annual report 2023

concise



Service for peace

IDENTITY AND MISSION

LVIA seeks to promote responsible citizenship based on the principles of solidarity, to act effectively to promote change, to sustain dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples for building a more just and united world. A global society in which the dignity of every person is safeguarded and promoted, in which each individual person may enjoy fundamental liberties, have access to resources and services, have the possibility to live in a healthy environment and improve the quality of life in all aspects; a global society in which every single individual and all communities have the right of self-determination consistent with the cultural rights of other peoples and every man and woman on earth.

Mission LVIA

In 2023, to meet the objectives of its mission statement, LVIA operated with development and emergency response interventions in 10 Sub-Saharan African Countries and Italy, working on global citizenship education, the promotion of active citizenship, intercultural understanding and social inclusion.

In 2023, investment in cooperation projects and humanitarian aid in Africa and in Italy amounted to EUR 8,435,661 - a share equal to 97.54% of the expenditure that achieved factual results in improving the living conditions of 627,184 people:

- **42,934** people (22,531 women, 20,403 men) have better living conditions thanks to interventions for **Sustainable Food Systems**;
- **69,074** people (32,573 women and 32,391 men, 4,110 children) have better living conditions thanks to interventions in access to water and sanitation;
- **331,197** people (134,680 women, 172,024 men and 24,493 children) have better living conditions thanks to interventions on **energy supply and the environment**;
- **112,055** people (58,954 women, 15,191 men and 37,910 children) have improved living conditions thanks to humanitarian interventions and activities against malnutrition;
- **59,135** people (47,417 women, 8,118 men and 3,600 children) have better living conditions thanks to **social inclusion interventions and democratic participation**;
- **30,134** people (18,555 women, 11,260 men and 319 children) have been involved in activities on global citizenship education, social inclusion and active citizenship.

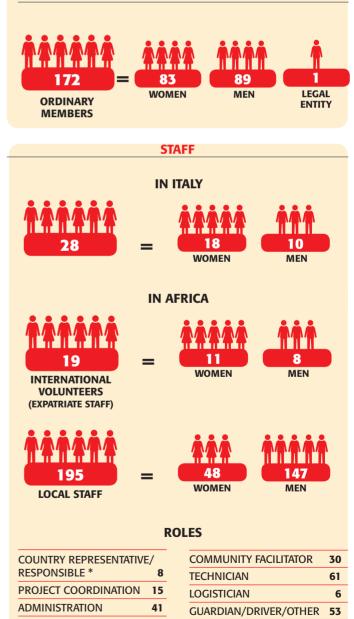
The resources for development actions were equivalent to 84% of the investments in the countries and, in the case of humanitarian interventions, 16%. All the interventions were carried out considering sustainability and permanent future benefits.

Thanks to communication activities, **59,784** people were involved through LVIA social, and hundreds of thousands of people through mass media activities (web site, newsletter, newspaper TV etc).

THE ASSOCIATION

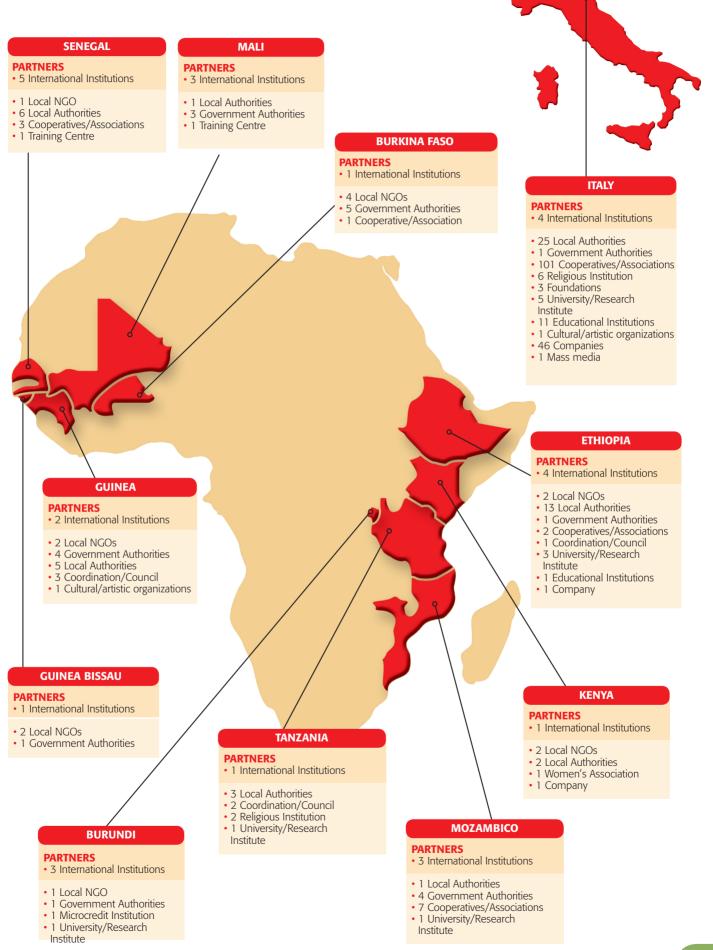
LVIA, the Lay Volunteers International Association, was established in 1966. LVIA is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks effective and innovative means of action, recognising the fundamental values and commitment of volunteering in all its diversity.

