Annual Report 2018

AVSI USA

People for development

Venezuelan Refugees Arriving in Roraima, Brazil
by Francesco Pistilli

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Throughout 2018, we continued to join efforts with our long-term partners, now 16 in 11 countries and to work with a growing number of supporters here in the US. Together, we strive to accompany others, especially individuals and families in dire situations, to live with dignity.

We at AVSI-USA desire to keep this goal ever in sight as we perform our day-to-day tasks. Each year is also marked by field visits to our partners abroad, and by participation in various events that bring our colleagues to cities in the US. These moments strengthen relationships and give a human dimension to our work.

In January, we were among the sponsors of the annual New York Encounter where we saw many of you, donors and supporters. That 3-day event also afforded the opportunity for others to learn more about AVSI-USA, our network, programs and campaigns, while providing many positive and inspiring encounters, including a conference with Rose Busingye, founder of our partner Meeting Point International.

In 2018, AVSI-USA staff visited Lebanon, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Haiti and Ivory Coast. In April, we were joined by members of our Board of Directors on our first "Come and See" visit to our partner, Crecemos, in Oaxaca, Mexico, and we returned in October for their 25th Anniversary celebration!

Not only do our partners seek to respond to some basic needs of people affected by poverty, conflict, and marginalization, but they offer the whole society, by way of example, a method for addressing the crucial and burning issues of life—work, education of our children and youth, belonging and community life.

Thank you for being part of this adventure that educates.

Ezio Castelli
President

Jackie Aldrette
Managing Director

Editorial Team

Jackie Aldrette, Roberta Alves, Barbara Gagliotti and Marie L'Hermine

On the cover Uganda © AVSI Uganda
Graphics AODMilano and Roberta Alves

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AVSI-USA STAFF AROUND THE WORLD

Ezio Castelli on a field visit to AVSI's activities in the Syrian refugee camp of Marjayoun, South Lebanon

Jackie Aldrette visiting projects in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya

Marie L'Hermine visiting schools in Haiti and Ivory Coast

Barbara Gagliotti and Roberta Alves with children supported by Crecemos in Oaxaca, Mexico

VISION, MISSION, METHOD

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.

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.

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.

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 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-USA direct beneficiaries
350,000

