



Together we can make the world
a better place.

COOPI | Annual Report 2020

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 - 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

Vision

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

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

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: COOPI ARCHIVE

Editorial

It is impossible to draw up an Annual Report of the Foundation in 2020 without talking about the impact that Covid-19 has had on our activities.

The pandemic has severely affected all our daily lives: it is not difficult to think that the same is true regarding the work of COOPI. While continuing to read this Report, you will see that COOPI's activities have not been reduced, despite the logistical difficulties - displacements, containment measures - as you can easily imagine.

The most negative effects can be observed instead on the development processes in the communities where we operate, which had to be slowed down in every situation. In fact, the economic effects of the pandemic have affected all countries and all communities in the world, and the adoption of containment measures to slow the spread of the virus, even by countries that have not had many sick people, has caused a decrease in production and consumption. The consequence of the pandemic for millions of people has been unemployment, especially for workers in the informal sector - in which exists, for example, 60% of the workforce in African cities, without social security and without health care. For some years now, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals) have offered us a series of indicators to understand whether a country is making progress on specific Objectives 1 (poverty reduction), 2 (fight against malnutrition), 4 (education for all) and 8 (decent work for all). For example, it is estimated that as a result of the pandemic, around 80 million people have been pushed below the absolute poverty line (\$1.9 per day), and that 1.8 billion workers have lost their jobs, again due to Covid-19.

Even the education sector, in which COOPI is very active with programs for school resumption in war areas, has seen 200 million children excluded from education due to Covid-19, particularly in South American countries where schools have been closed, but pupils have no possibility of doing distance education, as they have neither computers nor access to the internet.

Faced with crises of this gravity, one wonders what a small organization like ours can do, where not even large states are able to influence. Even in the awareness of the modesty of our means, we believe we have much to do in continuing to stand by the communities we work with, improving their capacity to respond to the crisis - what in technical jargon is called "resilience" - and, as the Director says in his message, continuing to operate in areas where we have strong competence, finding in every situation diversified solutions adapted to the context, such as in the field of food safety.

The work has just begun and we think that these negative effects of the pandemic on development will continue: in what is also the year of the 10th anniversary of the death of our founder, our commitment does not decrease in any way, but rather leads us to constantly seek solutions that are new and effective in the fight against poverty.



Our commitment does not decrease in any way, but rather leads us to constantly seek solutions that are new and effective in the fight against poverty.

Claudio Ceravolo
COOPI's President

Letter of the Director

Talking about COOPI 2020 certainly means talking about the prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic and the containment of its economic and social consequences in contexts that are already extremely fragile, such as those in which COOPI operates both in Italy and in the rest of the world.

For each country in which we operate, we have defined and implemented a Contingency Plan by which we have identified how we can continue to support the beneficiaries of our projects and their affected communities and also seek out new collaborations in the field and activate new partnerships.

In nine countries, we also conducted a survey on the consequences of the pandemic on food security, to understand how we can continue to promote resilience and development.

Naturally, we have defined and adopted specific prevention and health safety measures in every area of activity both to protect the beneficiaries of our activities and our operators and our staff, in Italy and in all the countries in which we operate. This has been an emergency and crisis of absolutely exceptional significance, in the face of which COOPI has been able to implement an effective and incisive response.

In 2020 COOPI increased its activities in West Africa and East Africa as well as in some humanitarian crises, including the one in Venezuela. In addition, the process of opening for COOPI in Tunisia and Burkina Faso was completed.

COOPI's commitment has also increased significantly in Italy where there has been a huge increase in requests for help through the distribution of food, as part of our project to combat poverty.

Throughout the year, COOPI collected and disseminated information extensively, promptly and frequently, updating all supporters and interested parties on the activities carried out. Furthermore, great progress within digital communication and fundraising has taken place, accelerating a process begun in previous years. In spite of everything, reorganization continued, following the decentralization both in the Regional Coordinations and at the headquarters.

In the last year, training activities increased - naturally, with an expanded use of digital tools - and the "School of International Cooperation - Professional Training" was better organized.

In this very unusual year, special thanks certainly go to our donors and supporters and to our partners who have also supported us with extraordinary measures, allowing us to intervene promptly on the ground.

Solidarity, commitment and a spirit of adaptation have also characterized the actions of all those who work and collaborate with COOPI, to whom we express heartfelt thanks.

In a very short time we changed methods, working tools and consolidated practices, all of which highlight our ability to quickly adapt the way we operate.



For each country we have defined a Contingency Plan in order to continue to support the beneficiaries of our projects and their affected communities.

Ennio Miccoli
COOPI's Director

Who is COOPI



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale is a humanitarian organization, founded in Milan on April 15, 1965 by Father Vincenzo Barbieri.

For over 55 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. To make this happen, COOPI brings together the professionalism of local and international aid workers and partnerships with public entities, private donors and civil society.

COOPI is a Participatory Foundation that in 2020 was present in **33 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and**

the Caribbean, with 242 humanitarian projects reaching more than 6 million people. In 2020, COOPI expanded its presence to two new countries: Burkina Faso and Tunisia.

COOPI works with an **integrated approach**, which involves the merging of multiple sectors, including: food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, health, protection and education. Furthermore, COOPI plans its interventions at a **multi-country regional** level and operates with a marked **organizational decentralization** towards the areas of intervention. In this way, the organization is able to provide a **more effective and structured** response to the needs of people in difficulty, both in **development** and **emergency** contexts, and to **actively involve beneficiaries** in decisions and activities.

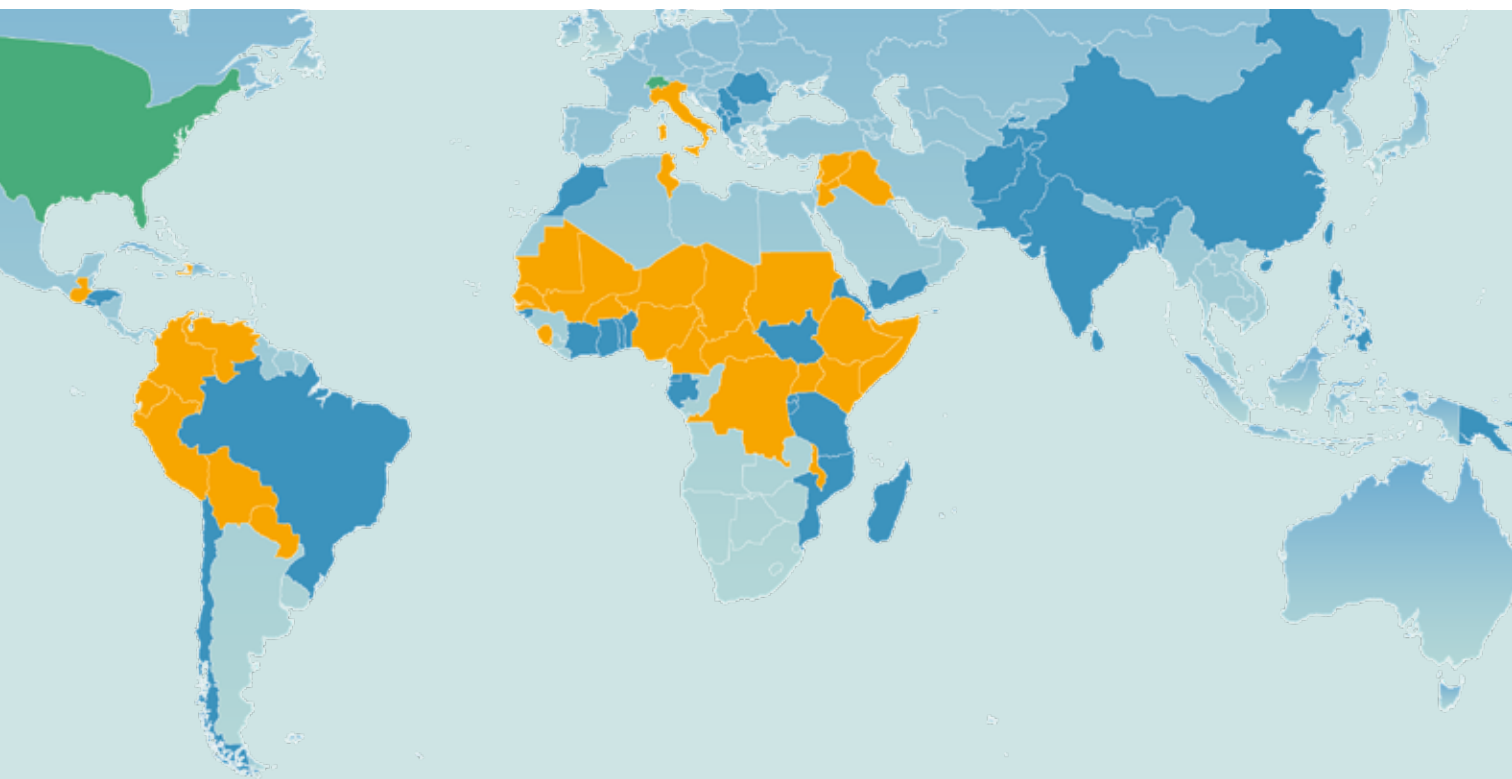
Since 1965 COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale has helped more than **110 million people**, with more than **2,400 projects in 72 countries**, employing about **4,800 expat aid workers** and **65,000 local professionals** over the span of 55 years.

