

A.S.V.I. Onlus Associazione di Solidarietà e Volontariato Insieme Onlus, registered either in Italy (Volunteer Associations' Regional Register 8 Mi – n° 7677/2001), and in Kosovo since 01.08.2002 (U.N.M.I.K. Law 1999/22 n°5300384-2) and Ngo Kosovo Register n° 5300384-2 (in accordance with Law n° 03/L-134 paragraph 9 and 17). ASVI members have been active for years in the former Yugoslavia and in Kosovo immediately after the end of the war, August 1999.

Where we are active: in Kosovo, self-proclaimed Republic since 17.02.2008, and mainly in Mitrovica, important town in the Northern part of Kosovo, crossed by the Ibar river, an ideal border between the Northern and the Southern sectors: the two existing bridges, instead of connecting the opposite river sides and their inhabitants, have become the symbols of hatred and division between the different ethnicities, a critical situation that had been kept under control with the presence of foreign military forces.

Our Goals: to carry out a number of projects aiming at supporting individuals and small communities of any ethnicities, mainly fostering initiatives to the advantages of families, education, health, work.

Duration of the project: The Project is active since 1999 and reconfirmed on a yearly basis, after a careful evaluation of its validity and effectiveness.

Funds: Our projects are financed thanks to the contributions of Italian private supporters, ASVI members, funds rising initiatives.

Co-operation: Asvi Onlus collaborates with other associations and welcomes any support from people or institutions willing to share our ideal, that is the refusal of any political, religious or ethnic distinction between those who provide assistance and those who receive it.

Our Projects

TOGETHER IN MITROVICA: our whole activity hinges upon this project. Our Association together with a number of Italian supporters offers material, moral, medical and psychological assistance to help the weakest part of the population hit by the civil war. Our policy is to choose, carry on and achieve every project under our direct control and involvement, in order to guarantee its successful conclusion. Our activities mainly focus on **families, health, work, education and social issues**. Specific projects are developed within each of these sectors of intervention, as summarized here below.

FAMILY: From 2000 to 2010 through the **Adoptions Project** a number of Italian families 'adopted' 100 families in Kosovo, whose situation was critical after the war: these families had been helped recovering an acceptable living standard, in the respect of mutual solidarity among different ethnicities, either Serbian, Albanian, Rom, Bosnian and Gorani. The Project came to an end in 2010, because all the adopted families had reached an acceptable self-sufficiency. On the basis of the experience and competencies acquired, in 2001 we started up the new **Family Support Project**, aiming at lifting out of a chronic state of poverty a larger number of Kosovar families. This Project is carried out in cooperation with local Associations, who suggest ASVI a certain number of needy families. There are six Organizations involved in the Project, 350 supported families corresponding to 2000 people. We provide them with food supplies, medicines, napkins, sanitary and incontinence pads, pieces of furniture and other essential materials for the families' maintenance. ASVI and the local Organizations are committed in doing their best to avoid chronic dependence on their assistance and try to stimulate each family's search for self-sufficiency, thank to precise working projects or microcredit assignments. The role of ASVI is to plan and manage this activity, to raise funds and find materials. Local Organizations have the task to select families, take care of them and distribute the materials provided by ASVI, who is constantly verifying the correct carrying out of the project.

HEALTH: Medical Projects: We put in action the regular delivery of essential treatments and medicines to chronic patients not in a position to buy them. When possible, many crucial interventions for the patients' survival are carried out, as it was the case for hundred people. **Medical Projects for Children:** Our direct involvement has been asked more and more frequently for kids requiring difficult interventions: for some of them there would be no hope even if transported in Italy, but in some other cases we succeeded in saving their young lives. To date, 50 children already came in Italy for correct diagnosis or difficult cardiosurgical interventions at Milano Hospitals. Due to the increasing number of requests, a new project started up in 2009, which includes two screenings per year in Kosovo, followed by the young patients' trip to Italy. Screening operations are performed in our ambulatory in Mitrovica, where Italian specialists examine young patients suffering from serious pathologies, incurable in Kosovo. **Dentist Projects:** we assisted two Albanian and one Serbian dentists in restoring their activities; the cooperation with the dentist's surgery Albaitaldent pursues in providing free treatments to our adopted families. In April 2008 a new dental project started up in the aim of preventing and decreasing the decay pathology, of promoting active prophylaxis interventions, of training oral health operators. The project also included training and practical interventions in schools, and free treatments to children in the dental ambulatory managed by our volunteer dentists. In 2010, Mitrovica Municipality Health Services took on the responsibility of managing the dental ambulatory we had fit out, situation that allowed ASVI to reach its goal of donating a dental ambulatory to be directly run by public health authorities.

