



**Let's change the world,
one child at a time**



**Children can change the world only
if their rights are recognised and
protected by adults.**

This year I decided to use the words of a great Italian poet to support our mission statement. Originally written for children, these words send a great impactful message. It is hard for me to imagine a better way to describe our commitment.

Giorgio Zagami,
President of Helpcode Italy

*Once upon a time, a man travelled the land and the seas
in search of a Land Without Errors.*

*He walked and walked, treading the leas,
visiting countries of different colours,
some long, some wide, some cold, some hot,
some so and so:*

*if he saw an error here, there he saw more.
Finding the error, he'd take up his satchel,
off he would go, quick, on the double.*

*There were countries without water,
countries without wine,
countries without countries he did find,
but a Country Without Errors where did it lie?*

*You may say: He was a fine man. He did try
to seek good. Please excuse me, do,
but wouldn't he have done better
to settle in one place,
and of all those errors
to fix a few?*

Gianni Rodari
The country without errors

Translation ©Matilda Colarossi

Write to the President giorgio.zagami@helpcode.org — Write to the Communication Department comunicazione@helpcode.org
Should you want to receive more information about our activities or joining our team, you can reach our Secretary General on alessandro.grassini@helpcode.org

Worldwide today:

260 million
children do not go to school.

3 million
children (<5 years) die each year
from various deseases related to malnutrition.

650 million
women and girls got married
before the age of 18.

152 million
children are victims of exploitation.
In Africa 1 child out of 5.

1 person out of 9
has no access to drinking water sources.

1 person out of 3
has no access to toilets.

28 million
children are forced to migrate.



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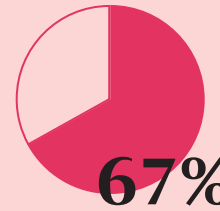
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Our work

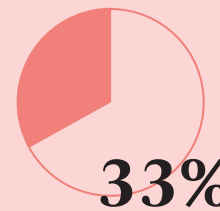
2017



€ 2.917.461
EUROS COLLECTED

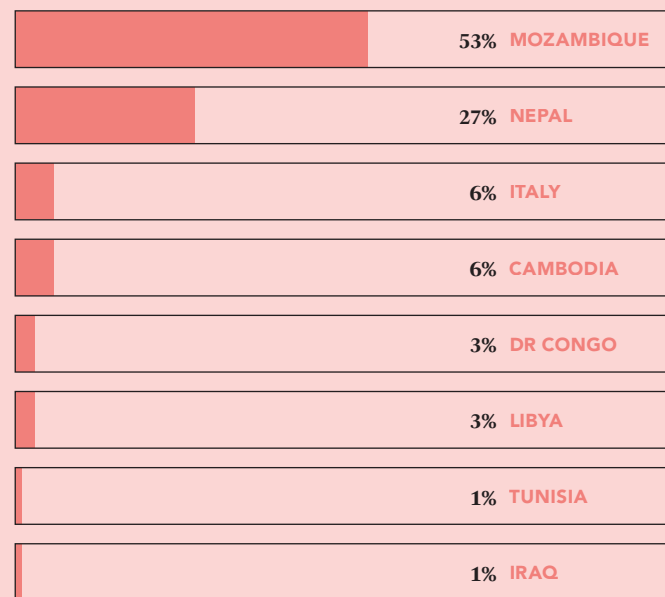


€ 1.954.698
FUNDRAISING FROM
PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

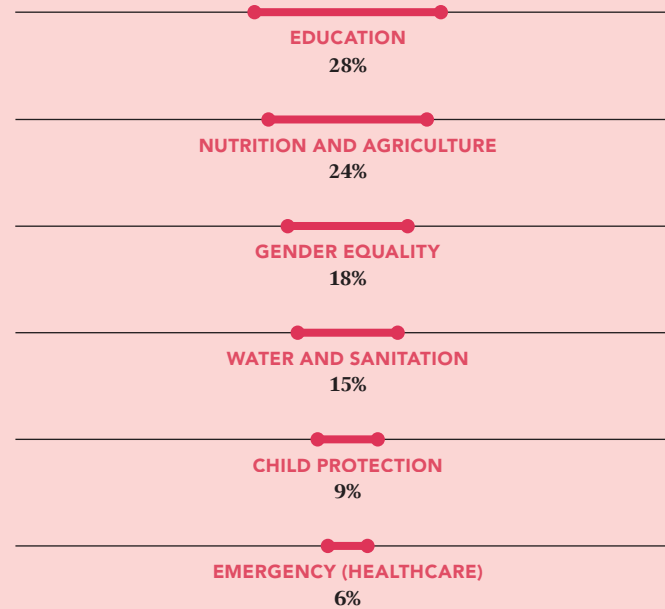


€ 962.763
INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

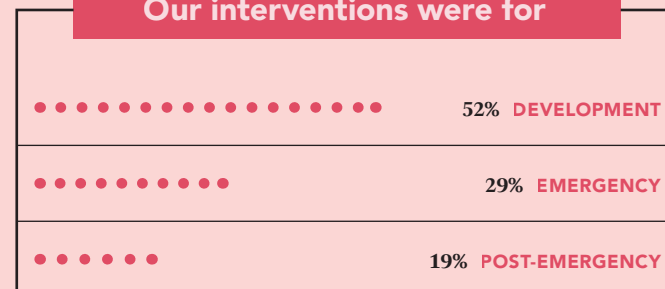
What countries have we invested in



What issues have we invested in



Our interventions were for

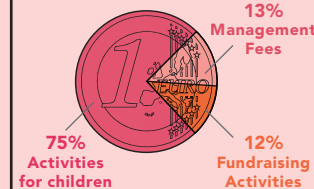


The cost to collect 1 euro



26 Cents

How do we spend every euro received



Our projects



9.504
DONORS

90.364 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
Of which 40.020 are children, 49.888 are women