AVSI-USA countries
15

AVSI-USA local partners
16
educational and healthcare institutions and NGOs

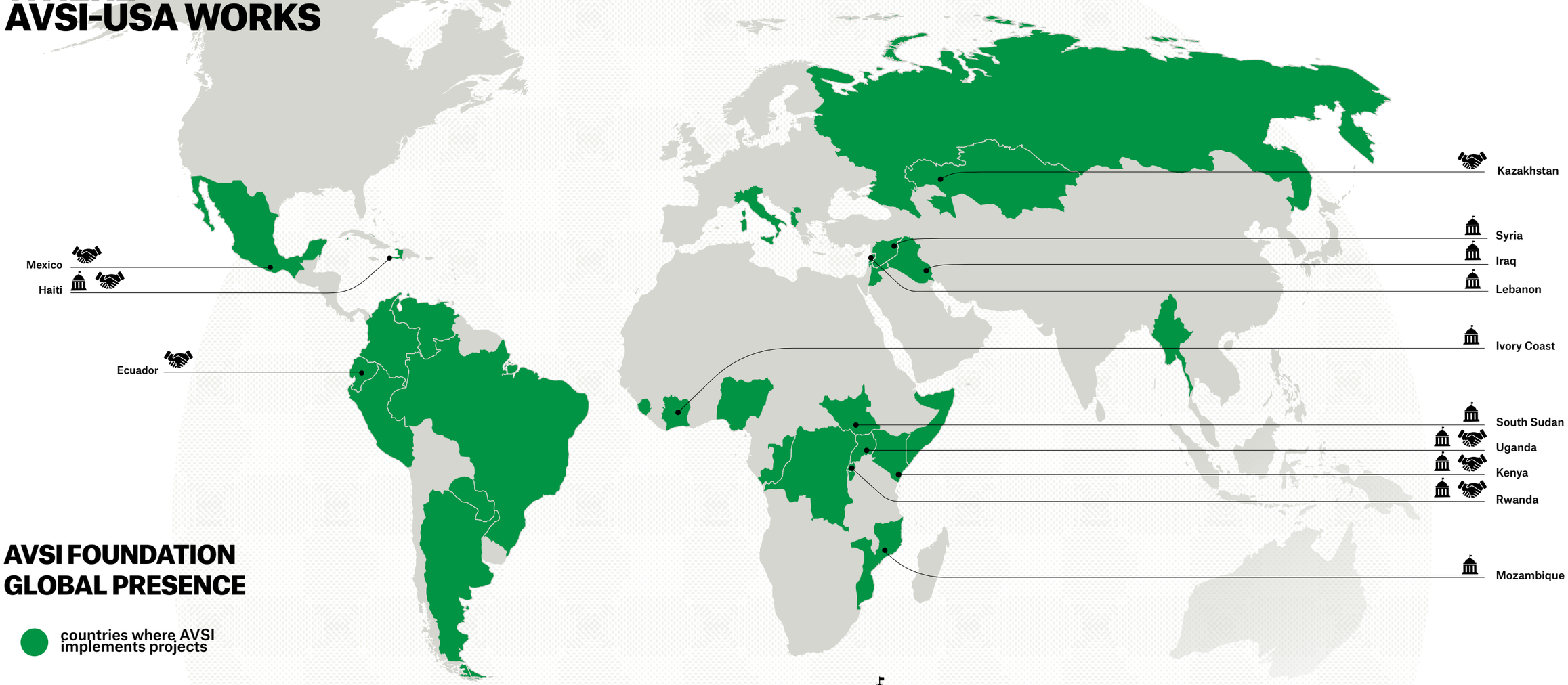
Projects funded by U.S. Gov
13

AVSI Foundation total revenue
68,097,472
26% private funds
74% public funds

AVSI Foundation staff
1,733

Education for Children & Youth in Kenya
by Andrea Signori

WHERE AVSI-USA WORKS

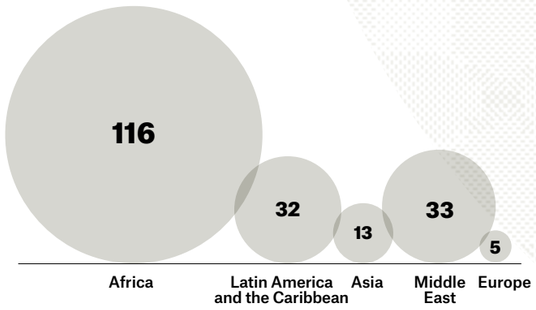


AVSI FOUNDATION GLOBAL PRESENCE

countries where AVSI implements projects

32 countries

199 projects



US Government Projects

Global	Local Systems Practice - USAID
Haiti	Child Labor Prevention - USDOL
Iraq	Virtuous Production Cycle to Relaunch a City and its Economic Fabric for IDPs and Returnees to the Nineveh Plain - USDOS-PRM
Ivory Coast	School Feeding and Literacy - USDA
	Reaching Priority Populations with HIV - CDC
Kenya	Nilinde - USAID
	Refugee Education, Dadaab - USDOS-PRM
Mozambique	Empowering Women, Promoting Change - US Embassy
Rwanda	Twiyubake - USAID
South Sudan	WAPSS - USDOS
Uganda	SCORE - USAID
	FARE - USAID
	Graduating to Resilience - USAID

AVSI-USA Long-term Partners

Brazil	CREN
Ecuador	AVSI Ecuador
	Fundacíon Sembrar
Haiti	AVSI Haiti
Kazakhstan	MASP
Kenya	Cardinal Otunga High School
	AVSI Kenya
Lebanon	AVSI Lebanon
Mexico	Crecemos
Rwanda	AVSI Rwanda
Syria	The Italian and French Hospitals in Damascus and St. Louis Hospital in Aleppo
Uganda	Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Educatioin
	Meeting Point International
Ukraine	Emmaus

OUR PROJECTS

The projects shown on the following pages are examples of AVSI's activities, which contribute to the UN's Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and fall into the following sectors:

Women's Empowerment & Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
by Alessandro Grassani (above) and Marco Gualazzini (below)

Agriculture, food security and nutrition

Climate change, energy and environment

Sustainable cities and resilient communities

Healthcare

Professional training, human capital and work creation

Education and child protection

Human rights and democracy

Migration and integration

Humanitarian aid

AVSI AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

For the past 20 years, AVSI Foundation has worked with the U.S. Government, developing innovative, person-centered programs that have had long-lasting impact on communities. Our dedicated staff brings 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 the people and, therefore, 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 Projects highlighted here are the current initiatives implemented by AVSI Foundation and partners with technical, managerial, and research support provided by AVSI-USA.

