

SUMMARY ACTIVITIES REPORT 2023



prepared pursuant to art. 14 of the legislative decree n. 117/2017



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ACRONYMS

ADAFO Antenne de développement de l'Afrique francophone occidentale

AGIDAE Associazione gestori istituti dipendenti dall'autorità ecclesiastica

AICS Agenzia italiana per la cooperazione allo sviluppo

ASVIS Alleanza italiana per lo sviluppo sostenibile

BS Summary Activities Report

CEI Conferenza Episcopale Italiana (Italian Episcopal Conference)

CSS Children in street situations

CCP Peace corps volunteers

CIDU Comitato interministeriale diritti umani

CNOS FAP Centro nazionale opere salesiane - Formazione aggiornamento professionale

CRC Convention on the rights of the child

CSO Civil society organization

DAC Development Assistance Committee

DBI Don Bosco International

DBN Don Bosco Network

DC Developing countries

DPCM Decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei ministri (Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers)

EC European Commission

ECHO European Commission humanitarian aid and civil protection department

ECOSOC Economic and social council

ESISI Enti Salesiani Italiani di Solidarietà Internazionale

ETS Third-sector body

EU European Union

EUAA European Union Agency for Asylum

FAMI Fondo asilo migrazione e integrazione (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund)

FRA Fundamental Rights Agency

GCE Global Citizenship Education

GNI Gross National Income

IECD Institut européen de coopération et de développement

IGA Income generating activities

IUSVE Istituto universitario salesiano di Venezia

IMADR International movement against all forms of discrimination and racism

LA Local authority

LDCs Low Development Countries

LRRD Linking relief and rehabilitation to development

MAECI Ministero degli affari esteri e della cooperazione internazionale (Italian Foreign Ministry)
MIUR Ministero dell'istruzione, dell'università e della ricerca (old definition) (Italian Education Ministry – old denomination)
MDB Missioni Don Bosco
MoU Memorandum of Understanding
NEET Neither in employment or in education or training
NGO Non governmental organization
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ODA Official Development Assistance
ONLUS no profit organisation under Italian law
PDO Planning/Project and development office
RSPP Responsible for Service Prevention and Protection
RVA Voluntary assisted country-reinsertion
SAD Long-distance support
SAM Mission support
SAR Summary Activities Report
SAV Support to volunteers
SB Supervisory Body
SDB Salesians of Don Bosco
SSR Security Staff Representative
ToT Training of Trainers
TVET Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN United Nations
UNDP United Nations development programme
UNHCR United Nations high commissioner for refugees
UPR Universal periodic review
UPS Università Pontificia Salesiana

INFORMATION AND SUMMARY DATA RELATED TO 2023

Main offices (Rome HQ, operational offices in Brescia and Mestre (Venice))	3	
MEMBERS	3	
PARTICIPANT VOLUNTEERS (of which 74 physical persons)	82	
VIS LOCAL PRESIDIA	6	
DEVELOPMENT OPERATORS (18F, 15M)	33	
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS (F)	1	
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS (7F, 3M)	10	
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES (total in the year, 15F, 6M)	21	
LOCAL STAFF IN PARTNER COUNTRIES (with VIS contract 95F, 116M)	213	
ACTIVE DONORS	1.698	
SAD DONORS	356	
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ¹	45	
EMERGENCY PROJECTS ¹	22	
COUNTIES WHERE VIS IS ACTIVE	24	
COUNTRIES WITH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	13	
COUNTRIES WITH EMERGENCY PROJECTS	6	
COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN SAD ACTIONS	7	
COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN SAM ACTIONS	13	
PROJECTS IN ITALY	1	
ONLINE TRAINING COURSES PARTICIPANTS	396	
ONLINE FREE TRAINING COURSE PARTICIPANTS	150	
TOTAL INCOME	€10.657.158	

¹ the calculation of the number of projects in 2023 was based on some different criteria compared to those adopted in the previous year, excluding interventions of modest entity, those linked to the use of residual funds from previous years or those not directly configurable as project initiatives in a strict sense.

1. VIS GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 VIS AT GLANCE

VIS - *Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (International Voluntary Service for Development)* is a recognised association established in 1986, a nongovernmental organization enrolled in the Civil Society Organisations register of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, and in the register of the ONLUS of the Direzione Regionale del Lazio of the Revenue Agency. VIS intends to enrol in the Registro Unico of the Third Sector.

VIS is engaged in development cooperation and international solidarity inspired by the charisma of San Giovanni Bosco; an educational agency promoting and organizing awareness raising, education, training for development and global citizenship.

The territorial areas of operation grouped by geographical areas are: Europe, Africa, Middle East, Latin America and Asia.

1986	Establishment of the association in Turin with notarial deed
1987-1988	Recognition on behalf of MAE of the suitability for carrying out development cooperation activities, volunteers' selection, training and employment and development information and education.
1990	Transfer of the registered office to Rome
1993	New By-laws, structure promoted by the Centro Nazionale Opere Salesiane (CNOS); new territorial presidia are established
2000	Recognition of legal personality by Decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; registration in the Register of Legal Persons at the Prefettura of Rome
2003	Registration in the first section of the register of associations and bodies that implement activities in favour of migrants at the Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali
2003	Registration in the register of associations and bodies implementing activities to stop discrimination at the Presidenza del Consiglio
2007	Start of process for the realization of the Summary Activities Report
2009	Accreditation with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations with Special consultative status
2015	Registration in the Anagrafe delle Onlus presso la Direzione Regionale del Lazio dell'Agenzia delle Entrate following the development cooperation reform adopted with Law 125/2013.
2014	Launch of the new organizational model with the subdivision into two areas, "Programs" and "Administration & Staff". Approval of the first strategic plan (2015-2017).
2016	Registration in the Elenco delle Organizzazioni della Società Civile (OSC) at the Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)
2016	Approval of a statutory reform: a new membership assembly structure with the entry of three Salesian entities to work in direct contact with the General Management of the Salesian Congregation, simplification of associative life, redefinition of the role of the member, introduction of the new role of the participant and of the presidia

2016	VIS opens the first operative office in Brescia, c/o Fondazione Museke Onlus
2017	Approval of the strategic plan (2018-2020) and the first national coordination plan (2017-2018), establishment of the first 4 presidia
2017	Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Consultative Forum.
2018	Partner of ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Office of the European Union). Partnership is confirmed also in 2020 with the issuing of the Certificate of EU Humanitarian Partnership 2021 – 2027.
2018	Opening of the operative office in Mestre - VE c/o Istituto Universitario Salesiano Venezia - IUSVE
2021	Approval of the new By-Laws designed in line with the new Codice del Terzo Settore and relevant reform
2021	Reform of the organizational structure with a single general management. Elaboration of the new organizational chart
2022	Approval of the strategic plan 2022-2027
Headquarters address	Roma, via Appia Antica 126 – 00179
Other operative addresses	Brescia (c/o Fondazione Museke), Via F.lli Lombardi 2 - 25121 Mestre - VE (c/o IUSVE), Via dei Salesiani 15, 30174
Fiscal Code	97517930018
VAT number	15438961003

“Insieme, per un mondo possibile” indicates the intention of networking in Italy, in Europe and the rest of the world to improve the living conditions of girls, boys, young people in vulnerable situation and their communities, believing that the causes of extreme poverty can be tackled at their root through education and training.

1.2 VALUES AND PURPOSE

VISION - “A world where every person can fully enjoy their rights and participate with dignity and actively in the life of the community, promoting its development”.

MISSION - “Foster the development and broadening of each person ‘s capacities of - as individual and member of a community - paying particular attention to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable girls, boys and young people, providing them with educational, training, and social-vocational insertion opportunities, as well as tools for the promotion and protection of their human rights”.

The Christian anthropological vision expressed in the social doctrine of the Church is combined, on the one hand, with the vision of the human being as a rights holder, anticipated in many ways by San Giovanni Bosco and expressed at international level in the conventions of the United Nations and, by 'other, with Amartya Sen's, the Nobel Prize for Economics, vision of human development, where development is "of the people, through people and for people": a development that is such only if it is integral, universal and sustainable in the social, economic, political and environmental sense, as set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

In our vision of development both *empowerment* and *ownership*² are there in favour of those for whom and with whom we work.

The vision and fundamental values inspiring VIS action have brought the organization to adopt a methodological approach towards broadening the individual and social capabilities with the double perspective of contributing to building and strengthening *rights-holders* 'capabilities to claim for their human rights enjoyment (*capabilities for empowerment*), as well as the capabilities of the corresponding *duty bearers* in the fulfilment of their duties (*capabilities for accountability*).

1.3 CONTEXT OF REFERENCE

2023 officially marked the end of the pandemic crisis caused by Covid-19, however the year was characterised by numerous high-intensity shocks (climate, financial, food) - as well as the (re)ignition of new and old conflicts, making the context in which international development cooperation actors operate even more complex. The European Commissioner for Emergencies, Janez Lenarcic, stated that in 2023, we witnessed the highest number of active armed conflicts since the end of the Second World War and some of the worst climate-related disasters, leading to around "300 million people in need of humanitarian aid globally, while the financing gap between needs and available resources has grown to over 50 billion euros". In 2023, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, responded to a sharply increasing number of new or worsening humanitarian crises - the highest annual number of declared emergencies in the last 10 years. According to the Emergency Preparedness and Response report, UNHCR has seen a dramatic increase in emergencies in 2023, with new crises erupting and unresolved ones deteriorating, pushing the limits of response capacity. "Whether triggered by conflict, human rights abuses, natural disasters or extreme weather events, these emergencies have led to a wave of displacement, leaving countless individuals and families in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and protection. The scale of human suffering is immeasurable and reminds us of the imperative of collective action and solidarity." The need for solidarity and support for people forced to flee has never been more important than today: with the trend of an increase in emergencies in 2023 (just think of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the outbreak of war in Sudan or the rekindling of conflicts in Palestine, Karabakh and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the earthquakes in Syria - Turkey and Afghanistan), destined to persist in 2024, the number of people forced to flee is estimated to amount to 130 million.



² The term empowerment indicates a growth process, both individual and of the group, based on increasing self-esteem, self-efficacy, and self-determination to bring out latent resources and lead the individual to consciously appropriate her/his own potential. Ownership refers to "feeling the results as one's own", as the result of one's own empowerment process and that of one's own group/country of origin.

The Confederation of European NGOs Concord has highlighted in the annual report on Official Development Assistance (ODA) Aid Watch 2023 how the increase in aid in absolute and relative terms continues to be “inflated” by a significant share of aid that is erroneously included in the ODA - that is, the expenses incurred to cover the costs of hosting refugees within the borders of donor countries with the aim of inflating the numbers and appearing more virtuous in reaching the 0.7% ODA/Gross National Product target set by the OECD. A problem that has persisted for years: in 2023, 30,967 billion dollars were allocated to cover the costs of refugees by donor countries. Although this represents a slight decrease compared to the 31 billion dollars allocated in 2022, the share of ODA intended to cover the costs of hosting refugees by donor countries still represents 13.8% of the total ODA of DAC member countries. The report also highlights growing inequality in the distribution of aid among countries. The top 40% of countries with the highest Human Development Index (HDI) receive 47% of the funds, while the most fragile 40% receive exactly 40% of the funds, with a sharply growing gap between these two categories. Turkey, Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine are the top four countries with the highest amounts of funds received, followed by Ethiopia, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, among the top four countries in terms of amounts received, only Afghanistan is in the lowest portion in terms of HDI. Furthermore, many of these countries in the top 10 (especially Turkey, Syria and Ukraine) are also those with the highest asylum claims on European soil. In absolute terms in 2023, ODA increased to \$223.7 billion. This represents 0.37% of the Gross National Income (GNI) of OECD DAC members with a weak increase of 1.8% in real terms compared to 2022. However, only 5 European countries – Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and Denmark and Germany – have reached the 0.7% ODA target. However, despite the commitments stated, the following line has been affirmed on the future of the ODA: the funds for cooperation are important but there are also internal economic problems to be addressed as a priority. This vision seems to clash with the requests promoted by civil society, which instead reiterated the need to ensure the structural and investment nature of the ODA with a strong long-term impact, avoiding that the resources for cooperation are always reduced in the name of necessity and “domestic” emergencies. Another dialectical area that has been re-emerging forcefully since last year is the one relating to the management of the problems raised by the flows of migrants and those seeking humanitarian protection, with respect to which not only the visions between civil society and NGOs on one hand, and the Government on the other, appear to diverge, but which also outlines a contrast between the parties precisely on the role and functions of Third Sector and civil society actors in political and planning processes and in internal and international relations.

Within this complex geopolitical and economic framework, Italy maintains a negative ODA trend, decreasing from 0.33% in 2022 to 0.27% ODA in 2023 in relation to the GNI, with a cut of 631 million dollars. If in 2022 an overall net ODA of 0.33% of GDP was reached, 2023 sees a decrease to 0.27% of GDP; bilateral aid also sees a significant collapse in terms of the number of projects promoted by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). Furthermore, in line with previous years, the costs for managing refugees have increased and have been included in ODA further distorting ODA cost. Our country has gone from allocating 515 million in 2022 for bilateral aid to African countries to 351 million in 2023 (-32%). The same goes for the funds allocated to the so-called Low Development Countries (LDCs) which decreased by 30% (from 381 million dollars in 2022 to 265 million) as well as for aid designed for humanitarian crises which fell by 143 million, going from 398 million to 255 (-36%).

2023 was also the first year of the government chaired by Hon. Giorgia Meloni, in office since October 2022. As regards the orientation in foreign policy and cooperation, the policy was certainly characterized by the relations enhancement between Italy and the African continent, through the promotion of an equal partnership summarized in the so-called Piano Mattei, published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale on November 15, 2023.

2. PEOPLE WORKING AT VIS

2.1 EQUITY ANALYSIS

VIS deeply believes in the enrichment that comes from cultural diversity and the equal participation of women and men in the world of work. Both for its specific characteristics and in line with the vision and mandate handed down by Don Bosco, for years it has pursued a strategy that considers international standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. By virtue of this, also considering its specificity as an NGO that operates mainly at an international level with sustainable development projects, it has gradually applied internal practices that are consistent with international standards also regarding gender equality issues. This is a process that is progressively developing within the organization, which must be managed by carefully and sensitively considering the different approaches that exist in the countries in which VIS operates. For the organization, creating an inclusive and diverse environment within it is a primary requirement that permeates the entire personnel management process, starting from the selection process, which is structured in such a way as to avoid any type of discrimination. In this perspective, during 2023, VIS signed the Charter of Equal Opportunities and Equality at Work³ promoted by the Sodalitas Foundation and carried out a gender equality analysis in two areas: the sphere of its staff - presented below - and the sphere of the interventions carried out, in line with objective 5 of the 2030 Agenda; the related results are reported in chapter 5. Furthermore, in November 2023, VIS participated in the opening event of the "European Platform of Diversity Charters meeting" in person in Milan, organized by the Sodalitas Foundation in collaboration with the European Commission. To ensure a holistic measurement of VIS level of maturity, the KPIs⁴ were analyzed as required by UNI/PdR 125:2022⁵ with respect to the 6 areas relating to the different variables that can distinguish an inclusive organization that respects gender equality:

1. Culture and strategy
2. Governance
3. HR processes
4. Growth opportunities and inclusion of women in the company
5. Equitable remuneration by gender
6. Protection of parenthood and work-life balance

This analysis highlights the need to implement a strategic gender equality plan for the institution, which also impacts on performance related to governance.

Furthermore, to carry out the equality analysis with respect to VIS decision-making chain, the data as of 31 December 2023 were taken into consideration, broken down according to the type of staff employed (disaggregated by gender) in Italy and in the partner countries, together with the framework of the assignment of roles - top and non-top - of the staff considered within the decision-making chain.

This exercise examines the division of roles starting from the members, within the Executive Committee - the central body of the operational management of the institution - and the composition disaggregated by gender of the operational staff considered also considering the role covered, both for the central office in Rome and for VIS offices in the partner countries.