LVIA MEMBERSHIP BASE AND STAFF



*The Country Representative, in addition to technical/political tasks, has also the role of representing the association.

PARTNERS



FUNDING BODIES

FOR ACTIVITIES IN ITALY AND AFRICA

Ű
4
10
12
10
1
52

OUR MAIN FUNDING BODIES



GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMMES

- AICS Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
- 8x1000 Programme of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- EU European Union (Development, World Citizenship Education
- UE European Union ECHO (Emergency)
- AFD French Agency for Development Cooperation
- FCDO UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- ENABEL Belgian Development Agency
- GIZ German Agency for International Cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- PNUD
- OCHA

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

- Emilia Romagna Region
- Piemonte Region
- Municipalities of Torino, Castelbuono, Firenze, Forlì, Cesena, Cuneo, Borgo San Lorenzo, Piossasco, Rivalta, Orbassanoe

FOUNDATIONS

- Compagnia San Paolo
- CARIPLO Foundation
- CRT Foundation
- CRC Foundation
- Cassa di Risparmio di Saluzzo Foundation
- De Mari Foundation
- La Stampa Specchio dei Tempi Foundation
- Social enterprise Con i Bambini CON IL SUD Foundation
- CDF Climate and Development Association
- Kinder in Not

RELIGIOUS ENTITIES

• CEI - Italian Bishops' Conference

COMPANIES

- Idrodepurazione SpA
- SAIPEM SpA
- Ream SpA
- and many others

ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

The activities in Italy are driven by the dedication of LVIA staff and various territorial groups and organizations across different regions. In 2023, we particularly highlight the dynamism of the territorial groups in Sangano, Palermo, and the territorial office in Forlì/LVIA Forli nel Mondo. The main strands of our activities, detailed on the following pages, include:

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

activities

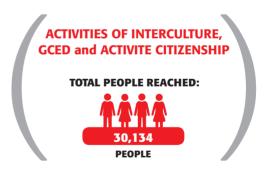
Starting with the youngest, but not limited to them, we promote people's participation in the civic life of the country. This participation, while sometimes challenging, is crucial for driving change: equal opportunities, training, and education in critical thinking are fundamental ingredients for forming one's own convictions and acting for the common good.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Using innovative methodologies related to non-formal education and edutainment, we provide young people with the tools to understand complex contemporary phenomena (such as globalization, climate change, and migration) and their interdependencies. We work in schools at all levels, designing interdisciplinary educational pathways that develop active citizenship and intercultural competencies, while stimulating critical thinking.

INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

We are active in some urban peripheries and socially challenged areas, promoting initiatives to strengthen social networks and public-private partnerships. These efforts aim to foster lasting inclusion for individuals at risk of social exclusion and enhance the social cohesion of communities. In recent years, we have also committed to combating educational poverty among minors who often face early school leaving or otherwise challenging educational paths.



INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

We communicate to ensure that individuals, civil society, and public and private institutions become aware of the issues at hand and work together to seek new approaches to action. Our primary focus includes human rights, the root causes of poverty, and commitment to transition.