Women's Empowerment, Health & Sports in Uganda
by Mattia Marzorati

Uganda, Kampala and Wakiso
Family Resilience (FARE)

Period 2015-2018
Donor U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); under ASPIRES project led by FHI360
Partners Retrak and COWA
Activities FARE identifies and supports families and children while working to help strengthen communities and to accompany them through the reintegration process. 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. Families that are at-risk of child-family separation were identified at the community level and received parenting and life skills training, psycho-social support, and referrals for additional services as needed. Economic strengthening activities were also made available including apprenticeships and vocational training for youth, savings groups and training for marketable skills for adults. FARE contributes to the evidence base of how best to keep families, strained by poverty, together and resilient.

Rwanda

Twiyubake: Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP)

Period 2015-2018
Donor U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Partners 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 as well as building household resiliency. Twiyubake supports orphans and vulnerable children households through a family centered and integrated approach linking clinical health services as well as other support such as economic empowerment, nutrition, education, child protection and parenting skills.
Beneficiaries 50,000 vulnerable children's households.

Kenya, Dadaab

Refugee Education

Period 2011-2021
Donor U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
Activities Refugee Education is a multi-year education project for Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camp. 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. Through this project, AVSI is improving the quality of education delivered in the camps and in the host community, and expanding opportunities for youth leadership and positive development through scouting for both boys and girls.
Beneficiaries 3,530 direct beneficiaries and 109,982 indirect, Somali refugees and host community in 2018.

South Sudan, Cueibet County, Lakes State

Women as Agents of Peace in South Sudan

Period 2016-2018
Donor U.S. Department of State (DOS), Africa Bureau
Partners Catholic Diocese of Rumbek (DoR) and Women Welfare Agency (WWA) as local partners
Activities 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 Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) at the local and county levels. All activities are founded on mainstreaming female empowerment and mainstreaming SGBV identification, reporting, and response, including providing improvements to the SGBV referral system and linking peace response with SGBV response. 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.

Uganda, Kamwenge District

Graduating to Resilience

Period 2017-2024
Donor U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of Food for Peace
Partners Trickle Up, IMPAQ International
Activities USAID and implementing partners will gain critical evidence to inform food security and resilience programming in Uganda and regionally, in refugee and other settings. The AVSI consortium aims to improve the food security and nutrition status of the household, enhance household economic status, and increase the resiliency of the community. Half of the households will be from the host community, and the other half will be from the refugee community. Using a woman plus household approach and targeting chronically food insecure households with the capacity to engage in productive activities, the AVSI Graduating to Resilience Activity will methodically build confidence, increase capabilities, and change the behavior of women and household members in such a way as to improve nutrition, food security, accumulation of assets and income. The Activity also includes actions to mitigate the effects of climate change and to adapt to those conditions like sustainable and conservative agricultural activities which promote responsible water consumption.
Beneficiaries 13,200 households; 26,000 other individuals participating
75% women and youth, 50/50 Ugandan and refugee.

Iraq, Nineveh Plains, Qaraqosh

A Virtuous Production Cycle to Relaunch a City and its Economic Fabric for Internally Displaced Populations and Returnees to the Nineveh Plain

Period 2018–2020
Donor US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
Partner Church Supreme Board for Construction of Baghdeda (BfCB)
Activities To re-start productive activity in the Nineveh Plain destroyed during the ISIS occupation (2014-2016), the project supports 101 family-run small and medium-sized farms and agribusinesses by carrying out restructuring work, providing machinery, materials, livestock and veterinary services and organizing technical training, financial literacy, business development and life skills courses. The project also aids social cohesion: a newly formed sector association brings together the farmers and will manage a profit-sharing fund to finance other businesses and public works; it also includes the creation of two public gardens and supports the Women's Production Association of Qaraqosh (WPAQ).
Beneficiaries 3,262 direct beneficiaries: 101 farming and animal-breeding families and their workers totaling 1,212 people; 50 women of the Women's Production Association of Qaraqosh; 2,000 inhabitants of Qaraqosh who can use the gardens.

Haiti, North Province

Child Labor Prevention: Let's Work for Our Rights

Period 2016-2019
Donor U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)
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, improve labor rights, and enhance 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 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 project services and labor rights, legal assistance for documentation, 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.

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

Integrated School Feeding and Literacy Program

Period 2016-2020
Donor U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program
Partner World Food Programme (WFP, lead)
Activities Integrated School Feeding and Literacy Program is a two-part program, addressing school feeding and literacy in 613 primary schools in Ivory Coast. 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. Together with the Ministry of Education (MENET), AVSI is reviewing existing curricula, supporting the revision process currently underway and coordinating a collaborative effort to bring together pedagogical resources for reading instruction. AVSI also carried out a reading assessment of students in project schools, and supports the MENET in training teachers in the reading curriculum, while also mobilizing the involvement of the whole community.
Beneficiaries 125,000 students in 613 schools.