246.735 INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

337.099
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES



5.000
FIRST AID KIT DISTRIBUTED



254.050
MEALS DISTRIBUTED



187
SCHOOLS SUPPORTED



29.060
SCHOOL KITS DISTRIBUTED



230
COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED



1.635
AWARENESS - RAISING
MEETINGS ON GOOD HYGIENE
PRACTICES (WASH)

Our communication



23
EVENTS ORGANIZED



60.835
DIGITAL AND PAPER
NEWSLETTERS



30.000
HOUSE ORGAN



13.250
PEOPLE REACHED
BY EVENTS



60
PRESS RELEASES



201.751
E-MAILS SENT



285.000
WEBSITE USERS



12.500
SOCIAL MEDIA FAN

Our commitment

Helpcode strives, in Italy and around the world, to guarantee each child a family's protection, a quality school and a community in which they can grow and develop their potential.



Since 1988, Helpcode has been putting girls and boys to the forefront in order to protect their rights and help them become adults and fulfil their dreams.

Helpcode is present in Cambodia, Libya, Mozambique, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia.

- 30 years of experience in the field;
- Innovative allocation of resources;
- Close contact with local partners
- Aligned goals with the Sustainable Development goals defined as priorities by the UN agenda.



EDUCATION



CHILD PROTECTION



NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE



GENDER EQUALITY



EMERGENCY



WATER



Their stories

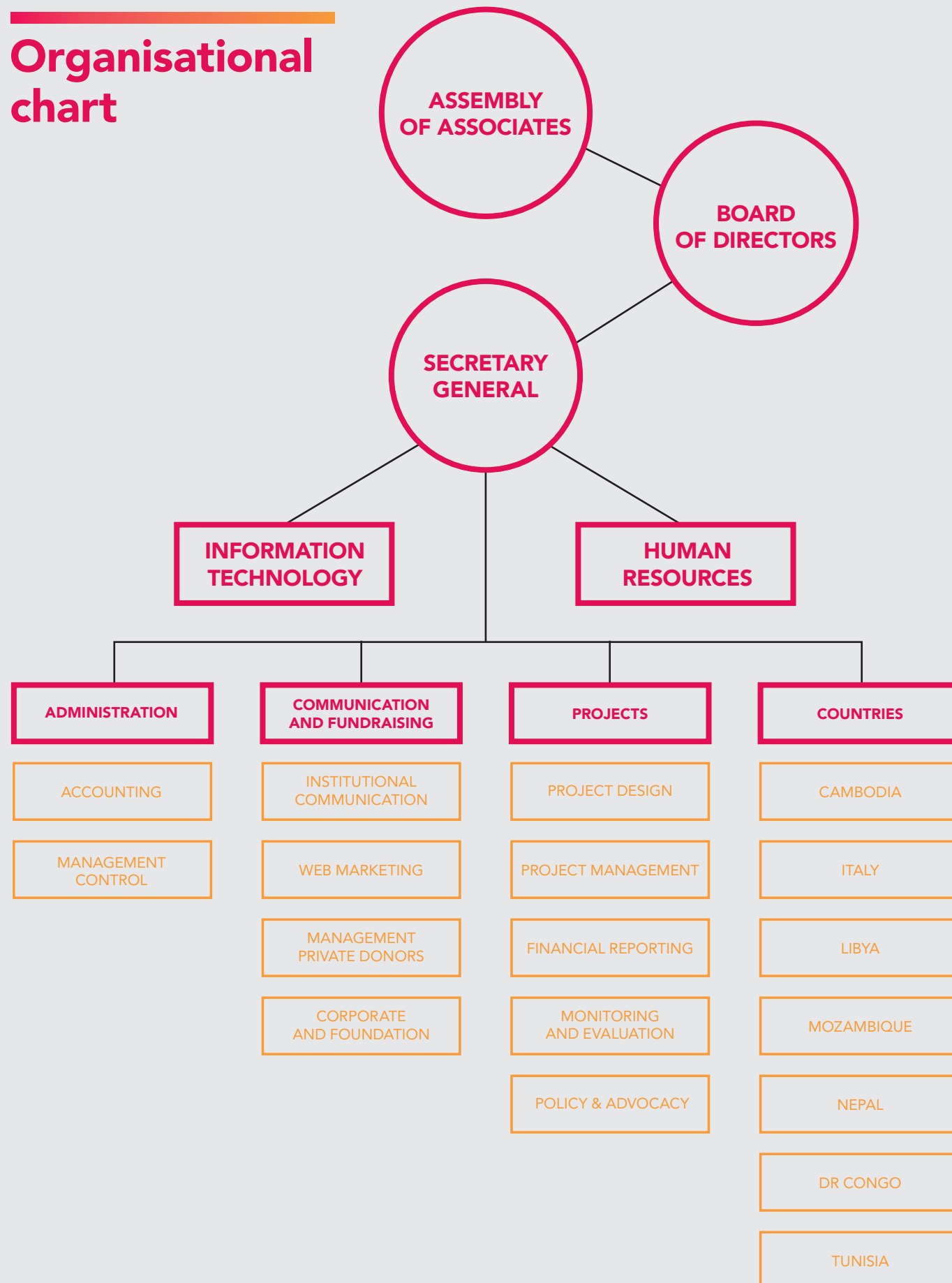
Cito, the youngest, was four years old while Atosha was seven. The father, who was job hunting, asked us to take care of Cito and Atosha for some time. As often happens, we made some space in our 'family' and we were able to welcome the two children. We received some telephone contact from the father but after a few months we heard nothing from him any more.

