



ANNUAL REPORT

20
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LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

TWENTY YEARS TOGETHER, ALONGSIDE THE MOST VULNERABLE

These two years of Covid-19 have been a huge challenge for the whole planet. Years of fear and loss, years of great distance. In the midst of this pandemic, World Friends turns 20 years old: a concurrence that affects us deeply and makes such an important milestone more strenuous than we would have expected. It is enough to think back to the 20th anniversary celebration, an event we have been forced to hold remotely, each in front of his or her own computer. Despite this, in the small frames on the screen we met all the people who have always been close to us and without whom it would have been impossible to overcome even this unprecedented challenge. For this very reason I want to begin my message by expressing gratitude.

Thank you to those who support us and share our values, those who believe in fundamental rights and feel the need to defend those of people living on the sidelines. Thanks to those who work every day in Kenya, Italy and Nepal (!) alongside the most vulnerable, those who have made their lives a mission. Thanks to the partners and donors, institutions and individuals with whom we imagine a more equitable world and day after day we manage to make it more and more concrete. Thank you to those who are there now, those who have been there, and those who unfortunately are no longer there: all of you have left indelible marks in the history of World Friends. Signs made of solidarity, commitment and hope.

Today, the Global North is experiencing a tentative recovery from Covid-19, still marked by severe constraints, but with massive vaccine uptake that seems to promise better times ahead. But what about the global South? Unequal access to vaccines, health systems devastated by the pandemic, and an economy literally on the ground again test the resilience of the most disadvantaged populations. Dr. Gianfranco Morino, partner-founder and Head of World Friends Kenya, and Dr. Paolo Leoncini, vice-president and Projects Manager of World Friends Italy, spoke about all these issues in the collection of short stories "The Strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic", presented at several events in Italy precisely to shed light on the profound inequalities generated or exacerbated by Covid.

Fighting inequality remains the pivotal goal of World Friends, which on its anniversary strengthens its interventions through the support of all people who see respect for fundamental rights as the only way out of this deep crisis. In Kenya, people look fearfully at health facilities where they fear contracting the virus. The real risk is leaving behind so many patients whose needs have been sidelined by Covid: children with disabilities or suffering from malnutrition, pregnant women and single mothers, the elderly, people with chronic diseases. In response, we focused our efforts on what we do best: working directly on the field, alongside people in need. This is the spirit with which we launched the "Send a Doctor" fundraising campaign to support the work of World Friends doctors and health workers involved in health education actions and mobile clinics in Kenya and in supporting and reconnecting the most fragile with the National Health System in Italy.

We also mentioned Nepal. Here, in the lower Everest valley, we started with the reconstruction of two schools destroyed by the terrible 2015 earthquake. "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" (actually two!) is a particularly important project for us: it was the best way to remember Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti, a mountaineer and great friend who tragically passed away in a mountain accident. Together with his wife Erika and other organizations close to him, we launched an appeal to help the students of these two schools. The participation and solidarity of people who loved and esteemed Cala was astonishing, to say the least, and made it possible to start the work immediately.

Difficult, dramatic situations can be opportunities for new beginnings. Twenty years have passed and we cannot help but look back, retrace our history and assess what World Friends means to us and to the beneficiaries of our projects. But above all, we must and will look forward, inspired by unique stories like Cala's. Today, as for the past 20 years, we continue to be there. Together in the peripheries of the world, alongside the most fragile.

Silvana Merico

President Amici del Mondo – World Friends Onlus



For the drafting of the Annual Report we thank: Victor Abuor, Gabriele Beacco, Marisa Castelli, Alessandro Dadomo, Maria Vittoria De Vita, Simona De Vita, Maureen Jelimo, Paolo Leoncini, Silvana Merico, Gabriele Paone, Lucia Pincerato, Susanna Russo, Andrea Sacchi, Alexander Startsev, Paolo Stocchi, Federica Vozzi, Rose Wanjiku.





1.

ADOPTED
METHODOLOGY FOR
THE DRAFTING OF
THE ANNUAL REPORT

The publication of the Annual Report is a direct manifestation of accountability by Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus to its partners and stakeholders. This ties in with the principle of transparency that World Friends applies in the management of resources and in the display of the results achieved with its projects.

For the drafting of this Annual Report, data collection was carried out using quantitative and qualitative methods provided for the compilation of internal reports, external evaluations and reporting. With regard to activities, impact evaluations were indicated where possible. The Annual Report 2021 follows the approach of the previous year's Report to enable comparability of data over time.

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

The following Annual Report adopts the Guidelines for the Preparation of the Annual Report of Third Sector Entities, published in the Decree of July 4, 2019. The Annual Report was submitted for approval by the statutory body, after being reviewed by the supervisory body, which integrated the monitoring information and certified compliance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of the Annual Report of Third Sector Entities.

The World Friends Onlus Annual Report is structured into eight sections:

- 1) Methodology adopted for the preparation of the report
- 2) General information about the organization
- 3) Structure, governance and administration
- 4) People working for the organization
- 5) Objectives and activities
- 6) Economic and financial situation
- 7) Other information (litigation and disputes, environmental impact information)
- 8) Monitoring carried out by the Supervisory Body

For questions and reports, it is possible to write to the e-mail address comunicazione@world-friends.org



2.

WORLD FRIENDS
GENERAL
INFORMATION

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.

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. In Nepal, in the lower Everest valley, we promoted the reconstruction of two schools in memory of mountaineer Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti. We employ mainly 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 13/04/2016 - ONLUS – registered in the Registry of ONLUS on 26/02/2015 - 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 14/12/2017 - International NGO - recognized by Non-Governmental Organizations Board in Kenya on 16/12/2004
FISCAL CODE	97256540580
LEGAL HEADQUARTER	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 440 - 00145 Roma
OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTER	Viale Egeo, 137 – 00144 Roma
FOREIGN OPERATIONAL HQ	Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital, off Thika Highway, Nairobi, Kenya
OTHER OPERATIONAL HQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via Alassio, 10 – 10126 Torino - Piazza S. Francesco, 3 – 15011 Acqui Terme
E-MAIL ADDRESS	info@world-friends.org
CERTIFIED E-MAIL ADDRESS	worldfriends.pec@world-friends.it
TEL/FAX	06 830 81 500
WEBSITE	www.world-friends.it

2.1. Mission

Defending rights today to guarantee them tomorrow.

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.

2.2. Vision

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopts 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.

2.3. 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

2.4. Areas of our activities

For the realization of the prefixed purpose and with the intent to act in favour of the whole community, the Association aims to carry out the activities of general interest that constitute the social object in the following areas:

social and socio-health care, health care, charity, training, promotion and protection of civil rights, scientific research of special social interest, while respecting and enhancing local natural and environmental resources. Health cooperation projects will be guided by the principle of guaranteeing the right to health.

No secondary or instrumental miscellaneous activities under Art. 6 of the Third Sector Code were carried out during 2021.

2.5. Network with other NGOs

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

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 part of Torino Street Care, a network created as a result of the project of the same name that involved more than 100 Turin doctors and dentists who volunteered to support the anti-Covid vaccination campaign. The initiative, initially promoted by the Turin Medical Association and the associations Camminare Insieme and Rainbow for Africa, was later shared by World Friends, Amref-CCM and Danish Refugee Council.
- World Friends is a member of various networks, such as: Hennem – Health NGOs Network, a consortium of NGOs and Kenyan and international institutions that work in Kenya in the health field; Scaling Up Nutrition, Kajiado County Health CSO Network, Elimu Yetu Coalition, Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD), With a Different Mind, Nairobi Child Protection Network (NCPT), Kasarani Gender-Based Violence Forum

2.6. 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 currently partnerships with: Africa Rafiki; A.M.M.I. - Associazione Multi-etnica Mediatori Interculturali; Amref/CCM; Associazione Volontaria "Camminare Insieme"; A.S.L. TO3 – Azienda Sanitaria Locale di Collegno e Pinerolo; Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Senese; Centro di Salute Globale – Regione Toscana; Cecy Onlus; CISP – International Committee for Peoples' Development; COP - Piedmont NGOs Consortium; CrescereInsieme; Danish Refugee Council; Find The Cure Italia ODV; Ivo de Carneri Onlus Foundation; Karibu Afrika; ISPI School; Medici per la Pace; Need You Onlus; San Paolo Milan University Hospital; R@inbow for Africa; Piedmont Region; Runsmile ASD; Slum Dunk Onlus; University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome; Catholic University del Sacro Cuore; Luigi Bocconi Milan Commercial University; University of Pavia; University of Turin - School of Medicine.

On an international level World Friends has currently partnerships with: AAR Beckmann Trust; AB Consultants; Abt Associates; ACREF - 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); Monviso Nepal Foundation; 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; Accademia di Pallacanestro "WhyNot"; WRAP - Women's Rights Awareness Programme; Zam Zam Medical Services.



3.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 World Friends Associates

Associates are divided into founders, aggregates and honorary members. Founders are those who participate directly in the initial establishment of the Association. Aggregate members of the Association are all those who share the aims and purposes of the Association and whose application for membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee. Honorary members are those who have special merits in the field of the Association's activities and are appointed by the Executive Committee. The permitted number of World Friends associates is unlimited. Temporary membership is excluded. For each associate there is no unequal treatment within the association.

As of 2021, the association has 23 members, including 4 founding members, 1 honorary member and 18 aggregate members.

3.2 Governance

3.2.1 Assembly

The Ordinary Assembly of Associates is convened by the President at least once a year and 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; deliberates on the exclusion of members for serious reasons; deliberates on the transfer of the headquarters within the same Municipality.

The Extraordinary Assembly deliberates on amendments to the articles of incorporation and bylaws; on the dissolution of the Association and the devolution of its assets; and on the transfer of the Association's headquarters to a municipality other than the one indicated.

As of December 31, 2021, the Assembly of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus consists of 23 members.

3.2.2 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.

**Composition of the Executive Committee of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus at
31/12/2021**

	<i>First appointment</i>	<i>In charge until</i>
Silvana Merico (President)	12/07/2014	16/10/2023
Paolo Leoncini (Vice president)	15/07/2017	16/10/2023
Jacopo Rovarini (Treasurer)	15/07/2017	16/10/2023
Diletta Bartolozzi (Secretary)	17/10/2020	16/10/2023
Gianfranco Morino (Head of WF Kenya)	12/07/2014	16/10/2023
Ermanno Salvatore	17/10/2020	16/10/2023
Paolo Tullio Cirio	12/07/2014	16/10/2023

All social offices in World Friends (Executive Committee) are taken free of charge and during 2021 no member received compensation, remuneration or allowances for the office taken.

3.2.3 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 2023.

3.2.4 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 2023.

3.2.5 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 2023.

3.2.6 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 of Amici del Mondo – World Friends Onlus is Dr. Susanna Russo, elected on 29/05/2021 and serves for the three-year term of 2021, 2022, and 2023 and therefore until the approval of the financial statements for the year ending at 31/12/2023.

3.2.7 Participation of members in the life of the organization

Associates contribute to the fulfilment of World Friends' mission by engaging in project support activities and taking part in the life of the association. Associates are required to pay membership dues, determined from year to year by the Executive Committee. They attend the Assembly of Associates, which may be ordinary or extraordinary.

Associates receive an informative newsletter on a monthly basis about the association's activities and are involved in activities and events to inform, update, and raise awareness on issues related to development cooperation and the association's mission. In 2021, they participated in World Friends' 20th anniversary celebration event, which was held online due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To become an Aggregate Associate one must apply to the Executive Committee and pay the membership fee determined for each social year. Admission, subject to formal presentation by two associates, is decided by the Executive Committee, after evaluation of the proposed associate's compliance with the inspiring principles of the Association. The Executive Committee may, in its sole discretion, deliberate on the rejection of the application for admission. Within three months from the date of delivery of the application to the headquarters of the Association, the Executive Committee shall make its opinion known.

