Children playing in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in the Ugandan district of Kamwenge
© Mariam Joshi

Editorial Team
Jackie Aldrette, Roberta Alves, Barbara Gagliotti and Marie L’Hermine

On the cover Uganda © AVSI Uganda
Graphics AOMilano and Roberta Alves
Dear friends,

As we acknowledge the passing of another year with this report, we are struck by how much has happened. A healthy baby was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, to a young mother who was taking her vitamins and eating a good diet to get him off to a good start. A teenage girl in Uganda completed an internship at a farm and started her own business with great expectations. A father had the courage to move his family back home in Iraq and embark on the uncertain path of starting again.

Challenges, opportunities, accomplishments and even some setbacks. AVSI-USA and our partners remained committed to walking with these people, eagerly seeking new opportunities to provide more effective and sustained support. Thank you for being with us on this journey.

AVSI-USA

Ezio Castelli
President

Jackie Aldrette
Managing Director
AVSI-USA is a non-profit organization created in 2000 to work with individuals and communities in developing countries to restore dignity and build resilience in the face of poverty and marginalization. AVSI-USA is a member of the AVSI Foundation, a network of 36 organizations worldwide which share the same vision and method. Created in 1972, AVSI Foundation carries out development cooperation and humanitarian projects throughout the world.

Our Vision
AVSI-USA works for a world where the person, aware of her value and dignity, is the protagonist of her own integral development and that of her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

Our Mission
AVSI-USA works with individuals, communities, partners and donors to restore dignity and build resilience in the face of poverty and marginalization. AVSI-USA sustains long-term partnerships with local organizations, jointly designing projects, raising funds and implementing activities in the areas of education, early childhood and youth development, economic livelihoods, health and nutrition. AVSI-USA connects people across borders, creating opportunities for solidarity and friendship.

People for Development: a Unique Approach
1. To start from the value of the person who is never defined by circumstances in which she lives or by social categories
2. To consider the person always in her family and community context, seeking out and valuing local resources as a starting point
3. To accompany and let ourselves be accompanied, recognizing that we all share the same human experience
4. To involve all stakeholders, facilitating active participation of beneficiaries, service providers, partners, donors and the private sector
5. To learn from experience and capitalize on lessons learned
AVSI FOUNDATION STAFF
1,593

AVSI FOUNDATION TOTAL REVENUE
55,538,380

27% private funds
73% public funds

AVSI-USA DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
350,000

9.6 million
RESOURCES LEVERAGED FROM U.S. SOURCES

AVSI-USA LOCAL PARTNERS
12
educational and healthcare institutions and NGOs
countries, projects

Child in Unión Hidalgo, Mexico, where Crecemos serves the academic, nutritional and social needs of the community © Roberto Zempoaltecatl
COUNTRIES WHERE AVSI IMPLEMENTS PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
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<tr>
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US Government Projects

Uganda
- SCORE - USAID
- FARE - USAID
- Graduating to Resilience - USAID

Rwanda
- Twiyubake - USAID

Kenya
- Nilinde - USAID
- Refugee Education, Dadaab - USDOS

Mozambique
- HIV Prevention - USDOS

South Sudan
- WAPSS - USDOS

Haiti
- Child Labor Prevention - USDOL

Ivory Coast
- School Feeding and Literacy - USDA
- Reaching Priority Populations with HIV - CDC

Global
- Local Systems Practice - USAID

Long-term Partners

Uganda
- Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education

Haiti
- AVSI Haiti

Ecuador
- Fundación Sembrar

Kazakhstan
- AVSI Ecuador

Kenya
- Cardinal Otunga High School

Mexico
- MASP

Rwanda
- Crecemos

Peru
- AVSI Rwanda
- AVSI Peru
AVSI and the United States Government

For the past 20 years, AVSI has worked with the U.S. Government, developing innovative, person-centered programs with long-lasting impact on communities. Our dedicated staff brings a depth of local knowledge and understanding that results in context specific programming and effective engagement of local actors and resources.

To U.S. Government and other partners, AVSI provides
1) on the ground, local knowledge;
2) capacity and flexibility to partner in different ways; and
3) a strong commitment to people and to quality in everything we do.

AVSI-USA supports AVSI Foundation in the management of its portfolio of U.S. Government programs including relationships with the funding agencies and partner organizations. The Flagship Projects highlighted here are some of the current initiatives implemented by AVSI and partners with technical, managerial, and research support provided by AVSI-USA.

