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ANNUAL
REPORT





LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

A YEAR **NOT** TO BE FORGOTTEN

At the beginning, fear: the growing number of cases, restrictions getting tougher, states closing their borders and entering, one after the other, into lockdown. The anguish of those who, from Kenya, follow the dramatic news from Italy and think of their loved ones, but at the same time wonder what will happen in the South of the world: for now the cases in Kenya seem limited, but how reliable are the official data? And the question we all ask ourselves, so frightening that one is almost afraid to express it aloud: "And Kenya? How will countries in the Global South, with fragile economies and inadequate health systems, cope with a pandemic that promises to be of historic proportions?"

After the initial disorientation, it is necessary to act, and immediately. A phase of feverish meetings begins, a race against time to make our operators safe, to adapt to the new rules and restrictions, to know how to move in case of transmission. In Nairobi, it is a priority to make our hospital, Neema, safe: a task force of medical experts, between Italy and Kenya, outlines a protocol for health workers, patients and all those who attend the hospital; they take steps to provide the necessary devices and equipment. And donors are being asked to help with the emergency.

The immediate next step is to find a way to carry on the activities, at least those possible in the lockdown: the beneficiaries of our projects, from the slums of Nairobi to the suburbs of Turin, are the most vulnerable people for whom the epidemic will worsen an already serious social and health situation, and who risk being totally abandoned.

In Italy we do everything we can to maintain the continuity of services for the most fragile people we assist in the metropolitan suburbs of Turin, launching new initiatives thanks to the synergies created with our partners and donors, working on the front line to protect homeless people and limit the spread.

In Kenya, the pandemic has an apparently smaller clinical impact than in the Global North (although we are certain that the African numbers are underestimated), but the socio-economic consequences are disastrous. In Nairobi, where 60% of the population lives below the poverty line, the heavy lockdowns are causing the loss of jobs and daily food and an exacerbation of gender-based violence; cases of child malnutrition are worsening and the chronically ill remain without treatment. World Friends strengthens the program to combat malnutrition, works for information and prevention of contagion in the slums, and tries to deal with health emergencies through the Neema ambulance that reaches the most remote areas of the slums.

At the end of a year of pandemic we feel even more vivid and pressing the need to fight for the fundamental rights of all, for the right to health. The health crisis has highlighted social injustices, increasing if possible the distance between the privileged few and the many disadvantaged for whom this pandemic adds to the many stories of poverty, illness and daily injustice.

The pandemic also brought out the heart, the dedication, the strength of those who dedicated themselves and the generosity of those who supported the efforts of those "in the front line". To our operators, to those who remained in the field, with courage and dedication, goes our gratitude. And we are grateful to our supporters and friends who, in this period of deep uncertainty, have accepted our appeals and our requests for help: it is thanks to you that we have been able to continue our work, and we will continue to do so. Conscious of the fact that, as people far more influential than myself have pointed out, "No one is saved alone", let us continue together to defend rights today, in order to guarantee them tomorrow.

Silvana Merico

President Amici del Mondo – World Friends Onlus

Silvana Merico





1.

WORLD FRIENDS

DEFENDING
RIGHTS TODAY TO
GRANT THEM
TOMORROW

Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus - is an Italian Association for Development Cooperation founded in 2001 with the aim of working for the integral promotion of mankind in all parts of the world, contributing to the implementation of the principles established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2001, the founding members came together to create World Friends, establishing a fundamental criterion: "having the head in the South". This meant that projects would not be conceived in the North of the world, but directly in the places where they were to be implemented. World Friends' interventions are carried out strictly in response to the request or initiative of local populations in a situation of need and are decided on the basis of urgency of intervention and not on the basis of ease of obtaining funds.

Nearly twenty years ago we started working with prevention projects on the Kenyan territory to manage the HIV/AIDS pandemic of the late 1990s. In 2008 we founded the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital to provide medical care to the population of the large slums of northeast Nairobi.

We are currently working in Kenya, in Nairobi and in the Kajiado district, providing health education and awareness activities in the slums and outreach of doctors in Maasai villages thanks to the intervention of health personnel trained at R.U. Neema and in our partner facilities. In Italy, in the region of Piemonte, we work offering support to the homeless of Turin. We mainly employ local staff in all our initiatives, aimed at defending the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable people, first of all the right to health.

BIRTH DATE	2001
STATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO - recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 04/07/2011 - ONLUS – registered in the Registry of ONLUS on 17/02/2004 - Organization of Civil Society – registered in the List of Civil Society Organizations and other non-profit subjects of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation on 04/04/2016 - Entered in the Register of legal persons at the Prefecture of Rome on 09/11/2010 - International NGO - recognized by Non-Governmental Organizations Board in Kenya on 16/12/2004
HEAD OFFICE	Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital, off Thika Highway, Nairobi, Kenya
LEGAL HEADQUARTER	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 440 - 00145 Roma
OPERATING HEADQUARTER	Viale Egeo, 137 – 00144 Roma
MAIL ADDRESS	info@world-friends.org
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WEBSITE	www.world-friends.it

1.1. Mission

All human beings have the right to live a healthy and dignified life, receive an appropriate education, find a job and have a home for themselves and their family. However, even today fundamental rights are not respected for millions of people in world peripheries, where poverty and social injustices are over the edge. This is why we have chosen to start from the slums, the huge shantytowns of African megalopolises, where the need is extreme.

We work today to provide the services necessary to live a full and healthy life. Because health is key to development. We promote education and professional training to overcome the root of problems and ensure lasting change in the future.

1.2. Vision

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948. It is a fundamental document, in which the inalienable rights of every human being are declared for the first time in Article 25. Human Rights are the beating heart of the Sustainable Development Goals and the minimum condition for their achievement. For this reason our work draws strength and *raison d'être* from the respect and promotion of fundamental rights, the first of which we believe to be the Right to Health. We dream of a world where there is no need to defend Human Rights.

1.3. Values

The core values that inspire and inform every action of the Association, including its own interventions, are the followings:

- Solidarity
- Cooperation
- Transparency
- Participation and democracy
- Neutrality and independence
- Sustainability and transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies.
- Responsibility and accountability
- Essentiality
- Equality, rejection of any kind of negative discrimination and appreciation of diversity

1.4. Areas of our activities

For the realisation of the prefixed purpose and with the intent to act in favour of the whole community, the association proposes to carry out activities in the following areas:

- socio-health assistance, promoted at the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital and thorough capillary activities carried out in the territorial areas of competence of World Friends (Nairobi slums, Kajiado county, suburbs of Turin);
- fighting inequality and poverty by improving access to basic services for the most fragile members of the population;
- training dedicated to the resources employed (mainly local) both in the field of healthcare and in the field of development cooperation;
- promotion and protection of civil rights, thorough activities of awareness and advocacy;
- scientific research of particular social interest, respecting and enhancing local natural and environmental resources.

1.5. Code of Ethics

In order to guarantee and maintain high standards of integrity, consistency, transparency and accountability with regard to the purposes and methods of its work, World Friends has decided to produce a Code of Ethics and Conduct.

The Code of Ethics and Conduct is based on the values expressed and referred to in the Statute, and the principles established in international conventions such as the following:

- United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

World Friends assigns to the Executive Committee the function of vigilance over the Code of Ethics and Conduct, entrusting this body with the task of verifying the adequacy of the preventive tools provided under the context of the code of ethics, to formulate and implement any interventions to overcome critical situations and / or potential criticality, to receive reports of possible or actual violations of the code of ethics and to intervene in situations and events to be evaluated and possibly sanctioned.

In order to receive reports of possible or actual violations of the Code of Ethics and Conduct, while protecting the confidentiality of those who report them, the Executive Committee employs a specific email address (vigilanza@world-friends.org).

1.5.1. Ethical Principles

The activities of World Friends - as an organisation and in the person of its members, employees and collaborators - are inspired by the principles of human solidarity and are characterised by respect for and active promotion of the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The following are the fundamental ethical principles upon which all of our association's activities are based and to which every member, employee and collaborator of World Friends adheres and is required to comply:

- Respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Non-discrimination
- Solidarity
- Fairness and mutual respect
- Professionalism
- Integrity and honesty

The Code of Ethics of World Friends, in addition to the general principles listed above, also defines a code of conduct to be maintained in relations with the outside world and in particular:

Relations with Employees, Collaborators and Consultants

Human resources - whether employees, collaborators, consultants, volunteers - represent a fundamental component of the identity and work of World Friends. The dedication and professionalism of the operators are crucial elements and conditions for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Association.

World Friends is therefore committed to enhancing and developing the skills of the people who work with the Association. To this end, it offers all operators the same opportunities for professional growth, determining the latter only on the basis of criteria of merit, availability and need. In both the selection of practitioners and their subsequent professional development, the Association ensures fair treatment, based on merit criteria, without discrimination on the basis of gender, social background, economic status, physical or psychological condition, religious belief, political affiliation or personal status, nationality or origin.

Wanting to give priority to the employment of local staff and promote democratic growth while respecting the dignity of the worker in the countries where it operates, World Friends reserves the right to sign agreements more favourable than those existing in the area of intervention, in order to ensure a salary that allows to

meet the basic needs of the worker and his family. However, referring to the idea of an economy of equality, it is proposed not to deviate too much, in excess, from the average salaries practiced in the area of intervention in order not to alter the local economy.

Particular attention is paid to the selection and training of the expatriate staff involved who, in addition to having the necessary professional competence, must fully adhere to the principles indicated.

World Friends is committed to respecting the Italian legislation on human resources, and the legislation of the host country.

In relation to working conditions, the organization promotes and strives to create an environment that provides:

- a. An appropriate and functional environment for the activity to be performed;
- b. A collaborative and communicative environment, as serene and healthy as possible;
- c. A focus on listening and prevention or, if it arises, the balanced management of any conflicting instances;
- d. Conditions as healthy and safe as possible, considering the possible objective and complex critical situations that some contexts of intervention may present, relying also on a constant commitment of its operators to

contribute to risk prevention, environmental protection and safety of themselves and third parties.

e. A context as appropriate as possible, providing its operators with tangible and intangible assets deemed necessary to perform their duties to the best of their ability, according to the availability, principles and strategies adopted by World Friends. In return, the operators are committed to safeguarding these assets, ensuring a functional and exclusive use to carry out the activities of the organization and the purposes authorized by the specific functions.

Upon establishment of a collaborative relationship, regardless of its economic content, the operator is entitled to receive:

- a. Detailed information about the function and duties required to perform;
- b. information on the normative and retributive elements applicable to the type of collaboration set up;
- c. information on the procedures and standards to be adopted in order to allow the activity to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct, with the internal policies of the organization, in the greatest possible safety.
- d. copy of the World Friends Code of Ethics and Conduct.
- e. copy of the Operating and Administrative Procedures Manual, if relevant.

Although it is the primary responsibility of World Friends to adequately inform its operators of the Code of Ethics and Conduct, each operator is nevertheless required to:

- a. take due note of the said Code and be familiar with all its provisions;
- b. refrain from behaviours contrary to the principles and rules contained in the said Code;
- c. carefully select their collaborators, as far as they are concerned, and constantly direct them to fully respect the said Code;
- d. require their counterparts (suppliers, partners, donors, etc.) to act in accordance with this Code;
- e. promptly report findings or news about possible cases or claims of violation of the said Code;
- f. cooperate fully with those involved in the investigation of such cases;
- g. promptly adopt corrective measures when required and prevent any kind of retaliation.

As a precautionary measure, expatriates are prohibited from taking part in the political life of the foreign country in which they operate.

Relations with Beneficiaries

World Friends is committed to sharing its Vision and Mission, and the values and principles that inspire this Code, with all parties - whether individuals, organizations or institutions - who are interested in any way in the initiatives promoted by the Association.

World Friends operates by involving all stakeholders in every phase of the realization of its initiatives - from the definition of actions, the implementation of activities to the evaluation of its interventions.

The beneficiaries are therefore duly informed about the objectives pursued, the activities carried out and the results achieved by the Association.