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	2020	2019	2018
Countries	33	31	30
Projects	242	225	241
• International and Italian Projects	224	206	222
• Child Sponsorship Program	18	19	19
Beneficiaries	6,159,322	5,233,639	4,739,543
• Beneficiaries of International and Italian Projects	6,157,785	5,232,011	4,737,603
• Beneficiaries of Child Sponsorship Program	1,537	1,628	1,940
N. International aid workers	151	135	119
N. Professionals and aid workers	2,700	2,630	2,500
N. Staff	50	56	57
N. Volunteers	120*	250	330
N. Regional headquarters and local groups	3	3	3

* Due to the restrictions related to Covid-19, many of the initiatives that we usually carry out with the help/support of our volunteers, have not been possible.

COOPI and the Italian International Cooperation

On April 15, 1965, Father Barbieri founded COOPI “Cooperazione Internazionale”.

This 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.

‘60 and ‘70

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 creates the first project funded by the Italian government in Malta: the use of public funds leads the association to develop a more comprehensive project.



‘80 and ‘90

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) in former Yugoslavia.

The early 2000s

“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.



To find out more about COOPI's history, visit the history page on the website www.coopi.org.

Who is COOPI

From 2010 to today

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 and 2020 COOPI approves the adoption of a decentralized organizational model.



2020 marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Father Barbieri, founder of COOPI.

Father Barbieri was born on February 18, 1931 in Cortile San Martino (in the province of Parma). He made the first big decision of his life around age 19 when, instead of enrolling in university, he chose to join the Jesuits. He had a specific goal in mind: to go to Africa as a missionary priest. In 1958, after 8 years of spiritual formation, he was sent to Lyon for four years of Theology, after which he would leave for a mission in Africa, more precisely in Chad.

In 1962, shortly before his scheduled departure, another turning point left its mark on his life: in Lyon he met the "Service Laicat Missionnaire" which sent out the laity to do social work in the missionary field. Interested in this idea, he decided to publish it in Italian missionary and youth magazines, receiving numerous requests for participation. The Service Laicat Missionnaire was unable to manage all the volunteers so Father Barbieri gave up the mission in Chad in order to devote himself to the preparation of young Italians before their departures, knowing that this would allow Africa to enjoy the support of many "young volunteers" instead of just his own.

A very special clergyman, he dedicated his whole life to those who were most in need, making himself the bearer of a forward-thinking proposal and leading him to become one of the protagonists in the birth of international cooperation.

To find out more about the history of Father Barbieri and COOPI, you can consult the dedicated page on the COOPI website <https://www.cooi.org/en/history.html>. It is also possible to request the brochure published in 2020 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his death as well as the book: **"Ho solo seguito il vento. Vita di Vincenzo Barbieri, padre del volontariato internazionale"** written by Claudio Ceravolo and Luciano Scalettari, prefaced by Andrea Riccardi, both written in the Italian language, by writing to: amici@coopi.org.



Governance and Organization



COOPI has more than 55 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.

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.

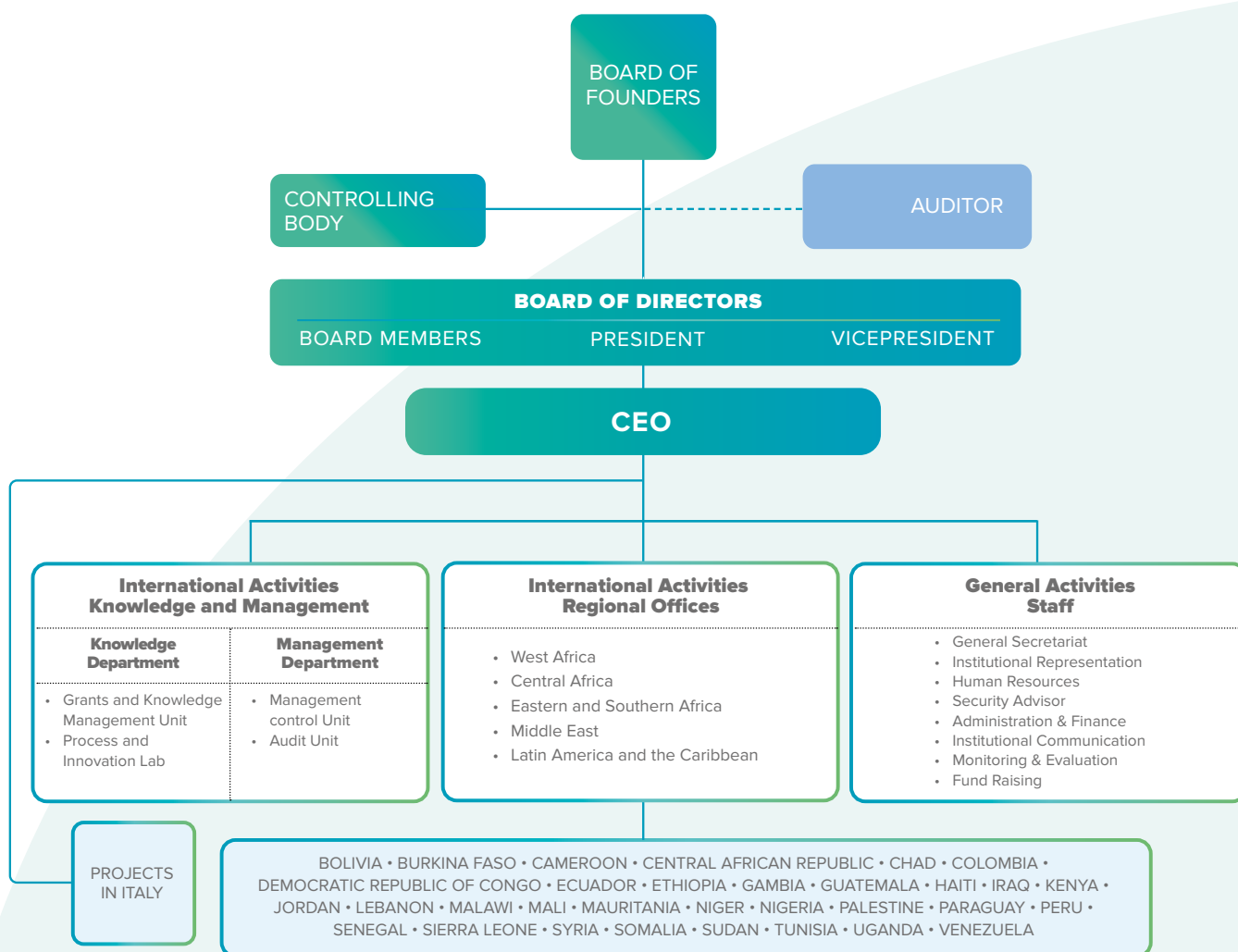
Since 2010, COOPI has been a Participatory Foundation whose purpose is "to contribute to the harmonious and integrated development of the communities with which it cooperates, in the awareness that through contact and collaboration between peoples, ideals of equality and justice are pursued in order to achieve a better world balance" (Statute, art 2.01). In 2020, the COOPI Foundation has 69 Founding Members. Credibility and reputation are invaluable to 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 - which includes the Charter of Values - and the Organization and Control Model, which follow the indications provided by Italian Legislative Decree 231, 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

Over the last fifteen years, COOPI has made an important organizational shift. The adoption of a decentralized organizational model has led to the establishment of 5 Regional Coordinations: West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. The 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 2020 the Board of Founders met once, the Board of Directors 8 times, the Control Body 3 times, and the Supervisory Body met twice. No member of the governing bodies of the Foundation receives any compensation for the position held or any activity carried out in relation to it.

To find out about the members of the Foundation's governing bodies, visit the COOPI website at the page <https://www.coopi.org/en/organization.html>.

COOPI's Statutes AND THE **Code of Ethics** CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY VISITING THE "DOCUMENTS" SECTION OF THE WEBSITE: <https://www.coopi.org/en/documents.html>



Human Resources



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

COOPI operates in complex contexts with an international and local competent staff and with experienced professionals of international cooperation.

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 skilled and motivated people. The **Covid-19 pandemic** has slowed but not prevented the

hiring of new staff. Where possible, COOPI has promoted the recruitment of **international staff** already present in the country, moved **new staff of foreign nationality** between countries whose connections were not suspended, activated the **“job rotation”** of at least 15 workers already active in COOPI, and increased **local staff.**

Who is COOPI

COOPI PEOPLE

38 EMPLOYEES**12** COLLABORATORS AT HEADQUARTERS28
WOMEN22
MEN**151** EXPAT AID WORKERS IN FORCE58
WOMEN93
MEN**2,700** LOCAL PROFESSIONALS AND AID WORKERS**120** VOLUNTEERSOUR EXPAT HUMANITARIAN WORKERS
YEAR 2020

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE DESTINATIONS OF EXPATRIATE HUMANITARIAN WORKERS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONSULT THE PAGES OF THE COOPI WEBSITE DEDICATED TO EACH COUNTRY OF INTERVENTION, BY ACCESSING THE SECTION “Where we work” FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html>.