Among the various activities of the Ek'abana Centre, in the Democratic Republic of Congo we have created a movement to support vulnerable children, with the aim of finding families that can accommodate girls and boys who are unable to re-integrate into their biological family.

Now Cito and Atosha went to live permanently with their adoptive "grand-parents". As it always happens in these cases, our organisers pay them regular visits to see how things are going. Cito and Atosha are happy and serene, they say they do not have a mother but they have found the "tatè" (grandmother) who gives them the affection and the tenderness that every child is entitled to receive!



Organisational chart



For Helpcode transparency is a fundamental and essential element.

For this reason, Helpcode publishes its Annual Report - certified by independent third parties - every year, detailing how the funds received from public and private donors are being used.

Past reports are available at www.helpcode.org/en/finances

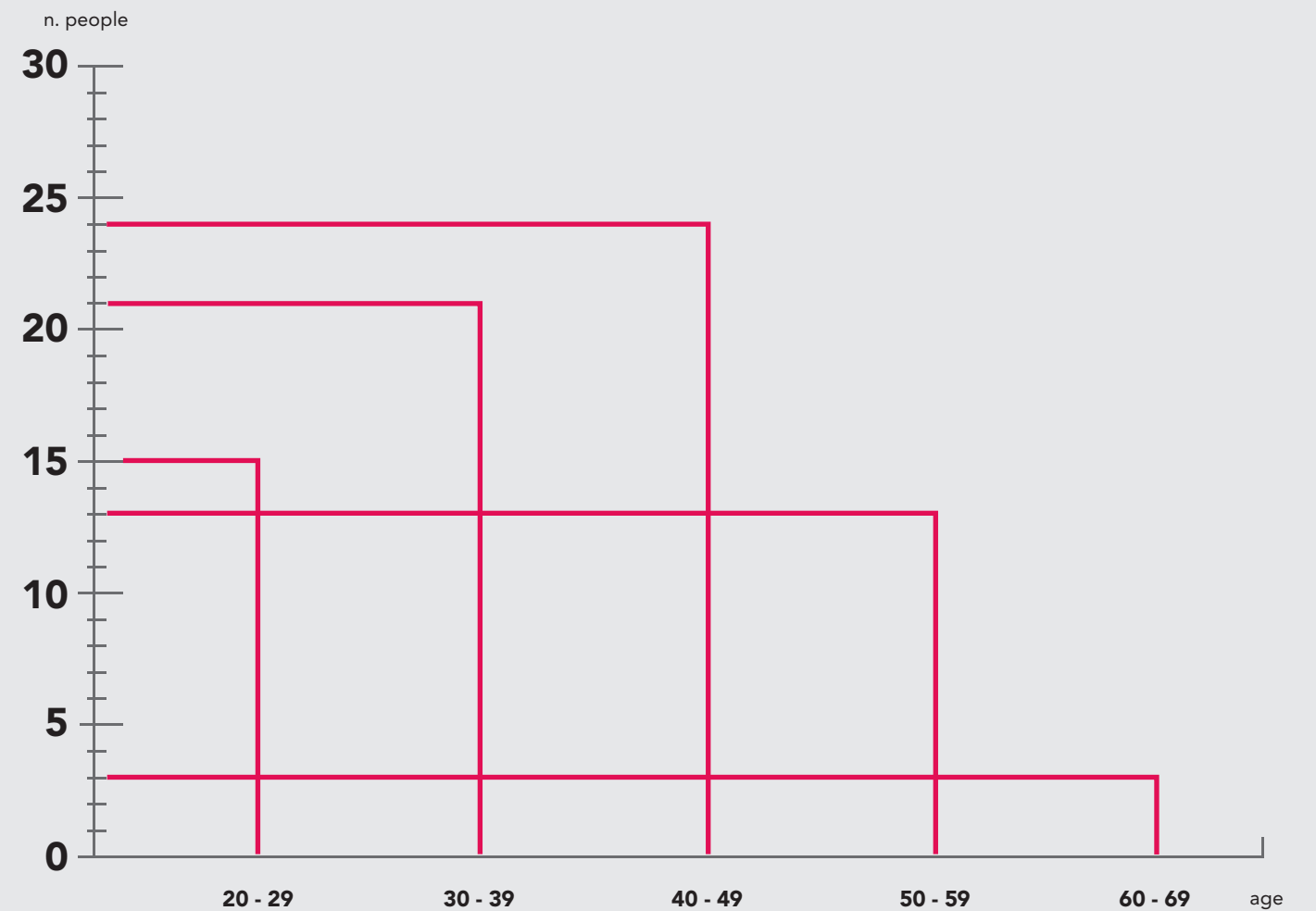
76
EMPLOYEES

18
VOLUNTEERS

Male 43 %

Female 57 %

Distribution by age group



2017

What we did

LEGENDA



Education



Child Protection



Gender equality



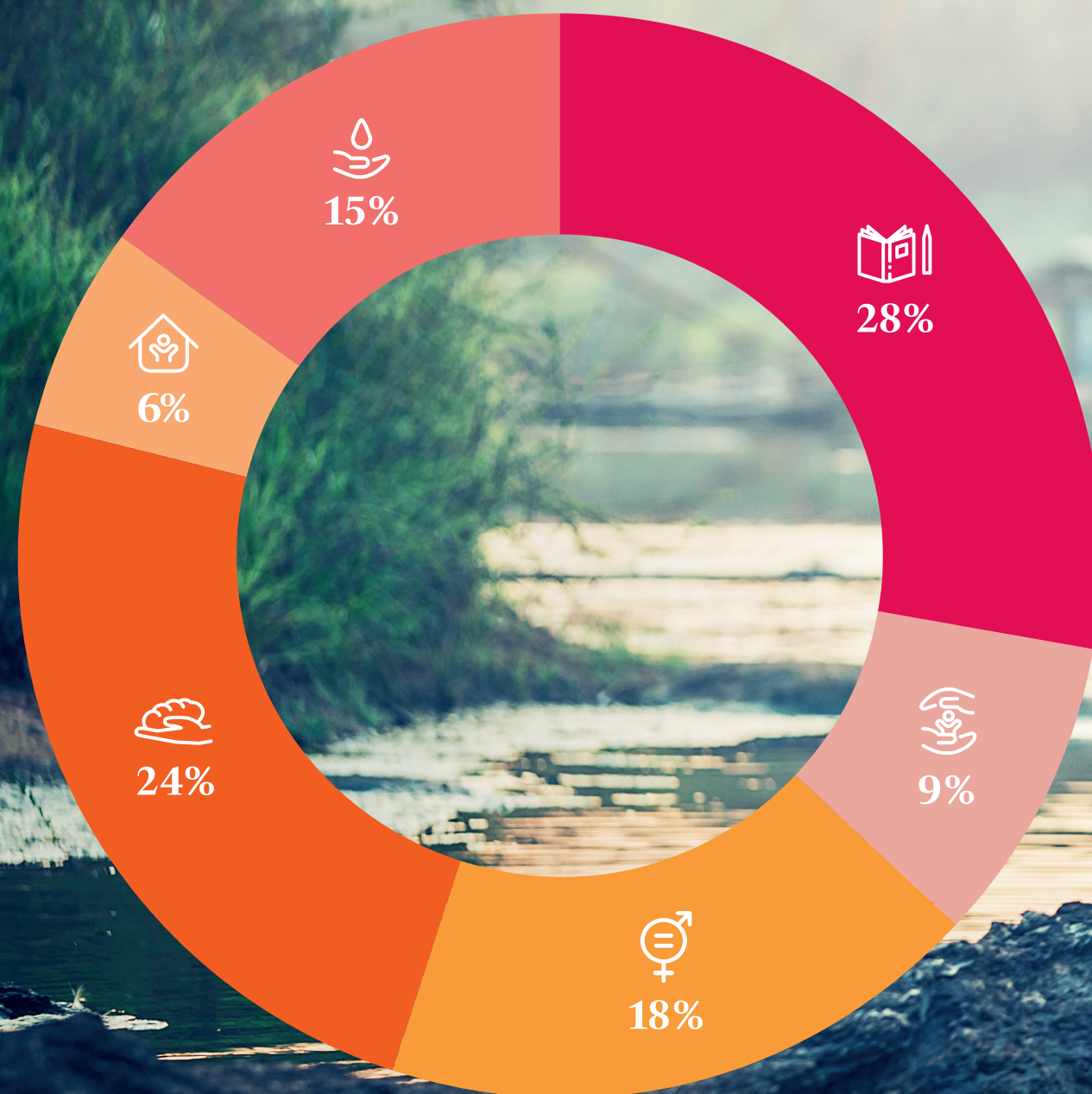
Nutrition & agriculture



Emergency



Water & Sanitation





CHILD PROTECTION

Over **40.000** girls and boys were supported in **2017**.

Over **1.000.000** children and families supported since **1988**.

All girls and boys must have the opportunity to express their potential, grow up, study and fulfil their dreams. All our activities are aimed at protecting girls and boys from abuse and violence, with particular attention to children who live in the areas affected by natural disasters, political instability and emergencies.



