



2023 | ANNUAL  
REPORT



**Written by:**

Executive Director, Cooperation Department, Administration and Logistics Department, Communication and Fundraising Department with the contribution of the staff and members of the local Committees of Un Ponte Per.

Photo cover Arianna Pagani - Graphic project: Cristina Nenna



**Angelica Romano**  
co-President of Un Ponte Per

“Un Ponte Per is the space in which together we dream of a world of peace, rights and social justice. For over thirty years, in Italy and in many countries from the Balkans to the Middle East, women and men of all ages have been committed to turning these dreams into reality. Together we design strategies and programs that translate into concrete actions, giving strength and legs to our ideals. In the following pages, you will find numbers that testify to the work carried out. Above all, they attest to the commitment of those who, obstinately, support peacebuilders, walking against the winds of war that are blowing ever stronger”.



**Alfio Nicotra**  
co-President of Un Ponte Per

“Even in 2023 we went through places of pain (wars, earthquakes, famines) always keeping our founding mission at heart: to give support and strength to the victims and the civilian population. Through the war in Ukraine, the massacre in the Gaza Strip and the earthquake in Syria, we have brought aid, words and signs of peace to places that seem to be without hope. Un Ponte Per has chosen not to abandon the field, denouncing the responsibilities of the governments that have started wars and plundered resources. Only peace is a good investment, because it is the only way that guarantees common security”.

# A YEAR OF CAMPAIGNS

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**Martina Pignatti Morano**  
Director of Un Ponte Per

2023 was a year of transformation and internal dialogue, in which Un Ponte Per consolidated its ability to react to the political crisis and devastating emergencies in the Middle Eastern region. Our response on the ground was based on the strength and resilience of our local partners and allies, our driving force was the relationships with members, donors, collectives who mobilized resources and provided counter-information. On the horizon, a priority political objective: decolonizing international cooperation.

The earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria in February 2023 was the worst seen in the region in 20 years and produced over 55,000 victims who cannot be attributed only to a natural disaster: the collapsing buildings in Aleppo, already riddled with bomb damage, and the poorly constructed buildings in Turkey, erected by businessmen loyal to Erdogan who profited from corruption and skimmed on materials, also contributed to the death toll. We said and explained it in many events, while we launched a solidarity collection in favor of two Syrian associations working in the most remote areas, where aid was slow to arrive. The Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC/HSK) reached areas with a Kurdish majority in the governorate of Aleppo and Turkey where aid was not arriving, explicitly boycotted by the authorities of Damascus and Ankara, but the convoys finally reached their destination also thanks to our pressure on the international community.

If emergencies and humanitarian needs increase, due to the inability or unwillingness of states to protect the civilian populations and prevent crises, funds are diverted from "protracted crises" such as the Syrian one to new crises, such as the earthquake or the Ukrainian scenario. We have seen the consequence in many countries in which we work: decline in funds and flight of donors in 2023 from Iraq, from the non-earthquake areas of Syria, from the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. Our budget presents approximately 4 million less revenue for cooperation compared to 2022.

In these circumstances, many international NGOs leave countries where funding is decreasing because the missions are no longer sustainable, while Un Ponte Per remains as long as local civil society requests it. Hence in Iraq, certainly not a poor country, but with a very high youth unemployment rate and dramatic social problems, we have reconverted the mission in 2023 to even greater support for Iraqi associations. As UNDP Iraq went from being the largest UNDP mission in the world to one of the smallest, we reduced our team but increased capacity to train and support local associations from Mosul to Basra, thanks to funding from the European Union. In North-East Syria, while funding decreased for the health facilities and women/children safe spaces, the strategy chosen was to focus on strengthening the governance of the local health system. With the Department of Health of the Autonomous Administration of North-East Syria we have mapped the needs, created training programs for healthcare personnel and its managers, worked for the harmonization of healthcare interventions of all public and private actors in each Canton. Also in this case the support of the European Union was fundamental.



For this reason, knowing that Europe can be a champion of crisis management by civil means, we could not give up campaigns criticizing European militarization, the military management of the war in Ukraine, the collapse of funding for peacebuilding. In 2023 we strengthened these campaigns together with the Italian Peace and Disarmament Network and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. We brought our recommendations to New York within the first consultation between the UN Peacebuilding Commission and civil society, since we've been chosen to be part of a small representation of peace organizations from all continents. In Italy, we contributed to writing and finally saw the approval, in 2023, of the Italian Cooperation guidelines on the nexus between Humanitarian, Development and Peace programs, which we believe can help the Italian Cooperation Agency and our embassies to do more sustainable and more participatory work, especially in conflict zones. In Ukraine we have proved that AICS emergency funds can be used in education and protection activities that mainstream peacebuilding and are led by local NGOs, indeed we choose to be their technical partner rather than the leading organization is joint consortia.