The Executive Committee shall take care of the registration of new members in the membership book after they have paid the membership fee established and decided annually by the Assembly.

Associates must:

- abide by the World Friends Statute and any amendments thereto, internal regulations, and resolutions adopted by the Association bodies;
- maintain dignified behaviour towards the Association at all times;
- pay the membership fee.

Associates have the right:

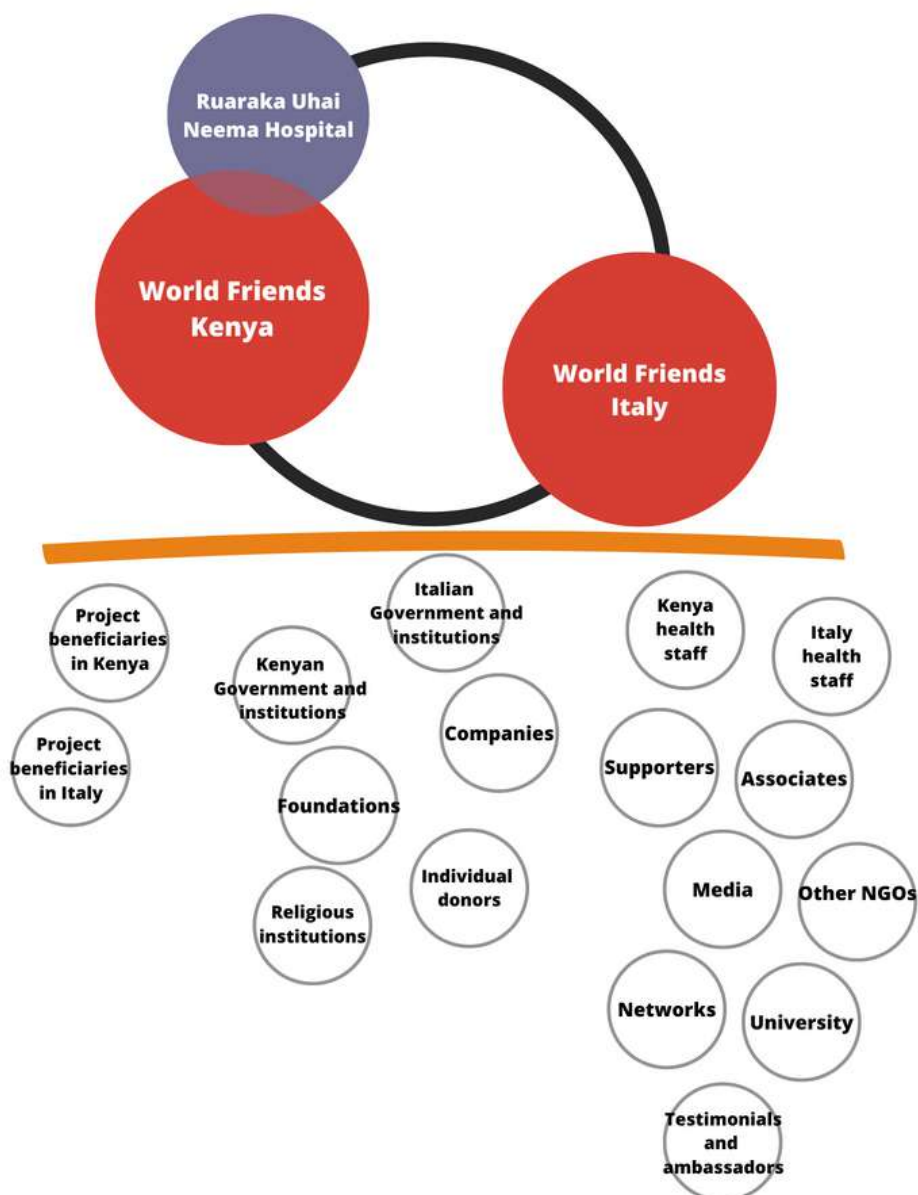
- to participate in all activities promoted by the Association;
- to participate in the Assembly with the right to vote; in particular, all members over the age of majority have the right to vote for the approval and modification of the statute and regulations as well as for the appointment of the governing bodies of the association;
- to make proposals and suggestions, including in writing;
- to access the nomination for association positions. This right is acquired with a membership seniority of at least one year;
- to formally submit the candidacy of a new associate. This right may be exercised only once per year.

Membership is lost:

- due to behaviour contrary to the purposes of the Association;
- due to persistent violations of statutory obligations;
- by withdrawal;
- due to failure to pay the membership fee, two months after its reminder;
- due to failure to attend the assembly of members 4 consecutive times, except for members living abroad who for proven reasons are unable to attend the meeting, for whom this limit may be increased to 6 consecutive absences. Exclusion of members shall be decided by the Ordinary Assembly unless for serious reasons.

A member who has been terminated, forfeited or excluded is not entitled to a refund of membership fees paid.

3.3. The stakeholders



3.3.1. Beneficiaries of projects in Kenya

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 42/1.000 (The World Bank, 2020). Life expectancy in Kenya is 67 years (The World Bank, 2020) - at 145^o place out of 189 countries in the world. Communicable diseases are still one of the main causes of death, especially in the slums: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis have the highest incidence rates on 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%.

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. 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 major part 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 not being any direct access, only 54 % of the population is able to use services that provide uncontaminated drinking water.

Beneficiaries

In Nairobi 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 health personnel and social workers, who are involved in ongoing training. All World Friends interventions include a key part of training, with the aim of fostering the gradual autonomy of the projects, ensuring their continuity and combating "brain drain."

Kajiado

In Kenya, the maternal death rate is significantly high (342/100.000 births in 2017). Among the main causes is the inaccessibility of both maternity and health services, both pre- and post-natal, together with socio-cultural factors. In the 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 County 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.

3.3.2. Beneficiaries of projects in Italy

In the city of Turin, World Friends offers healthcare services to more than 2.000 people living in distress or homeless. The objective of the action is to improve the health conditions by 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 with meetings to raise awareness of the reality of the African continent: resources, problems and potential for future development. The methodology of World Friends staff includes intervention in classrooms with educational and training activities aimed at students and teachers, which promote the participation of children and adolescents through 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.

3.3.3. Beneficiaries of project in Nepal

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is a low-income country that occupies 142nd place in the ranking of the Human Development Index at 2020. Nepal has a very young population: 30% of the population is under 14 and over 50% under 25. The literacy rate (for the population over 15 years of age) is 71% for males and 53% for women, with a strong gender disparity. Foodborne and vector-borne diseases, altitude sickness, alcoholism and smoking are the most common health problems. In particular, alcohol abuse affects over 60% of the population and 15% of young people under 17. Nepal includes a large part of the Himalayan mountain range, with a complex geomorphology, with small villages separated by deep valleys and mountain ranges and a chronic instability of the territory with landslides and avalanches linked to the monsoon climate that periodically isolate parts of the population.

On 25 April 2015, the country was hit by a devastating earthquake that caused over 10.000 deaths, destroyed numerous villages, schools and hospitals. Nepal lives a lot on alpine tourism, treks and expeditions that are organized annually in the area of the highest mountains. However, some areas, including World Friends' focus areas, are excluded from these sources of income.

Beneficiaries

About 830 students, 20 teachers and 10 workers benefit from the reconstruction activities of Shree Pattale and Necha Gahri schools in Solukhumbu district by World Friends and its partners. Indirectly, the students' families and students in neighboring schools also benefit.

3.3.4. 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, CEI – Italian Episcopal Conference, 8xmille Catholic Church, Region of Tuscany, Manos Unidas, European Union, 8xmille Chiesa Valdese, Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, Italian Buddhist Union, Caritas Antoniana, Only The Brave Foundation, Need You Onlus, Cariplo Foundation, FNOMCeO – National Federation of the Orders of Surgeons and Dentist, Magnetto Foundation, San Zeno Foundation, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Caritas diocesana di Acqui Terme, Associazione Cuore Amico Fraternità Onlus, CAI sezione “Nanni Zunino” di Acqui Terme, USaid, UKaid, Prima Spes Foundation, Familia Nawiri – a Novartis special venture, Catholic International Community, CRT Foundation, Caritas Italiana, Bata Foundation, CRAL Foundation, Innovation for Development program, Lavazza Foundation, Marilab, Cristalfarma, Arc en Ciel as well as a donor base of about 2,000 private citizens.



4.

STAFF WORKING
FOR THE
ORGANIZATION

4.1. World Friends and R.U. Neema Hospital staff

In Kenya, the staff of World Friends staff includes 39 employees, including 30 local staff members (27 on fixed-term contracts and 3 on part-time contracts) and 9 expats (8 on coordinated and continuous contracts and 1 on internship contracts) employed at the offices and in 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 202 local collaborators, among whom 182 are permanent staff members and 20 are consultants.

In Italy, the staff of the Association includes 2 employees with permanent contracts graded according to the CNL Commercio, 1 employee with a fixed-term contract graded according to the CNL Commercio, 1 collaborator with a coordinated and continuous collaboration contract (subordinate employment contract) and 5 external consultants with self-employment contracts, employed in the Rome headquarters and regional offices.

World Friends complies with the criterion of wage difference between employees in the ratio of one to eight, as employees are graded according to the same RAL (1:1 ratio).

Every association's charge is undertaken at no cost, except refunds of incurred expenses for foreseen activities, which shall be documented.

The monocratic Supervisory body is entitled to a remuneration of € 2.807, plus legal charges of € 754. In the year 2021, there were no volunteers and consequently no reimbursements were paid.



5.

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.

For the description of objectives, activities and achievements, data collection was carried out using quantitative and qualitative methods provided for the compilation of internal reports, external evaluations and reporting. For activities, impact evaluations were indicated where possible.

5.1. Kenya

5.1.1. Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital

The north-eastern shantytowns of Nairobi represent one of the most marginalised areas of the capital and where there is a concentration of family units living in disadvantaged conditions. The inaccessibility to Primary Health Care is both cause and effect of widespread poverty. The result is a particularly worrying state of general health, especially for the most vulnerable population groups such as women, children and adolescents. 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.

Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital was established with the overall goal of contributing to the improvement in the quality of life and promoting 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 hospital offers the following diagnostic and treatment services: health education, general clinics, gynecological clinics, pediatric clinics, maternity, physiotherapy, radiology, first aid, clinical analyses laboratories, specialised clinics (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Diabetes, Dermatology etc.) general, orthopedic, pediatric and gynecological basic surgery, pharmacy, pediatrics.

On June 14th Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital received four awards for Quality of Health Services in Nairobi County. The awards were presented during the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) Annual Celebration and established based on ongoing monitoring conducted by the Nairobi Directorate of Health and the Dutch PharmAccess Foundation's SafeCare program. (SafeCare is an initiative established by PharmAccess Foundation (Netherlands) in order to support both public and private healthcare facilities in a multi-step structured program with the goal of providing increasingly safe and quality care to their patients. SafeCare introduces different level standards that facilitate partner facilities to measure and improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of their services. Through the technical assistance provided, health care facilities gradually progress toward achieving higher quality standards along a trajectory that can eventually lead to international accreditation. SafeCare's standards are accredited by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua), a global leader in quality improvement processes.)

Throughout the year, R.U. Neema in fact provided access to data, staff information, and underwent regular audits to determine final ratings. This achievement adds to the recognition for the second consecutive year of Level 5 (out of 5) in Health and Care Quality according to the SafeCare system achieved in 2020.