TOOLS

Website 55,941 visitors Facebook 6,325 followers Instagram 1,599 followers Newsletter 16,751 recipients Printed Newsletter 1,000 recipients

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

PFOPI F

20.407

MEN

2.531

WOMEN



Food Systems are central to social well-being, ecosystem health, food and nutritional security, culture, and landscape. At the same time, they present crucial challenges related to biodiversity reduction, overconsumption of water, greenhouse gas emissions, and groundwater pollution, with severe implications for human health. They both suffer from and contribute to climate change. The food crisis is essentially linked to inequalities in food access, and its resolution requires a profound transformation of food systems.

In this context, LVIA conducts interventions that support family farming and are framed within a medium-to-long-term vision. This vision finds in agroecology a dimension capable of improving the resilience and sustainability of food systems, while preserving the rights of farmers. These interventions consider and address the environmental, socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions of the rural context and the interconnections between urban and rural areas, where urban food policies can drive change towards fair, healthy, and sustainable food systems. With this perspective, we have renamed our traditional agro-pastoral development sector to sustainable food systems.

In 2023, LVIA conducted actions in the sustainable food systems sector in 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique), involving 42,934 people.

In addition to the agro-food value chains in which LVIA has long been engaged (beekeeping in Burkina Faso, mangrove rice cultivation in Guinea Bissau, horticulture in Ethiopia, camel milk in Kenya), we highlight the initiation of an important project in Tanzania and Guinea on local vegetables, legumes, and tubers (AIV-African Indigenous Vegetables): amaranth, okra, African nightshade, sweet potato, and potato. Horticulture is among the agricultural sectors that best intersect employment potential for small producers, especially women and youth, agricultural and nutritional diversification, and producer/consumer relationships. LVIA's methodological approach involves organic and structured pathways that engage all the different actors in the value chain. A prime example is the intervention conducted in Ethiopia, which has supported and connected agricultural training schools, Unions, government districts, employment centers, business incubators, and start-ups, leading 33 entities to access dedicated credit lines. Permanent technical assistance from sector operators (SMEs, cooperatives, training centers, farmer organizations) is a cornerstone of this approach: in 2023, 30 entities were continuously supported. Over 10,000 people (producers, technicians, youth) accessed training programs.

The most significant infrastructural interventions were conducted in Guinea Bissau (completed hydraulic and agricultural works on a total of 5,595 hectares of mangrove rice fields directly involving over 20,000 people and completed 8.7 km of rural roads), in Tanzania (56 irrigation perimeters established), and Burkina Faso (construction and modernization of 8 honey-processing facilities). Food education, promoting the consumption of local products, and sustainable resource management are the subjects of awareness campaigns and policy actions.

To achieve this, in addition to on-the-ground actions in Africa, LVIA participates in political dialogue in Italy and Europe with relevant networks to advocate for a new model of development and cooperation.

WATER AND SANITATION



According to the UNESCO 2024 Report, about a quarter of the population faces particularly high water stress, with an expected increase in the frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change. There are no updates on the globally collected data from 2022, which indicated that 26% of the world's population (over 2 billion people) lacks access to safe water services and 46% (3.6 billion people) does not have access to basic sanitation services. Appropriately, the UNESCO 2024 Report highlights that the lack of water access in Sub-Saharan Africa is primarily related to insufficient investments, despite the demonstrated water-development link, where resources invested in water access and sanitation yield high returns in terms of human and economic development.

Water is an essential element whose access is compromised in conditions of insecurity and conflict, factors that are multiplying and pushing people to displace, creating pressure on resources and water systems. Proper use and increased resources for countries with severe water deficits and actions to promote shared water resource management could instead promote peaceful coexistence and lay the foundation for a prosperous future.

In 2023, LVIA's interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa brought access to water and sanitation services to 69,074 people in 5 countries.

LVIA's projects prioritized providing water and sanitation mainly to schools and health centers, benefiting rural communities in dozens of villages where basic services are still very lacking.