DECISION-MAKING CHAIN	F	M
Institutional members (through their representatives)		2

³ <https://www.cartapariopportunita.it/> to which enterprises, non-profit organization and public administrations belong with a total of 940 members.

⁴ Key Performance Indicator

⁵ Based on its dimensions, VIS belongs to the classification cluster of the organizations no. 4.

Supervisory bodies	2	2
OdC – Internal Supervisory Body		
OdV – Supervisory mechanism		
Level 1 Executive Committee	2	5
Level 2 General Direction	1	
Level 3 Departments and Sectors	4	3
Level 4 Country representatives in Partner countries	3	6
TOTAL	12	19

Considering the data, a male preponderance emerges in the Executive Committee and at the operational level in the partner countries and, conversely, a female preponderance for the component of dependent personnel in Italy.

From this evidence, it therefore appears necessary to further strengthen the balance in these areas, considering that the VIS often operates in countries and contexts in which there has historically been a male preponderance in top roles.

Due to the peculiarity of these same places, the need arises to implement a modulated and careful intervention policy to be aligned with international standards in the field and, at the same time, considering the intervention context. This dynamic is necessary to guarantee the greatest possible impact of the interventions themselves together with the internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

In terms of formalized personnel management processes, the Institution is performing poorly with respect to the relevant KPIs. However, it is highlighted that in practice there are attentions and guarantees, which are not formalized to date.

VIS presents an optimal possibility of growth and inclusion of women based on the KPIs analyzed.

The analysis of the KPIs and the decision-making chain, as well as the history and practice of the institution, indicate good attention to gender policies; however, it is necessary, also to align with national and international legislation, to equip oneself with specific tools.

The main prospects in 2024, in line with the Equal Opportunities and Equality at Work Charter signed and the analysis of KPIs, are therefore:

- commit to implementing an inclusive and transparent management program for its human resources through concrete actions and to monitor the progress made;
- fill out the Sodalitas D&I (Diversity & Inclusion) Self Assessment once a year, the questionnaire for self-assessment on the topic of diversity and inclusion promoted by the Sodalitas Foundation itself, which will allow the organization to evaluate the ongoing D&I activities from year to year, recognize its progress and define the priorities of internal improvement actions;
- carry out an analysis of the organizational climate every 2 years to monitor the level of well-being of workers and to better plan and direct human resources policies and strategies;
- identify company functions to which to assign clear responsibilities in terms of equal opportunities;
- start the process of creating the institution's gender and inclusion policy with related monitoring both in the offices in Italy and in the partner countries;
- update the VIS Code of Conduct by inserting specific references to gender equality and equal opportunities.
- evaluate the path to obtain certification according to UNI/PdR 125:2022 as foreseen by the PNRR Mission 5 and the accompanying and support measures for the certification itself;

- communicate to staff the commitment undertaken in favor of a corporate culture of equal opportunities, informing them of the projects undertaken in these areas and the practical results achieved;
- promote the external visibility of VIS commitment in this area.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

The main institutional purpose, which can be deduced from VIS Bylaws, remains the **promotion of a human and sustainable development and the growth of each person's and community capacities, placing a particular focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people**. The scope of the human and sustainable development is pursued setting some strategic objectives (defined through a human rights-based vision) and operating primarily in the following sectors:

1. training and socio-professional integration;
2. migration;
3. child and youth protection;
4. strengthening of civil society actors;
5. local economic development;
6. GCE – Global Citizenship Education.

During 2023, the three-year action plans for the above-mentioned priority thematic and two organizational (accountability and sustainability) sectors linked to the implementation of the six-year strategic planning (2022/2027) were implemented.

Regarding **emergency interventions**, based as usual on an LRRD approach - Linking Relief and Rehabilitation to Development - the 2023 planning considered as priorities the areas of West and East Africa in particular the situation in Ethiopia and the humanitarian crisis in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Palestine where implement humanitarian and internally displaced people support actions, livelihood support, strengthening of resilience and educational activities in emergency contexts, as well as activities to support refugee communities and to prevent undocumented migration.

With the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the direct involvement of our Salesian partners, this scenario also became a priority and saw VIS increasingly committed to providing responses to the affected population in Ukraine.

In partner countries, the final balance of activities implemented in 2023 is substantially in line with the statutory purposes and activities, but also with those predefined by the organisation's programming. Both the interventions carried out during the year and those presented and approved by the main public and private donors, in fact, are oriented towards and contribute to achieving the planned objectives and results.

Leaving the in-depth analysis to the specific data sheets presented below, and to the sectoral summary in the following table, it is considered appropriate to highlight how the Ukrainian crisis was undoubtedly the most sensible factor with respect to programming and how the planning of emergency response actions in Ukraine and in the other neighbouring areas involved in the conflict has led VIS not only to expand its geographical area of intervention, but also to start an internal reflection within the structure on the role it can play within the Congregation for coordination and strengthening of an effective Salesian response to humanitarian crises.

During 2023, VIS has operated, with different characteristics, intensity, and methods, in 24 partner countries.

In addition, it is worth highlight that VIS has started the process for registration in Egypt, Syria and Mali.

In relation to the implementation of the THREE-YEAR ACTION PLANS relating to the Programmatic/Thematic Strategic Objectives identified by the STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027, the following correlations between these Objectives and VIS partner countries are synthetized below:

Strategic programmatic/thematic scopes and objectives (PS 2022-2027)		Partner countries in 2023
TRAINING & SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION	Promote the socio-professional inclusion of vulnerable segments of the population, in particular young people and women , through integrated programs aimed at developing/strengthening their technical-vocational skills, capabilities and employment potential from a lifelong perspective at national and international level	Angola Albania DRC Egypt Eritrea Ethiopia Ghana Mali Palestine Senegal
MIGRATION	Offer through HRBA coherent and integrated responses to crises of various kinds involving migrants, refugees, displaced persons, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors , creating, on one hand, concrete opportunities for emancipation and development in the countries of origin and, on the other hand, contributing to create regular migration, reception and socio-professional integration paths in Italy and Europe, with particular attention to the inclusion of the most vulnerable segments of the population	Egypt Ethiopia Ghana
CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION	Contribute to the prevention and reduction of exposure to risks of various kinds of people in conditions of vulnerability, ensuring the protection, promotion and full and effective enjoyment of their human rights. It includes emergency interventions.	Angola Burundi DRC Eritrea Ethiopia Ghana Palestine Senegal Ukraine
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS	Promote and support competences and capabilities of civil society organisations (CSOs) together with their networks to act as sustainable development agents and participate actively in the local, regional, and international development processes for the integral and interconnected promotion of the human beings and of the environment within which they live for a concrete implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Angola Burundi DRC Etiopia Ghana Mali Palestine Senegal

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Promote sustainable economic local development processes from a social, environmental, and economic/financial viewpoint in favours of young people and women, through tailored and ad hoc intervention based on the targeted community.	Albania Palestine
GCE Global Citizenship Education	Contribute to the creation of a sustainable, fair and inclusive world, training citizens and their communities: a) aware of the global dynamics and of the existing interconnections between social, environmental and cultural issues at global level; b) responsible for and capable to support and implement effective interventions at local level and meaningful in regard to a change of direction towards a real global sustainability; c) capable of impacting on the Italian and European dynamics and political, economic, social, cultural policies.	Italy

As regards the opening of new operational settings and/or the launch of new areas, without prejudice to what has already been anticipated with respect to the Ukrainian crisis, the definition of the conditions for VIS future involvement in Egypt and Syria has continued.



The work carried out during the year to increase synergy and collaboration within the realities of the Enti Salesiani Italiani di Solidarietà Internazionale (ESISI) must be also evidenced, which led to the establishment of a stable coordination, giving rise to joint interventions that are being implemented in Ukraine and Ethiopia. Also, regarding the follow-up and development activities of the program for strengthening the PDOs in Africa, dialogue was increased with the General Direction of the Salesian Congregation and directly with some Provinces in Africa in order to finalize a coming together of the process in view of identifying a program for strengthening the PDOs in Africa. This process at the end of the year led to the definition of a Concept Note for the development of various PDOs in Africa that will be launched by VIS and its partners during 2024.

Here below is the summary with the countries, divided by geographical areas, in which VIS has been active in 2023 with development programs financed by institutional and private donors. This calculation does not include other forms of support and cooperation actions financed through its usual fundraising. It is also noted that the calculation of the number of projects in 2023 is based on some different criteria compared to those adopted in the previous year, thus excluding interventions of modest size, those linked to the use of residual funds from previous years or not directly configurable as project initiatives in a strict sense.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS						
GEOGRAPHIC REGION	YEAR 2023			YEAR 2022		
	No. COUNTRIES	No. PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES	No. COUNTRIES	No. PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Africa	9	28	3.840.995	10	37	4.035.659
Latin America	-	-	-	-	-	0
Asia	1	1	2.164	1	1	29.333
Middle East	1	3	495.966	2	6	822.541
Europe and Italy	2	7	502.704	2	11	416.464
Multi-country*	-	6	270.748	-	3	258.098
Total	13	45	5.112.577	15	58	5.562.096

It is highlighted that, since some years, in line with the programming of the main national and international donors, VIS has been developing sectoral interventions involving multiple partner countries, the so-called Multicounty interventions; the target countries of the multi-country programs have already been included in the numbers concerning in the regions specified above.

VIS target partner countries data are here below indicated, divided by geographical area where it has been active with humanitarian aid interventions (emergency, reconstruction, rehabilitation) financed by institutional and private donors in 2023-2022. Also in this case, the calculation does not include humanitarian assistance activities financed through fundraising conducted by VIS, while the classification criteria adopted in the 2023 financial year are those specified above for development projects.

EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIA AID PROJECTS						
GEOGRAPHI C REGION	YEAR 2023			YEAR 2022		
	No. COUNTRIE S	No. PROJECT S	EXPENDITURE S	No. COUNTRIE S	No. PROJECT S	EXPENDITURE S
Africa	4	14	1.808.492	4	9	576.100
Latin America	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia and Oceania	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	1	1	192.826	1	1	247.950
Europe and Italy	1	7	858.810	1	3	248.662
Total	6	22	2.860.129	6	13	1.072.713

In Italy in line with the PS 2022-2027, during 2023 VIS has focused its activities to strengthen its global citizenship education interventions on the SDGs through:

- a) Launch of the AICS/ECG project “Testiamoci per il Futuro”, focused on environmental sustainability and climate change, implemented in 7 Italian Regions in partnership with 6 NGOs and 12 Municipalities;
- b) Strengthening of the role of the VIS Presidia, through involvement in the project and focusing the Assembly of November to reflecting and searching new reasons for participation;
- c) Continuation and strengthening of the strategic partnership with the Salesian world and its associations, at a local and national level;
- d) Launch of new awareness-raising and fundraising campaigns at national level.

3.2 TYPES OF INTERVENTION

During 2023 VIS operated, with different characteristics, intensity, and methods, in 24 partner countries. The different types of intervention through which VIS operates are below indicated.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Projects aim at producing long lasting results throughout time, capable of generating changes in the fabric and morphology of local development, of continuing or giving rise to vital and sustainable mechanisms for local communities and target groups - which are mainly made up of children and young people in poverty and vulnerability condition.

The priority target sectors, as defined in the previous paragraph, are also characterized by the following cross cutting factors:

- a) **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)**, with special focus, depending on the intervention, also on gender and environmental mainstreaming;
- b) **Capacity and institutional building**, with the aim of “emancipate, enable and enhance” the actors and recipients involved in the initiatives, to open and interact with the target

- project realities with the most relevant external parties for their development, institutional and otherwise, through operational interaction and networking;
- c) **Participatory approach**, considering all individuals involved in the interventions as main actors, active subjects, rights holders and not (only) of needs;
 - d) **Innovation**, to design interventions oriented towards change and capable to satisfy more effectively and in a sustainable way the identified needs.

EMERGENCY, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

VIS is a development NGO and this characterization, provided for by the Bylaws, has always been reasserted and affirmed by the Members Assembly and by the main stakeholders of the organization. However, in the countries where our local partners are rooted or where it is already operating, VIS has also **promptly reacted to emerging or ongoing emergencies and crises**, guaranteeing the presence alongside the populations affected by natural disasters and conflicts for many years, trying to ensure not only the overcoming of crises and their effects, but also the restart of promotion and emancipation actions and their sustainability. This is a peculiar feature of VIS commitment and constitutes its strength repeatedly recognized by the main actors (donors, experts, institutions) who deal with Emergency.

LONG DISTANCE SUPPORT (SAD)

it is a type of intervention that allows to continuously support a **community or a group children, adolescents and young people** who live in poverty and vulnerability condition accompanied and followed by the Salesians of Don Bosco to with the aim of offering services and additional above all educational opportunities.

With this approach, SAD becomes a community project aimed at counteracting through specific activities, situations of poverty, exclusion and vulnerability characterizing the target groups and their individual members, while ensuring maximum attention and care for each single child or young person and the valorisation of his/her family and community dimension.

SAD projects are often related and complementary to VIS development interventions and include basic care and assistance (through meals, clothing, medicines and other necessities, sanitation, health care, residential or semi-residential reception), educational and training action (insertion in schools, vocational training centres, recreational, artistic and sports activities, psycho-pedagogical accompaniment), as well as family, social and professional integration. VIS takes on the operational and financial responsibility for the use of the funds raised for SAD projects, which are used directly for the activities in the partner countries, or for the total or partial coverage of costs related to the interventions (e.g. purchase of materials and equipment or support the operators involved in the projects). To cover general and indirect expenses (incurred in Italy and locally), VIS utilizes resources collected for SAD to varying degrees depending on the countries and projects and, in any case, never exceeding 15% of the contributions received in this regard.

MISSION SUPPORT (SAM)

VIS flanks the social and missionary commitment of the Salesians in the world also through a dedicated tool, the Mission Support (SAM). These are **donations received by VIS destined exclusively to a Salesian missionary community at the express request of the donor**, based on a direct and trustworthy relationship between the donor himself and the final recipient (the individual missionary and/or the community in which he operates). In SAM, VIS therefore plays a role of "link" between donor and recipient, who remains the responsible contact person and guarantor of the performance of the activities to be implemented and the related results. The organization carries out the secretarial and administrative procedures necessary for forwarding such resources to the target countries, as well as a periodic monitoring of the uses, not withholding any portion for management costs except for any liberal contribution based on the advice of the donor or of the missionary.

3.3 INTERVENTIONS IN AFRICA



ANGOLA

Capital: Luanda

Population: 35.588.990 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,591 (150th out of 193 countries)

Year of official recognition: 2001

Expat operators : 5 (4 M, 1 F)

Civil service volunteers: 3 (1 M, 2 F)

Expenses incurred: 1.152.860 euro

PROJECT AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
- Strengthening of CSOs actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN ANGOLA

In 2009 VIS together with the Salesians launched the program “*La Strada per la Vita*” with the aim of recovery, support and social and family reintegration of children, adolescents, and young people in street situation and/or most vulnerable in Luanda. In 2023 the implementation of the 3rd phase of the program was continued thanks to the funds provided by CEI 8x1000, private donors and the SAD, continuing with the capacity building actions of local authorities (LA) and CSOs, promoting dialogue, participation, and inclusion of Angolan CSOs and rights holders in national policies and programs for the protection of girls in street situation. The project is carried out in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco and networking with many local associated organizations. A special attention continues to be given to girls in street situation, a highly inclusive and innovative action for VIS and the Salesian counterpart.

2023 was the last year of implementation of the project “The future is in our hands” co-financed by the EC and supported by CEI 8 x 1000 funds, with the aim of promoting the active participation of young people in the development of the country. The project ended in December with a final event and a week of volunteering promotion held in Luena which saw the participation of around 200 young people from Luanda, Benguela and Cabinda, the Provinces involved in the initiative. Direct partners of the project were the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Institute of Religious Sciences, as well as 24 associated organizations, including 3 youth associations. During the year, a mission was carried out for the realization of a video to implement visibility and awareness raising actions and collect the witnesses of the young people involved in the initiatives.

In 2023, the implementation of the “Cabinda Integrated Project” continued in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco and the NGO World Vision, supported with resources from private donors. The initiative has as its main objective to promote the development of vulnerable communities in the province of Cabinda, a new area of intervention for VIS where a local office has been opened and, in addition to other actions, a Vocational Training Center is being built.