R.U. Neema Hospital received an award in four separate categories, specifically:

- best hospital for neonatal care;
- best hospital for treatment protocols and guidelines;
- best hospital for data analysis and procurement;
- second best missionary/nonprofit hospital.

COVID-19 Emergency

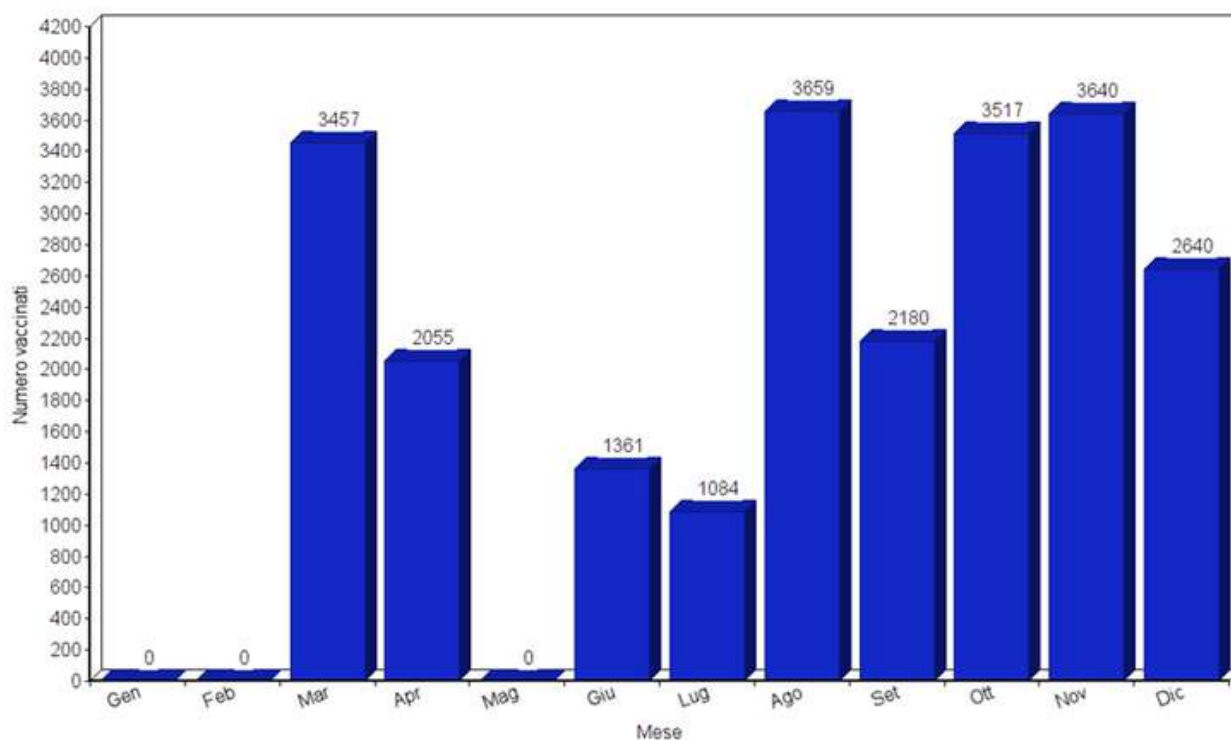
Thanks to the network built with Nairobi County and Ruaraka Sub-county, the Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital was among the first health facilities to be selected for the implementation of the anti-Covid vaccine plan in Kenya. Through its participation in the vaccination campaign, the hospital facilitated the vaccination process for the entire Ruaraka Sub-county.

Vaccinations officially started on March 17 with an initial supply of about 1,000 doses of Covishield vaccine, administered to health staff at R.U. Neema Hospital and peripheral health centers in a specialized outpatient clinic specially set up within the hospital.

Vaccinations are provided directly by the government, while the health staff of R.U. Neema Hospital (duly trained in the management of the process) ensures the proper dilution, administration and storage of the vaccine. All batch and administration information is collected in a digital archive, ensuring safe medication administration and traceability.

During 2021, 23,593 doses of vaccine were administered at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital.

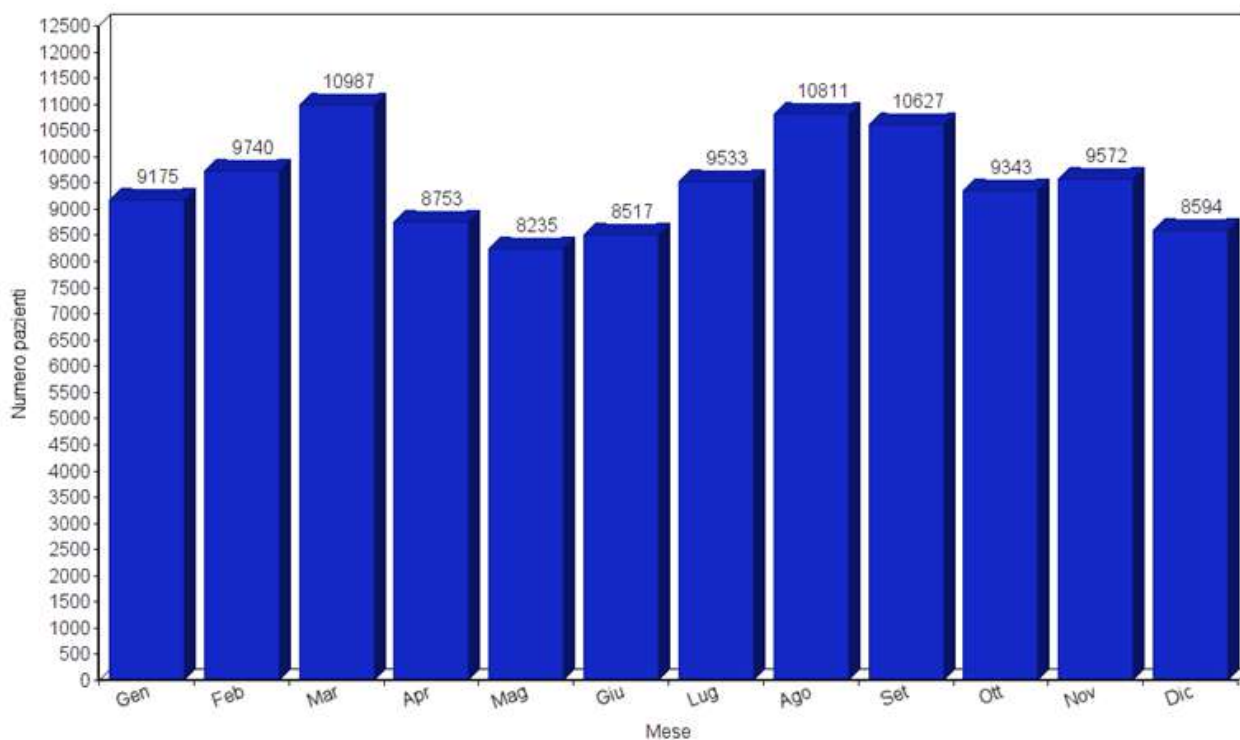
R.U. Neema Hospital: Covid-19 vaccinations in 2021



Results:

In 2021, at R.U. Neema Hospital 113.887 patients were treated, of which 33.2% children under 5 years old and 55.7% women. Below is the trend of admissions to R.U. Neema Hospital:

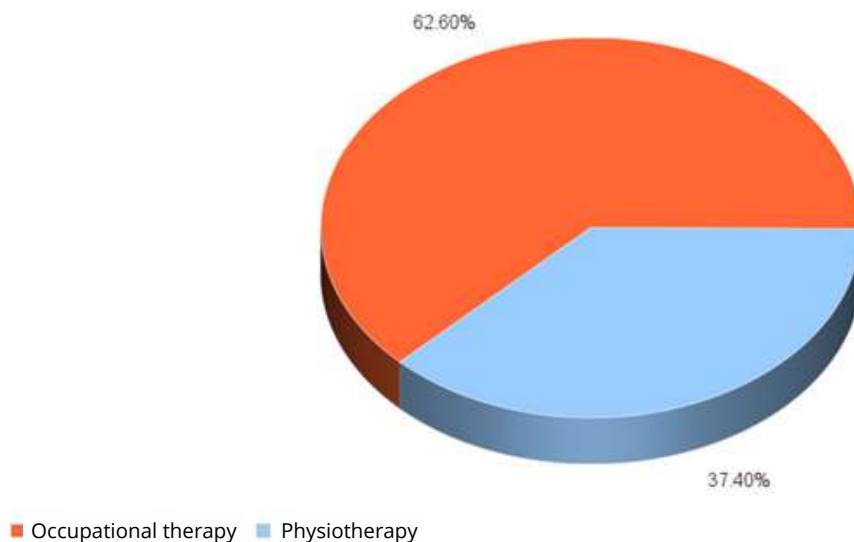
Accesses to R.U. Neema Hospital in 2021



During the year, 1.269 surgeries were performed, 89,7% of which were obstetrical-gynecologic surgeries.

In the hospital's Rehabilitation Department, therapists trained within Neema's R.U. delivered 10.675 physical and occupational therapy sessions, divided as follows:

Therapy sessions 2021 - Rehabilitation Department



During 2021, 1.157 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, adolescent issues, and others.

During 2021, 12.425 people accessed to Neema U.R.'s specialty outpatient clinics. Among the services offered: dermatology, ophthalmology, oculistics, otolaryngology, surgery, pediatrics, and general outpatient clinic.

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 2021, 25.681 women received care at the MCH, 5.210 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, 1.260 women registered in 2021, while 3.950 registered in the previous year, but with visits conducted in 2020.

The Maternity Wing with attached operating room and outpatient clinic has been in operation since February 2011, and in 2021 it recorded 1.414 deliveries, including 605 natural deliveries and 809 cesarean deliveries.

The Pediatrics Department

The Pediatrics Department, by now 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 about 20 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 pediatric operating theatre.

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

In 2021, the Department of Pediatrics provided medical care to 1.102 children (437 girls and 665 boys), 84% of which were under the age of 5; in addition, 69 children underwent successful pediatric surgery.

Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital Main Donors

European Union, Alba Care Foundation, Italian Agency for Cooperation for Development, CEI – Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, San Zeno Foundation, Novartis – Familia Nawiri, HANSHEP Health Enterprise Fund (UKAID e USAID), Tuscan Region (Area Vasta SI-GR-AR), Caritas Acqui Terme, Diocesi Di Acqui Terme, Cuore Amico Association, CAI (Italian Alpine Club) di Acqui Terme, Autonomous Province of Trento, Manos Unidas, Caritas Antoniana (Padova), CariVerona, Need You Onlus, Bata Foundation.

5.1.2. Qualitative Standards Improvement Track and Clinical Risk Management in Maternal-Natal-Infant Health 2020-2021

Project Description:

The activity involves improving the quality, safety, and access to maternal, child, and reproductive health services at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital to benefit the slum population in Northeast Nairobi.

Main donors:

Region of Tuscany

Partner:
University Hospital of Siena

Activities:

- Implementation of the Quality Improvement Plan for maintaining Level 5 (out of 5) quality and safety of services at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital.
- Evaluation and monitoring of the offices and departments of R.U. Neema Hospital.
- Training of social and health care staff on issues of quality and safety of care, methods and techniques for assessing system risk levels, defining improvement projects.
- Conducting education/prevention sessions in target educational institutions and within target communities.
- Renovation and purchase of medical equipment in the Maternity Department.
- Evaluation and implementation of standards related to issues such as: safety culture with respect to nosocomial infections; hand hygiene; hospital waste management; appropriate and safe use of syringes for infection prevention; adequacy of personal protection systems.

