Close to those in need

AVSI-USA Annual Report 2021
Editorial Team
Angie Kilner
Barbara Gagliotti
Camilla Redmond
Cecilia Tresoldi
Colin Murphy
Jackie Aldrette
Marie L’Hermine
Segen Moges

Photo credit
Matteo Bastianelli, Alex Bellini, Marco Calvarese, Alessandra Fuccillo, Aldo Gianfrate, Eugenio Grosso, Erick Laurore, Alberto Maretti, Sara Melotti, Emmanuel Museruka, Francesco Pistilli, Stefano Schirato
# Table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Close to those in need</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who we are</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our numbers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where we work</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to school</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to society</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to community</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to work</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial highlights</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A special thanks to our donors and partners</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear friends,

This streamlined Annual Report tells the story of how over the course of 2021, we bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic - back to relationships and community engagement, school, and work, and brought others along with us.

Worldwide, AVSI Foundation continues to grow, adjusting to challenges, both new and old, with courage and fortitude. At AVSI-USA, we are proud to be part of this journey and to serve as a bridge for you to connect with our work at the last mile, always close to those in need.

Even where the possibility of building a future is threatened by crisis or emergency, being close to those in need feeds the hope that for everyone there is always the chance of a new beginning.

Thank you for accompanying us,

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 promote dignity and build resilience in the face of poverty and marginalization.

AVSI-USA is a member of AVSI Foundation, a network of 36 organizations worldwide that share the same vision and method. Created in 1972, AVSI Foundation carries out development cooperation and humanitarian projects throughout the world.

**Vision**

AVSI-USA works for a world in which every person can be the protagonist of their own integral development, along with that of their community, even in emergency situations.

**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, youth development, work and livelihoods, health, and nutrition. AVSI-USA connects people across borders, creating opportunities for solidarity and friendship.

**Method**

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 share a common human experience.
4. To involve all stakeholders, facilitating the active participation of beneficiaries, service providers, partners, donors, and the private sector.
5. To learn from experience and capitalize on lessons learned.
The slogan chosen by AVSI in 2021, *Close to those in need*, has pushed AVSI to find innovative ways to maintain this closeness, a challenge that has led to significant growth. Globally, projects (including those completed, ongoing, and started) have increased from 255 to 329 in one year, reaching a total of more than 10 million direct beneficiaries. As AVSI-USA, we also saw growth adding 3 projects.


The continued support shown by AVSI's private and institutional donors made it possible to close the year with revenue of $94,980,359, $24 million more than in 2020. For every dollar received, 92 cents are spent directly on projects.
In 2021, global targets were largely met and funds managed increased, returning to pre-COVID-19 levels, despite AVSI’s activities being affected by various events such as the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in the North Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the political crisis in Myanmar, and the earthquake and coup in Haiti.

The portfolio of projects funded by the US Government through USAID, the State Department’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), and the Department of Agriculture remained strong, with a new project awarded in Lebanon and others continuing to deliver good results.

At AVSI-USA, our work to support our long-term partners did not stop and we found ourselves grateful for the sustained commitment of our foundation partners and donors. Several partners recognized the stress that the COVID-19 pandemic placed on local service organizations globally and opted to increase funding to provide additional flexibility of resources.

The number of volunteers and advocates across the US also increased in 2021, with children, young adults, families, and groups of friends eager to contribute to our mission and experience the good that comes from dedicating time and energy to the well-being of others.
Where we work

US Government Projects

Brazil
Welcomed Through Work (USDOS-PRM)

Ecuador
Integration of Venezuelan Migrants & Refugees (USDOS-PRM)

Iraq
Achieving Socio-economic Stability of Returnees in Iraq (USDOS-PRM)
Virtuous Production Cycle to Relaunch a City (USDOS-PRM)

Italy
Building Hope (USAID)

Ivory Coast
School Feeding and Literacy (USDA)

Lebanon
Community-based protective face masks production (USDOS-PRM)

Kenya
Maendo (USAID)
Refugee Education, Dadaab (USDOS-PRM)

Uganda
Graduating to Resilience (USAID)
Better Outcomes (USAID)
Keeping Children Healthy and Safe (USAID)