In 2020, the **consolidation process of Regional Coordinations** continued in 2020 through the implementation of new actions aimed at **strengthening the foreign staff**, also in terms of skills enhancement:

- a **network of sectoral technical consultants** was activated with a call for proposals aimed at supporting foreign coordination with specific and qualified activities in the sectors of Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Hygiene, Protection, Health, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, and Energy;
- **Security & Safety** activities were launched to increase the ability of humanitarian workers to oversee the issues of risk prevention and safety management.

In 2020, because of difficulties related to the Covid-19 pandemic, COOPI accelerated the process (already underway) of **digitizing the information and training program** on Policies, procedures and tools. This conversion made it possible **to readjust in real time** most of the sessions in the presence of information and initial pre-departure orientation, with an **online path**, with **e-learning software** (self-training) and with **individual or small group webinars**.

TRAINING NUMBERS

ONLINE INDUCTION OF EXPAT STAFF



82
PEOPLE

574 HOURS OF
WEBINAR
410 HOURS OF
E-LEARNING

CONTINUOUS UPDATING ONLINE EXPAT STAFF:

147
PEOPLE



INDUCTION AND CONTINUOUS UPDATING ONLINE STAFF ITALY:

61
PEOPLE

INHOUSE TRAINING

INDUCTION EXPAT STAFF:

15
PEOPLE



INDUCTION STAFF ITALY:

6
PEOPLE



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

Who is COOPI

E-LEARNING IN THE FOREFRONT

ONLINE COURSES

- 5** INSTITUTIONAL COURSES
- 5** PROCEDURAL COURSES
- 4** SECTORAL COURSES

WEBINAR

DELIVERED ON OVER
7 TOPICS
 WITH CONNECTIONS ORGANIZED BY SIMILARITY WITHIN THE LANGUAGE OF DELIVERY, SIMULTANEOUSLY BETWEEN TWO OR MORE CONTINENTS.

COMPREHENSIVE LENGTH: 30 HOURS



MAIN ROLES INVOLVED

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 PROGRAM EXPERTS | 13 MISSION LEADERS |
| 27 PROJECT LEADERS | 8 PROJECT MANAGER ASSISTANTS |
| 17 ASSISTANTS | 10 INTERNSHIPS |

COOPI follows good practices in the area of **health and safety in the workplace** to protect all the office staff. For expatriate personnel there are various opportunities for information, through guidelines and procedures. In particular, COOPI has drawn up the **"Health Guide"** which provides instructions adopted by all organizations that refer to SISCOS (organization that provides assistance services to NGOs operating in international cooperation).

All COOPI expatriate personnel are provided with an **e-learning** information module on the main reference contents of the Health Guide.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT **Human Resources** AND THE **training initiatives** CARRIED OUT, VISIT THE ORGANIZATION SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE AT THE LINK:
<https://www.cooopi.org/en/organization.html>



X Edition of the COOPI meeting



In 2020 the COOPI meeting, an annual event that brings together the staff from headquarters with the managers of the Foundation operating around the world, **took place entirely online**, rather than in Milan. This choice allowed for a **higher number of people within the foreign staff to be able to participate in the event**.

The main theme, in continuity with the previous year's work, was decentralization. Added to this were: the presentation of economic and financial information and an update on current activities, both abroad and in Italy.

Over 150 people took part in the COOPI Meeting 2020, including expatriate staff, headquarters staff, consultants and members of the Board of Directors.

From training courses to the School of International Cooperation. COOPI's commitment to enhance the humanitarian workers' professional expertise is consolidated.

COOPI considers professionalization a key element not only for its own development but also for that of wider international cooperation.

Since 2017 COOPI in collaboration with CAPAC (Politecnico del Commercio di Milano) has been promoting professional courses aimed at **training highly qualified humanitarian workers** from a technical, managerial and management point of view. **The School of International Cooperation - Professional Training** was born from this experience.

The distinctive features of the courses promoted by the School are, on the one hand, **the quality of teaching** and, on the other, **the certification of skills acquired**. The teachers are international cooperation professionals, previously trained to carry out teaching activities in an interactive way, capable of including practical exercises and learning tests. At the start of the courses, training sessions are provided to align the previous skills of the participants, in order to allow greater effectiveness of the activity. Finally, the course issues a certification of the skills acquired, which is valid throughout the European Union, since CAPAC is a professional training institution accredited by the Lombardy Region.

In recent years, around **100 candidates** were chosen for each **course** providing for the training of **Project Leaders** and **Project Administrators**. About 15% of candidates were

selected to participate in the course and, of these, almost 90% left for professional experience in the humanitarian sector.

In 2020 the participants were, respectively, **15 in the course for Project Leaders** and **12 in the course for Project Administrators**.

With the goal of enhancing the **international dimension** of the school more and more, the courses, now in Italian, will also be delivered in English and French in order to encourage the participation of a wider linguistic audience.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, VISIT THE “Work with us” SECTION OF THE WEBSITE www.coopi.org



Finally, COOPI participates in some internationally advanced training initiatives such as the **Cooperation and Development Network** which includes the **Masters in Pavia, Cartagena de Indias, Bethlehem, Kathmandu and Nairobi**.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, VISIT THE WEBSITE <http://www.cooperationdevelopment.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 2020 COOPI disseminated the **Policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** approved in 2019 and conducted an in-depth analysis necessary for the preparation of an orientation 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)



THE POLICIES CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE WWW.COOP.ORG AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

- IN ITALIAN <https://www.coopi.org/it/le-policy-di-coopi.html>
- IN ENGLISH <https://www.coopi.org/en/coopi-policies.html>
- IN FRENCH AND SPANISH <https://www.coopi.org/it/documenti.html> BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE DOCUMENTS SECTION.



A networking organization



PHOTO: COOPI-ARCHIVE

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, and the exchange of experiences and integration between research and action.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AMERICAN FRIENDS OF COOPI VISIT THE WEBSITE www.coopi.us
TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COOPI SUISSE VISIT THE WEBSITE www.suisse.coopi.org

Network

Universities and Research Centers



Main International Participation



Main Italian 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 CoLomba, COOPI participates in the AOI (Italian NGO Association).

Regional approach, decentralization

Cooperation and fighting poverty in the time of covid-19

The **Covid-19** pandemic (SARS-CoV-2), the emergency and the crisis that ensued at a global level, have affected all activities: the commitment to combat the **pandemic** and **contain the effects** of the very serious **socio-economic crisis** was the compass that guided COOPI's activities in 2020 at all levels and in every place.

In **extremely vulnerable countries** with severely deficient health systems, field projects in progress were revised in order to integrate them with pandemic **prevention and containment activities**.

In 9 countries, COOPI conducted an assessment to understand the **effects of Covid-19 on the food security** of the communities in which it operates with the aim of developing interventions capable of preserving the livelihoods, while contributing to recovery and long term economic development (for further information on the survey results, see the link <https://www.coopi.org/en/covid-19-coopi-launches-an-assessment-on-food-security-and-livelihoods-in-nine-vulnerable-countries-4070.html>).

In **Italy**, **food distribution** to families in difficulty has been **guaranteed** and **constantly enhanced** even in periods when movement has been restricted.



PHOTO: PAOLO CARLINI



PHOTO: APSATOU BAGAYA

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 regions of priority for COOPI's interventions: **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**, and the growth of **fundraising and accountability** towards all stakeholders.



IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONSULT THE
2015-2020 COOPI Strategy:
"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE
THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE"
AT www.coopi.org.

and innovation: the COOPI strategy

Areas of intervention

Among the **priority areas of intervention for COOPI today** are: **support for refugees** and **nutrition**, 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.

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. Furthermore, by its nature, the issue of energy and climate change is strongly connected to important and consolidated sectors of development cooperation.

With its activities in many of the most fragile contexts in the world, COOPI **constantly advances** the diffusion of a **sustainable development model**, thus actively contributing to the achievement of all the **Sustainable Development Goals**, set by the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

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.

Sectors of intervention		Beneficiaries 2020
Migrations		708,886
Health		1,376,382
Nutrition		331,347
Food security		1,413,046
Protection		583,322
Child sponsorship		1,537
Environment and DRR		292,772
Water and hygiene		1,126,803
Business development		18,625
Energy		107,540
Education in emergency		122,308
Governance and human rights		54,332
Training		22,422
Total beneficiaries		6,159,322



COOPI's Imprint

In 2020 COOPI was present in 33 countries around the world, including Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. It carried out 224 projects for emergency and development and supported 1,537 children through CSP. In 2020, COOPI operated in 2 new countries - Venezuela and Ecuador - and was present in Tunisia and Burkina Faso, planning the start-up activities for the following year and maintaining its active relationships with stakeholders on many different levels. In total more than 6,100,000 beneficiaries were reached.