This year. LVIA completed the excavation and installation of 2 wells with hand pumps and the rehabilitation of 13 various types of wells. They also completed 7 hydraulic works, including the construction of rainwater collection systems and storage cisterns and the extension or repair of waterworks, especially in dispensaries and health centers that lacked them. As part of a rapid response to severe climate events, equipment and spare parts for 3 strategic wells in pastoral areas were provided in Kenya, which are only operational in emergency conditions, and support was given to the Isiolo County Rapid Response Team.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

2.391

MEN

4.110

CHILDREN

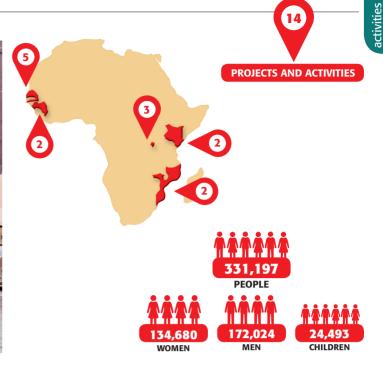
Training accompanies all infrastructural activities, focusing on economic/management and technical-hydraulic aspects, as well as on operation and maintenance, monitoring, and data collection. In a growing effort, 80 people, mainly community agents, were trained in 2023 to improve skills and management capacities.

The improvement of sanitary conditions was promoted through the construction of latrine blocks and handwashing devices in the health centers of 12 villages and thanks to a hygiene awareness campaign in Kenya, which, together with the distribution of hygiene materials for girls in schools in Kenya and materials for water treatment and storage, improved the lives of over 23,800 people. The awareness campaign, promoted through the involvement of dozens of volunteer operators in the villages, engaged communities, schools, and health centers using a peer-to-peer training methodology.

Finally, a research on water resource management, gender dynamics, and the impact of Tanzania's new water policy was published with a PhD student from the University of Turin.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY





In 2023, many countries where we work transitioned from a situation of extreme drought (which had characterized the previous 4 years) to one of destructive floods. This change is due to the influence of La Niña and El Niño, which have intensified extreme weather events related to the consequences of climate change, impacting structurally vulnerable people, families, and societies. Essential resources for living, such as water and food supply, as well as the homes of many people and various basic services, have been severely affected. This has led to a flow of people moving towards cities and abroad, causing damage to the social and economic fabric of the communities where we operate, especially in rural areas.

In Africa, the situation is critical, with 65% of the continent's soils under the yoke of degradation, and 45% already affected by desertification. This phenomenon threatens the food security of over 236 million people who directly depend on agriculture.

Deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, and unsustainable agricultural practices are rapidly reducing soil fertility, causing the loss of about 12 million hectares of fertile soil every year. This situation has a significant economic and social impact, with entire communities becoming increasingly impoverished, representing a severe threat to the well-being of future generations. Moreover, soil degradation leads to a reduction in nutrients in food crops, with serious health consequences, especially for children under the age of 5.

In such a context, beyond emergency interventions, it becomes essential to support investments that have a long-term impact. For example, promoting the use of renewable energy in households, production processes, and basic services such as schools and health centers. This would not only provide access to energy for millions of people currently not connected to national grids but also strengthen environmental protection, contributing to combating climate change. In 2023, LVIA intensified efforts to protect the environment through reforestation activities, anti-erosion works, and investments in solar energy to ensure electricity access for families, as well as for the development of economic activities. Parallelly, LVIA also promoted environmental awareness campaigns involving schools, associations, and local authorities.

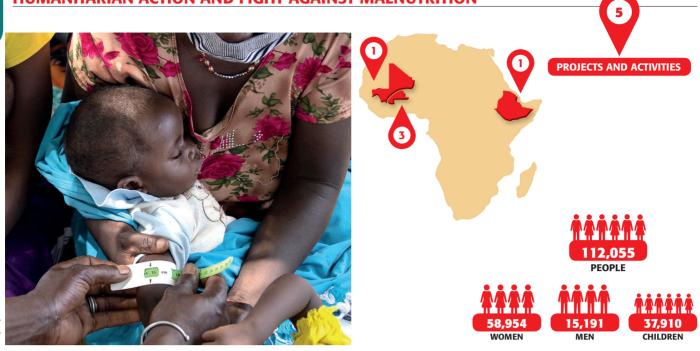
In the environmental sector, LVIA made a concrete contribution to the ecological transition of the countries in which it was active, encouraging green entrepreneurial initiatives and job opportunities, demonstrating that it is possible to combine economic development with environmental sustainability. To this end, LVIA provided support and assistance to agricultural, pastoral, and waste management enterprises in various areas where it operates. Additionally, the theme of the circular economy gained increasing importance, particularly regarding the valorization of waste and by-products of agricultural production.