Results:

- Held 12 inspection visits of the hospital by the Quality Improvement Team.
- Conducted 12 assessments with recommendations for improvement in the following areas: patient access route; training and quality standards; waste management and disposal; hygienic conditions; and logistics. Realized 60 of the 79 recommendations in the Quality Improvement Plan.
- Carried out 35 update courses as part of Continuing Medical Education on various topics, including: Covid-19; vaccine prophylaxis awareness; sickle cell anaemia; papilloma virus; etc. Also conducted 13 clinical audit sessions. The training sessions covered 90 health professionals.
- Achieved 0% maternal deaths.
- 47% reduction in neonatal deaths compared to 2020.
- Reduced maternal sepsis by 53% and neonatal sepsis by 44% compared to 2020.
- Involved 20 schools in informal settlements in Health Education activities under the Safe Motherhood program (promoting maternal and reproductive health). Topics included: sexually transmitted diseases, personal hygiene and children's rights. Involved 15,362 students for 552 sessions.
- Start of renovation work at the Maternity Wing at R.U. Neema Hospital.

Factors hindering the achievement of the objectives:

· Failure to identify a suitable candidate (with clinical-nursing background) to carry out referral activities at R.U. Neema Hospital under the Safe Motherhood program.

· Slowdown of activities (including renovation of the Maternity Ward) due to measures aimed at reducing Covid-19 infection.

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

Project Description:

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 Antoniana, 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.
- Improvement of essential health services provided by partner health facilities.
- 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 Neema Hospital U.R.

Results:

- 7.517 children benefited from the services, namely: 4.452 patients at R.U. Neema Hospital; 1.584 patients at Tumaini Health Center; 1.481 patients at Jamii Kipawa Health Center.
- 11.340 students (5.148 boys and 6.192 girls) underwent periodic parasitosis treatment in 18 selected schools.
- 3.243 students in 5 schools were monitored to assess their body mass index and to conduct other anthropometric measurements.
- 71 periodic health and nutrition education sessions were held in the 4 selected schools, in which 1.133 students (579 girls and 554 boys) participated.

Children under age of 5 visited by partner clinics		
	Tumaini Health Center	Jamii Kipawa Health Center
Regular Weight	796	821
Underweight	429	400
Severely Underweight	188	98
Overweight	71	33
Obesity	4	5

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.

5.1.4. Medical Camp Programme

Project Description:

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 tests (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:

Because of COVID-19 pandemic and Government of Kenya's rules in terms of circulation and gathering, during 2021 only 6 Medical Camps were held, in the period from July to November.

Medical Camp 2021						
Months	Site	N° patients	N° F	%F	n°M	%M
July	Whynot Academy Mathare	50	28	56%	22	44%
July	St. John Community Centre, Kariobangi	50	40	80%	10	20%
August	Call Africa Soweto	55	48	87,3%	7	12,7%
September	Baptist Volunteer Mission	60	41	68,3%	19	31,7%
October	Sisters Centre	68	47	69,1%	21	30,9%
November	Kariobangi Catholic Church	68	53	77,9%	15	22,1%
Total		351	257	73,2%	94	26,8%

In addition, 9 Antenatal Camps were held, reaching a total of 68 women with interventions aimed at improving the quality of and access to essential reproductive health services.

5.1.5. Mobile Clinics Outreach

Project Description:

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 and Zamzam Medical Services

Activities:

- Meetings with key personalities in the local community (village leaders and elders).
- Treatment, nutritional screening, deworming administration.
- Awareness raising on issues related to COVID-19.
- Renovation of the Nendoruko village school.

Results:

- Mobile clinics took place regularly during 2021 despite the ongoing pandemic.
- Staff training on anti-COVID issues (prevention measures and proper use of personal protective equipment).
- Conducted 116 mobile clinic sessions for a total of 9,779 patients (including 3,147 women, and 2,300 children under the age of 5) reached in the period of 2021.
- Administered deworming to 8,878 patients in 5 public schools.
- Administered 626 vaccinations against polio, measles and others including, starting November 2021, Covid-19 vaccination.
- Conducted malnutrition screening to 5,626 patients for malnutrition, of whom 1,105 were at risk of moderate or severe malnutrition and benefited from the nutritional supplements distributed accordingly.
- The renovation of Nendoruko School was completed by mid-2021. 2 classrooms, 1 library, 1 staff room and 4 bathrooms (1 block) were built, while 4 existing classrooms were renovated. In addition, a water tank was installed to ensure water availability throughout the building. Classrooms were also equipped with blackboards, desks and books.
- Outreach activities reached a total of 6 cooperatives, 7 schools, 14 urban areas and 45 rural areas.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: fear of infection, restriction to travels, distrust towards health care providers.
- Due to preventive measures against COVID-19, no outreach or screening was done in schools from October to December.

- 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.

5.1.6. Rehabilitation, Knowledge and Awareness – Disability Programme

Project Description:

The project aims to help improve the health status of children with disabilities by providing dedicated and more accessible primary health care services to children with disabilities in informal settlements. In addition, the project provides access to specialized physiotherapy and corrective surgery treatment and contributes to combating stigma at the community and family levels.

Main donors:

Region of Tuscany

Partners:

Azienda USL - Southeast Tuscany; Global Health Center - Tuscany Region.

Activities:

- Establishment and equipping of gyms or rehabilitation areas within health centres located in the slums of Nairobi for the provision of services to children with disabilities.
- Conducting occupational therapy and rehabilitation at the gyms.
- Conducting awareness sessions and trainings directed to parents of children with disabilities.
- Conducting corrective interventions for children with disabilities.
- Conducting health education and life skills sessions, with a focus on awareness, on adolescent-related problems in settings such as those in the target area and combating stigma toward people with disabilities, aimed at students in target schools.
- Conducting awareness sessions for school staff, parents and community members with a view to raising awareness about problems related to their students/children's risky behaviours and combating stigma toward people with disabilities.

Results:

- Identified 6 facilities off-site and equipped with equipment necessary to carry out occupational therapies, which benefited 15 children with disabilities.
- In the period from May to August 2021, held 101 health education and life skills sessions, reaching a total of about 1.300 students.

- Between March and May 2021, conducted 8 awareness sessions for school staff (including 17 teachers), parents and community members in 8 schools on the following topics: discrimination and disability; health and nutrition; social and behaviour change; and addictions.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Measures to prevent Covid-19 infection in gyms and businesses slowed measurement of patients, needed in order to purchase supports.
- Planned 1 event within the community to support the fight against stigma, which was not realized due to assembly bans.

5.1.7. Community-Based Rehabilitation Program - Prevention and Rehabilitation of disability

Project Description:

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

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:

- Up to August 2021, reached 576 children with health care.
- In the period from January to August 2021, carried out 3.582 physical therapy and occupational therapy sessions in peripheral gyms.
- Involved about 30 parents, mostly mothers in training sessions covering the following topics: hints of anatomy; activities to improve muscle movements; activities to stimulate cognitive response.
- In October 2021, were performed corrective surgeries for 15 children with disabilities by Dr. Antonio Melotto, assisted by the medical team of R.U. Neema Hospital.

5.1.8. Sporthotherapy - integration between minors with disabilities and not in the Mathare Slum

Project Description:

The project aims to favour integration between minors with disabilities and not in the slums of Nairobi. The initiative provides for the improving access to health care and physiotherapy of these children through the identification of neglected cases of disability who currently do not receive treatment and their placement in a specialized and quality clinic. In parallel, the project will allow the sensitization of the local population regarding the issues of disabilities in Kenya e the use of sport as a means of emancipation for children with disabilities and residents in disadvantaged and vulnerable areas of the Kenyan capital.

Main donors:

Eight per Thousand of the Waldensian Church

Partner:

Basketball Academy "WhyNot"

Activities:

- Identification of neglected disability cases currently not receiving treatment.
- Organization of physiotherapy sessions, on a weekly basis, with a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist.
- Capacity-building activities to enable the basketball coaches involved in the project to design and implement drills and workouts that can simultaneously involve minors with and without disabilities, promoting their integration.
- Purchase of equipment necessary for the effective and quality performance of physical therapy services within the specialized clinic.
- Offering basketball training sessions for boys/girls from the above-mentioned academy.
- Organizing health education and life skills sessions to improve the awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to disability-related issues of boys, parents and teachers.

Results:

- In December 2021, the gym containing the physical therapy centre within the "WhyNot" Basketball Academy was opened.
- Starting December 1st, 2021, physical therapy sessions began every Wednesday with a physical therapist and an occupational therapist.
- Conducted 50 therapy sessions implemented by a physical therapist and an occupational therapist, with an average of 7 children followed per day.
- Purchase of: 54 pairs of basketball shoes; 20 basketballs; 60 basketball outfits for practice; and 60 "Dignity Kits" for the boys/girls of the Basketball Academy.
- Practice sessions are held every day in the afternoon hours. Each practice is attended by 15 boys/girls, divided by age groups (junior, senior). The total number of boys/girls participating in practice is 115.

actors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Due to the high number of infections related to the pandemic situation of Covid-19, the school within which the physiotherapy centre was opened had to divide classes to adjust the number of pupils to the available space. Because of this, the opening of the physiotherapy center has been delayed by several months from what was initially planned.

5.1.9. SonoMobile

Project Description:

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 e Cuore Amico Fraternità Onlus

Partners:

Health-E-Net, OTE Medical Italia, Kenya Medical Training College, University of Turin, University Campus Bio-Medico, Center for Global Health - Tuscany Region.

Beneficiaries:

- 14.500 pregnant women and infants
- 15 health 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.

Results:

- Since January 2021, it has been possible to see about 300 mothers per month, operational for five days a week and an average of 15 patients per day.
- From January to September 2021, a total of 2,524 ultrasound scans were conducted. An additional 295 ultrasound scans were conducted in the months after the project closed.
- 2,750 mothers participated in health education sessions in the months from January to September 2021.
- Involved 2 new health facilities in 2021 (Health Basic International Limited and Ngomongo Community Medical Services), reaching a total of 9 facilities to start and operate mobile ultrasound service.
- Implemented the "Boda Boda campaign" marketing campaign. For the purpose of promoting the mobile ultrasound service. During the campaign, more than 300 riders (boda boda drivers) were reached through health education sessions on project-related issues and subsequent delivery of bibs, labels and flyers.
- 57 students specialized in ultrasound and graduated from Kenya Medical Training College.
- Conducted 2 training sessions for project nurses/obstetricians and a series of 7 Continuous Education in Medicine (CME).
- Conducted last 5 capacity building sessions for World Friends and Health-E-Net staff.
- Updated and tested the GabrielUSG APP for improved archiving, integration with PaperEMR technology, and increased speed of function execution.
- Two new probes were purchased in July 2021 to replace those in use.
- Organized a webinar on September 15 in collaboration with the Global Health Center, involving project partners engaged in Quality Control and project monitoring and evaluation.
- Produced a scientific article to be published in an internationally renowned peer-reviewed journal to disseminate the results locally.

Impact evaluation:

The evaluation conducted focused on the analysis of six main evaluation criteria: effectiveness, relevance, consistency, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

- Effectiveness

The evaluator concluded that the presence of obstetric ultrasound service delivery points on the field within the project target informal settlements greatly increased access to prenatal care throughout the project period. In addition, when looking at the total number of ultrasound scans performed during the project period, an average of 18% of the total number of patients referred to specialized hospital institutions can be seen; the two main referral causes were placental problems (35%) and multiple pregnancies (33%), which pose a high risk for pregnancies and require specialized care. Thus, follow-ups contributed to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality through early detection of at-risk pregnancies and their referral to equipped hospitals.