One of our projects

In South Kivu (RD Congo), on the border with Rwanda, half of the population is under 15 years of age, and too many girls and boys receive no education. This leads to their mental, physical and cognitive development, as well as their life and employment opportunities, being exposed to severe risk.

In this area, we collaborate with the Foyer Ek'abana, a centre founded in 2001, whose objective is the recovery, education and social and professional integration of girls and young people who find themselves on the margins of society. Access to education helps limit child labour.

To this end, we have set up training courses on income-generating activities or self-employment (cutting and sewing, small farming, breeding, etc.) for teenagers and young women. In addition, we encourage and support economic recovery through micro-credit for small businesses.

RESULTS

FAMILY REINTEGRATION FOR GIRLS
ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT, INCREASE
IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND REDUCTION
IN CHILD LABOUR.



Their stories

Manu is five years old, but if you see him you would think he's two, due to malnutrition effects. Little Manu lives in Bukavu, within the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was abandoned at a very tender age and spent his days on the street and there were times when the rain dragged him away with the mud.

His cheerful character and tenderness undoubtedly win the hearts of everyone who meets him, yet there is no one who takes care of him full-time. It's time for him to go elsewhere. And this elsewhere is called Ek'abana. As soon as he arrived at the centre, love blossomed and Manu became the mascot of the Ek'abana foyer. Manu particularly latches onto the male figure: a father just for him. So he is often seen playing with the gardener, the guardian and Benja, the volunteer at our library, who seems to become a kind of big brother for him.

For Benja, the desire to take care of the little one full-time is very strong, he would like to take him with home, but he is only 24 years old, unmarried and still lives at home with his parents. We talk to Benja's mother, she is afraid of not having the means to help Manu to finish some study. We reassure her by telling her that the Ek'abana Centre will bear the costs of the school and any medical treatment. This is the turning point in Manu's life! As he has been welcomed by a family that, although not wealthy, has been able to make enough room for him and gave him a place of his own.



EDUCATION

187 schools supported in 2017.
About 30.000 school kit
distributed in 2017.

Over 500.000 since 1988.

All children, in Italy and around the world, have the right to quality, inclusiveness and equal education. Education is an essential element in guaranteeing a better future for young people and ensuring the development of the communities they live in. That is why we are working to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality education, eliminating all forms of gender discrimination and promoting equal access at all levels of education accompanied by training programmes for teachers.



One of our projects

Makwanpur district, south of Kathmandu district, is an area that welcomes a population of about 430 thousand people, mostly employed in agriculture, the main source of income. In this area of the country there are about 600 educational institutions of various kinds and degrees but there are still very high rates of illiteracy, especially for women (36.6% illiteracy index, 46.1% women, 27.4% men).

Here we are concerned with removing the economic barriers that limit the access to quality education for girls and boys. To this end, we are working to ensure that families have sufficient income to afford to send their children to school. Our interventions also promote women's empowerment programmes to enable women to work and become an important source of income for the family.

RESULTS

REDUCTION OF FEMALE AND MALE
 ILLITERACY RATES, INCREASE IN SCHOOL
 PARTICIPATION AND REDUCTION OF
 ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED EARLY
 SCHOOL DROPPING RATES.



Their stories

Sonia is a young 17 years old girl. We have watched her grow, in fact, it seems like only yesterday when she joined, in 2005, the Helpcode distance support programme in the Malangute school, in the Vilankulo district, Mozambique.

Sonia was only four years old at the time and completed her first studies in 2010. She was in a vulnerable condition but at school she was very good, the best in her class and that is why she was included among the beneficiaries of the Helpcode scholarship programme. Thanks to the scholarship, she attended the course for waitresses and bartenders the following year at the professional school of Massinga and in 2015, she successfully obtained her basic diploma (10th class).

There are still many girls like Sonia living in families with almost no income and the possibility of completing secondary education is almost a mirage. Too often the fate of girls like Sonia is an arranged, early marriage and the inexorable abandonment of dreams and desires.

Today Sonia is 17 years old, she can continue to dream and hope for a better future for herself and for her current (and future) family.





**GENDER
EQUITY**

About **50.000** women and girls supported in **2017**.

580.000 women and girls supported by **1988**.

Gender equity, along with the empowerment of women within the family and within the community, creates real benefits for society as a whole. It is precisely the girls who face the greatest obstacles to their well-being, to the full realisation of their rights and to the ability to make informed decisions about their lives. We want to free communities from gender-based violence and discrimination, promoting equal opportunities for girls and boys and fully supporting the potential of new generations.



One of our projects

In Cambodia, a traditional view of the women's role, coupled with deep-rooted cultural habits, make it difficult to achieve real gender equity in education. The country has one of the highest rates of early school leavers in Southeast Asia.

Extreme poverty has a particularly negative effect on learning opportunities, and this is even more significant in the rural areas of the country. Among boys and girls aged 5-14, more than 18% are employed in child labour and 79.2% do not have access to education.

Poverty, malnutrition, health problems and disability are also greater among school-age children, particularly in remote villages. In many cases it is the girls who suffer the heaviest effects of this condition.

