



Together we can make the world
a better place.

Annual Report 2017

A YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

COOPI is a Participatory

Foundation, listed in the Registry of Legal Entities of the Prefecture of Milan.

It is an NGO registered in the List of the Civil Society Organisations according to the Article 26 of the Italian law 11.08.2014 n. 125

It is an ONLUS, according to the Italian Law D. Lgs. 4.12.1997 n. 460

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- Current account Banca Popolare Etica IBAN IT89A0501801600000011023694 "COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale ONG Onlus"
- Online: www.coopi.org

Vision

COOPI aspires to a world without poverty, able to achieve the ideals of equality, justice, sustainable development and social cohesion thanks to the encounter and partnership between all peoples.

Mission

Through the commitment, involvement, resolution and professionalism of all its staff, COOPI wants to contribute to the process of fighting against poverty and to the growth of the communities with which it cooperates all over the world, intervening in situations of emergency, rehabilitation and development, in order to reduce the unbalance between the North and South of the world and between developed areas and depressed or developing areas.



Values

**Solidarity - Transparency - Neutrality -
Participation - Sustainability of Interventions - Responsibility -
Knowledge Transfer - Innovation -
Respect for Diversity and Fight against Discrimination -
Valorisation of Human Resources.**

Editorial

We have decided not to limit ourselves to intervening when there is an emergency, only to then move on elsewhere; instead, we remain alongside the communities hit by those emergencies even in the medium-to-long-term, so as to help them overcome their critical issues and launch a reconstruction process.

COOPI's worldwide operations increased once again in 2017.

It means also that the number of humanitarian crises we have tried to respond to as effectively as ever has increased. We have decided not to limit ourselves to intervening when there is an emergency, only to then move on elsewhere; instead, we remain alongside the communities hit by those emergencies in the medium-to-long-term, so as to help them overcome their critical issues and launch a reconstruction process.

Our 'Help a Warrior' campaign is a good example of this way of working. In regions where armed conflicts are raging, children cannot lead a normal life, go to school or play: they really do need to be 'young warriors' to tackle these challenges day after day. In such situations, we don't limit ourselves to providing food and shelter; we look past that emergency and reconstruct a 'normal' environment where even 'young warriors' can go to school in safety and serenity.

Over the last year, humanitarian crises have often been intertwined to the phenomenon of migration and therefore to the fears of many people, as well as media hype. We decided not to work in Italy where others undoubtedly have more experience, but rather to continue doing what we do best: trying to alleviate the conditions of economic and social hardship that drive millions of people to immigrate.

In the Lake Chad basin, for example, COOPI increased its commitment enormously in 2017. This is a crucial area that has been hit by drought and the insecurity caused by Boko Haram attacks, and is crossed by migration routes that lead from the heart of the continent to Libya. COOPI works in all four of the countries hit by the crisis with specially tailored programmes that range from food security to the reconstruction of schools and re-integration of rejected migrants.

In this annual report, we will attempt to account all these activities. However, above and beyond this statement, our friends know that they can always have up-to-date information about our work visiting www.cooopi.org or sending me a message: I will be happy to reply.



Claudio Ceravolo
COOPI President

A Letter from the Director

It has been a challenging year that has seen COOPI involved in a number of different contexts in many countries - a factor that has helped increase its credibility on the international stage and its profile.



In 2017 COOPI grew considerably both in Countries where we were already based and in Countries where we had never worked before. More and more donors and institutions recognise COOPI to be a capable and reliable partner in the field and this is one of the reasons of its development.

Migration, particularly linked to wars and humanitarian emergencies, dominated the international scene in 2017. COOPI's response intensified both in migrants' Countries of origin and in transit Countries, first of all in the regions of West Africa and the Middle East, where we supported and trained migrants, providing both shelter and logistical support in order to help them recover from the trauma they have been through and explain the risks they run by migrating. Among the Countries that have seen COOPI's greatest commitment on this area, there is Niger where we have assisted many migrants evacuated from Libya.

During 2017, we also strengthened our regional approach to intervention in humanitarian crisis and our networking with other NGOs, with local authorities and institutions; this has helped strengthening the effectiveness of our work on the field. Our constant search for international partnerships has made a difference on a number of occasions and in areas that have been hard hit by wars and natural disasters: the Middle East, the Lake Chad region and Eastern Africa, to name just a few. These results were also made possible thanks to our stable presence on the field and to our cooperation with local civil society.

We continued to invest in staff training so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of our work. A step further the expatriate staff training is particularly worth mentioning: a programme which now also includes a course for professional roles that are specifically required in the field of international cooperation. This is an aspect bound to develop further, thanks to our partnership with professional training organisations based in Italy and in other European countries.

Overall it has therefore been a challenging year that has seen COOPI involved in a number of different contexts in many countries, a factor that has helped increase its credibility on the international stage and its profile. Of course, all this has been achieved, first and foremost, thanks to the contribution and cooperation of the many people who work for and with COOPI (both in Italy and abroad), to our local partners, our donors and supporters over the world.

Ennio Miccoli
COOPI Director

About COOPI



PHOTO: SIMONE DURANTE

COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale is an Italian Non-Governmental Organisation, founded by Father Vincenzo Barbieri in Milan on 15 April 1965.

Over the last 50 years, COOPI's aim has been to break the cycle of poverty and help populations affected by wars, socio-economic crises or natural disasters to reach recovery and lasting development. In order to do so, it makes use of the professionalism of local and international operators as well as partnerships with public and private subjects and the civil society.

COOPI is a Participatory Foundation. In 2017, it was present in **28 Countries distributed between Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Its 238 humanitarian projects reached almost 3,000,000 people.** In 2017, it expanded its presence in 3 new Countries - Syria, Jordan and Iraq - and resumed its activities in Cameroon. It stands out at international level for the fight against malnutrition, interventions related to food security, care in protecting war victims, promotion of indigenous populations' rights, introduction of renewable energy in difficult contexts, and its work in the field of disaster risk reduction.

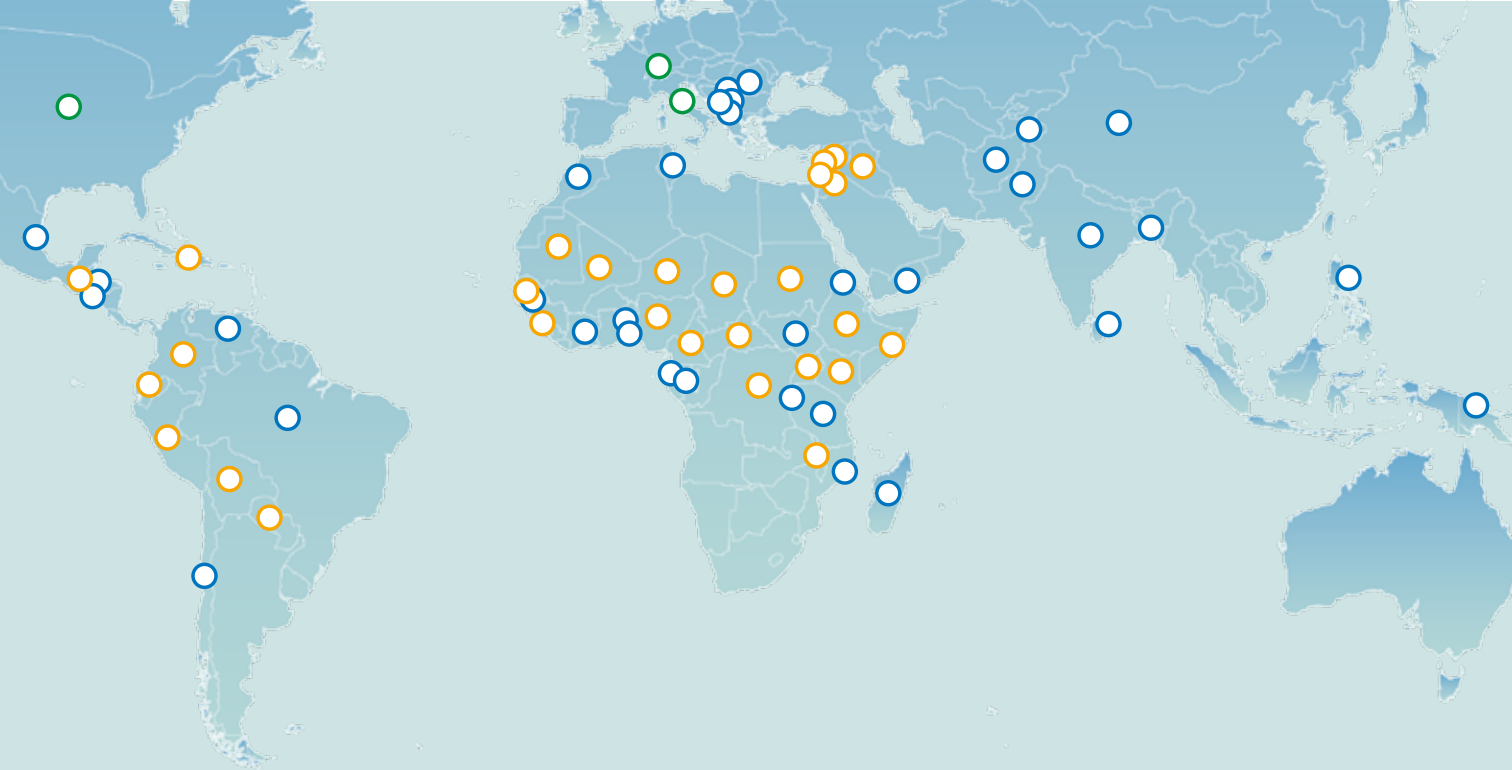
Known as the "NGO in action," from 1965 to date COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale has helped more than **100 million people** owing to more than **1,700 projects** in **65 Countries**, employing about **4,600 expatriate operators** and **58,000 local operators.**

About COOPI

○ Countries where COOPI actually works

○ Countries where COOPI worked in the past

○ In addition to the awareness and fundraising activities in Italy, COOPI carries out such activities also in the USA with the fund American friends of COOPI (www.cooopi.us) and in Switzerland thanks to the association COOPI Suisse (www.suisse.cooopi.org).



COOPI'S FIGURES	2017	2016	2015
No. countries	28	24	24
No. projects	238	199	206
• No. international and Italian projects	212	173	179
• No. child sponsorship programmes	26	26	27
No. beneficiaries	2,957,914	2,601,165	2,220,800
• No. Beneficiaries of international and Italian projects	2,956,000	2,599,017	2,218,309
• No. child sponsorship beneficiaries	1,914	2,148	2,491
No. international operators	121	111	98
No. local operators	2,500	2,800	3,000
No. staff in Italy	63	66	62
No. volunteers in Italy	400	356	405
No. Italian regional offices and local groups	3	4	9

COOPI and Italian international cooperation

On 15 April 1965, Father Barbieri founded COOPI. However, COOPI's history actually starts in 1961, when young Jesuit Vincenzo Barbieri was sent by his superiors to study at the Faculty of Theology in Lyon in view of a future assignment in Chad as a missionary. While in France, he experienced a much more lively and open cultural environment than the one permeating the Italian province in the years prior to Vatican Council II. In fact, he came into contact with international lay movements which had been engaged in voluntary work in developing Countries for many years. In 1962, Barbieri renounced to leaving as a missionary and returned to Milan with the intention to train volunteers willing to leave for the South of the world. It was him who



Cooperazione Internazionale was established. Father Barbieri trained and sent lawpersons abroad for missions which lasted at least 2 years.