AVSI-USA Long-term Partners

Ecuador
Fundación Sembrar, AVSI Ecuador

Haiti
AVSI Haiti

Kazakhstan
MASP

Kenya
Cardinal Otunga High School, AVSI Kenya

Lebanon
AVSI Lebanon

Mexico
Creemos

Romania
FDP Protagonists in Education

Rwanda
AVSI Rwanda

Syria
The Italian and French Hospitals in Damascus and St. Louis Hospital in Aleppo

Uganda
Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education
Meeting Point International

Ukraine
Emmaus
AVSI-USA presence

Africa
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Uganda

Latin America
- United States
- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Haiti
- Mexico

Asia
- Kazakhstan

Middle East
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Syria

Europe
- Ukraine
- Romania
- Italy
Back to school
Ivory Coast - School Feeding and Literacy

Following COVID-19 shutdowns, students slowly started returning to school in Ivory Coast in 2021. AVSI and the World Food Program (WFP) were awarded the Integrated School Feeding and Literacy Program, Phase 2, a 5-year project funded by the McGovern-Dole program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). AVSI and WFP will continue to provide hot meals, improve health, promote quality education through literacy and deliver water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities to 613 schools in the country. To ensure the safety and health of all students back in school, AVSI installed hand-washing stations in all the schools and promoted good hand-washing habits using soap and water. AVSI led campaigns in the villages to inform families that school was back in session and how to attend safely following social distance procedures.
Uganda - Luigi Giussani Institute for Higher Education (LGIHE)

Ugandan schools remained shuttered for in-person schooling for nearly two years as the country battled the lingering effects of COVID-19. Throughout 2021, the staff of Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education (LGIHE) in Kampala, Uganda, doubled down to support teachers employing virtual, personalized professional learning and development. LGIHE facilitators worked with over 250 teachers and their school leaders to adopt practices that improve critical thinking skills across academic subjects. In addition, the LGIHE team successfully tested and documented its innovative Critical Thinking Activation Model at the school level. Teachers in 10 secondary schools gained expertise in applying pedagogical methods and designing instructional materials that enhance the development of higher-order thinking skills and related dispositions in learners. These teachers are now qualified to conduct peer coaching and learning for colleagues in their schools, as LGIHE mobilizes to scale up the Critical Thinking Activation Model in 100 schools nationwide.
Back to society
Ecuador - *Integrados*

The social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was even worse for migrants and refugees, who dealt with xenophobia as they tried to settle into unfamiliar cities. In 2021, through the 2-year project, *Integrados*, funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), AVSI Ecuador staff helped 2,500 Venezuelan refugees access safe housing options, legal, health, and education services, and create work and employment opportunities. AVSI works with the host community, in particular the landlords, professional organizations, and community centers, to welcome the Venezuelan refugees and support their integration.
Ukraine - *Emmaus*

*Emmaus* is a Ukrainian non-governmental organization and AVSI-USA partner, founded in 2011 by volunteers working with orphans and teens with different abilities, providing occupational guidance and educational support.

In 2021, *Emmaus* launched, ‘Transitional houses for young adults with disabilities and orphans in Ukraine’, to meet the basic needs of young people with mental disabilities, physical disabilities, and young people deprived of parental care after being forced to leave boarding schools in Kharkiv, Ukraine. 20 vulnerable young people ages 16 to 30 were offered accommodation in 7 apartments. To compensate for the insufficient pension that young people receive per month ($65), Emmaus and AVSI provided supplemental basic food baskets for 20 young people every two months. These young people also receive health care, enabling them to fully participate in their communities.
Back to community
Work is necessary for human dignity and integration into a new society, making employment an urgent need for migrants and refugees. AVSI’s project, *Welcomed through Work*, funded by the US State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) reaches Venezuelan refugees at the Brazilian border and provides education and skills training while at the same time working with private companies to hire Venezuelan candidates, and facilitating their relocation, with their family, to a new city.

Pandemic restrictions in 2020 blocked many of the project’s activities and limited the number of Venezuelans who could be relocated through work, but in 2021 the restrictions were eased and AVSI placed 450 Venezuelans in formal jobs across 9 Brazilian states, with over 950 people relocated.
Mexico- Crecemos

Crecemos is a community-based organization that serves the academic, nutritional and social needs of the community in the semi-urban and rural areas near the city of Oaxaca, Mexico with dedication, intelligence and hope. Today, Crecemos serves 775 children and their families every year with a wide range of programs and services.