WORK: Start-up Projects: It is extremely important to support people in restarting their pre-war activities by providing them with tools or materials which are necessary for their activities. To date, we already assisted the start-up of various professions, such as dentists, hairdressers and barbers, forgers and plumbers, tailors and dressmakers, barkeepers and glass-makers, farmers and different commercial activities. In 2010 we strongly engaged ourselves to start-up new cooperative projects and to promote the micro-financing of new initiatives. In particular, we provided materials and swarms to start-up three new bee-keepings and delivered 8 cows to as many families: related profits allow these families to support themselves without external economic contribution. In 2011 we are planning the purchase of other cows and the development of several and different micro-activities.

EDUCATION SUPPORT: We have been assisting our adopted families' children during their school careers, in order to help willing pupils and deserving students reach their cultural goals, an essential asset for their own and their country's future. Our support consists in delivering school items and in purchasing books and texts. **University Project:** Grant assignment to university students. Since the beginning of this Project in 2007/08, we donated eleven scholarships of Euro 500,00 each, an amount corresponding to 50% of the annual costs of a university student. The contribution is granted for the duration of university studies, on condition that the student complies with the precise rules and clauses we fixed. At present, four students already got their degrees. **School Project:** We are convinced that education is the basic requirement during the process of building up a character, therefore we assist different institutions and schools in Kosovo. **ICT Project:** we regularly deliver Personal Computers to young students of the families we assist, for a first approach to informatics. We also supplied schools with some PCs, in order to set up small info labs.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Orphan Asylum in Kotlina: This project has been closed at the end of 2007, after the achievement of what we had planned: a new school with classrooms, gymnasium, laboratories, completely furnished and equipped; a fitted playground and an arranged outdoor area surrounded with an enclosure. In addition, we provided medical and dental assistance and delivered different materials. **Handikos Project:** We support and share the activities of the Kosovo association named Handikos, which looks after disabled. We dutifully assist both delegations (Serbian and Albanian), with a monthly contribution of € 50each. We are also engaged in finding in Italy all the necessary materials, from food supplies to physiotherapeutic equipments. In the last few years we donated three special vans for disabled, in order to set up a transportation service to/from the hospitals where the disabled follow their daily treatments. We also support in different ways the school run by **Handikos South**, which assists several disabled children with educational, playing, and physiotherapeutic activities. As the building itself was crumbling, in 2008 we accomplished restoration interventions and the obvious elimination of any architectural obstacles. **Special School for Mental Diseases:** It is a special school in North Mitrovica which takes care of children suffering from serious psychophysical problems. The funds they receive are extremely limited and can only cover running costs and salaries; therefore any activities should be financed by teachers and families, too poor to afford such costs when they have problems in finding food and clothing. We committed ourselves in providing the school with a monthly contribution of € 50,00 for survival expenses. **Let's adopt a building:** 28 refugee families coming from different Kosovo areas are now living in the same crumbling building. We adopted them and therefore they receive food supplies, clothing and other indispensable articles. **N.G.O. Speranza, Q.M.F.G., Kosovo Blinds Union, F.C. Rudar** are local associations that asked for our support: we provide moderate economic contributions, but consistent food and clothes supplies. After verifying each association's moral standards, we decided to assist them in order to distribute our aid to a larger part of population.

IN ITALY: Since the beginning of our activities, Asvi has been supporting individuals and communities and has been collaborating with other Italian associations. Aware of people's suffering also in our surroundings, ASVI is committed in Italy too.

A report is available for each single project, providing details on its purposes, activities, funds, beneficiaries.

The inalienable principles that rule our Projects are:

- a) equal dignity between subjects providing assistance and those being assisted
- b) foster a peaceful cohabitation of the different ethnic groups.
- c) direct control on distribution of supplies and transparent management of all funds and materials we receive.
- d) awareness of being part of a group of different ethnicities but all with the aim of seeking reciprocal dialogue and coexistence

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