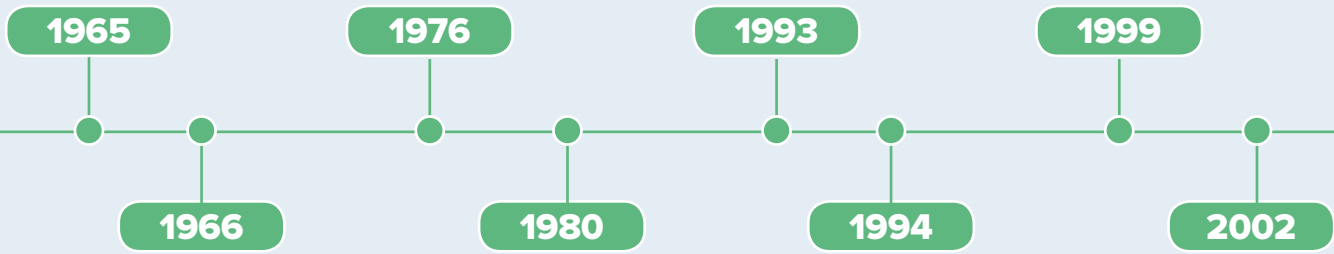
The first project funded by the Italian government was set-up in Malta. The use of public funds transformed the association from a voluntary to a professional one.



COOPI was one of the first European NGOs to sign a partnership deal with the European Commission's Department of Humanitarian Aid.



COOPI began assisting former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and took part in "Missione Arcobaleno".



The Organisation contributed to the drawing up of the Pedini Law which instituted the Community Service in the developing countries.

The Ogaden crisis in Somalia pushed the Organisation to set-up its first humanitarian aid project.

In Congo, COOPI prepared itself to receive the population fleeing genocide and 15 thousand children separated from their parents during the exodus.

The "community therapeutic cure" was experimented to save children from malnutrition in Democratic Republic of Congo. This emergency approach would later be adopted as governmental protocol.



About COOPI

introduced the lay component in missions and founded “Cooperazione Internazionale.” In fact, the term was used for the first time to identify the lay component in missions, which may also be independent of the religious presence. As newly ordained priest, Father Barbieri, together with a group of laypersons, decided to let two houses in Milan for volunteers, devoting the rest of his life to training and organizing volunteers eager to leave for the Southern Countries of the world. **This is how, over 50 years ago, COOPI and Italian International Cooperation began a journey which has seen them grow and evolve owing to their multifaceted interventions.**



In Ecuador, COOPI launched the first “Disaster Risk Reduction” project.



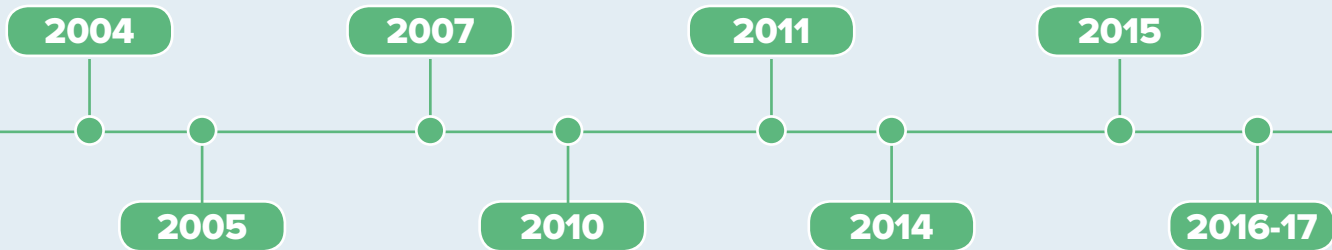
The Organisation inaugurated the inter-cultural approach that would be adopted by Bolivia in order to promote indigenous health and justice.



To reduce the risk of disaster, a district in Malawi was mapped using mobile and satellite technology while actively involving the local communities.



COOPI celebrates 50 years. For this anniversary, COOPI presents its 2015-2020 Strategy and the first report focused on social accountability.



COOPI and Father Barbieri received a special mention in the Peace Prize of the Lombardy Region and the Certificate of Civic Merit of the Municipality of Milan.



COOPI contributed to the process of ratifying the ILO 169 convention on the rights of indigenous populations by Central African Republic.



The Ethiopian government awarded the NGO's access to renewable energies project in Ethiopia for the extremely high benefits it provided to the community.



COOPI tackles humanitarian crises with an integrated regional approach and increases migrants support and education in emergency.



Governance and organisation



PHOTO: SIMONE DURANTE

In its over 50-year history, COOPI has grown constantly structuring itself to face the challenges of an international cooperation in continuous evolution.

These transformations have never affected its identity and founding values, which are shared by all those adhering to its Charter of Values and collaborating with the Organisation. In 2010, COOPI went from being an Association to a Participatory Foundation. Such choice, besides expressing the maturity achieved, gave the Organisation greater stability and strengthened its reliability with donors. It also allowed a greater participation of stakeholders from the South of the world in decision-making processes and in activities carried out on the field.

Today, COOPI is a Foundation with 72 Founding Members, with the aim “to contribute to a balanced and integrated development of the communities with which it cooperates, in the awareness that when people meet and cooperate it is

possible to pursue the ideals of equality and justice with the aim to achieve a better global balance.” (Statute, art. 2.01).

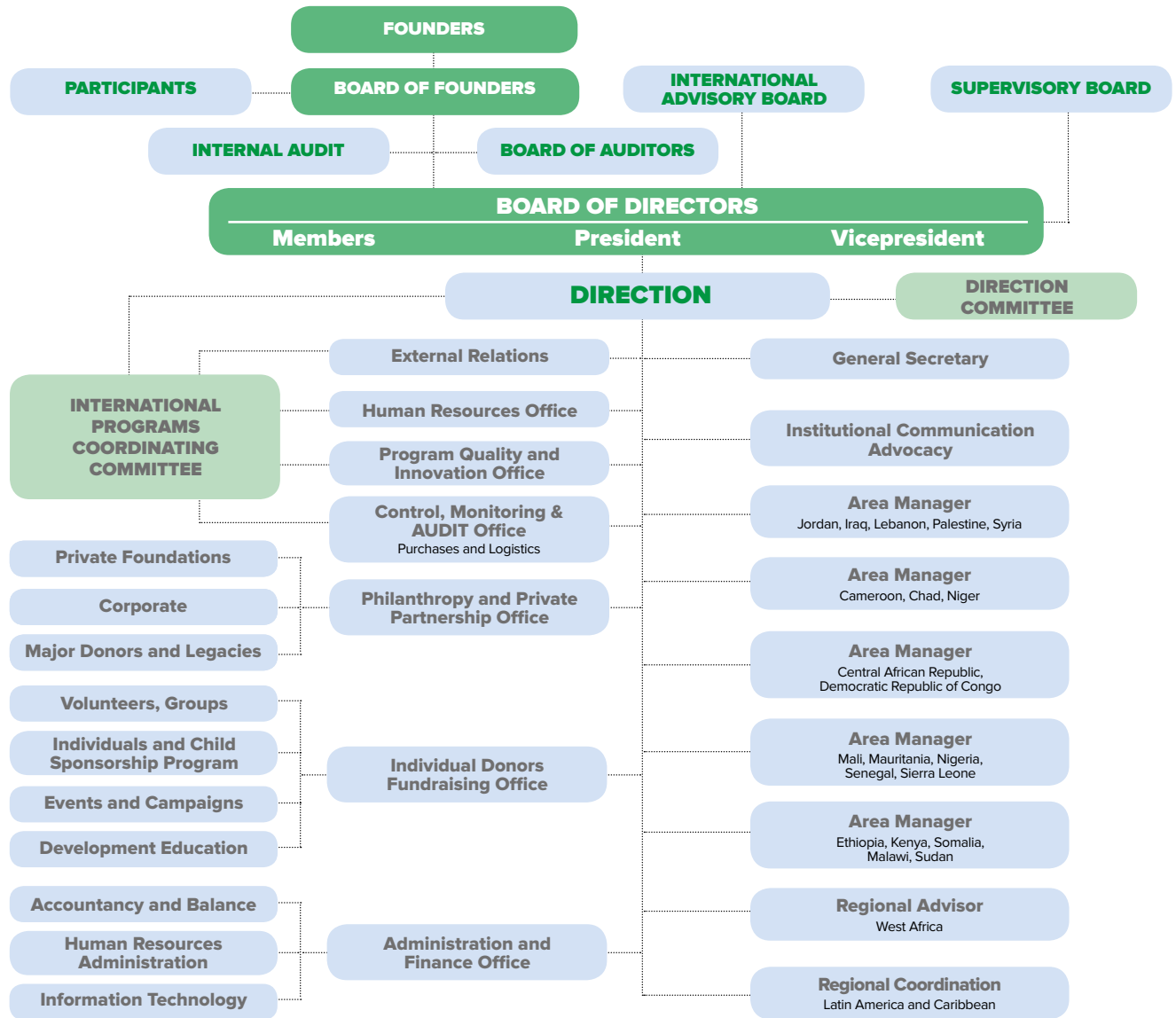
Accountability and reputation have an inestimable value for COOPI. Therefore, the Organisation deems it essential to be clear in expressing the values, principles and responsibilities at the basis of its relationship with donors, beneficiaries, project partners, people working with COOPI and any stakeholder interested in the Organisation’s activities. Through the **Code of Ethics**, approved in 2012, COOPI testifies accountability towards stakeholders about missions and values, as well as the effectiveness of the activities launched, the efficiency of its organisational structure, the legitimacy of being an NGO and its mechanisms for preventing crimes.

About COOPI

Over the last ten years, COOPI has made important efforts to change also at organisational level.

In order to effectively manage the Foundation, an Organisational Model was defined and adopted in accordance with Legislative Decree n. 231. Therefore, a clear organisational structure was provided defining, amongst other aspects: the organisational chart, with the articulation of functions and roles of the operational structure; processes and activities; eighteen internal procedures. Furthermore, the organisation has been provided with an independent

Supervisory Body - which met 8 times during 2017 - whose functions are to monitor the adequacy of the organisational procedure. COOPI's organisational chart has been reviewed over the last years, with the creation of new offices and a partial modification of tasks and work methods both at central level and in the countries of intervention. Said changes were carried out so as to realize a step by step decentralization of managerial and operational activities, and to guarantee the headquarters' effective role in guiding, supporting, and controlling the work in all its aspects.



In 2017, the Board of Founders met once, the Board of Directors 9 times, the Board of Auditors 3 times. No member of the Foundation's governing bodies receive any compensation for the position they hold or for the activities they carry out in relation to their position.



To find out more about COOPI's governance and download its **Statutes** and **Code of Ethics** please see www.cooopi.org

Staff

COOPI is a Non-Governmental Organisation with 63 employees and collaborators at its Headquarters, 121 expatriate operators and about 2,500 local operators. In addition, 303 people collaborated during specific fundraising campaigns in Italy.

COOPI collaborates with professionals ready to put their competences at disposal. The scrutiny of the recruitment process, the accurate training sessions and the enhancement of human resources guarantee the presence of skilled and motivated people.

Every year, COOPI receives tens of thousands of curricula and selects hundreds of operators and technical consultants - with whom to collaborate in order to implement its projects worldwide - through a process based on transparency and meritocracy.

COOPI's capital consists of its human resources i.e. the people who dedicate themselves, day after day, to building a better world. Staff activity is periodically assessed by a process that includes a self-test and analyses done by senior managers and the Human Resources department. The result of such assessment is communicated to the employee and, if appropriate, training sessions are planned or a specific professional path is proposed.

COOPI is increasingly investing in an efficient and effective training system - an engaging and innovative one, that can promote a culture of lifelong learning and foster processes of change. Every year, COOPI prepares an Annual Training Plan that takes into account the needs of all staff members: both those based in its headquarters and those based in the countries where it operates, and sets up numerous targeted training initiatives.

COOPI complies with on-the-job health and safety best practices, safeguarding all the collaborators working at its headquarters. Moreover, COOPI staff going abroad is required to follow the guidelines provided in the "expatriate's guide" (Guida dell'espatriato) as well as those in the Health Guide (Guida Sanitaria) provided by COOPI and adopted by all the organisations of NGO Network Link 2007, which refer to SISCOS (provider of assistance services to NGOs).

