The future we want
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Dear friends,

This past year presented many occasions for reflection, as our days were shaped by a number of factors that touched the core of who we are and the ideals we serve.

The indescribable suffering and chaos in Haiti provoked deep questions of what accompaniment means in such situations. The war in Ukraine reminded us that the biggest threat to well-being and development is conflict, and so while we pray for an end to war, we also need to desire and strive for peace in all our relationships.

Our spring trip to Mexico with donors and friends left a lasting mark on all who participated. We were invigorated by the chance to see with new eyes the value of our work in partnership with local organizations like Crecemos.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of AVSI Foundation globally as one AVSI family was very special for all of us. A highlight was the opportunity to pray together with Pope Francis, surrounded by the beauty of the Vatican. Our anniversary conference also gave us ample opportunity to learn about our history, celebrate our collective accomplishments, and envision the future we want to be a part of. The many high-level guests who joined our staff gathered from nearly all 40 countries where we work demonstrated our reach and the impact we can have as a leader in the field of international cooperation.

Our anniversary celebration in Washington, DC, capped the year in style and substance as we paid tribute to a few people who have contributed in meaningful ways to our history in the glamorous Embassy of Italy.

We felt closer to all of you, friends and supporters, throughout this year, which strengthens our resolve to stand firm and full of hope, even in front of the numerous difficult situations in which we find ourselves.

Thank you for being with 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 the AVSI Foundation, a network of 40 organizations worldwide that share the same vision and method. Created in 1972, the AVSI Foundation carries out development cooperation and humanitarian projects worldwide.

**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 emergencies.

**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 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 future we want” inspired the strategic vision of our 50th Anniversary year. It summarizes our ambition in the 40 countries we operate: to look forward, to push ourselves further, beyond the barriers of inequality, poverty, and war, to help build a future free of these challenges, and to continue to make sure that discoveries and advances in education, healthcare, technology, environment, and human rights, are accessible to all and can help everybody to grow.

But this ambition is fueled by being present in the field, where, in 2022, AVSI Foundation globally carried out 364 projects (concluded, ongoing, and begun) to help more than 7 million direct beneficiaries. AVSI-USA grew, too, by adding 7 projects to those we already directly manage across 16 countries, serving nearly 400,000 people. Our 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 vibrant, impactful, and full of promise. Globally, AVSI managed $111,502,314 of private-sector and institutional funds in 2022, 14 million more than in 2021. For every dollar received, 92 cents are spent directly on projects.

Sadly, 2022 opened with the outbreak of war in Ukraine. We responded immediately, thanks to our capacity and agility to form networks. AVSI-USA received an unprecedented response from existing and new donors and raised $108,000. The AVSI method embodied in emergency response goes beyond immediate needs and looks toward the long-term, steering us toward new synergies and strengthening partnerships with donors. In addition to responding to the crisis in Ukraine, our work to support our long-term partners continued, thanks to the sustained commitment of our foundation partners and donors.
20 Year in Review

January
Encounter with friends at the New York Encounter

March-May
#HelpUkraine: AVSI-USA friends rallied to show love

April
Moving Come & See trip to Oaxaca, Mexico with friends

June
Graduating to Resilience Learning Summit celebrates impact and collaboration
Beautiful Come & See trip to Oaxaca, Mexico with friends

#AVSI50: AVSI’s 50th Anniversary USA Celebration at Italian Embassy

We want this 50th anniversary to be an opportunity to rediscover the value that defines us, and to enhance the specific contribution we can offer, by virtue of our history, to cooperation for development in the next fifty years.

Giampaolo Silvestri, AVSI Secretary General
**Where we work**

**AVSI-USA Presence**

**AVSI Foundation Presence**

**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)
  - Mwendo (USAID), Refugee Education, Dadaab (USDOS-PRM)
- **Kenya**
  - Graduating to Resilience (USAID), Better Outcomes (USAID), Keeping Children Healthy and Safe (USAID)