RESULTS

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE GIRLS AND BOYS. INCREASE IN THE PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS AND BOYS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY.



Their stories

Ester is 17 years old and lives in Raniban, Nepal, a small village in the north west of the country.

Her family consists of herself and her father and they belong to one of the castes that are considered medium-low. Although the social caste system in Nepal was abolished in 1962, it is still rooted in some share of the society - especially in the rural areas of the country - and results in situations of social and economic discrimination within many communities.

Ester is one of the girls supported by the 'Quality education for Nepalese children' project and is now completing her final year of primary school.

"I have the opportunity to go to school," says Ester. "I also have everything I need: pens, books and notebooks, I'm no longer ashamed, now I'm like my classmates".

In too many places around the world, going to school is still a privilege, although it is the key to getting out of a disadvantaged social-economic status and hoping for a better future.



EMERGENCY

5.000 emergency kit distributed in **2017**.

50.000 people in emergency conditions assisted since **1988**.

More than 60 million people in the world are displaced by conflict or violence, a figure that, when added to the consequences of natural disasters, reaches more than 200 million. The priority in emergency operations is to save lives and meet the basic needs of the affected populations. All our workers follow procedures and codes of conduct to ensure that they do not harm the most vulnerable people, in particular children, pregnant women, migrants and displaced persons.



One of our projects

Libya is characterised by strong political instability which effectively restricts and in many cases denies the civilian population access to fundamental rights, such as health and education. Thousands of people have no access to healthcare and there is a shortage of medicines. Recent estimates released by the Ministry of Health show that only 60% of hospitals are partially or fully operational, most medical staff have fled the country, and the few remaining doctors do not have the tools or resources in order to be able to work safely.

Our intervention in the Fezzan region - in the south of the country - focuses on supporting 4 health centres to improve health services for vulnerable groups. We work with local companies for the rehabilitation of health centres, the distribution of medicines and medical equipment and the training of specialised health personnel.

RESULTS

40% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AND MONITORED BY THE CENTRES, 30% IN THE NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED DIAGNOSES AND 50% IN THE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS.



Their stories

"The first days after the earthquake, under the temporary tent where we were teaching, when the aftershocks arrived, the children were frightened and said to me: Teacher, teacher what if the tent collapses? Well then we'll play ghosts, I would answer them hoping to reassure them. They were frightened, a lot, and I was scared, but we adults had an important task, the task of putting their hearts back together and making sure that they made peace with this beautiful territory.

Iride has been teaching at Acquasanta Terme primary school in the Marche region for over 40 years. The country was hit by a terrible earthquake in the summer of 2016. In the aftermath of the earthquake, the focus was on children and schools. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we were able to guarantee the school canteen service, relieving many families of this heavy financial burden.

We went to Acquasanta several times to understand what was needed and to dialogue with the people. We collected many stories, such as Fabio's story, a young entrepreneur who wanted to buy a 'cargobike' to bring his Ascolan olives to all the festivals in the area. Or Antonio, who wanted to create an e-commerce homepage to promote the excellence of Aquasanta and help his fellow citizens sell their products.

From these stories we understood that there are few things more to be done in order to kick start this territory. Relaunching the economy is essential in order to enable families to continue living in their land.





NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE

254.050 meals distributed in 2017.

Over 2.7 milioni meals distributed since 1988.

The malnutrition is co-responsible for over 3 million (45%) of all child deaths under the age of 5 and one in four children suffer from malnutrition. The world's population is constantly growing and a decisive change of course is needed in order to achieve sustainable agricultural production growth, improve resources' distribution and reduce waste.



One of our projects

Mozambique is characterised by extreme climatic events, recently culminating in floods in the north and droughts in the south of the country, with serious repercussions on food security and the population's future perspectives.

Climate phenomena exacerbate the consequences of the already worrying hydro-geological instability, with serious results in the agricultural (62,000 hectares lost in the South of the Country) and zoo-technical fields (4,000 animals lost last year in the Province of Maputo alone).

We work to ensure better management of water resources, promote grain and vegetable production and conservation techniques and strengthen the links between public institutions and civil society regarding the management of natural resources. We are also committed to creating an inclusive and sustainable economic-productive system focusing on social entrepreneurship, the active role of women, associations and technical-scientific cooperation.

RESULTS

REBOOTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY THANKS TO THE RELAUNCH OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. REDUCING THE NUMBER OF EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS AND A PERCENTAGE REDUCTION OF CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM ACUTE MALNUTRITION.



Their stories

Lúcia is a woman of almost forty years old, her face lined by wrinkles and by the difficulties of life in the countryside. She lives in Mozambique, in the district of Gorongosa, and works in the fields every day to support her family.

Lúcia tells us that, in the last two years her quality of life - and that of her family - has definitely improved, thanks to Helpcode's intervention.

She has learned new production techniques that have enabled her to increase her harvest and now she has sufficient products for both market sales and family consumption.

In the past, small family economies were almost entirely devoted to the purchase of work tools, while now they can be used to purchase basic necessities such as sugar, salt and soap.

In addition, the delivery of equipment previously inaccessible to local farmers, in particular sprayers and motor pumps, has made it possible to double vegetable production, with positive effects on both food security and household income.



