



People for development

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EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH THOSE IN NEED!

The other person who we meet could infect us, or maybe, we could infect that person.

During this pandemic, every day we breathe a strange uncertainty, from which we have no respite.

From all sides, the appeals ring out to maintain a safe social distance, to protect each other. Such insistent calls enter the very fibre of our being, almost to the point that we are tempted to roll up like a hedgehog, to lower our eyes, nearly unconsciously, as if in doing so we could defend ourselves better.

It is against this dehumanizing temptation, that the AVSI Tent Campaign 2020 - 2021 is a provocation: while we take care of our own safety and the safety of others, at the same, we look beyond, open, allowing ourselves to be surprised, and to embrace reality, in all its richness. We do not lose the possibility - through distraction or fear of exposing ourselves - to see and to listen to those gestures, words and witnesses which provoke in us an ever-new awareness of our existence here in the world.

It is only through expanding our gaze, being open to wonder, that are we able to grasp the needs of those around us, which often we are surprised to discover, to be the same as our own. Together we can try to respond to these needs, living a solidarity, which is called charity, and which gives meaning to our journey.

The AVSI 2020-2021 campaign aims to draw new motivation from these unprecedented times: AVSI sees these times as an opportunity to be present and active, close to the needy, even more so today, than throughout the past fifty years of its activities. The more times are challenging and urgent, the more those who work for development focused on the dignity of the person, feel compelled to respond. That word “close” is the pivot of our journey: it expresses the idea of a respectful and steadfast nearness.

It is a meter distance that cannot be measured. It is a new relationship; whose nature lies in the creation of a new personal relationship between an “I” and a “You”. A new relationship capable of recognizing each other, of listening to the needs of each other, to the point of being available, active, in finding solutions for them. This type of closeness is possible, not only among people who live in the same place (today the number of Italian “new” poor is increasing, and that is worrying), but also those who live on the other side of the world. Such a closeness is possible, being unimpeded by borders, but rather crossing over them, and opening up to hope. That same hope which today, while surrounded by so much uncertainty, we all desire.

Certainly today, with all the rules that we must follow, a greater creativity will be needed to invent ways to work for the raising funds for our projects, in safety. But we do not lack creativity! We will be helped by mutual dialogue, knowledge of the AVSI projects and attentive listening to the testimonies of those, like Mireille and her street children from Cameroon.

Maria Laura Conte, AVSI Communication Director



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Donation through Bank transfer
Bank Account in the name of AVSI FONDAZIONE
IBAN IT04D0521601614000000005000
Swift code: BPCVIT2S
Bank CREDITO VALTELLINESE
Sede Milano Stelline, Corso Magenta 59

AVSI Tents campaign projects 2020 - 2021

CAMEROON – Yaoundè

With Mireille close to the street children

CONTEXT: Cameroon is a country situated in equatorial Africa, where the number of street children is very high. It is estimated that **thousands of young people, between the ages of 10 – 20, migrate to urban centers to escape from difficult family situations** and pursuing the illusion of a better life. However, they end up struggling to fit into their new situation, primarily due to poor education; in most cases, finding themselves unable to locate a safe shelter.

OBJECTIVE: In this project, AVSI aims to reduce this phenomenon through the family, social and professional reintegration of these children and also of young offenders released from prison, and to support them in their personal situations, made even more critical by the pandemic.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: Thanks to collaboration with the Edimar Center – a center which, since 2002, helps street children in Yaoundé to rediscover the value and dignity of their life - AVSI will be able to support 100 vulnerable young people. This support will take the form of developing work skills, encouragement in accessing the world of work, or assistance to return home to the countryside.

- **FUND RAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 50,000
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 100 vulnerable children

Support the family, social and professional reintegration of 100 young vulnerable people:

- With € 50 you help a young person to receive their essential needs, medical care and clothes
- With € 500 you support the education and training of a child
- With € 2,000 you assist a young person to start a micro-business

SYRIA Damascus and Aleppo

Open Hospitals – Four years of solidarity

CONTEXT: The “Open Hospitals” project was conceived in 2016 as a concrete response to the Syrian people’s request for help. It became operational in 2017 thanks to the initiative of His Eminence Cardinal Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio in Syria, together with the support of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

OBJECTIVE: The aim of the project is summed up in its title: to open the doors of hospitals (specifically the Italian and French Hospitals in Damascus, and the St. Louis Hospital in Aleppo) to the greatest number of poor and needy people, who otherwise would be unable to afford the medical care they require. In recent years, various treatments have been provided free of charge, including the treatment of complex and common diseases. For, if these conditions were left untreated, the outcome could be as fatal as that of the bombs and bullets of war.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: In three years this project has already provided Syrians in need with more than 38,000 free and quality care units (diagnostics, therapies, surgery). This year it will also provide home care support for COVID-19 patients.

- **FUND RAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 200,000
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 10,000 Syrians in need

Participate in fundraising to strengthen three non-profit hospitals in Aleppo and Damascus and assure care for the neediest:

- € 50, 00 covers cost of a medical examination and diagnostic tests
- € 100,00 covers the cost of a day-hospitalization
- € 2,000.00 covers the costs of 10 surgical procedure, e.g., removal of thyroid, appendix or hernioplasty

BURUNDI - Informal neighborhoods of Bujumbura and rural areas of Kayanza and Cibitoke

Hope at work

CONTEXT: Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, but it has a great resource: a young population, with 18 years of age being the median age. However, they need support. This is why AVSI in Burundi invests in young people, through measures to prevent school dropout, to assist with lack of job prospects, and to solve unemployment.