The project in response to the covid-19 emergency “Todos para Todos”, co-financed by the European Union in collaboration with the Salesians of Don Bosco, to mitigate the effects of the pandemic within the most vulnerable and exposed communities, was concluded. The project has also strengthened social and health protection measures aimed at improving the nutritional aspects of malnourished children in Luanda. Following this project and the previous ones in the maternal and child field, VIS, in partnership with the Salesians, the NGO UMMI and the Opera Divina Provvidenza of Luanda, has presented and obtained approval from the European Union for the project NutriAcção! intervention aimed at supporting social and health protection measures to improve maternal and child nutrition in Luanda, Luena and Benguela which will begin in 2024.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
O Futuro nas Nossas Mãos: the future is in our hands. Young protagonists of the development of Angola	146.427	EU
Todos para Todos! All for all: integrated socio-health action to prevent covid-19 for vulnerable children, young women, and local communities	42.466	EU
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Integrated project Cabinda	784.614	Private donors
Muxima Home (Heart Home)	66.845	Private donors
The future is in our hands! Integrated promotion and protection action for young people in Angola	91.351	CEI 8x1000
SAD PROJECTS		
A project for Luanda children: from the street to home!	1.039	Private donors
Support to volunteers	10.109	Private donors
OTHER SUPPORT FORMS	10.009	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **27 (9 F; 18 M)** Beneficiaries of innovative vocational paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- 1 path, project and program created by VIS or its partners aimed at developing self-employment and business development (including business incubation and acceleration)

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **312 (16 F; 296 M)** Minors in vulnerable situations involved in protection paths
- **484 (232 F; 252 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in protection paths
- **518 (201 F; 317 M)** Persons involved in capacity building/technical assistance initiatives
- **3771 (580 F; 3191 M)** Minors in vulnerable situations involved in promotion initiatives
- **7419 (4632 F; 2787 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in promotion initiatives
- **3181 (1221 F; 1960 M)** Persons involved in advocacy and awareness raising activities
- **9** Advocacy and awareness raising initiatives implemented by civil society actors
- **4** Processes started/documents created/strategic plans produced aimed at impacting the system at a national/regional or local level

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in interventions or institutional strengthening programmes

Assessments implemented

At the end of the project “The future is in our hands”, an independent external consultant carried out the final evaluation. The outputs indicate that the project was relevant to the context and in promoting the right to participation of Angolan youth. Among the good practices observed, the

capability to operate in marginal areas of the country, the use of social media and youth forums to involve young people and the great effort to involve many associates in the actions stand out. Among the main recommendations received, some in line with what had already emerged during the previous ROM monitoring – Result Oriented Monitoring, the following are highlighted: need to improve the coordination and monitoring mechanisms to make it become more continuous, organic and shared with the partner, improve data collection, systematize the gender equity approach and carry out more articulated and coherent advocacy actions by also activating new partnerships with reference social actors specialized in these areas of intervention. The recommendations will be used as reference to improve the effectiveness and impact of actions in the country, also with the scope of continuing project planning in this specific area.

To read the evaluation, click here:

<https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/ANGOLA%20VALUTAZIONE.pdf>



BURUNDI

Capital: Gitega

Population: 12.889.580 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,420 (187th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2004

Year of official recognition: 2005

Expenses incurred: 283.704 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
- Strengthening of CSOs actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN BURUNDI

VIS began working in Burundi in 2002, supporting the Salesians of Don Bosco in the creation and development of the Salesian establishment "Cité des Jeunes" in the Buterere district north of Bujumbura, one of the areas most affected by the war. It developed a holistic approach and in the early years, thanks also to EU and MAE projects, many activities were carried out by VIS in collaboration with the Salesians. VIS then positioned itself as one of the most significant players in the field of vocational training but having no longer had projects in this area for several years now, its positioning has significantly weakened.

During 2023, the collaboration with the Salesian partner was consolidated also through an intervention aimed at strengthening the school structures of the Bujumbura Center and more generally through a constant dialogue aimed at defining future development strategies. VIS continues to be accredited and recognizable in the country thanks to the health sector through two interventions carried out in the Bujumbura North district that began in 2020 thanks to the partnership with the Museke Foundation and ended in December 2023. The two interventions, the results of which are presented in the two studies cited in the "evaluations carried out" section, focused respectively on the provision of training on maternal and child health and on the prevention of cervical cancer. The last months of 2023 were dedicated to collaborating in drafting a new project in partnership with the Museke Foundation (proposing partner), always on health issues but with a training and empowerment component for young people and women to help realign VIS positioning in the country with its priority sector of intervention linked to vocational training and integration into the labour market.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Training intervention for the qualitative improvement of health services in mother-child healthcare in Burundi Awareness raising, prevention, diagnosis and first treatment of cervical cancer in Burundi	62.515	Fondazione Museke
Building of classrooms for the Liceo Don Bosco Buterere	167.072	Private donors
SAM PROJECTS		
Works for the realization of the <i>Centro educativo Mariano</i> of Buterere	51.905	Private donors
SAD PROJECTS		
"Sosteniamo le bambine della Maison Béthanie: dalla strada ad un futuro migliore!"	2.211	Private donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **682 (660 F; 22 M)** Adults involved in child and youth protection paths

STRENGTHENING OF CSO ACTORS

- **1** CSO involved in interventions or institutional strengthening programmes

Assessments implemented

Two impact studies were published during 2023:

- Publication des résultats du projet sur l'amélioration qualitative des services de santé dans le secteur de la santé maternelle et infantile au Burundi

Analysis of the data collected through the questionnaires highlighted the positive impact of the project on the health of the target communities, showing a significant improvement in the skills of the health workers who participated in the training.

Overall, as per the information regarding antenatal care, a limited knowledge of the topic emerged among the participants, with only about one third of the answers correct. However, the pilot group showed a higher frequency of correct answers vis-à-vis the control group (39.6% versus 30.6%). The section related to breastfeeding showed a good level of knowledge on this practice, with about 71% of the participants answering correctly. Regarding the block of questions on infection management, the pilot group showed a broader knowledge in all the issues raised.

Link to the impact study: <https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/BURUNDI%20-%20STUDIO%20E%20IMPATTO%201.p>

- Projet de lutte globale contre le cancer du col de l'utérus dans le district bujumbura nord (2021-2022)

The outputs of this study are significant: the analysis conducted revealed a significant incidence of cervical cancer in the population screened. However, thanks to the impact of the project, 80% of the selected Municipal Health Centers (CDS) were made autonomous in the screening of precancerous lesions using IVA. In addition, it was found that two doctors specifically trained in colposcopy demonstrated competence in the application of this procedure. The study therefore finds that despite the challenges related to the mobility of staff, it is possible to establish a network of health centers capable of carrying out screening and care.

To read the evaluation, click here: <https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/BURUNDI%20-%20STUDIO%20E%20IMPATTO%202.pdf>

CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF)

Capital: Kinshasa

Population: 99.010.210 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,481 (180th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2002

Year of official recognition: 2009

Expat operators: 1 (F)

Expenses incurred: 528.594 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
- Strengthening of CSOs actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

VIS is present in the DRC since 2002, almost only in the Eastern regions – cities of Goma and Ngangi - and in 2010 it has obtained the recognition from the Ministère du Plan as organization eligible to operate in the social domain. VIS works thanks to private funds and the institutional support funds provided by – MAECI and EU – and collaborates mainly with the Salesians of Don Bosco and many other local CSOs. Since 2013 VIS has broadened its field of intervention also to Eastern Kasai, more precisely in Mbuji-Mayi, support of the local Salesian community. During 2023 the collaboration with the BPD (Bureau de Planification et de Développement AFC-Est) was consolidated through the implementation of an agricultural project and the presentation of a new project for vocational training and entrepreneurship of women in vulnerable situations.

2023 marked the important signing of the partnership agreement with the AFC-East delegation, which outlines shared responsibilities, different roles and relationship between VIS and the Salesians in the Eastern part of the country. The country in general, and particularly the city of Goma, where VIS activities take place, has never had a respite. The situation in North Kivu has continued to deteriorate throughout 2023, changing the scenario of humanitarian intervention in this region, with a dramatic worsening of cases of violation and abuse, especially against women. Since November 14, 2022, when fighting intensified until it reached the northern part of the city of Goma, the number of homeless people has become exorbitant. The violence has displaced at least 500,000 people between October and early December 2023, significantly increasing humanitarian needs, the risk of protection violations and the pressure of limited services in the communities hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The escalation of the emergency has led VIS to dedicate part of its time to finding resources to respond to new humanitarian needs. Since 1 April 2023, thanks to the project "A better life for all MAISHA BORA KWA WOTE", funded by Caritas Italia and private donors and implemented in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco, it has aligned itself with the efforts already made in favour of the displaced population hosted in the camps of the Salesian Don Bosco communities in the city of Goma, specifically with interventions at the Don Bosco Ngangi displaced persons camp in the northern part of the city of Goma and the Don Bosco Shasha camp in the territory of Masisi. Since December 2023, due to armed clashes, the Don Bosco Shasha camp in the Masisi territory has been completely emptied and the refugees have headed to a camp on the outskirts of Goma and some to the Don Bosco Ngangi camp.

During the year, among the various activities, 9380 kits of food and non-food items were distributed, for a total of 46,900 people reached (families of 5 people); an Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Unit was opened which served over 500 children under 5 years of age in malnutrition; the Don Bosco Ngangi dispensary provided medical care to the project recipients thanks to the supply of medicines such as antibiotics, anthelmintics, anti-inflammatories, antipyretics, various syrups, antimalarials, ointments and consumables such as gloves, gauze, masks, etc. The recipients of this last period were children from 0 to 5 years of age, pregnant or breastfeeding women and malnourished children; 1,399 young people who were able to participate in educational games. Also for 2023, the involvement of local staff in the development of new ideas and their implementation has always proven to be successful for drafting new projects that have been oriented towards vocational

training, provision of AGR, creation of new savings associations, labour market insertion as well as in the Child and Youth Protection sector through interventions in the refugee camp of the Don Bosco Ngangi Center for minors, agricultural training for women in vulnerable conditions, actions to raise awareness among the population on gender inequalities, etc.

As regards the aspect of psychosocial support and trauma management, the new artistic activities started a few years ago such as the art of speech/SLAM, theater, music and the CAPACITAR technique have been re-proposed as effective methods for trauma management and the creative development for the involved persons.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Ensure equal social and educational opportunities for young people and women in the city of Goma to help build a more equal and responsible society in the North Kivu region of DRC	78.711	CEI 8x1000
From our heart to that of Africa in Goma and Mbuji Mayi DRC	23.272	CAI
From our heart to that of Africa – another trip - in Goma and Mbuji Mayi DRC	7.388	CAI
Contribuir a la erradicación de las formas de violencia contra las mujeres adolescentes, jóvenes y adultas en situación de vulnerabilidad y víctimas de conflicto en Goma.	29.839	InteRed (Gobierno Aragona)
Promoción de la protección de infancia y juventud, con especial atención a las niñas y las jóvenes, ante todas las formas de violencias (ODS 16, meta 16.2. y ODS 5, meta 5.2.) en la provincia de Nord Kivu, en un contexto agravado por la pandemia por la Covid-19. RD Congo	54.235	InteRed (Aytamento de Cordoba)
Project Margherita	12.965	Private donors
Fortalecimiento del liderazgo y la participación individual y colectiva de mujeres campesinas y jóvenes en situación de vulnerabilidad en comunidades rurales de Masisi (Kivu Norte) para el ejercicio y defensa de sus derechos económicos y sociales	17.101	InteRed (Aytamento de Bilbao)
EMERGENCY PROJECTS		
A better life for all "MAISHA BORA KWA WOTE"	200.000	Caritas Italiana
Coordination DON BOSCO - VIS Urgence des déplacés internes : « Un geste qui sauve une vie »	15.073	InteRed
Emergency displaced people in Goma	32.355	Private donors
SAD PROJECTS		
Casa Don Bosco: the right to food of children of Mbuji-Mayi	3.991	Private donors
Let's support the Centre des Jeunes Don Bosco Ngangi: a new life for the families of Goma	13.580	Private donors
Support to children of Centro <i>Don Bosco Muetu</i> in Mbuji Mayi	21.664	Private donors
SAM PROJECTS		
Support to missionary activities of don Piero Gavioli Support to missionary activities of don J.M. Rubakare	13.650	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT		
	4.770	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **198 (119 F; 79 M)** Minors in vulnerable situations involved in protection paths
- **159 (159 F; 0 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in child and youth protection paths
- **72 (42 F; 30 M)** Persons involved in capacity building/technical assistance actions
- **3** MoU and agreements activated with LAs/Institutions/CSOs involved in capacity building/technical assistance interventions
- **122 (92 F; 30 M)** Adults involved in promotion interventions
- **38.901 (2709 F; 36192 M)** Persons involved in advocacy and awareness raising interventions
- **2254 (1140 F; 1114 M)** Minors in vulnerable situations involved in emergency interventions
- **74.500 (35600 F; 38900 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in emergency interventions

STRENGTHENING OF CSO ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in interventions or institutional strengthening programme

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **189 (189 F; 0 M)** Recipients included in innovative vocational paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **1** curriculum created/updated with a set of skills selected based on the analysis done and the requests of the market actors
- **23%** of VIS or of the partners projects implemented in the TVET field comprising the target groups refugees, migrants or other persons holders of international protection

ERITREA

Capital: Asmara

Population: 3.684.030 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,493 (175th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2000

Expenses incurred: : 682.748 euro

PROJECT AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
- Training, and socio-professional integration

VIS IN ERITREA

During 2023, the joint planning with the Salesians that began in 2018 continued in Eritrea, following a long period of inactivity due to the socio-political conditions of the country.

The partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) continued although, due to the Eritrean Government nationalization of the Don Bosco technical school in Dekemhare, the project strategy has been reviewed considering the new management structure of the institute. In agreement with the SDC, the funds were used to finance scholarships and training support actions conducted informally or at non-formal training centers (such as in Barentu and Asmara), for courses (tutorial classes) to support students who would otherwise risk feeding the drop-out pools, and to cover short vocational training courses provided by the Youth Center, which remained under Salesian management. This situation led to several months of delay in carrying out the activities. Nonetheless, after the several months of stalemate, the activities planned in the new formulation were started. The same situation had impact on the project financed by the CEI, which thus came – in agreement with the donor – to an early conclusion and to a cut in funds equal to the quotas intended for the activities to be carried out at the Salesian school confiscated by the government.

The collaboration with the other Italian NGOs active in the country (Nexus, Prosud and Iscos), attached to the Eritrean trade union (NCEW), has proceeded in a positive way, through the two projects "Dialogue, train, contract: work as a peace means" (funded by AICS with Nexus leader) and the project "Women's Councils: models, skills and voices for a just society in Eritrea", funded by the EU led by Iscos. The partnership is based on the synergy between different skills: VIS more oriented towards " technical assistance focusing on adapting curricula to the skills required by the market and other NGOs more oriented towards job placement in the difficult context of the local labour market.

In addition, within the WASH sector, in 2022 the project "Improving the life conditions of the rural areas of the Debub region: integrated WASH project for the communities in situation of vulnerability of Segheneiti", in partnership with the association Acqua per la Vita ONLUS with financial support of the Italian cooperation was concluded and on 31/05/2023 a new initiative was started (presented and approved to/by AICS Khartoum in 2023) entitled project "Improving the life conditions of the rural areas of the Debub region": integrated WASH project for the communities in situation of vulnerability of Segheneiti - Phase 2: Adebur Village. The new project follows the scheme of the previous one, successfully completed.

Finally, in June 2023 another emergency initiative entitled "TESFÀ – HOPE. Increasing resilience and improving living conditions for vulnerable populations in Eritrea, village of Afelba (Segheneiti, Debub) - AID 12631" was presented to AICS (approved in July 2023 and launched on 22/02/2024).

