



A.S.V.I. Onlus

Associazione di Solidarietà e Volontariato Insieme

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SUMMARY OF A.S.V.I. PROJECTS – as at September 2009

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 (in accordance with U.N.M.I.K. Law 1999/22 n°5300384-2), 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 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; Albanians live in the Southern sector and the population now occupies the region from the Ibar river down to the Albanian and Macedonian borders. The Northern sector is home to the Serbians, whose territory extends as far as the official Serbian border. This situation is the origin of division and hatred between the different ethnic groups, a critical situation that has been kept under control for several years with the presence of foreign military forces, but which caught fire again after the recent unilateral proclamation of Kosovo's independence on 17 February 2008.

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

Duration of the projects: From the very beginning 11 year ago, we reconfirm our commitment on a yearly basis, after a careful evaluation of its validity and effectiveness.

Funds: our projects are financed thanks to the contributions of Italian 'adopting' families, private supporters and ASVI members, funds rising initiatives.

Co-operation: A.s.v.i. Onlus collaborates with other associations and welcomes any contributions 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: Adoptions Project: a certain number of Italian families 'adopted' a number of families living in Kosovo, whose situation was critical after the war. Our aim is to help these families in recovering an acceptable living standard, in the respect of mutual solidarity among different populations. At present we have 50 adopted families (Serbian, Albanian, Rom, Bosnian, Gorani). Each family is regularly visited by our volunteers who provide – where necessary - a monthly contribution of 30 €, food supplies, detergents and soaps, clothing and household linen, medicines, materials to rebuild their houses. Since the beginning of our project, we assisted 87 families: once they became self-sufficient, our support has been suspended in order to replace them with new families.

HEALTH: Medical Projects: In cooperation with some volunteer doctors and dentists we try to assure treatments, prevention and medicines. When possible, crucial interventions for the patient's survival are carried out, as it was often the case. **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. 27 children already came in Italy for diagnosis or difficult cardiosurgical interventions at Milano Hospitals. Due to the increasing number of requests, a new project started up in 2009, which includes a yearly screening in Kosovo followed by the young patients' trip to Italy. In May 2009 in Mitrovica, four specialists examined over 60 children, out of which 28 need urgent interventions that cannot be performed in Kosovo. We already expect to receive 12 children before the end of the year and 11 in 2010, but this figure is likely to increase after the planned 2010 screening. **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 includes training and practical interventions in schools, free treatments to children in the dental ambulatory managed by our volunteer dentists. Dental treatments to children and members of our adopted families are totally free of charge.

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. 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 2009 we 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 7 cows to as many families: the related profits allow these families to support themselves without our economic contribution. In 2010 we are planning the purchase of other cows and the development of several and different micro-activities

EDUCATION: Scholarships: Our purpose is to assist our adopted families' children during their school careers, in order to help willing pupils and gifted students reach their cultural goals, an essential asset for their own future and that of their country. Our support consists in delivering school items, in purchasing books and texts, in paying university fees. For the school year 2008/09 we donated seven scholarships for the amount of Euro 500,00 each, which corresponds to 50% of the annual costs of a university student. The contribution will be granted for the duration of university studies, if the student complies with the precise rules and clauses we fixed. **School Project:** We are convinced that education is the basic requirement during the process of moulding a character: for this reason we assist different institutions and schools in Kosovo. **ICT Project:** we regularly deliver Personal Computers to young students of our adopted families, 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, because we achieved what we had planned: a new school with classrooms, gymnasium, laboratories, completely furnished and equipped; a fitted playground and an arranged external 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 with particular attention to handicapped children. We dutifully assist both delegations, one on the Serbian side and the other on the Albanian side, with a monthly contribution of € 50 each. We also provide them with 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 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 autism, epilepsy, and other serious psychophysics 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, food, clothing, and school supplies. **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 supplies and clothes. After verifying each association's moral standards, we decided to assist them in order to share our aid on 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:

- equal dignity between subjects providing assistance and those being assisted
- foster a peaceful cohabitation of the different ethnic groups.
- direct control on distribution of supplies and transparent management of all funds and materials we receive.
- 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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