



Together we can make the world  
a better place.

# **COOPI | Annual Report 2019**

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A YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

## COOPI is a Participatory

**Foundation**, registered in the Registry of Legal Entities of the prefecture of Milan.

**It is an NGO** registered in the list of civil society organizations pursuant to art. 26 of the Italian Law n. 125 of 11 August 2014.

**It is an ONLUS** by right pursuant to the Italian Legislative Decree n. 460 of 4/12/1997.

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COOPI can receive funds for projects, donations from firms, private individuals and legacies. For information: [coopi@coopi.org](mailto:coopi@coopi.org) - [www.coopi.org](http://www.coopi.org)

### HOW TO DONATE :

- Post office current account 990200 "COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale ONG Onlus"
- Current account Banca Popolare Etica IBAN IT89A0501801600000011023694 "COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale ONG Onlus"
- Online: [www.coopi.org](http://www.coopi.org)



## Vision

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COOPI dreams of a world without poverty, able to mirror the ideals of equality and justice, sustainable development and social cohesion thanks to the coming together and cooperation between all people.

## Mission

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With the engagement, motivation, determination and professionalism of its staff, COOPI aims at fighting poverty and developing the communities it works with all over the world by intervening in emergency situations, reconstruction and development in order to achieve a better balance between the North and South of the world, between underdeveloped or developing areas.

## Values

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**Solidarity - Transparency - Neutrality**

**Participation - Sustainability of the intervention**

**Responsibility - Transfer of knowledge**

**Innovation - Respect for diversity and  
fight against discrimination**

**Empowerment of Human Resources**



PHOTO: CORALIE MANERI

# Editorial

It is a pleasure for me to present COOPI's Annual Report for the year 2019. In the following pages you will read a summary of our commitment to supporting communities of the Global South and you will find detailed news about the results we obtained and the means used to obtain them. Obviously, we will talk about those activities carried out last year, but yet as I write these lines and you read them, what happened a year ago seems light-years away. The "Coronavirus storm" has upset not only the daily lives of us all, but also the activities of NGOs engaged in development.

COOPI has also activated many health education and prevention initiatives in all the contexts in which it is present and has increased food aid in Italy, in the districts of Milan where poverty has reached unacceptable levels. However, this is not something I will spend much time on here, although it is a little known problem in Italy.

The Covid emergency is likely to have catastrophic effects on development goals, especially in the most fragile countries. Perhaps, the most striking example is given by Objective 2 (Zero Hunger): the Covid-19 pandemic could almost double the number of people in the world suffering from acute hunger by the end of 2020. Objective 1 (No Poverty) will also certainly suffer a strong slowdown: the World Bank estimates a decrease of between 2 and 5% in Africa, on an annual basis. And our experience tells us that the slowdowns in the economies are regularly paid for by the poorest classes of the society.

In other sectors, troubling results are also expected: UNESCO estimates that approximately 1.25 billion students will have difficulties in continuing their studies, placing a serious threat on the achievement of Objective 4 (Quality Education), while the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that around 25 million people could lose their jobs, compromising Objective 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Negative results are also expected in the achievement of Objective 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Objectives 5 and 10 (Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities) and - obviously - Objective 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

In situations like these, organizations such as COOPI are called on to play an important role: exploit the vast experience in the field in favor of development - well documented in the following pages - and limit the effects of a pandemic on the economic and human growth of the populations we work with. Today, more than ever, we are called on to respond to the emergency and to be increasingly effective and innovative in finding solutions that, from time to time and despite everything, allow us to continue the journey with strength. 55 years of experience in defense of vulnerable populations put COOPI at the forefront also in this battle: we are ready and as always, we expect to have you by our side.



Limiting the effects of the pandemic on the economic and human growth of the populations we work with: 55 years of experience in defense of vulnerable populations put COOPI at the forefront also in this battle. We are ready and as always, we expect to have you by our side.

**Claudio Ceravolo**  
COOPI's President

# Letter of the Director

In 2019 COOPI experienced a decisive consolidation of the strategic approach and development lines launched in previous years, reaching an increasing number of beneficiaries this year as well. The regional approach to humanitarian crises has allowed us to continue to develop a broader vision and a stronger capacity for intervention. This was confirmed through the effective operations in the Venezuelan crisis as well as the further strengthening and execution of the interventions within the Syrian crisis and that of the Lake Chad Basin.

Also in 2019 we started activities in new countries: Jordan, Mauritania and Venezuela, closely connected with those in which we were already operating, confirming the choice of a regional approach. In line with COOPI's mission, emergency response interventions have been accompanied by development projects that have made it possible to start new businesses and open new growth prospects in particularly vulnerable contexts in many of the countries in which we operate. In addition, we continued to promote innovation in the field, especially in key sectors such as Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction. The distribution of food in Italy to destitute people also increased in 2019, in response to an ever-growing demand. This activity then accelerated sharply in 2020 as a consequence of the crisis that broke out with the Covid-19 pandemic.

For COOPI, 2019 was also the year in which we became more consistent as a decentralized organization. The 5 Regional Coordinations - West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean - all play and will increasingly play a central role by bringing the decision-making process closer to the realities in which we operate, ensuring that COOPI becomes a local presence and increasingly involves its beneficiaries in decisions. For the central office, on the other hand, a role of general direction, support and control of the overall work of the organization remains constant.

2019 for COOPI was therefore a year of significant commitment and consolidation. However, it is not possible to talk about this without highlighting what happened next. The Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic has shocked the whole international scenario and called on humanitarian workers to make their contribution in managing an emergency that has affected practically all countries throughout the world. Wherever COOPI operates, it has promoted and is promoting a transversal intervention for the prevention and contrast of the pandemic, which unfortunately also affects extremely vulnerable countries with seriously deficient health systems.

I therefore thank all those who have collaborated with COOPI in 2019 and those who are facing the new challenges confronting us: it is undoubtedly in moments like these that organizations like ours can and must react swiftly using our long and consolidated experience in emergency management and putting effective interventions in place that allow for restarting.



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**Ennio Miccoli**  
COOPI's Director

# Who is COOPI



PHOTO: HARENA STUDIO

**COOPI – Cooperazione Internazionale is an Italian nonprofit organization, founded in Milan on April 15, 1965 by Father Vincenzo Barbieri.**

For over 50 years COOPI has been committed to breaking the cycle of poverty and supporting populations affected by war, socio-economic crises or natural disasters move towards recovery and sustainable development, through the professionalism of local and international aid workers and by partnerships with public entities, private donors and civil society.

COOPI is a Participatory Foundation that in 2019 was present in **31 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, with 225 humanitarian projects reaching 5,233,639 people.** In 2019, COOPI expanded its presence to

3 new countries: Jordan, Mauritania and Venezuela.

Engaged in some of the most serious **humanitarian crises** on the planet and increasingly active in supporting **migrants and refugees** in Africa and the Middle East, COOPI also stands out internationally for its aid in **maternal and child malnutrition** and the promotion of **food security**, for its **protection** of conflict victims and the **promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples**, as well as for its introduction of **renewable energy** in difficult contexts and its work in **disaster risk reduction**.

COOPI plans its interventions with a multi-country regional approach, increasingly accompanied by a marked decentralization towards the areas of intervention, which allows it to be progressively effective and to involve its beneficiaries in decisions and activities.

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Since 1965, COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale has helped more than **100 million people with 2,300 projects in 71 countries**, employing a total of around **4,700 expat aid workers and 60,000 local professionals and aid workers.**

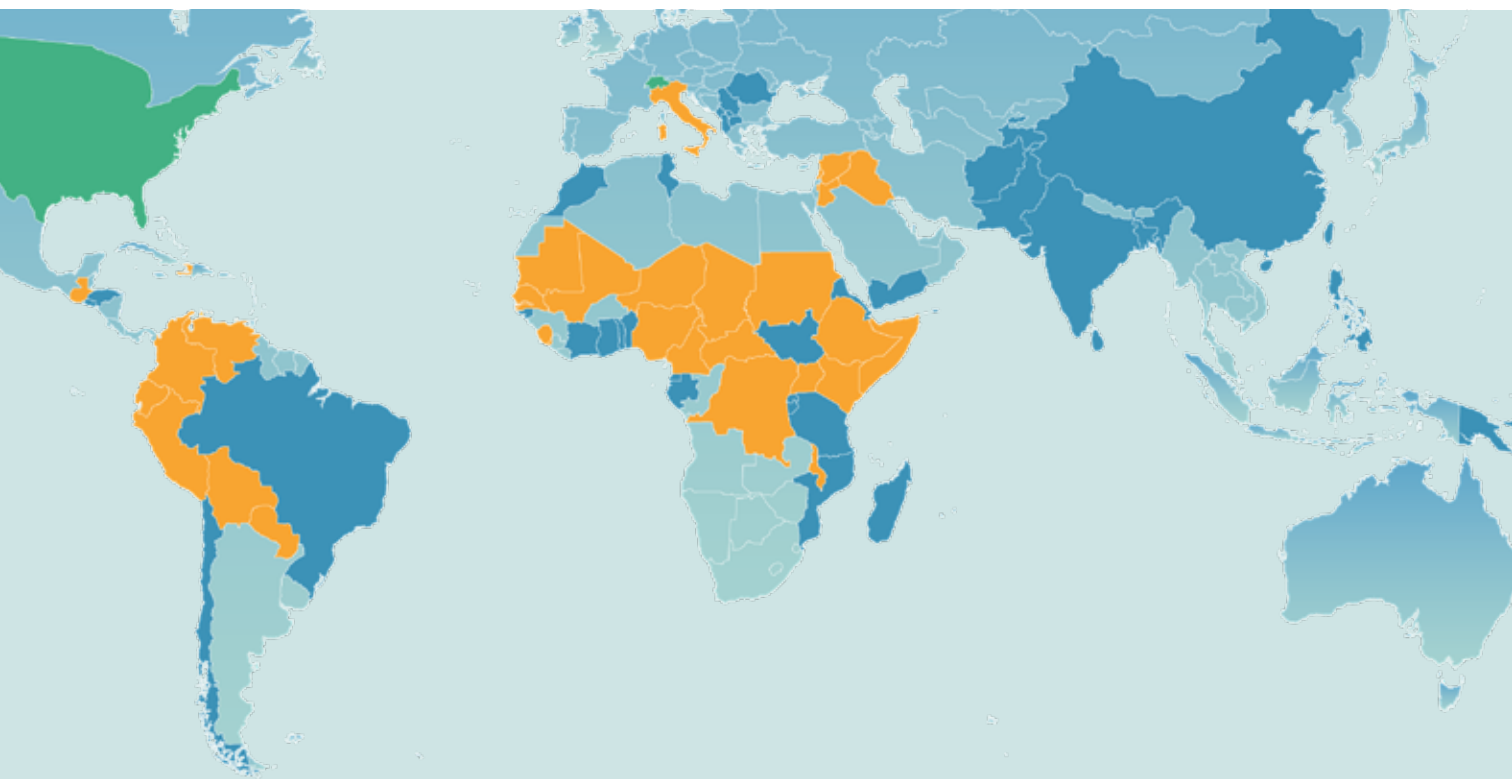


## Who is COOPI

**Countries where  
COOPI operates today**

**Countries where  
COOPI worked in the past**

**In addition to Italy, COOPI is also active with  
advocacy and fundraising campaigns in the USA,  
through the American Friends of COOPI, and in  
Switzerland, thanks to the COOPI Suisse association.**