Relations with Donors

In order to carry out its activities in Italy and abroad, the Association relies on funding from public and private donors.

Relations with donors are based on maximum fairness and transparency. In the use of public and private donations is fully respected the will of the donors: in case of impossibility for reasons of force majeure not surmountable, a different use will be agreed with the donors themselves.

Donor contribution transfers must be made to accounts in the name of the organization. Transfers to accounts in the name of individuals are not permitted. In dealing with donors, we ensure full compliance with the clauses outlined in Article 4.2.6 of the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

World Friends refuses donations, both material and financial, derived from the proceeds of the arms trade, pornographic material and anything else intended to degrade the human person and the environment.

Relations with Partners

Within the scope of its interventions, World Friends promotes and encourages the active involvement and collaboration with local and/or international partners.

The choice of partners, both public and private, is conditioned on the following criteria:

- a. relevance with respect to the objectives of the intervention to be implemented;
- b. independence from political parties;
- c. sharing the same ethical principles as World Friends.

World Friends does not admit relationships of dependency on subjects with the purpose of profit and maintains full autonomy with regard to this type of interests.

World Friends promotes the enhancement of local skills and competencies and therefore encourages capacity building actions, where relevant, in the framework of collaborations with local partners.

Relations with Suppliers

In the purchase of goods and services for its initiatives, the organization prefers local suppliers, whenever the necessary product quality and reliable maintenance of the same is guaranteed.

The choice of suppliers and the purchase of goods and services from them are carried out in accordance with clear and transparent procedures, based on objective and verifiable criteria that take into account the quality/price ratio.

Suppliers interested in working with World Friends must comply with the above procedures and ensure compliance with the principles and rules contained in the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Relation with Media and interaction on social channels

World Friends operates and interacts on various media channels to represent and publicize its work. This results in frequent interactions with journalists and other media representatives, as well as interactions with people and others on social channels.

The Association addresses the press and mass media through its designated persons, who must operate with the utmost fairness, helpfulness, prudence and transparency.

Externally-directed communications must be truthful, complete and verifiable, not aggressive to rights and, in particular, not offensive to the dignity of persons - especially the dignity of minors. The presence on social channels is intended to inform and communicate the activities carried out and to draw attention to issues and initiatives of social and ethical importance. Another primary purpose is to achieve a direct and more immediate interaction with both donors and the public, always paying attention to providing correct information and respecting privacy.

In the event that non-affiliated operators are representing World Friends, publishing, making statements and providing views on behalf of the organization, they must obtain permission from their contact person and agree the content with the appropriate individuals.

The communicative actions undertaken by World Friends, regardless of the channel used, are

carried out in accordance with the principles and guidelines promoted by the Institute of Advertising Self-Discipline (IAP),⁴ to which World Friends adheres through the LINK 2007 platform.

Relations with subjects in charge of control and auditing activities and with the judicial authority

Members, employees and collaborators of World Friends are required to cooperate fully and sincerely with those responsible for carrying out control, audit, monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as in the context of investigations and audits by judicial authorities.



2.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1. Governance

2.1.1 Assembly

The ordinary Assembly of Members, deliberates the general program of the Association; approves and modifies possible internal regulations of the Association; approves the annual budget and financial statement and the relative accompanying documents for each financial year; elects the President, the members of the Executive Committee, the members of the Supervisory Body and the Single Auditor, where applicable; deliberates on the exclusion of members for serious reasons; deliberates on the transfer of the headquarters within the same Municipality.

As of December 31, 2020, the Assembly of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus is composed of 23 members divided into Founding Members, Honorary Members and Aggregate Members. During 2020, the Assembly of members of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus met once in ordinary session (for the approval of budgets, the elections of the Executive Committee and the President, the presentation of the results of the previous three-year program and the presentation of the three-year program of the new Executive Committee) and once in extraordinary session (for changes to the Statute for the adjustment to the new Single Register of Third Sector Bodies).

2.1.2. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for developing norms for the regulation of the Association; prepare the general programme of the Association, triennial and annual; to determine the programme of work on the basis of the guidelines contained in the programme approved by the Assembly, promoting and coordinating activities; to recruit dependent personnel and to stipulate employment contracts with third parties; to prepare the annual budgets; to deliberate on requests for new membership; to provide for the affairs of ordinary and extraordinary administration that are not charged to the Assembly.

The assembly of October 17, 2020 saw the election of the new President and the new Executive Committee who will serve 3-year terms.

Composition of the Executive Committee of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus at 31/12/2020	
Silvana Merico (President)	Gianfranco Morino
Paolo Leoncini (Vice president)	Ermanno Salvatore
Jacopo Rovarini (Treasurer)	Paolo Tullio Cirio
Diletta Bartolozzi (Secretary)	

2.1.3. President

The President, elected by the Assembly, has the task of presiding over the Executive Committee and the Assembly itself. The President is charged with representing the Association in the face of third parties and before the law. The President nominates from the members elected for the Executive Committee a Secretary, a Treasurer and possible referents for specific duties (e.g. ongoing projects, communications, fundraising, etc.).

The President of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus is Dr. Silvana Merico, in office until 2022.

2.1.4. Secretary

The Secretary shall assist the President and shall have the following duties: manages and updates the register of members; takes care of correspondence; is responsible for the preparation and preservation of the minutes of committee meetings; has the role of liaison and coordination between the various organs of the Association (E.C., members), and between the Association and the outside world (other organizations, public and private entities, etc.).

The Secretary of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus is Dr. Diletta Bartolozzi, in office until 2022.

2.1.5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall assist the President and shall have the following duties: prepare the outline of the draft budget, which he/she shall submit to the Committee, and the final budget, which he/she shall submit to the Committee by March; shall be responsible for maintaining the records and accounts of the organization, as well as for the preservation of related documentation; shall collect revenues and pay expenses in accordance with the decisions of the Committee.

The Treasurer of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus is Dr. Jacopo Rovarini, in office until 2022.

2.1.6. Supervisory Body

The management of the Association is overseen by a Supervisory Body that supervises the observance of the law and of the statute and the respect of the principles of correct administration, as well as the adequacy of the organizational, administrative and accounting structure and its concrete functioning. The supervisory body also exercises tasks to monitor compliance with civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes. The Supervisory Body also carries out - where the requirements are met - the accounting audit, unless - based on specific legal provisions or on a specific decision taken by the Assembly - this function cannot be assigned to the supervisory body and has to be carried out separately by an independent auditor or by an audit firm listed in the relevant register.

The Supervisory Body of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus is Dr. Susanna Russo, in office until 2021.

2.2. The stakeholders

2.2.1. Beneficiaries of projects in Africa

Nairobi

Kenya's capital city has a population of around 4.386.000 inhabitants (United Nations, 2018), two-thirds of whom live in the slums (shantytowns) in extreme poverty conditions. According to World Health Organization's projections, around 50% of the households consist of single women with one or more children and the mortality rate under the age of 5 years is 41/1.000 (WHO, 2018). Life expectancy in Kenya is 64/69 years (WHO 2016) - at 147° place out of 189 countries in the world[4]. Communicable diseases are still one of the main causes of death, especially in the slums: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis have the highest incidence rates in the population. Unfortunately, vaccination coverage is significantly declining: in 2016/2017 78% of children under the age of 1 were vaccinated, while in the 2013/14 biennium it was 89%[5]. In Kenya there is no free medical care: the density of doctors for every 1.000 inhabitants is 0,204 (2014), while the density of obstetrical personnel for every 1.000 inhabitants is 1,582.

Only 61,8% of births take place with qualified personnel assistance, while in shantytowns 50% take place without any medical assistance, resulting in a maternal mortality rate of 510/100.000[6]. The death rate for preventable diseases (such as diarrhoea and respiratory disease infections) is the highest in the country, above all in the under-5 age group. Moreover, the absolute lack of specialist diagnostic and treatment services accessible to the most disadvantaged people leads to serious delays in diagnoses of cancer or other diseases requiring surgery.

Very few people have sanitary facilities in their homes. Public lavatories are not free of charge and are

not maintained adequately, so that the majority of residents have to use plastic bags, which are then abandoned along the roads and around the shacks, making the shantytown environment a veritable rubbish tip. There is no waste collection system and no satisfactory disposal arrangements. All domestic waste is just thrown out on the street, causing a blockage of the open air sewage canals that take in all the urban sewage. Even water is not free: there isn't any direct access, only 54 % of the population is able to use services that provide uncontaminated drinking water.

Beneficiaries

The projects of World Friends are mainly focused on populations in the slums in the north-east area of Nairobi (Korogocho, Kariobangi, Babadogo, Mathare Valley, Eastleigh, Huruma, Kahawa, Soweto), reaching more than 210.000 people, of which 90.000 with its interventions on the field and around 120.000 at the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital. The health problems of people benefiting from World Friends interventions are innumerable: infective pathologies, traumas, burns, invalidity and infections arising from non-assisted births, tumours provoked by the very high pollution levels from rubbish dumps; gastroenteritis and acute respiratory illnesses, (especially in children), states of permanent malnutrition, tuberculosis, typhoid and malaria. Sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, are also extremely widespread. Special attention is given to mother-child health and a specific program is aimed at children with disabilities and their families.

World Friends' activities also involve young people in the slums: activities take place in schools to help underprivileged children and those with serious family and social problems. WF organizes health prevention and health education courses and training courses for teachers and school principals. Each year these courses involve thousands of young and very young people, thanks to the continuous activities carried out by World Friends operators in the slums. Also included among the beneficiaries of projects are the local personnel: each year numerous workers (both health and social) take part in the Association's training courses, with an aim to improve their expertise, to guarantee the duration and the autonomy of interventions, and to halt the "brain drain" from countries in the Global South.

Kajiado

In Kenya, the maternal death rate is significantly high (510/100.000 live births in 2016, according to World Health Organization). Among the main causes is the inaccessibility of both maternity and health services, both pre- and post-natal, together with socio-cultural factors. In Kajiado County (an area of Kiserian) around 50% of births occur at home, without any qualified assistance, as the majority of deliveries take place just with the assistance of traditional midwives. The remainder take place without any assistance. Healthcare services, especially pre-natal, peri-natal, post-natal and reproductive health, are provided mainly by health centres and hospitals, public or private. Often these structures are lacking the required equipment and it is difficult to find qualified personnel. These structures are concentrated in urban areas, distant from a large part of the population, meaning that access to basic services is costly, also as regards transport.

The instruments needed for a responsible maternity remain inaccessible to the majority of the women in poverty conditions, and this leads to an ever greater spread of pathologies that have a negative effect on pregnancies and on infant health, such as anaemia and malaria. In addition, hygienic practices and nutritional models are inadequate and there is a scarce awareness of reproductive health services. To make it worse, health problems linked to infant nutrition are on the increase (malnutrition, typhoid, brucellosis, anaemia, diarrhoea, intestinal parasites).

Beneficiaries

More than 30.000 people living in the Kajiado district benefit from World Friends activities directly and indirectly. Aid is provided mainly to groups of women, young people, children who often are not able to access medical assistance for economic reasons. World Friends activities aim is to make maternal-infantile services more accessible, to spread health/reproductive and nutritional education, to improve the efficiency, the efficacy and the coordination of existing services and to improve and implement the promotion of school education.

2.2.2. Beneficiaries of projects in Italy

In the city of Turin, World Friends offers healthcare services in two clinics, reaching out to more than 2.000 people living in distress or homeless: an action aimed to improve the health conditions of the vulnerable and homeless people in Turin, enhancing the efficiency of the offered health services and reinforcing the referral system to/from the public service.

World Friends has been an active presence in schools since 2004. Thanks to support from volunteers who arrange meetings to encourage public awareness, for many years now students from various Italian towns have had the chance to get to know the African continent more closely, its resources, connoted problems and its potential for future development.

The methodology followed by World Friends staff includes activities in classes with educational and training activities aimed at students and teachers, to encourage the participation of children and adolescents using interactive and multidisciplinary methodologies.