COOPI is also carrying out numerous training initiatives all around Italy to promote knowledge concerning international cooperation professions. In terms of advanced training, COOPI participates in the Cooperation & Development Network, which includes Master degrees in Pavia, Cartagena de Indias, Bethlehem, Kathmandu and Nairobi.

THE TEAM IN FIGURES

54 HQ Staff members

(36 women and 18 men), 13 of whom are part-time

9 collaborators (8 women and 1 man)

121 expatriate operators

2,500 local operators

TRAINING: KEY FIGURES

Training programme for expatriate staff

63-days; 81 participants

Continuous training for expatriate staff

25-hours; 136 participants

Training for staff in Milan Headquarters

84-hours; 78 participants

Training for new professionals joining the staff

150-hours; 20 participants

Policies and Guidelines

COOPI draws up policies on key issues to its work and on which it has more than fifty years of experience in the field.

The policy documents clarify the Organisation's position on the issues dealt with, starting with the definition of the International theoretical reference framework within which COOPI's working approach has developed and upon which it is founded.

COOPI's policies have a two-fold objective: first, they assist the Organisation in examining issues central to its own programmes and in sharing and agreeing a working approach. Secondly, they explain and raise awareness of COOPI's institutional position on the various topics dealt with.

These policies therefore complete COOPI's values, vision and

mission, and explore in greater depth the working methods and strategy used in the programmes created by the Organisation. Furthermore, each policy is accompanied by a guidelines document which translates the theory of programme management into practice and helps operators to apply the literature to real-life situations and make operations sustainable and effective.

In 2017, COOPI wrote the Education in Emergency (EiE) Guidelines as a first step towards the EiE Policy.

 To find out more about COOPI's policies, please see the website www.cooi.org under the Policy section.

COOPI'S POLICIES

Nutritional Security (2017)

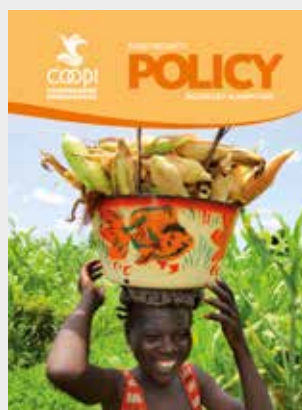
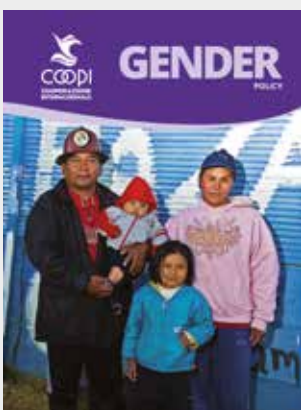
Protection (2016)

Gender (2015)

Food Security (2014)

Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (2013)

Child (2011)



Project Cycle Management in COOPI's approach

COOPI's strategic programming, planning, project implementation and evaluation is the result of an organic and synergic approach between its Headquarters and the Countries of intervention, thus between COOPI and the local communities. Moreover, the entire planning and management process is based on the Organisation's values.

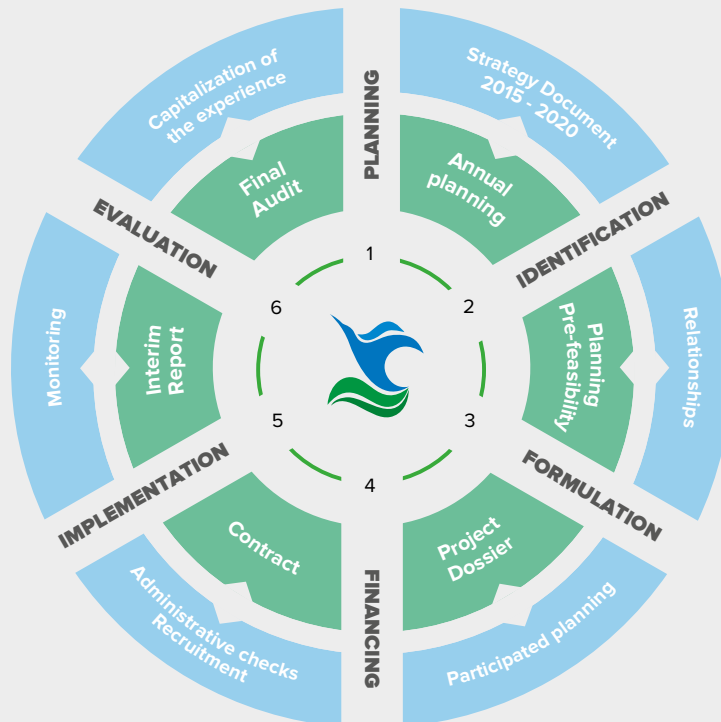
Hence, it was decided to describe the Project Cycle Management, accurately highlighting how the values sanctioned by COOPI's Charter of Values are implemented. Solidarity and transparency are at the basis of COOPI's decision-making process, which ranges from defining its strategy document to the annual countries program. COOPI's projects are based on the conviction that nothing must be "imposed top down" but widely defined thanks to the participation of all the actors involved in the process. This guarantees sustainable

planning, while meeting true priorities, respecting diversities and aiming at fighting any form of discrimination.

The enhancement of human resources is at the centre of the Organisation's work, from the Headquarters to the local staff. In order to improve the quality of the interventions, responsibilities must be fully assumed at all levels and throughout all the phases of the entire process.

COOPI's activities are always carried out involving the population, with the aim to provide the latter with knowledge and innovative tools capable of improving their living conditions. The following diagram illustrates the entire project management cycle.

In 2017 COOPI continued its path supporting staff and operators on the field with new tools useful to better manage their activities, share information and capitalize their know-how.



An Organisation that operates in networks

It is in the nature of NGOs like COOPI to operate within networks, working in partnership and supporting and being supported by multiple subjects in contexts that are often far-removed from one another, geographically, culturally and economically.

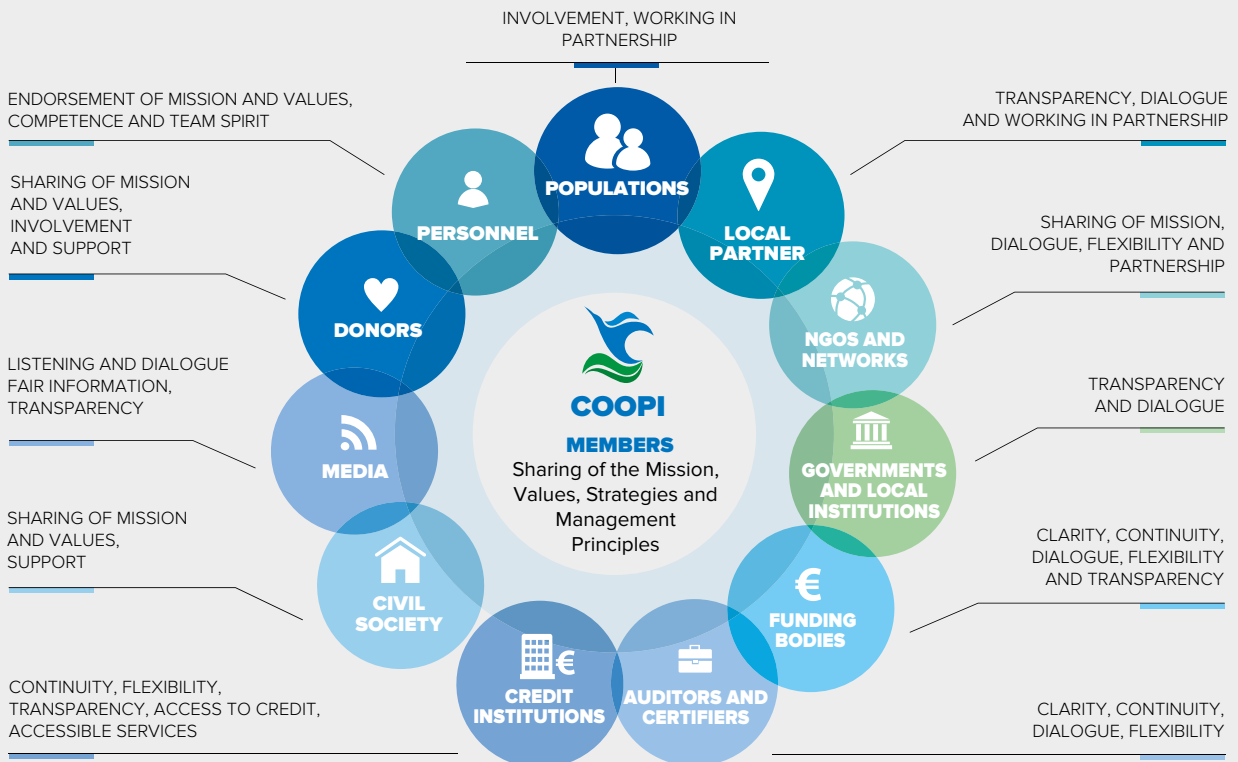
This characteristic makes COOPI increasingly a facilitator, which:

- **helps to bring together social needs** - often extreme needs - and useful resources, thanks to its in-depth knowledge of the contexts where it operates and also to its good reputation earned over many years of field work;
- **promotes the local economies** and empowerment of the populations in the South of the world, thanks to its ability to bring out the best energies of the communities where it operates through open participatory processes inspired by the principles of democracy, equality and support;
- **enhances the impact of field operations**, thanks to its ability to improve and coordinate collaboration with local partners,

other NGOs and institutions, both local and international;

- **feeds a virtuous circle of trust with institutional and individual donors**, by adopting transparent procedures modelled on best management practices for fair and effective use of the funds allocated at its disposal;
- **promotes cultural change** also in the North of the world, through continual documentation, organisation of and participation in initiatives on this subject, media communications, and educational activities in schools and many other venues.

The following 'map' seeks to highlight the Organisation's principal stakeholders in order to give a visual idea of the highly complex system of partners and interactions involved on a daily basis (while recognising that no graphic representation can fully express the richness of the relationships within the Organisation and between it and its external stakeholders).



About COOPI



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

COOPI's network also includes independent organisations, born to support its activities and to cooperate with it on a regular base.

American Friends of COOPI - Knowing that global issues require collaborative answers and that building innovative partnerships is the best way to obtain a real impact, COOPI has searched for support from private foundations, companies and citizens also in the USA. In fact, it created "American Friends of COOPI," a fund enabling American supporters to make donations to COOPI benefiting from the tax deductions currently in force in the USA.

Further details are available at www.cooopi.us.

COOPI Suisse - The Organisation works in Switzerland autonomously launching awareness and fundraising campaigns so as to sponsor COOPI's projects in the South of the world, thus entering into relationships with supporters, activists and the civil society. It also maintains institutional relationships

with the main international cooperation actors in Switzerland. Further details are available at www.suisse.cooopi.org.

COOPI considers networking fundamental to provide adequate answers to humanitarian crises and to guarantee the building of sustainable development paths.

Over the years, COOPI has consolidated complex relationships with international and local partners, in view of:

- guaranteeing the realization of integrated and quality interventions by combining COOPI's expertise with other areas of knowledge, be they scientific, technical or local;
- improving advocacy skills with reference to the needs identified on the field in collaboration with local actors (government bodies and organisations of the civil society), international organisations, universities and research centres, as well as with existing networks;
- promoting the sharing of experiences, scientific research, as well as thematic and sector capitalization;
- ensuring the impact of the undertaken actions.

About COOPI



NETWORK

Partnership with Universities and Research Centres



International Involvement



Organisations



COOPI is also a member of the Italian Multisector Platform for Energy.