COOPI'S NUMBERS	2019	2018	2017
<b>Countries</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Projects</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>238</b>
• International and Italian Projects	206	222	212
• Child Sponsorship Program	19	19	26
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>5,233,639</b>	<b>4,739,543</b>	<b>2,957,914</b>
• Beneficiaries of International and Italian Projects	5,232,011	4,737,603	2,956,000
• Beneficiaries of Child Sponsorship Program	1,628	1,940	1,914
<b>N. International aid workers</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>N. Professionals and aid workers</b>	<b>2,630</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>N. Staff in Italy</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>N. Volunteers in Italy</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>N. Regional headquarters and local groups</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

# COOPI and the Italian International Cooperation

**On April 15, 1965, Father Barbieri founded COOPI.** But the story of COOPI begins earlier, as early as 1961, when the young Jesuit, Vincenzo Barbieri, was sent by his superiors to study in Lyon at the Faculty of Theology, to prepare for his future work as a missionary in Chad. In France, Barbieri experienced a cultural environment much livelier and more open than the one that permeated Italy in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council and came into contact with laity movements that had been engaged for years with volunteer efforts in developing countries. In 1962, Barbieri decided not



## The Sixties and Seventies

### From volunteering to projects

Shortly after its foundation, Father Barbieri trains and sends lay people abroad for mission work lasting at least 2 years, and contributes to the drafting of the Pedini Law, which establishes international civil service in Italy.

A few years later, COOPI runs the first project funded by the Italian government in Malta: the use of public funds leads the association to develop a more comprehensive project.



## The Eighties and Nineties

### From emergency interventions to collaboration with international institutions

The Ogaden crisis in Somalia leads COOPI to carry out the first emergency project in 1980. In 1993 COOPI is one of the first European NGOs to sign a partnership agreement with ECHO. During the ongoing genocide in Rwanda, it brings

home 15,000 unaccompanied and separated minors. In the following years, COOPI begins to assist children associated with armed groups in Sierra Leone and participates in the "Missione Arcobaleno" (Rainbow Mission).





to depart as a missionary, but returned to Milan with the intention of training volunteers destined for the Global South. He is the one who introduced lay people into the mission field and founded “Cooperazione Internazionale.” The term is thus used for the first time to identify the laity component in missions work. **From here began the journey of more than 50 years during which COOPI and the Italian International Cooperation with all its multiple voices has grown and transformed together.**



**The early  
2000s**



**From 2010 to today**

### “The COOPI approach” leaves its mark

In different parts of the world, the name, COOPI, is increasingly associated with expertise regarding specific issues. In 2002 the “therapeutic community cure” approach is introduced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to save children from malnutrition and is later adopted as government

protocol. In 2004 COOPI inaugurates the first “disaster risk reduction” project in Ecuador. In 2007, with the success of the first hospital that integrates official and traditional medicine, COOPI inaugurates the intercultural approach that will be adopted by Bolivia to promote indigenous health and justice.



### Innovation and integration to increase impact

**In 2011 and 2012** COOPI makes innovation a distinctive element of its interventions. To reduce the disaster risk in Malawi, it maps the territory using mobile and satellite technologies, actively involving local communities. The Ethiopian government rewards COOPI's project for giving access to renewable energy in Ethiopia for the benefits it brings to communities. **In 2015** COOPI turns 50. On the

occasion of this important anniversary, COOPI presents its 2015-2020 Strategy and publishes its first Annual Report focused on Social Accountability.

**Since 2016**, COOPI deals with humanitarian crises with an integrated regional approach and is increasingly active in the fields of protection for refugees and migrants and education in emergency.

**In 2019** COOPI approves the adoption of a decentralized organizational model.



To find out more about COOPI's history, visit the history page on the website [www.coopi.org](http://www.coopi.org).

# Policy and Guidelines

COOPI writes policies on key issues for its operators based on consolidated experience that has been developing for over fifty years of work in the field.

The policy and guidelines illustrate the organization's position on the issues starting from the definition of the international theoretical framework within which the work approach is developed and on which it is based.

The Policies have a twofold objective: they help the organization discuss central issues for its programs by sharing and agreeing on the work approach and at the same time make explicit the institutional position with respect to relevant issues. The policies therefore complete the values, vision and mission by articulating in greater depth the working methods and the strategy underlying the programs

defined by the organization.

Furthermore, in conjunction with each policy, a Standard Operating Procedures document is prepared which translates the theoretical level into the practical aspects of program management, allowing operators to implement what has been expressed and render the interventions sustainable and effective.

In 2019 COOPI approved the Policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and began drafting a guidance document and guidelines on the Energy Access sector.

## COOPI's Policy and Guidelines

**Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**  
(2019)

**Education in Emergency**  
(2018)

**Nutrition Security**  
(2017)

**Protection** (2016)

**Gender** (2015)

**Food Security**  
(2014)

**Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction** (2013)

**Childhood** (2011)

**Corporate social responsibility** (2011)



COOPI's policies can be consulted on the website **[www.cooi.org](http://www.cooi.org)** on the Policy page.

# Governance and Organization



PHOTO: EVELYN FEY

COOPI has more than 50 years of history behind it, during which the organization has grown steadily and is structured to face the challenges of an ever evolving International Cooperation.

In 2010 COOPI was transformed from an Association into a Participatory Foundation; a change that both demonstrates its maturity and offers the Organization greater stability through strengthening its reliability with donors and allows for greater participation by stakeholders in the Global South to be involved in decision-making processes and field activities.

**Today COOPI is a Foundation that has 70 Founding Members**, whose purpose is “contributing to a harmonious and integrated development of the communities with which it cooperates, in the knowledge that through contact and cooperation between peoples it is possible to achieve the ideals of equality and justice for a better world balance” (Statute, art. 2.01).

However, these transformations have not affected its identity nor its founding values, as established within the organization’s

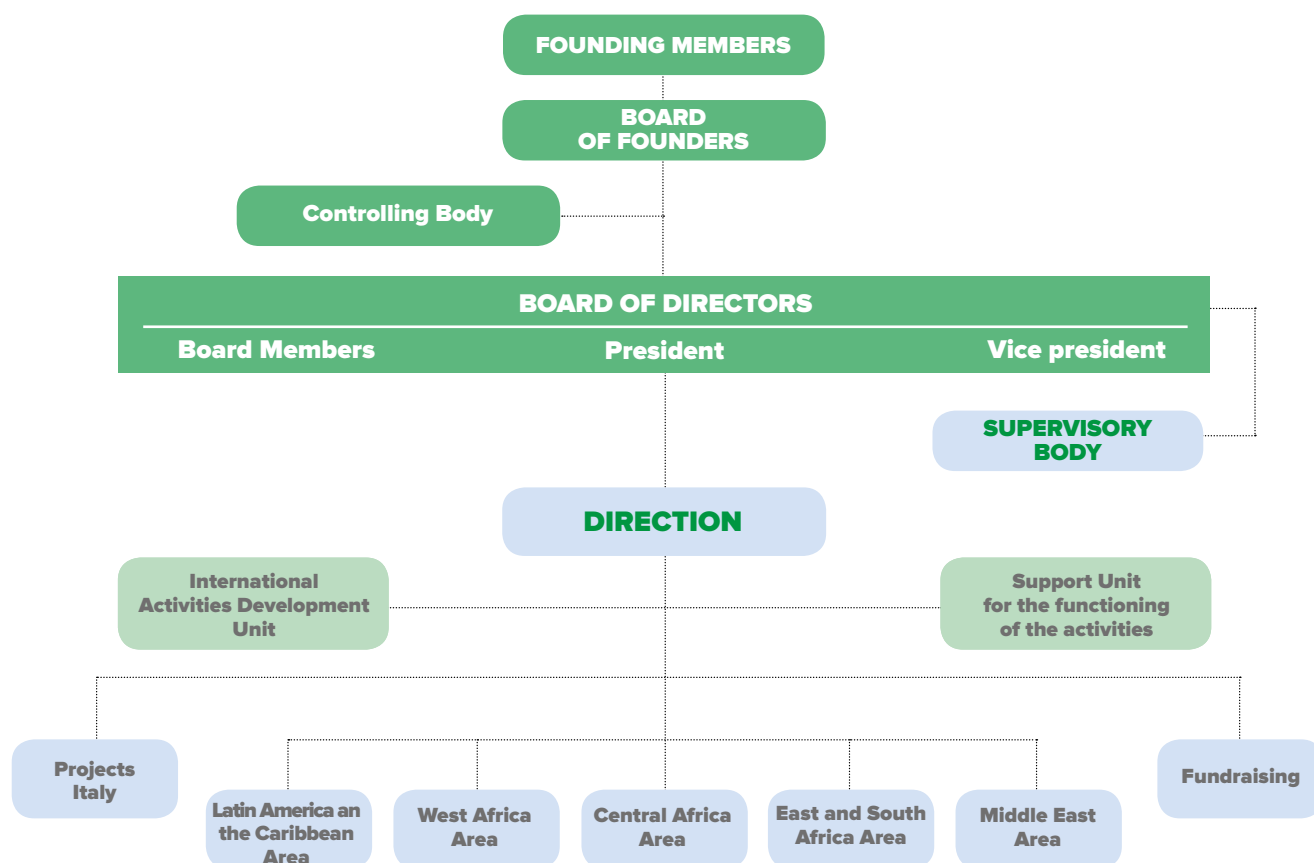
Charter of Values and shared by the people who adhere to and collaborate with it.