**TOTAL
BENEFICIARIES**

6,159,322



**TOTAL
PROJECTS**

242

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

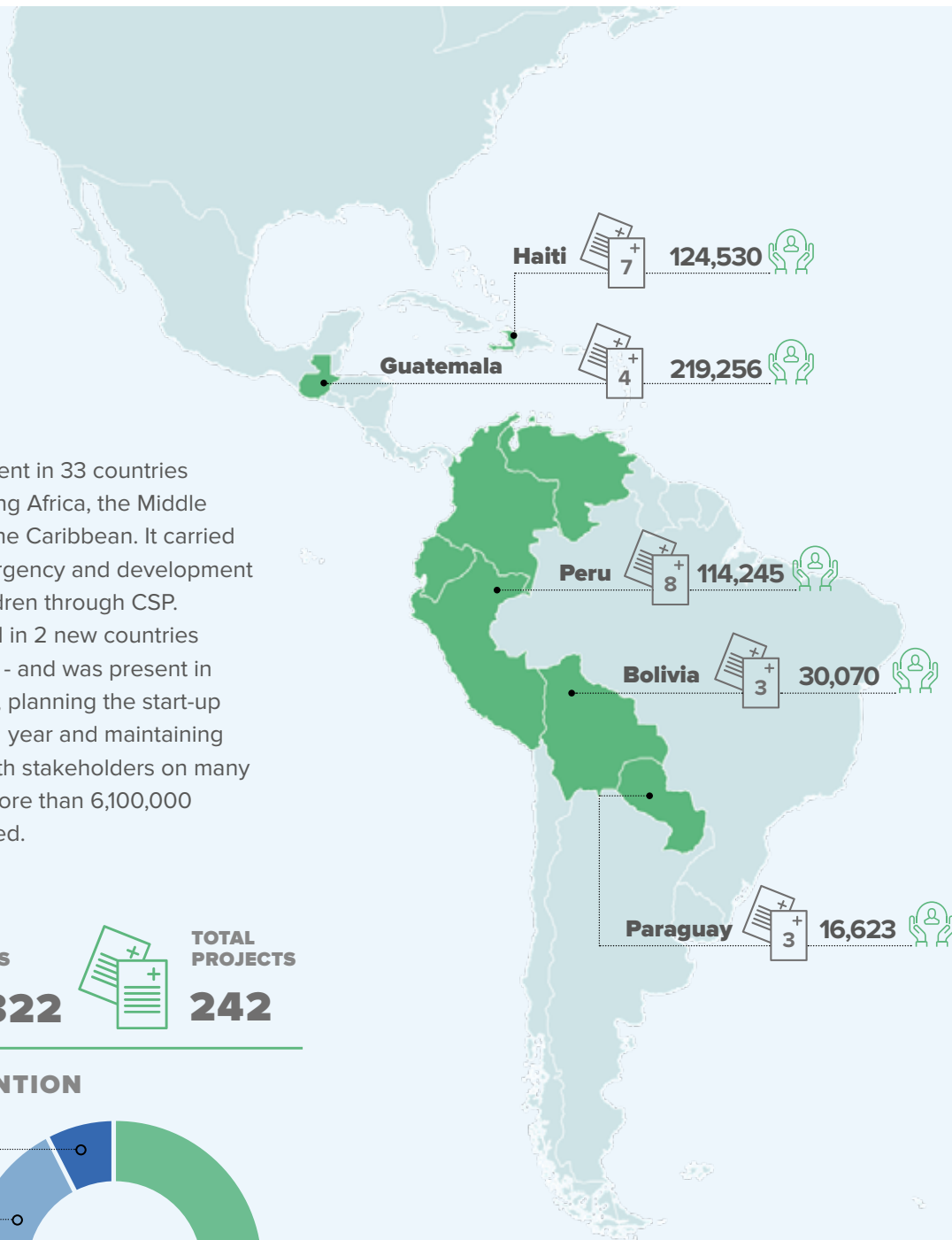
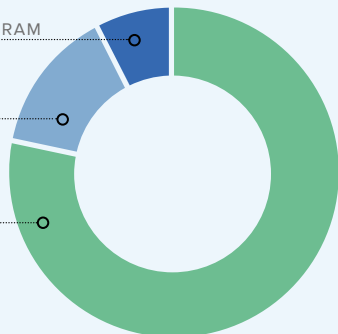
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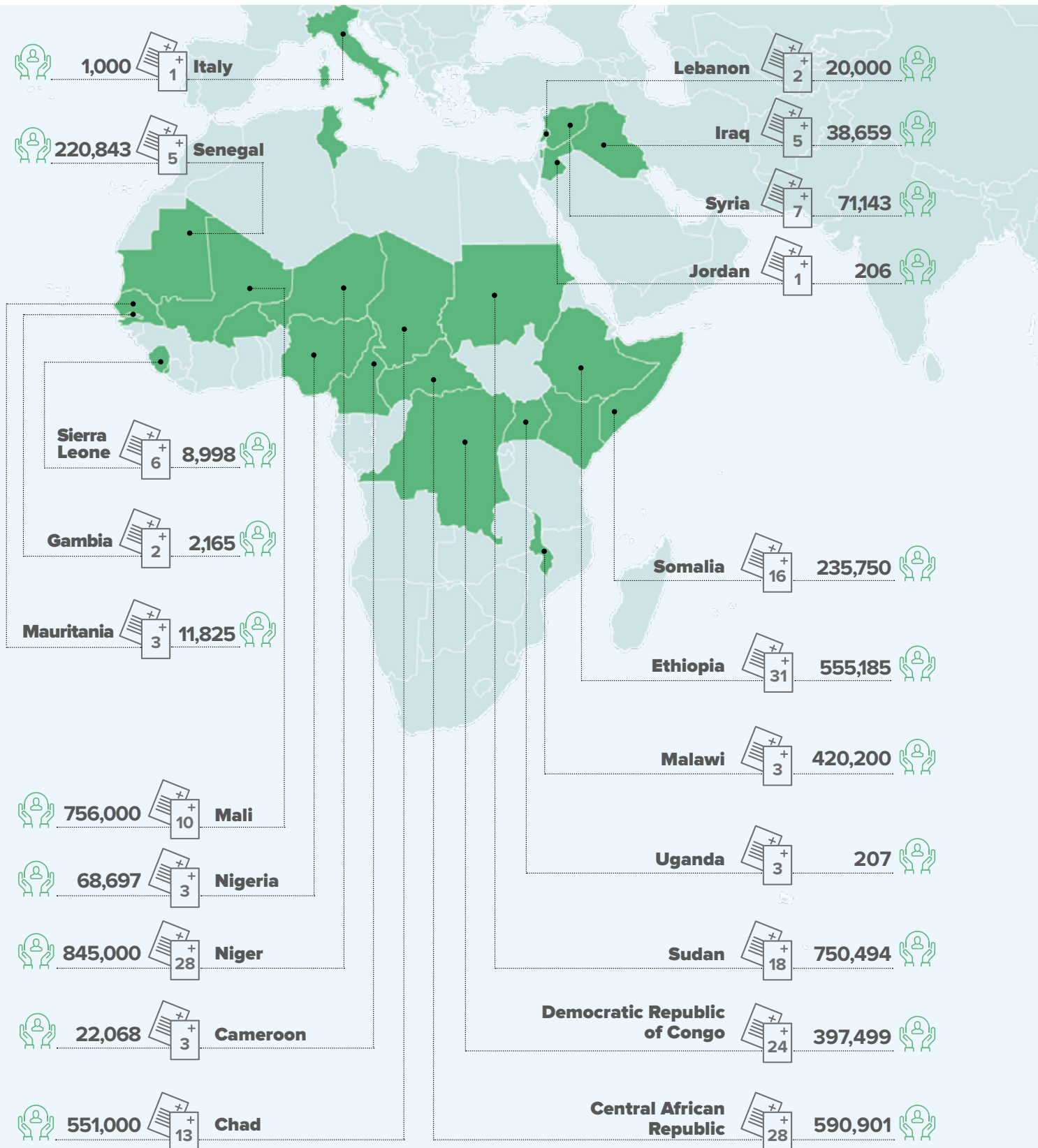
DEVELOPMENT

34

EMERGENCY

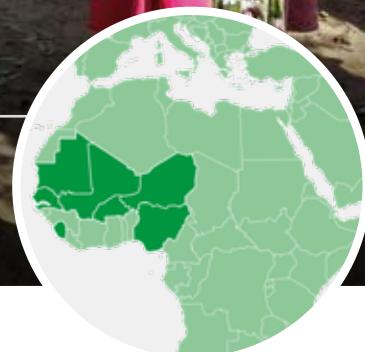
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West Africa

In West Africa COOPI operates in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Mauritania and, as of 2021, in Burkina Faso. The Regional Coordination of West Africa is located in Dakar.



West Africa, among the richest in the world in terms of natural resources, remains among the most impoverished from an economic and environmental point of view. As in a domino effect, continuous climate change generates community tensions for the control of resources and lands, while armed terrorist groups take advantage of the vulnerability of communities and the high rate of youth unemployment, to the detriment of women and girls often subject to episodes of gender-based violence and of children and young people forced into recruitment.

All of these factors increase the number of displaced persons and refugees, weaken the education and health system and exacerbate the pre-existing problems of malnutrition and food insecurity.

In 2020, the spread of the **Covid-19** pandemic and the **crisis** that exploded in the **Liptako Gourma** region, on the border with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, further aggravated the fragility of the Sahel countries, still marked by the violence perpetrated by affiliated terrorist groups to Al-Qaeda as Boko Haram and ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province).

SAHEL

1,913,528

NR OF BENEFICIARIES



57

NR OF PROJECTS



23.6

MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

12.2

MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

1.6

MILLION CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION

4.5

MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES



The epidemic has affected the region's **informal cross-border economy**, compromising the survival and well-being of families, especially those with single mothers; while the Liptako Gourma crisis caused thousands of deaths and the **displacement of about 1.4 million people**.