Furthermore, as a member of the Global Compact, it complies to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. Through the Italian Network on AIDS, Rights and Health, it is represented at: Global Fund Advocates Network • G7 Civil Society Task Force • GCAP (Global Coalition against Poverty - Italia) • Campagna ZeroZeroCinque. As a member of Link 2007, it adheres to: ASviS (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) • IAP (Italy's Advertising Self-Regulatory Institute) • Forum Permanente del Terzo Settore. As an associate of CoLomba, it takes part in the AOI (Association to Italian NGOs).

COOPI's Hallmark: continuity in innovation

In 2017, COOPI was present in 28 Countries worldwide, between Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 26 of these Countries, it carried out 212 projects, mainly concerning emergency and development, while supporting 1,914 children through child sponsorship programme.

In 2 Countries (Kenya and Colombia) it established, and continues to maintain, active relationships with various types of stakeholders, without carrying out any humanitarian activities.

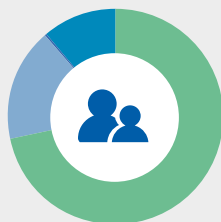
In total, the beneficiaries reached by COOPI amount to more than 3,000,000.

In 2017, COOPI expanded its presence to 3 new Countries: Syria, Jordan and Iraq, and resumed its activities in Cameroon.



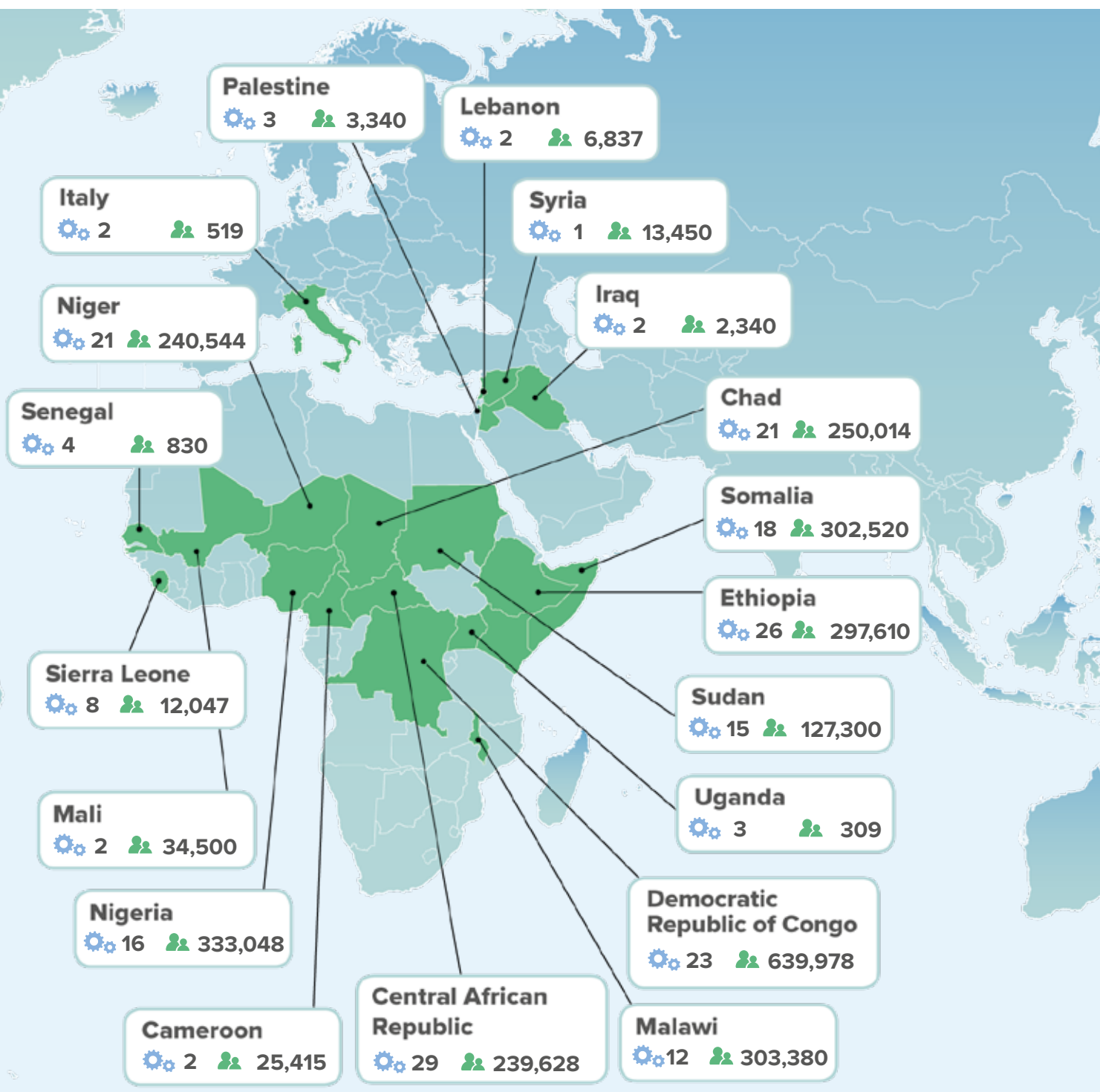
TYPE OF INTERVENTION

- **Emergency 171**
- **Development 40**
- **Education to development 1**
- **Child Sponsorship Program 26**



COOPI's hallmark: continuity in innovation

Legend//  Number of projects  Number of direct beneficiaries



Strategy

In 2015, COOPI approved the 2015-2020 Strategy “Together we can make the world a better place”.

The document clarifies the key principles of COOPI's approach, as they are the basis of the Organisation's intervention programmes in the various parts of the world.

Additionally, it sets out key fields and interventions areas for COOPI's development and sustainability in medium-to-long term. The Strategy defines 5 areas of intervention at a regional level (West Africa, Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean) and 5 priority intervention sectors (Food Security, Nutritional Security, Protection, Water and Hygiene, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction); it also sets the targets of a constant improvement in

the quality of both the response to humanitarian crisis and the promotion of innovation in the field, focusing on involvement of stakeholders.

The Strategy also points out several functional goals, considered essential to achieve the broader ones: constant adaptation of the organisational structure, strengthening of partnerships, capitalization and internal sharing of know-how, increasing of fundraising and accountability to all stakeholders, development of activities also in Italy.



It is possible to view COOPI's entire 2015-2020 Strategy “Together we can make the world a better place”, at www.cooopi.org

Today, however, the international socio-political situation has changed beyond recognition compared to 2015 and COOPI is adapting its strategy in order to meet the most pressing emergencies. Migration management and education in emergencies are undoubtedly two of the areas that COOPI considers to be priorities today and in the near future.



PHOTO: SIMONE DURANTE



PHOTO: MARCO PALOMBI

Migration management, an essential priority



According to UNHCR statistics, the total number of refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum-seekers is over 68 million the world over. Refugees alone number approximately 25 million and, over the past year, 16.2 million people have left their homes.

Eighty-five percent of refugees live in developing countries, most of which are already extremely fragile and do not receive enough aid to help guest populations. Migrations from other countries or continents require resources, both cultural and material, that in many cases are inaccessible for those living in remote areas: two-thirds of the people who flee their homes evacuate to other parts of their country and four out of five refugees remain in bordering countries.

In total, 63% of all the refugees that the UNHCR assists are found in just 10 countries. Turkey is the country that hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, 3.5 million, who are mostly Syrian, while Libya hosts the largest number of refugees in proportion to its population.

In September 2017, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi requested new resettlement sites and other safe alternatives for protecting refugees (including family

reunification), and for the most vulnerable refugees that currently are in 15 priority countries along the Central Mediterranean route: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia.

In response to such circumstances and in recognition of the UN's estimate of over 40,000 people in Libya requiring international protection, people that are still being detained in the country, the ETM (Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism) has been set up. Thanks to a partnership between UNHCR Libya, UNHCR Niger and the Government of Niger, it is providing life-saving assistance whilst long-term solutions are sought for the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers currently being detained in Libya.

Since 2016, COOPI has been working alongside the IOM and, in December 2017, it began cooperating with the UNHCR systematically in order to provide shelter and protection to people evacuated from Libya during their transit through Niger (for more details on this programme, see the chapter on our work in West Africa).

In the photo, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi - who visited the ETM project in Niger carried out in cooperation with UNHCR - with COOPI Niger Head of mission Luis Sisto, UNHCR Niger Representative Alessandra Morelli and the local COOPI Staff.

Education in emergency, protecting children and their future



UNICEF counts 75 million children in the world who do not go to school due to emergency circumstances. Girls and young women are particularly vulnerable: the likelihood that they will leave school from an early age is much higher than amongst their male counterparts and they are more likely to suffer sexual violence, forced marriages and teenage pregnancies. As far as refugee children and young people are concerned, the UNHCR estimates that over 3,5 million refugee children aged between 5 and 17 did not have a chance to go to school during 2017.

Education is crucial if we want to protect children hit by a crisis and allow them to develop normally. Schools protect children from violence and from the risk of being forced to join armed militias; it helps them regain a sense of normality and safety in their daily life; it renders them self-sufficient; lastly, it helps them be heard and understood and it is the best way to invest in their future.

West and Central Africa and the Middle East are among the regions most severely hit by current humanitarian crises (for an overview of the situation and the activities carried out in each of these areas, see their respective regional chapters in

this report). It is in these very areas that COOPI is working the hardest today, running - among other things - EiE (Education in Emergency) projects.

In 2017, in the seven countries of the West and Central African region, 8.1 million children aged between 3 and 17 required EiE assistance, but there were only enough funds to meet the needs of 3.4 million of them. Besides causing death and destruction, armed conflict in Iraq, Syria and Yemen ended or interrupted the education of over 15 million children. 'Emergency' situations often evolve into long periods of time spent in temporary centres and camps: almost 90% of refugees and internally displaced persons the world over have lived far from their communities of origin for over 10 years. By growing up without an education system, millions of children are at risk of becoming adults without cultural or professional models.

From 2015 to 2017, COOPI implemented 35 EiE projects in eight countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Lebanon), reaching over **440,000 direct beneficiaries** thanks to an investment of almost € 17.5 million.

PHOTO: GEMMA PEREZ



Addressing complexity: a regional approach to crises and for development

The global humanitarian scenario is in rapid and continuous evolution and there is a steady increase of needs arising from natural disasters and social-political crises.

In the last decade, crises due to natural phenomena, exacerbated by the increased intensity and frequency of the effects of climate change, caused the death of over 700,000 people and left about 23 million people homeless. Moreover, above all because of the numerous social-political crises in recent years - among which the Syrian crisis is of significant importance - the total number of refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers in the world is now as high as the one registered during World War II. In addition, the world urban population is growing. In 2014, according to UNDESA data, 54% of the world population lived in cities. This figure is expected to reach 66% in 2050 with an urban population increase around 2.5 billion people, of whom about 90% will be mainly concentrated in Asia and Africa.

In order to face such severe and widespread phenomena, it is necessary for humanitarian aids and development

cooperation to experience constant evolution. An indispensable factor of said evolution is the implementation of a regional approach, thus no longer only local, in planning and implementing interventions. Moreover, the extensive experience acquired on the field in various sectors and the ability to find innovative solutions are further elements that contribute decisively to the effectiveness in addressing humanitarian needs in the short-term. They also allow to increase resilience, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in the medium and long term. Hence, with the 2015-2020 Strategy "Together we can make the world a better place," COOPI identified five priority intervention regions outlining scopes of action and lines of intervention for each one of them.

For the same reasons COOPI constantly updates its intervention programs priorities in every area accordance with the international socio-political context*: this is why COOPI increased its efforts in migrants support and in education in emergency activities.

REGIONS	NO. OF PROJECTS IN 2017*	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES IN 2017*
West Africa	74	896,398
Central Africa	52	879,606
East and South Africa	74	1,031,119
Middle East	8	25,967
Latin America and the Caribbean	28	124,305
Italy	2	519
TOTAL	238	2,957,914

* Total including International Projects and Child Sponsorship Programs.