Unfortunately, the year ended with a new emergency, in a country already affected throughout 2023 by a serious escalation of violence and deprivation: Palestine. After October 7, whose Israeli victims we mourned like those of all armed conflicts, our National Committee and the local committees dedicated most of their efforts to a combined action: denouncing the crimes committed by the Israeli army in Gaza and in the Palestinian Territories, calling for an immediate ceasefire and raising funds together with the AOI network. We have reached many associations, grassroots committees, social centers who, together with our local committees, are doing a powerful awareness and mobilization job. While our co-President Alfio Nicotra, on behalf of the Italian NGOs network, took care of advocacy with parliamentarians and ministries to facilitate the crossing of aid, the co-president Angelica Romano and our volunteers worked to provide correct information on the ongoing genocide and raise funds for the humanitarian emergency.

This is the association of which I am proud to have assumed the general direction at the end of the year, taking over from Tiziano Blasi who deserves credit for many results displayed in this report. Most of all, I pay tribute to our staff composed of tenacious humanitarians and peacebuilders, motivated managers, finance and media officers, passionate volunteers.. We have worked professionally, consistently with the 2021-2025 General Strategy defined by the Assembly, led by our co-presidents and the National Committee, inspired and encouraged by our local partners in each country where we work. I hope that reading this report will help you visualize results and impact, thanking all our members, donors, supporters for having walked this part of the journey with us. Ready to take other steps forward and keep progressing towards shared goals.

# 1.

# WHO WE ARE

## 2.1 Mission and vision

Un Ponte Per (UPP) is an association for international solidarity and a non-governmental organization founded in 1991, immediately after the end of the bombings in Iraq, with the name of "Un Ponte per Baghdad", with the aim of promote solidarity initiatives for the Iraqi population affected by the war. Subsequently, the organization's intervention extended to other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, to the Balkans and recently to Italy and Eastern Europe.

The purpose of UPP is the prevention of armed and violent conflicts through information campaigns, cultural exchanges, cooperation projects, peacebuilding programs and building networks for social justice. UPP repudiates war as a tool for resolving national and international disputes, and aims to build a peaceful and equitable coexistence between peoples, encouraging the meeting between different cultures, languages, religions and traditions in order to build social cohesion.

To impact on the triggering causes of conflicts, UPP considers the protection of human rights and concrete support for those who promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms to be central, be they people, movements, organizations or informal groups. This commitment is achieved through advocacy campaigns, cultural and good practice exchanges, collaborative projects, coalition building and actions to strengthen the organisational, structural and participatory capacities of the civil societies with which it comes into contact.

In over 30 years of activity, Un Ponte Per's intervention has changed, adapting in response

to the change in the contexts in which it operated, but it always retained the same objective: to promote peace and human rights and prevent new conflicts.

Equally unchanged is the commitment that the organization has placed in ensuring the quality of its projects, paying particular attention to the support and self-determination of the populations and communities involved, to the valorisation of the partnership, to the respect of subjectivities and above all of political demands and social aspects of the people and organizations with which it collaborates.

## 2.2 Values and objectives pursued

The founding values of Un Ponte Per are:

**Participatory democracy.** The association adopts a democratic organization system with popular participation, in which all people have the same rights and duties, and guarantees effective participation and access to information. The governance method adopted requires that the organisation's social interlocutors, each based on their responsibilities, are called to participate in the decisions made by the organization at a strategic and operational level and to assume responsibilities relating to the decisions taken.

**Nonviolence and ecology.** We are committed to adopting a nonviolent method both in internal dynamics and in action on the territories and countries in which we are present. We believe in coherence between means and ends of action, in the prevention and transformation of violence with means of peace. This includes nonviolence towards the planet and the nature of which we are part, attention to ecology and

to the environmental impact of our actions, recognizing that the climate emergency requires a radical commitment to ecological transition.

**Enhancement of people's quality and aspirations.**

The association is based on volunteering, understood as an activity carried out spontaneously and free of charge for solidarity purposes, and on the professional work of paid staff who share the objectives and philosophy of the association.

**Decentralization and territoriality.** The association considers being rooted in the territory and the connection with the movements and expressions of civil society, as well as with the institutions present in the territory, an essential value.

**Effectiveness and efficiency.** Taking into account the responsibility assumed by the association, in particular towards populations who are victims of wars, conflicts, various forms of exclusion and injustice, the association is aware of the need to guarantee that the programmes, projects and initiatives conducted reach levels of effectiveness and efficiency through:

- clear identification and accessibility of decision-making bodies; systems of inclusion and exclusion; responsibilities and powers; decision making methods.

- the promotion of planning processes for objectives and results with a clear identification of financial resources so that there is a collectivisation of financial responsibility.
- The involvement of voluntary and paid staff who carry out their tasks reconciling solidarity motivations with adequate professionalism.