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Improvement of the quality of education in Eritrea	92.455	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Development of the professional skills in Eritrea	143.732	CEI 8x1000
Women's Councils: models, skills, and voice for a just society in Eritrea	970	Private donors
EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Micro-projects for the completion of Wash- projects	60.000	Private donors
EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS		
Improvement of living conditions in the rural areas of the Dehub region; integrated intervention WASH in the vulnerable communities of Segheneiti - AID 11996	127.537	AICS/MAECI
Improvement of living conditions in the rural areas of the Dehub region; integrated intervention WASH in the vulnerable communities of Segheneiti - Phase 2: Adebur Village - AID 12479	230	AICS/MAECI
"Improving access to water and sanitation in the village of Asetah, Eritrea" AID 11721	8.700	AICS/MAECI
SAM PROJECTS		
Support to missionary activities in Eritrea	248.730	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT	395	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **2450 (1.232 F; 1.218 M)** Minors involved in emergency interventions
- **4100 (2275 F; 1825 M)** Adults involved in emergency interventions

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **290 (136 F; 154 M)** Recipients involved in innovative vocations paths (short courses, training modules, internships, and apprenticeships)

Assessments implemented

No evaluations have been carried out in 2023; however, 2 evaluations have been launched and will be concluded in 2024 respectively on the SDC project and the ISCOS EIDHR project.

ETHIOPIA

Capital: Addis Ababa

Population: 123.379.920 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,492 (176th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 1998

Year of official recognition: 2005

Expat operators: 5 (2 M, 3 F)

Expenses incurred: 2.264.373 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Migration
- Child and Youth Protection
- Strengthening of CSO actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN ETHIOPIA

2023 was a complex year for Ethiopia. On one hand, the peace agreements and the reopening of the banking system allowed the full resumption of aid and operations of international organizations in Tigray to respond to the dramatic humanitarian situation after more than two years of brutal conflict; on the other hand, social and political tensions spread throughout the country and in particular in the Ahmara and Oromia regions, where frequent clashes between local militias and the military and police forces of the federal state occurred.

In the first half of the year, VIS completed the project: “Emergency support to equitable and safe access to quality health and basic sanitary items in Tigray and Gambella Region” funded by ECHO and implemented with the partner CUAMM, with which first emergency services were provided in Tigray and good hygiene and sanitation practices were promoted in refugee camps in the Gambella region, border area with South Sudan. In the following months, thanks to the activities of the PREVENT project, funded by the Italian Ministry of the Interior, VIS also supported the main sources of livelihood of families affected by the conflict in Tigray through training for families and small cooperatives and the distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs, in addition to the rehabilitation of infrastructures for access to water, which allowed the resumption of economic activities. The project “Stability and socio-economic development for vulnerable and marginalised communities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia”, funded by the European Union, also focuses on the restart of economic activities in Tigray, thanks to the provision of the vocational courses in the Salesian schools of Mekelle and Adwa to promote the requalification and job placement of young people forced to interrupt their training and work due to the war. At the end of the year, thanks to the contribution of the Enti Salesiani Italiani di Solidarietà Internazionale (ESISI), the project “Humanitarian assistance and trauma care for populations affected by the war in the Tigray region” was also launched, which provides, in collaboration with the Salesian Congregation in Ethiopia, the distribution of food to the displaced population in Tigray and the provision of mental health services and psycho-social support to families affected by the conflict.

In the regions of Addis Ababa, Oromia, and Southern Ethiopia (formerly SNNPR), the activities of the project “I-LEAD - Promoting Job Employment through Accessible Education and Digitalization”, funded by AICS, continue, which insist on improving inclusiveness and the possibilities of access to quality technical-vocational training for young people with disabilities, coming from contexts of exclusion and socio-economic marginalization, while the activities of the project “ENJOY - Enhancing Job Opportunities and Employability for Youth and Women”, which have successfully promoted vocational training, job placement, and the creation of micro-enterprises for young people and women in Dilla and Dale *woredas* in Southern Ethiopia.

In Gambella, after the inter-ethnic clashes and the situation of insecurity that affected the region in the months between May and July 2023, vocational courses aimed at young refugees from the Jewi and Nguenyiel camps and the host community have finally begun, while, in the first part of

the year, literacy courses and recreational activities through sports aimed at young and minor refugees were carried out.

In November, the project “PACE – Promoting Peacebuilding Actions for Fair and Inclusive Communities and Institutions in Ethiopia” was also launched, which supports the Salesian schools in Addis Ababa and Dilla in providing peace education and community peace-building activities.

Finally, thanks to the project “A well for Andrea” and the support of numerous private donors, well rehabilitation activities were implemented to guarantee access to water to populations in conditions of greater vulnerability and to the students of the Salesian schools in Tigray and Gambella.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
I-LEAD: Promoting employment through accessible education and digitalisation	224.739	AICS
Improving productivity and decent employment for young people and women in the textile sector in Tigray	32.377	AICS
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Stability and socio-economic development for vulnerable and marginalised communities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia	36.496	Private donors (CST-EU)
Enhancing Job Opportunities and Employability for Youth and Women (ENJOY) Project	487.556	Private donors (Caritas CH-EU)
Prevent, Promote, Inform: build alternatives to migration flows in eastern Tigray	417.599	Private donors (CISP – Ministry of Interiors ITA)
EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS		
Emergency support to equitable and safe access to quality health and basic sanitary items in Tigray and Gambella Region	126.119	ECHO
RECEIVE: Empowerment of host community in Gambella through Care, Education and Income Vital economy	531.411	AICS
EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Ethiopia,silent emergency)	39.825	Private donors
Ethiopia project wells	48.792	Private donors
Ethiopia Un Pozzo per Andrea	4.719	Private donors
Ethiopia Bichito de Luz	28.671	Private donors
SAD PROJECTS		
Support to Ethiopia - generic Support to Ethiopia for Mekanissa	2.800	Private donors
SAM PROJECTS		
Support to missionary activities in Addis Ababa - Don Angelo Regazzo Bosco Children Support to missionary activities of the Diocese of Gambella - Don Filippo Perin Support to missionary activities in Addis Ababa - Cesare Bullo sdb	222.393	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT	60.876	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **380 (152 F; 228 M)** Minors invulnerable situations involved in protection paths
- **380 (153 F; 227 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in protection paths
- **168 (37 F; 131 M)** Persons involved in capacity building/technical assistance actions
- **6** MoU and agreements established with LAs/Institutions/CSOs involved in capacity building/technical assistance interventions
- **425 (180 F; 245 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in promotion interventions
- **13.710 (5.121 F; 8.589 M)** Minors invulnerable situations involved in emergency interventions
- **17.000 (10.200 F; 6.800 M)** Adults in vulnerable situations involved in emergency interventions

MIGRATION

- **1.061 (424 F; 637 M)** Final recipients reached through the prevention interventions

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- **1** CSO involved in interventions or programs for institutional backstopping

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **100%** of the institutions (both TVET and companies) and of the partnerships activated which, following the interventions carried out, continue to collaborate to adapt the school-work transition paths in favour of the different target groups.
- **1** partner country where we work involved within partnerships for the co-design and delivery of integrated services that include training, counselling, labour
- **1** Recipient country where the programmes and actions implemented have had a real impact on improving national or regional TVET systems
- **325 (125 F; 200 M)** TVET operators and management, public and private stakeholders active in the areas trained and/or upgraded
- **7** Platforms and cluster vocational/labour training developed at regional level including TVET institutions and market and public actors
- **2** toolkits, guidelines, repository of ToT courses and other means produced by VIS to support the development of the capabilities and skills of the TVET ecosystem operators
- **780 (281 F; 499)** Recipients included into qualifying professional innovative paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **16** Labour Services Offices upgraded
- **8** Curricula designed/updated with a set of skills deriving from analysis and demand of the market operators
- **6** TVET centre implementing periodic market analysis about sectorial trends and professional profiles and update their offer based on the outputs of such studies
- **4** Strategies, programmes, and projects presented by VIS or by the partners with the aim of impacting in a systematic way on upgrading the TVET systems TVET
- **2** Documents (position papers, proposals etc.) produced by VIS or the partners within tables or policy making processes aimed at impacting on improving the quality and relevance of regional/national/international policies of the sector

- **40%** projects implemented by VIS or its partners in the TVET field which include refugees, migrants or other holders of international protection among their target groups.
- **195 (69 F; 126 M)** Recipients belonging to the target groups of refugees, migrants or other holders of international protection trained or included in innovative professionalizing pathways (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships) in Africa and Europe.
- **1** Pilot projects presented targeted towards recipients with special educational needs
- **2** documents (position papers, proposals, etc.) produced by VIS or its partners within policy making tables and processes aimed at impacting the opening or improvement of the inclusiveness of regional, national, international policies in the sector
- **8** paths started aimed at upgrading the basic and cross-cutting skills of recipients
- **8** paths, projects and programmes implemented by VIS or partners aimed at developing self-employment and business development (including business incubation and acceleration)
- **100%** of the strategies, programmes and projects implemented by VIS and its partners in the TVET sector that include a business development component and have ensued the creation/strengthening of clusters in vocational training/work

Assessments implemented

During 2023, the final evaluation of the ENJOY project was carried out in December, with the project ending at the end of January 2024. The evaluation was overall positive, reporting that the NGO consortium managed to implement the project in consultation with public agencies at the federal, regional, zonal and woreda levels, that communication between partners and with public agencies was good, fluid, frequent and productive, and that the project achieved most of its expected objectives, contributing to substantial investments, the development of key skills, and the improvement of the capacity of public actors to assess and support the needs of job seekers. It was noted that the capacity building of public One-Stop-Job-Centers (OSJC; component 1) and public and private technical-vocational education and training (TVET; component 3) institutions, through training of trainers (ToT), will be maintained in a sustainable manner even after the project period. Finally, it was also noted that the training courses for the development of skills required by the labor market were well organized, well received and the learning applied into practice effectively. Therefore, the project built significant human and social capital. The Innovative Business Incubation Competitions (IBIC) organized by the project were also highly appreciated by the target groups and contributed to a change of mindset in the recipients and the main stakeholders involved.

To read the evaluation, click here:

<https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/ETIOPIA%20VALUTAZIONE.pdf>



GHANA

Capital: Accra

Population: 33.475.870 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,602 (145th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2015

Year of official recognition: 2016

Expat operators in: 6 (2 M, 4 F)

Civil service volunteers: 4 (F)

Interns: 2 (1 M, 1F)

International Volunteers: 2 (M)

Expenses incurred: 578.022 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Migration
- Child and Youth Protection
- Strengthening of CSO actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN GHANA

VIS is in the process of consolidating its presence in the country. The 2 complementary projects, financed respectively by EU and CEI, are closing, while the project financed by private donors in the Western Region has obtained a one-year extension. The 2 offices, located one in Sunyani Odumase, Bono Region and one in Ashaiman, Greater Accra, are 100% operational. The focus of the projects is on vocational training and job placement of the young people in the most vulnerable situations, potential migrants and returning migrants, through Labour Services Offices and a development fund. The implementation of the development fund has led to promising results, contributing to the increase in environmentally sustainable economic activities and the consolidation of a network of actors and CSOs engaged with local authorities in promoting sustainable development. A significant component is gender empowerment, through the creation of women's associations for the production and sale of organic products, such as black soap and tomato preserves. All interventions have an impact on reducing irregular migration to Europe. Since 2021, thanks to the "Education is the passport of the future" project, VIS has also been operating in the Western Region, through periodic missions and local staff based in loco. The focus of this intervention is the education and strengthening of the skills of teachers, through training courses on human rights, a skills-based approach and inclusive education.

Regarding the volunteers, VIS Ghana remains a very active hub for building experience for the volunteers and/or interns and for their future growth and eventual placement in VIS projects. Two young women who had been volunteers in 2021/2022 have been included in VIS staff in the country.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
LEEWYV - <i>Local Economic Empowerment for Women, Youth and Vulnerable groups through CSOs and LAs concerted action in Ghana</i>	198.366	EC
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Education the passport for the future!	482.079	Private donors
Ghana! Program to support local development to fight irregular migration from West Africa	31.801	CEI
Ptoject for rural development in Kranka	5.923	Private donors
SAD PROJECTS		

Support to the children of the Boys Home	1.700	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT (MINOR COST)	56.518	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

MIGRATION

- **65 (50 F; 15 M)** Final recipients reached through prevention actions
- **1** study/research produced
- **12** partnerships established with local communities involved in the activities
- **11** awareness/education initiatives in the area within the Stop Trafficking-I Don't Discriminate campaign
- **21,287** people reached by awareness campaigns

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

- **70 (14 F; 56 M)** Minors involved in protection paths
- **9 (2 F; 7 M)** People involved in capacity building/technical assistance activities
- **70 (14 F; 56 M)** Minors involved in promotion actions
- **989 (389 F; 603 M)** Adults involved in promotion actors
- **1** advocacy action and awareness raising implemented (Campagna Visostengo)

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- **2** CSOs involved in interventions or programs for institutional backstopping
- **2** Policy papers and strategic plans on development issues produced

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **3** partner countries where we work involved within partnerships for the co-design and delivery of integrated services that include training, counseling, labour
- **50 (10 F; 40 M)** TVET operators and management, public and private stakeholders active in the areas trained and/or upgraded
- **1** toolkit, guidelines, ToT course repositories and other tools produced by VIS to support the development of capacities and skills of TVET ecosystem operators
- **3** Labour Services Offices upgraded
- **3** Curricula designed with a set of skills deriving from analysis and demand of the market operators
- **100%** of Employment Services operators trained who, following the intervention, use the skills and tools provided to design/improve the services offered (e.g. tracking training success).

Assessments implemented

The final evaluation of the EU-funded LEEWYV project was carried out during 2023. By offering alternative support options and strengthening the capacities of vulnerable groups to become self-sufficient, the project contributed to helping local authorities tackle unemployment and ensure economic stability in the regions of intervention. The results achieved by the project are certainly noteworthy and have a high potential to continue generating a positive impact, therefore it is recommended to continue with investments in this direction to capitalize on what has been built and consolidate sustainability.

To read the evaluation, click here:

<https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/GHANA%20VALUTAZIONE.pdf>

MALI

Capital: Bamako

Population: 22.593.590 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,410 (188th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2018

PROJECTS AREAS

- Strengthening of CSO actors
- Training and socio-professional integration

VIS IN MALI

In 2023, Mali continues to face serious political and economic challenges that undermine the stability of the country. The political situation remains unstable due to several factors, including internal ethnic and political tensions, armed insurgencies and the central government's inability to secure control over large areas of the national territory. The general elections held during the year were marked by controversy and allegations of electoral fraud, fueling further tensions and divisions in Malian society. In parallel with the political difficulties, Mali continues to face serious economic difficulties.

The economy of the country has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, political instability and persistent insecurity that discourages foreign investment and undermines economic growth. In addition, the trade embargo imposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has further aggravated the economic situation, causing an increase in the prices of essential goods and a weakening of the national currency. The population of Mali continues to suffer from widespread poverty, food insecurity and lack of access to basic services such as education and healthcare.

In the country, the motivation for the presence of VIS remains strong, which, thanks to the close collaboration of the Salesian partner on site ADAFO in 2023, implemented the project "Women, youth and social entrepreneurship: pillars of a sustainable and inclusive future" is part of the AICS Dakar emergency initiative - AID12289. This initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in Mali and Senegal, thus helping to promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to promote employment in the private sector, with particular attention to vulnerable women, young people and returning migrants. The project's approach goes beyond mere humanitarian assistance, seeking to harmonize humanitarian interventions with development ones. The aim is to establish a closer link between emergency response and long-term development, while promoting local socio-economic autonomy and strengthening the resilience and development capacity of the communities involved. It should be noted that the economic data relating to the activities carried out in Mali are included in the Senegal country sheet.