PHOTO: SIMONE DURANTE

West Africa and the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin



In West Africa, COOPI operates in seven Countries: Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Cameroon and, since 2018, Mauritania.

The main challenges for those who live and work in West Africa are drought and desertification, which have alarmingly worsened due to the ongoing climate change process, to a demographic explosion and recurrent epidemics, political instability, economic frailty and criminality. All of the above are amplified further by internal conflicts, caused in particular by the presence of various armed groups linked to Islamic fundamentalism and by conflicts between breeders and farmers that often cause many victims in the villages.

In this context, 17 million people in the Lake Chad Basin live in an area that has been facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world for years - actually, in figures, the worst that Africa has ever faced. Since 2009, the violence perpetrated by Nigerian extremist group Boko Haram in Central and West Africa has never ceased, and attacks against the local population have become the norm.



PHOTO: SIMONE DURANTE

SAHEL

4 food crises since 2005

30 million people (out of 150) suffering from food insecurity

4.7 million people suffering from acute malnutrition

4.9 million displaced people and refugees

LAKE CHAD

2.2 million displaced people

5.8 million people (out of 20) suffering from food insecurity

206,000 refugees

500,000 children suffering from severe malnutrition

Limited access to health, water and education services

+3 million children excluded from the school system

MIGRATION EMERGENCY

2,654 deaths in 2017

134,549 (migrants from the sea) in 2017, of which 76% in Italy

15,000 unaccompanied minors

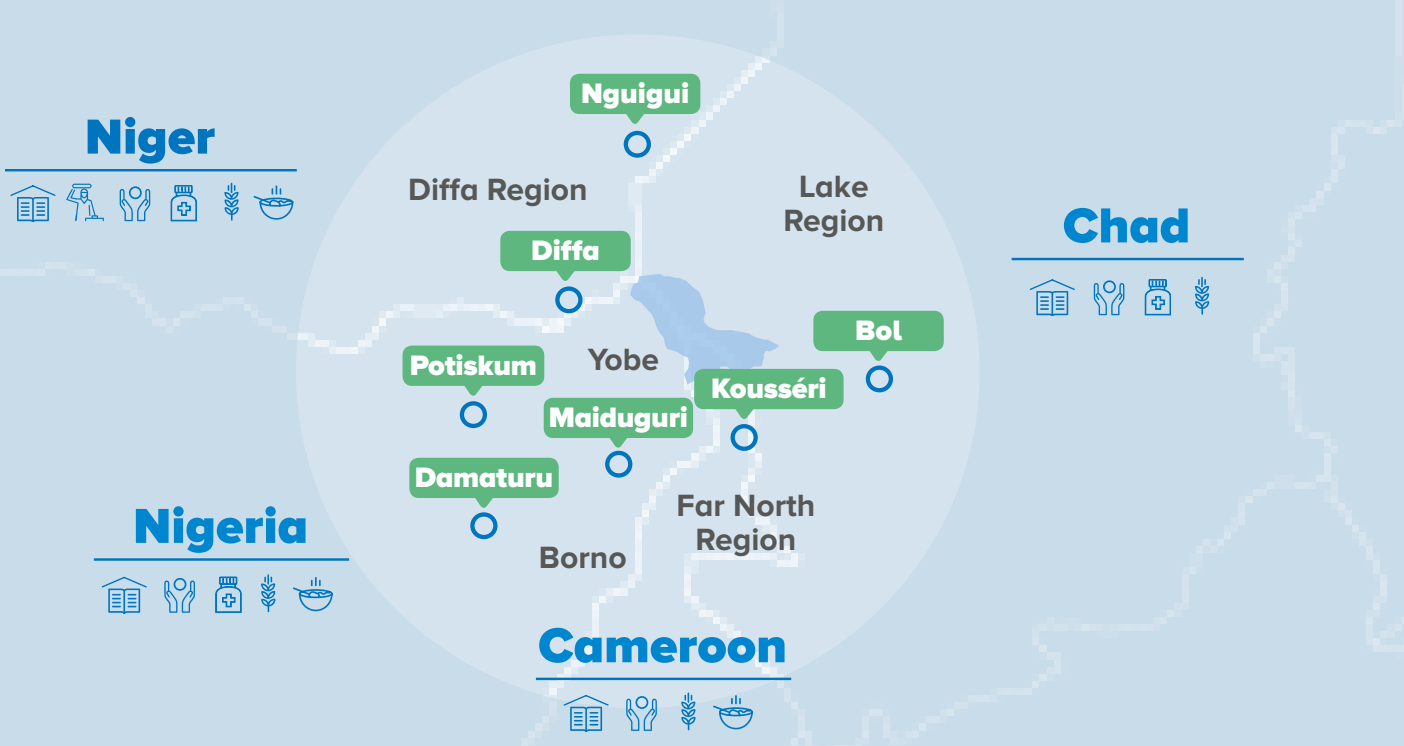
COOPI's hallmark: continuity in innovation

COOPI's priorities in this region are based on nutrition, food security, protection, disaster risk reduction and the promotion of sustainable energy, with the ultimate aim to strengthen the populations' capacity to withstand external shock and stress. Since 2014, COOPI has responded to the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin with interventions in several Countries facing the lake: Niger, Chad, Nigeria and, since 2017, Cameroon. COOPI has been carrying out a multi-sector intervention program, meeting first of all the immediate essential needs of the affected communities. Additionally, it promotes resilience and gradual independence: food security, nutrition, protection and education are the pillars of a long-lasting intervention, organized in each area on the basis of the specific needs, supporting more than 300,000 people, including numerous refugees and internal displaced people fleeing the violence of Boko Haram's militants and from drought. COOPI is increasingly focusing on the migrants that are now in the region, making efforts to address their needs. Since

2016, it has been working alongside IOM and, in December 2017, it began systematically cooperating with UNHCR in Niger in order to provide shelter and protection to people evacuated from Libya. COOPI is currently running 19 transit centres in Niamey and 6 in Agadez, providing seriously traumatised children and adults (who are in many cases the victims of torture, violence and human trafficking) with not only food and shelter but also psychological support, social/recreational activities designed to encourage a return to normality (as much as possible), as well as training and coaching programmes aimed at preparing migrants for resettlement in their final destination.

In the Lake Chad Basin, COOPI works with AICS (the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), with prestigious international partners such as ECHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, the Swiss Cooperation, IOM and other UN agencies and in partnership with local authorities and the non-governmental organisations that work in the area.

MAP OF COOPI INTERVENTIONS RELATED TO THE LAKE CHAD BASIN CRISIS



Further details on COOPI's interventions in West Africa and the Lake Chad Region are available at www.cooi.org, under the pages devoted to the single Countries. It is also possible to download the publication "Lake Chad Basin Regional Crisis Response".



PHOTO: ALESSANDRO PONTI

Central Africa

In Central Africa, COOPI has been working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the DRC) and the Central African Republic (the CAR) since the 1970s. Both these countries have been suffering decades of dictatorship and armed conflict, and the socio-political situation degenerated further in 2017.

Since 1977, COOPI has been operating in the DRC - a country with a population of approximately 94 million people belonging to hundreds of different ethnic groups that often clash with each other - running emergency and development projects in many parts of the country. COOPI's work in the DRC, which has been the recipient of the longest UN humanitarian mission in history, has evolved over time, involving a number of territories and operating in many different aid sectors depending on the needs and emergencies that affect each part of the country.

In Ituri most of COOPI's projects focus on protect, fighting against gender-based violence in order to facilitate the reintegration of women who have been victims of violence into the socio-economic system. In North Kivu, COOPI mainly supports local health centres and struggles against malnutrition. In Tanganica, COOPI's work ranges from food security (particularly with projects promoting agriculture) to health support. In the North of the country - along the border with the CAR- it implements projects to strengthen the resilience of the local population, in regard to the fight against-malnutrition, the promotion of food security and the creation of income-generating activities. In Kasai, COOPI works at a number of levels, combining initiatives that fight malnutrition with the promotion of food security, child protection, the

reintegration of children associated with armed groups and access to health care.

Moreover, COOPI helps homeless boys, as well as girls accused of witchcraft, through a child sponsorship programme in Bukavu.

COOPI began operating in the CAR in 1974 (the international aid organisation that has been working there for the longest period of time) and, since then, it has never left the country. Since 2013, the Central African Republic has been affected

DRC

94 million inhabitants, 77% of whom live below the threshold of poverty

More than **100 armed groups**

Inflation steadily growing

4.5 million displaced people constantly increasing (7.5 million expected in 2018)

36.6 million people run the risk epidemic outbreaks, among which a risk of cholera for +7 million people

4.5 million of children suffering from malnutrition

13.1 million people need humanitarian aid, among whom 7.7 million children

COOPI's hallmark: continuity in innovation

by an extremely serious humanitarian crisis. Since 2016, the CAR has a new President, whose plan to relaunch the country has received the approval and support of the international community. Nevertheless, the Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration programme (DDR) is struggling to make progress. With countless armed militias dominating the Northern and Central-Eastern parts of the country, fighting for control of the territory, as well as widespread banditry elsewhere, most of the territory is in a state of extreme emergency. The number of refugees and internally displaced people are both constantly increasing and almost half of the population depends on humanitarian aid for its survival. Over 300,000 people in six prefectures are currently benefiting from COOPI's support, as it runs five large refugee camps: four in Bambari and one in Bria, where it is also responsible for food distribution. In the CAR, COOPI focuses particularly on food security, child protection and education in emergency projects; it also rehabilitate or rebuild infrastructures, as it operates in territories where the activities of aid workers are seriously impeded by isolation and the lack of safety, not to mention a chronic shortage of funds. In the hope of fostering women's and girls' reintegration and participation in the economy as well as in the social and political life of Central African Republic and in order to reduce gender-based violence, COOPI provides women participating in its human rights projects with education and skills and supports employment opportunities, improving their access to credit and savings as a result.

CAR

4.6 million inhabitants of whom almost 50% depend on humanitarian assistance to survive

About **50%** of basic health services provided by humanitarian workers

545,500 refugees in neighbouring Countries among which Cameroon (about 50%) and DRC (about 50%). They are almost 100,000 more than in 2016 (460,000)

700,000 displaced people at the end of 2017 (almost 200,000 more than 2016)

Hundreds of security incidents every week, of which about 50% due to armed groups and 50% criminal.



Further details on COOPI's interventions in Central Africa are available at www.cooi.org, under the pages devoted to the single Countries.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE



PHOTO: TRINIDAD BRONTE



East and Southern Africa

In East and Southern Africa, COOPI operates in Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. In addition, Nairobi (Kenya) hosts COOPI's East and Southern Africa Regional Coordination Headquarters.

These areas are characterized by chronic water scarcity, frequent droughts and an economy predominantly based on pastoral farming and agriculture. Human development indicators are among the worst in the world. COOPI's programmes mainly concern the sectors of Food and Nutritional Security, Water and Hygiene, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, and are based on the needs and specificities of each context.

To reduce the levels of malnutrition and to fight poverty in the most vulnerable groups, COOPI implements food security interventions and promotes the improvement of small farmers' and craftsmen's income through the integration and diversification of their livelihoods and the increase of their productive capacities by distributing seeds, agricultural tools and food vouchers. Moreover, COOPI trains farmers and shepherds on the best practices related to cultivation and the care of livestock, and supports the start-ups of small family-owned businesses (which also contribute in deterring irregular immigration).

In order to strengthen resilience to climatic shock, COOPI works with the aim to increase access to drinking water through the rehabilitation of water points. It also promotes efficient rainwater collection and irrigation systems, improves sanitation in homes, schools and health facilities and supports the diffusion of good hygiene practices.

COOPI is currently also running two highly complex international projects in Sudan, which focus on reconstructing reservoir dams, projects that will allow people to come back to live in areas that were abandoned in the past due to the lack of water.