**Transparency.** We know that an association that bases its existence on an ethical principle has trust between people as the only fuel for its survival. We decide to base mutual trust on the transparency of information, meaning the knowability and verifiability of information, limiting the confidentiality of information to the protection of people's safety and respect for the private sphere.

**Responsibility.** The work carried out free of charge and voluntarily and the paid work will be carried out based on the principle of everyone's responsibility, to the extent of their decision-making capacity towards the association and the populations with which we work.

**Respect.** The attitude of respect necessary in approaching the different cultures of the peoples with whom we interact is a fundamental part of our political "vision".

TOOLS FOR OUR ACTION	MODE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International cooperation and social planning</li> <li>• Construction of initiatives and networks for the promotion of solidarity, peace and social and environmental justice</li> <li>• Advocacy, awareness and social communication campaigns</li> <li>• Training, information, social research and self-training</li> <li>• Exchange of good practices</li> <li>• Self evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decolonizing cooperation and language</li> <li>• Ecological and Carbon-zero transformation</li> <li>• Increase participatory processes</li> <li>• Support the transparency of our actions</li> <li>• Consolidate an activist vision of humanitarianism that goes beyond the dogma of neutrality (understood as indifference or equidistance to the reasons of the parties).</li> <li>• Maintain a strong gender approach, transversal to all these axes of action, in the awareness that forms of positive discrimination may be necessary</li> </ul>

## 2.3 History and context of reference

**1991**

On February 28, the first Gulf War ends, Iraq mourns 150 thousand deaths. A group of pacifists decides that it is not enough to say "no" to that war. It is necessary to do something to compensate the Iraqi population: thus Un Ponte per Baghdad was born, which after a few years took the name Un Ponte Per.

**1993**

Un Ponte Per starts school twinning between Italian and Iraqi schools: letters, photos and small gifts begin to be exchanged between the 30 schools involved. But also lots of school supplies. A thirty-year commitment is born in Italian schools with Peace Education programs.

**1994**

The A Bridge for Diyarbakir campaign was born to denounce the living conditions of the Kurdish people in Turkish Kurdistan and make their culture and history known. Thanks to this campaign, Un Ponte Per carried out the first international cooperation intervention in the area in 2003: The women and children's home of Dogubayazit, a multipurpose center for health, educational and cultural services.

**1997**

A Bridge for Shatila is born, a new solidarity campaign launched towards the Palestinian population in Lebanon, thanks to which meetings and delegations are organized to raise public awareness of the living conditions in the Palestinian camps. Family Happiness, the first Distance Support program, is launched and is still active today.

**1999**

NATO bombing of Yugoslavia begins: after Iraq, another war in which Italy takes part. The A Bridge for Belgrade campaign is born, thanks to which health facilities are created and medicines and humanitarian aid are sent, as well as delegations of pacifists and journalists. Svetlost Distance Support was also born, and is still active today.

**2003**

Fabio Alberti, then President of Un Ponte Per, spoke in front of the largest protesting crowd that the world can remember: in Rome in the square together with 3 million people, to say NO to the war in Iraq. That same day a delegation of activists from Un Ponte Per demonstrated in the streets of Baghdad.

**2004**

Following the fire and looting of the National Library and Historical Archives of Baghdad in April 2003, Un Ponte Per launched the La Casa dei Libri program to renovate the premises, restore the manuscripts and train the library staff. A commitment that continues to this day with the defense of the cultural heritage of minorities and the conservation of Iraqi archaeological sites.

**2005**

A Bridge for Amman is born. The association expands its intervention to Jordan to support Iraqis fleeing the civil war and since 2011 the thousands of Syrians who have found refuge in the country. She collaborates with local organizations for the rights and protection of women and minors, specializing her work towards disability and female empowerment.

**2006**

Following the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian population in Lebanon, Un Ponte Per launches the Lebanon Emergency campaign.

Through support to local partners, UPP is able to distribute essential aid. An emergency that arises again in less than a year due to the conflict that exploded around the Nahr el-Bared camp.

**2009**

The path started by Un Ponte Per since 2004 to break the isolation of Iraqi activism reaches an important goal: with the Velletri Conference, three days of discussion between Iraqi and international activists to create a common action plan, to which gave rise to the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative, which is still active today.

**2011**

Syria rapidly descends towards a civil war which in 10 years forces hundreds of thousands of people to flee. Un Ponte Per is active with a reception and psychosocial support program dedicated to Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

**2014**

Daesh (Islamic State) occupies important areas of Iraq. Un Ponte Per, already active in those areas with programs of social cohesion and protection of Iraqi minorities, is hit by this crisis to which it tries to respond with all its strength.

**2015**

The first shipment of humanitarian aid intended for the population of North-East Syria crosses the border with Iraq and is ready to be delivered to the Kurdish Red Crescent. Thus, A Bridge for Rojava was born: an intervention destined to expand in response to the humanitarian and health emergency.

