotional/fundraising operations. While the former are directly related to the pursuit of the organization's mission, as enshrined in the bylaws, the latter are carried out for the purpose of collecting the necessary resources for performing the core operations. The core operations include development projects, emergency actions, development education activities, etc.. The promotional and fundraising operations, besides those of a specific nature (e.g., campaigns), also includes income from Distance Support (SaD) and Mission Support (SaM). This is because, while the income from public and private institutions are recorded among the "core operations", based on their source and management procedures, the income from SaD and SaM comes exclusively from individuals and is given for a specific purpose. Overall, the **core management highlights a positive result of € 661,493**, up year-over-year by **€ 67,078**, confirming the positive trend already recorded in 2015.

In the case of **ancillary operations**, the key income/expense items are related to the volunteer management activities, based on the agreement entered into with Caritas Italiana. The plummeting figures are due to the fact that, in 2015, VIS managed the pavilion of the Salesian Congregation at the Milan Expo, which affected both the financial statement components for the amount of just over € 1,000,000. Other significant costs are € 44,312, for the membership fees paid in relation to the various networks to which *VIS belongs*, primarily Agire, Cini and the Don Bosco Network.

This year, the balance of **financial operations** is negative for € 18,617, primarily as a result of the currency exchange differences resulting from the realignment between the balance and the project accounts.

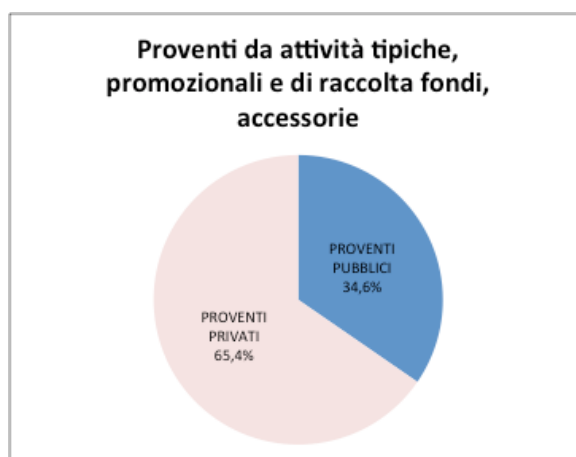
In the case of **extraordinary operations** there is a negative balance of € 14,248. Income from extraordinary operations totals € 80,723, primarily comprising the waiver of the allowance by several members of the Executive Committee, totalling € 49,000, income not yet received, relating to the Naldini legacy in Florence, totalling € 20,428, while the remainder consists of the collection of compensation from an insurance company, in relation to the damage caused to the head office premises in 2015, totalling € 15,000. Regarding extraordinary expenses, which total € 94,970, a large part of these – for € 79,553 – are the result of the settlements paid out to 3 employees, following a consensual termination in the year in question, while the sum of € 8,863 is related to the costs incurred in connection with the above mentioned Naldini legacy, which will be later reimbursed.

The **general support expenses** are down. They primarily include the items for service costs (rentals, consulting fees and telephone bills) totalling € 122,922, for the operation of the governance bodies, totalling € 131,278, and for the management of the head office, including the administrative personnel, totalling € 179,262.

Lastly, the IRAP tax on labour costs weighed for € 38,431.

THE SOURCES OF INCOME

The income from private sources continue to prevail over that from public sources, with a slight drop in the latter (- 8.83%) year-over-year.



PROVENTI DA ATTIVITA' TIPICHE, PROMOZIONALI, RACCOLTA FONDI E ACCESSORIE: FONTI & IMPIEGHI	2016	2015
<i>FONTI PUBBLICHE (da attività tipiche)</i>		
Ministero Affari Esteri	2.323.002	2.203.554
Commissione Europea	744.621	1.194.616
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri	65.347	46.859
Enti pubblici diversi (Province)	142.667	116.363
Organizzazioni Internazionali	78.348	121.641
A) Totale fonti pubbliche	3.353.986	3.683.034
<i>FONTI PRIVATE (da attività tipiche, promozionali e di raccolta fondi, finanziari e straordinari)</i>		
Conferenza Episcopale Italiana	917.930	985.621
Caritas Italiana	248.268	474.135
Enti privati diversi (fondazioni, network, ecc.) - contratti e convenzioni	1.622.145	1.157.853
Fonti private - (erogazioni liberali)	3.220.212	3.954.413
Sostegno volontarie e cooperanti nei PVS per attività altri Enti	243.679	345.822
Fonti private - Finanziarie e proventi straordinari	87.620	113.604
B) Totale fonti private	6.339.855	7.031.448
TOTALE GENERALE	9.693.840	10.714.482

INCOME IN 2016-2015 FROM CORE, PROMOTIONAL, FUNDRAISING AND ANCILLARY OPERATIONS BY SOURCE AND ENTITIES

Regarding the trend in 2016 for major donors, the following may be highlighted, with regard to the public sector:

- ~ Income from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation are slightly up, because of the continuation of the three large-scale projects (Albania, Ethiopia and Palestine) and emergency actions financed with local funds. A drop in the funds from this source is expected in the next financial period, due to the completion of the projects in Albania and Ethiopia, unless new resources are forthcoming from the MAECI, from the ground.