Women's Empowerment, Education & Rehabilitation of Farms in Iraq
by Giuseppe Fanizza

AVSI-USA LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership is at the heart of our work. Our "together" 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 Kenya
AVSI Lebanon
AVSI Rwanda
Cardinal Otunga High School, Kenya
Crecemos, Mexico
CREN Center for Recovery and Education in Nutrition, Brazil
Emmaus, Ukraine
Fundacion Sembrar, Ecuador
Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education, Uganda
MASP International Association of Social Programs, Kazakhstan
Meeting Point International, Uganda
St. Louis Hospital, Syria
The French Hospital, Syria
The Italian Hospital, Syria

Uganda, Kampala

Rebirth of Quality Education

Partner Luigi Giussani Institute for Higher Education
Activities LGIHE has made great strides in increasing quality education in Uganda by focusing on teacher motivation and critical thinking skills. In 2018, LGIHE strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Education and in particular with the Uganda National Testing Board (UNEB) to foster higher order thinking in schools. Working with UNEB, LGIHE conducted an in-depth study of the Uganda Certificate of Education to assess the level higher order thinking required for Math, English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics National Examinations. Armed with this information, teachers will be able to utilize teaching methods and assessment approaches that intensify critical thinking ability in teachers and learners.
Results In 2018, 35 school leaders are working toward a Certificate of School Leadership and 150 teachers completed trainings on education and critical thinking.

Higher Education in Uganda
by Museruka Emmanuel/LGIHE

Oaxaca, Mexico

Crecemos

Partner 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 children and their 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 In 2018, Crecemos celebrated 25 years of bringing integrated activities including exercise, sports, music, dance and a mobile library that provide books and learning opportunities to over 1,600 families each year.

Quito, Ecuador

Educational and Social Reintegration of Persons Deprived of Liberty

Partner AVSI Ecuador

Activities The Social Rehabilitation System in Ecuador strives for the complete rehabilitation and societal reintegration of persons convicted of criminal activity. AVSI Ecuador, together with Cisco Networking Academy and the National Service of Integral Attention to Adult Persons Deprived of Liberty and Juvenile Offenders, is working to achieve that goal in the Regional Prison of Cotopaxi. Toward that end, persons deprived of liberty are trained in IT technologies, some have also become teachers who can train others thus making the project sustainable over time. In addition, a videoconference center was created, so that people deprived of liberty can speak via video call with their relatives and friends, thus promoting family reintegration. Subsequent phases of the project include expanding the model throughout the country.

Results In 2018, 90 persons deprived of liberty earned certificates in IT technologies in the Cotopaxi facility and the in-house multiservice technology center was established and equipped.

Quito, Ecuador

Youth for Peace

Partner Fundación Sembrar

Activities Violence is a way of life in the impoverished neighborhoods of Pisulli-LaRoldos on the periphery of Quito. Drug abuse, delinquent behavior, hostility in schools and gender violence are widespread. Fundación Sembrar offers youth another way by promoting a culture of peace and positive participation in community life through youth leadership training and alternative activities.

Results In 2018, the Youth for Peace program mentored 200 young people to positively face problems through participation in cultural and career-orientation workshops, formed 54 youth leaders as community peace promoters, raised awareness on violence prevention in school communities for 332 participants, and facilitated vacation camps for 519 children promoting the constructive use of free time for violence prevention.

Youth Empowerment in Ecuador
by Fundacion Sembrar

After-School Programs in Mexico
by Roberto Zempoaltecatl/Crecemos

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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 2018, 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 strenghten three private nonprofit hospitals in order to provide free medical care to the poorest, the second project's goal was to rebuild a kindergtarten destroyed by ISIS and support more than 500 children and their families resettling back home.

	2018 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS	2017 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
Individual Donations	$ 14,680	$17,810
Foundation Support	$30,000	$3,500
Grand Total	$44,680	$21,310

Iraq

"Baby Jesus House" Kindergarten

Partner The Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena.
Activities Refurbishment and procurement of equipment; logistic and financial contributions to the Dominican Sisters to manage the kindergarten and offer accompaniment and support to parents and families; refreshment, school supplies, teacher salaries, consumables, teacher training, and running costs (electricity, water, etc).
Beneficiaries: 530 children and their families.