In Ethiopia, the worsening socio-political situation has created a wave of internally displaced persons and refugees, which made it immediately necessary to activate emergency management strategies, particularly as regards the water supply. Here, COOPI has also launched programmes designed to create local employment opportunities so as to discourage illegal migration, strengthening the supply chain of products of primary importance.

In Malawi, the progress of the country - which has also been ascertained by indicators issued by the world's foremost institutions - has cleared the way for more ambitious cooperative development programmes. Of these, COOPI is carrying out a preparatory analysis that will assess the possibility of promoting the cultivation of Moringa, a plant with numerous nutritional and medicinal properties, used in many parts of the world.

In Somalia, COOPI is working to prevent and treat diseases by providing emergency medical services and day hospital treatments for HIV and tuberculosis in partnership with local authorities and health centres.

COOPI also promotes the diffusion of low-impact energy sources and a more sustainable and integrated environmental management in local communities (such as providing the so-called improved stoves or promoting the diffusion of solar energy).



Further details on COOPI's interventions in East and Southern Africa are available at www.cooi.org, under the pages devoted to the single countries.

HORN OF AFRICA

Widespread and very severe drought related to the Niño

14.6 million people suffering from food insecurity

5.2 million people among whom 640,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition

1.4 million refugees

4.1 million displaced people



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE



Latin America and the Caribbean

COOPI has been operating in Latin America since 1967 (Ecuador); in 2017, it was active in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay and Peru. La Paz (Bolivia) hosts COOPI's Latin American and Caribbean Regional Coordination Headquarters. Moreover, COOPI is registered in Colombia (but no activities have taken place there since 2013).

Over the years, COOPI's role in the region - similarly to that of international cooperation in general - has deeply changed. Nowadays, international NGOs have a key role especially in dealing with humanitarian crises that in this area are mainly related to natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts causing serious human losses and compromising the means of livelihood in the most vulnerable areas, thus in vast portions of the territory) and in the subsequent phase of accompanying throughout the reconstruction processes. With reference to more traditional interventions in the economic and social development sector, the role of international NGOs is increasingly oriented toward providing technical support to local actors (institutional and non-governmental/civil society).

In this context, COOPI is carrying out emergency interventions aimed at reducing disaster risks and at increasing the resilience of the communities involved. When discussing Latin America and the Caribbean, we are actually referring to three different geographical areas, i.e. South America, Central America and the Caribbean. These sub-regions have different physical/natural, environmental, socio-political and economic characteristics. Despite that, COOPI's role and approach in these countries have common features that have evolved and formed over time. It has focused on facilitating LRRD (Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development), thus guaranteeing continuity, relevance and sustainability in its various different spheres of operation.

The importance of promoting such an approach is confirmed by the increased importance of working with a regional vision, an aspect that is reflected in practice with the recent development and launch of multi-national programmes that address common problems. This includes, for example, the Gran Chaco (part of the 'integration zone' known as the ZICOSUR), the second-largest and most important biosphere in Latin America after the Amazon rainforest, in a territory belonging to Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Here, COOPI boasts years of experience and is

currently working in partnership with local organisations in each of these countries, promoting territorial management models for environmental conservation that goes hand-in-hand with sustainable production.

There are also a number of actions being implemented for disaster risk reduction, operating at different scales. Indeed, whilst COOPI's work, up until now, was mainly recognised at a local level, its initiatives have gradually crossed national borders and gained importance at a regional level as well. This is the case of the Wirwina consortium, which aims to improve the way national and local hydro-meteorological services in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru monitor and issue weather warnings, based on new technologies and the experience gained by Italy's Civil Protection service, thanks to a partnership with the CIMA Research Foundation.



Further details on COOPI's interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean are available at www.cooopi.org, under the pages devoted to the single countries.

FLOODS IN PERU

24 Departments/regions

1,948,016 people affected, 71% of whom in the Northern coast of the country

447,018 houses destroyed

3,703 schools and

1,159 health centres damaged

COOPI'S RESPONSES INTERVENTIONS

15,000 people hosted in emergency shelters

Improving drinking water access, sanitary services and hygienic conditions

Ensuring the supply of electricity thanks to the installation of wind plants.

Middle East and the Syrian crisis



In the Middle East, COOPI is present in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

Since 2016, COOPI has been developing an intervention strategy in this area at regional level with an integrated approach aimed at the immediate management of the humanitarian crisis and at strengthening populations' resilience whenever possible.

The Syrian crisis, which began in 2011 in Syria and spread to Iraq in 2013, has also involved bordering countries to varying extents and in different ways. In this area, approximately 22 million people (13.1 million in Syria, of which 5.6 million are in a state of urgent need, and 8.7 million in Iraq) require some form of humanitarian aid, millions of people are suffering from lack of food and clean water, children under five years of age have never known anything but war and many schools are closed. It has been ascertained that 2.75 million Syrian children have no access to education in Syria and in host countries. These needs have not diminished despite the fact that the intensity of the armed conflict, at least in Iraq, lessened in late 2017. In Syria, the conflict goes on with no sign of any solution in the immediate future. Military campaigns have followed one another uninterruptedly and violations of the rules of the International Humanitarian Law are repeatedly carried out. This has caused a massive movement of refugees and displaced people in the region. Lebanon and Jordan, besides Turkey and Egypt, are experiencing a strong economic impact with reference to basic services due to the massive arrival of refugees. Lastly, the strong politicization of the conflict makes humanitarian interventions increasingly complex. COOPI has contributed to the management of this very serious

humanitarian emergency in Syria by carrying out interventions aimed at promoting food security and self-support addressed to the most vulnerable people. Moreover, thanks to financing and collaboration with AICS (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development), COOPI supports 2,250 families (about 12,500 vulnerable people) in Syria between displaced people, refugees or members of hosting communities. However, In Syria, COOPI has implemented tools that work more broadly toward food security and protection, activating mobile centers and first aid centers for displaced people coming from the areas most affected by the crisis (from Aleppo to Raqqa to Idlib). It has also increased resilience and self-support (for instance, by supplying tools to start vegetable gardens and poultry pens), with a particular focus toward people with disabilities, both physical and psychological, as a result of the crisis and the armed conflict. In 2017, COOPI also carried out a preparatory analysis for the development of its activities in Aleppo and in the Central Ghouta area.

In Iraq, 2017 was the year of the famous battle for control of Mosul and the government's quarrel with Iraqi Kurdistan (which had, however, supported it, contributing to the liberation of Mosul), a fact that has had direct consequences on COOPI's work on the ground as well, due to the freezing of funds for some months waiting for a clarification of the political situation. In Iraq, since 2017 COOPI has been running EiE projects (psychological support to reduce the traumatic effects of the conflict on children). It also supports the return to primary and secondary formal education, with the reopening of schools in areas devastated by the war in the territories south of Mosul. Moreover, it has restored water distribution

COOPI's hallmark: continuity in innovation

and the purification systems destroyed during ISIS occupation, spreading correct practices regarding the use of water and hygiene and promoting risk-reduction campaigns related to the heavy presence of anti-personnel mines in the territory. In 2017, COOPI also carried out a preparatory analysis with a plan to expand its EIE operations in Iraq and improve water distribution for the Yazidi minority (in the Sinjar Mountains) and in the recently liberated area of Qa'im.

In Lebanon and Jordan, COOPI has provided assistance to refugees by meeting their most immediate needs (distribution of blankets and clothing, creation of mobile clinics, epidemiological surveillance actions and vaccination programmes). It then started to carry out actions to strengthen resilience, supporting both hosting communities and refugees with actions related to child protection, school support, improvement of water conditions and basic hygiene. Also thanks to the support of AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation) COOPI has implemented Cash for Work programmes in these countries. To date, said programmes have led to the rehabilitation of schools, infrastructures, urban public spaces and sports facilities, contributing to reduce social tensions between hosting communities and refugees. In Lebanon and Jordan COOPI is currently carrying out education and school restoration interventions in areas that are historically more difficult to work in, such as the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon and Balqa in Jordan. COOPI's aim is to strengthen formal education programmes, by integrating psychological support material for children who have suffered physical and psychological traumas. Another goal is the restoration of comfortable and healthy environments. With this in mind, COOPI's intervention in Lebanon and Jordan aims at providing support to local populations and refugees creating small businesses or looking for employment with special attention toward strengthening the capacity of job insertion of vulnerable people. In Northern Lebanon in 2017 (in the Akkar region), COOPI also conducted a preparatory analysis for the implementation of a complex programme to stabilize public waste management services, which will be completed in partnership with 14 local municipalities.

In Palestine, COOPI has mostly been active in promoting professional training since 2002. This has facilitated the creation of adequate connections between schools and the labour market, supporting small businesses created by young people. From 2006 to 2013, it expanded its activities in the

Gaza Strip, focusing mainly on waste management. Since 2016, it has been implementing protection programmes through a psycho-social support for adolescents in East Jerusalem and C Area. Furthermore, COOPI launched a programme for the protection of Palestinian survivors of gender-based violence in the latter half of 2017, using psychological support and economic empowerment to improve their resilience in the Silwan and Isawiya districts of East Jerusalem.

SYRIA

Over **7 years** of conflict

13.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance

8.2 million people are exposed to risk of explosives in the area where they live

3 million people live in almost inaccessible areas

6.5 million people do not have sufficient access to food

3 million children under 5 years suffer from insufficient nutrition

30% of children are excluded from the school system

5.6 million refugees

6.1 million displaced people

DISPLACED PEOPLE AND REFUGEES IN IRAQ, LEBANON AND JORDAN

3.5 million displaced people and 250,000 Syrian refugees in Kurdistan-Iraq (28% increase of the population)

1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon (27% increase of the population)

659,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan (10% increase of the population)



Further details on COOPI's interventions in the Middle East are available at www.cooopi.org, under the pages devoted to the single countries.

Main sectors of intervention in 2017



PHOTO: BOAZ REIZEL

PROTECTION

- 870 children associated with the armed forces reunited with families
- Medical and psychosocial support to 20,538 children
- Support to almost 2,968 victims of Gender Based Violence
- Access to drinking water for 45,897 displaced people
- Temporary accommodations for 1,500 families
- Distribution of 50,871 kits for water purification



FOOD SECURITY

- 170,160 people in emergency contexts supported through food distributions
- 364,710 people in emergency contexts supported through cash transfer
- 32,600 tons of food distributed
- 230 tons of seeds provided to 78,000 farmers
- 28,364 farmers trained
- 19,560 animals distributed
- 831,045 animals vaccinated
- Additional food for 36,000 animals
- 2 production chains supported



EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY

- Education in emergency for 18,531 children (5,893 girls)
- 35 projects realized in 8 countries in 2015-2017: 440,000 beneficiaries



NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

- Support to almost 98,992 children
- Support to 42,052 pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Training for 1,117 healthcare professionals
- Training for 557 community volunteers
- 104 Nutritional Units created/supported



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) AND ENVIRONMENT

- 85,888 people benefitting from strengthening activities of the DRR capacities
- 80 municipalities officials' DRR capacities strengthened
- 25 brigades trained and active on the territory
- 25 contingency/evacuation plans defined and simulations carried out
- 16,824 families sensitized on waste management and received waste bins
- 35,600 trees planted



ENERGY

- 317 members of non-governmental and international organisations trained on access to energy in humanitarian contexts
- Access to electricity from renewable resources for 850,000 people
- 3 solar energy plants installed and 42 people trained in their maintenance
- 100 community recharge points and 37 energy hub installed
- Training on renewable energy for 200 students
- Development of 1 global online platform about energy
- Awareness about energy management in emergency increased in 692 people



WATER AND HYGIENE

- Access to drinking water for 301,862 people
- Access to sanitation for 52,710 people
- 233,904 people reached through awareness campaigns
- 111 hydro-systems built (among which 1 dam)
- 112 hydro-systems rehabilitated (among which 3 dams)
- 420 lavatories built
- 23 water schemes extended or rehabilitated



MIGRATIONS

- 1,873 migrant people (617 women) took part to support and socio-recreational activities
- 18 micro-businesses funded by would-be migrants or returnees

TRAINING

- Access to primary education for over 83,554 children
- Literacy of 13,903 young people
- Professional training for 1,872 young people
- Over 2,000 teachers trained
- 270 schools supported
- 186 classrooms equipped with teaching materials
- 330 people who took part to small business management and marketing training



FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE IN NEED IN ITALY

Italy is not free of growing poverty and fragility involving ever-larger sections of the population.