**2016**

The Tigris River and the Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq are recognized as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. A fundamental stage in the path to protect Iraq's environmental and cultural heritage that Un Ponte Per initiated together with the Save the Tigris campaign.

**2019**

The Turkish military operation Peace Spring begins: in a few days the main border cities in North-East Syria are hit, causing civilian casualties and numerous injuries. Thanks to a great mobilization of solidarity, Un Ponte Per is able to deal with this latest emergency by supporting the local partners with which it works.

**2020**

The Covid-19 pandemic explodes across the planet. Un Ponte Per, in addition to taking action by rethinking its intervention to contain the pandemic and support the populations affected in the countries in which it operates, is committed to Italian and international networks to denounce the causes and ask for the suspension of vaccine patents, so that they are accessible to the entire world population.





## 2022

Russia's aggression against Ukraine begins on February 24. Un Ponte Per takes immediate action to ask the Italian government and the European Union for urgent action for a position of active neutrality and for the convening of a peace summit. At the same time, it launches A Bridge for Ukraine, a peacebuilding intervention to support the population, the civil and nonviolent resistance of young Ukrainians and the defense of the rights of conscientious objectors in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

## 2023

In response to the dramatic consequences of the earthquake that hit the area between Syria and Turkey on 6 February, Un Ponte Per takes action to bring its solidarity to the thousands of people affected. Thanks to its partners it is able to reach the areas of north-west Syria, where it does not operate. A few months later, a new humanitarian emergency overwhelms the Middle East: Israel's military response to the Hamas attack on 7 October turns into a genocidal offensive against the population of Gaza. UPP is mobilizing to demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to the military occupation and apartheid regime in the Occupied Territories.



## 2.4 Countries of intervention

Since 1991 Un Ponte Per has been operating in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe with international cooperation and solidarity programs to promote peace and human rights and to

prevent new conflicts. Over the years, the association has carried out educational, health, humanitarian, cultural, dialogue and social cohesion projects.



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# 2.

## GOVERNANCE

The active participation of the people who join Un Ponte Per is the beating heart of our association, since its birth: members, volunteers, our staff in Italy and abroad, are called to discuss and give own contribution to the construction of strategies and methods of intervention, to personally build bridges of solidarity and peace.

### 3.1 Statutory bodies and organizational structure

The Assembly of members is the sovereign body of Un Ponte Per. It is convened by the National Committee at least once a year and among its main functions: approves the final and budget, appoints and revokes the members of the corporate bodies and the Supervisory Body, approves the fundamental lines of action and the general strategy ; verifies and evaluates the work of the National Committee.

The National Committee works to implement the wishes of the Assembly and is invested with the broadest powers for the political direction of the Association. It is made up of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 members, as well as the co-Presidency, elected by the Assembly from among the members. It remains in office for three financial years and expires on the occasion of the Assembly called to approve the budget for the third financial year. Members are re-eligible. In 2023, the NC in office is composed of: Fabio Alberti, Domenico Campana, Domenico Chirico, Aurora De Angelis, Patrizia Di Caccamo, Bianca Farsetti, Giovanna Gagliardi, Giulia Torrini.

The co-Presidency is elected by the Assembly, holds office for 3 years and cannot be re-elected in ordinary form more than two consecutive times. The President has legal representation, and together

the Co-President has the institutional representation of the Association. They must identify with different genres and work with maximum horizontality, sharing of information and a collaborative spirit in assisting the association's activities. The co-Presidency in office is made up of Alfio Nicotra (President and Legal Representative) and Angelica Romano (co-President).