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in activities or programmes for institutional strengthening (ADAFO)

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **100%** of those employed among those included in professional training courses
- **100%** of the institutions (both TVET and companies) and of the partnerships activated which, following the interventions carried out, continue to collaborate to adapt the school-work transition paths in favour of the different target groups
- **1** partner country where we work involved within partnerships for the co-design and delivery of integrated services that include training, counselling, labour
- **100%** of TVET operators trained (JSO excluded) who, following the intervention, use the skills and tools provided to design/improve the services offered

- **1** Platform and cluster vocational/labour training developed at regional level including TVET institutions and market and public actors
- **1** toolkit, guidelines, ToT course repositories and other tools produced by VIS to support the development of capacities and skills of TVET ecosystem operators
- **96 (49 F; 47 M)** Recipients included into qualifying professional innovative paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **1** Labour Services Offices upgraded
- **100%** of Employment Services operators trained who, following the intervention, use the skills and tools provided to design/improve the services offered (e.g. tracking training success).
- **1** TVET centre implementing periodic market analysis about sectorial trends and professional profiles and update their offer based on the outputs of such studies
- **1** Strategy, programme, and project presented by VIS or by the partners with the aim of impacting in a systematic way on upgrading the TVET systems TVET
- **2 (1 F; 1 M)** international mobility activated for study or work purposes aimed at students, staff or TVET managers
- **3** paths started aimed at upgrading the basic and cross-cutting skills of recipients
- **1** path, project and programme implemented by VIS or partners aimed at developing self-employment and business development (including business incubation and acceleration)
- **100%** of the strategies, programmes and projects implemented by VIS and its partners in the TVET sector that include a business development component and have ensued the creation/strengthening of clusters in vocational training/work

SENEGAL

Capital: Dakar

Population: 17.316.450 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,517 (169th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2016

Year of official recognition: 2017

Expat operators: 5 (1 M, 4 F)

Civil service volunteers: 1 (F)

Interns: 1 (F)

Expenses incurred : 805.519 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Strengthening of CSOs actors
- Training, and socio-professional integration

VIS IN SENEGAL

Senegal, located in the most Western part of the continent, is surrounded by Mauritania, Mali, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. Despite being a beacon of stability and democracy, in a region marked by political, security and humanitarian crises, as well as terrorism and instability, it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. According to United Nations data from 2023, 50.2% of the population is made up of women, with an average age of 19 years. From an economic point of view, since 2014, with the implementation of the Emerging Senegal Plan, it has recorded growth of over 6% until 2018.

However, due to the Covid pandemic, international instability linked to the war in Ukraine and the trade embargo imposed on Mali by ECOWAS, economic growth has slowed already in 2022. The armed conflict in Ukraine has led to an increase in the prices of raw materials and food products, while the increase in the strength of the dollar has caused inflationary pressures, putting food security at risk. Government measures to support vulnerable households have affected public finances, while the increase in import costs has worsened the trade deficit, in a context of difficult access to international financing and growing poverty, especially in rural and decentralized areas. In addition, the instability that has occurred due to the planned national political elections has aggravated the situation. In the socio-economic context, 97% of businesses and 91.2% of the workforce operate in informality, mainly in the agricultural and commercial sectors. The main causes of this situation include economic, legal and social factors such as low education, discrimination and lack of access to resources.

This reality is a challenge for the rights of the workers and the creation of decent employment. In addition, informal economic units often lack management skills and access to finance, which limits their capacity for development and formalization, thus contributing to the precariousness of the informal sector and the inability to generate stable and decent jobs. In this context, in 2023 and until May 2024, VIS is involved in the implementation of the project "Women, Youth and Social Entrepreneurship: Pillars of a Sustainable and Inclusive Future", within the framework of the AICS Dakar emergency initiative - AID12289. This project aims to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in Senegal and Mali, thus contributing to equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment in the private sector, with a special focus on women and youth in vulnerable situations and returning migrants. The intervention logic aims to go beyond the mere humanitarian aid phase, in a perspective of alignment between humanitarian and development interventions.

This aims at strengthening the link between emergency and development, as well as local socio-economic autonomy, to consolidate the resilience and development capacity of the target communities. In general, the actions proposed by VIS in Senegal are based on the belief that it is important to contribute to strengthening the socio-economic fabric in order to promote the self-determination of individuals through a holistic program that aims on one hand to promote sustainable and equitable development, and on the other to support the decision-making and political role of local authorities to promote access to decent jobs free of gender-related barriers.

From this point of view, the projects aim to provide opportunities for young generations to fully realize their professional and life project in their country.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Women, Youth and Social Enterprises: Pillars of a Sustainable and Inclusive Future	120.850	AICS
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT	220.458	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in activities or programmes for institutional strengthening

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **100%** of those employed among those included in professional training courses
- **100%** of the institutions (both TVET and companies) and of the partnerships activated which, following the interventions carried out, continue to collaborate to adapt the school-work transition paths in favour of the different target groups
- **1** partner country where we work involved within partnerships for the co-design and delivery of integrated services that include training, counselling, labour
- **13 (2 F; 11 M)** of TVET operators trained (JSO excluded) who, following the intervention, use the skills and tools provided to design/improve the services offered
- **1** Platform and cluster vocational/labour training developed at regional level including TVET institutions and market and public actors
- **1** toolkit, guidelines, ToT course repositories and other tools produced by VIS to support the development of capacities and skills of TVET ecosystem operators
- **278 (257 F; 21 M)** Recipients included into qualifying professional innovative paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **3** Labour Services Offices upgraded
- **2** Curricula designed/updated with a set of competences deriving from analysis and demand of the market operators
- **13 (2 F; 11 M)** international mobility activated for study or work purposes aimed at students, staff or TVET managers
- **3** paths started aimed at upgrading the basic and cross-cutting skills of recipients
- **1** path, project and programme implemented by VIS or partners aimed at developing self-employment and business development (including business incubation and acceleration)
- **50%** of the strategies, programmes and projects implemented by VIS and its partners in the TVET sector that include a business development component and have ensued the creation/strengthening of clusters in vocational training/work

3.4 INTERVENTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST



EGYPT

Capital: Cairo

Population: 110.990.100 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,728 (105th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2009

Expat operators : 4 (2 M, 2F)

Expenses incurred: 108.686 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Migration
- Training, and socio-professional integration

VIS IN EGYPT

During 2023, as the registration process of the organization is still ongoing, we focused on accompanying this and therefore no new interventions were carried out. While waiting to have full and recognized operations in the country, we proceeded to support the activities of the Salesians of Don Bosco by providing technical assistance to the Planning and Development Office and to the MOR Province more generally and to identify strategies for the concrete implementation of legal and safe paths for job placement abroad. Finally, we proceeded to establish a relationship of mutual knowledge with the CSOs operating in Egypt, COSPE, MAIS and CISS in preparation for possible joint interventions in the sectors of training and professional placement and local economic development.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
SUPPORT TO VOLUNTEERS	108.686	Private & institutional donors

PALESTINE

Capital: East Jerusalem and Ramallah

Population: 5.043.610 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,716 (111th out of 193 countries)⁶

Year start up activities in the country: 1987

Year of official recognition: 2010 in Palestine, 2009 in Israel

Expat operators: 5 (3 M, 2 F)

Trainees: 4 (2 M, 2 F)

Expenses incurred: 752.578 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
- Local economic development
- Strengthening of CSOs actors
- Training, and socio-professional integration

VIS IN PALESTINE

S has been working in Palestine for just under forty years. During this long period, characterized by many changes on the political, social, economic and institutional fronts, VIS has consolidated its interventions, adapting its work to the changing needs of the Palestinian people, alongside whom it has never ceased to operate to contribute, in an effective manner, to giving a dignified life to the most vulnerable people.

The horrors perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023, with the killing and kidnapping of defenceless civilians, including children, the elderly and even people who have long been committed to peace between Israel and Palestine, have triggered a spiral of violence with Israeli bombings on Gaza that have also hit schools and hospitals, generating thousands of deaths and over a million and a half refugees. All this has brought the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to a level of violence that leaves us shocked and which, by seriously compromising the possibilities of a peaceful solution, generates the conditions of instability in the area that threatens to last for a long time. The need for a ceasefire is increasingly urgent to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the entire population of Gaza and at the same time to hope to be able to save the Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip. The situation in the West Bank is also extremely serious.

The North, in particular the refugee camps in the governorates of Tulkarem, Jenin and Nablus suffer continuous military operations on behalf of Israel and in general the entire West Bank is suffering from a socio-economic point of view, since at least three hundred thousand Palestinians who worked in Israel have lost their jobs, tourism is completely at a standstill for security reasons, prices have increased and families are struggling to make ends meet. Despite everything, the sectors in which VIS currently operates are different: technical-vocational training and job placement, local economic development, Child and Youth Protection and psycho-social support, capacity building of local institutions and higher education. The projects are carried out in collaboration with various local and international partners, starting with the Salesians of Don Bosco, the first partner in the country, the University of Bethlehem, local authorities, Italian and international NGOs, local bodies, universities and Italian companies.

During 2023 projects with the following aim have been implemented:

- Increase the number of students (boys and girls) attending the training courses and have acquired the vocational skills at the CFP of the Salesians of Bethlehem;
- Continue supporting the establishment and the relaunch of the traditional and social enterprises through the Bethlehem Business Incubator – BBI and the Yunus Social Business Centre – YSBC; opening within the BBI and YSBC of a Tourism Innovation Hub;
- Organise psycho-social support activities for children victims of trauma stress using sport as an educational means;

⁶ UNDP 2019 data. 2020 data not available.

VIS is active in Palestine also through SAD to support socio-educational activities of the Salesians of Bethlehem and the “border” public schools which are therefore in West Bank territories that are still occupied by the Israeli military forces.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
<i>Start Your Business!</i> Creation of <i>start-ups</i> , development of technical skills and socio-economic promotion of young people and women in situations of vulnerability in Palestine	444.811	AICS/MAECI
Socio-economic integration of Christian minorities in the Holy Land through the safeguard of the local art, food, and environmental heritage	2.862	AICS/MAECI
Smart Bethlehem – Sustainable Management And Renewal of Technology in the City of Bethlehem	48.292	Pavia Province
EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS		
Child Friendly Schools – Phase III: Emergency response to protect children of vulnerable communities in Area C and H2 through school rehabilitation facilities and other educational and psycho-social support interventions	192.826	AICS Jerusalem
CAMPAINGS		
Campaign Bread for Bethlehem		Private donors
Campaign Support to the Summer Camp	3.865	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT	56.221	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

Child and Youth Protection

- **95 (25 F; 70 M)** minors in vulnerable situations involved child and youth protection paths offered
- **9 (1 F; 8 M)** adults in vulnerable situations involved child and youth protection paths offered
- **95 (25 F; 70 M)** minors in vulnerable situations involved in child and youth protection promotion
- **9 (1 F; 8 M)** adults in vulnerable situations involved in child and youth protection promotion
- **4** structures built and/or refurbished

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **17** enterprises created in the various local economic development projects (during 2023) and survived the expired action plan
- **1** strategic partnership strengthened involving at least one actor from the private sector and at least one from a research institution
- **2** projects submitted and approved foreseeing partnerships involving at least one actor from the private sector and at least one from a research institution
- **1** publication made within the partnerships
- **1** programme and capacity building activities implemented in various countries and in Italy
- **1** project submitted following the realization of capacity building activities

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in interventions or institutional strengthening programmes

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **60 (60 F; 0 M)** Recipients included into qualifying professional innovative paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **2** Curricula designed/updated with a set of competences deriving from analysis and demand of the market operators
- **8** Employment Services operators trained who, following the intervention, use the skills and tools provided to design/improve the services offered
- **2** strategies, programmes and projects submitted by VIS or its partners aimed at upgrading in a system way the TVET systems

Assessments implemented

In March 2023, Professor Maria Sassi of the Department of Economics and Management of the University of Pavia has carried out a final evaluation of the project “Start Your Business! Creation of start-up, technical skills development and socio-economic promotion of youth and women in vulnerable situations in Palestine”. Following some excerpts of the lessons learnt, critical issues and recommendations:

- “Start your Business! has given rise to a business incubation and acceleration system capable of operating even in the post-project phase with significant potential to promote inclusive development”.
- “The project proposal of establishing micro and small traditional enterprises and above all social with particular attention to women remains still a valid option especially in South of West Bank”.
- “In the territories involved in the project, “doing business” also generates employment, contributing to reducing the unemployment rate which is very high especially in its female component. Doing business can and must also support self-employment and this is a characterizing element of the work implemented through the project”.
- “During the evaluation, a trade-off emerged between the pace imposed by the project and the time needed for incubation and post-incubation. As explained above, the incubation process required longer time than the one identified during project drafting”.
- “One of the aspects that could have been developed using the first incubated companies is the evaluation of their social impact. This evaluation would have exemplified an important element of knowledge of the social added value generated by the project”.

To consult the evaluation, click here

<https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/PALESTINA%20VALUTAZIONE.pdf>

3.5 INTERVENTIONS IN EUROPE



ALBANIA

Capital: Tirana

Population 2.777.690 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,789 (74th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 1994

Year of official recognition: 2002

Expat operators: 2 (1 M, 1 F)

Civil service volunteers: 1 (M)

Trainees: 4 (1 M, 3 F)

International volunteers: 3 (1 M, 2 F)

Expenses incurred: : 326.860 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Local economic development
- Training, and socio-professional integration

IL VIS IN ALBANIA

VIS in Albania is active from 1994 and from 2009 is implementing development and support interventions for rural and mountain communities in the North. This engagement started since more than ten years, characterized by three important three-year projects funded by the Italian cooperation (the last of which was started in 2022) and two by the EU in the territory of Malësi e Madhe, and two funded by the Swedish Embassy (SIDA), contributed to affirming VIS as important referral in rural development and 360 degree support to the civil society, confirming its geographic grounding in the North of the country. The multi-sector nature of the implemented interventions, also supported through projects and initiatives although economically smaller, equally important in terms of impact, has allowed to open the range of action also to the young people, to the social sector and community services and has confirmed the commitment towards the environmental protection sector.

In 2023, the interventions devoted to the environment were the cornerstone of VIS action in the area, with 3 specific projects and another 3 with a focus on Lake Skadar and the community of small fishermen. In December, two projects for the young people in Klos (a rural area in north-eastern Albania) were also completed, one of which was twinned with the municipality of Piacenza, thanks to which relationships with local institutions were consolidated, leading to the expansion of the area of interest in the Dibra region with a new proposal presented for the Municipality of Mat, dedicated to the education of pre-school children.

Among 2023 activities, of particular importance are: the conclusion of the second course for Local Development Agents, developed in collaboration with the Agricultural University of Tirana, the participation in the Slow Food Messe in Stuttgart (Germany), participation in the Balkan Rural Parliament and the Albanian Rural Parliament where the first Pier Paolo Ambrosi Award for Rural Leadership was given to all Local Development Agents in Albania and the formation of the first multi-sector Local Action Group for the Municipalities of Scutari and Malesi e Madhe, under VIS coordination.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Lakes of Albania: promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism models for the inclusive development of the communities	187.457	AICS/MAECI
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Blue CoAL-Ition- Eco-sustainable development of the natural capital of the coastal areas of Albania	8.654	CELIM (AICS Tirana)
Green-AL. Strengthening the local CSOs for an innovative protection of the environment in Albania	31.985	COPLAN (SIDA)

First Steps: support to the environment, to the participation and to the sport in the Municipality of Klos	12.956	EU 4 Municipalities
LILA - Sustainable strategy for the development of Lake Shkodra through the involvement of the local communities	28.805	Regione FVG
OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR COUNTRY MANAGEMENT	858	Private donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **26** enterprises created in the various local economic development projects (during 2023) and survived the expired action plan
- **1** Beneficiary country where the programmes and actions implemented have had a real impact on improving economic development ecosystems at national and/or regional level
- **1** strategic partnership strengthened involving at least one actor from the private sector and at least one from a research institution
- **2** projects submitted and approved foreseeing partnerships involving at least one actor from the private sector and at least one from a research institution
- **2** publications made within the partnerships
- **2** programmes and capacity building activities implemented in various countries and in Italy
- **3** country methodologies systematized and inserted into institutional policies on local economic development (at country and/or regional level)
- **3** multi-sectoral interventions implemented in which the local economic development component has become relevant
- **2** advocacy and awareness raising actions

TRAINING AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

- **1** partner country where we work involved within partnerships for the co-design and delivery of integrated services that include training, counselling, labour
- **1** Platform and cluster vocational/labour training developed at regional level including TVET institutions and market and public actors
- **30 (19 F; 11 M)** Recipients included into qualifying professional innovative paths (short courses, training modules, internships, apprenticeships)
- **1 (F)** international mobility activated for study or work purposes aimed at students, staff or TVET managers
- **1** path started aimed at upgrading the basic and cross-cutting skills of recipients
- **3** paths, projects and programmes implemented by VIS or partners aimed at developing self-employment and business development
- **20%** of the strategies, programmes and projects implemented by VIS and its partners in the TVET sector that include a business development component and have ensued the creation/strengthening of clusters in vocational training/work
- **3** networks and strategic partnerships developed at national, regional and international levels aimed at developing a cluster and business development strategies

Assessments implemented

Between April and March 2023 at the end of the project the final assessment of the project funded by AICS Tirana “Green CoAL-ITion: Eco-sustainable Development for Albanian Mountain-Countryside Natural Capital” was carried out by an external independent consultant. The evaluation, based on the 5 OECD/CAD criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability) highlighted the good results achieved by the project and the commitment of the entire staff in Albania, underlining the synergies with other ongoing actions, sustainability in the territories and the resilience of the supported recipients.