In 2023, LVIA directly reached a total of 331,197 people (including 172,024 men, 134,680 women, and 24,493 children) in 5 African countries through activities related to the environment and energy sector.

The following details present the interventions carried out in different contexts and provide an idea of the considerable effort made by the organization to ensure a contribution to environmental protection and the promotion of renewable energy.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

activities



In a context still characterized by conflicts, droughts, famines, floods, and other catastrophic events more or less directly linked to climate change, in 2023, LVIA responded to humanitarian crises in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ethiopia, reaching 112,055 people with its interventions, including 58,954 women and 37,910 children under 5 years old and 15,191 men.

In Burkina Faso and Mali, the chronic crisis linked to the presence of extremist armed groups that have plagued the Liptako Gourma region (a vast area spanning Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) for over 10 years, carrying out attacks and assaults even against the civilian population, has been compounded by political isolation following the local governments' (all military-controlled after recent coups) decision to forgo support from Western countries, particularly France, in favor of Russian assistance. In Mali, the government also requested and obtained the departure of MINUSMA (the United Nations peacekeeping mission) and, after years of truce, reopened hostilities against the northern separatist groups, with further negative impacts on the security and living conditions of local communities.

As in previous years, LVIA's and its partners' activities concentrated in the Sahel region, particularly in the provinces of Oudalan and Seno (Burkina Faso), and the Cercles of Gao and Douentza (Mali), to support local health systems under stress from the presence of tens of thousands of internally displaced persons and the complete or partial closure of most community health centers for security reasons and lack of staff. The goal remains to reduce child mortality and ensure the local population and displaced families access to quality medical care in an extremely fragile context by strengthening the capacity of health agents (including community health workers) in the sectors of nutrition, child diseases, and obstetrics; providing nurses and other healthcare workers; supplying means of transport, photovoltaic systems, equipment, medicines, and other basic pharmaceutical products for health centers; covering the costs of evacuation and hospitalization for the most vulnerable families; providing logistical support for malnutrition screening and vaccination campaigns, and supporting the functioning of the site de stratégie avancée and postes sanitaires avancés (activated in previous years in areas lacking functional health centers or characterized by a high concentration of displaced persons) and conducting awareness campaigns to promote good nutrition practices.

In Ethiopia, LVIA intervened with actions to support the most vulnerable families and return migrants (repatriated from Gulf countries) in Addis Ababa and the South Wollo region, two areas distant from each other but strongly connected due to migration flows, in a context still marked by the effects of the recent conflict. The intervention strategy revolves around four axes: strengthening livelihoods, improving access to basic health services (with a particular focus on maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases and gender-based violence), strengthening protection services and mechanisms to combat human trafficking (especially for unaccompanied minors and single women), and providing housing and food supplies.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



The aging of the human population is a global trend, a result of collective success in improving living conditions for billions of people worldwide. However, not everyone equally benefits from advancements in health and education that have driven population aging. Global inequalities remain severe. Often, low and middle-income countries are the most affected by gender, salary, education, employment, ethnicity, and residency disparities. But these disparities also spread within the wealthy world. Inequality begins early in life; without policies and project initiatives to prevent it, disadvantages reinforce each other, leading to enormous disparities in older age. Education and employment consistently emerge as primary determinants of health and economic outcomes at every stage of life.

In 2023, LVIA's activities for the inclusion of the most vulnerable people involved 59,135 individuals (47,417 women, 8,118 men, and 3,600 children) in 5 African countries and Italy.

Providing every person with equal opportunities begins with promoting equal access to opportunities from birth. All children should be able to learn and develop skills: improving access to education and training also benefits the community, increasing labor productivity and reducing poverty and inequalities.

For this reason, in 2023, LVIA also supported after-school projects in Italy to promote learning and social inclusion of minors in contexts of educational poverty, and supported school meals in Senegal and Tanzania, ensuring the right of children and adolescents to continue their studies. The girls at the Kongwa hostel benefited from a water intervention that brought a permanent water source inside the compound for gardening activities, promoting healthy nutrition. The emergency project in Italy for people coming from Ukraine has maintained a linguistic and cultural information and mediation center within the framework of educational establishments.