Other problems that emerged through the interviews and focus groups conducted with mothers include: the distance of health facilities from homes and the difficulty in reaching them by public transportation; the cost of ultrasound services; and the stigma toward such services.

Finally, regarding the training activities of health personnel, twelve nurses participated in courses on conducting ultrasound services during the project. The teachers emphasized the need to conduct training sessions of appropriate duration to allow for more supervision of services, so as to improve service delivery and skill acquisition by health care staff.

- Relevance

All stakeholders interviewed during the final evaluation agreed that the mobile ultrasound service provided by nurses in partner medical centers improved maternal health, especially in informal settlements. The project also promoted access to these services by reducing costs and having a strong presence on the field; increased mothers' awareness of appropriate maternal and newborn health; increased the capacity of health personnel in providing quality care to women; and provided more skilled care for deliveries.

- Consistency

Most respondents noted the importance of an obstetric ultrasound service performed by trained and qualified nurses due to the lack of adequate numbers of sonographers and radiologists in Kenya. Many also stressed the importance and effectiveness of the referral system and the ubiquity and effective placement of midwives, who were always in close proximity and contact with pregnant women during the prenatal period.

- Efficiency

Regarding the efficiency of the project, most stakeholders reported the cost-effectiveness of the project's Point Of Care mobile ultrasounds compared to services offered at other health facilities. This made the service more accessible and affordable especially for the population in informal settlements. In addition, the importance of ultrasound scans conducted through the project as a filter for referring more complicated situations to specialized hospitals was emphasized. This helped optimize the efficient use of the limited resources in the health care system: in fact, only the most complex cases were referred to specialized hospitals whose services are more expensive, thus reducing wasted economic resources. Finally, most respondents agreed that the portability, versatility, and availability of SonoMobile mobile devices helped them make faster decisions and provide faster service for pregnant women followed in the Ruaraka Sub-county.

- Impact

On the impact of the project, the evaluation found that although the goal was to improve maternal and newborn health conditions, the project also succeeded in fostering strategic relationships among for-profit, nonprofit, governmental, and academic actors, all of whom were involved in project implementation. In addition, it also helped improve mothers' knowledge of the value and importance of obstetric ultrasound, strengthening the relationship of trust between health professionals and community members.

- Sustainability

Technical: The project has strongly encouraged the exchange of knowledge and skills among the different project partners, primarily between the different universities, between Italy and Kenya, but also among the different partners, institutional and non-institutional, through the principle of subsidiarity, to fill any technical gaps of the local partners and foster the future autonomy of the activities.

In addition, the project provided new knowledge and skills to some obstetric nurses through ad hoc training organized for the project team and later expanded to nurses from neighboring facilities, who had the opportunity to learn how to perform basic obstetric ultrasound scans and check fetal growth, as well as confirm whether it is regular or whether the pregnancy needs special care or attention. The knowledge will thus be available beyond the project term, and there will also be a spillover effect, a collateral dissemination of knowledge to other staff members of the health centers involved, who will be able to learn from the staff trained during the courses promoted by the project. This will ensure the future sustainability of the activities.

The technology developed by the counterpart (and adapted in the course of this project) has countless fields of use in the medical sector, but it has also enabled real-time monitoring of activities carried out in the field. The availability of portable ultrasound machines, combined with telemedicine, has just as much potential: the remote report monitoring system also has potential for development in rural areas and in various disciplines not only related to pregnancy.

Social and Institutional: The project has fostered strong strategic partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including local health authorities in the Ruaraka Sub-county, the project target area, educational institutions and universities in Kenya and Italy, and companies in the field of technology. The synergies created during the course of the project anchor the sustainability of the intervention beyond the planned term.

Economic-financial: upon completion of the classes of students supported by the project, the KMTC-sponsored course became a full-fledged part of KMTC's educational offerings, with an undergraduate fee charged to students.

The mobile ultrasound service will continue within the framework of the specially established social enterprise, with payments for health care services provided used to cover service expenses (consumables, transportation, salaries, etc.). As a social enterprise, the service will need to generate sufficient revenue to cover its overall costs while pursuing its social goals; to this end, a cost-recovery strategy based on cross-subsidization will be adopted: remunerative but still affordable rates relative to the market to affluent facilities and individuals, to subsidize the lower rates charged at health centres with patients with less financial means.

Environmental: The project employed a number of measures to simultaneously reduce operational costs and environmental impact by computerizing the ultrasound service: the exchange of images between the nurse and the sonographer, like the subsequent sending of the report, is done electronically from the beginning of the service, in digital format, through a PDF link sent by SMS, avoiding printing on special paper.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions significantly affected the implementation of activities and the number of prenatal visits carried out: it was not possible to reach all 15 target health centres as planned when writing the project.
- The target of 10.800 ultrasounds to be performed during the project was not reached due to the pandemic, nurse discharges and a climate of fear toward hospitals and treatment centres.

5.1.10. Mobile ultrasounds - Program to support start-up SonoMobile

Project Description:

The project aims to improve maternal-neonatal health conditions through the establishment of a prenatal examination and obstetric ultrasound service for pregnant women in Kajiado County, a remote, semi-arid area of Kenya inhabited by Maasai communities. The goal is pursued by replicating and disseminating the innovative approach developed under the SonoMobile project to promote more widespread and equitable access to obstetric-gynaecological ultrasound.

Main donors:

Cariplo Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, Innovation for Development program

Partner:

Health-e-Net

Activities:

- Management and implementation of a service of pre-natal visits related by obstetric ultrasound in the territory.
- Test the functionality of the service already implemented in urban areas even in rural areas and not easily reached by medical services.

Results:

- Trained 4 nurses from neighbouring dispensaries on obstetric ultrasound.
- Technology adapted to remote areas so that it can also work in offline mode.
- Involved 3 dispensaries (Oltepesi, Gataka and Enkororoi) and 6 communities/small villages.
- Performed 143 obstetric ultrasound scans between June and December 2021.
- 117 mothers participated in health education sessions regarding pregnancy.
- Identified and visited 26 pregnant women with "at-risk" ages (younger than 18 or older than 35).
- Made 23 referrals to higher order health facilities.
- Identified and monitored 8 pregnancies with possible problems.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- Low participation of remote communities.
- Lack of County involvement due to too short project duration.

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

Project Description:

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 digitalization 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 tests will be carried out. In case the collected samples result positive, the patient will be referred in one of the referral facilities and enrolled in a tuberculosis clinic.

Main donors:

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 contact 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 centres 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.
- Carrying out of operational research.
- Purchase of GeneXpert equipment at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital for conducting molecular diagnostic tests.

- Implementation of field activities (outreach) by moving screening activities from health facilities to other community referral points in areas with a high number of active TB cases (hotspots), to further incentivize people to participate.
- Distribution of staple foods (rice, flour, legumes) to positive patients to enable them to follow proper nutrition during tuberculosis treatment.
- Establishment of a TB laboratory and outpatient clinic at one of the 18 target health facilities.

Results:

- Carried out outreach (field screening days), after raising public awareness by Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), reaching 2.525 people.
- In March, a training course for facility clinicians entitled "Clinical features and stigma associated with TB" was conducted by Prof. Federico Gobbi, infectious disease specialist at IRCCS Ospedale Sacro Cuore Don Calabria - Negrar.
- In March, an updating course for laboratory staff on the use of the Paper-EMR App was conducted.
- Conducted 2 on-the-job training days in 11 partner facilities in February.
- Carried out food distribution for patients with active tuberculosis.
- Implemented an active outpatient service for tuberculosis management in Ruaraka Clinic (Ngumba area) after detection of increased level of stigma toward patients with active tuberculosis.
- 8.610 suspected cases of SARS-Cov-2 reported between March and August 2021 in Ruaraka Sub-County.

Impact evaluation:

The project's interventions were well aligned with global and national priorities on active TB case finding, particularly with regard to private sector involvement in TB diagnosis and treatment, use of technology, and improved reporting of active infection cases.

Project interventions were largely compatible with what already existed, such as direct involvement of community health systems in creating health demand, searching for active or latent TB in contacts determined by the index case, and improving TB data management through the government digital platform, TIBU.

The project helped improve the ability to compile and subsequently digitize paper medical records. This has led to more effective data management and enabled real-time monitoring and evaluation of progress against established goals. However, considerable stakeholder concern was repeatedly noted due to the workload resulting from the duplication of documentation to be compiled, attributable to the simultaneous integration of project activities with government recommendations. Despite the initial attempt to assimilate digital formats with paper templates, given the very idea of the project to minimize and facilitate with technology the retrieval of useful data and information, it was not possible to replace through the App the "TB Treatment Register" used by the government. Indeed, the distribution of GeneXpert test reagents and antitubercular drugs by national programs involves periodic monitoring and evaluation by sub-county coordinators, activities that they could not have done through the App. As a result, there was double the workload in terms of data entry on the different platforms.

The project involved and supported 18 private facilities (community pharmacies, dispensaries, and medical centres) through TB screening interventions throughout the duration of the project, with the significant use and contribution of the private sector in active case finding. The involvement of the private sector was a positive outcome of the project, given the important role played by nongovernmental health facilities as the first point of contact for many community members. Their participation in active case finding was considered crucial in expanding the scope of services and averaged 15%, as reported in official reference documents.

The results suggest that the project helped improve active case finding with a total of 46 new cases diagnosed and 44 (96%) initiated and followed up successfully during treatment. Numbers related to bacteriological confirmation of TB improved at the same time, recording a rate of 85% in some peripheral facilities and in the RUNH laboratory, compared to the Sub-County average of 60% (thus achieving the 15% increase in microbiological diagnostic confirmation, although the total number of pulmonary TB cases diagnosed through GeneXpert deviates from the absolute numbers calculated pre-pandemic).

Regarding cases of active tuberculosis infection, the 46 patients who tested positive in the GeneXpert test accounted for only 2 % of all cases tested, a rate 15 % lower than the sub-county average. Notably, a lower positivity rate was found in facilities with the largest number of patients tested (Mercylinna Chemist and Upendo Chemist, which tested 624 and 456 individuals, respectively) and higher in facilities with the fewest number of patients sent for laboratory testing (Drug Hill Pharmacy, Uzima White Medical Clinic and Rema Medical Center had the highest positivity rates at 15.4%, 12.5% and 7.1%, respectively). The project has increased the number of suspected and presumed cases which then underwent testing, and, moreover, if one analyzes the data more closely on a facility-by-facility basis, where the clinical screening criteria have been rigorously applied, the efficiency required by the project indicators can be recorded.

In addition to achieving its goals, the project contributed to capacity building of health workers, improved community awareness of TB, and stronger strategic collaborations between private and public partners in TB diagnosis and treatment. HIPS-TB increased trust between communities and health workers, had the potential to influence national policy on private sector involvement in active TB case finding in Kenya.

Program design and implementation anchors the sustainability of interventions on capacity building, trust, collaboration, political goodwill, informed and empowered beneficiaries, evidence-based decision making and monitoring and evaluation, and, last but not least, efficiency-focused screening.

Despite the achievements of the two phases of operational research, the onset and persistence of the global Covid-19 pandemic and its consequent restrictions, as well as social distancing measures, have limited direct data collection. As a result, telephone interviews were conducted, the numbers of participants in the Focus Groups had to be reduced, as well as the amount of information to be analyzed. In addition, in the first phase of the research, the feedback on the service model implemented by the project from stakeholders seems to have been rather reductive. Finally, the ethics committee's approval of the research protocol required commitment and timing from the team beyond what was estimated, delaying the initial data collection to some extent.