To read the evaluation, click here:

<https://www.volint.it/sites/default/files/lavoro/ALBANIA%20VALUTAZIONE.pdf>

ITALY

Population: 58.940.430 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,906 (30th out of 193 countries)

Civil service volunteers: 4 (1 M, 3 F)

Peace Corps volunteers: :2 (F)

Trainees: 5 (1 M, 4 F)

Volunteers: 75 (35 M, 40 F)

International volunteers: 3 (1 M, 2 F)

Expenses incurred: 270.955 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- GCE

PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
TESTiamoCI per il futuro: TErritori e STudenti per una nuova CIttadinanza ecologica	233.240	AICS
PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
GCE	149	Presidia
GCE various expenditures	3.388	Private donors
Un Mondo Possibile magazine	27.405	Private donors
Volint website	6.961	Private donors

During 2023, the Global Citizenship Education project “TESTiamoCI per il futuro: TErritori e STudenti per una nuova CIttadinanza ecologica, was started and implemented”, the project approved by AICS is in partnership with six other CSOs (CBM, CEFA, CIES, NOO, OSVIC, VIDES), the involvement of three VIS presidia (Green VIS, VIS Pangea and Il nodo sulle ali del mondo) and twelve municipalities of Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Sardinia, Veneto. The initiative promotes behaviours and forms of participation aimed at protecting the environment and fighting climate change with the target of 5,600 students from middle and high schools in 13 Italian municipalities, 280 teachers, 50 officials and councillors from the local authorities involved, 35 educators from partner OSCs and local associations and approximately 3,500 citizens. The activities planned to achieve the objective are linked to 3 pillars - Training /Participation/Innovation - closely interconnected and preliminary to each other, aimed at involving and making the project partners and stakeholders interact with each other, with a peer education but also problem-solving approach, bringing the global dimension of the topic focus back to the local dimension of the territories to which they belong. In this first year, all the training activities aimed at the three main targets (teachers, students and EL officials) were carried out, the educational path was started in schools through the web Platform (www.testiamociperilfuturo.it), the materials were produced and the eco-tasks for the activation of the kids were launched.

In 2023, awareness-raising activities and campaigns carried out at national level continued, the “La guerra è una follia” campaign aimed at expressing VIS rejection of any war and stating our engagement in conflict contexts such as those in Ethiopia, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine. In addition, the “Strada Facendo” Campaign was launched, devoted to children in street situations, especially in Angola and Ghana, on the occasion of the Back to School. During the year, the Territori di Vini Campaign was also continued, with two editions organized in Rome, in July and December, and one in Bra in June.

VIS education and communication activities in Italy continued in 2023 also with the historical magazine "Un Mondo Possibile", 3 issues were produced and sent to about 9 thousand subscribers. The main thematic focus this year was that of the war.

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

GCE

About 1000 citizens have participated in events connected with VIS campaigns and Territori diVini.

About 3.000 pupils involved in the project Testiamoci per il Futuro

9.000 readers of the magazine Un Mondo Possibile

UKRAINE

Capital: Kiev

Population: 38.000.000 inhabitants

Human Development Index (HDI): 0,734 (100th out of 193 countries)

Year start up activities in the country: 2022

Expat operators: 2 (1 M, 1 F)

Expenses incurred: 859.607 euro

PROJECTS AREAS

- Child and Youth Protection
 - Strengthening of CSOs actors

VIS IN UKRAINE

Since the early stages of the war, VIS has responded with promptness and determination to relieve the suffering of the civilian population and the most vulnerable groups. In close collaboration with the Enti Salesiani Italiani di Solidarietà Internazionale (ESISI), other international NGOs, Don Bosco Network and the Salesians of the Greek Catholic Rite of Ukraine. VIS together with the Salesians has coordinated the emergency response and its actions to maximize the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions. In January 2023, it obtained official recognition as a Civil Society Organization in Ukraine, a fundamental step that also opened the doors to access to UHF funds (Ukraine Humanitarian Fund). With its headquarters in Lviv, at the Don Bosco Provincial House, and two operational offices in Dnipro and Kyiv, VIS has strategically established itself in the areas most affected by the crisis and has structured itself accordingly.

In June 2022, VIS launched the implementation of the project entitled “Urgent support to displaced people in Lviv affected by the ongoing war” and began collaborating with its Salesian partner in Lviv. The project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), continued partly in 2023. This project focused on multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance for the civilian population and displaced persons of Ukraine, providing necessities, repair kits for damaged houses, basic winter supplies and psychosocial assistance. In 2023, the project “Integrated Medical-Logistic Intervention to Support the Populations Most Affected by the War in Eastern and Southern Ukraine” was launched. This project, funded by UHF-OCHA and in consortium with CUAMM, focuses on health, protection and first emergency response in the regions of Dnipropetrovska, Donetska and Zaporizka. The aim is to improve the accessibility and functioning of health care, enhance psychosocial resilience and well-being of health workers and the most vulnerable populations through targeted MHPSS interventions.

Additional initiatives launched in 2023 include the project “Enhancing Medical Care in Lviv’s National Rehabilitation Center “Unbroken”, which aims to purchase and distribute devices and drugs to the Lviv war-torn amputee rehabilitation center, and the project “Enhancing the Capacity of the Project Development Office”, which, with the support and cooperation of ESISI, aims to strengthen the PDO’s capacity to improve project planning and management in Ukraine.

EMERGENCY PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Emergency support to the population hit by the crisis in Ukraine	382.108	AICS
Integrated Medical-Logistic Intervention to Support the Populations Most Affected by the War in Eastern and Southern Ukraine	118.447	UHF

EMERGENCYT PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Strengthening PDO capacity	4.777	Enti Salesiani Italiani per la Solidarietà Internazionale
Enhancing Medical Care in Lviv's National Rehabilitation Center Unbroken	3.159	Jugend Eine Welt / Else Kroner Fresenius Foundation
Ukraine Crisis – reconstruction and heating activities for Winter in Kiev	297.359	Caritas Italiana
Emergency Ukraine	52.961	Private donors
OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT	797	Various donors

MAIN INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS OBTAINED

Child and Youth Protection

- **95%** satisfaction level of the courses offered
- **996 (523 F; 473 M)** Minors in vulnerability situations involved in child and youth protection paths
- **609 (517 F; 92 M)** Adults in vulnerability situations involved in child and youth protection paths
- **1702 (878 F; 824 M)** Minors in vulnerability situations involved in emergency actions
- **1380 (725 F; 655 M)** Adults in vulnerability situations involved in emergency actions

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

- 1 CSO involved in interventions or institutional strengthening programmes

MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS

In recent years, in line with the main international and national donors' programs, VIS has implemented sectoral interventions with actions and impacts on various partner countries. This approach, consolidated over time especially for some types of interventions and sectors, has seen in recent years the merging of various institutions and donors who have pushed VIS to implement some specific interventions in this direction such as the key actions KA2 - Capacity Building of the Erasmus+ program which saw VIS as the assignee of a project for Senegal and Ghana (*Skilling Eco-VET*) and its participation in a second intervention (*Smart Step*) as co-applicant in Cameroon and Ghana. Furthermore, always within the Erasmus+ programme, VIS has been collaborating for years with IECD on an intervention to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean MeDC network.

In addition to these interventions and actions to strengthen the capacities of civil society actors and the awareness raising campaigns such as that of "*Stop Tratta*" implemented in recent years at both regional and continental level, during 2023 VIS continued an action from a multi-country perspective for the consolidation and support of regular migration paths towards Italy.

Negotiations were conducted with IOM Ghana and Wageningen University, in the Netherlands, for the entry of VIS into a Horizon project entitled "Safeguarding African Foodsheds and Ecosystems for all Actors across Local, regional and international Levels to manage migration" (SAFE4ALL), funded by the European Union. The aim of the project is to support local and regional actors in the decision-making process to improve the resilience of local communities to climate change and protect African foodsheds. The countries of intervention are Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe. During 2023, VIS also continued its work to identify and formulate a continental program for Africa aimed at strengthening the Salesian Planning and Development Offices (PDO).

PROJECTS AREAS

- Local economic development
- Migration
- Training, and socio-professional integration

PROJECTS FUNDED BY PUBLIC DONORS	EXPENSES INCURRED (IN €)	DONORS
Skilling Eco-VET	113.276	EU
SMART STEP	6.229	EU
Pre-departure training programs to facilitate social and labour integration of regular migrants in Italy	76.982	FAMI
PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONORS		
Mediterranean New Chance: a network for the successful integration of young people in the Mediterranean	2.651	IECD
Support and training activities in VIS target countries	22.012	Private donors
A better life for children and youth in vulnerable situations in Angola, Eritrea and mainly Ethiopia.	49.599	Private donors

3.6 SPECIALIST AND UNIVERSITY TRAINING

VIS has adopted an inclusive approach for its training activity, involving different actors who form the educational system, public and private, religious, and non-profit organizations, giving impetus to a sharing of knowledge, capabilities, and different resources. The training contents at any level focus on topics linked to the world of cooperation, development, and human rights.

2023 OBJECTIVES	Level reached	2024 OBJECTIVES
Introduction of innovative topics	New courses proposed and activated on Communication for non-profit organizations, Social Planning design, Project Implementation	Introduction of innovative themes: the 5*1000 campaign, participation tools in development processes, emergency management, educational planning
Request the renewal of MIUR accreditation for the 2023/2024 school year	Requested and obtained	Request the renewal of MIUR accreditation for the 2024/2025 school year for new courses
Strengthen VIS contribution to university institutions in terms of teaching, offer and management of internships and strategic teaching planning	Strengthened the collaboration with LUISS University, the University of Pavia and IUSVE and consolidated the one with the other universities with which we collaborate	Strengthen VIS contribution to university institutions in terms of teaching, offer and management of internships and teaching strategic planning
Strengthen existing partnerships and increase them with other organizations with the aim of offering course on topics not directly connected with VIS activities	Collaboration agreement renewed with CBM with reference to the course on disability and with CUAMM on Health and international health cooperation	Strengthen existing partnerships and increase them with other organizations the aim of offering course on topics not directly connected with VIS activities
Strengthen relationship with associations of the third sector, governmental institutions, with the aim of becoming a reference for the training of their staff	Provided tailored training to the Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia (ASUGI) on Health and training for the single staff members of 19 associations/foundations	Strengthen relationship with associations of the third sector, governmental institutions, with the aim of becoming a reference for the training of their staff

MAIN ACTIONS AND OUTPUTS ATTAINED

Collaboration with university institutions	Activities implemented
Università di Pavia: Master's in Cooperation and Development	Curricula coordination, teaching modules "Project formulation and writing", "Budgeting", "Orienteering"
Bethlehem University: Master's in International Cooperation and Development	Teaching modules "Project cycle management", "Macroeconomics for development"
LUISS Business School: Master's in International Cooperation, major of the Master's in Project Management,	Teaching modules "Development cooperation, actors and strategies", "Need assessment and project writing", "Budgeting".
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna: Master's in Human Rights and Conflict Management	Teaching module "Concept Note" and partnership agreement for carrying out internships in our countries of intervention.
Università di Cagliari: Master's Degree Program in Sustainable Tourism Management and Monitoring	Yearly participation in the Steering Committee
Università di Reggio Calabria: Faculty of Architecture	Seminars and tutoring for studies and research on architecture in developing countries
VIS School and online training	
30 online courses	396 persons trained
3 pro bono webinars delivered on Integral Ecology and Active Citizenship for trainers and teachers	150 persons involved

3.7 COMMUNICATION

VIS communication aims to nurture the relationships with the various target audiences, increase the visibility, recognisability, reputation, and transparency of the organization. This is implemented through the multi-channel and integrated online / offline narration of what VIS achieves through projects in foreign countries and in Italy with training, fundraising and GCE activities. The main communication channels are the website, social media, newsletters (divided according to user databases), the magazine 'Un Mondo Possibile' and media relations.

Strengthening institutional communication, recognisability and positioning of the institution in the Salesian world: conception and creation of the first edition of the annual report, development of the image manual (basic version), reorganisation and optimisation of the digital photo archive (Flickr), start of the process of creating a video archive, creation of a new line of branded gadgets, support for the creation of the Coordination Week, project work on communication with students of the Salesian University Institute of Venice, coordination of communication of the Italian Salesian institutions of international solidarity.

Accompany and support the internationalization process of the organization: participation and intervention of VIS at the International Festival in Ferrara, intervention at the presentation of the World Migrant Day in the Vatican, creation of the institutional website in English and French versions, join and participate in the United Nations campaign #Unite4Act.

Strengthening project and field communication:

Launch and dissemination campaign of the Bosembo podcast on VIS activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the social campaign recorded more than 120,000 views and reached about 35,000 users. The podcast, instead, recorded 546 downloads);

Design, creation and dissemination campaign of the Sirene podcast on VIS activities in Ukraine (the social campaign recorded about 240,000 views and reached more than 90,000 users. The podcast, instead, recorded 268 downloads).

Support in the creation of communication and visibility materials in local projects (Erasmus+ project website, banners, plaques).

Design, development and creation of the GCE project visual identity and communication materials. All communication on social channels and website focused on the projects and activities from the field generating the following results:

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS	2023 NUMBER OF USERS	Published contents	Views
Facebook	24.823 (+3,11%)	155	198.560
Instagram	1.558 (+110,82%)	76	38.936
X	4.095 (-1,26%)	36	5208
Linkedin	6.394 (+23,36%)	69	67.374
Sito web volont.it	227.000 ca. (+106,36%)	5 homepage stories 98 Project update news	415.000
Magazine Un Mondo Possibile	12.527 (-21,12%)	3 Issues published	-
Media Relation	-	41	-

2024 Objectives

- Continuation of strengthening and implementing institutional communication tools (creation and dissemination of the 2023 annual report, finalization and internal training on the new image manual, creation of the new institutional brochure, crisis communication plan)
- Optimization of communication tools and content from countries and projects (supervision and coordination of project communication, writing new projects, communication and promotion of CGE project paths, finalization of the video archive project, creation of the sixth episode of the Sirene podcast)

3.8 ADVOCACY

VIS implements advocacy actions directly and through networking with the aim of awareness raising and influencing the institutions that at various levels (national, European, and international) with their actions and decisions can impact on the following specific areas: quantity, quality and effectiveness of international cooperation and fight against poverty, promotion, and protection of the rights of children and quality of education.

Advocacy is carried out taking advantage of the cleavages offered to CSOs by the international systems (UN, Council of Europe, EU) to operate within the institutions to Foster and contribute to the political and social change at national and local levels. VIS, also to fulfil its commitment with its special consultative status ECOSOC with the United Nations, participates in conferences, fora, world summits, prepares supplementary reports to the UN Treaty with particular attention to the new mechanisms set up by the UN Human Rights Council including the UPR – *Universal Periodic Review*, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the connected mechanisms, and the international campaigns.