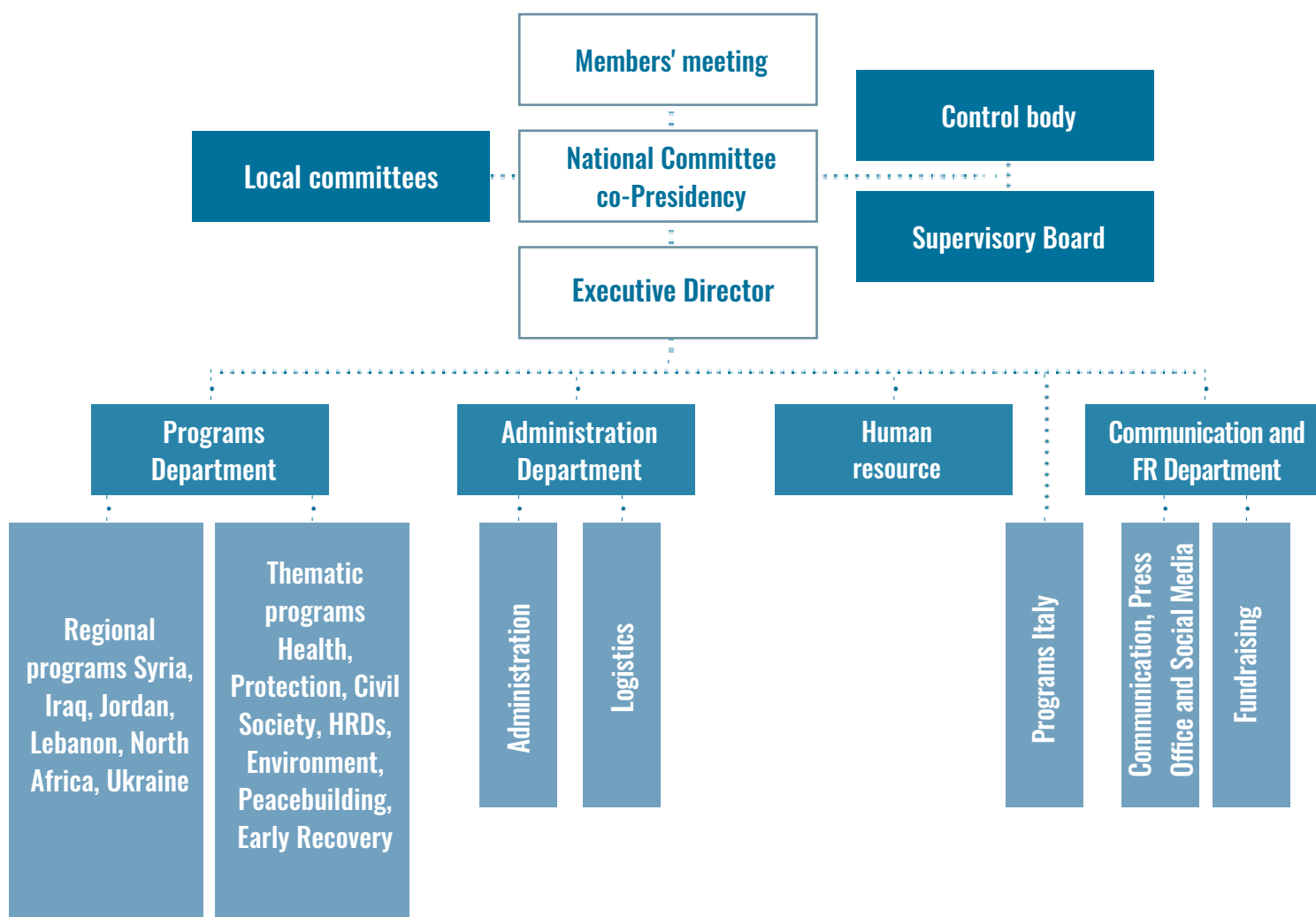
The local committees are made up of a minimum of 3 members and/or associates and carry out the activities, consistently with the association's aims, based on their territorial specificities, the networks present in the territories, the professionalism and skills of the volunteers who support them. they animate. In 2023 the organization has 4 local committees located in Piedmont, Lombardy, Tuscany and Campania.

The Supervisory Body is appointed by the Assembly and has the task of ensuring compliance with the Law, the Statute and compliance with the principles of correct administration; supervise the adequacy of the organisational, administrative and accounting structure and its concrete functioning; carry out monitoring tasks of compliance with civic, solidarity and social utility purposes, certify, with the supplementary note, that the social budget has been drawn up in compliance with current guidelines. As of 31 December 2023 it is composed of Eugenio Ruggiero, Giovanni Bernardo, Donatella Linguiti.

The Supervisory Body, appointed by the National Committee, has the function of supervising the implementation of the Model pursuant to Legislative Decree. lgs. 231/2001 approved on 17 December 2021 and to evaluate its development, as well as any potential violation. As of December 31, 2023, it is composed of Eugenio Ruggiero and Lino Sbraccia.

The operational structure of Un Ponte Per reports to the Executive Director, selected by the National Committee, in accordance with the internal procedures set out in the Personnel Management Manual. Un Ponte Per experienced a change in Management, with the appointment of the Executive Director shifting from Tiziano Blasi to Martina Pignatti Morano.

The Executive Director is responsible for leading the organization in the implementation of the Association Strategy. In addition, the central structure is divided into 3 Departments: Programmes, Administration and Communication and Fundraising, as well as a Human Resources Office.



### 3.2 The Assembly of members and members and the levels of associative participation

The members of Un Ponte Per have a decision-making role in the most important acts of the Association which then guide its operations throughout the year.

Regularly the members, the volunteers and the staff, receive the invitation to the meetings of the National Committee which are mostly held in an expanded form (beyond the elected members) on a monthly basis and deal with statutory and of operations, security, political positioning, membership of campaigns and movements, assignment of delegations, risk analysis and so on.

The National Committee regularly receives the report from the Cooperation, Administration and Communication Departments, which report all the relevant updates from the central operating units and allow the monitoring of UPP's action.

Part of the National Committee, through the Budget Group, dedicates itself to regular meetings (at least quarterly) with the Executive Director, the Head of Administration, the Control Body and the Supervisory Body on the preparation of the estimate, the appreciation of its evolutions and the determinations of data representation, to ensure that the monitoring of financial data is accessible to all members.