The public awareness and training activities of World Friends are also aimed at university students and healthcare workers. Often the Association's workers are invited to Universities to deepen knowledge on subjects linked to cooperation activities carried out in the field, or they are asked to take part in meetings and conferences for professionals in the medical or healthcare fields.

2.2.3. Donors

World Friends donors are of many different types: Italian and international bodies and institutions; private citizens and firms; foundations, NGOs, religious institutions; governments and institutions in countries where World Friends is active; international solidarity associations.

Among major funders: AICS - Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, AlbaCare Foundation, 8xmille Catholic Church, Region of Tuscany, Manos Unidas, European Commission, Caritas Antoniana, FNOMCeO – National Federation of Surgeons and Odontologists Orders, San Zeno Foundation, Trento Autonomous

Province, Diocesan Acqui Caritas, Cuore Amico Fraternità Onlus, CAI – Italian Alpinist Club Acqui Terme “Nanni Zunino” section, 8xmille Waldensian Church, USAID – from the American people, UKAID - from the British people, Only The Brave Foundation, Cariplo Foundation, Prima Spes Foundation, Familia Nawiri a Novartis special Venture, Catholic International Community, CRT Foundation, Bata Foundation oltre ad una base donatori costituita da circa 2.000 privati cittadini.

2.2.4. Network with other NGOs

The Association works in collaboration with many other bodies in Italian and international cooperation.

- World Friends is a member of the Italian Global Health Network, a network of Italian and international NGOs committed to the fight against pandemics (AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) and poverty. The aim of the network is to contribute to curb the diffusion of these diseases around the world, with special attention given to poor and less developed countries. It also promotes collaboration between NGOs, developing a common political action aimed at making public institutions aware on the development of health policies.
- World Friends is a member of LINK 2007, a coordination consortium association that includes 14 Italian NGOs. The association promotes the valorization, the broadening of operative opportunities and the qualitative enhancement of cooperation for development.

- World Friends is a part of COP – Consorzio ONG Piemontesi (Piedmont NGOs Consortium), a non-profit association of civil society organizations working on the Piedmont territory in the area of international cooperation and education to global citizenship.
- World Friends is a member of various networks, such as: the Hennes network – Health NGOs Network, a consortium of NGOs and Kenyan and international institutions that work in Kenya in the health field; Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD), Nairobi Child Protection Network (NCPT), Elimu Yetu, Kasarani Gender-Based Violence Forum, Scaling Up Nutrition, Kajiado County Health CSO Network, With a Different Mind.

2.2.5 Partnerships

During the implementation of projects in third countries, World Friends has developed partnerships with different institutions and organisations, both local and international.

In Italy World Friends has developed partnerships with: Africa Rafiki; Florence Global Health Center; CCM – Medical Collaboration Committee; CISP – International Committee for Peoples' Development; COP – Piedmont NGOs Consortium; CRIMEDIM; Ivo de Carneri Onlus Foundation; Karibu Afrika; LUMSA University; Medici per la Pace; Need You Onlus; San Paolo Milan University Hospital; OTE Medical Italia; Runsmile ASD; SIMNOVA of Eastern Piedmont University; Slums Dunk Onlus; Campus Bio-Medico Rome University; Catholic University del Sacro Cuore; Luigi Bocconi Milan Commercial University; Siena University; Turin University.

On an international level World Friends has developed partnerships with: AAR Beckmann Trust; AB Consultants; Abt Associates; ACREG - African Cultural Research and Education Foundation; APHRC - African Population and Health Research Centre; AHF - AIDS Healthcare Foundation; APDK - Association For The Physically Disabled Of Kenya; Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi; Children Sickle Cell Foundation; Children's Department – Ministero dell'infanzia, delle pari opportunità e dello sviluppo sociale del Kenya; Euresist; German Doctors Nairobi; Health-E-Net; Jukumu Letu Community-Based Organization; Kajiado County Hospital; Karolinska Institutet; KEMRI - Kenya Medical Research Institute; KMTC - Kenya Medical Training College; KPA - Kenya Pediatric Association; KEPSA - Kenya Private Sector Alliance; LSTM - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; Mbagathi District Hospital; Mwangaza Ulio na Tumaini Health Centre; Ministero della Salute del Kenya; Ministero dell'Educazione del Kenya/Dipartimento Municipale dell'Educazione (Nairobi); NCKK - National Council of Churches of Kenya; Ngong Sub-County Hospital; Parrocchia di Kariobangi; NTLDP - National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program; PharmAccess Foundation – SafeCare Programme; PSP4H - Private Sector Innovation Program for Health; Provide International ONG; Redeemed Gospel Church Health Centre; Slum Film Festival CBO; T4H - Trees for Health grow the future; The Action Foundation; University College of Utrecht; Urafiki Centre Foundation; WRAP - Women's Rights Awareness Programme; Zam Zam Medical Services.



3.

HUMAN RESOURCES

3.1. World Friends and RUNH staff

In Kenya, the staff of World Friends staff includes 32 employees (25 local staff members and 7 expats) working in offices and project management, divided between the Nairobi regional office and the Ngong office. World Friends also coordinates the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital in Nairobi that operates with a structure of 178 local collaborators, among whom 28 are medical specialists.

In Italy, the staff of the Association includes 3 employees, 3 collaborators and 4 external consultants, employed in the Rome office and in the regional offices, plus volunteers.

3.2 Volunteers

The volunteers are people coming from different Italian towns, who decide to dedicate part of their time to World Friends. What we ask from them is to share the principles and values of the Association, to show responsibility in carrying out their commitments, and to offer their services free. The tasks of volunteers are multiple: to spread the initiatives of World Friends in Italy, organize fund-raising events to support cooperation projects, officially represent the Association in meetings with local institutions, to represent World Friends at local events organized by third parties.



4.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The strategic approach of World Friends is based on a number of fundamental principles: participation of local communities and of beneficiaries in the management and evaluation of projects; technical and professional training of local workers and of beneficiaries; social, economic and environmental sustainability of the activities sponsored; focusing on socially vulnerable groups of individuals; encouraging collaboration between communities, grassroots associations and local institutions; encouraging scientific exchange and collaboration between European institutions and institutions from developing countries.

The general objective of the three-year period 2017-2020 was the growth and expansion of the Association, with a strengthening of economic capacity, operational structure and consequent ability to implement projects. The general objective was translated into the following specific objectives:

- Consolidation and growth of the Association in Italy and in third countries from an institutional and operational/structural point of view.
- Consolidation and growth of the Association in terms of visibility in Italy and abroad.
- Strengthening and expanding the economic capacity of the Association to support its operational growth and cover related structural expenses.
- Expansion of the World Friends project portfolio, both in third countries and in Italy: consolidation of existing projects and expansion of sectors and areas of intervention.

4.1. Kenya

4.1.1. Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital

The north-eastern informal settlements of Nairobi represent one of the most marginalised areas of the capital and present one of the main areas of the entire county where there is a concentration of family units living in disadvantaged conditions. The causes, and at the same time the effects, of such a poverty rate and the inaccessibility to Primary Health Care, both from the geographic as well as the economic point of view, with consequences on the general state of health of vulnerable categories like women and children are extremely disquieting. Proof can be seen in the high infant mortality rate before the age of 5 and the high rate of maternal mortality, together with the almost double incidence of HIV and AIDS compared to the average in Kenya, especially among adolescents.

The main objective of the Neema project is to contribute to an improvement in the quality of life and to promote the right to health for the populations in the Nairobi slums.

The specific aim of the project is to manage and expand the services of the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital, a polyfunctional health centre created by World Friends to guarantee access for the poorest patients to healthcare services, health education for the shanty towns inhabitants and training for medical and paramedical staff.

The R.U. Neema Hospital has achieved level 5 (out of 5) for Health and Treatment Quality, obtaining the highest score among 500 public health structures in Kenya, both public and private, according to the SafeCare System.

"Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital is a real example of leadership. A leadership that starts from governance, from the firm decision to do what is right, invest in what is right and always put the well-being of the community to which it services first. To do this, you need a serious team dedicated to these principles, capable of transforming strategy into action. To do this, we need a culture of transparency, responsibility and supervision dedicated to the constant improvement of quality. Today you have shown that it is possible to maintain this excellence and we can only praise your commitment to offer first-class health services."

- Dr. Faith Mugai, Regional Director of the SafeCare Programme

The hospital offers the following diagnostic and treatment services: health education, general clinics, gynaecological clinics, paediatric clinics, maternity, physiotherapy, radiology, first aid, clinical analyses laboratories, specialised clinics (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Diabetes, Dermatology etc.) paediatric surgery and basic gynaecology, dispensaries, paediatrics.

COVID-19 Emergency

Since March 2020, World Friends has begun to take all necessary measures to contain and fight the spread of COVID-19 as directed by the World Health Organization and the Kenyan Ministry of Health. World Friends' ultimate goal is to contribute to the work of Kenya's National Health System in managing the pandemic in the north-eastern area of Nairobi by making R.U. Neema Hospital a point of reference among Kenyan health facilities in the fight against COVID-19.

During 2020, R.U. Neema Hospital was equipped with:

- a temporary isolation unit with 20 beds for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19;
- a medical oxygen dispensing system (funded by the AlbaCare Foundation and supplied by the British Oxygen Company);
- a blood gas analyzer;
- personal protective equipment (PPE) for patients and staff;
- A COVID-19 information booth targeted primarily at mothers and pregnant women who visit the hospital for regular visits.

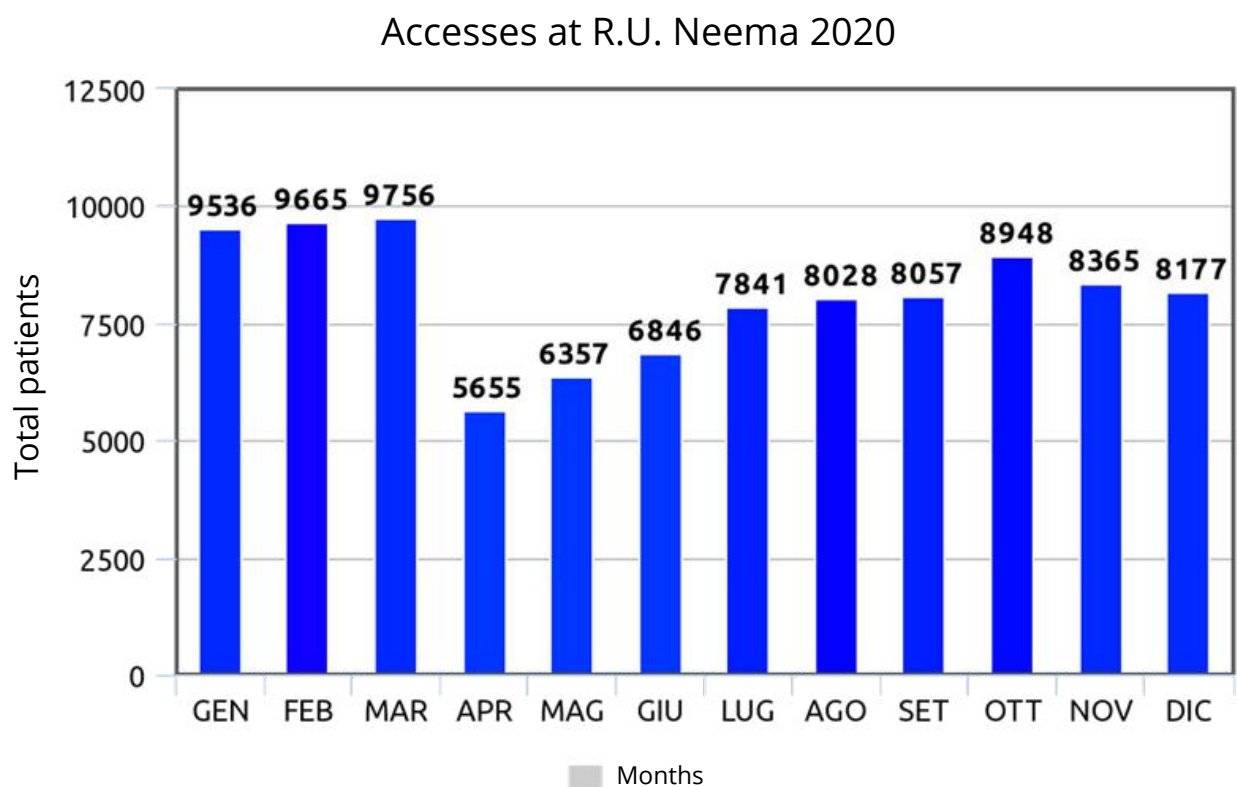
Procedural protocols to improve infection control and prevention were immediately implemented at R.U. Neema Hospital to ensure continuous improvement in the quality of hospital services while maintaining accessibility for all. A triage service has been set up at the hospital entrance to regulate admissions to the facility and separate any suspicious cases. Body temperature can be measured at the entrance and sanitizing gel dispensers are available.