Syria

Operation Open Hospitals

Partners The Italian Hospital and the French Hospital in Damascus and the Saint Louis Hospital in Aleppo.
Activities

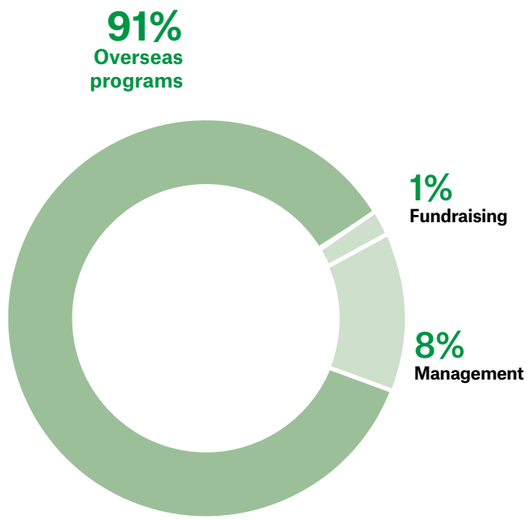
- Establish a fully functioning social office in each hospital to certify the poverty status of those asking for treatment, and to serve as a hub for referral and psychosocial support.
- Provide important financial resources to each hospital to cover the costs of the additional personnel and the services provided free of charge to poor patients.
- Upgrade medical equipment, security conditions and information and management systems of each hospital as needed.
- Train, as needed, the hospitals' medical and administrative staff.

Beneficiaries As of December 31st, 2018, the total number of patients accepted and treated free of charge in the three hospitals was 15,204.

Operation Open Hospitals in Syria
by Aldo Gianfrate

2018 AVSI-USA Financial Statements

	2018	2017
Revenue and Support		
Contributions & Grants	513,042	686,099
Grants Receivable	251,002	473,630
Program Service Revenue	85,719	66,101
Interest Income	1,301	84
Other Income	64	2,904
TOTAL REVENUE	**851,128**	**1,228,727**
Expenses		
Overseas Programs		
- Grants	592,493	427,433
- Technical assistance	393,066	282,654
Fundraising	18,397	7,671
Management & General	69,125	58,660
TOTAL EXPENSES	**1,073,081**	**776,418**
Change in Net Assets	(221,953)	452,309
Net Assets, Beginning of	746,802	294,493
Net Assets, End of	**524,849**	**746,802**



AVSI-USA contribution to the success of the AVSI Foundation

In 2018, AVSI-USA obtained $592,493 in grant funding for AVSI network members in 13 countries.

In addition, AVSI-USA leveraged support from the U.S. Government and international institutions for AVSI Foundation which amounted to $10,766,949, or 14% of AVSI Foundation's consolidated revenue of $77,971,601 in 2018.

Education, Health & Women's Empowerment in South Sudan
by Alessandro Penso

Thanks

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

Foundations & Corporations
Catholic Health Association
Cisco Networking Academy Fund
PayPal Giving Fund
Raskob Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund made possible by the generosity of The Echidna Giving Fund
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
The W. O'Neil Foundation
UNFCU Foundation
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Matching Gifts
Agilent Technology
AmazonSmile
Benevity Causes
Network for Good
Oracle Corporate Matching Funds
YourCause Corporate Giving

Others
Brookewood School-Kensington, MD
Combined Federal Campaign
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church-Kensington, MD
University of Notre Dame
World Bank Community Connections Campaign

Youth and Women's Empowerment in Burundi
by Marco Palombi

Families and Individuals

Andrea Allais
Roberta & Jose-Henrique Alves
Nicholas & Laura Amigone
Gianpiero & Victoria Anelli
Maria Ariano
Sotero Arizu
Anna Aspesi
Ann Augustyn
Elizabeth Bariani
Giulia Benghi
Jeffrey Bergmann
Vincent & Jacqueline Bernardin
Amelia Ann Bowen
Tricia Branagan
Chris Burgwald
Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.
Paolo & Susan Carozza
Eloisa & Giuseppe Cerati
Colin & Rebecca Cherico
Virginio & Christianne Chiodini
Michele Clabassi
Matthew Conte
Regis Crelier
Paolo Cumin
Fr. Christopher Droste
Alex Edezhath
Ralph Edezhath
John & Josephine Egan
Colleen Erdman
Elisabetta Erickson
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Raymond Fermo
Marie Fessenbecker
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Ilaria Schnyder
Apoorva Shah
Jeanette Sickel
Kathleen Smith
Timothy Smith
Grainne & Tom Tobin
Fabio Tresoldi
Brandon & Claire Vaidyanathan
Simonetta & Joseph Wiener

AVSI USA

People for development

donate now

Online donations

avsi-usa.org/donate

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