In the countries of the **Sahel area**, COOPI carries out **programs to strengthen basic services**: here the fight against malnutrition, protection of minors, education in emergency, mental health and income-generating activities are priority areas of intervention.

The promotion of income-generating activities includes a wide variety of interventions ranging from the **development of production and marketing** chains in collaboration with local communities - for example **leather** and hide, **gum arabic**, and poultry and livestock in **Mauritania** and **cashews** in the **Sierra Leone** - up to the supply of tools and training for the start-up of small business ventures.

In **Senegal, Gambia** and **Mali**, COOPI implements projects to **struggle irregular migration** and promotes actions to **support local development**, also through the development of agricultural activities capable of stabilizing the production and incomes of vulnerable community groups and by supporting young migrants returning to their country.

In **Mali**, in the regions of Mopti and Ségou, places with fragile social contexts that are increasingly affected by the country's multidimensional crisis, COOPI's commitment focuses on

the **fight against** acute and severe **malnutrition** of children under 5, support for the local health system and psychosocial assistance for child victims of conflict. These activities are also carried out by involving parents in awareness-raising activities on **children's rights** and **good hygiene practices** to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

In **Niger** COOPI manages **5 guest houses in Niamey** and **1 in Agadez** and **carries out psychosocial support** activities for severely traumatized adults and minors, aiding resettlement in their final destination. Here COOPI collaborates closely with **UNHCR** and the **Ministry of the Interior** for psychosocial support to asylum seekers previously locked up in Libyan centers. Additionally, COOPI integrates support for migrants with income-generating activities aimed at those who decide to settle in Niger, and is pioneering a business **incubator project** through **AICS** to accelerate and systematize the process of creating new businesses. To strengthen **nutritional security** and **health** in the areas of Tillabéry and Tahoua with a high concentration of displaced persons and refugees, COOPI has also implemented **Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)** projects, adopted in complex crisis situations to provide rapid and multisectoral assistance, when local capacities are not enough.

In West Africa COOPI works with **AICS** and the Italian **Ministry of the Interior**, with authoritative international partners such as **ECHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, USAid / Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), European Union, Swiss Cooperation, ENABEL, IOM, WHO**, and collaborates with local authorities and other non-governmental organizations present.

Finally, in **Senegal** and **Sierra Leone**, COOPI supported **557 boys and girls** in 2020 thanks to **Child Sponsorship programs**.



PHOTO: APSATOU BAGAYA



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK IN WEST AFRICA, ACCESS THE **Where We Work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html> AND FROM THERE CONSULT THE PAGES DEDICATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE INTERACTIVE MAP.

Central Africa

In Central Africa COOPI operates in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad.



Political instability, the presence of **armed groups**, **poverty** and **malnutrition** are problems that accumulate and generate violence, widespread insecurity and forced migration in most countries in the central region of Africa.

COOPI has been present since 1977 with **emergency** and development projects in many parts of 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.

2020 was marked by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although diffusion in the country has been contained, the health emergency has nevertheless posed various challenges, which COOPI has been able to handle in a timely and effective manner, integrating **awareness sessions on anti-Covid** regulations for each project and adopting preventive measures to combat the spread of the pandemic by **distributing hygiene kits** and setting up **hand washing devices**.

CENTRAL AFRICA

1,561,468

NR OF BENEFACTORIES



68

NR OF PROJECTS



32 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

26 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

11 MILLION PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION

6 MILLION CHILDREN, **9** MILLION WOMEN AND ANOTHER **13** MILLION PEOPLE NEEDING PROTECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

9 MILLION CHILDREN UNABLE TO FOLLOW A REGULAR EDUCATION PATH

8 MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES



Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Program

Given the large geographical area and complex logistics, COOPI has concentrated its activities at a strategic level in three areas - Ituri-North Kivu, Central Kasai and Tanganyika - where it promotes activities to combat **malnutrition** and provide **health support**, strengthening **resilience**, **child protection** and the **reintegration of boys and girls** associated with armed groups (Kasai), as well as **reintegrating women who have survived violence back into the socio-economic fabric**.

In 2020, COOPI's main donors in the DRC included **ECHO**, the **European Union**, the **International Criminal Court**, the **United Nations Humanitarian Fund**, **Unicef** and the **World Food Program**.

In the **Central African Republic**, COOPI began operating in 1974 (the longest active international humanitarian organization in the area). The CAR has been experiencing a very serious humanitarian crisis since 2013: despite the agreements reached with the armed groups, the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is slow to progress. Furthermore, the electoral process that took place towards the end of the year saw a new flare-up of violence following attempts by a coalition of rebel groups to overthrow the president.

2020 was also marked by the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, COOPI promoted **anti-Covid safety practices** and **awareness campaigns**. Although the CAR has recorded a relatively low number of cases so far, the overall impact of the epidemic has been severe and, to date, **more than half of the population requires humanitarian assistance**.

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, Alindao, Bria, Zemio, Obo and Birao.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

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 also located, COOPI has been promoting interventions since 2016 to help **transition from emergency to development**, particularly with projects that relaunch and **promote agro-pastoral production**.

In 2020, COOPI's main institutional donors in the Central African Republic include: **ECHO**, the **European Union**, the **International Criminal Court**, the **United Nations Humanitarian Fund**, **Unicef**, **World Food Program**, **FAO** and the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**.

In **Chad** and **Cameroon**, COOPI is present with a **multi-year and multi-sectoral program** that also involves Niger and Nigeria, launched as part of the management of the **Lake Chad Basin** crisis. The program is aimed at **displaced persons** and **host communities** and has reached **several hundred thousand** people with interventions to combat malnutrition and promote food security, and to support the modernization of agro-pastoral activities, protection, education in emergencies, mental health and promote income-generating activities.

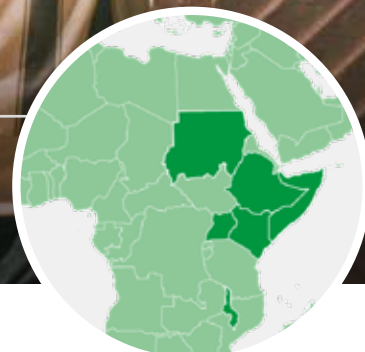
Finally, in the **DRC** and the **CAR**, COOPI supported almost **500 boys and girls** thanks to Childhood Sponsorship programs in 2020.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA, ACCESS THE **Where We Work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html> AND FROM THERE CONSULT THE PAGES DEDICATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE INTERACTIVE MAP.



Eastern and Southern Africa

In Eastern and Southern Africa, COOPI operates in Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Furthermore, in Nairobi (Kenya) COOPI has the headquarters of its Regional Coordination for Eastern and Southern Africa.



The Horn of Africa continues to be marked by violence, political instability and climate change with serious consequences on the local economy, social infrastructure and community cohesion. The spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has further aggravated the living conditions of the most vulnerable, who suffer from **food insecurity, have no access to drinking water** and are more **exposed to the risk of disease**. Furthermore, the lockdown measures and restrictions on freedom of movement have damaged the socio-economic fabric of countries where it was mainly young people and women representing the informal economy who paid the price.

In **Ethiopia**, the **conflict** between the **Tigray region** and the Ethiopian central government, which erupted in November, caused a **serious humanitarian crisis**, generating 200,000 internally displaced persons and 60,000 refugees fleeing to Sudan. COOPI's consolidated presence in the state of Kassala (Sudan) and in the neighboring Ethiopian region of **Afar**, allowed COOPI to intervene promptly, **restoring strategic water points**

HORN OF AFRICA

1,961,836

NR OF BENEFACTARIES



71

NR OF PROJECTS



28.5 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

8.8 MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS

4.6 MILLION REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

4 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODS



Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Program

and **distributing clean water** via tankers in the Hamdayet area, thanks to funding from **ECHO** and **AICS**. In the Sudanese state of Geradef, COOPI also set up the **first refugee camps** in collaboration with **UNHCR**.

In the country, COOPI integrates projects for the **development of professional skills and small businesses of local products to reduce irregular migration** and improve the living conditions of potential migrants and returnees, with particular attention to young people and women. In the state of Oromia, in collaboration with **UNIDO**, COOPI also promotes the **sustainability** and inclusiveness of the **Ethiopian coffee value chain**: specifically, the created blend has, for the first time, reached the degree of certification for high quality and it is now close to export.

In **Sudan**, COOPI deals with **resilience** and **flood emergency response**, in particular in the Mayo Mandela area, a camp for refugees and asylum seekers in conditions of extreme poverty. Here COOPI promotes an integrated approach to strengthen community mechanisms and the development of human capital, in terms of responding to natural disasters and identifying income-generating activities and micro-entrepreneurial initiatives, especially those run by women. In the country, COOPI's commitment to **combat drought** in the Kassala area also continues through the mapping of natural resources and by preparing community action plans for resource management.

In **Somalia**, COOPI strengthened its response to the pandemic crisis in the communities most at risk, together with the **Canadian Fund** and in collaboration with the **Somali National Women Organization**, organizing **awareness campaigns** both in the media and at the community level and also by distributing **kits containing masks and sanitizing products to prevent** the spread of the virus.

In the **Banadir and Baidoa areas**, in the south-western part of the country, COOPI together with **ECHO** promotes **cash transfer mechanisms** to support the **most vulnerable displaced families**, single mothers, people with disabilities or individuals without any source of income.