At the hospital, sample collection for COVID-19 testing proceeds and 224 staff members from the Neema U.R. attended 7 training sessions on COVID-19 related topics (safety measures, prevention, epidemiology) using the Continuing Medical Education approach.

The activities carried out in response to COVID-19 were supported by CEI - Italian Episcopal Conference, Manos Unidas and private donors.

Results achieved:

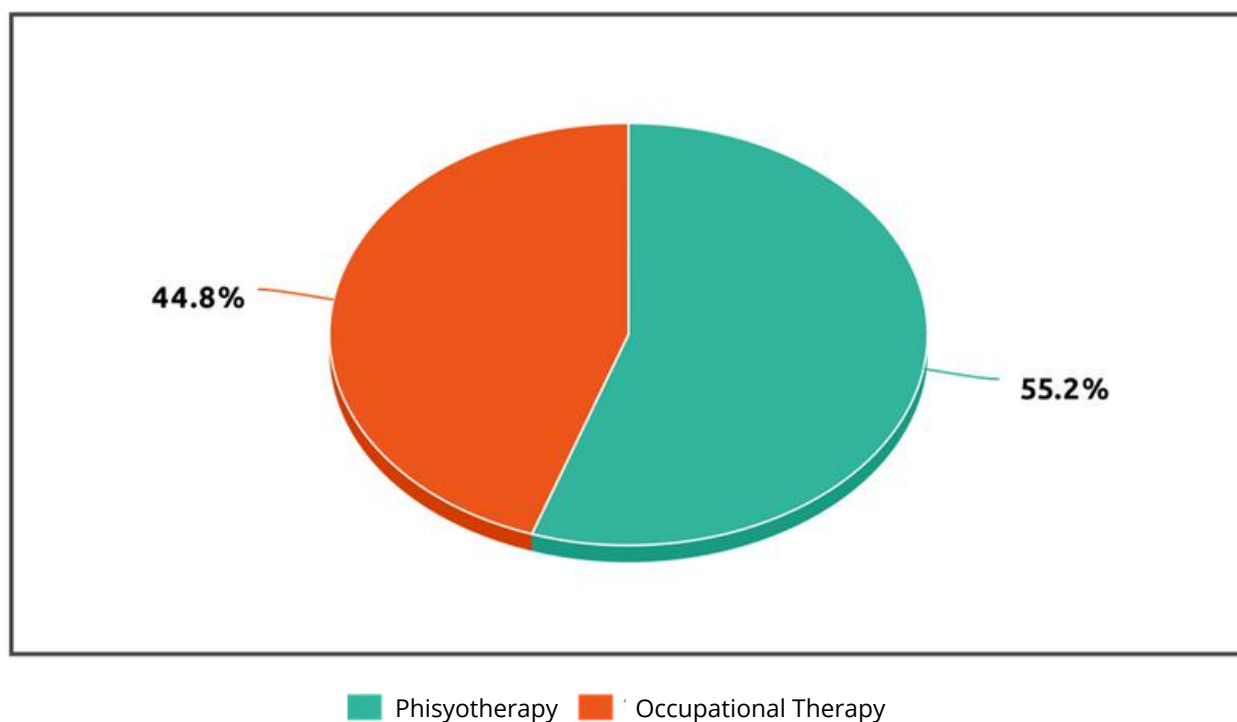
In 2020 at R.U. Neema Hospital 97.331 patients were treated, of which 32,2% children under the age of 5 years and 56,3% women. The following table shows the trends in patient access at R.U. Neema Hospital:



During the year, 1,482 surgeries were performed, 92.5% of which were obstetric-gynecologic surgeries.

In the hospital's Rehabilitation Department, therapists trained within Neema's R.U. delivered 8,850 physical and occupational therapy sessions, divided as follows:

Therapy sessions - Rehabilitation ward



During 2020, 1,121 counselling sessions were held at the hospital on a variety of topics, including: psychological support, alcohol and substance abuse, mental illness, social rehabilitation, health education, and adolescent issues.

During 2020, 9,492 people accessed R.U. Neema's specialized outpatient clinics. Among the services offered: dermatology, ophthalmology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, surgery, paediatrics, and general outpatient clinic.

With regard to the training of medical and paramedical personnel, the updating courses and conferences proposed included both the personnel at the RU Neema hospital as well as people working in the dispensaries present in the shantytowns and health workers active in other medical structures. 12 training courses were carried out. Each course was attended by an average of 38 health workers. Training related to different subjects, including COVID-19, infectious and non-communicable diseases, nutrition, maternal and child health, gender, communication, and legal issues.

Maternal-Child Health Centre and Maternity Department

The Centre for Maternal-Child Health (MCH) has been active since 2009 at the R.U. Neema hospital. The World Friends programme for maternal-child health at R.U. Neema Hospital is aimed at mothers and children in the poorest sectors of the population in Nairobi, and envisages the implementation of three main activities: an educational programme on safe pregnancy and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; maternal-child treatments at the Maternity Department; ongoing medical training for the healthcare workers involved in the programme. Key goals include reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and maternal-fetal transmission of the virus and increasing informed and assisted pregnancies.

In 2020, 28,253 women received care at the MCH, 5,958 of whom participated in ambulatory activities of the Antenatal Clinics (interventions aimed at improving the quality of and access to essential reproductive health services). Among them, 1,469 women registered in 2020, while 4,489 registered in the previous year, but with visits conducted in 2020.

The Maternity Wing was officially opened in February 2011 and in 2020 it recorded 1.863 deliveries, of which 829 natural deliveries and 1,034 caesarean deliveries.

The Paediatrics Department

The Paediatrics Department, active for more than 4 years, was created as a natural consequence to the network of treatment and prevention that World Friends has been carrying out for more than 15 years in the Nairobi slums to safeguard maternal-infant health. The department has 31 beds for the admission of children with complex pathologies, and is equipped with a paediatric operating theatre.

Services offered: recovery for children and newborns affected by complex diseases, paediatric surgery, rehabilitation surgery, post-operative rehabilitation.

In 2020, the department provided medical care to 889 children (413 girls and 476 boys), 86% of whom were under the age of 5; in addition, 57 children underwent successful paediatric surgery.

Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital Main Donors

European Union, Alba Care Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Italian Agency for Cooperation for Development, CEI, San Zeno Foundation, Novartis – Familia Nawiri, HANSHEP Health Enterprise Fund (UKAID and USAID), Tuscan Region (Area Vasta SI-GR-AR), Caritas Acqui Terme, Acqui Terme Diocese, Associazione Cuore Amico, CAI (Italian Alpine Club) in Acqui Terme, Autonomous Province of Trento, Manos Unidas, Caritas Antoniana (Padova), Need You Onlus, CariVerona, Need You Onlus, Bata Foundation.

4.1.2. Nairobi Nutritional Programme - Improvement in the nutritional and health status of pregnant women and of minors in the Nairobi north-east shantytowns

General objectives:

The Nairobi Nutritional Programme has been sponsored by World Friends since June 2016. The aim of this project is to improve conditions of nutritional health and to improve life expectancy for women in pregnancy and for children in the slums of northeast Nairobi. The slums reached are: Mathare, Huruma, Babadogo, Kariobangi and Korogocho. To contribute to the reduction of maternal, newborn and under-5 mortality through the implementation of improved hygiene practices and the promotion of maternal and child health, and to improve the nutritional health conditions and increase the life expectancy of pregnant women and children in Nairobi, through the use of nutritional services and the development of more and better knowledge, practices and habits in hygiene and nutrition.

Main Donors:

Caritas Antonianana, Bata Foundation, Need You Onlus

Partners:

Tumaini Health Center, Jamii Kipawa Health Center

Activities:

- Improve knowledge of nutrition in the target population.
- Limitation of health hazards resulting from the services offered.
- Engaging mothers in cooking classes to use locally available foods.
- Conducting nutrition education sessions in ambulatory clinics.
- Improve data collection through the use of MUAC (Mid-Upper-Arm-Circumference) tapes. MUAC bracelet measures arm circumference and allows for rapid assessment of nutrition level.
- Patient Referral to R.U. Neema Hospital

Results:

- 5,418 people benefited from services, namely: 2,656 patients at R.U. Neema Hospital; 1,563 patients at Tumaini Health Centre; 1,199 patients at Jamii Kipawa Health Center.
- Distribution of nutritional supplements to malnourished children in informal settlements; 1,218 patients received nutritional supplements at Tumaini Health Center in Korogocho and 997 patients at Jamii Kipawa Health Center in Kariobangi.
- Supply of therapeutic milk to 32 children without breastfeeding options, for reasons such as loss of mother or mothers with insufficient breast milk.
- Conducted 48 home visits to malnourished patients by nutritionists and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs).
- 1,759 pupils (999 boys and 760 girls) received periodic parasitosis treatment in 8 selected schools.
- 1,657 pupils were monitored to assess their body mass index and to conduct other anthropometric measurements. Activities took place until March 16 according to the Government of Kenya's COVID-19 guidelines.
- 1,242 patients and hospital health staff benefited from the training and health education courses at R.U. Neema Hospital. 99 sessions were conducted. At Tumaini Health Center and Jamii Kipawa Health Center 2,653 mothers attended the sessions.
- Due to government guidelines on COVID-19, only 18 periodic health and nutrition education sessions were conducted in schools in which 896 pupils (426 girls and 470 boys) participated. The sessions were conducted in 12 selected schools.
- Held 59 peer education sessions with the participation of 596 students, 272 males and 324 females.
- Installation of handwashing stations at the two partner clinics.
- Food distribution for COVID-19 patients at the two facilities. 48 families benefited from the food distribution.
- Raising awareness on COVID-19 issues for patients and staff at the two facilities. 34 patients and 5 medical operators attended the sessions.

Children under age of 5 visited by partner clinics		
	Tumaini Health Center	Jamii Kipawa Health Center
Regular weight	798	551
Underweight	342	361
Severely underweight	244	139
Overweight	77	25
Obesity	4	3

Factors hindering the achievement of the objectives

- Lack of consistency by parents and/or legal guardians in bringing children to weekly follow-ups at outpatient clinics.
- Request for groceries from patients in addition to the nutritional supplements and nutrition education services provided.

4.1.3 Medical Camp Programme

General Objectives:

The "Medical Camp Program" was created to provide free care for the sick in the Nairobi shantytowns, who, for different reasons, are unable to get to R.U. Neema Hospital. R.U. Neema Hospital staff missions involve 2 doctors, 2 nurses, 1 pharmacist, 1 laboratory technician, 1 assistant, 1 physiotherapist, 1 member of the physiotherapy department and 1 nurse accountable for HIV counselling and AIDS/HIV tests are conducted directly during the Medical Camp). The clinic is focused mainly on women and children. Where there is a need for further investigations, the patient is referred back to the R.U. Neema Hospital.

Activities:

- Medical examinations and consultations.
- Free distribution of medicines.
- Provide information on the prevention of the most common diseases.
- Provide information on the services of R.U. Neema Hospital in order to make the poorest people aware of the services of the World Friends multipurpose center.

Results:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government of Kenya's regulations on movement and assembly, only 3 Medical Camps were held during 2020.