**Credibility and reputation are invaluable for COOPI.** COOPI therefore believes it is essential to clearly express the values, principles and responsibilities that guide its behavior in relations with donors, beneficiaries, project partners, people who work with COOPI and with any other party interested in the organization’s activities. Through the **Code of Ethics**, approved in 2012, COOPI attests for its accountability towards stakeholders in its mission and values, in the effectiveness of activities undertaken, in the efficiency of its organizational structure, and in its legitimacy as an NGO and its mechanisms for protecting legality.

## Who is COOPI

In the last fifteen years COOPI has made a very important **change** at the managerial level that is seen in the **decentralization of the organizational model** approved in 2019. In recent years an Organizational Model has been defined and adopted which follows the indications provided by the Italian Legislative Decree 231. A clear organizational structure has therefore been defined which includes, inter alia: the organizational chart, the functional areas and the roles of the operating structure; processes and activities; internal procedures. COOPI also has an independent Supervisory Body, which functions to check the adequacy of the organizational procedures and which met 9 times

during 2019. COOPI's organizational chart has also been revised several times in recent years. Today the adoption of a decentralized organizational model leads to the establishment of a Regional Coordination for each area of intervention of COOPI: West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Coordinations play a key role by bringing the decision-making closer to the area of intervention, validating COOPI at the local level and increasing the involvement of a project's beneficiaries in its decisions. The headquarters, on the other hand, confirm the general direction, support and control of the overall work.



In 2019 the Board of Founders met once, the Board of Directors 8 times, and the Board of Auditors (now referred to as the Controlling Body) 3 times. No member of the Foundation's governing bodies receives any compensation for the office held and the activity performed in relation to their office.



COOPI's **Statutes** and **Code of Ethics** can be downloaded visiting the "Documents" section of the website, [www.cooopi.org](http://www.cooopi.org)



## Evolution of COOPI's organizational structure

This section of the Annual Report intends to reconstruct the evolution of the organizational structure of COOPI, starting with key planning in 2019 and completed in the first half of 2020, with the assistance of Professor Luigi Serio, Lecturer of Economics and Business Management at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan.

The basic idea is to give greater operational autonomy to the organizational units in the areas, through a progressive divisionalisation of the structure, organized by geographical groupings and consistency of activities. The general objectives can be summarized as:

- Consolidate COOPI's growth process through a **more fluid organizational structure** aimed at **timely decision making** and bringing the **decision-making moment as close as possible to field operations**, shifting the emphasis from role and **control to competence**;
- Align with the **organizational evolution** of the Cooperation sector, in which, both **large NGOs** and **international donors** have widely implemented **policies of strong decentralization** in recent years;
- Encourage greater **participation and assumption of responsibility by local, public and private partners**, reducing their dependence on COOPI in areas of intervention and making its **initiatives less exogenous and more connected to their contexts**, in line with COOPI's philosophy of values and intervention.

The project also allowed for specific attention to be given to the **evolution of its headquarters**, the Milan office, through a change in the management process aimed at facilitating the implementation of the decentralization project. According to this logic, the central staff gradually shift to a role of **support and service for the decentralized operating units**, becoming

on the one hand, centers of competence and monitoring for each individual area, and on the other hand, centers of superior control that guarantee international donors through a monitoring process.

The central staff are organized into two sub-units with complementary and synergistic functions: **Support Unit for the functioning of activities** and **Support Unit for the development of international activities**.

The following functions are included in the Support Unit for the functioning of activities: **General Secretariat, Administration and Finance, Institutional Representation, Institutional Communication, Human Resources, Monitoring and Evaluation**.

The **Support Unit for the development of international activities** has the general objective of sharing the progress and supporting international activities from a planning and management point of view. The Unit consists of two main sub-units:

- **"Development and Knowledge"** whose main objectives are the nourishment and enhancement of COOPI's know-how;
- **"Development and Management"** whose main objectives relate to the qualitative monitoring of the projects, the maintenance of the control systems and the administrative compliance of the projects to be presented.

# Human Resources



COOPI is a non-governmental organization that has 56 people working at the headquarters, including employees and collaborators, 135 expat aid workers and around 2,630 local aid workers. In addition 144 people occasionally collaborate for specific fundraising campaigns, together with 250 volunteers.

COOPI collaborates with experienced development and cooperation professionals. The attention in the annual selection among tens of thousands of resumes from all over the world, punctual and targeted training interventions, an interest in creating continuous relationships, and the value placed on human resources guarantee the presence of competent and motivated people.

The effective start of the **decentralization process**, a fundamental organizational evolution for COOPI, was the fulcrum around which the staff selection and training activities were organized in 2019. The introduction and structuring, even in Regions where they were not previously present, has led COOPI to select managerial profiles with proven and consolidated experience in the field.

For the frontline management of **technical teams** engaged in direct activities with local partners and beneficiaries, 2019 saw **87 professionals working with COOPI on the African**

**continent, 16 in Latin America** and **12 in Asia**, as well as a network of technical consultants, always able to intervene quickly, punctually and flexibly in specific, complex and constantly evolving situations.



## The team in numbers

**43 employees and 13 collaborators**  
including 35 women and 21 men

**135 expat aid workers in force**  
including 63 Italians, 15 from other European nationalities, 57 from various states in the world

**2,630 local professionals and aid workers** approximately

## Who is COOPI

The work of the staff at headquarters and of the expat aid workers is periodically assessed through processes and tools that allow for active intervention to improve skills.

In 2019, in addition to pre-departure induction days and the **training** and **technical update** of classrooms, a major focus was given to **digital media support**, dynamic tools to effectively accompany the implementation of the decentralized model as a whole, bringing the headquarters and local areas closer together and intervening in the country on diverse levels.

COOPI follows good practices in the area of health and safety at work to protect all office staff. For departing staff there are various opportunities for information and visualization of instructions provided through the guidelines ("expatriate guide"), procedures and training material. In particular COOPI has drawn up the "Health Guide" which provides instructions adopted by all the organizations that refer to SISCOS (organization that provides assistance and insurance services to NGOs operating in International Cooperation).



## Training: highlights

Training course for project administrators with immediate **insertion of 5 new resources on the field**

**15 new e-learning tools** developed

**Itinerant administrative training program**



## Training: key numbers



**In-house induction** for expat aid operators leaving for 22 countries

**704 man/hours**



**Continuous updating - webinar**, for operators abroad

**54 man/hours**



**E - learning provision for expat aid operators leaving**

**96 man/hours**



**Continuous training transversal skills** - face to face, for head office operators

**48 man/hours**



**Technical update** - face to face, for workers at headquarters

**46 man/hours**

## COOPI meeting



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

The IX edition of the COOPI Meeting, a yearly event that brings together the managers of the Foundation who work in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America with the staff of the headquarters in Milan had **decentralization** as its main theme in 2019. The sharing of information, teamwork and reflections for the future focused on this issue. The annual meeting concluded with an update on the activities underway in the four continents, as well as on the operational support news from headquarters.

COOPI Meeting 2019 was attended by 98 people including international aid staff, headquarters staff, technical consultants, volunteers and members of the Board of Directors.

# A networking organization



It is in the nature of NGOs like COOPI to operate in a network by collaborating, supporting and obtaining support from a plurality of subjects belonging to realities often very distinct from each other: geographically, culturally, economically.

This characteristic increasingly makes COOPI a facilitator that **helps bring together** social needs - often extreme - and useful resources, **promotes the local economy** and the **empowerment** of populations in the Global South, **strengthens the impacts of interventions** in the field, **feeds a virtuous circle of trust with financiers and donors** and **promotes cultural change also in the Global North**.

Some independent organizations are also part of the COOPI network, but they were created to support COOPI's activities and systematically collaborate with the organization, **American Friends of COOPI** and **COOPI Suisse**.

**COOPI considers it essential to operate in a network with international and local partners to provide adequate responses to humanitarian crises and ensure the construction**

**of sustainable development paths** thanks to the integration of the various expertise, the enhancement of advocacy skills, the exchange of experiences and integration between research and action.

Furthermore, COOPI carries out numerous training initiatives throughout Italy to promote knowledge of the professions of International Cooperation. In terms of post-graduate education programs, COOPI participates in the Cooperation & Development Network which includes the Masters of Pavia, Cartagena de Indias, Bethlehem, Kathmandu and Nairobi.



To find out more about American Friends of COOPI visit the website **[www.coopi.us](http://www.coopi.us)**. To find out more about COOPI Suisse visit the website **[suisse.coopi.org](http://suisse.coopi.org)**.



# Network

## Universities and Research Centers



## International Participation



**CSO-Net**  
ECOSOC Civil Society Network



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



**INEE** | An international network for  
education in emergencies



## Organizations



COOPI is also a member of the Piattaforma Italiana Multisetoriale sull'Energia (Italian Multisectoral Energy Platform).

It also participates, as a member of the Global Compact, in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. It is represented through the Global Health Italian Network at: Global Fund Advocates Network • G7 Civil Society Task Force • GCAP (Global Coalition against Poverty- Italy) • ZeroZeroCinque Campaign. As a member of Link 2007, COOPI adheres to: ASviS (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) • IAP (Institute for Self-Regulation Advertising) • Permanent Third Sector Forum. As an associate of CoLombia, COOPI participates in the AOI (Italian NGO Association).

# Regional approach, decentralization and innovation: the COOPI strategy

## Areas of intervention

Among the **priority areas of intervention for COOPI today** are **support for refugees** and **education in emergency**: issues that in recent years have imposed themselves on the international scene, often in the form of dramatic emergencies, demanding immediate interventions and catalyzing huge efforts on the part of operators within the International Cooperation. Additionally, in 2020, a powerful transverse intervention was added to **combat the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic** (SARS-CoV-2) which is affecting all the Regions in which COOPI operates, extremely vulnerable countries with seriously deficient health systems.