In **Malawi**, COOPI participates in the **Covid-19 pandemic response mechanism** to support the central government, local authorities and local communities in the **prevention, identification and response** to the pandemic threat.

In particular, with **ECHO** funding, COOPI has developed a **geo-localization system** to map out the health facilities in Malawi. Available online, the web portal is now a fundamental tool that has allowed COOPI to contribute to the collective effort of facilitating effective decision-making processes in response to the health emergency in the country, provide updated data to decision-making bodies and record the indicators necessary to guarantee the updated drafting of national reports.

Finally, in **Ethiopia** and **Uganda**, COOPI supported **486 boys and girls** thanks to **Childhood Sponsorship programs in 2020**.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, ACCESS THE **Where we Work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html> AND FROM THERE CONSULT THE PAGES DEDICATED TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE INTERACTIVE MAP.



Middle East

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.



More than 10 years have passed since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and a solution for lasting peace still seems far away. The consequences are the more than **11 million Syrian refugees** in need of **humanitarian assistance**, but also the host communities of neighboring countries, such as **Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon**. Here, millions of people suffer from food insecurity, lack access to clean water and adequate sanitation, and many children are excluded from basic quality education.

The situation in COOPI's countries of intervention worsened following the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, which impacted the already fragile economies of the countries. In response to the emergency, with the support of historic donors such as **UNHCR, OCHA, ECHO** and the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**, COOPI organized **awareness-raising, prevention and distribution campaigns of disinfection and hygiene kits**.

MIDDLE EAST SYRIAN CRISIS

130,008

NR OF BENEFICIARIES



15

NR OF PROJECTS



11

MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

6.1

MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS

7.9

MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

ONLY **53%** OF HOSPITALS & **51%** OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS FULLY FUNCTIONING

10.7

MILLION PEOPLE WITHOUT SUFFICIENT ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

2.5

MILLION CHILDREN UNABLE TO FOLLOW A REGULAR EDUCATION PATH



Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Program

In **Syria**, in Aleppo, the diffusion of best practices for health and hygiene has helped raise awareness in communities regarding the risks associated with the pandemic and on how to mitigate the spread of further infections. Additionally, in order to guarantee the safety of its beneficiaries, COOPI set up an online **psychosocial and mental health assistance service** to assist particularly vulnerable people such as the **elderly, children, people with disabilities and single mothers**.

Furthermore, in the **eastern Ghouta region**, COOPI launched a **campaign for the distribution of seeds, agricultural materials** and subsistence means to promote self-sustenance for the most vulnerable families and to strengthen their resilience for the future.

In **Iraq**, COOPI's projects for **education in emergency** continue. To safeguard the health of students and guarantee school continuity for primary school children in Qayyarah, Mosul, COOPI launched a **pilot project for distance learning**. Teachers and families were trained to prepare children for final exams. This is one way COOPI is helping to ensure **quality education** even during a health emergency.



PHOTO: FLORIANA BUCCA

In the country, COOPI recognizes the fundamental role of communities in preventing the transmission of the virus and is adopting innovative methods related to the use of **social media** to mobilize civil society and raise awareness of hygiene practices and Covid-19 control measures. Furthermore, in terms of **water and hygiene**, hygiene kits have been distributed door to door, especially in rural areas, where COOPI is rehabilitating two **plumbing systems** in the villages of Beiji, to ensure safe and long-lasting access to sources of clean water.

In **Jordan**, COOPI promotes **school reintegration** to prevent and discourage negative response mechanisms to the pandemic, such as child labor and early marriage, which are already on the rise. COOPI supports both host communities and refugees with actions to protect children, raise awareness on issues such as gender-based violence and give psychological assistance to those most at risk, such as children, women and people with disabilities.

In **Lebanon**, COOPI was among the first organizations to intervene alongside Lebanese NGOs and communities following the terrible **explosion** that devastated Beirut and brought the resident population to their knees. In particular, COOPI distributed **hot meals and food parcels** to the population and supported merchants with the restructuring of their commercial activities which were destroyed or damaged by the explosion.

The awareness and mobilization campaign involving students, families and the local community working towards an **integrated and sustainable management of solid waste** continues in the Akkar region, in northern Lebanon. The project, launched in 2018 and funded by the **European Union**, sees the participation of 13 local municipalities and various local and international partners, academics and specialists in the sector with the aim of drastically reducing the abuse of plastic, the risk of epidemics and the emissions of pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ACCESS THE **Where we work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html> AND THEN CONSULT THE PAGES DEDICATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE INTERACTIVE MAP.

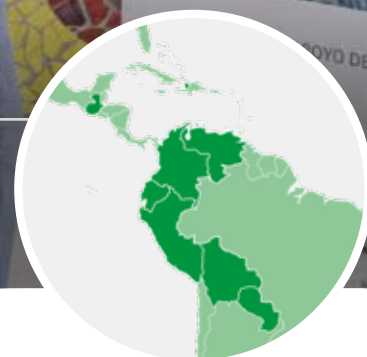
Latin America and the Caribbean

COOPI has been present in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1967; in 2020 operating in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia, where it moved the headquarters of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Coordination to Bogotá.

Despite the heterogeneous cultural, environmental, and socio-economic contexts within the individual countries of intervention, COOPI develops a **common strategy of multi-sectoral response** in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening the **resilience of the communities** and promoting **participatory governance**, with an orientation aimed at technical assistance to local actors, such as institutions, non-governmental bodies and civil society.

Specifically, COOPI promotes projects relating to the management of **disaster risks**, both natural and anthropogenic, in Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Peru and Paraguay, the promotion of sustainable environmental ecosystems in Bolivia and Paraguay, **assistance and food security** in Guatemala, Haiti and Paraguay, and the **promotion of sustainable development and circular economy** in Bolivia.

In these countries, COOPI intervenes for the benefit of groups suffering from specific situations of vulnerability such as indigenous **populations, farmers, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees**, with priority given to **women and children**.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

565,959

NR OF BENEFICIARIES



29

NR OF PROJECTS



191.7

MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

231

MILLION PEOPLE IN POVERTY

23.4

MILLION CHILDREN IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

8

MILLION VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

20% INCREASE IN CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC



Total International Projects and Child Sponsorship Program

Special attention is given to Haiti, a country with the worst development indices in the region, particularly in relation to nutrition and food security, areas where COOPI is currently working on two interventions with the WFP.

To combat the **Covid-19** pandemic in the 8 intervention countries - which count **4.7 million cases** - COOPI has outlined **specific containment plans**, in compliance with the rules implemented by the various national governments, and has adopted a **regional approach to the humanitarian response**, which is both immediate and lasting and gives priority to key interventions of water and hygiene, health, protection, food security, livelihoods and reception facilities, favoring the most vulnerable sections of the population.

The spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has not stopped the flow of **migrants from Venezuela**. On the contrary, the closure of its borders has led to a greater spread of irregular migration, which has exposed women and children to a high risk of violence and trafficking. COOPI continues its commitment by **strengthening the regional approach** in **Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela** where it carries out **protection** interventions - including legal and psychosocial assistance - and contributes to the development of legal systems in response to gender-based violence and specific protocols that favor children, adolescents, migrant and refugee women, in collaboration with **UNICEF, ECHO** and the US Department of State's **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)**.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

In 2020 COOPI multiplied its interventions in the **water and sanitation** sector in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Additionally, in Ecuador, COOPI promoted prevention and awareness activities in collaboration with **UNICEF, ECHO** and **IOM** and restored **7 health facilities** following the **WASHFIT** model, creating **inclusive portable washbasins** with funding from **UNHCR**. In **Peru**, hygiene “blue points” have been established in public spaces and markets, thanks to the support of **IOM**. In **Bolivia** the national strategy to eliminate defecation in the open air is being piloted through funding from **UNICEF**.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, where the **informal economy stands at almost 80%**, the lockdown has meant unemployment and risk of eviction from overdue rent for many people. Thanks to previous experience in Ecuador, COOPI actively participated in a **study on evictions** carried out by the regional coordination platform R4V (Response For Venezuelans) and presented it during a high-level meeting. COOPI also participates in the LAC RMD coalition, a strategic alliance of civil society, national, regional and international organizations that collaborates alongside refugees, migrants and displaced persons.

Simultaneously, COOPI promotes **sustainable livelihoods** in Peru and Ecuador, strengthening the technical skills and soft skills of its beneficiaries and promoting their job placement thanks to funds from the BPRM. COOPI also encourages the development of micro-enterprises and encourages the flow of goods and services through **cash transfer** activities, prioritizing Venezuelan women and girls and the LGBTQI+ community.

COOPI promotes the **empowerment of women** and combats **gender-based violence** in Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, thanks to collaborations with UNICEF, ECHO and BPRM. Furthermore, COOPI's activities favoring the protection and the promotion of women's rights have been recognized by **UN WOMEN** which, in Guatemala, supports COOPI in a project to strengthen the capacities of women as leaders in responding to emergencies and the disaster risks in the country.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, ACCESS THE **Where We Work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.cooi.org/en/where-we-work.html> AND FROM THERE CONSULT THE PAGES DEDICATED TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES BY SELECTING THEM FROM THE INTERACTIVE MAP.