In the second phase of the project, the greatest difficulty was found in the analysis of project indicators and impact, especially due to lack of linearity and consequentiality with the data obtained from the pre-project data research received from the Department of Health at the Sub-County level in 2017.

This was mainly due to national data trends as a result of the pandemic, with further reduction in reported TB cases, but also due to secondary factors, such as the recent implementation of a computerized data collection system, such as TiBU, which still suffers from accuracy and reliability.

The activities carried out brought several elements of sustainability, including:

Technical Sustainability: The purchase of a machine for performing microbiological diagnosis on sputum samples and other biological fluids (GeneXpert) and the related diagnostic service implemented during the project, equipped the population with an additional laboratory to confirm the presence of active tuberculosis infection, improving Sub-County's effectiveness and efficiency in combating TB. The training of health workers, laboratory technicians and community volunteers on TB and Covid-19 issues, the use of GeneXpert technology and the management of patients with active tuberculosis infection enabled a development of lasting knowledge and skills in the staff members of the various health facilities involved. This activity was set up following the national guidelines promoted by NTLDP and the Department of Health, ensuring relevance on the one hand and continuity on the other, once the project was completed. In addition, training activities for laboratory staff have made the use of GeneXpert technology, totally autonomous and within the reach of the staff of the two referral health centres.

Social sustainability: activities to raise awareness among patients, families and community members about TB issues and Covid-19 have improved the community's decision-making process regarding TB control. This has also helped to combat stigma and enhance community health practices.

The innovative technology (Paper-EMR) adopted by the project, which has already been successfully used for the detection of other diseases (such as screening for obstetric-gynaecological complications and monitoring of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes), has been consistently adapted to the project needs and remains a ready-to-use tool beyond the end of the activities. The Paper-EMR model was assessed as acceptable by the regulatory bodies, as it complements the official WHO document for ACF (checklist already widely used by community volunteers) and data from the study conducted in 2016 regarding the prevalence of TB symptoms, after subsequent consultation meetings with stakeholders, government representatives and the national TB program.

Compared with previous experiences, the application of a digital solution to record data on presumptive TB cases has potential not only related to the reduction of paper material and compilation timeframes, but if applied on a large scale would allow more users to access standardized, evidence-based information that can be referenced to improve ACF strategies, especially in a health emergency situation.

Discussions have been undertaken with members of national program committees dealing with PPM (Private and Public Mix) strategies, to develop and implement the Paper-EMR technology, in integrating the private sector in active TB case finding.

Institutional Sustainability: all project activities were carried out with the support of NTLDP, and in close contact with members of the County and Sub-County Health Department dealing with TB. Constant dialogue with the relevant authorities has helped to enhance the relationship of trust that the OSC already enjoys in the intervention area. A final session was also held to return the results obtained and proposals and issues addressed, which ensured that what was done during the project was fully aligned with government guidelines in this regard.

Among the issues touched upon, special attention was given to the increased involvement of the community level of health activities, such as community volunteers, especially in tracking contacts of positive cases or positives themselves who do not regularly show up at the outpatient clinic for treatment; also important is mass screening of at-risk individuals, such as health care workers, but also within the environment of overcrowded factories and schools.

Economic-financial sustainability: the intervention was a pilot project on the effectiveness and replicability of the incentive scheme to improve healthcare pathways. The different phases of this aspect of the program denote the importance of targeting the incentive scheme according to participants' responses, following a trial-and-error approach. The information gathered in this regard through operational research is valuable for possible further implementation of the strategy.

The project fostered strong strategic collaborations with multiple stakeholders including the National TB Program (NTLDP), members of the County and Sub-County Health Department, implementing partners, public and private stakeholders. These collaborations have enabled synergies for the purpose of combating tuberculosis infection with the goal of keeping the private health system's focus on TB high beyond the duration of the project.

Environmental sustainability: digitization of the documents used allowed for a reduced environmental impact as much of the necessary data can be found online on the dedicated platform. In addition, communication with health care facilities and patients took place totally in a computerized manner.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- The project proposal envisioned the use of a motorcycle equipped to transport sputum specimens collected at the target health centres enabled for the collection procedure, but with the spread of Covid-19 cases in Kenya and subsequent movement restrictions, travel between and within health centres by non-health care personnel has become increasingly complicated and less appropriate. Motorcycle use has therefore been greatly reduced from what was initially budgeted.
- Health staff testing activities for SARS-CoV-2 using GeneXpert technology could not be started at R.U. Neema Hospital. Specific reagents for performing molecular testing for COVID-19 were not distributed in adequate quantities to cover the country's needs.

- Comparing the work done by healthcare facilities throughout the entire implementation period of the activities, it was found that some of them performed a very low number of screenings using Paper-EMR technology. The reasons identified were the followings: monetary incentives were not considered a sufficient tool by the staff involved to implement the active search activities for suspected cases in the private sector; there was a high turnover of staff which resulted in interruptions in the transmission of acquired knowledge, with little sustainability in maintaining skills and implementing continuous screening; limited human resources and the large daily volume of patients at the health centres resulted in limitations in terms of staff willing to spend their time on screening activities.

5.1.12. ATI-TB – Awareness, Tradition, and Innovation to fight Tuberculosis

Project Description:

The project has the general goal of contributing to the elimination of new cases of tuberculosis in Kajiado County in Kenya. The intervention involves strengthening the connection between the community and health services for the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The main target groups are the population categories at risk of TB infection in urban and rural areas that do not have access to health services, as they live in remote areas, not covered by the health service.

Main donors:

AICS - Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Global Fund

Partners:

ZamZam Medical Services, National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program (NTLDP)

Activities:

- Training of medical staff and traditional healers, focus groups with village authorities, communities, schools, and business/cooperative representatives.
- Implementation of communication campaigns and tuberculosis-related awareness days.
- Conducting detection, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis cases in remote rural and urban areas of Kajiado County.
- Operational research to achieve greater area knowledge, availability and management of tuberculosis data.
- Mobile outpatient clinics twice a week in remote and hard-to-reach areas with tuberculosis counselling, screening, diagnosis and treatment services.
- Establishment of a network for incentive delivery and follow-up via messaging.
- Delivery of nutritional supports for TB cases confirmed as actively infected.

Results:

- Conducted 4 days of on-the-job training for medical staff at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital and another 4 days of training for laboratory technicians and non-technical staff by NTLDP.
- Conducted 6 focus-group training and awareness sessions to traditional healers and village authorities from different Maasai tribes and 5 sessions for business/cooperative representatives.
- Health awareness and education sessions in 11 schools, reaching a total of 10,542 students.
- Two 3-month radio campaigns with Mayan FM and Domus Marie Radio stations were conducted in order to reach urban and rural Maasai areas, respectively: the ratings in the campaign time slots reached 151,000 listeners in rural areas and 200,000 listeners in urban areas.
- Conducted 40 awareness days for target and at-risk groups: 10 in overpopulated urban areas, mainly located in North Kajiado Sub-County; while 30 are dedicated to rural areas. Reached 1,298 people.
- In May and June, 1,722 rural residents were reached by mobile clinic services.

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- The COVID-19 pandemic and in particular the lockdown imposed in Kenya from March 27 to May 1, 2021 has made it impossible to implement activities such as awareness and screening days and creating notable difficulties for training activities.
- Counseling/screening/testing activities were moved to the second part of the year so that outreach activities could be finished earlier.
- Delay in obtaining GeneXpert technology that caused a delay in the actual start of part of the project activities, starting with training.
- Scarcity of data and inaccuracy of collection methods regarding the same. In fact, data from the Ministry of Health at the national level are often incoherent and inconsistent, especially when examined over the years.

5.1.13. Sick Cell Anaemia: a Paediatric-Haematological Ambulatory Clinic for the slums of Nairobi

Project Description:

The project has as its general objective the progressive reduction of the mortality and morbidity rates caused by sickle cell anaemia, 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:

Otto per mille Valdese

Partner:

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 haemoglobin 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 care givers).

Indirect beneficiaries:

Nairobi-s northeast community, residing in Ruaraka sub-county, with estimated 500.000 inhabitants.

Activities:

- Implementation of a specialized paediatric haematology diagnostic service, managed by competent staff and accessible to the target population.
- Reduction in mortality and morbidity of patients with sickle cell anaemia 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 anaemia, in the Northeast region of Nairobi, with particular target for paediatric patients, residents of the neighbouring slums.
- Creation of relationships with external stakeholders and partners to implement project sustainability mechanisms.

Results:

- Training of the local team by means of face-to-face sessions, with related CME accreditation and on-the-job training.
- Conducted more than 100 training sessions involving the medical staff of Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital.
- Trained 158 health workers in the management of sickle cell anaemia patients from November 2020 to April 2021.
- Establishment of a follow-up mechanism for patients admitted to paediatrics at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital (or referred). To date, 120 patients are regularly seen at the hospital: female patients account for 52%, 24% of whom are under 5 years old, with an average of 5 new diagnoses per month in the past year.
- Conducted education and awareness sessions on major health issues related to sickle cell anemia with family members and patients. Health education sessions were organized, by means of the Zoom online platform and by means of in-person meetings, reaching 768 beneficiaries, including parents, family members, patients, health workers, stakeholders and caregivers.
- In February, March and April 2021, health talks were organized in collaboration with satellite clinics located in the slums as awareness-raising events.
- A total of 600 free tests were performed.

Favourable factors for achieving goals:

- Positive reception from beneficiaries with respect to education, awareness and training activities.
- Fertile ground and networking based on the presence of pre-existing collaborations and activities at project implementation.
- Despite the health emergency situation, achievement of the expected results was still ensured.

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 human and material resources for emergency management, with reduced opportunities for training and impediments in routine clinical activities.
- Restrictive measures and indirect effects of lockdown: limitation in training activities (reduced number of participants, types of activities to comply with social distancing norms), outreach events (to reduce the risk of contagion), given the project targets (chronic patients and health care workers) as risk categories.

5.1.14. Banjuka Project

Project Description:

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 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 carrying 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, percussions, 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:

A total of 66 sessions were conducted; the sessions include guitar, vocal/singing, percussion, and dance lessons. The table below shows the beneficiaries of the Banjuka project during 2021.

Class	Girls	Boys	Total per class
Guitar	3	10	13
Percussion	2	18	20
Dance	28	4	32
Singing	12	3	15
TOTAL	45	35	80

- Among these, 5 girls and 4 boys completed secondary education, while 5 girls and 2 boys completed their primary education and enrolled in secondary school.
- Conducted 24 psychosocial support sessions on life skills/psychological education and counselling topics.
- Conducted 2 workshops and capacity building training with the aim of increasing the capacity of the project team.
- Online mentorship course with focus on soft skills acquisition and Covid-19 prevention reached a total of 68 beneficiaries (20 men and 48 women).

Factors hindering the achievement of goals:

- The main challenge for the project was the impact of the pandemic. In particular, the pandemic limited the ability to gather children normally into large groups. For this reason, small-group sessions had to be implemented to reduce gatherings.

5.2. Italy

In addition to the project activities in defence of the Right to Health for the most vulnerable segments of population, in Italy 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.

5.2.1. Clinics in Turin

Project Description:

The aim of this action is to improve the health conditions of vulnerable and homeless people in Turin by providing outpatient services and fostering a constructive doctor-patient alliance to bring vulnerable people closer to the National Health System.