**The most consolidated sectors of COOPI's operations**, referred to in the 2015-2020 Strategy - "Together we can make the world a better place" remain at the center of the

programming, especially as regards the development projects: **Food Security, Nutrition Security, Protection, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction** are the backbone of COOPI's more than fifty years of activity worldwide.

**Access to sustainable energy** represents a **new challenge**: Energy has now become a **specific and vital sector** for the world of International Cooperation, so much so that the theme has been included in the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Furthermore, by its nature, the issue of energy and climate change is strongly **connected to important and consolidated sectors of development cooperation**, from food and nutrition security to water management, from health to education, from environmental protection to the prevention of disaster risks.

In addition to international activities, COOPI is also developing some interventions to combat **poverty in Italy**, in collaboration with other Third Sector operators in the area.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

## Regional approach, decentralization, innovation

In the design and implementation of its interventions, COOPI increasingly adopts a **multi-country regional approach**, considering this indispensable for facing the challenges posed in recent years by the global humanitarian scenario. The 2015-2020 Strategy - “Together we can make the world a better place” defines **5 priority regions** of intervention for COOPI: **West Africa, Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean**.

**Effectiveness and quality** of the response to humanitarian crises, **promotion of innovation** in the field, and **active involvement** of all participants characterize COOPI's field activities, a value recognized by the **most authoritative**

**international institutional donors**.

In close correlation with the development of field activities, COOPI has also pursued challenging functional objectives in recent years. Among these, a constant adaptation of the **organizational structure** which includes a **systematic decentralization** of both the decision-making process and accreditation at the managerial and operational level (see paragraph “Governance and Organization”). Other “internal” lines of development are the strengthening of **partnerships**, the continuous development of skills, the internal capitalization and sharing of **know-how**, the growth of **fundraising** and **accountability** towards all stakeholders.



It is possible to consult the COOPI 2015-2020 Strategy “Together we can make the world a better place” at **[www.cooi.org](http://www.cooi.org)**.



PHOTO: HARENA STUDIO

# COOPI's imprint

In 2019 COOPI was present in 31 countries around the world, including Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

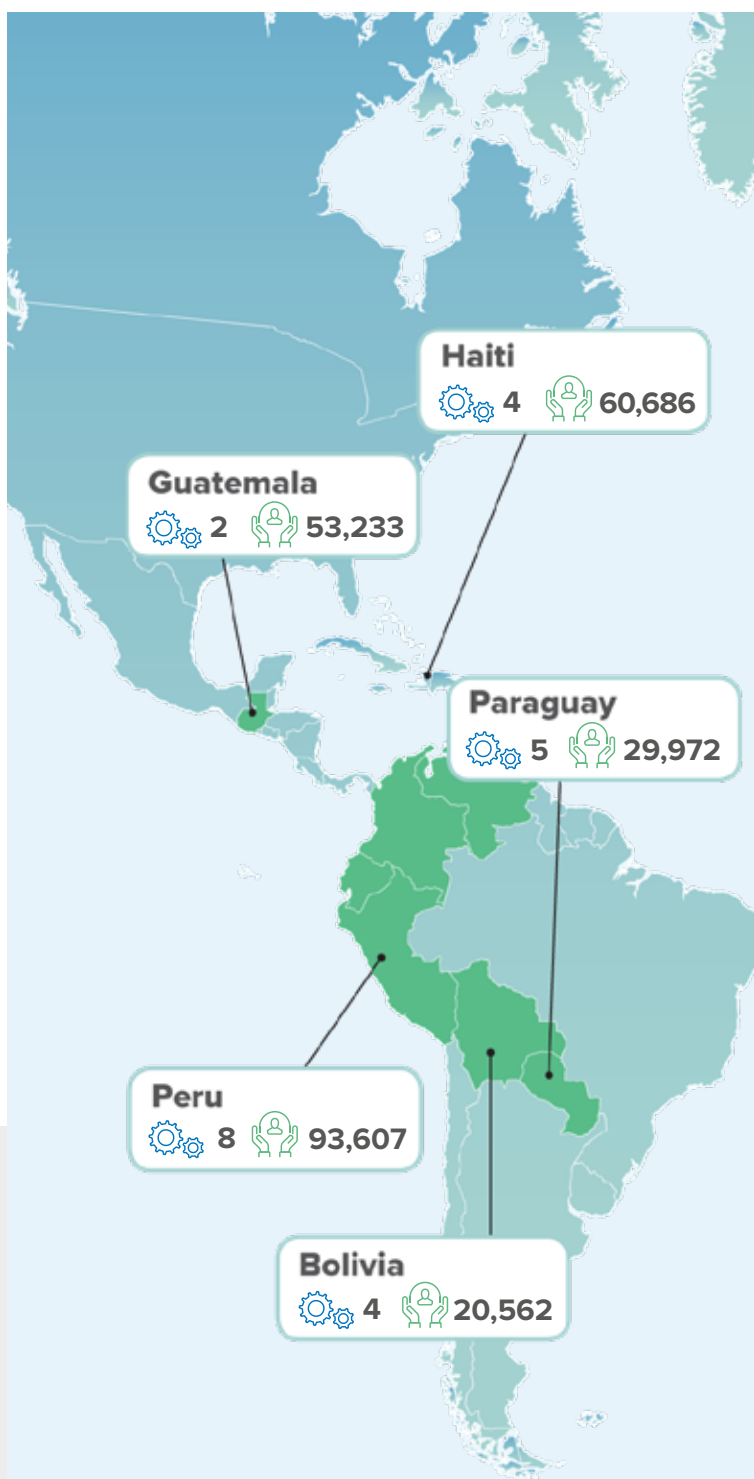
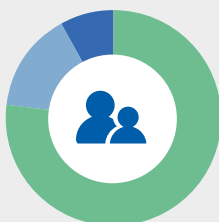
In 27 of these countries, COOPI carried out 206 projects, mainly for emergency and development, and supported 1,628 children through CSP.

In 2019, COOPI expanded its presence to 2 new countries - Mauritania and Jordan - and it was present in Venezuela, planning the start-up activities for the following year and maintaining its active relationships with stakeholders on many different levels.

In total more than 5,200,000 beneficiaries were reached.

## TYPE OF INTERVENTION

- **Emergency 172**
- **Development 34**
- **Child Sponsorship Program 19**





## COOPI's imprint

Legend//  Number of projects  Number of direct beneficiaries

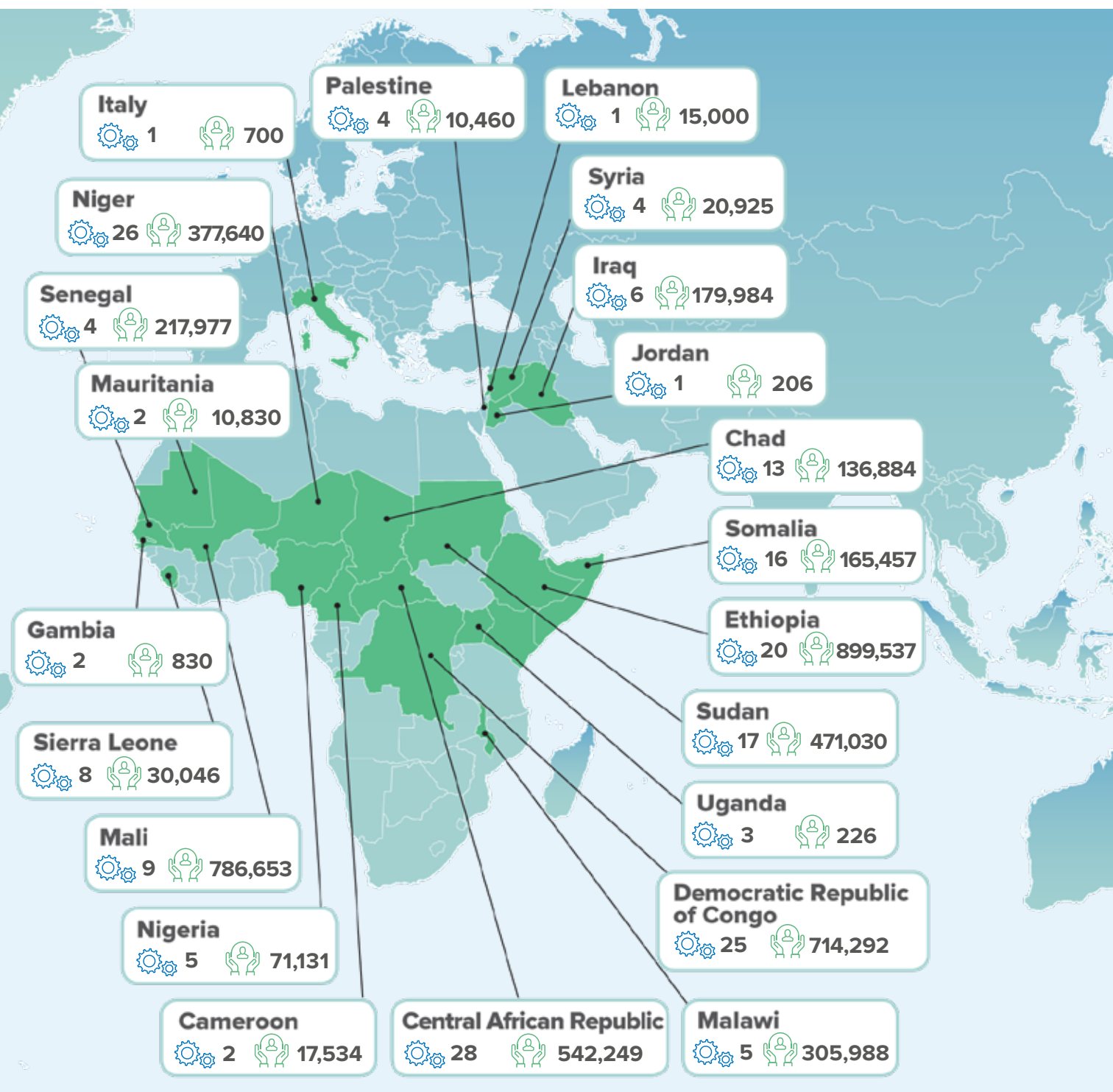


PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

## West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin crisis

In West Africa COOPI operates in nine countries: Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, The Gambia and Mauritania. The West Africa Regional Coordination is located in Dakar.