**AVSI-USA Long-term Partners**

- **Brazil**
  - Manaus School
- **Ecuador**
  - Fundación Sembrar, AVSI Ecuador
- **Haiti**
  - AVSI Haiti
- **Kazakhstan**
  - MASP
- **Kenya**
  - Cardinal Otunga High School, AVSI Kenya
- **Lebanon**
  - AVSI Lebanon
- **Mexico**
  - Crecemos
- **Poland**
  - AVSI Polska
- **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
- **USA**
  - Los Angeles Habilitation House (LAHH), My Father’s House (MFH)
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
As many know, Ezio is an AVSI pioneering leader and also a dear colleague and friend, a mentor, and a teacher. Trained as a civil engineer, he began his service to AVSI in 1971 as a young graduate, bringing support to the most vulnerable people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After 12 formative years as one of AVSI’s first international volunteers, Ezio and his friends had learned a great deal about how to accompany others in their life journey and in front of real needs. Later, Ezio worked in the project area for AVSI in Milan, writing projects and building relationships everywhere he went: Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Peru, etc.

When AVSI-USA was created in New York in 2000, Ezio responded to the call to serve as President of this new entity until announcing his retirement effective January 2023. In his 23 years of service to AVSI-USA, he directed the day-to-day operations and strategic orientation of AVSI-USA as a liaison for the AVSI Foundation vis-à-vis the United Nations, the U.S. Government, and US-based donors and universities.

Ezio’s dedication to AVSI and the original ideals which prompted the first volunteers to go out into the world, not only helped strengthen the organization especially through AVSI-USA’s work, but has had a profound impact on our organizational culture, shaping our methodological principles, and challenging us to be confident in bringing AVSI’s experience and unique perspective to the wider international development community.
An important factor in our experience, which must always be rediscovered and nurtured, is to put our professionalism into play starting from the concrete context and needs.

Ezio shares with all AVSI staff during anniversary events
The power of giving
AVSI-USA friends fundraise for Ukraine

The Spring of 2022 will always be a reminder of the darkness of the Ukrainian Crisis, but it will also represent the incredible generosity of our donors. Thanks to fundraisers around the US, foundations’ special donations, and the support of hundreds of old and new donors, we raised almost $108K to provide humanitarian assistance to thousands of Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania,

Colorado
Understanding AVSI’s unique mission

Alessandro’s virtual chess tournament fundraiser taught him about AVSI’s humanitarian response centered around the human person thus, he was inspired to invite friends and even strangers to contribute to an organization making a real difference.
Our friends in Boston not only joined our Ukraine fundraising efforts but gathered local families to share AVSI’s work. What made this event even more special was the inclusion of the whole family, showing everyone, including the little ones, the power of giving.

Cincinnati
Planting seeds of hope

A group of Cincinnati women offered their own talents—sewing, weaving, ceramics, photography, and baking—for Ukrainian mothers and children. The act of creating with their own hands made the fundraiser extraordinary; they found that donating a little bit of themselves filled their deep desire to help.

Boston
Sharing the gift of giving with whole family

Our friends in Boston not only joined our Ukraine fundraising efforts but gathered local families to share AVSI’s work. What made this event even more special was the inclusion of the whole family, showing everyone, including the little ones, the power of giving.

“[To be interested in others is something imprinted in our hearts. And when we discover something beautiful, like the work AVSI does, we want to communicate it, even if we may be scared. In this process, we have fun, we discover and try new things, and we also learn about ourselves. We receive.]

Laura, AVSI-USA Boston friend
Graduating to Resilience is a 7-year USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance - funded Activity, led by AVSI in partnership with Trickle Up and American Institutes for Research (AIR). The Activity’s goal is to graduate 13,200 extremely poor refugee and Ugandan households in Kamwenge district from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience.

A couple’s story of resilience

Peace Besime and Nsanze Sepiria struggled after years of failed farming ventures, barely able to pay for their basic needs, as well as medical expenses, school dues for their five children, and the construction of a decent shelter. Thankfully, they were introduced to the Graduating to Resilience Activity. They received coaching and training in financial literacy, savings, and business planning and management and soon grew a poultry business and disposable income. They are hopeful for their future: able to meet basic needs and cater to their children’s nutrition and education.