Medical Camp 2020						
Months	Site	N° patients	N° F	%F	n°M	%M
January	Sisters Centre Mathare	170	111	65,3%	59	34,7%
February	Kariobangi Catholic Church	171	109	63,7%	62	36,3%
March	Sisters Centre Mathare	11	11	100%	-	-
Total		352	231	65,6%	121	34,4%

4.1.4. Community-Based Rehabilitation Program - Prevention and Rehabilitation of disability**General Objectives:**

The programme was created with the aim of a global confrontation on the problem of infantile disability in the context of the slums of Nairobi, due to problems faced during pregnancy, conditions in which mothers are forced to deliver (without medical assistance) or domestic accidents. Not only disability undermines children's development, but it is also stigmatized by the community, marginalizing and often dividing families.

Main Donors:

Need You Onlus (co-funding)

Activities:

- Involvement of families of children from the slums of Korogocho, Kariobangi, Mathare Valley, Eastleigh, Babadogo, Soweto, Huruma, Kibera.
- Disability screening.
- Corrective surgery.
- Personalized rehabilitation and physiotherapy sessions to the beneficiary children with disabilities in slums at peripheral gyms or at the Physiotherapy Department of R.U. Neema Hospital.
- Promoting the empowerment of mothers and children involved in the project.

Results:

- About 400 children with disabilities underwent about 16,000 sessions of regular occupational therapy at peripheral gyms located in the slums of Kariobangi, Babadogo and Kahawa West-Soweto.
- Conducted occupational therapy and awareness training for parents of children with disabilities, who often experience their children's condition as a social stigma, and for health care providers. In total, over 300 mothers of children with disabilities were reached.
- Trained parents of children with disabilities on home therapy techniques for the closure period due to the COVID-19 emergency (resumed on June 2, 2020).
- Realized 2 sessions of distribution of food and nutritional supplements for 49 families involved in the project

4.1.5. Mobile Clinics Outreach**General Objectives:**

With its mobile clinics project, World Friends offers basic medical services, nutritional screenings and family planning counselling in 14 villages in rural Kajiado County to improve maternal and child health conditions.

Main Donors:

AlbaCare Foundation

Partners:

Kenya Ministry of Health e Zamzam Medical Services

Activities:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, World Friends had to suspend activities for the first half of 2020.
- Meetings with key local community figures (village leaders and elders).
- Medicines, nutritional screening, and deworming administration.
- Raising awareness over COVID-19 issues.

Results:

- Activities resumed only in mid-June 2020, once permission was received from Kenya's Ministry of Health
- Staff training on anti-COVID related issues (prevention measures and proper use of personal protective equipment).
- Conducted 37 mobile clinic sessions for a total of 1,981 patients (including 942 women, 252 men, and 787 children under age 5) during the period from June to October 2020.
- Administered deworming to 1,712 patients.
- Screening for malnutrition of 74 children under 6 months of age (including 1 at risk of malnutrition) and 491 children aged 6-59 months (including 9 at risk of malnutrition, 30 malnourished, and 10 severely malnourished).
- Performed malnutrition screening of 188 pregnant women (including 18 malnourished and 12 severely malnourished).
- Distribution of nutritional supplements and referral to Ministry of Health facilities to malnourished children and women.
- Sensitization sessions on COVID-19 related issues in 11 villages with total participation of 714 people.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Lack of vehicle transport due to mechanical failure that forced World Friends to borrow Zamzam Medical Services ambulance.
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: fear of infection, restriction to travels, distrust towards health care providers.
- Low levels of education, skeptical attitude, and language barriers.
- Magnitude of the target area and scattered distribution of the population
- Lack of infrastructure
- Distance to health care facilities designated by the Department of Health for patient referral.
- Food shortages.

4.1.6. SonoMobile**General Objectives:**

The SonoMobile project, emerges from the need to grant assisted pregnancies and accessible and quality pre-natal ultrasounds to pregnant women in North-East Nairobi's slums due to high neonatal, infant and maternal mortality rates. Major determinants include the limited availability of basic ultrasound services and high costs for equipment and personnel.

Main Donors:

AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Only The Brave Foundation, Manos Unidas and Cuore Amico Fraternità Onlus

Partners:

Health-E-Net, OTE Medical Italia, Kenya Medical Training College, Università di Torino, Università Campus Bio-Medico, Centro di Salute Globale – Regione Toscana.

Beneficiaries:

- 14,500 pregnant women and infants
- 15 healthcare facilities
- 80 local nurses/obstetricians

Activities:

- Use of portable ultrasound devices, the innovative component of the project, wirelessly connected to any device, such as a tablet or a smartphone, operable in any location and in absence of telephone/satellite network.
- Training of nurses/obstetricians specialized in ultrasounds, thanks to the development of a training curriculum at Kenya Medical Training College in partnership with the University of Turin and Campus Bio-Medico University;
- Development of an IT infrastructure and the involvement of a team of operators for the mobile ultrasound service implemented alongside the partners Health-E-Net and OTE Medical Italia;
- Inauguration and management of the mobile ultrasound service within the facilities that offer Primary Health Care;
- Quality Control of the service and the continuous training of operators, with the support of University of Turin, Campus Bio-Medico University and Global Health Centre (Region of Tuscany, Italy).

Results:

- Performed 2,164 ultrasounds.
- 1,671 mothers participated in health education sessions.
- Involvement of 8 facilities to initiate and manage mobile ultrasound service.
- Beginning July 1, 2020, the team of five trained nurses began serving at four different facilities performing approximately 300 monthly ultrasounds and conducting 20 health education sessions per month.
- On September 30, 2020, four new nurses successfully completed their probationary period.
- 3 missions were carried out by the Italian partners: Dr. Anna Bernabei (Global Health Center) for on-the-job training and Dr. Andrea Villasco and Dr. Isabella Cipullo (University of Turin) for quality control.
- Conducted 3 training sessions for project nurses/obstetricians.
- Held 14 capacity building sessions for World Friends and Health-E-Net staff.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Due to the spread of COVID-19 in Kenya, from March 2020, all universities were closed and activities suspended until January 2021. For this reason, the final steps of the curriculum writing process could not take place as originally planned but were postponed for a few months, pending developments in the health situation.

4.1.7. HIPS-TB: Innovation to enhance screening and detection of Tuberculosis by the private sector, utilizing a new paper-based electronic system

General Objectives:

World Friends aims to raise awareness among people at risk, in order to facilitate detection, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis cases by activating a partnership between private healthcare facilities and the private sector. The trained staff is accountable for the screening of patients, collection of salivary samples, data digitization and release of vouchers to subjects with suspected symptoms for diagnostic tests at the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital or Mathare North Health Center laboratories. The samples are subsequently collected and transported through a motorized system able to reach the most remote areas of the slums. In referral facilities diagnostic GeneXpert tests will be carried out. In case the collected samples result positive, the patient will be referred to one of the referral facilities and enrolled in a tuberculosis clinic.

Main Donors:

Co-financed by AICS - Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Global Fund.

Partners:

Health-E-Net, National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program (NTLDP) and Nairobi County officials and Ruaraka Sub-County TB Team.

Activities:

- Staff training for 18 target health care facilities.
- Outreach through employment of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in close contract with intervention communities.
- Monitoring session over the activities carried out and to identify the problems and weaknesses of the patient referral system by a team formed by the Ruaraka Sub-County TB referrals for the project target areas and World Friends staff.
- Development of Paper-EMR technology (allowing to identify tuberculosis symptoms in a list to be ticked on the dedicated paper template; to digitize the paper template and transmit the data through a screenshot of the paper template with the dedicated app connected to the developed technology; to collect the data in a dedicated data monitoring platform shared with the two diagnostic reference centers and track positive cases).
- Technology implementation and supervision.
- Establishment of a network for the referral and transfer of suspected cases to facilities equipped to diagnose TB.
- Realization of operational research.

Results:

- Increased involvement of private health care providers in the detection, diagnosis, confirmation, notification, and linkage to treatment of tuberculosis.
- 2,151 beneficiaries were made directly aware and 840 via illustrated flyers of the need for screening for symptoms of Tuberculosis and/or COVID-19.
- 10 training sessions for 8 staff members employed in the TB clinic, 11 laboratory technicians, 17 representatives from off-site facilities, 2 clinic physicians, 18 health center staff members, and 9 participants from various partner facilities.
- 2 supervisory sessions of the 18 partner facilities.
- Training for 19 CHVs on COVID-19 related topics.
- Development of a new Paper-EMR format that includes symptom screening for both tuberculosis and COVID-19.
- Creation of an online portal for ongoing monitoring of screening and tracking activities.
- Purchased GeneXpert equipment at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital for conducting molecular diagnostic tests.
- Conducted "Voices on Covid" survey in collaboration with the Istituto di Ricerce Farmacologiche Mario Negri (IRCSS) within 17 facilities on the situation in the COVID period, with a focus on new awareness activities planned, reaching 3,000 questionnaires.

4.1.8. Sickle Cell Anemia: a Pediatric-Hematological Ambulatory Clinic for the slums of Nairobi**General Objectives:**

The project has as its general objective the progressive reduction of the mortality and morbidity rates caused by sickle cell anemia, increasing the possibility of accessing quality basic and specialized health services. The project refers in particular to children, mainly under the age of 5, residing in the slums of north-east Nairobi.

Main Donors:

Eight per Thousand of the Waldensian Church (co-funding)

Partners:

Children Sickle Cell Foundation

Direct beneficiaries:

- 191 patients screened and enrolled in ambulatory clinics between May and December 2020 at RUNH.
- 100 patients who benefited from the hemoglobin electrophoresis diagnostic test.
- 149 healthcare professionals involved in training activities.
- 334 people involved in education and outreach sessions (parents, family members, patients, health care providers, stakeholders, and caregivers).

Indirect beneficiaries:

Nairobi's northeast community, residing in Ruaraka sub-county, with estimated 500,000 inhabitants.

Results:

- Implementation of a specialized pediatric hematology diagnostic service, managed by competent staff and accessible to the target population.
- Reduction in mortality and morbidity of patients with sickle cell anemia through primary and secondary prevention interventions and through implementation of sustainable, accessible, and quality diagnostic and treatment services.
- Standardization of clinical procedures in emergency situations and guidelines for follow-up management of patients with sickle cell anemia, in the Northeast region of Nairobi, with particular target for pediatric patients, residents of the neighbouring slums.
- Creation of relationships with external stakeholders and partners to implement project sustainability mechanisms.

Activities:

- Training of the local team by means of face-to-face sessions, with related CME accreditation and on-the-job training.
- Held 48 training sessions involving the medical staff of Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital;
- Trained 149 participants, equally distributed among the Departments of Pediatrics, Emergency Department, and Laboratory.
- Establishment of a mechanism for follow-up of patients admitted to pediatrics at Ruarka Uhai Neema Hospital (or referred).
- Held education and awareness sessions on major health issues related to sickle cell anemia with family members and patients. 13 health education sessions were moderated, by means of the Zoom online platform and by means of in-person meetings, reaching 334 people, including parents, family members, patients, health care providers, stakeholders and caregivers.
- During the pediatric clinic days, patients and their families were visited and involved in health education moments.
- Purchase of instrumentation for performing hemoglobin electrophoresis and related reagents;
- Training of RUNH laboratory staff;
- Start of service supply, with implementation of the first 100 tests.

Favourable factors for achieving goals:

- Positive feedback from beneficiaries with respect to education, outreach, and training activities.
- Fertile ground and networking based on the presence of collaborations and activities that pre-existed project implementation.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals::

- Ongoing pandemic: economic and cultural impact on patients, with reduced hospital admissions and increased fears, beliefs, and stigma; re-direction of medical human and material resources for emergency management, with reduced training opportunities and impediments to routine clinical activity.
- Restrictive measures and indirect effects of lockdown: limitation in training activities (reduced number of participants, types of activities to comply with social distancing rules), in awareness events (to reduce the risk of infection), considering the project targets (chronic patients and health care workers) as risk categories.

4.1.9 Health Education Programme**General Objectives:**

The Health Education program targets adolescents in schools in Nairobi and provides capillary socio-healthcare education interventions aimed at young people, parents, teachers and educational personnel.