Food insecurity and chronic malnutrition, terrorism and violence, social breakdowns and migratory flows are the main problems that need to be addressed in an extremely vast and varied region that presents significant differences between the numerous countries it encompasses, from the Sahel belt to the Lake Chad Basin, from the countries on the coast to those in the interior.

Depending on the area, the priority sectors of intervention in recent years vary significantly. In some countries, interventions are mainly linked to emergencies that cyclically affect the region - extreme climatic conditions, demographic booms, political instability, widespread crime - accompanied by factors of chronic vulnerability and low resilience of the population. In other countries, such as Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Mauritania, the urgency to face the humanitarian crises following the violence perpetrated by terrorist groups prevailed in 2019, starting with those related to Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda and ISWAP Islamic State West Africa Province. In addition, the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin shows no sign of abating.



### SAHEL

**24 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

**11.2 million** people suffering from severe food insecurity

**1.6 million** children suffering from malnutrition

**4.3 million** displaced people and refugees

**400,000** children excluded from the school system

### LAKE CHAD BASIN

**10 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

**5 million** people affected by food insecurity

**500,000** children suffering from acute malnutrition

**2.5 million** displaced people and refugees

**3 million** children excluded from the school system



**71**  
NR OF  
PROJECTS



**1,649,525**  
NR OF  
BENEFICIARIES

Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Program

In the countries on the coast where COOPI is present, it is implementing a program that focuses fundamentally on two closely related poles: **support for migrants** and the promotion of **income-generating activities**.

COOPI supports migrants especially in Niger, Senegal, The Gambia and Mali, including the management of 4 guesthouses in Niamey and 3 in Agadez as well as offering psychosocial support activities aimed at seriously traumatized adults and minors (often victims of torture, violence, human trafficking) supporting with resettlement in their final destination. COOPI collaborates closely with **UNHCR** for psychosocial support to migrants previously detained in Libyan centers.



PHOTO: OTTAVIA SPAGGIARI

The promotion of income-generating activities includes a wide variety of interventions ranging from the **development of real** production and marketing chains in collaboration with **local communities** - for example leather and hide, gum arabic and poultry in Mauritania and cashews in the Sierra Leone - up to the supply of tools and training for starting **small business initiatives**. For example, in Senegal COOPI promotes income-generating activities in collaboration with the Senegalese diaspora community in Italy.

In addition, COOPI participates in the multi-year international project, Promoting Renewable Energy Services for Social Development in Sierra Leone (PRESSD-SL), for the electrification of rural areas. As part of the project, funded by the **European Union**, COOPI installed a 79 kW solar-powered **Mini-Grid** and an **Energy Hub** to provide access to eco-sustainable electricity for around **15,000 people**.

In 2019, COOPI additionally supported almost 600 boys and girls in Senegal and Sierra Leone thanks to the Child Sponsorship Program.

In the countries of the Sahel area where COOPI is present, it carries out a program to strengthen basic services: here **protection, education in emergency and health** have been priority areas of a broad and articulated program of interventions.

In the **Lake Chad Basin**, COOPI continues to be present in all four countries bordering the lake - Niger, Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon - with a **multiannual and multi-sectoral program** aimed at both internally displaced persons (**IDPs**) and **host communities**. Here COOPI with its projects has already reached **several hundred thousand people** with interventions to combat **malnutrition**, provide food security, **protection, education**, psychosocial support and basic psychiatric training for the staff of the health centers and, wherever possible, promote **income-generating activities** throughout the area.

In West Africa, COOPI works with the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**, with influential international partners such as **ECHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and other United Nations agencies, USAid / OFDA, Europe Aid, Swiss Cooperation, IOM** and in collaboration with local authorities and other non-governmental organizations present in the area.



To find out more about COOPI's work in West Africa and the Lake Chad region, visit the pages of the website **www.cooopi.org** dedicated to activities in individual countries.



## Central Africa

In Central Africa, COOPI has been operating since the 1970's in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and in the Central African Republic (CAR), both battered by decades of dictatorship and armed clashes.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, a country that has about 99 million inhabitants belonging to hundreds of different ethnic groups, often in conflict with each other and that at the end of 2018 experienced its first uncontested elections, COOPI has been present since 1977 with emergency and development projects in many parts of the country.

Due to its expansive geographical area and the complexity of logistics, in order to be more and more effective, COOPI is currently concentrating its activities in three main areas - Ituri / North Kivu, Central Kasai and Tanganyika - where it largely carries out projects to combat malnutrition and provide health support, strengthening resilience and promoting food security, protecting children and reintegrating boys and girls associated with armed groups (Kasai), protecting and promoting the reintegration of women who survived violence into the socio-economic fabric.

In 2019, the main donors of COOPI in the DRC include **ECHO and the European Union, the International Criminal Court, the United Nations Humanitarian Fund, Unicef and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund).**



### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**5 million** displaced people

**538,000** refugees

**15.6 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

Approximately **8 million** million people affected by or at risk of epidemics.

**4.7 million** people suffering from malnutrition, including 1.3 million from severe malnutrition

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**670,000** displaced people

**592,000** refugees

**2.6 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

**176,000** children suffering from malnutrition; including 49,000 of severe malnutrition



**53**  
NR OF  
PROJECTS



**1,256,541**  
NR OF  
BENEFICIARIES

Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Programs



In the **Central African Republic**, COOPI began operating in 1974 (the longest active international humanitarian organization). The CAR has been affected by a very serious humanitarian crisis: despite the agreements reached with armed groups, the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is slow to progress. Almost half of the population depends on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Currently around 500,000 people in 6 prefectures benefit from the support of COOPI, which manages food distribution in 6 large IDP sites in Bambari, Bria, Zemio and Obo.

In the CAR, COOPI mainly carries out **food security** projects, the reintegration of **women and girls who survived violence**, **child protection**, **education in emergency** and infrastructure rehabilitation, all the while operating in areas where the

activity of aid workers is severely hindered.

In the Western part of the country, where the capital Bangui is located, in 2019 COOPI managed to initiate some interventions of transition from emergency to development, particularly projects aimed to relaunch and promote activities of agro-pastoral production.

In 2019, the main institutional donors of COOPI in the Central African Republic include: **the European Union, ECHO, the World Food Program, United Nations Humanitarian Fund, Unicef, UNFPA, FAO and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.**

Finally, throughout 2019 COOPI supported more than 500 boys and girls in the DRC and the CAR thanks to the Child Sponsorship programs.



PHOTO: SILVANO PUPELLA



To find out more about COOPI's work in Central Africa, visit the pages of the website **[www.cooopi.org](http://www.cooopi.org)** dedicated to activities in individual countries.

## Eastern and Southern Africa

In Eastern and Southern Africa COOPI operates in Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Moreover, COOPI's headquarters of its Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Coordination is located in Nairobi (Kenya).

In areas characterized by chronic water scarcity, affected by frequent drought and other natural disasters such as the recent invasion of locusts, and yet whose economy is based mainly on sheep farming and agriculture, the indicators of human development are notoriously among the worst in the world.

In this region, COOPI has been carrying out an articulated program for years, applying an increasingly incisive **integration among the activities implemented in different sectors of intervention**. The **Humanitarian Nexus** approach, promoted by some of the most authoritative international institutions, is a fundamental point of reference for promoting the greatest possible synergy among interventions in the region: from **food security to diversification of livelihoods** and **increase in production capabilities** of small farms and artisans, from projects that promote better **hygiene conditions** to the rehabilitation of **water basins** and, finally, **innovative energy** saving projects and the use of **renewable energy** sources.



PHOTO: FIRAOL LEMECHA



### HORN OF AFRICA

**24.7 million** people suffering from severe food insecurity

**8.1 million** displaced people

**4.2 million** refugees

**2,050** people suffering from cholera



**61**  
NR OF  
PROJECTS



**1,842,238**  
NR OF  
BENEFICIARIES

Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Programs



To find out more about COOPI's work in Eastern and Southern Africa, visit the pages of the website **[www.cooopi.org](http://www.cooopi.org)** dedicated to activities in individual countries.



**Generating carbon credits** was an innovative frontier which COOPI confronted in Ethiopia, giving birth to a project financed by **the European Union**. The distribution, in two successive phases, of about 20,000 “**improved stoves**” with high energy efficiency, combined with the rehabilitation of water sources has brought important results, starting with a **significant reduction in the use of resources** by the population. The **energy savings** achieved were also recognized with the release of a **Gold Standard certification** and the **generation of carbon credits** which, sold on the **energy market**, then generated **funds to be reinvested in the territory**, activating a virtuous circle the effects of which persist and strengthen over time.

In **Sudan**, COOPI integrates **food distribution** interventions with projects to increase access to **drinking water** and rehabilitate **water basins**. These interventions are allowing populations to return to areas abandoned due to lack of water and to start income-generating activities, which are

also fundamental for reconstructing the social fabric.

In **Somalia** COOPI carries out interventions in **support of farmers and shepherds** and also participates in **food security** projects, **access to water** and **management of water services** with cash transfer mechanisms, through two consortiums of humanitarian aid workers.

In **Malawi** COOPI promotes **disaster risk reduction** by mapping risk areas, developing early warning systems - which includes the use of drones and other advanced technologies - and preparing **local communities to deal with environmental emergencies**.

The main donors of COOPI in the region are the **European Union** and **ECHO**, the **Italian Agency for International Cooperation**, **UNHCR**, **World Food Program**.

Finally, throughout 2019 COOPI supported more than 500 boys and girls in Ethiopia and Uganda thanks to the Child Sponsorship programs.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

PHOTO: BULENT KILIC/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Middle East and Syrian crisis

In the Middle East, COOPI is present in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine. COOPI's headquarters for the Middle East Regional Coordination is located in Beirut.

The Syrian crisis, which began in 2011, also affects neighboring countries in different ways and to different extents: in this area more than 15 million people (11.7 million in Syria and 4.1 million in Iraq) need humanitarian assistance in some form, millions of people suffer from insufficient access to food and clean water, many children have known nothing but war and a large number of schools are still closed or substantially unfit for use.