Like Besime and Nsanze’s household, 6,823 other families have received similar support through the Graduating to Resilience Activity and works with 288 Village Saving and Loans Associations in Kamwenge District.
We held a successful Learning Summit, attended by 200 participants from various implementing partners, practitioners, researchers, donors, and policymakers. AVSI and the Graduating to Resilience consortium shared the Activity’s Cohort One results, processes, and methodology of key interventions and how these outcomes informed Cohort Two design through a Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation (CLA) process. Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) also shared the results from the randomized control trial (RCT) impact evaluation and cost-benefit analysis conducted on this Cohort of participants.
Crecemos has expanded its support beyond the city of Oaxaca to some more rural communities in the form of libraries and reading programs. Staff work with teachers in these communities to create literacy curricula for children and parents. The books for several libraries were bought with donations from AVSI-USA supporters. The group had the opportunity to visit one library to see a tangible example of their donation’s impact.

The libraries

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Music, art, and other extracurriculars

At the heart of Crecemos’ programming for children is the experience of beauty. The kids live in a hard place and experience a lot of ugliness. At Crecemos, they listen to and perform classical music, paint pictures, and act in plays. This encounter with beauty encourages them to expand their horizons and their sense of self, to yearn for their true human potential. During the Come & See, the guests were treated to a concert by the group’s guitar and violin ensembles and a special Easter theater performance.
Mexico has incredible cultural riches, and the Come & See participants had plenty of opportunities to expand their own horizons by encountering Mexico’s magic. The group visited Mexico City, including stops at the Museo de Bellas Artes, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the ruins of Teotihuacan.

Travel

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Shared moments

The most impactful part of the trip, for both the visiting group and our hosts in Oaxaca, were the moments we got to share together. These included walking with the kids through their neighborhood to offer an Easter greeting and candy to neighbors, sharing a dinner in the warm Oaxaca night air, and singing traditional Mexican and American songs together.

Maria Socorro del Rio, Director of Crecemos

“When someone comes and gets to know what is being done, that person begins to understand the reasons and the value of the whole team who work to make this a reality. What’s more, it gives you the opportunity to speak with the people who receive the support, which isn’t a question of “reports” to some faceless donor, but rather a shared human experience.”

Sabrina Paganoni, a friend of AVSI from Boston

“Each of us will go back to our different lives, but we can keep the spirit of this experience alive. After two years of the pandemic, with the world pushing for everything to be shades of gray, everything starts to seem boring, colorless, in a Zoom box. But then you see the kids playing, you see their life and their potential, and everything feels alive again. It shows my kids that there’s a world out there to explore, and it shows the kids who live here that people care about what happens to them. A gray world becomes filled with light and color. That’s a spirit we can each bring back to our own communities.”
Financial highlights

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<tr>
<th>Revenue and Support</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>743,244</td>
<td>1,316,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>290,147</td>
<td>274,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,033,391</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,590,989</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>369,580</td>
<td>392,562</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>572,895</td>
<td>540,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>15,414</td>
<td>19,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>122,811</td>
<td>91,898</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,099,733</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,044,022</strong></td>
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| Change in Net Assets                  | (66,382) | 546,967 |

| Net Assets, at the beginning of the year | 731,677 | 184,710 |
| Net Assets, at the end of the year     | 665,295 | 731,677 |
How AVSI-USA uses your donation

AVSI-USA obtained $107,000 in grant funding from U.S.-based foundations to implement projects with 4 AVSI network members in 3 countries. Furthermore, AVSI-USA channeled an additional $20,000 toward one more AVSI network member in a fourth country. In addition, AVSI-USA leveraged support from the U.S. Government and international institutions for AVSI Foundation, which amounted to 17% of AVSI Foundation’s consolidated revenue of $112 million in 2022.

AVSI-USA contribution to the success of the AVSI Foundation

Funding base of AVSI Foundation, globally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$72,247,339.14</td>
<td>$16,866,584.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$96,638,321.04</td>
<td>$17,441,533.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$108,837,971.81</td>
<td>$21,351,009.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*net of extraordinary components
AVSI Papal Audience
Vatican City, Italy

Integrados
Funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
Ecuador

AVSI-USA Christmas market
USA

AVSI-USA Call to Action
Haiti
Welcomed through work
Funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
Brazil

AVSI-USA 50th Anniversary Celebration
Embassy of Italy
Washington D.C., USA

Achieving Socio-economic Stability of Returnees, Host Community & IDPs
Funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
Iraq

#HelpUkraine
Ukraine, Poland, Romania, & Italy
How to support us

Online donations
avsi-usa.org/donate