Main donors:

Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation

Partner:

Amref/CCM

Activities:

- Definition of predefined and shared guidelines for a comprehensive care of homeless people in Turin.
- Implementation of outpatient activities (medical examinations, over-the-counter pharmaceutical distribution).
- Referral to health facilities and re-engagement of patients with the National Health System.

Results:

- Restarted the outpatient clinics in the city of Turin that stopped operations during the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically: three official locations (Via Nizza 24 - Congregazione San Vincenzo de' Paoli; Via Saccarelli 21 - Gruppo volontariato Vincenziano; Via Pacini 18 - Gruppo Abele).
- Followed 403 patients with 817 total visits.
- Consolidated a working group of 25 health workers (of whom 10 are continuously active).

5.2.2. Health education: knowledge for better living

Project Description:

The project aims at increasing knowledge and raising awareness on issues related to the health of people who are homeless or in distress in the city of Turin.

Main donors:

Eight per Thousand of the Waldensian Church

Partner:

Amref/CCM

Activities:

- Set up of health education meetings on topics such as: hygiene and nutrition; first aid; sexually transmitted diseases; Covid-19 and prevention.

Results:

- Produced training material for conducting the courses.
- Trained 14 participants who attended at least one meeting.

5.2.3. Building networks for the right to health

Project Description:

The project aims at training and capacity building in the management of vulnerable patients of health workers in the Turin area.

Main donors:

Lavazza Foundation

Activities:

- Implementation of a training course for sector workers, run by recognized referents of the Turin network on the following topics: updating homelessness in Turin (Referent Federazione Italiana Organismi per le Persone Senza Dimora); detainee management (Garante Detenuti); situation of ISI/STP Centers (Referent ISI).

Results:

- Trained 25 health workers who participated in the courses.

5.2.4. Torino Street Care

Project Description:

The project involves the work of volunteer doctors and health workers employed in activities to support the homeless or underserved population on the streets of Turin and province in response to the crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sponsor:

Order of Doctors and Dentists of Turin

Partner:

R@inbow for Africa, "Camminare Insieme" Volunteer Association, Amref/CCM, Danish Refugee Council

Activities:

- Medical assistance (emergency visits and support) to homeless people.
- Distribution of clothing, blankets, food and drinks.
- Administration of Covid-19 vaccines.

Results:

- Dedicated 3 boxes (out of 20) at Asl Torino's vaccination hub in Lingotto for vaccination of people who are homeless or in distress.
- Administered more than 30.000 vaccinations in the first month of the boxes' operation.

5.2.5. 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,
- Campus Biomedico University (Rome),
- Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan)
- Luigi Bocconi Commercial University of Milan,
- University of Turin - School of medicine.

5.2.6. Peaks Doc – World Friends

Project Description

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

Activities:

- Coordination of "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" project.
- Coordination of bouldering activities during the Cala Festival Race event.
- Meeting with children from Saint Denis school in Turin to tell about the project "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" and the story of Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti.

5.2.7. PenPal Project

Project Description:

The initiative aims to carry out an epistolary exchange between students in Kenya and Italy. Specifically, Oloolua Primary School in Kajiado and To Be Together School in Acqui Terme have been identified. Students from both schools will produce letters that will later be transported between the two countries during World Friends expat staff trips and missions.

Partner:

Social Cooperative CrescereInsieme

Activities:

- Realization of a promotional video of the initiative to be presented to interested schools in Italy.
- In December 2021, the first letters from Italy to Kenya were sent.

5.3. In Nepal

In 2021, World Friends inaugurated its first project in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. In the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, much infrastructure was destroyed, and the lower Everest Valley, where World Friends' intervention is focused, is far from alpine tourism destinations and therefore excluded from major sources of income. Through its project, World Friends aims to contribute to equitable access to education for the young population of villages in Solukhumbu district.

5.3.1. Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal

Project Description:

The goal of the project is to complete the elementary school in Shree Pattale and Necha Gahri, villages in the lower Everest valley thanks to in-the-field support from the partner in loco: both schools were destroyed in the 2015 earthquake and only partially rebuilt. The initiative wants to remember the well-known and strong mountaineer Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti, who tragically passed away and was already involved in cooperation projects with Peaks Doc - World Friends.

Main donors:

Crowdfunding campaign on Eppela

Partner:

Find The Cure Italia ODV, Monviso Nepal Foundation, Cecy Onlus

Activities:

- Reconstruction of a computer classroom and library at Shree Pattale school.
- Reconstruction of two modules of two classrooms each in Necha Gahri School, built with earthquake-resistant reinforced concrete structure, stone walls and blue sheet metal roof, according to typical local typologies.

Results:

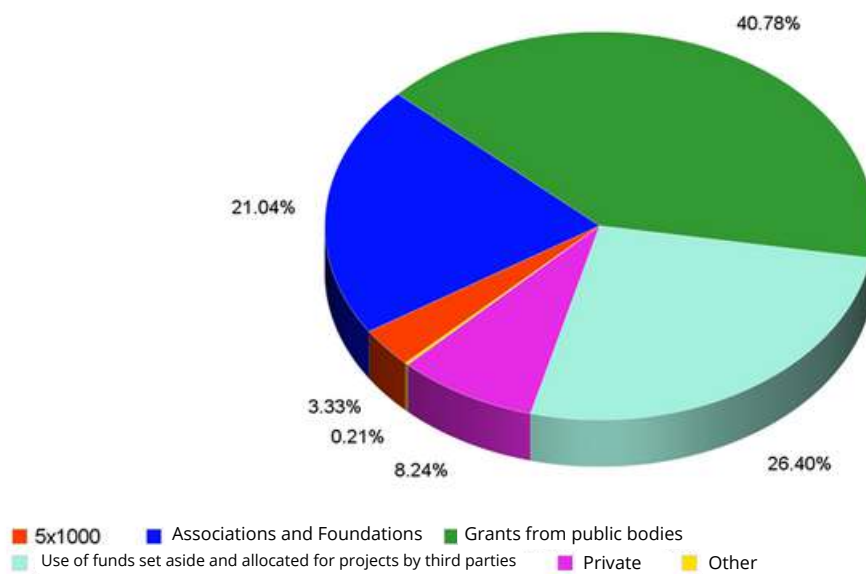
- Started construction of the two classrooms remaining at Shree Pattale School.



6.

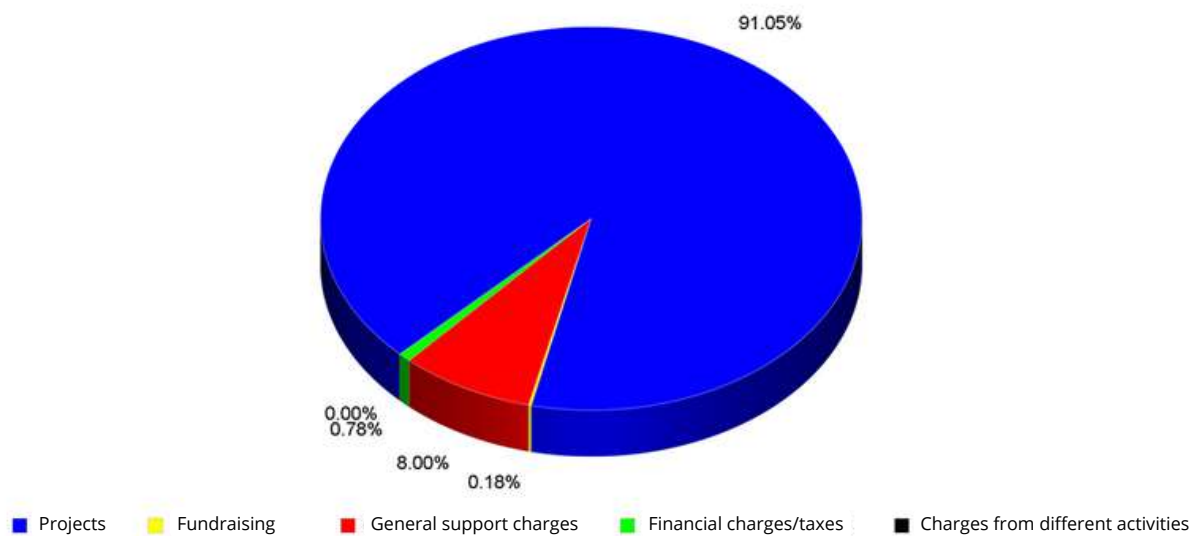
ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL DIMENSION

6.1. Analysis of resources



Analysis of resources 2021	
5x1000	47.481
Associations and Foundations	300.231
Grants from public bodies	581.949
Use of funds set aside and allocated for projects by third parties	376.652
Private	117.526
Other	3.057
Total	1.426.896

6.2. Resource utilization



Resource utilization 2021	
Projects	1.048.518
Fundraising	2.020
General support charges	92.148
Financial charges/taxes	8.943
Charges from different activities	-
Total	1.151.629

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 favour 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.

Choices in favour of di Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus		
Financial year	Number of options	Amount
2018	1.065	53.282,67
2019	1.066	51.328,84
2020	970	47.481,00

6.4. Fundraising campaigns

6.4.1. Send a Doctor

In March 2021, the "Send a Doctor" fundraising campaign was launched, aimed at supporting the work of World Friends doctors and workers active on the field (in Kenya and Italy) in response to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on the most disadvantaged local population. The donations collected through the campaign were directed to support the following activities: screening services on the ground; ambulance activities; health education sessions; and services to improve the health and nutrition status of the most fragile people.

The campaign was disseminated through e-newsletters, print newsletters and social media. To promote fundraising, the 2022 Solidarity Calendar "Roads" was also produced with photographs depicting Kenyan landscapes and people alongside whom the organization has been working for 20 years.

6.4.2. "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" crowdfunding campaign

Following the tragic death of mountaineer Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti, who was already involved in cooperative projects with Peaks Doc - World Friends, World Friends has launched a crowdfunding campaign on the Eppela platform. The name of the campaign (and the project of the same name) is named after the book published by Cala Cimenti. The goal of the campaign was 32.615 euros, needed to build two classrooms to complete the school in Shree Pattale village in Solukhumbu district. The goal was reached in 22 days, and the campaign was extended to raise an additional 26.000 euros for the construction of two modules of two classrooms at the Necha Gahri school located in the same district. A total of 56.003 euros was raised, enabling work to begin at both schools.

6.4.3. 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 twenty 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.

6.4.4. 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 a medical and diagnostical 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, foetal contamination and eventually the mother's and child's death.

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

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

6.4.5. 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 on 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.

6.4.6. 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.

6.5. Charity Events

April 23 - "I'll give you a recipe!": an event co-sponsored with the CrescereInsieme Social Cooperative of Acqui Terme, as part of which participants were delivered Kurdish-Iraqi, Libyan and Syrian specialties directly to their homes. Funds raised during the event supported the Monsignor Giovanni Galliano Fraternity Caritas Canteen in Acqui Terme.

July 29 - "Focaccina Day": an event sponsored by the Pro loco of Ovrano together with the CAI of Acqui Terme. The focaccine were prepared by chef Claudio Barisone and sold thanks to the event's team of volunteers, including the Acqui Terme volunteer group of World Friends. The funds raised benefited World Friends' social and health projects in Kenya and Italy.



7.

OTHER INFORMATION

7.1 Communication

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 telematic newsletter, sent to all registered contacts, has reached about 4.000 contacts, World Friends' Facebook page has over 5.700 members, and its Instagram profile has over 900 followers. On its Youtube channel World Friends publishes videos related to its project activities in the field. The video material produced is used for training, awareness and promotion meetings in the field. Since 2012 World Friends has also activated a Twitter channel, with the profile @WFriends to inform and raise awareness in a direct and immediate way about the work that is carried out every day by operators in Africa and Italy. To date, more than 370 followers are registered. In 2021 World Friends also opened a profile on LinkedIn in order to reach new audiences and experts in the field by posting updates from the field and job openings. The profile has more than 160 followers.