Beatrice Nakirya at her vegetable stand in Makerere slum of Kampala, Uganda. Family Resilience Project. © AVSI Foundation Uganda
**Sustainable Comprehensive Responses for Vulnerable Children and Their Families (SCORE)**

**Uganda, 35 districts across Central, East, East-Central, North and Southwest Uganda**

**Period** 2011 – 2018  
**Donor** USAID  
**Partners** CARE, TPO Uganda and FHI360  
**Activities** SCORE is a multi-sectoral, family-centered approach that reduces the vulnerability of individuals and households through four strategic objectives: improving vulnerable households socio-economic status; promoting food security and nutrition status; increasing child protection and legal services; and strengthening household capacity to access critical services. Each household is assessed in a holistic way at enrollment and on a regular basis during the project. SCORE uses a Graduation model to improve resiliency. By the end of the project, 89% of households have proudly graduated and 75% of those remained resilient after 1 year.  
**Beneficiaries** 34,779 vulnerable children's households and 200,000+ individuals.

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**Family Resilience (FARE)**

**Uganda, Kampala and Wakiso**

**Period** 2015 – 2018  
**Donor** USAID; under ASPIRES project led by FHI360  
**Partners** Retrak and COWA  
**Activities** FARE reaches out to separated children living on the streets or in child care institutions and helps them return home. The project also works with their families to build resilience and social support networks, and to increase economic opportunities. Families that are at-risk of child-family separation will be identified at the community level and receive parenting and life skills training, psycho-social support, and referrals for additional services as needed. At the end of the project, 93% of children reunified with their families are still in family care after 1 year. In addition, 95% of all children in at-risk households remained in family care throughout the life of the project.  
**Beneficiaries** 605 households.

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**Women as Agents of Peace**

**South Sudan, Gok State (former Lakes State), county of Cueibet**

**Period** 2016 – 2018  
**Donor** U. S. Department of State (USDOS), Africa Bureau  
**Partners** Women Welfare Agency (WWA) and Diocese of Rumbek (DoR) as local partners  
**Activities** The project is empowering local women and the WWA to participate more actively in local peacebuilding institutions and processes. It also seeks to improve identification, reporting, and response to incidents of Sex Gender Based Violence at the local and county levels. All activities are founded on mainstreaming female empowerment and SGBV identification, reporting, and response, including providing improvements to the referral system. WAPSS uses innovative methods to identify and track conflict to better allow empowered community members to mediate it in their own way using what already exists.  
**Beneficiaries** 9,124 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including local authorities with a special focus on women.
**Twiyubake: Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP)**

**Rwanda**

**Period** 2015 – 2020  
**Donor** USAID  
**Partner** Consortium led by Global Communities with Path, AVSI Rwanda, Partners in Health  
**Activities** Twiyubake is an integrated approach to OVC care, which has the cross-cutting goal of building the capacity of local organizations and the Rwandan Government to sustain strategic responses even after the project finishes. Under PEPFAR, programs supporting orphans and vulnerable children have evolved towards family centered and integrated approaches. These help link households with clinical services as well as other support services such as economic empowerment, nutrition, education, child protection and parenting skills. Twiyubake aims to help households gain resiliency through integrated interventions.  
**Beneficiaries** 50,000 vulnerable children’s households.

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**Refugee Education**

**Kenya, Dadaab**

**Period** December 2014 – 2019  
**Donor** U.S. State Department, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)  
**Activities** Refugee Education is a multi-year education project for Somali refugees in one of the largest refugee camps, Dadaab. The goal is to increase the self-reliance of refugees and preparedness for voluntary repatriation through strategic education enhancement activities. These activities fall under adult education, key resource teacher professional development, female early childhood development, teacher training, work employment training and scouting activities for refugees and the host community.  
**Beneficiaries** 3,570 direct beneficiaries and 98,395 indirect, Somali refugees and host community in 2017.

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**Child Labor Prevention: “Let’s Work for Our Rights”**

**Haiti, North Province**

**Period** 2016-2019  
**Donor** U.S. Department of Labor  
**Partners** CRS leads a consortium with AVSI, JURIMEDIA, CLES, Haiti Survie and Jesuit Service to Migrants  
**Activities** Child Labor Prevention is seeking to reduce child labor and improve labor rights and working conditions in agriculture, through a comprehensive set of interventions that engage government, civil society, and the private sector in the protection of children and workers. The project helps households whose children are engaged in, or are at-risk of child labor and hazardous working conditions to attain sustainable livelihoods in order to have children return to school. The project uses different types of interventions, including providing information about labor rights, improved livelihood opportunities and savings groups, enterprise and employment services, and referrals and assistance to attend formal and non-formal education for youth and children.  
**Beneficiaries** 7,500 households and 10,000 children and youth.
**Graduating to Resilience**

**Uganda, Kamwenge District**

**Period** 2017-2024  
**Donors** USAID, Office of Food for Peace  
**Partners** Trickle Up, IMPAQ International  
**Activities** Graduating to Resilience is an integrated graduation program that aims to improve food security and nutrition status of household members, improve household economic status and increase resilience of household members and communities, reaching refugees and host community members. The goal is to graduate extremely poor refugee and host community households from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience. The program provides an opportunity to test a combination of elements of the graduation approach for impact and cost-effectiveness, drawing from the uniquely Ugandan SCORE model implemented by AVSI in Uganda (2011-2018).  
**Beneficiaries** 13,200 households; 50% host community Ugandans and 50% South Sudanese Refugees.