- ~ The income trend from the European Commission (CE) are down, due to the completion of the 2 multiyear programmes and related accounting effects. However, the partnership with the European Commission is developing well, also thanks to the launching of new projects, the accounting effects of which, however, will be felt in the forthcoming years.
- ~ The flow from other public entities is stable (in particular, from decentralised cooperation in various Regions) and from the state 8x1000.
- ~ The contribution from International Organizations has dropped, because of the completion of projects financed by UNHCR in Angola and the main source remains the contribution by the French Cooperation Agency (AFD) in Burundi.

Regarding funds from private sources:

- ~ The contribution by the Italian Conference of Bishops dropped in 2016, albeit slightly, compared to the previous year. The period was characterised by the completion of a number of projects started in previous years. The resources from this source are expected to increase in 2017, in the wake of increased collaboration with the CEI for programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ~ The income from “Caritas Italiana” dropped in 2016 as a result of the completion of the emergency operations and the gradual demobilisation in Haiti. The source “sundry private entities”, instead, featured an increase as a result of new strategic partnerships at national and international level in various projects in different countries.
- ~ Donations from fundraising operations, received from corporations, individuals and social formations were substantially stable, net of the reduced funds from the VIS-Lombardia channel, as a result of the decision, by the Inspectorate of Lombardy and Emilia to set up its own foundation and to direct the funds raised by the Milan office towards this entity and no longer towards VIS. The income from the Rome office, instead, have increased. The process launched in connection with synergies with the other Salesian entities (Don Bosco Missions and Don Bosco Foundation Worldwide) should ensure greater stability and sustainability.
- ~ In 2016 there was a significant downsizing of income from ancillary operations, because of the conclusion of the VIS and Salesian Family’s participation in the 2015 Milan Expo, with the Don Bosco Pavilion.
- ~ Of importance during the year was the continuation of the awareness-raising and fundraising campaign against human trafficking (Stop-Tratta!), to the specific section of which, in this social balance sheet, reference should be made. Regarding fundraising, as expected, the campaign continues to have a limited effect on the financial statements of VIS, due to the fact that the proceeds have been primarily channelled towards the partner Don Bosco Missions, while VIS maintains a direct responsibility for their design and implementation, as well as for the search for institutional donors.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Regarding the expenses for core operations, the following table provides an overview of the costs incurred by geographical area and type of operation. Further information is available in the “Details of expenses incurred” section of the “Annexes to the 2016 Social Balance Sheet”.

EXPENSES FOR CORE OPERATIONS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

AREA	ONERI DA ATTIVITA' TIPICHE DEL VIS 2016			N. Paesi
	Oneri sostenuti 2016	% su totale	Variazione % rispetto al 2015	
▼ ONERI DA ATTIVITA' TIPICHE				
AFRICA	4.347.961	53,1%	4,7%	18
AMERICA LATINA	1.062.201	13,0%	40,9%	11
ASIA E OCEANIA	136.971	1,7%	-64,6%	9
MEDIO ORIENTE	554.551	6,8%	71,2%	3
EUROPA + ATTIVITA' ITALIA	2.083.337	25,5%	-16,4%	2
TOTALE COMPLESSIVO	8.185.021	100,0%	1,0%	43

EXPENSES FOR CORE OPERATIONS BY TYPE

TIPOLOGIA DI AZIONE	Oneri sostenuti	% su totale
▼ PROGRAMMI		
Progetti di sviluppo	4.200.806	51,3%
Progetti di Sviluppo microrealizzazioni	1.230.156	15,0%
Progetti di emergenza	399.298	4,9%
Progetti di emergenza, riabilitazione e ricostruzione	57.845	0,7%
Sostegno a distanza	419.011	5,1%
Sostegno alle attività missionarie nei PVS	1.009.396	12,3%
▶ ALTRI PROGRAMMI	868.508	10,6%
Totale complessivo	8.185.021	100,0%

In 2016, contributions were received via the **5x1000** channel, with regard to 2014, totalling 156,457 euros, thanks to support received from 3,158 taxpayers (down compared to 2014 – relating to 2013 – when the amount totalled 131,402 euros and 3,521 taxpayers). The following table provides an overview of the use of the funds:

DESCRIZIONE	IMPORTO 2016
Sostegno n.2 espatriati in Senegal nell'ambito del programma Stop-Tratta! azioni di contrasto e prevenzione del traffico di esseri umani e della migrazione irregolare	29.914
Emolumenti e spese relative ad un consulente per missioni in Senegal nell'ambito del programma Stop-Tratta! azioni di contrasto e prevenzione del traffico di esseri umani e della migrazione irregolare	4.737
Sostegno n.10 espatriati in Etiopia: - 2 espatriati per la gestione del Coordinamento Regionale amministrativo e progettuale dell'area Africa Est - 8 espatriati per la gestione operativa e il coordinamento amministrativo degli interventi in ambito educativo, Wash e child protection	48.271
Sostegno n.3 espatriati in Bolivia: - 2 espatriati per per la gestione del Coordinamento Regionale amministrativo e progettuale dell'area America Latina, per la gestione del progetto Santa Cruz de la Sierra: "Recupero e reinserimento di bambini e adolescenti di/in strada" e rafforzamento del OFPROBOL di Cochabamba. - 1 espatriato quale rappresentante legale del VIS in Bolivia	22.690
Emolumenti di un consulente per tutoring dei corsi di formazione on line	2.240
Emolumenti per selezione, formazione e supervisione delle équipes inserite nei progetti nei PVS e per attività di valutazione delle azioni psico-sociali orientate a favore di gruppi vulnerabili	16.419
Emolumenti per studi di fattibilità e identificazione e per attività di formulazione di progetti UE e di altri donatori istituzionali da implementare nei PVS	17.641
Emolumenti per attività di advocacy, di rappresentanza ai tavoli di policy di network nazionali ed internazionali	14.544
Totale oneri	156.457

LEGEND / GLOSSARY

- AGIDAE Associazione Gestori Istituti Dipendenti dall'Autorità Ecclesiastica – Association of the Operators of Institutions Depending on the Ecclesiastical Authorities
- AGIRE Agenzia Italiana Risposta Emergenze – Italian Emergency Response Agency
- AGR Attività Generatrici di Reddito – Income-Generating Activities
- AICS Agenzia Italiana Cooperazione allo Sviluppo – Italian Development Cooperation Agency
- BS Bilancio Sociale – Social Balance Sheet
- CEI Conferenza Episcopale Italiana – Conference of Italian Bishops
- CFP Centro di Formazione Professionale – Vocational Training Centre
- CM Cittadinanza Mondiale – World Citizenship
- CINI Coordinamento Italiano Network Internazionali – Italian Coordination of International Networks
- CNOS Centro Nazionale Opere Salesiane – National Centre of Salesian Works
- DBN Don Bosco Network
- DGCS Direzione Generale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo – General Directorate for Development Cooperation
- DD.UU. Diritti Umani – Human Rights
- ECHO European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
- ECM Educazione alla Cittadinanza Mondiale – Education for World Citizenship
- ESDA Escritório Salesiano de Desenvolvimento de Angola
- FPA Framework Partnership Agreement
- FMA Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice – Daughters of Mary Auxiliatrix
- FRA Fundamental Rights Agency
- HRBA Human Rights Based Approach
- ISU Indice dello Sviluppo Umano – Human Development Index
- MAE Ministero degli Affari Esteri (denominazione precedente) - (former name of the Italian) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MAECI Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (denominazione attuale) – (present name of the Italian) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- MGS Movimento Giovanile Salesiano – Salesian Youth Movement
- ONG Organizzazione Non Governativa – Non-Governmental Organization
- ONLUS Organizzazione Non Lucrativa di Utilità Sociale – Non-profit organization
- ONU Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite – United Nations Organization
- OO.II. Organizzazioni Internazionali – International Organizations
Civil Society Organizations Civil Society Organizations
- PAT Provincia Autonoma di Trento – Autonomous Province of Trento
- PDO Planning and Development Office
- PEPS Progetto Educativo Pastorale Salesiano – Salesian Educational and Pastoral Project
- PVS Paesi in via di sviluppo – Developing Countries (DC)
- SaD Sostegno a Distanza – (Long) Distance Support
- SaM Sostegno alle Missioni – Mission Support
- SDB Salesiani di Don Bosco – Don Bosco Salesians

SCS Salesiani per il Sociale – Salesians for Social Matters
TVET Technical Vocational Education and Training
UE Unione Europea – European Union (EU)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPR Universal Periodic Review
UTL Unità Tecnica Locale – Local Technical Unit

CONTACTS

VIS - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo
Via Appia Antica 126, 00179 Rome (Italy)
Tel. +39 06.51.629.1
Fax +39 06.51.62.299
vis@volint.it - www.volint.it

FOR DONATIONS

www.volint.it/vis/donazioni

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