The massive movement of refugees and displaced people has a significant impact especially on the economy and basic services of border countries with limited populations, such as Lebanon and Jordan.

In Syria COOPI operates in different areas and in multiple sectors. In 2019, intervention priorities mainly concerned **protection** and **food security**. In the area of **East Ghouta** COOPI carried out **interventions for protection** (recovery from physical and psychological trauma, unexploded ordnance risk prevention) and promotion of **self-sustenance** (distribution of seeds and materials for agriculture and family farming). In the **Aleppo Est** area, a **new community center** was added to the **psycho-social support** activity already carried out in the previous year with the **mobile unit** and the **Salheen center** to offer greater **medical and psycho-**



### SIRIA

**6.2 million** displaced people

**5.7 million** refugees

**11.7 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance

**6.5 million** people affected by food insecurity and another 2.5 million at risk

**4.7 million** people suffering from malnutrition, of which 91,811 are children

**15.5 million** people lacking sufficient access to water and hygiene services

**13.2 million** people lacking sufficient access to health services

**6 million** children and young people unable to follow a regular educational path

**3 million** people with some type of disability



**16**  
NR OF  
PROJECTS



**226,575**  
NR OF  
BENEFICIARIES

Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Programs



**social support**, especially to particularly vulnerable people, such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities and family breadwinner mothers. Finally, COOPI promoted food **security, hygiene and resilience** in the country with the opening of new areas of intervention in the Governorate of Daraa.

In 2019 the main donors of COOPI in Syria include: **UNHCR, OCHA, ECHO and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**.

In 2019, COOPI's intervention in Iraq put education in emergency at its center. In the territories around Mosul, in areas devastated by war, the rehabilitation of permanent educational structures was added to the opening of temporary schools. The rehabilitation of water distribution and purification systems for schools and communities also continued, both in the Mosul area and in the Al-Shirqat District, activities for the promotion of correct hygiene practices as well as water use and risk reduction campaigns linked to the dense presence of anti-personnel mines. In 2019, COOPI intervened in Iraq mainly thanks to the support of the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, OCHA** and the contributions of **private donors**.

In **Lebanon and Jordan** COOPI has helped refugees by first responding to their most immediate needs and then following up with actions that strengthen basic services and resilience by supporting both host communities and

refugees with child protection actions, school support, improvement of water and hygiene conditions. **From 2018 in northern Lebanon** (Akkar region) COOPI coordinates a project for the planning and development of public **solid waste** management services, funded by the **European Union** and involving 13 local Municipalities with various international and local partners and academics and specialists in the sector, with the aim of drastically reducing both the risk of epidemics and the release of pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea.

**In Palestine COOPI continues a multi-year activity to promote professional training**, financed by the European Union, which facilitates the creation of adequate connections between schools and the labor market and supports small businesses created by young people, especially in East Jerusalem. In 2019 COOPI also created a **psycho-social support** program alongside **professional training and job placement** for Palestinian women who survived gender-based violence, which was funded by the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**.



To find out more about COOPI's work in the Middle East, visit the pages of the website **[www.coopi.org](http://www.coopi.org)** dedicated to activities in individual countries.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

## Latin America and the Caribbean

COOPI has been present in Latin America since 1967, in 2019 continuing to operate in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay and Peru. In addition, COOPI is a registered nonprofit in Venezuela.

COOPI's headquarters of its Regional Coordination for Latin America and the Caribbean is located in Lima.

When we talk about Latin America and the Caribbean, we are actually referring to three heterogeneous geographical areas, namely South America, Central America and the Caribbean. These sub-regions have rather different physical-natural, environmental, socio-political and economic characteristics. Despite this, the role and approach of COOPI within the countries in question has common lines, which have been well-defined and which have evolved over the years. Today in this area COOPI mainly carries out **emergency interventions** and accompanies the subsequent **reconstruction and integration processes in cases of migration**, promotes pathways to reduce disaster risk, preserves environmental ecosystems, and promotes proper management of solid waste and a circular economy. With regards to more classic interventions in the sectors of economic and social development, the promotion of human rights, and the role of civil society in participatory governance, COOPI is mainly active in the region as a second-level organization, directing interventions towards technical assistance to local actors (institutional and non-governmental / civil society).



### VENEZUELAN CRISIS

**4.9 million** Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Of these, around 3.6 million, including 460,000 children, require humanitarian assistance in the countries of transit and destination

**7 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.2 million children

**3.7 million** people affected by food insecurity

**1.9 million** people suffering from malnutrition

**2.2 million** children and young people unable to follow a regular educational path

**2.8 million** people lacking sufficient access to health services

**4.3 million** people lacking sufficient access to water and hygiene services



**23**  
NR OF  
PROJECTS



**258,060**  
NR OF  
BENEFICIARIES

Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Programs

The largest humanitarian exodus crisis in modern Latin American history began in Venezuela: **almost 5 million migrants and refugees** have left Venezuela since the beginning of the crisis, more than 15% of the country's population. Colombia appears to be the country that hosts the largest number of Venezuelan citizens, almost 1.8 million, followed by Peru, with 861,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. During 2019 the migration policies of the main receiving countries: Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile, have become extremely restrictive, leading to a substantial decrease in the number of registered entries, but to a consequent increase in irregular entries, which entails an increase in the risks of trafficking, violence and exploitation. COOPI intervenes in northern **Peru**, on the border with Ecuador, where 90% of migrants enter the country by land. Through coordinating the humanitarian response with **national institutions, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and the Red Cross**, COOPI provides **guidance, protection, housing, food and transport to the most needy families** (in 2019 approximately 5,120 people, including 1,900 children). COOPI also intervenes to preserve the **health conditions of migrants in transit** by raising awareness on adequate health and hygiene standards, offering access to services and kits:

7,000 migrants had access to services, showers and toilets in adequate hygienic conditions and 25,500 people, including 12,000 children, were shown proper procedures.

Furthermore, in **Ecuador**, near the southern border, COOPI defined an improved **habitability intervention**. Properties owned by Ecuadorian citizens that are being rented to Venezuelans are redeveloped, so as to improve the living standards and at the same time bring advantages to the local population.

COOPI also promotes projects related to **disaster risk reduction** in Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Peru and Paraguay, **food assistance and food security** in Guatemala, Haiti and Paraguay, **promotion of environmental ecosystems** in Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia, and **improvement of waste management in Bolivia**. In these countries, COOPI intervenes for the benefit of groups that suffer from specific vulnerable situations such as indigenous peoples, farmers, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, with priority given to women and children.



To find out more about COOPI's work in Latin America and the Caribbean, visit the pages of the website **[www.cooi.org](http://www.cooi.org)** dedicated to activities in individual countries.



PHOTO: ALBERTO TRENTINI



# Main sectors of intervention in 2019



PHOTO: FIRAOL LEMECHA

In line with its consolidated multi-sectoral mission and expertise, in 2019 COOPI operated in various areas of International Cooperation by strengthening the most consolidated sectors and developing the most innovative ones.

An absolute priority sector for its 2019 activities was that of **Migrations**, where COOPI intervened in countries such as Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal and Niger.

**Food security, Nutrition security, and Health** have been at the center of multiple projects that have made it possible to reach a large number of beneficiaries in countries such as Niger and Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, Somalia and Sudan.

Very significant results have also been obtained in other consolidated sectors such as **Protection**, where COOPI has been engaged in several very vulnerable countries such as the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. Alongside Protection, a commitment to promoting better **Governance** and **Human Rights** and **Education in Emergency** is noted, which, in

addition to some of the aforementioned countries, is also happening in the Middle East.

In 2019 COOPI has also been very active in the **Water, Hygiene and Sanitation** sector, operating in countries such as Ethiopia and Sudan, and also in Iraq.

Within the **Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction and Energy** sectors, COOPI carried out particularly innovative activities, in addition to reaching a large number of beneficiaries, while operating, for example in Malawi and Ethiopia, and also in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lastly, and most importantly in terms of the perspective for medium and long-term development in the countries where COOPI operates, activities in the sector of **Training and Business Development** involved many communities in countries such as Ethiopia, Central African Republic and Mauritania, as well as Palestine in 2019.



## COOPI's imprint

Sectors		Beneficiaries 2019
Migrations		838,824
Health		770,396
Nutrition security		742,529
Food security		657,838
Protection		485,252
Child sponsorship		1,628
Environment and DRR		484,659
Water, Hygiene and sanitation		426,603
Business development		385,271
Energy		307,540
Education in emergency		83,027
Governance and human rights		39,612
Training		10,460
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>		<b>5,233,639</b>



# Food distribution to people in need in Italy



PHOTO: PAOLO CARLINI

Italy has not escaped increasing poverty and fragility, which year after year involves ever larger sections of the population. For some time now COOPI has been carrying out a food distribution project to aid people in difficulty.

The initiative, launched in 1999 at the behest of Father Barbieri, has gradually been developed and structured: in 2019 it reached about **200 families residing in Milan with regularly scheduled deliveries twice a month.**

In 2019 COOPI distributed around **30 tons of food**, also thanks to the commitment of volunteers and in collaboration with a series of **groups and organizations active in the Milan and Lombardy areas.**

Many beneficiaries of the existing activities live in Milan in the San Siro district, close to the Foundation's headquarters. Here COOPI started to plan the opening of a **special space** to carry out both **food distribution** and reception **activities to welcome the people** who benefit from the distribution of food packages. Furthermore, COOPI intends to organize cultural events, such as conferences or photographic exhibitions related to its International Cooperation activities, in the belief

that these initiatives could bring precious opportunities for knowledge and intercultural dialogue into the space and out into the neighborhood.



PHOTO: FULVIO ZUBIANI

# The resources of COOPI

## Institutional donors

COOPI traditionally bases its activity to a decisive extent on so-called “institutional” funds, coming from public or private entities, whose mission is to select International Cooperation projects considered worthy and fund them.

This choice is closely linked to the organization’s modus operandi, based mostly on the implementation of structured projects with the aim of helping involved communities grow from within, supporting them in the process of becoming autonomous over time. These are projects that, alongside interventions that deal with specific emergency situations, present an important component of promoting cultural changes and generating virtuous economies. Projects of this type require significant investments whose returns become visible in medium-long wait times that can be

difficult to reconcile with the expectations of many individual donors who look for quick results from their contributions. Institutional donors, such as the European Commission or UN agencies, however, take a more “technical” approach and are more likely to consider longer wait times. On the other hand, these types of institutions require that the organizations financed by them demonstrate in a very specific way the results produced and the changes obtained, therefore COOPI carries out the important work of accountability towards these donors.