Distribution of food to people in difficulty in Italy



In Italy, poverty and fragility, which had been increasing over the past years, worsened in 2020 due to the crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. Food distribution for people in difficulty saw a strong and steady increase in 2020.

Launched in 1999 through the initiative of Father Barbieri, the activity of food distribution to people in difficulty has **grown** month by month reaching about **250 families** for a total of about 1,000 people in Milan in 2020. Everything indicates that the need will continue to grow in 2021.

In order to respond to the increased amount of requests in 2020, COOPI invested in **raising awareness** and, thanks to the **generosity** of many organizations and people, managed to obtain funding that allowed for a significant increase in aid in addition to the food parcels already supplied - in collaboration with Banco Alimentare - currently about half of the food distributed comes from these contributions.

In 2020 COOPI distributed more than 30 tons of food by completely reorganizing the system so as not to stop the distribution of food and at the same time guarantee the health and safety of both beneficiaries and operators as well as volunteers, who never stopped during the pandemic.

Many of COOPI's food grant beneficiaries live in Milan in the San Siro district, adjacent to the Foundation's headquarters. In this area, COOPI opened a special space to carry out food distribution activities more safely and effectively thanks to funding from "Lights at San Siro", promoted by Aler and the Municipality of Milan. This space helps establish closer relationships with beneficiaries while maintaining their privacy.

It also allows for deeper listening and understanding of the specific needs of the area. Positioned right in Piazza Selinunte, a strategic point of a frontier reality such as the San Siro district, this space favors the possibility of weaving networks with other entities operating in the district. For example, the **QuBi-Recipe Against Poverty** project - by Fondazione Cariplo - with the active participation of 15 other institutions, and with dynamic inclusion in the **SanSheroes Network** - promoted by the Politecnico di Milano - made up of more than 30 different entities in the area. As soon as the epidemic allows, COOPI, in collaboration with the local networks, also intends to promote specific reception and listening activities for people who benefit from food distribution. The Project is also spreading in Municipio 8, the district where the Foundation is based: the families benefiting from food aid are becoming an increasing presence and collaboration with the Town Hall Council is developing.

COOPI also plans to consolidate work with local networks and other entities in Milan that distribute food aid in other areas.

TO FIND OUT MORE, ACCESS THE **Where We Work** SECTION OF THE COOPI WEBSITE FROM THE LINK <https://www.coopi.org/en/where-we-work.html>

AND FROM THERE CONSULT THE PAGE DEDICATED TO ITALY



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.

MAIN INSTITUTIONAL DONORS



FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • ICC International Crime Court • UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
• WHO World Health Organization • 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



The Balance Sheet in Brief

BALANCE SHEET (in Euro)	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Net fixed assets	749,789	797,151
Receivables from donors	7,208,137	4,124,723
Receivables from others	3,459,962	648,845
Liquid assets	13,965,210	9,632,119
Prepayments and accrued income	1,663	-
Accrued income for ongoing projects		3,575,808
TOTAL ASSETS	25,384,761	18,778,646
LIABILITIES		
Common fund	70,000	70,000
Other funds	2,201,670	2,042,905
Operating profit	55,462	87,717
TOTAL NET WORTH	2,327,132	2,200,622
Provisions for risks and charges	35,091	37,591
Severance indemnity for subordinate employment	497,923	505,856
Payables to banks	2,936,806	3,100,006
Other short payables	3,202,928	2,471,958
Accruals and deferred income		10,462,613
Projects deferred income	16,384,881	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	25,384,761	18,778,646
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (in Euro; reclassified balance)	2020*	2019
PROCEEDS		
Income by projects	80,837,369	47,158,950
Subscriptions	7,300	7,500
Donations	1,690,494	1,758,784
Repayments and various proceeds	36,875	27,917
Financial income	416,848	250,313
TOTAL	82,988,886	49,203,465
OUTLAYS		
Outlays by projects	78,108,933	44,436,391
Headquarters' staff and collaborators	1,507,644	1,966,197
Institutional outlays	1,528,774	1,311,246
General outlays	398,802	828,897
Financial outlays	1,389,271	573,017
TOTAL	82,933,424	49,115,747
PROFIT/LOSS FINANCIAL YEAR	55,462	87,717

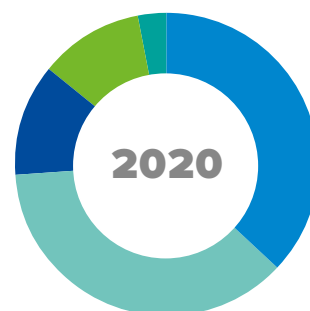
*The difference in the volume of activity between 2019 and 2020 is due to the change in the accounting criteria of the projects. For further information on this subject, see the "Explanatory Note" to the 2020 Financial Statements; under point "1. Application Criteria" available for consultation on www.cooopi.org.

The resources of COOPI

Receivables for projects

2020

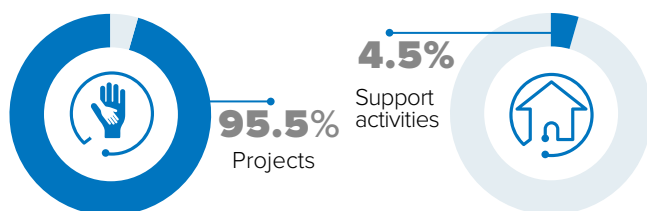
• European Union	37%
• International Organizations	37%
• Italian government and local institutions	12%
• Foreign governments	11%
• Private institutions and private donors	3%



Use of funds by sectors of intervention

• Humanitarian assistance	23%	
• Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	21%	
• Health	16%	
• Agriculture	11%	
• Migrations	11%	
• Training	9%	
• Socio-economic services	6%	
• Governance/Human Rights, Energy	3%	

Use of funds



Use of funds for geographical areas



Africa	84%
Middle East	7%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9%

The full version of the final financial statements as of 31 December 2020, subject to auditing by BDO Italia SpA, and the related certification letter are available at the following link:

<https://www.coopi.org/en/accountability.html>



Strategic partners

COOPI is continually committed to building partnerships with other large humanitarian organizations and activating collaborations with foundations, companies and major donors.

COOPI acts in the field more and more often in **partnership** with other **major players in the world of international cooperation**: acting together, each according to their skills, is increasingly important to intervene effectively on the ground in the worst **humanitarian crises** and to promote an **organic and sustainable development**.

PARTNER HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

ACTED Central African Republic
 Action Contre la Faim ACF
 Alliance for International Medical Action ALIMA
 Associazione internazionale volontari laici LVIA
 Associazione Solidarietà paesi emergenti ASPEM
 AVSI people for development
 CARE Perù
 Catholic Relief Services CRS
 Comitato collaborazione medica CCM
 Concern Worldwide CWW
 CORDAID
 Cooperazione per lo sviluppo dei paesi emergenti COSPE
 Danish Church Aid DCA
 ENGIM
 Haccion contra el Hambre ACF
 Humanity & Inclusion
 International Rescue committee IRC
 Istituto per la cooperazione universitaria ICU
 MANI TESE
 Mercy Corps
 OXFAM
 Première urgence international PUI
 Progetto Mondo MLAL
 Save the Children
 Solidarité internationale SI
 SOS Sahel
 Terre des hommes Suisse
 Volontariato internazionale per lo sviluppo VIS
 Welthungerhilfe WHH
 WeWorld GVC

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.

FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER DONORS



fondazione **sanzeno**



Charity and Defence of Nature Foundation
Italian Buddhist Union

COMPANIES



PAPER, RIBBONS AND SOLIDARITY PARTNERS



BEAUTY ★ STAR



Fundraising from private donors

Dialogue and constant conversation regarding 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 from private citizens through multiple **online and offline channels**, organizing events and promoting local initiatives. In 2020, the restrictions deriving from the need to combat the **Covid-19 pandemic** necessitated a **constant rethinking** regarding communication and fundraising activities. The **content** of this communication was characterized by the emergency and the need to catalyze the energies in **support of the measures to combat the pandemic both in Italy and in the world**. Initiatives to raise awareness and “online” donations saw a significant increase.

Email and **social media** were the main tools through which all COOPI donors were able to have frequent updates on what was being done to prevent the pandemic in countries with particularly fragile health systems and to allow activities on the ground to continue as much as possible. During 2020,

59 specific appeals were sent online. An intense telephone contact activity was also organized to inform regular donors on the progress of activities, for example on initiatives to allow children supported through **Child Sponsorship programs** to continue studying.

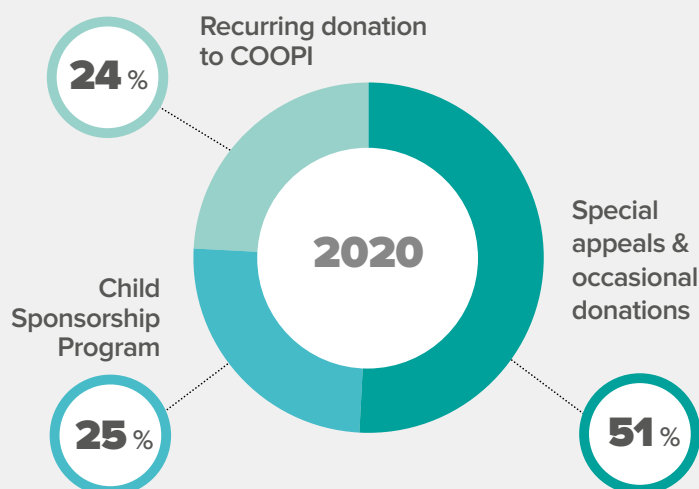
In 2020 COOPI promoted and managed **Child Sponsorship programs (CSP)** for the benefit of **1,537 children** in 18 centers in 6 countries (Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone).