Another space regularly animated on a monthly basis is that of the Education Group of Un Ponte Per, in which members, male and female volunteers, members of the NC and UPP staff meet to discuss the lines of implementation and also organization in the Education sector and where the experimentation of integration between paid and volunteer staff is strong. In this space, plans involving educational actions are proposed, coordinated, elaborated and drawn up.

Before the National Assembly, be it ordinary or extraordinary, the necessary documentation is shared with the members to allow them to recognize the topics on the agenda and everything it is up to the members to consider and evaluate, before the work or discussion sessions and presentation sessions take place. Furthermore, in 2023, the members were involved through a dedicated questionnaire in the process of building the National Assembly in June, allowing them to indicate the issues of greatest interest to be explored further and to share suggestions to make it more engaging and participatory. All members have access to the UPP offices and facilities and receive the charter of their rights at the time of membership (or its renewal).

The Supervisory Body, appointed by the Assembly, then draws up a specific report on the final budget to support the assessment that the National Committee must carry out in pre-approving the same before presentation to the Assembly of members.

The members, the volunteers, the members of the National Committee and of the Supervisory and Control Bodies do not receive emoluments, compensation or compensation of any kind, but can receive reimbursements exclusively for expenses advanced on behalf of the association, upon presentation of supporting documents certifying the actual expenditure incurred.

# 3.

## WHAT WE DO

**38 PROJECTS**

**9 COUNTRIES**

In 2023, Un Ponte Per maintained its activities in the countries where it has been operating for years (Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria) and in Ukraine, where it has been present since 2021.

Particular commitment was dedicated to Syria, where Un Ponte Per concentrated its efforts on providing healthcare in the north-east and combating gender violence, child labor and child marriage, and on Iraq, with support for organizations of civil society and human rights and environmental activists, and with programs to guarantee access to primary health services and reproductive care.

In Jordan and Lebanon, the organization has maintained its presence to promote the defense of rights, social cohesion and to counteract the impacts of the reduction of civic spaces and the economic crisis.

With the conflict still ongoing in Europe in 2023, the association continued to advance its peacebuilding intervention in Ukraine and support for peace activists, conscientious objectors and human rights

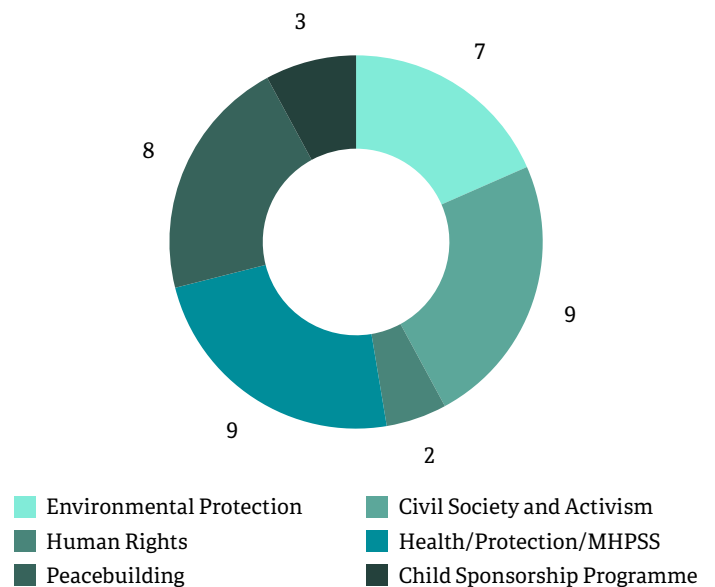
**400.205 PEOPLE REACHED**

**72 CSOs SUPPORTED**

defenders Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians.

In Italy, Un Ponte Per has continued with determination its training and Peace Education programs, focusing on schools as a privileged place for building paths of knowledge and integration.

### Project by sectors of intervention





# JORDAN

2 projects

1,901 direct recipients

In Jordan, our commitment continues alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized young people and women, with particular attention to people with disabilities both among the Jordanian and refugee communities, such as the Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Sudanese. In fact, most people taking refuge in urban areas live below the poverty line and do not receive the same level of support provided in the camps. In this context, the most vulnerable subjects such as women, minors and people with disabilities encounter enormous difficulties in accessing protection services and assistance more generally.

For these reasons, Un Ponte Per works in the Governorates of Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, outside the camps for refugee people, with the aim of increasing the possibilities of access to integrated protection and mental health services, including the management of the most critical cases and psychosocial support, rehabilitation health services and legal assistance to protect the most vulnerable groups, such as minors at risk, victims of gender violence and people with disabilities. Furthermore, UPP has implemented empowerment and professional training activities through the development and strengthening of professional skills to facilitate their access to the world of work. These interventions have been developed with a view to contributing to integrating and strengthening the work of local associations already specialized in providing these services, which carry out fundamental work of inclusion and social cohesion between the host and refugee communities, but often receive little international support. Consistent with the vision and mission of UPP, the relationship of mutual trust with local organizations built and strengthened over the years is based on shared values of non-violence,

peaceful resolution of conflicts through creative solutions, and respect for universal human rights. The intervention in the country is supported by the Civil Peace Corps present in Jordan.