Technical support and training activities in sustainable business management and access to credit were implemented in Mozambique, Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso, involving both public and private stakeholders. In Senegal, the establishment of a framework for labor policy consultation with employment services was facilitated.



In Italy, support was provided to the "Women's Space," a support/listening group where an ethnopsychologist contributed to overcoming traumas and difficulties related to migration experiences. Various awareness-raising activities were conducted in Italy and in Mozambique, Mali, and Senegal on social and work inclusion for people with migration backgrounds, good nutritional practices for women and children, gender equality, human rights, active citizenship and democratic participation, environmental sustainability, and responsible consumption.

In Mozambique, LVIA continued its commitment to the "right to a name" initiative, providing training to civil registry officials and activists and conducting registration campaigns at inclusive community registry offices, involving all stakeholders in a forum to raise awareness among local actors. Additionally, training modules in computer literacy, inclusion through art and community action were organized to promote youth employment. In Senegal, LVIA offered various technical trainings in fish farming, eco-construction, moringa processing, solar energy, pastry making, psychosocial support, entrepreneurship, and existing business services; cooperatives supported by projects in Mali were assisted with training in business management and development, marketing, and purchasing necessary equipment for business development. In Tanzania, community sessions on sustainable horticulture, nutrition, and gender equality were organized to strengthen the role of women in the community as part of training for trainers. In Italy, training work was conducted for volunteers involved in social and work inclusion projects for people with migration backgrounds in the Saluzzo territories, including community gatherings and festivals.

INCOME
€ 9,038,086

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND ITALY	€	8,732,334
COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING	€	299,502
GENERAL SUPPORT FEES	€	6,250

EXPENDITURE € 9,034,756

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND ITALY	€	8,647,997
COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING	€	142,100
GENERAL SUPPORT FEES	€	244,659

FUNDING SOURCES

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS				
 AICS - Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Italian General Government € 1,192,474.58 				
Italian public administrations	€	189,541.39		
• European Union	€	3,898,468.13		
ONU Agencies	€	689,189.46		
Foreign public administrations	€	971,822.26		
TOTAL	€	6,941,495.82		

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

• Private and Religious Italian Entities	€	193,907.27
Third Sector Entities	€	1,199,218.73
Foreign private Entities	€	146,982.92
TOTAL	€	1,540,108.92

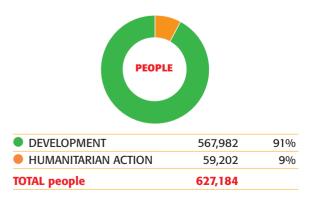
PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY

COUNTRY	RECIPIENTS	WOMEN	MEN	CHILDREN
BURKINA FASO	108,078	75,011	3,187	29,880
BURUNDI	23,967	11,793	12,174	-
ETHIOPIA	21,599	12,181	9,418	-
MALI	44,759	22,050	14,741	7,968
GUINEA	149,434	52,361	96,973	100
GUINEA BISSAU	20,191	9,831	10,360	-
KENYA	143,577	59,231	65,252	19,094
MOZAMBIQUE	72,654	31,439	31,440	9,775
SENEGAL	9,089	4,492	2,994	1,603
TANZANIA	3,702	1,218	992	1,492
ITALY	30,134	18,555	11,260	319
TOTAL	627,184	298,162	258,791	70,231

INVESTMENT BY COUNTRY

• BURKINA FASO	€	948,401.26	
• BURUNDI	€	1,600,062.75	
• ETHIOPIA	€	579,029.45	
• GUINEA BISSAU	€	1,984,150.77	
GUINEA CONAKRY	€	260,111.99	
• KENYA	€	117,872.71	
• MALI	€	461,422.25	
MOZAMBIQUE	€	814,546.09	
• SENEGAL	€	476,987.43	
• TANZANIA	€	561,435.06	
• ITALY	€	483,330.70	
ITALY: RUNNING COSTS FOR PROGRAMS			
IN ITALY AND LOCAL OFFICES	€	360,646.58	
TOTAL	€	8,647,997.04	





The full 2023 balance sheet is available on the LVIA website www.lvia.it



Thanks to the UMUCO WITERAMBERE project, the community finally has access to solar energy. Having light in homes means, for example, that students can do their homework and study even after sunset, leading to better academic performance. Additionally, we can also save the money we previously spent on batteries and use it to buy food, clothing, and school supplies."