Main Founders:

Region of Tuscany

Partners:

USL Tuscany South East Company, Siena University Hospital Company and Karibu Africa.

Results:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and movement and assembly restrictions by the Government of Kenya, project activities were suspended during 2020.
- Conducted training sessions on topics related to COVID-19 for 15 teachers from schools participating in the project.

4.1.10. Nendoruko Primary School Feeding Program**General Objectives:**

Programme of food distribution aimed at enhancing the nutritional state of Nendoruko primary school students in the remote Ndoruko Masaai village.

Main Donors:

AlbaCare foundation

Results:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and movement and assembly restrictions by the Government of Kenya, project activities were suspended during 2020.

4.1.11. Training and awareness on COVID-19 issues in support of World Friends projects in the slums of Nairobi

General Objectives:

The project integrates with the ongoing World Friends actions aimed at training and raising awareness on COVID-19 and its dissemination to both operators and beneficiaries belonging to the network of World Friends.

Main Donors:

CEI - Conferenza Episcopale Italiana/8xmille Catholic Church

Activities:

- Awareness-raising and training to be implemented in World Friends projects on topics related to COVID-19: introduction and definition of COVID-19; symptoms of COVID-19 and how to recognize them; means of transmission; prevention methods and practical demonstrations (hand hygiene, food handling, proper behavior when coughing or sneezing, proper removal of personal protective equipment, social distancing, self-isolation); stereotypes and misconceptions about COVID-19; prejudice and discrimination against COVID-19 patients.
- Training of Trainers (ToT): training of staff responsible for conducting training/awareness-raising within projects.
- Involvement of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) for greater outreach impact.
- Research relevant course material, monitoring and follow-up.
- Production and distribution of informative materials.
- Installation of hand washing stations and distribution of personal protective equipment during sessions.

Results:

- Training of 5 health care providers by Dr. Washington Njogu Ngari.
- Awareness-raising and training of World Friends staff.
- Conducted two training sessions by Dr. Washington Njogu Ngari for 29 CHVs.
- Training meeting by Dr. Washington Njogu Ngari for 15 teachers/head teachers of the Health Education Program project.
- Implementation of 59 training and awareness sessions on issues related to COVID-19 for 4,237 beneficiaries of 8 World Friends projects (Mobile Clinics Outreach, Nairobi Nutritional Project, Health Education Program, PIR Mathare 2017, Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital, SonoMobile, HIPS-TB).
- Produced 2 banners and distributed 8,000 informational flyers.
- Estimated spillover to 16,524 indirect beneficiaries.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

The greatest difficulty encountered in project implementation concerned the perpetuation of a sceptical attitude among some participants. This scepticism was reported more in rural communities than in urban ones. In addition, for greater impact of future information sessions, it is considered appropriate to involve local and religious authorities as well.

4.1.12. Banjuka Project

General Objectives:

Banjuka Project takes place in one of the poorest areas of the north-eastern suburbs of Nairobi, the Babadogo shantytown, to provide assistance to young people stranded on the margins of society. The aim of the project is to improve the lives and health of young people, promoting their emancipation through forms of artistic expression such as art, music, theatre, dance and other training activities.

Main Donors:

The main donor is an Italian family that has been supporting the project for many years and allows them to carry out the activities.

Activities:

- Training for workers and teachers in health education and prevention.
- Awareness/education sessions for students.
- Workshops on particular subjects (HIV/AIDS for example), with specialized social workers, counsellors, medical personnel.
- Counselling service: one psychologist working under the project, conducting regular home visits, as well as listening and encouragement sessions for the group of young people involved.
- Music courses: singing, guitar, nyatiti, percussion, drums, flute.
- Dance courses: traditional African dance, modern and contemporary dance.
- Periodic exhibitions to ease the integration of young people into the community.
- Cultural promotion workshops for parents and members of the community.

Results:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government of Kenya's restrictions of movement and assembly, Banjuka School remained closed for the duration of 2020.

4.1.13. Slum Film Festival

General Objectives:

Since 2013 World Friends has sponsored the Slum Film Festival, a cinematographic event carried out on a community basis. The goal is to acquaint the public with the living conditions in urban slums by promoting and celebrating the creativity of the people who live in these communities.

Main Donors:

World Friends, French Embassy in Kenya, General Consulate of the Netherlands, German Federal Republic Embassy in Kenya

Partners:

Kenya Film Classification Board, Kenya Film Commission, Alliance of Slum Media Organisation, Movies That Matter, What's Good Studios, One Vibe, Pwani Youth Network, Mathare Foundation, DeckPlann

Activities:

- Organization of a film festival in the slums of Nairobi.
- Foster the development of a collaborative network with production groups located within the slums.
- Promotion of a positive idea of the slums, places where there is a great artistic and cultural potential, which unfortunately fails to emerge due to lack of opportunities and visibility.
- Use of cinema as a tool for education and social change, with positive impacts on the entire community.

Results:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government of Kenya's restriction of movement and assembly, the 10th Slum Film Festival has been postponed until a later date.

4.2. Italy

In addition to the project activities in defence of the Right to Health for the most vulnerable segments of population, in Italy, with the support of its regional offices and its volunteers, World Friends carries out continuous activities on training, public awareness and the promotion of international solidarity. This commitment is directed above all to spread the word on the African reality – through events, education for development programmes, training and awareness – with the aim of keeping an open dialogue between the north and south of the world, and to generate a culture of solidarity, especially among the new generations.

4.2.1. Io R-Esisto in the street: social-health outreach for the homeless of Turin**General Objective:**

During the health emergency related to the spread of COVID-19, World Friends partnered with this project with the aim of mitigating the effects of the current health crisis on Turin's homeless population and supporting the gradual resumption of interrupted care pathways by supporting the rapid reintegration of people who came off the streets precisely because they lost their jobs or homes due to the epidemic.

Main Donors:

San Paolo Company

Partners:

CCM – Comitato Collaborazione Medica, A.M.M.I. - Associazione Multietnica dei Mediatori Interculturali, Office of Adults in Difficulty of the City of Turin

Activities:

- Setting up social-health outreach activities to reach out to homeless people by providing counselling, health education, and distributing over-the-counter medications and hygiene kits.
- Organization of a telephone support service managed by medical staff, aimed at operators of day and night shelters, canteens, food and clothing distribution.
- Creation of a permanent social-health orientation and counselling desk on a weekly basis.

Results:

- Met with over 500 people experiencing marginalization, raised awareness and information about anti-COVID regulations, and oriented to area services.
- Distributed 424 hygiene kits and copies of "Coronavirus - User's Manual" (document prepared to facilitate awareness and prevention of the target population).
- Reinforced collaboration with various services and entities, including the Office of Adults in Difficulty of the city of Turin and the services that report to it (day and night care), itinerant services such as La Boa, the City Committee of FIO.psd, associations and volunteers of the GRIS Piemonte network.
- Close collaboration and synergies with the R@inbow for Africa association (also a beneficiary of emergency funding from the Compagnia di San Paolo) and joint trips to a number of sites where, in terms of the type of users and setting, the social-health activities of our team were combined with the medical activities of the Torino Street Care project.
- Collaboration with the Mosaico association for mediated access to some specific settings (Piazza d'Armi dormitory, Via Leoncavallo, Centro Neruda).
- Activated collaborations with 9 volunteer doctors to support the telephone desk and on specific cases of medical nature with which the team has worked to follow up the specific requests of users in the street involving, if necessary, other specific health figures already part of the group of volunteers of CCM and World Friends (in particular activated consultations, ophthalmology, dermatology, follow-up of surgery).
- Involved in outreach activities 2 volunteers of the Universal Civil Service (a nurse and a psychologist).

4.2.2. Io R-Esisto: Socio-health outreach to the vulnerable population of Rivoli, Grugliasco and Collegno**General Objectives:**

During the health emergency related to the spread of COVID-19, World Friends was a partner in the project, which was useful to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable population of the territories of Rivoli, Grugliasco and Collegno and to strengthen the network of services with a focus on health protection.

Main Donors:

Italian Buddhist Union

Partners:

CCM - Comitato Collaborazione Medica, A.S.L. TO3

Activities:

- Monitoring and assessing the needs of people in a vulnerable condition in the area.
- Health education activities and distribution of hygiene-sanitary kits.

Results:

- Trained about 100 people on proper lifestyles and virus management through meetings in the area.
- Established partnerships and contacts with approximately 20 services including dormitories, meeting centers, canteens, public services and voluntary associations.
- Detected the needs and requirements of the citizens involved such as: widespread feeling of loss, loss of affective network, difficulty in understanding, accepting and therefore respecting the preventive measures adopted by the services and, at the same time, a fear in using them.

4.2.3 Right to Health: a network to support the most vulnerable in Turin**General Objectives:**

The aim of the project was to implement an outpatient service dedicated to the homeless in the premises of Via Saccarelli 21 in Turin, managed by the Gruppo di Volontariato Vincenziano ODV and at the same time to promote health care interventions.

Main Donors:

FISP – Fondo di beneficenza Intesa San Paolo

Partners:

CCM – Comitato Collaborazione Medica

Activities:

- Healthcare personnel training.
- Health education activities.

Results:

- Conducted 561 medical visits dedicated to 248 homeless patients.
- Performed bi-weekly ambulatory activities with a number of users varying between 10 and 15 per session in the first six months.
- Conducted research on the link between poverty and health.
- Conducted online conference "Orienting and Supporting Care Pathways for Homeless People. Services Confronting the Emergency" with 68 people participating for the duration of the webinar.
- Implementation of a patient management/referral manual.

- Active involvement of approximately 15 health care providers and trainers.
- In the second part of the project, for which an extension was requested, the activities changed, suspending in the first period to resume in September 2020 with a day of ambulatory.
- Integration of the project with other activities, including Torino Street Care.

4.2.4 Torino Street Care

General Objectives:

The goal is to assist vulnerable people in managing COVID-19 by offering free testing and a management pathway in case of positivity.

Partners:

R@inbow for Africa, CCM – Comitato Collaborazione Medica; sponsored by the Medical Association.

Activities:

Creation of a network of organizations that deal with people in distress in Turin.

Results:

- Start of the testing program with operators of the associations involved.
- Extension to vaccination activities in support of ASL Torino.

4.2.5. Clinics in Turin

General Objectives:

The aim of this action is to improve the health conditions of the vulnerable and homeless people in Turin, enhancing the efficiency of the offered healthcare services and reinforcing the referral system from/to the public service thanks to the conjoined action of 25 volunteers and health workers.

Main Donors:

Fondazione CRT, FISP - Fondo di beneficenza Intesa San Paolo e Tavola Valdese

Partners:

CCM – Comitato Collaborazione Medica

Activities:

- World Friends, in partnership with CCM – Comitato Collaborazione Medica, works at the via Nizza 24 clinic, managed by the S. Vincenzo de' Paoli nuns, and the via Saccarelli 21 clinic, managed by Servizi Vincenziani per Senza Fissa Dimora Onlus.
- On average from 5 to 10 patients are examined twice a week in each location.

Results:

- During 2020 the activity was continued in the outpatient clinic of Via Nizza 24, on a weekly basis in the first months of the year, then suspended due to the pandemic, then resumed on a reduced basis.
- At the end of 2020, a third medical service was started in Via Pacini at the drop-in of Gruppo Abele, dedicated to homeless people, people in distress and drug addicts.

4.2.6. Training

Training constitutes a basic element in the Italian commitment from World Friends. In 2020, WF carried out, or participated in, initiative and study days for medical personnel and paramedics, among which:

- "Global Health Course" in collaboration with the Medical Collaboration Committee (CCM) and the Piedmont NGO Consortium (COP), CRIMEDIM and SIMNOVA, under the sponsorship of FNOMCEO and the Omceo, Turin. The course takes place in Turin and is for healthcare professionals and for healthcare personnel in training interested in working in low-income countries, or those who wish to acquire competences to better respond to the health needs of migrants. In 2020, the Global Health Course was delivered via Distance Learning, but still awarded CME credits to participants.