## Main results

- **192 people benefited from psychosocial support services**
- **1,000 people benefited from information campaigns on access to psychosocial services**
- **108 people belonging to marginalized groups had access to training courses, of which 77 followed specific sessions on peacebuilding and nonviolent conflict resolution**



## &gt; STORY

# DALIA AND HER DREAM OF BEING INDEPENDENT

Dalia is a 25-year-old Jordanian citizen residing in Sweileh, Amman. Despite a hearing disability, she had already completed a course of study and obtained the Graphic Designer certificate. But her passion and determination to achieve economic independence and professional fulfillment became evident when she enrolled in one of the Furas (Opportunity) project training programs. Throughout the training course, Dalia demonstrated strong dedication and great willpower in acquiring new skills. After completing the training, she managed to get a new job at a local clinic, in which she successfully integrated in a short time, putting all her professional and empathetic skills into play, overcoming stigma and social discrimination which still hinder the employment of those suffering from forms of physical or mental disability. Her determination, combined with the skills acquired from the training program, opened the way to new opportunities, offering her the opportunity to put all her potential and abilities into play.

The training program for office assistants of the Furas project was an important training and social inclusion opportunity: the teaching and methods of carrying out the course were designed from the beginning not only to impart administrative skills, but also to promote inclusiveness in education and professional development. From the preparatory stages to practical on-the-job training, this program gave priority to the inclusion of people with disabilities, who represented 50% of the participants. Throughout the journey, we have worked to break down barriers, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their ability, has equal access to educational opportunities and the chance to build a professional life.

**Project name:** Furas

**Donor:** 8x1000 funds of the Waldensian Church of Italy

**Partner:** Athar Association for Youth Development; Our Step Association for Mental Health

**Project duration:** November 2022-February 2024



# IRAQ

**11 projects**

**6,835 direct recipients of which**

**89% were women**

**160 civil society organizations  
directly involved**

Un Ponte Per has been operating in Iraq since 1991, when the “A Bridge for Baghdad” campaign was launched in solidarity with the civilian population affected by the First Gulf War. Today, 20 years after the Second Gulf War, Iraqi society continues to struggle to deal with the lasting effects of the US-led coalition invasion, as well as the dramatic consequences of the Daesh (Islamic State) occupation from 2014 to 2017.

Fragile Iraqi institutions are contrasted by an extremely active civil society in demanding political changes, better basic services and greater economic opportunities, particularly from the younger generations. However, its space for action is increasingly limited by state and non-state actors: activists, human rights defenders, local organizations and independent journalists are often targeted and threatened, with dramatic consequences for their lives.

In 2023, Un Ponte Per continued its work in collaboration with activists, movements and local civil society organizations to promote participation, civic inclusion and intercultural dialogue, and strengthen their capacities to claim human and environmental rights. Furthermore, we continued to support the young activists of Tahrir Square, the great youth protest movement of 2019, in a process of strengthening their political protagonism, with the support of the Dutch National Action Plan “Women, Peace, Security”.

In the meantime, we have increased our commitment to programs dedicated to the development of capacity of local organizations, with the creation of 5 centers dedicated to local NGOs (Baghdad, Erbil, Mosul, Basra and Ramadi), of which 3 managed directly by local partners, where they can access professional training courses, specialized consultancy and tenders direct financing to support your project. With our Peace Workshops we continued to support the local volunteering program, to encourage the participation of young people, which led to the creation of 10 groups with more than 100 young people engaged in organizing activities aimed at strengthening cohesion social and peacebuilding.

Furthermore, during the year, an important program dedicated to women's health in Iraq in the Nineveh Plain was completed, lasting 6 years, thanks to which health centers dedicated to sexual and reproductive health were created and rehabilitated. Aware of the close link of interdependence that unites political rights with human, social and economic rights, Un Ponte Per continued to promote the economic autonomy of the most marginalized groups, including young people, women, people with disabilities and internally displaced persons, through creation of alternative work opportunities to the private system, starting from the valorization of Iraq's extraordinary cultural and environmental heritage.