> Ndarufative Cyriaque Manager of the solar kit shop in Sarutoke UMUCO WITERAMBERE project in Burundi

We recently had a case of a 3-year-old girl from Deberling. She was hospitalized with widespread injuries, anorexia, and severe dehydration. After eleven days of free, quality hospital care, she was discharged to continue outpatient treatment. Her 20-year-old mother received a blanket and hygiene supplies from LVIA, as well as free meals during the hospital stay. This case stands out because the parents had lost hope, but thanks to LVIA's intervention, the girl was saved."

> Lassina MILLOGO Pediatric Assistant Child Malnutrition Combat Project in Burkina Faso

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - Concise

Editorial staff: Elisabetta Andreis, Giovanni Armando, Cristina Baudino, Andrea Bessone, Luisella Calcagno, Streng Cerise, Sara Dottarelli, Giulia Gazzaniga, Roberta Ghigo, Nicoletta Gorgerino, Ester Graziano, Silvana Merlo, Francesco Miacola, Stefano Plescan, Isabella Pomero, Giulia Puppin, Italo Rizzi, Maurizia Sandrini, Riccardo Moro, Alberto Valmaggia and the Country Representatives/Responsibles LVIA.

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> We share a feeling of strong and deep-rooted hope. Despite the bardships and contradictions of this world, there is a life that grows, there is a people that works and sows seeds of peace. Ours is a community that does not resign itself to evil and continues to turn weapons into ploughshares, to fight batred with a smile and an outstretched band."

> > **Alberto Valmaggia, President LVIA**

Service for peace LVIA

LVIA Headquarters Via Mons. D. Peano, 8b

12100 Cuneo tel. +39 0171.696975 lvia@lvia.it

LVIA - Branch office

Via Borgosesia, 30 10145 Torino tel. +39 011.7412507 italia@lvia.it

www.lvia.it

LVIA Burkina Faso Rue Luili Pendé n° 256 01 BP 783 Ouagadougou 01 tel. +226.25363804 rp.burkinafaso@lvia.it *Other office:* KoudouGou, Dori Gorom-Gorom

LVIA Burundi

Avenue septembre numéro 6 Rohero 1 • B.P. 198 Bujumbura tel. + 257.72326000 tel. + 257.22242124 coordinationburundi@lvia.it

LVIA Ethiopia Yeka Sub City Wereda 05 • House n. 125 PO Box 102346 Addis Abeba tel. +251(0)116622183 country.rep.et@lvia.it *Other office:* Oromia Region, Arsi Zone, Assela, Kebele 6, n. 225 LVIA Guinea Bissau Avenida F. Mendes x Avenida D. Ramos, Bissau C.P. 585 Bissau tel. +245.955949714 rp.guineabissau@lvia.it *Other office:* Bissorã, Cafal

LVIA Guinea Quartier Wareya, derrière Mosquée Kinifi Commune de Ratoma Conakry tel. +224 629 320 585 rp.guinea@lvia.it

LVIA Kenya P.O. Box 1684

60200 Meru tel. +254.721.625798 kenya@lvia.it *Other office:* c/o Diocese of Isiolo

LVIA Mali Quartier ACI SOTUBA BP E 3442 Bamako tel. +223.76271428 tel. +223.66271428 rp.mali@lvia.it LVIA Mozambique c/o Caritas Moçambique Rua da Resistencia 1175 Maputo tel. +258.21419933 tel. +258.879391993 rp.mozambico@lvia.it *Other office:* c/o Caritas Rua Pave Nacala-Porto

LVIA Senegal R.te de Khombole B.P. 262 A Thiès tel. e fax +221.33.9511611 rp.senegal@lvia.it

LVIA Tanzania P.O.BOX 160 KNG/MNY-SH/135 Kongwa, Dodoma tel. +255621023629 cr.tanzania@lvia.it *Other office:* Pemba