1.635 awareness-raising meetings on good hygiene practices (WASH) in 2017.

Over **200** wells and **350** toilets made since **1988**.

Access to safe water and good management of freshwater ecosystems are essential for human health, environmental sustainability and the economic prosperity of any community. However, recent projections show that by 2050, one in four people will live in a water scarcity area of the world. Through a sustainable approach of the water and hydrological sources, we can improve the health of boys and girls, produce better food, create jobs and ensure the economic development of the community.



One of our projects

In Cambodia, one of the main barriers for girls' access to education is the lack of adequate sanitation. In many cases, school facilities do not have separate toilets for boys and girls or they don't meet the requirements to ensure an adequate level of hygiene. This is accompanied by poor water quality, which leads to frequent illnesses such as diarrhoea or other disorders caused by the microorganisms present in the water.

Unfortunately, there are many boys and girls who are forced to miss important days of school due to illness, with serious consequences for their school performance and cognitive development.

We work to improve existing infrastructure, create new ones where there are none, and create a change in hygiene habits and practices through hygiene awareness programmes, on the importance of simple everyday habits, such as frequent hand washing, or proper sanitation. Our awareness-raising work also extends to public and private key players, who have the task of building school infrastructure, with incentives and recognition for entities that respond to the recommendations of the World Health Organisation.

RESULTS

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS THROUGH THE CREATION OF ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES.

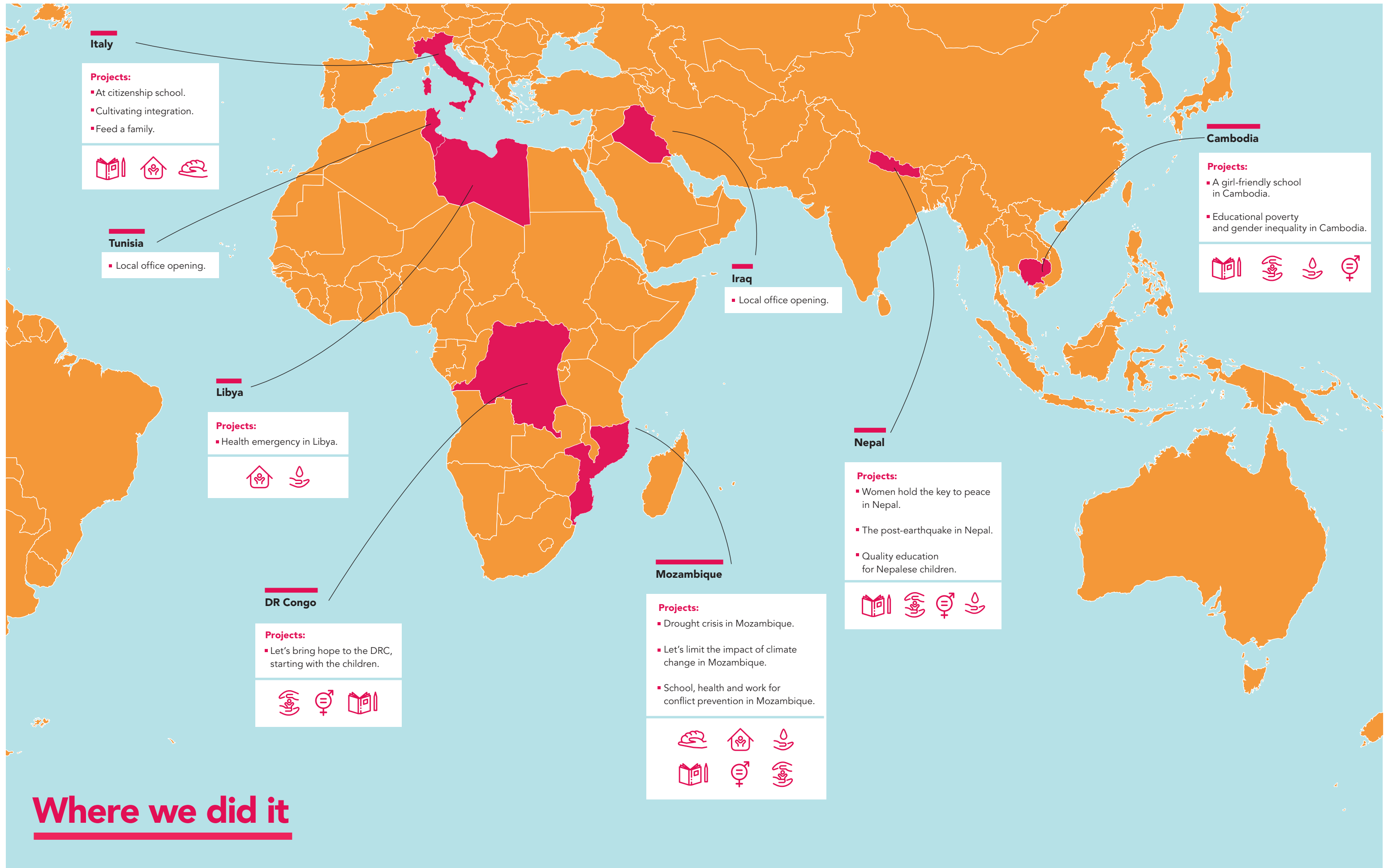


Their stories

Raksa teaches at one of Helpcode's schools on the island of Koh Rong in southern Cambodia. The name of the island will not tell you much but in reality it has great popularity, it was the set for the reality TV show, Survivor, for some years, which also became famous in Italy as the Island of the Famous.