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**Integrated School Feeding and Literacy Program**

**Ivory Coast, Regions of Cavally, Bafing, Bagoue, Poro, Tchologo, Bounkani and Gontougo**

**Period** 2016 - 2021  
**Donor** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program  
**Partners** World Food Programme (WFP, lead)  
**Activities** Integrated School Feeding and Literacy Program is a two-part program, addressing school feeding and increasing literacy in primary schools. AVSI’s goal is to improve the quality of education received by children through an integrated set of literacy promotion activities, in parallel with WFP’s school feeding activities. With the Ministry of Education (MENET), AVSI intends to review existing curricula and support the revision process currently underway, and to coordinate a collaborative effort to bring together pedagogical resources for reading instruction. AVSI guides the implementation of reading assessment of students in project schools and supports the MENET in training teachers on the reading curriculum. Literacy activities seek to build the involvement of the whole community.  
**Beneficiaries** 125,000 students in 613 schools.
AVSI long-term partnerships

Partnership is at the heart of our work. Our approach to development reflects a way of looking at the world that recognizes complexity, celebrates the diversity of gifts, and values interdependence. AVSI-USA is proud to support the work of these amazing partners:

AVSI Ecuador
AVSI Haiti
AVSI Peru
AVSI Rwanda
Crecemos, Mexico
Card. Otunga School, Kenya
Fundacion Sembrar, Ecuador
Luigi Giussani Institute for Higher Education, Uganda
MASP, Kazakhstan

The partnerships highlighted were particularly impactful in 2017.
### Rebirth of Quality Education

**Kampala, Uganda**

**Partner** Luigi Giussani Inst. for Higher Ed.

**Activities** “When a person discovers herself and understands her own infinite value,” explains Rose Busingye, LGIHE Founder, “everything she touches gains meaning.” The same holds true for students, parents, faculty and school administrators. LGIHE is working to dramatically improve the quality of education in Uganda through professional development and leadership training for faculty and school administrators who bring positive and long-lasting impact to communities.

**Results** Professional development and workshops at 142 schools for 648 teachers and administrators, and 1,456 parents.

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### Be a Hero for Vulnerable Children

**Oaxaca, Mexico**

**Partners** Crecemos

**Activities** Nutrition and good dietary habits are at the center of activities at Crecemos, a community-based organization that integrates academic, nutrition and social programs for nearly 500 families in marginalized communities of Oaxaca, Mexico. Children receive more than homework help and a hot meal, they participate in regular health check-ups and intensive nutritional/hygiene education. Healthy habits are brought home through the significant number of volunteer moms who participate in programs.

**Results** Crecemos education and nutrition activities brought learning opportunities to over 1,600 families.

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### Occupational Training for Adolescents with Disabilities

**Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Partners** MASP (Intl. Association for Social Projects)

**Activities** MASP is a local organization founded by young Kazakhs in 2002 to address the needs of vulnerable populations such as orphans, juvenile detainees and people with disabilities in Almaty and environs. Children with disabilities attend recreational and rehabilitation therapy and adolescents and young adults participate in occupational training to increase independence and social inclusion.

**Results** 66 young people with disabilities received training in professional baking, woodworking, sewing and felting skills, while 160 parents and 150 civic leaders attended inclusion awareness and advocacy sessions.

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### Better Care for Kids = Stronger Families

**Quito, Ecuador**

**Partners** Fundación Sembrar

**Activities** Healthy development in a child’s early years is key to reaching full potential in adult life. Fundación Sembrar takes a family approach, engaging mothers and communities in the education of their children. Family Child Development Spaces bring nutritious meals, age-appropriate cognitive and motor skills activities into the homeschools of trained mother-educators.

**Results** The Better Care for Kids Equals Stronger Families and Communities program enhanced the growth and development of 66 disadvantaged children and built resiliency in 560 families.
Emergency Response

The refugee crisis in the Middle East, the earthquake in Mexico, Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. These are examples of AVSI-USA interventions in areas of chronic crisis, natural disaster and conflict. Carried out with the invaluable support of local communities and organizations, these actions are aimed at containing as much as possible the damage caused by these situations, carrying out health interventions, infrastructure restoration, and providing education and income generation for families.
Refugees and Migrants

Iraq and Syria

The facts  Refugees and Migrants around the world continue to be front and center of AVSI’s global fundraising efforts, with all donations channeled to direct assistance in countries of origin, transit and integration. In 2017, AVSI-USA supported two projects in the Middle East: Operation Open Hospitals in Syria, and rebuilding of a kindergarten in Qaraqosh, Iraq. While the first project aims to strengthen three private nonprofit hospitals in order to provide free medical care to the poorest, the second project’s goal was to rebuild a kindergarten destroyed by ISIS and support 150 children and their families resettling back home.