During the year, **8 “mailings”** were created and sent with **appeals and updates** and there were 2 issues of the **“COOPI News” newsletter** (every six-months).

2020 was also the year of the **55th anniversary of the birth of COOPI** and the **10th anniversary of the death of Father**



What do private donors choose



Raccolta fondi da privati

Barbieri: two very important recurrences for the Foundation which honored both events despite the pandemic restrictions through videos, brochures, articles and other “online” communications.

Support from donors has also favored options that do not require physical travel: the adoption of mini-sites dedicated to individual appeals has favored donations by credit card and in many cases, online transfers have replaced donations by postal order or bank transfer.

All in-person initiatives and events were canceled: the traditional Christmas campaign “Paper, Ribbons and Solidarity” was canceled for the first time in 10 years, as well as the solidarity concerts promoted with the LaVerdi Symphony Orchestra of Milan and Cascina Aperta. The initiatives organized in the area by the volunteer groups of COOPI Crema and COOPI Brescia were also severely limited.

5x1000

Each year, from February to June, COOPI promotes the “5x1000” campaign. In 2020, the communication aspect was completely renovated and promoted with particular force. The funds, among other things, provided for **food distribution to families in need in Milan**, numbers that rapidly increased when

the Covid-19 pandemic worsened the economic crisis. With the 5x1000 campaign, COOPI received **€ 66,054** with **1,669 preferences** (relating to tax returns on 2018-2017 income).

Following an awareness campaign promoted by Assif and joined by COOPI, all the Italian Third Sector entities also received contributions relating to 2019 tax returns (2018 income) in 2020 as a support measure to mitigate the consequences on fundraising that resulted from restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Out of this, COOPI also received **€ 74,778** with **1,861 preferences** (relating to tax returns 2019-income 2018) bringing the fundraising from 5x1000 in 2020 to a total of **€ 140,832**.

LEGACY CAMPAIGN

With the “Look for me among the Living” **legacy campaign**, COOPI has been carrying out an intense awareness-raising activity since 2015, illustrating for potential donors the significance of a COOPI legacy and how it works. In 2019 the campaign was strengthened thanks to collaboration with the **National Council of Notaries**, the **Notarial Council of Piacenza** and various **professionals**.

From 2015 to 2020 COOPI received **bequests and in-memory donations of approximately € 280,000**.



COOPI NEWS newsletter

Page dedicated to fundraisers



Online & Offline Campaign

Messages conveyed by email and social network



COOPI communicates



New COOPI institutional video

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent global crisis were at the center of the narrative of COOPI's 2020 interventions.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, COOPI has published a **weekly update on the activities carried out for the prevention and fight against Covid-19** in its countries of intervention, which was relaunched by Link2007 and the Global Health Italian Network. Furthermore, COOPI created and constantly updated a webpage: "Covid-19: our response" (available at the link <https://wakelet.com/wake/Pm5iDkfvZGOrLBuVDBuWi>) making all interventions and updates easily accessible.

Alongside these updates, COOPI launched a survey questionnaire in 9 countries in order to understand the effects of Covid-19 on the food safety within its communities. The research has been relaunched several times by various

media, from Repubblica to Voice, Vita and Redattore Sociale up to specialized platforms such as Reliefweb and Info Cooperazione.

Various newspapers reported on the experiences of different **"COOPI people"** who took spontaneous action to the pandemic in Italy, in direct and indirect ways. One such example was that of **COOPI's president, Claudio Ceravolo**, a doctor formerly in charge of the oncology center at Crema hospital, who returned to the ward as a volunteer: his experience was told by **Corriere della Sera**, **Vanity Fair** and **Vita** among others.

The new COOPI institutional video

IS AVAILABLE ALSO ON YOUTUBE: <https://youtu.be/Ct-6zq2FFel>



The resources of COOPI

In 2020, COOPI's communication highlighted the **humanitarian emergencies** that hit **Sudan** due to flooding and the arrival of **refugees from the Ethiopian region of Tigray** and described COOPI's immediate response in those regions (see the chapter dedicated to Eastern and Southern Africa).

COOPI **Director, Ennio Miccoli**, spoke through the microphones of Rai3 Officina Italia about the timeliness of interventions in **humanitarian emergencies**, in relation to the collaboration with **Banca Etica**.

An article on COOPI's activities in **North Darfur** on the subject of **climate change** was published in the September 2020 issue of **VOICE out loud** entitled, "Humanitarian action in the era of climate change!". COOPI continues to talk about climate change and its devastating consequences through the diffusion of a documentary called, "**Tropic of Chaos**," in which the dramatic **crisis of the Lake Chad Basin** is told by the direct testimonies of its protagonists. Made in collaboration with director Angelo Loy, it was presented in some territorial initiatives of Banca Etica and won mention at the Festival of Visual Anthropology in Madrid and an International Screen Award.

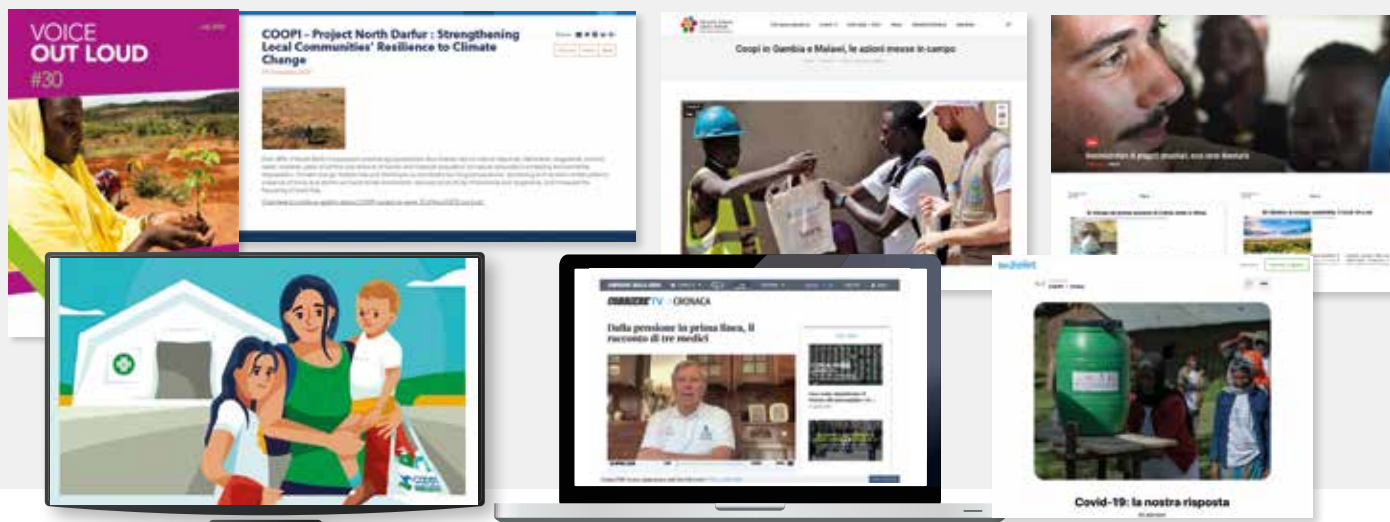
The Covid-19 pandemic has made remote communication tools even more important while preventing activities that include unnecessary travel and face-to-face events.

Therefore, in 2020 various projects moved in this direction. A new video and institutional spot in motion graphics was created - which then "saw the light" at the beginning of 2021 - illustrating who COOPI is today. It was published in 4 languages and is available on YouTube. A great effort went into the development of the coopi.net intranet and the implementation of a new Communication Manual as well as a monitoring system on the dissemination of the Annual Report.

What do private donors choose?

coopi.org	239,716
adottareadistanza.cooi.org	4,839
COOPI news	10,000
Newsletter	36,827
Youtube	18,335
Facebook	26,649
Twitter	7,559
Linkedin	23,051
Instagram	2,200

The press review of COOPI for the year 2020 recorded **286 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 sixth 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 2020 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.cooopi.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.

The context 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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Zona Sopocachi, La Paz

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CHAD

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Port-au-Prince

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Apt. No 2 Westland
P.O. Box 3857 - 00100 Nairobi

IRAQ

Justice Tower floor 5,
offices 3, 4 and 5, Erbil

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complex, 3rd floor, No. 8, Baghdad

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General Street, Oneissi Building 8th floor,
Furn El Chabbek, Beirut

LEBANON

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

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entre EEUU y Tacuarí, Asunción

PERU

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Santiago de Surco, Lima

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Quartier SICA 1, 1er Arrondissement,
Rue N. 1.109 BP 1335, Bangui

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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

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coopisierraleone@coopi.org

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Imm. Net Immobilier 1053,
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Entre 3ra. y 4ta. Transversal,
Los Palos Grandes, Chacao, Caracas

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Together we can make the world
a better place.

COOPI HEADQUARTERS

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