GOALS 2023
Active participation and strengthening VIS engagement in the networks in which it is present
Strengthening the engagement in the drafting of national/international/Salesian Family documents
Drafting of VIS /Salesian Family internal <i>policy/position papers</i>

INTERVENTIONS AND RESULTS

INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH IT HAS OPERATED	RESULT / OUTPUT	RELAPSE
FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights)	Participation in online meetings	Contributions merged into the creation of 6 FRA reports used at the level of European policies on Member States
DBI (Don Bosco International)	Participation in the working group for the development of joint Salesian Family actions (possible advocacy training, participation in events, policy papers, etc.)	Processing of inputs and information on European policies for action at EU level and coordination of related policies within the Salesian Family and linkage with activities related implemented by VIS in this field.
EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings	Preparation of documents to contribute to the action of EU Directorate General X, in relation to the issues related to trafficking in human beings with reference to Italy	Selection of materials in relation to migration of interest for VIS office and sharing and participation in online meetings for update.
EUAA (European Union Agency for Asylum; ex EASO)	Preparation of a contribution on the Italian component, in partnership with the DU Committee, SCS, Don Bosco 2000.	EASO official annual report (now EUAA) disseminated to EU member states. Influence

	EASO (now EUAA) annual report on the Italian component, presented with the participation of the European Commissioner for Home Affairs	on the Italian Government by shares and change of legislation on the matter
UN ECOSOC	Training through the courses of the VIS Higher Education School in the promotion and protection of human rights and the human rights architecture of the United Nations	Activity included in the actions to be carried out to maintain ECOSOC status
Ispettorica Salesiana di Bogotá Salesianos Don Bosco CO Bogotá D.C. Dicastero per la Pastorale Giovanile, Opere e i Servizi Sociali nel Settore per la Pastorale Giovanile	Support to drafting the training course for the PDOs of the two Salesian Provinces in Colombia: Formacion Advocacy y Derechos Humanos Formacion Advocacy y Derechos Humanos, Bogotá, 22-23 August 2023 I CONGRESO INPECTORIAL “OPCIÓN PREFERENCIAL: MEMORIA, SOLIDARIDAD Y DESARROLLO HUMANO INTEGRAL PARA LOS JÓVENES HOY” Bogota’ 25 de agosto 2023 Relation included in the BLOQUE TEMÁTICO No. 4: La importancia de un trabajo en red de las obras y servicios sociales de la Inspectoría	Repetition of the PDO training already carried out for the PDOs of the European project already implemented for some Salesian PDOs, adapted to the Colombian context with the aim of reaffirming the specificity and expertise of VIS in this area in anticipation of the new program being launched by the Salesian Family for targeted training in this area.
Gruppo CRC	Drafting of the monitoring report on the CRC	Chef-de-file of two chapters of the report
Catholic NGO Forum and international working group on human rights and working group Italy/FAO	Participation in the annual Catholic NGO Forum and preparation of specific materials for the various sessions. Report of the Forum of Catholic NGOs containing the results of the work	Report of the Forum of Catholic NGOs contributing to the repetition by the Catholic Church of the requests drawn up by Catholic civil society

PROSPECTS 2024

- Preparation of the CRC monitoring report, coordination of the Comitato per la promozione e protezione dei diritti umani also in preparation of the new monitoring report to be launched in anticipation of the next UPR Italy and participation in the reviews of the treaty bodies and UPR of the United Nations which consider Italy (monitoring the action of the Italian government with respect to the UN conventions ratified by Italy).
- Active participation in group networks for CRC, FRA, DBN, DBI, CIDU, ASVIS, EU Antittrafficking Civil Society Platform and EASO/EUAA.
- Participation as advocacy and human rights experts at the Salesian Family and at the International Forum of Catholic NGOs and the related Italian group.

4. ECONOMIC DIMENSION

In this chapter of the Activities Summary Report the most important elements of VIS Income statement and Management report are provided which can be integrated with the Financial Statement, drafted as per the provisions established by the DM of the Ministero del lavoro e delle politiche sociali no. 39 of March 5, 2020 and the Principio Contabile ETS OIC 35 (of February 2022 and updated with the amendments published on March 2, 2023). It includes the balance sheet, the management statement and the mission report and undergoes a legal review by Crowe-Bompani Spa. It is available for consultation on VIS website. In addition, also an in-depth analysis is carried out on fundraising activities.

4.1 OVERALL FRAMEWORK

During the year the income equalled 10.657.158euros (9.573.963 in 2022) and expenditures 10.656.172 euros (9.441.177 in 2022), with a residual, hence, of 986 euros 132.787 euros in 2022). It should be noted that:

- this increase was determined on one hand by the greater number of emergency projects and, on the other, above all, by the implementation and/or finalization of various interventions financed by both public and private donors, a condition that permitted the use of greater resources provided by donors in the financial year or set aside from previous years;
- the "programmatic transition" has continued since last year, i.e. the period in which the conclusion of important multi-year projects financed by institutional donors is recorded (especially in the target countries of West and East Africa). This implies a physiological waiting phase necessary for the identification and preparation of new interventions, the related investigation and evaluation and, subsequently (if approved), their start-up;
- there is still a strong fragility in the security conditions of some countries (such as Ethiopia, Eritrea and DRC) and there has been an interruption of programmes in Palestine due to the ongoing conflict, with inevitable consequences on programmes underway or starting in those areas, which have been suspended, postponed or remodelled.



In this sense, if we consider the conditions mentioned above, the values of the economic turnover of VIS balance sheets in recent years have remained relatively constant. Regarding the capital structure and related items and classifications, please refer in detail to the sections dedicated to them in the financial statements. Here, it seems appropriate to highlight that the net assets of the institution as of 12/31/2023 are as follows:

NET CAPITAL	Value as per 31/12/2023	Value as per 31/12/2022
I – Endowment fund of the institution	15.000	15.000
II – Restricted assets	589.040	1.062.078
1) statutory reserves	0	0
2) reserves bound by decision of the institutional bodies	39.917	34.917
3) restricted reserves allocated by third parties	549.123	1.027.161
III – Free assets	178.134	175.659
1) reserves of income or operating surpluses	178.134	175.659
2) other reserves	0	0
IV - Income /Deficit for the year	986	132.787
Total net capital (I+II+III+IV)	783.159	1.385.524



Following a simplified and synthesis of the Management Report.

COSTS AND CHARGES	2023	2022	INCOME AND REVENUES	2023	2022
A) Costs and charges from general interest activities	10.443.659	8.979.695	A) Revenues, annuities, and income from activities of general interest	9.731.102	8.637.786
Residue /Deficit from general interest activities (+/-)				-712.557	-341.909
B) Costs and charges from different activities	0	0	B) Revenues, annuities, and income from different activities	0	0
Residue /Deficit from different activities (+/-)				817.925	418.218
C) Costs and charges from fundraising activities	82.813	97.372	C) Revenues, annuities, and income from fundraising activities	900.737	515.591

COSTS AND CHARGES	2023	2022	INCOME AND REVENUES	2023	2022
Residue /Deficit from fundraising activities (+/-)				817.925	418.218
D) Costs and charges from financial and patrimonial activities	4.896	33.056	D) Revenues, annuities, and income from financial and patrimonial activities	20.669	162.321
Residue /Deficit from financial and patrimonial activities (+/-)				15.773	129.265
E) Costs and charges of general support	80.982	286.515	E) Income from general support	4.650	258.266
Residue /Deficit from general support activities (+/-)				-76.332	-28.249
Total costs and charges	10.612.349	9.396.638	Total income and revenues	9.573.963	9.249.807
Residue /Deficit for the year before taxation (+/-)				44.809	177.326
			Taxation	43.823	44.539
Residue /Deficit for the year after taxation (+/-)				986	132.787

4.2 INCOME AND ITS ORIGIN

INCOME AND REVENUES	2023	2022
A) Revenues, annuities, and income from <u>general interest activities</u>	9.731.102	8.637.786
1) Proceeds from memberships fees and contributions of founders	3.000	3.000
4) Liberal disbursements	1.399.151	1.362.201
5) 5 x 1000 income	53.588	57.851
6) Contributions from private entities	3.920.504	3.371.117
9) Proceeds from contracts with public bodies	4.185.453	3.693.417
10) Other revenues, annuities, and income	169.405	150.199
C) Revenues, annuities, and income from fundraising activities	900.737	515.591
1) Proceeds from regular fundraising	900.737	515.591
D) Revenues, annuities, and income from <i>financial and patrimonial activities</i>	20.669	162.321
1) From bank accounts	19.658	5.834
2) From other financial investments	-	-
5) Other income	156.487	1.049
E) Surplus from general support	4.650	258.266
2) Other income from general support	4.650	258.266
TOTAL	10.657.158	9.573.963

As can be seen, most of the income pertaining to the year, in accordance with the institutional mission of the organization, was registered the section of "Revenues, income and income from general interest activities", because the same income is directly connected to the activities considered as such by VIS Bylaws. The income budget lines more significant within this section are those referring to:

- "*Liberal disbursements*", made up of the year income which cannot be classified as fundraising proceeds as not determined by an activity of such nature, revenues deriving from private donors and patrons for the Mission Support (SaM) and from Salesian partners aimed at strategic co-programming and for joint interventions.
- "*Revenues from contracts with public entities*", include all income pertaining to the year from actors of the national administration (e.g. AICS-MAECI, territorial bodies, decentralized cooperation, Ministry of Interior or Labour for FAMI programs, etc.), EU (EuropeAid, ECHO, etc.) and international (international organization, agencies for cooperation of other states,

Ministries of target countries, etc.) for the implementation of projects and development interventions, emergency, Global citizenship education (ECG) and other areas pertaining to VIS institutional mission.

- “*Contributions from private entities*”, include all income pertaining to the year from initiatives connect to the institutional mission attributable to private institutions such as foundations, 8x1000 of the Catholic or other Church, non-profit private international actors, other NGOs/CSOs or other entities that can be considered as territorial entities as per the Third Sector Code as partners for initiatives and projects that are implemented jointly and funded by public, or private donors, companies, networks, etc.
- “*Other revenues, annuities and income*”, the size of which is not comparable to the first items but which are significant as they are represented by the proceeds of the commercial/profit branch of VIS Scuola di formazione (online and ordinary) and by other revenues linked to the implementation of general interest activities of the organization (e.g. networking or staff in partnership).

The following table shows the income by source of origin, highlighting public and private sources.

DESCRIPTION OF INCOME SOURCES	2023	2022
INCOME FROM: A) GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES -PUBLIC SOURCES	4.239.041	3.751.268
5) Income from 5 x 1000	53.588	57.851
Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche sociali: 5 x 1000	53.588	57.851
9) Income from contracts with public entities	4.185.453	3.693.417
AICS - Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo	3.311.116	2.235.359
EU – European Union	439.715	692.866
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri: 8 x 1000 governamental	-	-
Ministero dell'Interno and Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche sociali (FAMI)	76.982	230.062
Different public entities (territorial bodies, decentralized cooperation)	56.135	29.059
Cooperation agencies of other countries and international organizations	301.505	506.071
INCOME FROM: A) GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES -PRIVATE SOURCES	5.492.060	4.886.518
1) Income from membership fees and other contributions from funders	3.000	3.000
Membership fees	3.000	3.000
4) Free donations	1.399.151	1.362.201
Co-planning development and emergency projects with partners	700.690	645.169
Mission Support (SaM) activities in partner countries	698.461	717.032
6) Contributions from private entities	3.920.504	3.371.117
8 x 1000 of the Catholic Church - CEI	675.865	567.164
Caritas Italiana	497.359	2.641
Different private entities (foundations, networks, partners, other non-profit, companies)	2.657.874	2.627.441
Support to volunteers and cooperation operators in partner countries for activities of other entities	32.976	109.080
Other institutional activities in Italy and partner countries	830	8.587
Insurance reimbursements	2.623	2.037
Contribution to the Universal Civil Service and Peace Corps volunteers	52.976	54.169

DESCRIPTION OF INCOME SOURCES	2023	2022
10) Other revenues, annuities and proceeds	169.405	150.199
Networking	-	2.518
Scuola di Formazione – commercial activity	104.869	81.890
Contribution for seconded staff or in partnership	-	14.636
Reimbursements and contributions from networks	11.188	8.571
Program management closing result	53.349	42.584
INCOME FROM: C) FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES	900.737	515.591
1) Income from regular fundraising	900.737	515.591
Long Distance Support (SaD)	98.000	108.269
Emergency projects, rehabilitation and reconstruction	109.719	66.991
Development projects and micro-realizations	449.877	148.116
Support to volunteers and cooperation operators in partner countries for VIS activities	136.603	36.235
Other institutional activities in Italy and in partner countries	86.694	144.193
School twinnings	-	309
Regular fundraising campaigns	19.844	11.477
INCOME FROM : D) + E) OTHER SOURCES	25.319	420.587
Financial and patrimonial activities	20.669	162.321
Other general support income	4.650	258.266
Extraordinary income	4.650	258.266
TOTAL INCOME	10.657.158	9.573.963

From the comparison of the results of the revenues in the Management Report of the two financial years, the following notes can be deduced regarding the trends of the main sources:

- Revenues from public sources in 2023, equal to 4,239,041 euros, show an increase compared to the previous year, when revenues of this nature amounted to 3,751,268 euros. This increase was determined by the implementation and/or finalization of the implementation of various interventions, which allowed the use of greater resources provided by public donors in the financial year or set aside from previous years and from the greater number of emergency projects. The growth in public revenues occurred despite the continuing fragility of security conditions in some countries (such as Ethiopia and Eritrea), the suspension of programs in Palestine and, above all, the phase of "programmatic transition" that the organization is experiencing in various target areas. This is the phase characterized by the conclusion of important initiatives financed by public bodies and the consequent need to reprogram and restart the processes aimed at approving new interventions. The current 2024 financial year is also characterized by this phase, which will change depending on the actual evolution - in the coming years - of the conditions relating to the countries where VIS operates and the outcome of the *Calls for proposals* in which it is participating for West and East Africa.
- In the face of the increase in revenues from AICS, for the use of contributions received for important projects so-called "promoted" in Albania and Ethiopia, a CGE project and emergency interventions, there is a decrease in resources ascribable to all other public donors (EU, other Agencies and Institutions), for the conclusion and/or slowdown of the related interventions.
- Total revenues from private sources (from general interest activities, fundraising and other specific non-financial or extraordinary sources, i.e. from areas A + C) increased, reaching €6,392,797 in 2023 vs. €5,402,109 in 2022. This growth is not in itself attributable to the increase in revenues of this nature from fundraising or disbursed during the financial year, but to the use of the related resources set aside in previous years for projects and micro-projects and for the contributions received by Caritas Italiana for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and the DRC. The

trend between the two financial years in co-programming with other Salesian partners and in the CEI 8x1000 is generally stable.

- The result of revenues from other sources is clearly decreasing, which - in 2023 - totals €25,319 vs. euro 420,587 in 2022. The result was mainly determined by the absence of significant revenues both in the item "*Financial and equity assets*" and in the item "*Other general support revenues - Extraordinary revenues*".
- The contributions obtained from public donors all have specific destinations and predefined obligations of use and reporting. In the case of some of the most important funding bodies (e.g. AICS and EU, but also II.OO., International Agencies and Italian Regions), the procedures also establish that each report must be subjected to audits carried out by external auditing firms for the purposes of recognizing the eligibility of expenses and greater transparency in the use of the funds received.

4.3 EXPENDITURES

COSTS AND CHARGES	2023	2022
A) Costs and charges for general interest activities	10.443.659	8.979.695
2) Services	10.325.232	8.832.087
4) Staff	96.607	146.331
7) Different management costs	21.819	1.277
C) Costs and charges for fundraising activities	82.813	97.372
1) Expenditures for usual fundraising	37.355	44.957
3) Other expenditures	45.457	52.415
D) Costs and charges for financial and patrimonial activities	4.896	33.056
1) On banking reports	4.710	6.759
6) Other expenditures	186	26.296
E) Costs and charges for general support	286.515	84.473
2) Services	80.982	286.515
3) Use of third party assets	23.475	22.856
4) Staff	-	-
5) Depretiation	15.428	9.151
7) Different management costs	-	-
Taxation	43.823	44.539
Taxes	43.823	44.539
TOTAL	10.656.172	9.441.177

As can easily be seen from the table, the charges for "*Services*" in area A) of the "*Costs and charges of general interest activities*" represent the main cost budget line (equivalent to € 10.325.232), as this includes most of the expenditures incurred during the year for the implementation of all VIS institutional activities or general interest activities identified as such by its Bylaws, regardless of their possible commercial nature.