Carried out 3 courses:

- "Right to Health, Globalization and Development"
- "Maternal and Infant Health"
- "Infectious Diseases"

- Health worker training in Turin:

Throughout the year, periodic updating courses were held with an average of 15 health workers per meeting and a frequency of meetings every two months. The health workers involved took part in ambulatory activities and in those of the projects "Io R-Esisto in strada" and "Torino Street Care".

- "Taking Care of Vulnerability"

From October 14 to December 2, 2020, a training program was held for health care providers of homeless services in Turin run by World Friends and CCM to explore the topic of social "vulnerability." The training series includes seven meetings taught by experts on key topics:

- COVID pathways for SFDs and rapid tests
- Services of the City of Turin for the Homeless
- The problematic use of substances of people living on the street
- Gender-based violence and trafficking
- Handheld Ultrasound Training
- Mental health and homelessness
- Gender transition in contexts of vulnerability

- “World Young Friends” – a group of young volunteers in Italy, especially in Turin, engaged in activities of awareness raising, fundraising and self-training in the field of cooperation for development and other themes related to the organization. They are students or recent graduates dedicated to their professional growth processes, mostly, but not only, in the field of health and cooperation for development. The young volunteers support the Association with different initiatives and are developing a program of personal and group growth in the context of the organization. They participate actively in initiatives on the territory and to dedicated training and in-depth sessions.

Carried out activities:

- volunteering activities on World Friends projects in Italy;
- debate and training meetings;
- awareness raising activities in schools and youth groups;
- participation to events and meetings in the field of cooperation and development;
- activities of sensitization and fundraising for the Association;
- activities of volunteers recruiting;
- internships and training on the field at the Nairobi office.

4.2.7 The Female Interpretation of “Equal” – stories of female emancipation for gender equality

General Objectives:

The project wants to stimulate a discussion among society on themes linked to gender equality, analyzing stereotypes and cultural prejudices and pointing out positive elements capable of encouraging female emancipation. This objective is pursued through the presentation of emancipation stories of Italian, foreign who emigrated to Piemonte and Kenyan women.

Main Donors:

The project is co-financed by the European Union and the Region of Piemonte.

Partners:

Social Cooperative CrescereInsieme; COP - Consorzio Ong Piemontesi (per l'implementazione in Italia del bando “Frame! Voice! Report!”)

Activities:

- Promoting a change of attitude towards often overlooked themes and an assumption of responsibility by school students and by the population of the area of Alessandria and Asti provinces towards some problems linked to gender inequality.
- Giving voice to the Global South, especially to Kenyan women and to women who emigrated to Piemonte, by telling the fight of those women who oppose to traditional practices dangerous to their health and damaging their rights, who fight to obtain access to fundamental services, who obtained adequate job opportunities, reaching a social and economic independence.
- Awareness and activation of citizens on issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Results:

- Informed 231,104 recipients.
- Activated 459 recipients.
- 16,520,400 estimated indirect recipients..
- Production of the project website www.ilfemminilediuguale.it
- Produced 9 stories of women's empowerment and SDGs, 8 video interviews, 9 songs interpreted by participants, 230 photographs.
- Made a video presentation of the project.
- Produced 3 interviews with female protagonists on issues related to COVID-19.
- A music workshop was set up between the music and dance school of Banjuka (Nairobi) and the Saluzzo-Plana musical institute (Alessandria). From this collaboration the song "Equality" was born.
- Conducted a training meeting for teachers at target schools.
- Conducted a meeting to present the project at the Augusto Monti State Institute in Asti.
- Created online teaching modules for students in the provinces of Asti and Alessandria.
- Realized the photographic exhibition "Nine Tales" and the virtual tour of the same.
- Made catalogue of the photographic exhibition.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

The COVID-19 emergency forced an ex-officio two-month extension and rescheduling of project activities. The situation prevented meetings in schools, exhibitions, and presentations of the project at various venues.

4.2.8. Education for development

Training and public awareness activities are conducted by World Friends in different contexts and in different ways:

- In schools of all types and grades, through seminars and courses held by experts and animators from World Friends, targeted at children, young people, parents and school personnel, planned and programmed together with those in charge of the scholastic structures;
- In universities, where members of World Friends regularly hold courses and seminars on subjects linked to cooperation for development in the South of the World, especially in the socio-health field.

Conventions have been activated to allow interns to take part in WF programmes in Italy and Kenya.

At present the Universities involved are:

- ISPI School – Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale,
- University of Turin - School of medicine,
- Campus Bio Medico (Rome),
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)
- Bocconi University (Milan).

4.2.9 Peaks Doc – World Friends

General Objectives:

The section "Peaks Doc - World Friends" aims to promote activities, initiatives and sporting events, outdoor and alpinistic aimed at supporting cooperation projects and raising awareness of the synergy between these two worlds.

Activities:

- Launching a Facebook page and promotion on the World Friends website.
- Constructive comparison between North and South of the world in collaboration with the mountain climber Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti
- Drafting of the new edition of the historical climbing guide of the Susa valley on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the first printing.



5.

COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING

5.1 Objectives and tools

World Friends carries out strong communication activities in Italy, with three main goals: to inform supporters on how their donations are used; to raise public awareness; and fundraising activities. Regular contact with our donors is vital, supporters and all those who decide to be informed on the activities of World Friends. Direct communication comes about through the monthly electronic newsletter and an annual paper edition, describing the progress of projects in Africa, communicating the latest news from the field, and in sudden cases of emergency or necessity, making appeals for funds.

World Friends prefers communication through the web, its website (www.world-friends.it, its electronic newsletter, social network): a direct communication tool at reduced cost, which allows the Association to limit management costs to the strictly necessary. The number of electronic newsletters, sent monthly to all its registered members, amounted to more than 4.500 contacts. The World Friends Facebook page has more than 5.400 followers. World Friends broadcasts on its YouTube channel the videos being filmed directly on site, bearing witness to the commitment and concrete results of the projects for cooperation and development. The video material produced is used in training and public awareness meetings and distributed throughout Italy. In 2012, World Friends also became active on Twitter, with the profile @WFriends to inform and spread awareness in a direct and immediate manner the work that every day is being carried out by its workers in Africa and in Italy, and to date more than 350 contacts have signed up. Since 2014 it has been possible to follow World Friends also through the images published on Instagram.

5.2. Media

Several initiatives promoted by or in which World Friends has participated have been the subject of national media interest. During 2020, World Friends activities have been mentioned or have been the subject of in-depth analysis by the following newspapers (print and web):

- La Repubblica – World Solidarity
- La Repubblica – Health
- A piccole dosi – blog of journalist Maurizio Paganelli on La Repubblica website
- La Stampa Torino
- L'Ancora of Acqui Terme
- Redattore Sociale
- Torino Oggi
- Italia che cambia
- Cronache da Palazzo Cisterna

In addition, representatives of the Association have been guests on the following radio broadcasts:

- Silvana Merico and Dr. Gianfranco Morino at Vatican Radio for the program "Magari" conducted by Lucas Duran.
- Dr. Gianfranco Morino at radio RSI for the transmission "Modem".
- Maestro Enrico Pesce at Radio 2 for the program "Miracolo Italiano" conducted by Fabio Canino and LaLaura.

Finally, World Friends has also had television appearances on the following shows:

- In-depth analysis of the COVID-19 emergency and activities on the territory of World Friends of the TG1 Special on RAI 1.
- In-depth report on R.U. Neema Hospital in the TG2 program "Tutto il bello che c'è" on RAI 2.
- Interview to Dr. Paolo Leoncini at TG3 on RAI 3

5.3. Insights

During 2020, on the website and social channels of World Friends, two in-depth columns on health issues by Dr. Gianfranco Morino and Dr. Antonio Melotto were broadcast.

- The strength of Hippocrates

The in-depth study by Dr. Gianfranco Morino, Head of World Friends Kenya, is a direct testimony that offers an unfiltered look at the dramatic reality of the slums of Nairobi exposed to the dangers arising from COVID-19. During the year, 17 chapters have been published, currently available on the World Friends website.

- Sick of Poverty

Dr. Antonio Melotto, orthopedic surgeon and Head of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program, tells the stories of the project beneficiaries and their families. During the year, 9 stories were published and are currently available on the World Friends website.

5.4. Campaigns

5.4.1. Slum Flowers

In December 2014 the campaign "Slum Flowers" was launched to defend the right to health of minors living in the Nairobi shantytowns, where one child in six dies before reaching 5 years of age, due to poverty and the inaccessibility or poor quality of the few health services existing.

Children are society's greatest wealth: to protect them, feed them and nurture them means to cultivate hope and the future of their communities. The objective, promoted by World Friends through the new campaign, is to allow the "Slum flowers" to do what is the right of every child: to grow.

The aim of the campaign is to strengthen World Friends activities for health prevention and treatment within the slums and to support the Paediatrics Department for newborns in the R.U. Neema Hospital, the hospital centre created by World Friends to provide free medical care to those most in need, particularly children and young mothers living in the Nairobi shantytowns. The campaign is always accessible on our website.

5.4.2. Adopt a mom

In 2010 the campaign "Adopt a Mom" was launched. It was started to support the Maternity Wing of the R.U. Neema Hospital and the safe motherhood in Africa, to grant mothers medical and diagnostic assistance before, during and after the birth. Every year in the world about 295,000 women die giving birth to a child, due to complications during pregnancy or at the time of delivery, often performed without any type of assistance, in critical hygienic conditions and in crumbling or inadequate health facilities. 94% of global maternal mortality occurs in developing countries, with Sub-Saharan Africa itself representing 86% of the phenomenon.

In Kenya the lack of services and adequate personnel, expensive treatments and the impossibility of pre-birth controls put the health of pregnant women and of their children in danger, causing severe complications that may lead to disabilities, infections, fetal contamination and eventually the mother's and child's death.

The campaign aims to grant quality assistance at the R.U. Neema Hospital through the following services:

- pre-natal clinic;
- prevention of maternal-fetal HIV transmission;
- hospital stay;
- assisted delivery/caesarean section;
- post-natal follow up;
- assistance and examinations to newborns until the completion of the vaccination course.

5.4.3. No one excluded

In 2012 the campaign "No one Excluded", was created to support the Combined Project for social inclusion for Children with Disabilities in the Nairobi shantytowns: an opportunity for them and their families to come out into the open, to be emancipated and to fight against the existing stigma on disability.

The campaign aims to consolidate and expand the Programme of physiotherapy/occupational therapy already activated by World Friends, facilitate access to the employment world to parents with disabled children, strengthen access to education for children with disabilities and carry out an awareness programme in the community on the subject of disability and persons with disabilities. At the same time, to inform and make Italian citizens aware of the subject of disability in developing countries, with special reference to the situation of disabled youngsters in the Nairobi slums. The campaign is always accessible on our website.

5.4.4. Born in the right place

Neonatal mortality in Kenya is progressively declining, but the numbers are still worrying. To date, about 19.6 babies die for every 1,000 born, but if we take into account the slums of Nairobi, the number rises dramatically to 150 over 1,000. In addition, once born, many children in Nairobi's slums can experience serious problems. Few checkups during pregnancy and lack of health support can lead to preterm birth. Food shortages in the first days of life can lead to disability and acute malnutrition.

The campaign "Born in the Right Place" was launched in 2010 with the aim of raising funds to build the Maternity Department of Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital, the multi-purpose health center built and inaugurated by World Friends in 2008, which provides health services to the poorest patients in the slums, and ensures the health education of the population, the training of local medical and paramedical staff.

The Maternity Department, opened on February 18, 2011, aims to protect the health of mothers and their children by providing medical, health and diagnostic assistance before, during and after childbirth.

Today the campaign supports the activities in the Pediatrics and Maternity Departments of R.U. Neema Hospital to offer all the necessary services for the protection of the unborn child, guaranteeing pre-natal visits, obstetrical ultrasounds, post-natal care and covering the costs of natural and cesarean deliveries. The campaign is always visible on the World Friends website.