For several years, **COOPI has been carried on a food distribution initiative** - an idea originally developed by Father Barbieri that today reaches **about 350 people, for a total of about 700 kg of food distributed each year thanks to the commitment of 15 volunteers.**

COOPI is implementing a project to further develop the initiative: for this reason in 2017 it got in touch with several groups active in the area of Provincia di Milano.



PHOTO: COOPI ARCHIVE

Strategic partnerships with the philanthropic and entrepreneurial sectors

Continuing the work it began in 2016 to involve private Foundations in Italy and abroad, COOPI has furtherly focused on and developed its work with private partners and investors, setting up a new, specially-created office for developing one-to-one fundraising that is tailor-made to suit philanthropic organisations and companies.

COOPI is convinced that the implementation of humanitarian and development programmes, even large-scale projects, must - and can - be organised through dialogue and a multi-stakeholder, co-financing plan, where one or more institutional donors can be flanked by private charities that provide resources for specific, concrete activities, not to mention different points of view that can help rethink the traditional institutional donor-implementing NGO relationship.

In line with what is now an established international trend, three kinds of targets are tackled using one single approach: 1) Foundations in Italy, Switzerland, the USA and EMEA; 2) corporations with an international vision or scope; 3) large donors and bequests.

An essential feature of such partnership work and fundraising, designed to suit private organisations, is the proposal to fund a specific project or activity, rather than donating in response to a campaign. Each of these organisations wishes to see how their donation can have an immediate, significant and long-lasting impact in a way that is clear and that demonstrates added value.

Furthermore, a philanthropist who wants to make a difference can now use more than one method at the same time: his or her own personal assets and investments, the donations of a private family foundation specially created for the purpose and the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) actions of his or her company.

In keeping with its global positioning, the Philanthropy and Private Partnership office works at a global level, which is why it can help support COOPI's international fundraising initiatives in Switzerland and in the USA.

In Italy, its partnerships with the **San Zeno Foundation** for a

three-year technical and informal education programme in Palestine, the **Mediolanum Foundation** for an educational programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the **Prosolidar Foundation** for an environmental programme in Sierra Leone all continued in 2017.

Among partnerships with companies, we want to mention our long-standing partnership with Pidielle, a family company that produces and sells **Elgon**-branded professional cosmetics for hairdressers. Since 2008, Pidielle has co-financed COOPI projects targeting women in Sierra Leone; over the past three years, in particular, the company has decided to support a project that promotes and strengthens cashew nut production.

In Switzerland the awareness-raising and fundraising work of COOPI Suisse - an organisation that is legally independent but was founded and developed in Lugano in order to promote and strengthen COOPI values in the Swiss Confederation - has been supplemented by two projects run in conjunction with Swiss foundations: **the Fondation Alta Mane** in Geneva, which co-financed the peculiar interesting "Training and Cultural Development in Haiti" project and **the Herrod Foundation** in Montreaux, which financed emergency food and water aid in Somalia.

In the USA, encounters with American foundations continued, which resulted in the approval for a contribution to the 'Fighting Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in the Ngamdu Area, Nigeria' project from the **Newman's Own Foundation**. COOPI also became a member of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce (IACC) in New York, contacting Italian companies that operate on the American market and attending the Extraordinary Italian Taste Cocktail Gala event, which took place in New York on 7th December 2017, in its capacity as the Official Charity.

COOPI communicates

COOPI's communication constantly rotates around three major objectives: to increase the brand awareness, to strengthen the relationship with donors and partners, to spread the knowledge of the most important issues concerning international cooperation to the general public.

In 2017 and 2018, COOPI improved the organisation of its communication activities compared to the past, presenting its institutional communication and advocacy work with more emphasis and strengthening its fundraising and awareness-raising work with the general public. Each of these two approaches has its own team that carries out activities, uses tools and publishes targeted documents without ever undermining the Foundation's identity and working with others on current priority actions.

In 2017, COOPI redesigned its website, launched in early 2018, which is more accessible and easier to navigate and, at the same time, reflects the progress the organisation has made in recent years.

On 20th November 2017, the new **"Help a Warrior"** campaign was launched on a national scale and a preview was presented in September 2017 during the Cascina Aperta event. The campaign tackles an urgent issue of dramatic relevance: ensuring the right to education for the millions of children and

young people living in war areas or places devastated by other humanitarian emergencies and, through this project, protecting them from violence and exploitation while investing in their future. Education in emergencies is a highly unifying topic for COOPI as an organisation as well: it can be applied to many of the areas where it operates, such as the Middle East torn apart by the Syrian crisis and many African countries, and it integrates projects that cover many different issues that the foundation considers to be priorities, such as Protection, Nutrition, Water and Hygiene. Moreover, the issue interests many people, addressing both institutional players and private citizens.

In 2017, COOPI's communication work broke new ground when it set up an organised partnership with a magazine: Vita. Every month, this well-known publication, which addresses social issues and the not for profit sector, has published a glimpse of COOPI's work, introducing it to a wider public, explaining the projects carried out by the organisation in tackling the crisis in the Lake Chad basin.

NUMBER OF COOPI FOLLOWERS 2017

coopi.org	200,694
adottareadistanza.coopi.org	109,994
Newsletter	39,955
Youtube	56,406
Facebook	21,441
COOPI news	10,000
Twitter	6,244

In 2017, COOPI's press review featured no less than 348 releases



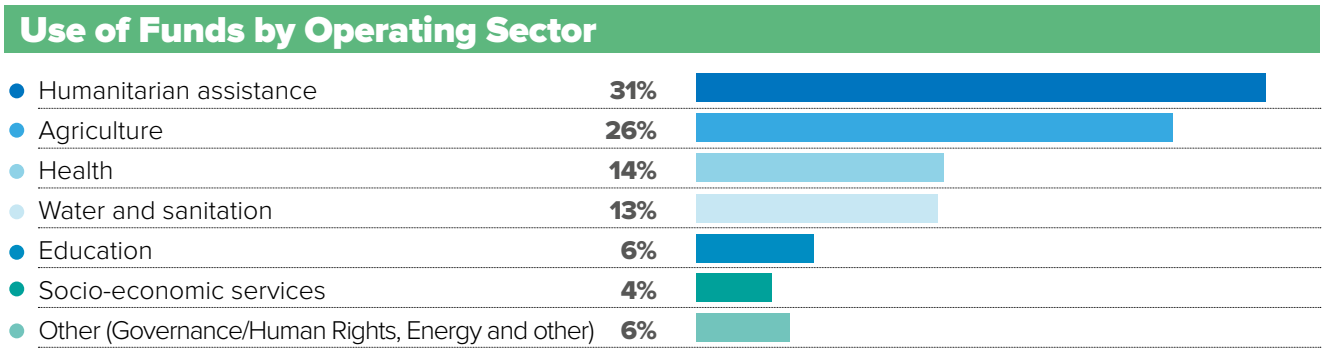
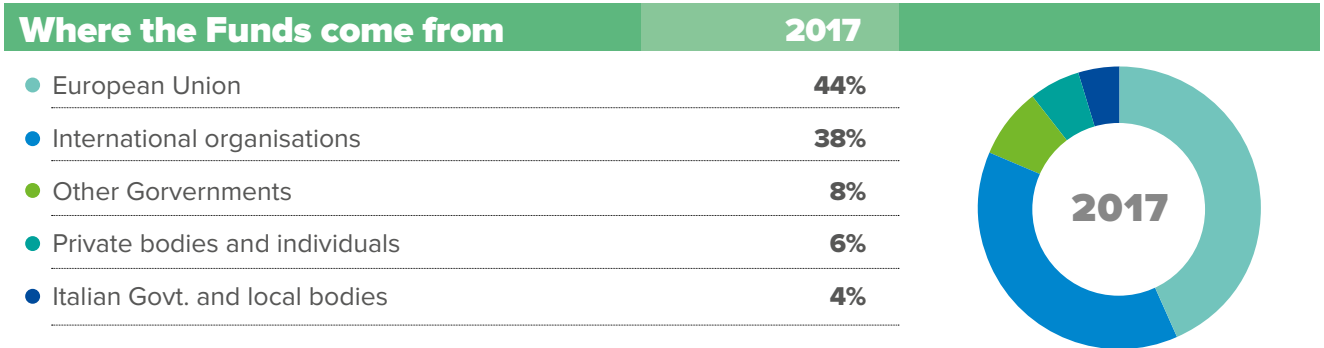
COOPI's resources

Financial report

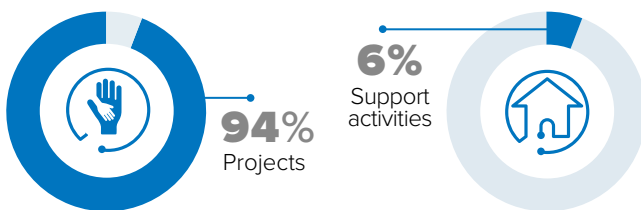
In 2017 COOPI increased its interventions both in emergency and development activities significantly.

BALANCE SHEETS (in Euro)	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Net fixed assets	1,180,609	982,642
Receivables from donors	2,952,538	2,453,494
Receivables from others	848,675	828,978
Liquidity	9,861,992	7,014,685
Accrued and deferred assets	29,360	-
Deferrals for ongoing projects	22,087,822	17,420,455
TOTAL ASSETS	36,960,996	28,700,254
LIABILITIES		
Common provision	70,000	70,000
Other free provisions	778,845	519,588
Profit for the year	2,983	2,138
TOTAL NET ASSETS	851,828	591,726
Provisions for risks and charges	72,721	72,721
Severance payment provision	479,940	438,517
Payables to banks	1,341,687	264,879
Other short-term payables	2,849,049	2,877,468
Accrued and deferred liabilities	229,674	146,876
Deferrals for ongoing projects	31,136,097	24,308,067
TOTAL LIABILITIES	36,960,996	28,700,254
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (in Euro)	2017	2016
INCOME		
Projects income	40,912,971	28,491,621
Annual fees	7,500	7,500
Donations (balance between income and costs)	832,625	910,824
Refunds and various incomes	48,647	22,249
Financial incomes	627,995	587,914
TOTAL	42,429,737	30,020,108
EXPENSES		
Expenses for projects	38,343,124	26,744,960
HQ personnel and collaborators	1,734,499	1,599,100
Institutional charges	609,979	637,753
Overheads	783,532	498,244
Financial charges	955,621	537,913
TOTAL	42,426,755	30,017,970
BALANCE	2,983	2,138

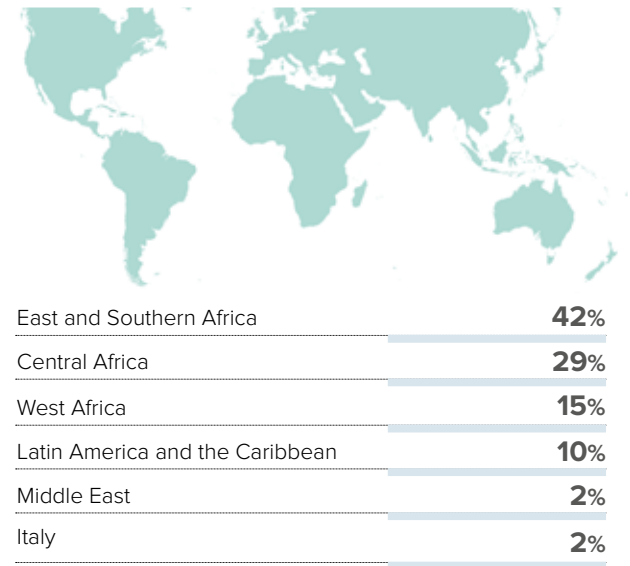
COOPI's resources



Use of Funds



Use of Funds by Geographical Area



The complete 2017 COOPI annual report certified by BDO Italia SpA and the certification letter can be downloaded at www.cooopi.org

Donors and Supporters



PHOTO: SARA MAGNI

COOPI has always based its activity in a decisive measure on the so-called “institutional” funds, coming from public or private bodies whose mission is to select and fund international cooperation projects considered worthy.