Raksa tells us that there are still many social and economic barriers in Cambodia that limit access to education. Particularly for girls, these barriers are compounded by structural problems such as lack of adequate sanitation. Schools, especially in remote areas, often do not have separate bathrooms for boys and girls or do not meet the requirements for adequate hygiene. This is accompanied by low quality water sources, which cause frequent diseases, such as diarrhoea and intestinal infections. Raksa explains that a marked improvement has been seen in recent years on the island and the rate of early school-dropping has fallen significantly. The construction of separate toilets for boys and girls and awareness-raising courses on good sanitation practices for teachers and students have improved the conditions and availability of toilets and made schools more accessible and inclusive.







23 events organized.

13.250 people reached
through our events.

The events organised in Italy represent an important opportunity to meet with Helpcode supporters and donors. A special thanks to all our testimonials and friends who support our activities with commitment and with their time, to protect the rights of thousands of girls and boys around the world.



2017 - Il Villaggio dei Diritti
Genoa, 18 November 2017



Alessio Boni - Helpcode on MSC Crociere
Venice, 13 May 2017



Claudia Gerini - Helpcode Charity Dinner
Milan, 30 May 2017

Istitutional donors



Private donors

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Private Donors: 9504 | COMITES Geneve | Colonie libere Italiane di Bex, Monthey e Aigle |
| Abbecedario Association | Herrod Foundation | Gertrude Hirzel Foundation |

International partners



Corporate



Local partners

- Cambodia**
- Kampot Catholic Church
 - Sianoukville Catholic Church
 - Committee of NGOs Collaborating on Education (CNCE)
 - Gender and Development Network (GADnet)
 - Ministry of Education
 - Foreign Affairs Ministry
 - NGO Education Partnership (NEP)
 - Provincial and Municipal Authorities of Kampot Province
 - Sihanoukville Advocacy Network (SNAN)
 - Technical Working Group on Education
 - Technical Working Groupon on Health
 - Technical Working Group on Women’s Affairs

- Italy**
- Action Aid
 - AMREF Italy
 - Amici della Scuola di Crevari Association
 - Amici di Silvana Association
 - Asilo nel Bosco di Genova Association
 - Colomba Association
 - Dado Blu Association
 - Il CeSTO Association
 - Il Cedro Association
 - Le Muse Association
 - Hui Neng Association
 - Acquasanta Terme (AP)
 - Coro Popolare della Maddalena
 - Riccardo Catella Foundation
 - Identità Golose
 - Januaforum
 - La Band degli Orsi
 - Giovine Orchestra Genovese (GoG)
 - La Giostra della Fantasia
 - OXFAM Italy
 - Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura
 - Radio Babboleo
 - Radio Popolare
 - Teatro della Tosse
 - Università Bicocca, Milan
 - Università degli Studi di Pavia
 - Università degli Studi di Bologna

- Mozambique**
- Abbecedario Association
 - Solidarietà e Sviluppo Association(ASES)
 - Foreign Affairs Ministry
 - Ministry of Education
 - ORAM Delegazione di Sofala
 - Scuola di Pace di Montesole
 - Moamba and Marracuene Local District for Education, Youth and Social Policies
 - Marracuene, Moamba, Manhiça e Magude local district for planning and infrastructure
 - Gorongosa and Maringue local district for economy
 - Gorongosa and Maringuè local district for education, youth and technology
 - Gorongosa local district for public health and social policies
 - Moamba and Marracuene local district for public health and social policies
 - Marracuene, Magude, Moamba e Manhiça local district for economic development

- Nepal**
- Nepal International Association
 - Children Welfare and Rural
 - Development Services (CWARDS)
 - Helpcode Nepal
 - MADE Nepal
 - Foreign Affairs Ministry
 - Ministry of Education
 - NCE Nepal
 - National Committee for Early Childhood Care and Education (NECCD)

- Democratic Republic of Congo**
- Amici di Silvana Association
 - Bukavu Archdiocese
 - Foyer Ek’abana
 - Movimento Lotta alla Fame nel Mondo (MLFM)

- Tunisia**
- IDH (International Institute of Human Development)
 - Scuola di Pace di Montesole
 - Terre des Hommes Italy



Annual Report Award 2012”

Helpcode Italia Onlus

Headquarters: Via XXV Aprile,
no.12B - 16123 Genoa – Italy

Tel: +39 010 5704843

Fax: +39 010 5702277

Email: info@helpcode.org

Editorial Management: Andrea Ghianda

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Helpcode – Il diritto di essere bambini



@helpcodeitalia



Helpcode



Helpcode

Via XXV Aprile, 12B, 16123 Genoa – Italy
Tel +39 010 5704843
Fax 010 5702277
info@helpcode.org


helpcode