Earthquake in Mexico

Oaxaca, Mexico

The facts  In September, 2017, Mexico was hit by three deadly earthquakes leaving more than 300 people dead and hundreds of houses and buildings totally or partially destroyed. The building that hosts the Center for Community Development Aerogubinos, in Unión Hidalgo, supported by AVSI’s partner Crecemos, was one of them. More than 120 children who normally go to the center for after-school activities had to change their routines dramatically. To support these children and their families through that difficult moment, AVSI-USA and Crecemos launched the campaign “Jugando aprendemos” (“We learn while playing”).

Results  AVSI-USA raised $18,246 and Crecemos was able to rebuild the educational center in Unión Hidalgo.

Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico

San Juan and Ponce, Puerto Rico

The facts  In September, 2017, Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria, the worst natural disaster on record to affect the island, and deadliest Atlantic hurricane since 1998. Over 3,000 people died. After being devastated by the hurricane, Puerto Rico, home to 3.4 million, was in dire need of help. Food and water, gasoline, and electricity were desperately needed. AVSI-USA collected funds for the nursing homes “Centro Santa Luisa” in San Juan and “Hogar Madre Teresa de Calcuta” in Ponce. The money was used to help the elderly with basic necessities and transportation.

Results  Thanks to 21 generous donors, AVSI-USA was able to raise $5,025.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Refugees and Migrants</th>
<th>2016 Refugees and Migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Donations</td>
<td>$17,810</td>
<td>$38,307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Support</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$21,310</td>
<td>$47,307</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### AVSI-USA contribution to the success of the AVSI Foundation Network

In 2017, AVSI-USA obtained $427,433 in grant funding for AVSI network members in 10 countries.

In addition, AVSI-USA leveraged support for U.S. Government and institutional funding for AVSI Foundation which amounted to $9.6 million, 15% of AVSI Foundation’s consolidated revenue of $64 million in 2017.
Thanks

Government & Multilateral:
U.S Agency for International Development (USAID)
U.S. State Department
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Labor
United Nations World Food Programme

Foundations & Corporations:
The Charles Engelhard Foundation
Eileen Fisher Inc.
Raskob Foundation
The W. O’Neil Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund made possible by the generosity of The Echidna Giving Fund

Matching Gifts:
YourCause Corporate Giving
Benevity
Oracle Corporate Matching Fund
Agilent
Network for Good

Others:
Brookewood School
The Woods Academy
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
World Bank Community Connections Campaign

Families and Individuals

Salvatore Aiola
Andrea Allais
Roberta & Jose-Henrique Alves
Nicholas & Laura Amigone
Victoria & Gianpiero Anelli
Sotero Arizu
Miguel Arriga
Curtis Atkinson
Ann Augustyn
Elizabeth Bariani
William Beatty
Jeffrey Bergmann
Vincent & Jacqueline Bernardin
Chiara Bernardini
Tricia Branagan
Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.
Paolo Carozza
Stephanie Castillo
Eloisa & Giuseppe Cerati
Colin & Rebecca Cherico
Virginio Chiodini
Amelia Ann Christ
Matthew Conte
Luca Cottini
Pamela Cowen
Paolo Cumin
Sara Cumin
Olivetta Danese
Thomas Danis
Paul Dawson
John & Pamela Deloach
Carolyn Donovan
Fr. Christopher Droste
Elisabetta Drudi
Kevin & Maria Dunn
Ralph Edezhath
John Egan
Colleen Erdman
Elisabetta Erickson
Raymond Fermo
Ana & Sean Fieler
Leo Fiorica
Fr. Philip Forlano
Francesca Fornasini
David Forte

Irene Muscara
Elizabeth Nolan
Theodore Oberman
Marita O’Brien
Vaune Ohmann
Marcia Oliveira Otto
Michael & Sondra Orts
Ana Luz Torrecilla Perez
Chinh & Rachel Pham
Jose Porro & Monica Medina
Stephen Prater
Frank & Melissa Puglisi
John R. Poole
Daniele Radaelli
Michelle Riconoscente
Dominique Robb
John & Mary Ronan
Jay Roussel
Flor Ruiz
Marco Saccaggi
Amanda Sampson
Vincenzina Santoro
Giovanna Scarel
Apoorva Shah
Marie Shoup
Winston Skerret
Jeanette Sickel
Kathleen Smith
Timothy Smith
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Fabio Tresoldi
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Gianmaria Vanzulli
Dominique P. Watkins
Simonetta & Joseph Wiener
Gregory Wolfe
Shu Zhen Chan