5.4.5. COVID-19 Emergency

COVID-19 has added to a number of diseases widespread among the most vulnerable populations, particularly in the slums of Nairobi. The lockdown and curfew in Kenya have made it difficult to intervene in the field to reach people in need.

In response to the growing issues due to the pandemic, World Friends launched the "COVID-19 Emergency" campaign in March 2020. Funds raised through the campaign supported World Friends' activities to counter the effects of COVID-19 on the local population and ensure continuity of services: combating malnutrition in slums, distribution of personal protective equipment and hygiene education, and safe deliveries.

The campaign was promoted via e-newsletter and on social media.

5.4.6. Cure&Care

"Cure&Care" is the campaign launched by World Friends at Christmas 2020. Beneficiaries of the campaign are mothers and children in the slums of Nairobi, which have shown increasing levels of malnutrition as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds raised from the campaign were used to purchase nutritional supplements and food parcels distributed to single mothers at the Nairobi Nutritional Project.

The campaign was disseminated via electronic newsletter, printed newsletter and social media. To promote fundraising, the 2021 "Cure&Care" Solidarity Calendar was also created with photographs of the women protagonists of the Feminine Equality project.

5.5. Charity Events

24 and 31 January 2020: "The treasure of Via dei Merli Maculati" - a theatrical performance during which, thanks to the space granted by the theatre company Ile Flottante, World Friends set up a stand on both dates. Before and after the shows, the staff of World Friends has told the mission of the association and presented the project "SonoMobile", to which all the funds raised during the event have been allocated.

October 4, 2020: "Giro dei due Bricchi - XI edition" - 15 km route through woods and vineyards organized by the Municipality of Bistagno. The proceeds of the event were donated to World Friends and the schools of the municipality for the emergency COVID-19.

5.6. Promotional and cultural initiatives

January 13 and January 20, 2020: "Health Education: Knowing to Live Better" - last two health education events for the homeless. The topics of the two meetings were respectively "Sexually Transmitted Diseases" and "First Aid: how to access the health system". The interventions were repeated twice, first for men and then for women, who greatly appreciated the meeting and were able to benefit from the breakfast offered by the Vincentian Services and small incentives for participation.

May 7, 2020: "Disability and poverty in Africa: treatment and inclusion" - an online event organized by the association Il Mosaico to learn about the problems of people with disabilities in unfavorable environments. During the event, direct testimonies were shared by Antonio Melotto, Head of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program of World Friends, and Luca Ramigni of the Saint Martin Center.

July 9, 2020: Webinar by Caritas Italiana on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of independence of South Sudan - Dr. Gianfranco Morino, Head of World Friends Kenya, participated in the webinar, providing an overview of the COVID-19 emergency in Kenya and neighbouring East African countries.

October 1 - 31: "Pink Month" - an initiative dedicated to the prevention of breast cancer that included the implementation of education and prevention sessions at R.U. Neema Hospital and in partner health facilities. During the month, 7 sessions dedicated to staff and patients were held.

November 6, 2020: "Environment Day at Nairobi National Park" - an annual event organized by local partner AAR Healthcare and supported by World Friends, during which more than 5,200 trees were planted and more than 4,000 seed capsules disseminated in the Kenyan capital's national park.

December 11, 2020: "Orienting and supporting the care pathways of the homeless: services in comparison with the emergency" - webinar organized together with CCM - Comitato Collaborazione Medica as part of the project "Right to health: in Turin a network to support the most vulnerable" financed by the Intesa San Paolo Charity Fund. The meeting closes the activities of the project with an overview of numbers, stories and experiences to tell the ordinary reality of the homeless. From this experience were born five proposals shared by CCM - Comitato Collaborazione Medica, World Friends Onlus and Fio.PSD:

- Protection of the Right to Housing
- Mental Health Protection
- From Referral to Health and Social Integration
- Digital Literacy
- Include "the Excluded".

The meeting was attended by Ugo Marchisio, Gianfranco Morino, Antonella Meo, Sabina Tangerini, Franca Viganò, Paolo Leoncini, Marco Vergano, Silvia Stefani, Daniela Raso, Mattia Viano and Paolo Narcisi.

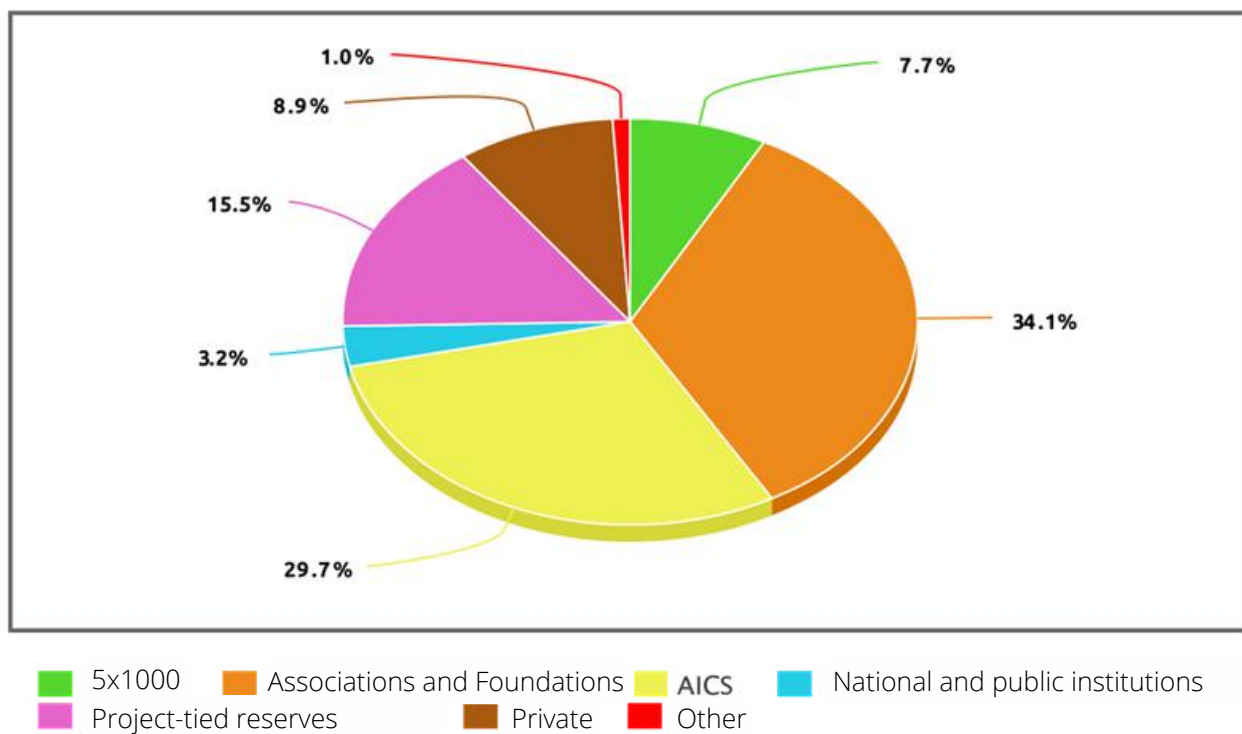
December 18, 2020: "Health and the fight against inequalities in Nairobi, Kenya" - webinar organized and promoted by the Center for Global Health and World Friends, with the collaboration of Asl Toscana Sud-Est and Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Senese. The theme was an analysis of the state of the art of the projects supported by the Global Health Center and implemented by World Friends Onlus in Nairobi - Kenya, through the valuable technical support of the two companies, with an in-depth look at the socio-health situation that the country is experiencing during this pandemic. The event was attended by Maria José Caldes Pinilla, Gianfranco Morino, Maria Vittoria De Vita, Barbara Tomasini, Stefano Zani, Alessandro Dadomo and Luca Scali.



6.

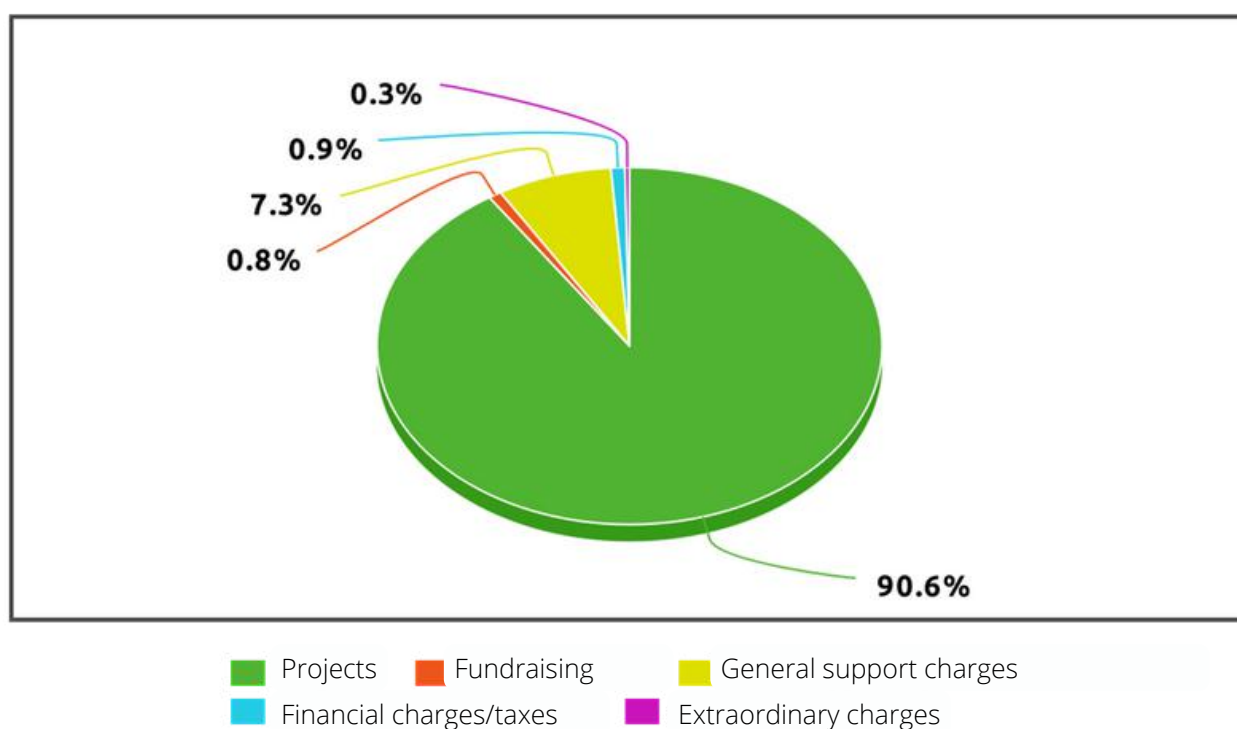
FINANCIAL AND
ECONOMIC
SITUATION

6.1. Analysis of funds raised



Analysis of funds raised 2020	
5x1000	104.612
Associations and Foundations	460.985
AICS	401.402
National and public institutions	43.568
Project-tied reserves	209.374
Private	120.304
Other	13.326
Total	1.353.570

6.2. Utilisation of funds raised



Utilisation of funds raised 2020	
Projects	949.706
Fundraising	8.663
General support charges	77.012
Financial charges/taxes	9.407
Extraordinary charges	3.057
Total	1.047.845

6.3. 5x1000

The Italian State allocates a portion of the IRPEF tax revenue of individuals (5 per thousand of the tax due) according to the indications of taxpayers in their income tax returns in favor of voluntary work and organizations. World Friends Onlus is included in the list of beneficiaries of the distribution of 5 per thousand and every year it allocates the proceeds received to support the right to health in Kenya and Italy.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the Italian State paid two tranches of the 5x1000 to support organizations during the crisis period due to the pandemic.



7.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

For the preparation of this Annual Report, data collection was carried out using quantitative and qualitative methods provided for the compilation of internal reports, external evaluations and accounting.

The direct economic value generated and distributed is the result of a reclassification of the data shown in the financial statements approved annually by the Board of Directors and the Assembly of Members, and published on the World Friends website.



Amici del Mondo World Friends Onlus

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