### INSTITUTIONAL INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DONORS



FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • UNFPA United Nations Population Fund  
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization



The complete list of COOPI donors can be found on the page, “Partnership,” on the website [www.cooopi.org](http://www.cooopi.org)

# The Balance sheet in brief

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b> (in Euro)		<b>2019</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Net fixed assets		797,151
Receivables from donors		4,124,723
Receivables from others		648,845
Liquid assets		9,632,119
Prepayments and accrued income		-
Accrued income for ongoing projects		3,575,808
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>18,778,646</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Common fund		70,000
Other funds		2,042,905
Operating profit		87,717
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>		<b>2,200,622</b>
Provisions for risks and charges		37,591
Severance indemnity for subordinate employment		505,856
Payables to banks		3,100,006
Other short payables		2,471,958
Accruals and deferred income		10,462,613
Projects deferred income		-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>18,778,646</b>
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b> (in Euro; reclassified balance)		<b>2019</b>
<b>PROCEEDS</b>		
Income by projects		47,158,950
Subscriptions		7,500
Donations		1,758,784
Repayments and various proceeds		27,917
Financial income		250,313
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49,203,465</b>
<b>OUTLAYS</b>		
Outlays by projects		44,436,391
Headquarters' staff and collaborators		1,966,197
Institutional outlays		1,311,246
General outlays		828,897
Financial outlays		573,017
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49,115,747</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>87,717</b>

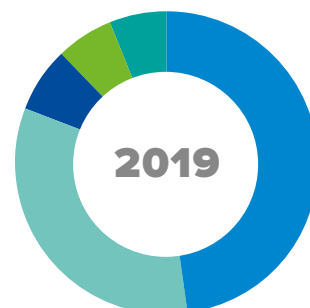


## The resources of COOPI

## Receivables for projects

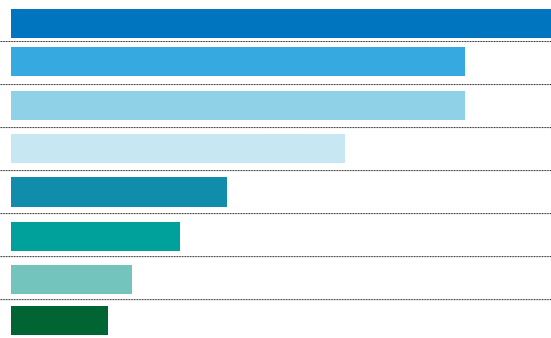
2019

● International Organizations	48%
● European Union	33%
● Foreign governments	7%
● Italian government and local institutions	6%
● Private institutions and private donors	6%

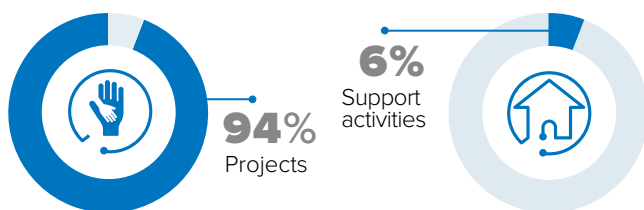


## Use of funds for intervention sectors

● Agriculture	23%
● Health	19%
● Humanitarian assistance	19%
● Migrations	14%
● Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	9%
● Training	7%
● Socio-economic services	5%
● Other (Governance, Human Rights, Energy and other)	4%



## Use of funds



## Use of funds for geographical areas



Central Africa	48%
Eastern and Southern Africa	28%
Western Africa	13%
Middle East	7%
Latin America and the Caribbean	4%
Italy	-

The full version of the final balance sheet as of 31 December 2019, subject to audit by BDO Italia SpA, and the related certification letter are available on the website [www.cooopi.org](http://www.cooopi.org)

# Strategic partners

COOPI constantly looks after partnership development and fundraising with foundations, companies and major donors.

The implementation of humanitarian and development programs of significant size and impact can and must necessarily pass through a dialogue and a multi-stakeholder co-financing plan, where one or more institutional donors can be supported by private philanthropic subjects, who contribute resources on specific and concrete activities.

COOPI constantly looks after the development of partnerships and fundraising with Foundations (in Italy, Switzerland, USA, EMEA countries), Companies and Large Donors (including the management of legacies).

An essential element of the partnership action and fundraising for these private donors is the proposal to **finance a specific project or activity**, not to make a free donation on a campaign. Each of these organizations is indeed interested in seeing clearly how their donation can, unequivocally, achieve an immediate, significant and lasting impact in relatively short wait times.

In 2019 in Italy, partnerships in collaboration with the Fondazione Zanetti have continued, supporting projects to fight malnutrition, as well as with the Fondazione San Zeno, working on a three-year program in Palestine about vocational and non-formal education.

Among the partnerships with companies, we mention the one with **Pidielle**, a family company that produces and sells **ELGON** branded professional cosmetics for hairdressers. Since 2008, the company has been co-financing COOPI's projects in support of female empowerment, and in recent years, in particular, those dedicated to women in **Sierra Leone**, where it has contributed to the **promotion and strengthening of the cashew nut supply chain** by actively involving the company's employees. In 2019, **customers and business partners** also supported the project.

In June 2019 COOPI signed an agreement with the asset management company **AZIMUT** by joining a panel of NGOs whose members and supporters can subscribe shares of the AZ MULTIASSET SUSTAINABLE EQUITY TREND **ethical investment fund** through particularly advantageous conditions and donate part of coupons accrued to the COOPI Foundation.

The well-established Win3 project with **Dolomiti Energia** continues to offer users advantageous contractual conditions, as well as guaranteeing a supply of renewable Italian energy sources and offering the possibility to support COOPI's projects aimed to help children in emergency areas.

## COMPANIES AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS



## FOUNDATIONS



fondazione **sanzeno**



Charity and Defence of Nature Foundation

# Fundraising from private donors

Dialogue with constant conversation and fundraising with private donors is of significant importance for COOPI as this is one of its founding reasons for being a civil society and a non-governmental organization.

COOPI carries out numerous fundraising activities by private citizens through multiple **online and offline channels**, organizing **events** and **locally promoted initiatives**.

**2019 was the final year of the “Help a Warrior” campaign dedicated to the issue of education in emergency situations**, which was the common thread for the majority of the awareness and fundraising activities carried out since 2018 through various channels.

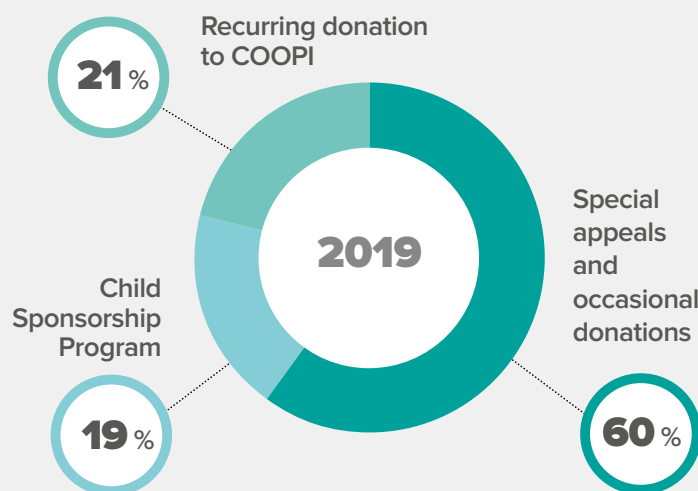
During the year, special appeals were sent out on issues like the appeal for **Syrian refugees** (“**Donate a hot meal**”), or the plea to save children in Niger from **malnutrition**, or the call to **distribute food** to the poorest families in **Milan** (of which new communication material was created).

In 2019 COOPI promoted and managed **Child Sponsorship programs** (CSP) for the benefit of 1,628 children: this year in **19 centers** throughout **6 countries** (Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone). In 2019, the CSP promotion campaign was completely redone as was the dedicated website **adottareadistanza.cooopi.org** and the sending of information on supported children was further enriched to include new updating tools like a monthly online report from the field. As for the **“offline” fundraising channels**, among the main activities carried out in 2019 **there were 9 “mailings” with appeals and updates**, 2 issues of the **“COOPI News”** newsletter (six-monthly), **promotion on printed paper, billboards in the Milan metro area and on TV (Mediaset and La7 TV channels)**.



PHOTO: OLIVIA ACLAND

## What do private donors choose?



## Fundraising from private donors

In 2019, the **websites dedicated** respectively to the aforementioned **CSP**, to the **Christmas Initiative Paper, Ribbons and Solidarity** (Carta, Nastri e solidarietà) campaign ([volontaricooopi.org](http://volontaricooopi.org)) and for the promotion of **solidarity gifts** during the Christmas period ([natalesolidale.org](http://natalesolidale.org)) were thoroughly updated, in line with the most recent evolutions of digital communication. As regards **online fundraising channels**, the main activities carried out during the year include the sending of 66 **specific appeals**. Finally, 4 sponsored campaigns were launched on Facebook; the Facebook and Instagram pages have been managed and promoted.

In 2019, **personal fundraising** initiatives were given further impetus by supporting the promotion of funds through the **Facebook** pages of friends and supporters, with their participation as a **charity partner in the Milan Marathon** with the related solidarity campaign launched via the **Rete del Dono** platform. The international fundraising from individuals is possible via the crowdfunding platform [www.globalgiving.org](http://www.globalgiving.org).

In 2019 COOPI organized or actively participated in numerous **events**, such as **COOPI Cascina Aperta**, at the end of the COOPI Meeting, included for the fifth consecutive year in the calendar of the Milanese event, Cascine Aperte, and in the **Solidarity Concerts** organized in collaboration with the **Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano LaVerdi**.

Alongside the centrally organized events, numerous **advocacy and fundraising activities** are organized in the area by local groups of volunteers such as **COOPI Crema and COOPI Brescia\***. To these activities, and numerous others, above all of a more managerial nature, the **national fundraising campaigns** must be added and are summarized here as follows.