This choice is closely related to the organisation’s modus operandi and is based mostly on the realization of structured projects, with the objective to help the communities involved in the projects grow from within. The aim is to help them become autonomous over time. These are projects which, together with interventions aimed at dealing with specific emergency situations, are characterized by an important promotion of cultural changes and generation of virtuous economies. Projects of this type require significant investments, whose returns become evident in the medium-long term.

Consequently, they do not find correspondence with many people’s desire to make donations and see the results of their contribution in the short-term. Institutional donors, instead, such as the European Commission or the UN agencies, have a more “technical” approach to the matter and are more inclined to take into consideration longer timeframes for completion. However, this type of body requires for the organisations financed to prove in very specific ways the results achieved and the changes obtained. Therefore COOPI carries out an important accounting activity towards its donors.

COOPI's resources

COOPI's business model identifies institutional donors (States, supranational agencies, cooperation bodies) as priority stakeholders. Dialogue and constant search for interaction and fundraising with private entities, however, have significant importance for COOPI, beyond the figures outlined above, because it is the underlying reason of being a civil society and non-governmental organisation.

General fundraising work includes:

- **initiatives fostering dialogue and the creation of partnerships** with private Foundations with the aim of co-financing COOPI projects;
- **the implementation of initiatives with companies** so as to support specific COOPI campaigns;
- **the creation of specific fundraising campaigns designed to suit private citizens.**

Each of these fundraising and financing channels requires specifically tailored work carried out on a daily basis and someone who can constantly manage COOPI's relationship with donors and supporters: from public relations work, financial reports and audits for institutional donors to the slow and steady construction of partnerships with foundations and

companies, right up to the management of its relationship with individual donors through regular updates and appeals, organising awareness-raising events and themed campaigns designed to suit individual donors.

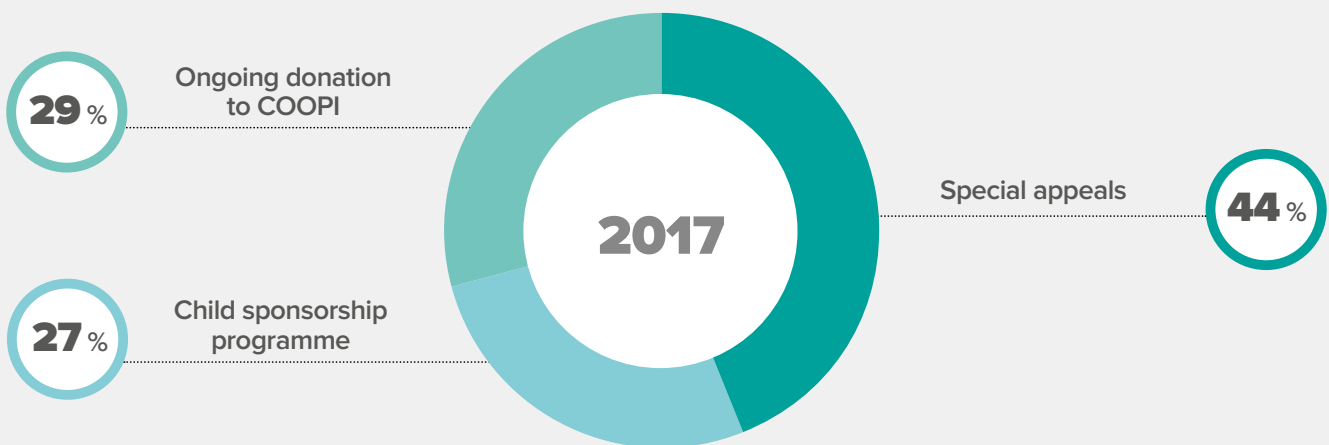
In 2017, COOPI launched its new campaign, "Help a Warrior", which tackles the issue of education in emergencies. The campaign raises public awareness about the importance of school attendance among children and young people living in war zones or in areas devastated by other humanitarian emergencies. This campaign has generated a number of initiatives on various different channels and has continued over the course of 2018.



To find out more about education in emergencies, see chapter "The Strategy". For further information about the Help a Warrior campaign, see the chapter entitled 'COOPI Communicates' or the webpage dedicated to the campaign on www.cooipi.org.



WHAT INDIVIDUAL DONORS CHOOSE



Main fundraising campaigns in 2017

COOPI carries on many fundraising activities from individuals on multiple online and offline channels, targeting for example to child sponsorships, to ongoing or single donations.

Concerning **“offline” channels**, mailing appeals and updates (7 in 2017 for child sponsorship programmes and other donors) and the **“COOPI News”** bulletins (biannual) are some of the main activities carried out together with the letters of thanks for donors and **promotional supports for the 5x1000** fundraising campaign. Other relevant activities are the promotion on newspapers, TV and radio.

About **online channels**, some of the main activities are the 3 different newsletters for child sponsorships (quarterly), ongoing

donations (quarterly) and to the general public (monthly). Other activities are the specific appeals (sent every month by email) and several Facebook appeals and updates.

In addition to these and to other management activities, COOPI promotes every year several fundraising campaigns, the main ones being the Solidarity SMS Campaign, the Christmas initiative “Paper, Ribbon and Solidarity” and the bequest campaign set up to increase memorial gifts for COOPI.

PAPER, RIBBONS AND SOLIDARITY 2017



Thanks to the traditional initiative of Christmas packaging, 181,368 € have been raised **for Education in Emergency related projects in Iraq and Niger (“Help a Warrior” Campaign) and for the fight against malnutrition in Mali.**

The campaign took place from 2 to 24 December in **84 Italian cities in 13 regions where more than 300 coordinators and 400 volunteers** wrapped presents in 138 store locations of COIN, Libraccio, Libraccio IBS, Beauty Star, Caddy's, Eataly, Librerie COOP.



5X1000

Each year, from February to June, COOPI promotes the “5x1000” campaign, for which Italian taxpayers donate 5x1000 of their taxes to COOPI. On 11 August 2017, COOPI received 85,393 € (in relation to the 2015 fiscal declarations-2014 incomes).

Con il tuo 5x1000 a COOPI riscrivi il suo futuro
 È un modo facilissimo di dare qualche euro in più per i bambini che vivono nei paesi in via di sviluppo. Proteggendo l'importo di questi bambini, proteggiamo anche il tuo futuro e contribuisci a costruire un mondo migliore.

Indica nella dichiarazione dei redditi il codice fiscale di COOPI
80118750159
www.cooi.org



SOLIDARITY SMS CAMPAIGN 2017

Through the 2017 **SMS Solidarity Campaign**, 36,600 € have been raised from 15 January to 5 February 2017. This was made possible by the support received from operators on the field and from several testimonials: writer **Gianni Biondillo**, tv chefs **Ambra Romani** and **Mirko Ronzoni**, actress **Orsetta Borghero**.



The campaign has been promoted for free by **Mediaset** and **La7**.

TV: 2 national and 7 digital channels - **Radio:** 2 national, 22 local - **Press:** 11 Newspapers - **Web:** 32 websites.

With the support of TIM, Vodafone, Wind, Infostrada, H3G, Fastweb, PosteMobile, COOPVoce, Tiscali, Convergenze, TWT.

LOOK FOR ME AMONG THE LIVING

In 2015, COOPI launched the “**Look for Me Among the Living**” bequest campaign, which saw an enormous drive to raise awareness and the publication of a specially-produced brochure illustrating the meaning of a charitable bequest made to COOPI and how it works to potential donors.

Since it launched the campaign, COOPI has received bequests and donations in memory of loved ones worth approximately € 90,000.



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



Unione Europea



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



CARITAS



Protezione civile
e aiuti umanitari
dell'Unione europea



UDENRIGSMINISTERIET
DANIDA | DANMARKS
UDVIKLINGSSAMARBEJDE

TheGlobalFund



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direzione dello sviluppo
e della cooperazione DSC



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

unicef
for every child

(For funding projects
in Central
and West Africa)

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • UNFPA United Nations Population Fund • UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization • ICC International Criminal Court • SIDA The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

COMPANIES AND PRIVATE BODIES

MEDIA FRIENDS
O N L U S

UISP
sportper tutti

partesa

Terna



milanoteleport

LIBRACCIO

IBS + LIBRACCIO

coop
Lombardia

EATALY
ITALY

librerie coop

ELGON®

BEAUTY STAR

NORDA

coin

FOUNDATIONS

fondazione sanzeno

fondazione
mediolanum
onlus

Fondazione
PROSOLIDAR
Sostegno dei lavoratori e aiuti del settore privato

NEWMAN'S OWN
FOUNDATION



Methodological note

Transparency is one of COOPI's key principles. In fact, it characterizes the organisation's actions by envisaging processes and procedures that both promote and safeguard the Organisation.

Moreover, it allows to provide information concerning the communication between the organisation and all its stakeholders.

COOPI's Annual Report - published this year for the fourth time in the current format - is the natural evolution of a shorter document published in the previous 14 years. It illustrates governance and organisation, strategic lines, work policies and methods, the use of resources and the main activities carried out all over the world as well as in Italy, and illustrates the commitment to communicate to the various stakeholders. The 2017 Annual Report includes the data and indicators considered suitable for describing and evaluating the organisation and its activities, taking into consideration what provided in the Guidelines for the Drafting of a Social Accountability Report of Not for Profit Bodies (published by "Agenzia per le Onlus" in 2010) and the Guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative, widely shared at international level.

The drafting of the Annual Report was launched by the Top Management's mandate. It includes: the drawing of data from the organisation's IT systems and, where appropriate, the reprocessing of the mentioned data by the various offices competent in each sector; integration of the information available with interviews carried out with the Top Management and the heads of the various offices; review of the analytical index of the document and drafting of the texts; approval of the document chapters provided by the various competent offices; overall review carried out by the Communication Office and final approval given by the Top Management.

The Annual Report falls within a series of activities carried out by the Organisation in a view of total accountability to its stakeholders. The Financial Statements, from which the equity and economic-financial data were extracted, was certified by an accredited external auditor (Financial Statements and related certification letter are available at www.coopi.org). COOPI's activity is also analyzed on a periodical basis through intense internal auditing activities carried out by the Control, Monitoring and Audit Office, as well as by some of the world's most prestigious and demanding international donors, among which ECHO, US AID, UNICEF. The fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledges COOPI as an NGO and that the latter is present in the Register of Legal Persons of the Prefecture of Milan further confirms that COOPI meets the specific requirements of solidity and transparency.

Background data included in this report have been extracted from official documents of International institutions, such as UN, European Commission and offices and agencies linked to them.

The support of an external consultant with recognized professionalism in the matter was used for the Annual Report's format, the management of the drafting process, the interviews and the finalization of the document.

COOPI in the world

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ECUADOR

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n. OE1-260 y Melchor Toaza.
Conjunto Kendari, Departamento n. 11

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Addis Abeba

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Kfaraabida, Batroun, North Lebanon

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Bangui

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Gombe, Kinshasa

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Freetown, Sierra Leone

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Lugano, Svizzera

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Together we can make the world
a better place.

COOPI HEADQUARTERS

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