7.1.1. 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 – Mondo Solidale
- Corriere della Sera
- Il Fatto Quotidiano
- A piccole dosi – blog of journalist Maurizio Paganelli on La Repubblica website
- Corriere Torino
- La Stampa – Alessandria
- La Nuova Provincia
- La Voce di Asti
- Gazzetta d'Asti
- L'Ancora

- Alessandria 24
- Il Piccolo
- Alessandria Today
- Meridiani e Montagne
- Salute Internazionale
- Torino Medica

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

- World Friends President Silvana Merico guest on Vatican Radio's "Magari" program hosted by Lucas Duran for the presentation of the book "The Strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic."
- Erika Siffredi, partner and promoter of the project "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" guest on Radio Number One to present the project and related crowdfunding campaign.

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

- Interview with Carlalbero "Cala" Cimenti, Erika Siffredi and Francesco Cassardo in the Rai1 program "Da noi... a ruota libera," hosted by Francesca Fialdini, to tell about the tragic experience on Gasherbrum VII and present the activities of Peaks Doc - World Friends.
- Interview by Enzo Romeo with Dr. Gianfranco Morino on disparities in access to vaccines between the global North and South for Rai2 TG2.
- Insight into the book "The Strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic" and testimony by Dr. Gianfranco Morino in the "Tutto il bello che c'è" column on Rai2's TG2.
- Rai1 TG1's "Covid-19" special featuring Dr. Maria Vittoria De Vita on the pandemic situation in the context of slums and villages in Kajiado.

7.1.2. Insights

During 2021, two in-depth columns on health issues by Dr. Gianfranco Morino and Dr. Antonio Melotto were broadcast on the World Friends website and social channels.

- La forza di Ippocrate

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. Five chapters were published during the year, added to the 17 published the previous year and available on the World Friends website.

Dr. Gianfranco Morino's stories have been collected in the book "The Strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic," enriched by the contribution of Dr. Paolo Leoncini, a World Friends doctor who brings his testimony from the Global North, from the streets of Turin, where he works with homeless people. The book is enriched by the afterword by journalist Maurizio Paganelli (La Repubblica), who helped edit the publication.

All proceeds from sales of the book go to World Friends' development projects. The book is published by the Impressioni Grafiche publishing house in Acqui Terme, Italy.

- World Health

Dr. Antonio Melotto, orthopaedic surgeon and Head of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program, recounts in a simple yet comprehensive manner the concepts of Global Health and One Health, which are useful in understanding the genesis, spread, and ways to effectively respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the year, 1 in-depth article was published and is currently available on the World Friends website.

7.2. Promotional and cultural initiatives

February 4 - "Men of Good Will: Stories of Disability": Dr. Gianfranco Morino, Head of World Friends Kenya, and Dr. Antonio Melotto, Head of the Community Rehabilitation Project, together with Luca Ramigni, a therapist from Fontana Onlus Foundation, participated in an online meeting as part of the "Men of Good Will" event organized by the City of Lurago d'Erba. During the meeting, World Friends physicians explained the context of social distress in which the association operates with a focus on the issue of disability.

February 14 - "Listening to Good Words: Between Pandemic and the International System": online event with the participation of Riccardo Redaelli, professor of Geopolitics and History and Institutions of Asia at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, organized together with Azione Cattolica Italiana and Azione Cattolica - Diocese of Acqui Terme.

March 25 - Nendoruko school inauguration ceremony: representatives from World Friends Kenya attended the inauguration of the school, which was built with support from Alba Care Foundation.

April 7 - Quality Healthcare Kenyan Awards: the second edition of the event, held online on World Health Day, featured Dr. Gianfranco Morino, recipient of the "Life Time Achievement Award". The initiative honours excellence in the field of health care in Kenya. During the ceremony, the confirmation of Level 5 in Certified Service Quality at Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital according to PharmAccess Group's SafeCare system was recalled.

May 25 - "27 years of cooperation between Africa and Italy": the online event, sponsored by the Ivo de Carneri Onlus Foundation, featured Dr. Antonio Melotto, Head of the Community Rehabilitation Program, who brought his testimony on the disability prevention project on Pemba Island.

June 9 - "Global Health Beyond the Emergency": during the online event, the policy brief of the same name by the organizations of the Italian Global Health Network was presented. Dr. Gianfranco Morino participated in the event, presenting World Friends' contribution to the document and illustrating the difficulties related to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the context of the slums of Nairobi and in the daily work of the health staff of Ruaraka Uhai Neema Hospital.

July 2 - "We were Immortals": the evening presentation of the book of the same name, held in Valloriate (CN) as part of "Nuovi Mondi Festival," featured climber and author Maurizio "Manolo" Zanolla, who narrated the project "Lying on top of the world: a school for Nepal" and promoted the crowdfunding campaign associated with it.

July 10-11 - "Riccardo Borney Memorial": bouldering rally and competition in Cogne-Lillaz (Aosta Valley), as part of which Dr. Paolo Leoncini, Vice President of World Friends, presented the project "Lying on top of the world, a school for Nepal."

September 3 - "Convivere": the evening, held in the municipality of Alice Bel Colle, is part of the series of "Intrecci" meetings organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the CrescereInsieme Social Cooperative of Acqui Terme. As part of the evening, a message was screened by Dr. Gianfranco Morino directly from Nairobi.

September 15 - "SonoMobile: Territorial Ultrasound and Safe Pregnancy": an online event held for the closing of the SonoMobile project during which the results achieved during the three-year implementation, sustainability and future prospects of the project were presented. The event was attended by: Dr. Gianfranco Morino, Lucia Pincerato, Dr. Maria Vittoria De Vita (World Friends); Luca Scali (Global Health Center - Tuscany Region); Isabella Cipullo (University of Turin); Mike Mulongo (External Evaluation Consultant); Pratap Kumar (Health-E-Net).

October 1 - 31: "Pink Month" - an initiative dedicated to the prevention of breast cancer during the month of October. Conducted breast cancer education and prevention sessions at R.U. Neema Hospital and in partner health facilities in informal settlements in Nairobi. Promoted an awareness campaign via social media.

October 28: "Unequal Health. The Covid in the South and North of the World" (Acqui Terme): presentation event of the book "The Strength of Hippocrates: Stories at the Time of the Pandemic" at the Church of St. Francesco in Acqui Terme with the participation of author Dr. Gianfranco Morino. The evening, which ties in with the theme of Mission Day, is organized by the St. Guido Pastoral Community in collaboration with interparish and diocesan Catholic Action, Impressioni Grafiche publishing house and CrescereInsieme Social Cooperative. The event was accompanied by live music by Maestro Enrico Pesce.

November 4 - "Unequal Health. The Covid in the South and North of the World" (Turin): presentation event of Dr. Gianfranco Morino's book "The strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic" at the headquarters of the Salesian Community Valdocco in Turin with the participation of authors Dr. Gianfranco Morino and Dr. Paolo Leoncini. The evening was presented by Paolo Cerrato and featured the participation of singer-songwriter Roberto Cavalcante who interpreted great hits of poetry in music, from Bob Dylan to Fabrizio De Andrè.

November 5 - "World Friends: twenty years for the rights in the peripheries of the world": online webinar for the 20th anniversary of World Friends with insights on issues related to rights, health, development. The event featured as speakers: Father Alex Zanotelli, Comboni Missionary; Maria José Caldés Pinilla - Center for Global Health - Tuscany Region; Giovanni Mottini - University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome; Maurizio Paganelli - La Repubblica; Marilena Bertini - Amref/CCM; Gianfranco Morino, Federico Gobbi, Washington Njogu, Antonio Melotto, Paolo Leoncini - World Friends. The event was moderated by Silvana Merico, President of World Friends.

November 5 - "Unequal Health. The Covid in the South and North of the World" (Canelli): presentation event of the book "The strength of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic" at the headquarters of the Cassa di Risparmio di Asti in Canelli with the participation of the author Dr. Gianfranco Morino. The evening is organized by Caritas Canelli and the "G. Monticone" Civic Library under the patronage of the Municipality of Canelli.

November 9 - Lecture on Tropical Surgery: Dr. Gianfranco Morino led a lecture on Tropical Surgery at the Campus Bio-Medical University in Rome on the book presentation tour "The Power of Hippocrates: stories at the time of the pandemic."

November 11 - "EuCARE: European cohorts of patients and schools to advance response to epidemics": a European project coordinated by EuResist Network that involved more than 60 scientists from Europe and the World to clarify crucial aspects on the Covid-19 epidemic. Among the invited scientists, Dr. Gianfranco Morino participated in the event held in Rome.

November 13 - "The Strength of Hippocrates": event presenting the book "The Strength of Hippocrates: Stories at the Time of the Pandemic" with the participation of author Dr. Gianfranco Morino and World Friends President Silvana Merico. The event was enhanced by the recital inspired by the book and brought to the stage by Augusto Benemeglio, Gabriella Manca and Carlo Ninni. The event was held at the Don Mario Torregrossa Theater at the San Carlo da Sezze Parish in Acilia (RM).

November 13 - "Enciende la Llama 2021": an online campaign promoted by Manos Unidas featuring staff members of R.U. Neema Hospital. The event is a symbolic event to promote solidarity and involves all Manos Unidas partners.

November 21 - "Cala Festival Race": multidisciplinary event (bouldering, mountain biking, running, paragliding) in memory of Carlalberto "Cala" Cimenti held in Trana (TO). The event was organized by Erika Siffredi with the support of Peaks Doc - World Friends and B-side Torino. The day was richly attended by amateur and professional athletes.

November 24 - "Choices in the End of Life": a workshop organized by AMREF-CCM at Toolbox Coworking in Turin to explore the importance of cultural choices with respect to the end of life and how health professionals can approach the issue. The event was moderated by Dr. Paolo Leoncini.

November 26 - Link2007 Convention: convention held online with the participation of more than 60 representatives of the NGO members of the Link2007 network. The session opened with the report of Link2007 president Roberto Ridolfi and the reporting of the Paolo Dieci award, and then proceeded with the presentation of five themes that constituted the main areas of work: Policy and Advocacy; Result Based Approach; Communication; Emergencies; and Budgeting and Reporting.

December 1, 2021 - Memorial March for AIDS Victims: On the occasion of World AIDS Day, the staff of R.U. Neema Hospital organized a memorial march for AIDS victims, aimed at raising awareness in the local community and combating stigma.

7.3. Meetings

7.3.1. Assembly of Members

During 2021, the Assembly of Members of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus met once in ordinary session (for presentation, discussion and vote on the final balance sheet 2020; presentation, discussion and vote on the budget 2021; appointment of Supervisory Body; approval of Annual Report 2020; twentieth anniversary of World Friends; updates on Kenya and Italy projects; miscellaneous).

7.3.2. Executive Committee

During 2021, the Executive Committee of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus met 7 times to carry out the activities and duties stipulated under Art. 11, c. 5 of the Statute of Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus.

7.4. 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 e-mail address (vigilanza@world-friends.org).

7.4.1. Ethical Principles

The activities of World Friends - as an organization and in the person of its members, employees and collaborators - are inspired by the principles of human solidarity and are characterized 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.

7.5. Litigation and disputes

As of 2021, there are no litigations or disputes involving Amici del Mondo - World Friends Onlus and/or its members, governance members, employees, and collaborators.



Amici del Mondo World Friends Onlus

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