### Paper, ribbons and solidarity 2019

Now in its eleventh edition, the **Christmas package** initiative has allowed COOPI to raise **€ 160,000** destined also this year to support **education in emergency projects in Iraq and Niger**, as part of the “**Help a Warrior**” campaign.

The campaign ran from 1st to 24th December 2019 in **69 cities throughout 15 regions** where around **350 people** wrapped the customer's gifts in 107 stores such as **COIN, Eataly, Libraccio, COOP Libraries, Beauty Star and Lillapoix**.

### 5x1000

Each year, from February to June, **COOPI promotes the “5x1000” campaign**, for which Italian taxpayers donate 5x1000 of their taxes to COOPI. This campaign is promoted all year long through various channels.

In 2019 COOPI received **€ 71,984** with **1,852 preferences** (relating to the 2017 tax returns-2016 income tax).

### Look for me among the living

In 2015 COOPI launched the “Cercatemi tra i vivi” (Look for Me Among the Living) **legacy campaign** through advocacy and the publication of an ad hoc brochure to illustrate the significance of a bequest to COOPI and how it works for potential donors. In 2019 this campaign was strengthened thanks to the collaboration with the **National Council of Notaries**, the **Notary Council of Piacenza** and several **professionals**.

Since the launch of the campaign, COOPI has received **bequests and in-memory donations for around € 280,000**.



\*To find out more about the activities carried out by each local group, visit the related Facebook page.



# COOPI communicates



PHOTO: ANGELO LOY

COOPI's communication develops with the macro objectives of promoting knowledge to a wide audience of the most relevant issues of International Cooperation, strengthening the organization's position and accreditation with donors and partners and growing the reputation of the organization.

The topics and activities most highlighted in 2019 are summarized here below.

At the heart of COOPI's editorial collaborations in 2019 there were first of all, the two dramatic **humanitarian crises** that hit **Syria** and **Venezuela**. To these were added the story of two extremely innovative projects that have highlighted COOPI's commitment to **promoting renewable energy** in two African countries: **Ethiopia** and **Sudan**.

Extensive narratives of the **Syrian and Venezuelan crises** were told on **Vita**, the well-known magazine dedicated to the world of the Third Sector, in the months of February (paper edition) and June (online edition) of 2019, respectively.

**Vita** also published articles on a project for the rehabilitation and construction of **low environmental impact dams in Sudan (in North Darfur)**, and on a project for the generation of **carbon credits** created in **Ethiopia** (for more information see the chapter on Eastern and Southern Africa).

Thanks to these issues published in **Vita**, and also those on Repubblica.it/Mondo solidale and Corriere della Sera / Buone notizie, it became possible to promote to a large audience not only the activities carried out in some of the **most serious humanitarian crises on the planet and the technological innovativeness** of some projects, but also to demonstrate the **strong impact** of the projects in terms of their construction, or

## The resources of COOPI

reconstruction, of a **social fabric** destroyed by climate change. The increase of sustainable and participatory development at the local level works to strengthen resilience within these communities.

The **crisis of the Lake Chad Basin** continues to play a crucial role in COOPI's 2019 communication.

In August, the documentary **"Tropic of Chaos"** aired on the **Rai 3** channel. It was produced in collaboration with the director, Angelo Loy. Through witnessing the story told by populations living around the lake, the viewer witnesses a progression of catastrophic events that moves from its waters, which relentlessly retreat due to climate change, to the desolate expanses of refugee camps.

Also on this theme, the 2019 exhibition **"Popoli del Lago Ciad. Una crisi umanitaria vista dall'interno"** (Peoples of Lake Chad. A humanitarian crisis seen from within) by the Chadian photographer, Abdoulaye Barry, was born out of a collaboration between COOPI, **Vita** and the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**, and was exhibited at the Civic Museum of Crema and Cremasco from 8 to 17 March. A selection of his wonderful shots were viewed from June to September in Bibbiena at the Centro Italiano di Fotografia di Autore in the exhibition "The world in a lens. NGO photographers".

In 2019, the new **COOPI Communication Manual**, drafted and approved in 2018, became effective in all foreign offices:

a fundamental step in support of effective organizational decentralization in terms of communication. The manual has become the subject of numerous **training sessions** and it has been integrated with the organization's **knowledge management platform** and divided into unified **templates** for the standard communication tools used in the various countries. Finally, a **support and control system** was centrally implemented in order to promote its correct use in each country and to sufficiently spread the **Annual Report**, COOPI's main institutional communication tool, now published in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Italian.

## How many people follow COOPI

coopi.org	<b>226,632</b>
adottareadistanza.coopi.org	<b>14,830</b>
COOPI news	<b>10,000</b>
Newsletter	<b>39,223</b>
Youtube	<b>18,335</b>
Facebook	<b>24,030</b>
Twitter	<b>7,076</b>

The press review of COOPI for the year 2019 recorded **277 issues**



# Methodological note

Transparency is a cardinal principle for COOPI: it characterizes the organization's action through the provision of processes and procedures that promote and safeguard it and informs communication between the organization and all its stakeholders.

The COOPI Annual Report, published this year for the fifth time, constitutes the natural evolution of the original Annual Report that the organization had already published in the previous 14 years and illustrates its governance and organization, strategic lines, policies and the working methods, the use of resources and the main activities carried out, all over the world as well as in Italy, and illustrates their commitment to communication to the various stakeholders.

The 2019 Annual Report includes data and indicators deemed appropriate for describing and evaluating the organization and its activities, taking into consideration the indications provided by the Guidelines for the preparation of the Social Report of Third Sector Entities and the Guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative widely shared internationally.

The process of drafting the Annual Report began with the mandate of the Senior Management and included extraction of data from the information systems of the organization and, when appropriate, re-elaboration of the same by the various offices responsible for the subject; integration of available information by conducting interviews with senior management and the managers of the various offices; revision of the analytical index of the document and drafting of the texts; approval of the chapters of the document by the various competent offices and

final approval by the Top Management.

The Annual Report is integrated into a set of activities carried out by the organization with the aim of providing comprehensive accountability to its stakeholders. The Financial Statements, from which the balance sheet and economic-financial data were extracted, were certified by an accredited external auditor (the balance sheet and relative letter of asseveration can be consulted on the website [www.coopi.org](http://www.coopi.org)). COOPI's activity is also analyzed through intense internal auditing by the Control, Monitoring and Audit Office and periodically by some of the most authoritative and demanding financiers in the world of International Cooperation, including ECHO, US AID, Unicef. The recognition of COOPI as an NGO recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its registration in the Register of Legal Persons of the Prefecture of Milan further testify to the existence in COOPI of specific requirements of solidity and transparency. The contextual data reported in the document come from official documentation of authoritative international institutions, such as the UN, the European Commission and the Agencies and Offices connected to them.

For the set up of the Annual Report, the management of the drafting process, the conduct of interviews and the finalization of the document, COOPI availed itself of the support of an external consultant with a recognized professionalism in the matter.



# COOPI in the world

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## **BOLIVIA**

Calle Victor Sanjinéz n. 2722,  
Sopocachi, La Paz

## **CAMEROON**

Quartier Madagascar, Kousseri

## **CHAD**

Quartier Klemat, 2eme arrondissement,  
Rue 3211 Porte 0387 - BP 1900 Ndjama

## **ECUADOR**

Barrio Rumiñahui: N62 Nazareth  
n. OE1-260 y Melchor Toaza.  
Conjunto Kendari, Departamento n. 11  
170303 - Quito

## **ETHIOPIA**

Yeka subcity Woreda 8, House no.  
New P.O. Box 2204, Addis Ababa

## **GAMBIA**

Fajara M Section,  
PMB 392 Serrekunda, Banjul

## **GIORDANIA**

Mansour Kreishan street 22.  
(Near 2nd circle) Jabal Amman, Amman

## **GUATEMALA**

2a Avenida 0-67 Colonia Bran, zona 3  
Ciudad de Guatemala

## **HAITI**

Route de Kenscoff n. 33, Petion-Ville,  
Port-au-Prince

## **KENYA - REGIONAL COORDINATION EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Kyuna Crescent, House N. 40, Westlands  
P.O. Box 3857 - 00100 Nairobi

## **IRAQ**

English Village, Villa 366 Erbil

Al-Mansur, Al-Nu'man commercial  
complex, 3rd floor, No. 8,  
Baghdad

## **LEBANON - REGIONAL COORDINATION MIDDLE EAST**

General Street, Oneissi Building 8<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Furn El Chabbek, Beirut

## **LEBANON**

Kfaraabida main Street, Sea road  
Bakhos Al Feghali Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Kfaraabida, Batroun,  
North Lebanon

## **MALAWI**

Area 3/468 - P/Bag 67  
Lilongwe

## **MALI**

Badalabougou Sema II  
Rue 136, Porte 882 - Bamako

## **MAURITANIA**

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Nouackhot

## **NIGER**

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Rue OR-33, Niamey

## **NIGERIA**

Plot 13, Mudore road, Doctors quarters,  
Old GRA, Maiduguri, Borno state

## **PALESTINE**

Mount of Olives, Alsheik Anbar street,  
Sbeh building, flat n. 5  
Jerusalem PO Box 49621

## **PARAGUAY**

Calle Eligio Ayala 929,  
entre EEUU y Tacuarí, Asuncion

## **PERU - REGIONAL COORDINATION LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Calle Federico Gerdes 193,  
Santiago de Surco, Lima

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Sica 1, quartiere Sissongo, BP 1335  
Bangui

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Ecole Belge, Bureau 55, Avenue de la  
Gombe N° 01 Gombe, Kinshasa

## **SENEGAL - REGIONAL COORDINATION WEST AFRICA**

Mermoz, rue mz - 70 n. 19,  
B.P. 15169, Dakar

## **SIERRA LEONE**

49H Ronsab Drive Off Spur Road,  
Freetown

## **SYRIA**

Malki Albzme 4058/8, Damasco

## **SUDAN**

House N° 16, Block 13 PE  
Street 13, Amarat, Khartoum

## **COOPI SUISSE**

Via Giuseppe Curti 19A,  
6900 Lugano, Svizzera

## **AMERICAN FRIENDS OF COOPI**

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New York, NY 10020

# COOPI in Italy

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Together we can make the world  
a better place.

## **COOPI HEADQUARTERS**

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