We refer to projects and interventions in partner countries for development cooperation, emergency, and reconstruction in support of vulnerable groups and Salesian missionary works, but also to actions implemented in Italy or in European partnerships for the GCE and awareness raising, advocacy and networking. The multifaceted and diversified nature of the programs and activities outlined above, the fact that they are often implemented in different forms of partnership and with multiple management and accounting implications, as well as the impossibility of making precise distinctions within them (especially in interventions conducted at abroad) the costs by specific nature/object, are all determining factors in considering them as identifiable, but articulated and complex units of "*services*" provided by VIS, composed of - precisely in a way that is not exactly identifiable and classifiable - supply of goods and materials,

works/installations, various services and staff employment of different nature and for different uses.

Regarding the items of the costs, it is noted that:

- the "*Staff*" costs highlighted in this area of the management report, for 96.607 euros, refer to the operational staff, in partner countries and in Italy, employed on the projects and interventions conducted by VIS, i.e. costs directly connected to the activities of general interest. These costs are not directly and correspondingly covered (in whole or in part) by the financial resources made available by the budgets approved by public and private donors and/or by donations and contributions from private individuals ascribed to area A) and, therefore, remain borne by VIS, which supports them mainly through proceeds from fundraising activities. Staff costs which, however, are directly covered (total or partial) in the approved budgets and in the contributions received from donors, are included within the aforementioned "*Services*" item corresponding to the specific initiatives and actions in which these human resources are been employed;
- the item "*Other management costs*", equal to 21.819 euros, is the balance between various items (relating to exchange differences in the ordinary management of international bank transfers/credits, commercial activity, insurance costs, networking, etc.);
- Expenditures of area C) "*Costs and charges of fundraising activities*" total euro 82.813 and include VIS activities implemented to attain donations and financial contributions aimed at finding the financial resources necessary to guarantee and support, where necessary, the pursuit of institutional purposes. We are referring to 37.355 euros for communication, dissemination, editing, printing, shipping and other activities strictly concerned with VIS usual fundraising, as well as 45.457euros for the portion of staff expenditures devoted to the same activity.

Expenditures for activities of general interest are broken down below considering their geographical destination.



EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES PER GEOGRAPHIC REGION

GEOGRAPHIC REGION	Year 2023			Year 2022		
	INCURRED EXPENDITURES	% ON TOTAL	N. Countries	INCURRED EXPENDITURES	% ON TOTAL	N. Countries
Africa	6.686.192	64,02%	14	5.339.347	59,46%	17
Latin America	73.243	0,70%	4	92.502	1,03%	6
Asia	13.164	0,13%	2	32.203	0,36%	1
Europe	2.483.669	23,78%	12	2.003.059	22,31%	13
Middle East	868.429	8,32%	3	1.187.391	13,22%	2
Multi-country	318.961	3,05%	1	325.194	3,62%	1
Total	10.443.659	100,00%	36*	9.052.147	100,00%	40*

* The number of countries specified in the table includes all those where costs have been incurred for any activity of general interest (even if not attributable to development and/or emergency projects). The number of target countries where programs and interventions were carried out in 2023 was 24.

In the table, the number of countries included in the multi-country programmes has been considered equal to 1, while in the tables in chapter 5 the target countries of the same programmes are broken down into the various regions of the world.

4.4 FUND RAISING

VIS fundraising has always been achieved thanks to the support of private citizens and, to a lesser extent, businesses, associations, and other social groups. The ways of involving donors can be summarized as follows:

- Free or generic donations (so-called "institutional")
- Remote support
- Support for missions
- Support for volunteers
- Specific projects and interventions/emergencies/campaigns

Free or generic donations (so-called "institutional"): used to support VIS operational structure for specific project destinations not covered by other private or public donors, to guarantee the financial contributions paid by the organization to the projects or for the implementation of feasibility and research activities.

SAD – Donations for Remote Support: intended to support local projects and the operators abroad dedicated to them, as reported on the website www.visostengo.it. VIS retains of the amount paid for SAD, only 15% for general expenses.

SAM – Donations for Support of missions: intended by a benefactor to a specific Salesian missionary establishment to support the educational and social activities implemented there. VIS in this case acts as a facilitator of the transfer of funds raised by donors to missionaries.

SAV – Donations for Support of volunteers: used to support expat staff when these are not covered by the project resources available, they mainly are provided by the partner Salesian Provinces or support groups and associations in Italy.

Donations for projects and specific interventions/emergencies/campaigns: intended for project initiatives developed based on needs and requirements identified in partner countries.

Contributions for weeding favours and solidarity gifts: donations collected through requests for products offered by VIS as a form of support for its initiatives.

Contributions for participation in solidarity events: funds collected during the implementation of solidarity events organized by VIS to support a project or campaigns.

The means used to involve, inform, report and invite people to donate are:

- paper mailing (addressed to approximately 9.280 people., the number decreased after activating the return to sender service with Poste Italiane to free our database from recipients who could no longer be found)
- Un Mondo Possibile magazine
- digital newsletters (addressed to different target recipients on a catchment area of approximately 5.159 people/companies/groups)
- specific sections on the websites www.volint.it and www.visostengo.it
- vacancies and sponsored posts on Facebook and Instagram
- WhatsApp messages
- publications
- specific crowdfunding collections
- project sheets and graphic material
- solidarity events

In 2023, the fundraising **campaign “War is madness”** continued above all to give voice to all the emergencies underway in the countries where we operate, Ukraine, the conflict in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Palestine, raising around 37,000 euros.

We dedicated a newsletter to the emergency in **Ukraine**, sent in February one year after the outbreak of the war, a mailing sent for Easter to all our recipients and a special appeal addressed to a target of 263 people who already supported the country.

Under the umbrella of the “War is madness” campaign, we dedicated two mailings to the **Democratic Republic of Congo**: on Mother’s Day and at Christmas. In the displaced persons camp at the Don Bosco Ngangi center, the Salesians and our operators are committed to ensuring food, water and medical assistance to thousands of people who have left their homes due to the ongoing conflict, which worsened in November.

At the beginning of February, we dedicated a special mailing to the emergency in **Palestine**, aimed at a target of 424 donors who were already supporters of the country.

Also for Palestine, we started a fundraiser to support the second edition of the Summer Camp organized with Inter Campus for Palestinian children in particularly vulnerable conditions. The initiative raised 3,475 euros, thanks to the participation of 42 donors. We used the newsletter and social media posts as tools.

During the year, VIS fundraising was activated to support interventions in other countries as well.

In February, we took action to respond to the emergency caused by the devastating earthquake that hit **Syria and Turkey**. To speed up the process, we decided to launch an appeal for immediate help through a newsletter and in just a few days, over 13,000 euros were raised thanks to the generous response of 47 donors.

In March we sent a newsletter to support the project in **Angola** “Pessoa com deficiência Física Também é Um de Nós” (“Even the person with physical disabilities is one of us”) and to raise resources for the purchase of aids (wheelchairs and handbikes) aimed at the inclusion of young people with physical disabilities. As a tool for collecting donations, we used the crowdfunding platform “Buona Causa”.

On the reopening of schools, in October we dedicated a mailing and a newsletter to the new campaign “**Strada Facendo - Facciamoli ritorno a scuola**” in favor of girls, boys and young people in street situations in **Angola and Ghana**.

During the year, between March and July, we finally promoted our 5x1000 campaign, which has an “institutional” purpose like free/generic donations. For the third and final year we used the communication line with Don Bosco’s phrase “Education is a matter of the heart” and the subtitle “We put our heart and soul into ensuring a future for young people through education”. The

campaign was disseminated through the magazine, two newsletters and regular posts on social media.

Finally, during the year, two editions (the XXIV and XXV) of our wine **tasting event “Territori DiVini”** were organized, in July and for the first time during the day in December as a Christmas event. The two events were promoted on all VIS digital communication channels and were linked as fundraisers to VIS institutional activities.

Finally, we highlight, as a cross-cutting element to the entire fundraiser, that starting from the “Strada Facendo” campaign, we began to experiment with a new communication formula with our donors, renewing the style of texts and graphics, thanks to the support of an external consultant and a new printing and shipping service offered by a marketing and communication agency.

PROCEEDS COLLECTED*						
Type	2023			2022		
	Nr. Donors	Nr. Donations	Amount	Nr. Donors	Nr. Donations	Amount
Individuals or families	1.605	2.934	478.601	1.697	3.264	488.316
Social bodies [groups, associations, communities, parishes, and partners]	82	147	1.368.436	86	134	1.533.844
Companies	16	22	17.170	16	26	23.933
Total	1.703	3.103	1.864.207	1.799	3.424	2.046.093

* The amounts of income specified in the table - unlike those presented in the sections of the financial statements - are recognized according to the cash principle and not on an accrual basis: i.e. they are the revenues actually collected in 2023 and 2022 and not those attributed for temporal competence for the two financial years.



The proceeds considered in the balance sheet - according to the accrual criterion - as strictly determined by fundraising activities, equal to 900,737 euros (vs. 515,591 euros in 2022), constitute 8.47% of the total proceeds net of financial/patrimonial and general support proceeds. As already outlined, this growth is not in itself attributable to the increase in proceeds from fundraising or disbursed during the financial year (as demonstrated, in fact, by the previous table), but to the use of the related resources set aside in previous years for projects, micro-projects and support activities. The amount received for the 5 per thousand, equal to 53,588 euros (which, based on ministerial provisions, is placed among the proceeds from activities of general interest in the management report) must also be considered.

YEAR	TOTAL IN €	AMOUNT OF PREFERENCES	NUMBER OF PREFERENCES	AVERAGE IN €
2022	53.588	51.997	1.028	50,58
2021	57.851	56.139	1.154	49
2020	63.179	61.099	1.301	46,96

On this point, it is noted that the trend of the disbursements assigned to the organization in this capacity in recent years has been decreasing, above all because of the strong competition not only with the other non-profit actors benefiting from the 5 x 1000, but also with other entities belonging to the varied composition of the Salesian Family in Italy at national and local level.

5. OTHER INFORMATION

5.1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Relevance of the theme for VIS

Attention to the environment and environmental management, understood both as a concern for environmental sustainability and as an enhancement of natural capital and ecosystem services, is a theme that VIS defines as a priority, albeit in the process of maturing as a general policy. The approach adopted by the organization is now widely used by environmental mainstreaming, i.e. the cross-cutting integration of environmental aspects and impacts, which must characterize all types of projects and initiatives undertaken. The ethical background in which is incorporated VIS commitment to promoting environmental sustainability is integral ecology, an approach well described and urged by Pope Francis in the encyclical *Laudato si'*.

VIS educational mission, which aims to promote the economic and social well-being of peoples, the most disadvantaged, cannot therefore neglect the attention to the environmental dimension of development activities, which have a direct impact on the health of our "Common home" and on the quality of life of all human beings, with greater effects in developing countries.

In line with what will be the 2024 objectives of the definition of the commitment to the environment, 2023 was characterized by the launch of the AICS/ECG project "Testiamoci per il Futuro", referred to in section 5, dedicated to the theme of environmental sustainability and climate change. The project, through training courses, participation and elements of innovation, aims to:

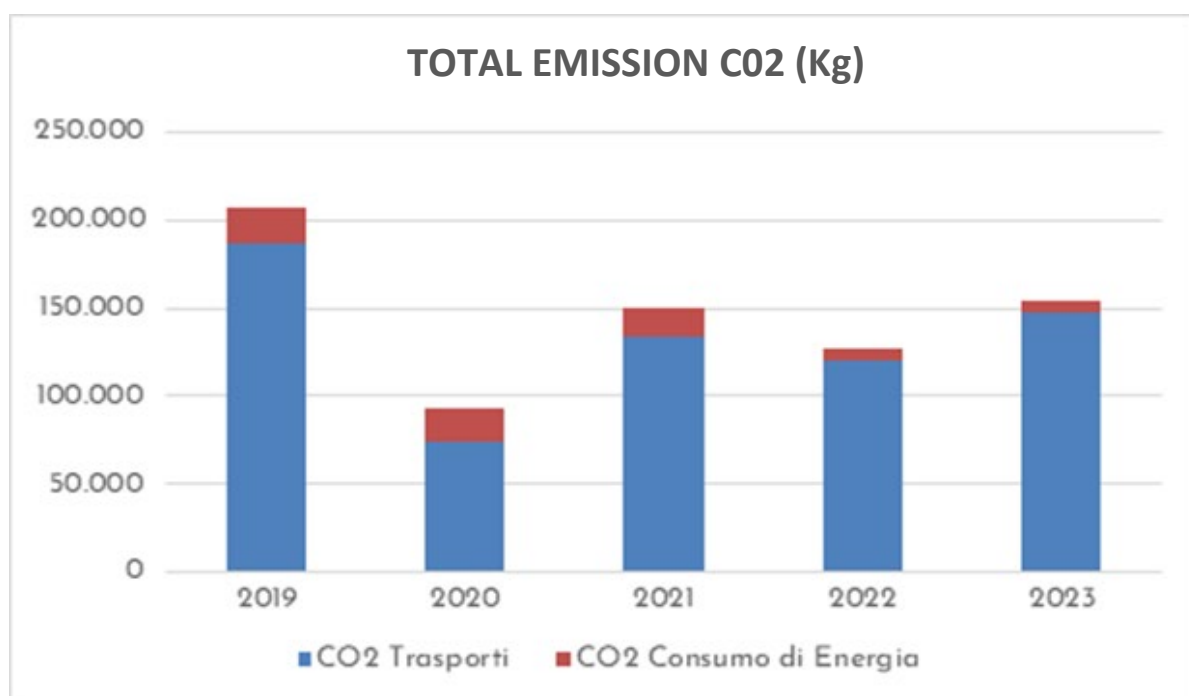
- increase the **knowledge and skills** of the beneficiaries and begins to offer alternative models of **sustainable thinking and lifestyles**;
- allow them to try out tests, games and challenges on a platform, to delve into global and local issues and lead them to actions aimed at **mitigating climate change** and other environmental problems in the area, through personal and collective responsibility;
- create a **Pilot Plan for Environmental Sustainability** that monitors consumption and environmental impact and allows the adoption of concrete actions for their reduction.

Data on VIS environmental impact

VIS staff mobility and the consumption of electricity and heating are the elements that have the greatest impact on the environmental impact directly determined by VIS activities.

The relevant data provided below concerns the activities implemented by VIS both in Italy and in the countries in which it carries out interventions. It refers to the four-year period 2019-2023 with the following specifications:

- air trips are those strictly linked to VIS activities and do not include trips made on a personal basis by expat staff for purposes not linked to VIS activities;
- electricity consumption refers to Italy, Albania, Angola, Burundi, Palestine, DR Congo, Senegal, Egypt, and Ethiopia, excluding Bolivia and Ghana; However, for some countries only the consumption of a few years is present;
- methane consumption is calculated only for the headquarters in Italy, as it is not present in other countries.



Overall, greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 amounted to 154 tons, with an increase of 22 % compared to 2022.

In general, there is a constancy in energy consumption in the structures between 2022 and 2023. Travel remains a very impactful element, recording a notable increase in Italy (+1473%), Congo (+216%) and Senegal (+112%). However, there is a decrease in the use of cars in Italy (-30%) and an increase in Senegal (+155%) due to project activities.

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DONATIONS

Online

www.volint.it/vis/donazioni

Banca Popolare Etica

VIS - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo
IBAN IT59Z0501803200000015588551

Conto Corrente Postale

VIS - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo
Numero 88182001
IBAN IT16Z0760103200000088182001