The pandemic dramatically affected community life in Oaxaca, Mexico. But as cases reduced, Crecemos slowly transitioned back to normal activities at the center. In 2021, a total of 1,239 people, 775 children and youth, 384 mothers, fathers, and caretakers, and 37 mentors and educators, participated in Crecemos’ activities. Thanks to donors in the US and other countries, the soccer and basketball teams restarted, as did the guitar and violin classes. The community libraries are back in service of the young readers in the area. The community kitchen provided nutritious and balanced meals for the children, in addition to nutritional follow-ups. 100% of beneficiaries improved their nutritional status, 65% improved their weight and height, and 150 mothers and fathers learned to improve their children’s eating habits at home. Crecemos added an emotional support element to their activities by integrating mindfulness practices to address the increased stress and anxiety in the population.
Back to work
Uganda - Graduating to Resilience

Thousands of Ugandans and refugees continued to work and save money despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic. AVSI’s project, Graduating to Resilience, funded by The U.S. Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), resumed in-person activities while following all COVID-19 prevention measures.

The first group of over 5,000 participants completed the project activities in June 2021. AVSI was excited to see that 73% of them had successfully graduated, having met the benchmarks for a stable and healthy life for themselves and their families. This success comes despite the continued COVID-19 setbacks. Many more households are progressing steadily towards their goals, with stronger businesses and the ability to invest in their futures.
Lebanon- COVID Response

A creative response to the dual crisis in Lebanon - refugees without permission to work, and the COVID pandemic - led to hundreds of women learning how to sew face masks through a cash-for-work program implemented by AVSI.

This project, supported by the U.S State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), ran for six months and gave vulnerable individuals, including both Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals, the opportunity to generate income and improve their technical skills through a homemade face mask production workshop in two of the most vulnerable regions in southern Lebanon – Marjayoun and Hasbaya.

AVSI also built strong relationships with local authorities and municipalities and worked closely with partners, especially for COVID-related case referrals.
# Financial highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>1,316,579</td>
<td>636,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>274,410</td>
<td>187,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>1,590,989</td>
<td>835,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>392,562</td>
<td>374,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>540,412</td>
<td>495,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>19,150</td>
<td>12,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>91,898</td>
<td>72,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,044,022</td>
<td>955,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>546,987</td>
<td>(-119,597)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, at the beginning of the year</strong></td>
<td>184,710</td>
<td>304,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, at the end of the year</strong></td>
<td>731,677</td>
<td>184,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How AVSI-USA uses your donation

AVSI-USA contribution to the success of the AVSI Foundation

In 2021, AVSI-USA obtained $796,876 in grant funding from U.S.-based foundations for the implementation of projects with 6 AVSI network members in 5 countries.

Furthermore, AVSI-USA channeled an additional $68,500 toward 4 AVSI network members in 4 countries.

In addition, AVSI-USA leveraged support from the U.S. Government and international institutions for AVSI Foundation which amounted to 16% of AVSI Foundation’s consolidated revenue of $95 million in 2021.

Funding base of AVSI Foundation, globally
A special thanks to our donors and partners

Government & Multilateral
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of State
- United Nations World Food Program

Foundations & Corporations
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation
- Paypal Giving Fund
- Pulte Family Charitable Foundation
- Raskob Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund, possible by the generosity of the Echidna Giving Fund
- The Loyola Foundation
- The Ross Foundation
- The W. O’Neal Foundation
- Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation

Matching gifts
- Adobe
- Agilent Technologies
- AmazonSmile
- Benevity Causes
- AmazonSmile
- Agilent Technologies
- Adobe
- Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation
- The W. O’Neal Foundation
- Rossella Carone
- Rut Beyene
- Sabrina Paganoni
- Sarah Duffy
- Sebastian Modarelli
- Segolene Babiard
- Sharon Mollerus
- Shirley Micallef
- Shu Chen
- Sofia Carozza
- Sotero Arizu
- Stephen E. Lewis
- Steven & Jane Hubbard
- Susan Rapport
- Tacy Woods
- Teklu Tedla
- Theodore Oberman
- Theresa Ramboulet
- Thomas & Grannie Tobin
- Thomas Frei
- Thomas Noone
- Terney Monahan
- Tim Smith
- Timothy Coll
- Timothy Lavelle
- Tom Still
- Vesna Manoleva
- Vincenzina Santoro
- Virginia Clancy
- Virgino Chioldini
- Whitney Kuo
- William DeMars
- Yvonne Fernandez
- Zach Jansen
How to support us

Online donations
avsi-usa.org/donate