OBJECTIVE: AVSI is working to create job opportunities for young people and vulnerable women in the informal neighborhoods of Bujumbura, the largest city in Burundi, and also in the rural areas of the provinces of Kayanza and Cibitoke.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: the young people and women involved will be able to access literacy courses, participate in training sessions on life skills, for example, cognitive, emotional and relational skills and abilities allowing people to face the challenges of daily life, and professional training courses in retail sales, catering, crafts. In addition, micro-enterprises for the processing of agricultural products will be supported, through financing and the supply of electricity generation systems for the operation of machinery. As for training, we are going to work with our local partner MEO Center (Mères, Enfants, Orphelins), active in Bujumbura since 2001, to support mothers with children and orphans, in the northern neighborhoods of the city.

- **FUND RAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 90,000
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 3,000 young people and vulnerable women

Provide an educational and professional opportunity to 3,000 young people and vulnerable-women

- With € 50 you support a three-month training course for a young person
- With € 500 you support vocational training courses for a class of 15 young people
- With € 5,000 you provide a full training course and access to employment for 10 young people.

ITALY

Close to those in need

CONTEXT: “Close to those in need” is the AVSI program set up in Italy as a response to the Covid-19 emergency. It already encompasses more than 20 companies, institutional donors, foundations and partners. The crisis is affecting many families in a dramatic way; people who had never known poverty before, are today unable to pay off their essential bills or afford costs involved in distance learning access by their children.

OBJECTIVE: The Tents Campaign contributes to the aspect of the program related to the care of families who find themselves in difficulty. Support for the program is gratefully received as well from a network of partners also involved in providing family assistance. These include: *Martinengo Cooperativa*, *Portofranco*, *Associazione Resilience Onlu*, together with the religious congregation of sisters *Istituto Suore di Carità dell'Assunzione*, town councils and local institutions.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: Provision of psychological-social support to vulnerable children and their families through teacher home visits and training of social workers to adapt to their new work, along with the provision of tablets and computers, cash support, and the supply of personal protective equipment and sanitary supplies.

- **FUND RAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 400,000
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 400 children and teenagers 3,400 vulnerable families, 150 small and medium-sized enterprises

Support 3,400 Italian families in difficulty due to the COVID-19 emergency

- With € 50 you donate an educational kit to a child
- With € 100 you provide psychosocial accompaniment for a child
- With € 1,000 you allow three children to participate in distance learning activities for three months

LEBANON - Marjaoun

Never too far away with distance support

CONTEXT: Lebanon is undergoing a very serious economic and political crisis, which has deteriorated due to the COVID-19 epidemic and in addition by the explosion on 4 August last, in Beirut port.

More than 50% of the population lives below the poverty line. This puts a greater strain on relations between the local population and the refugees. The country is home to 1,500,000 Syrians and 300,000 Palestinians, numbers that, given the context, make the provision of basic services even more complex.

OBJECTIVE: AVSI will further develop distance support activities to meet the essential needs, like food, housing, health care and education of 1,200 children. Alongside these, it will also promote literacy courses, savings and credit associations, vocational training courses and income-generating activities for their parents. In other words, the growth path of each child is always conceived in relation to the child's family and community, so that development takes place in a serene environment.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: Thanks to this project, AVSI will support educational activities in schools and online teaching of children. It will also carry out awareness-raising activities and distribute food, sanitation and recreational goods in informal Syrian camps. Moreover, the building of Fada2i, the "AVSI House" in Southern Lebanon will continue. It was designed - gratis - by architect Mario Botta, and will become an educational and professional reference point for more than 100,000 people.

- **FUND RAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 150,000
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 1200 vulnerable children

Support 1,200 Syrian and Lebanese children on their growth path: help them and the whole community.

- With € 50 you donate books and school supplies to a child
- With € 312 you can provide distance support to a child for one year
- With € 2,000 you contribute to training and employment of 5 young people

MEXICO - Oaxaca and Jalisco

Migrant children, no longer alone

CONTEXT: In recent years, migrants from Central America no longer consider Mexico as a transit country on the migratory route to the America, but as a country of temporary or permanent residency.

Consequently, Mexico has to manage long-stay cases, in particular those of children and adolescents who are fleeing from some of the most violent countries in the world. Furthermore, in the majority of cases, they travel alone, running the risk of having to endure all kinds of abuses.

OBJECTIVE: Thanks to the ongoing “Digna Inclusión” (Dignified Inclusion) project in the states of Oaxaca and Jalisco, AVSI aims to protect and promote the rights of migrant children and adolescents, and to strengthen the role of Mexican civil society, in the promotion of human rights and democratic reforms.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER: With this project, AVSI proposes an alternative model of support to migrant children and adolescents, through the creation of a dedicated center, the support of existing reception structures and the training of center staff. The local host community will also be involved in an information and awareness campaign. The organization “Crecemos Dijo”, which is particularly active in the fight against malnutrition and school dropout, and has worked with AVSI in the past, will also collaborate in this project.

- **FUNDRAISING OBJECTIVE:** € 63,400
- **PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 500 migrant children and adolescents

Help 500 migrant children and teenagers in the states of Oaxaca and Jalisco

- With € 50 you can provide food for 10 days to a family with two children aged 4-10
- With € 500 you donate a distance education kit for 8 teenagers
- With € 2,000 you provide educational material for 200 children