## Main results

- **74 Iraqi civil society organizations reached with training, support and co-planning actions**
- **24 civil society organizations lead development projects together with UPP**
- **15 human rights defenders were supported and protected**
- **63 civil society organizations organized dialogue initiatives with local authorities on common social, economic and environmental objectives**





- **24** peacebuilding initiatives and projects carried out in conflict zones and 110 peace builders, volunteers and professionals active in the non-violent transformation of conflicts 61
- **49** entrepreneurial actors (associations, cooperatives, businesses) supported through micro-finance, of which 28 are "eco-friendly" actors and 16 led by young people under 35.
- **400** people professionally trained in the ecotourism and cultural heritage conservation sector
- **33** local development projects with a focus on the environment supported
- **11,225** people reached by protection, health, psycho-social and mental health support services
- **160** people involved in the "UPP Volunteer Program" volunteer program

## AFRAH AND THE WOMEN OF NINEVEH

In 2023, an important chapter of the Un Ponte Per program dedicated to women's health in Iraq concluded. After years of commitment in the Nineveh Plain, between Mosul and Bashiqa, the health centers created thanks to the Salamtak project were entrusted to the Iraqi authorities, who assumed their direct and autonomous management. Un Ponte Per's commitment to the area dates back to 2011, before the advance of Daesh (Islamic State) and the devastating occupation that followed. A year after the liberation of Mosul in 2017, when it was time to rebuild, we chose to support the communities of Nineveh Governorate by providing psychosocial support, mental health and reproductive health services for women. During these 6 years, the program has seen the construction of new health centers where there were none, the strengthening of existing ones, the training of health personnel and the raising of communities' awareness of health rights, especially regarding sexual and reproductive health. Salamtak was a crucial intervention, considering the barriers Iraqi women still face in accessing health services, including discrimination, limited decision-making and economic independence, and lack of awareness about the medical services they can enjoy. Afrah, 33 years old and 4 children, is an example of the many women who have benefited from the program. Having returned to the area after living for 3 years in a camp for displaced people, Afrah received support from one of our centers for her pregnancy: during her last gestation she lost a baby two days after birth due to an infection, and she was terrified it would happen again. Thanks to a timely diagnosis and the necessary treatment, she was able to give birth to her daughter in excellent health. The program also helped increase awareness of women's rights and capacity for self-determination. Through constant collaboration with local authorities and organizations, Salamtak has reached over 30,000 people, offering essential health services and promoting awareness on health issues with an average of 15 visits per day. At the end of 2023, Un Ponte Per also supported the few healthcare facilities present in the area: we rehabilitated the maternity ward at the "Hamam al-Alil" hospital and provided equipment and specialized training to the "Al Hurok" public hospital, both in Mosul. We continue to walk alongside the women and communities of Nineveh, but being able to hand over the health centers to the Directorate of Health was a fundamental achievement for us. It means that Iraq can slowly walk on its own two feet again, rebuild from its rubble, imagine a future in which emergency interventions are no longer necessary, and we can simply build, together.

**Project name:** Salamtak

**Donor:** AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, private donations

**Partner:** Solidarites International

**Project duration:** January 2018-December 2023





## > FOCUS

# GROW WITH IRAQI ORGANIZATIONS

In Iraq, these are times of high social conflict, as demonstrated by the mass protests that have swept across the country since October 2019. In this scenario, the role of civil society organizations is fundamental in bridging the gap between local communities and the Iraqi authorities, promoting constructive dialogue, ensuring respect for human and environmental rights as well as equal participation for men and women. But to be more effective, local organizations need support. An external support which, however, must be respectful of all cultural and social processes. This is why the multi-year Tatweer project, funded by the European Union, was conceived and implemented by our Iraqi colleagues. And it is carried forward by them, with great results. "We want to give Iraqi civil society organizations the chance to have an impact in promoting human, civil and environmental rights; enable them to respond effectively to the needs of the community, and to collaborate fruitfully with the authorities", explains Bahman, project manager. "Iraqi organizations need to increase their advocacy capabilities, give adequate space to young people and women in leadership, have the opportunity to learn how to operate and the availability of spaces in which to meet and grow together. With this objective we have opened 5 centers in Baghdad, Erbil, Mosul, Basra and Ramadi: open and safe spaces for exchanges of good practices, meetings, workshops and seminars on the issues of respect for human, environmental and gender rights".

There are many in fields in which to support organizations. First of all, legal consultancy: "We have lawyers and experts who provide specific consultancy free of charge to cooperatives, voluntary groups, local NGOs, trade unions. We also provide support at an administrative and management level. Everything we use for training is then made available online, through a platform, so that anyone can benefit from it and improve their work. After training the members of the organizations, we help them access small tenders to make their intervention sustainable. We follow the entire process: from the creation of the local organization to access to funds up to the conclusion of the projects and advocacy actions", says Bahman.

"Our main objective is to support civil society in creating realities and structures that represent it to create change, so that they work in an effective, transparent, democratic way, respecting human and labor rights. Since we started, we have managed to accompany many people", explains Bahman with great satisfaction. During 2023, 72 organizations were involved in this process, while 24 micro-projects were financed, of which 17 were linked to respect for human rights and environmental issues.

**Project name:** Tatweer

**Donor:** European Union

**Partner:** Al Mesalla

**Project duration:** January 2020-June 2025



# ITALY

## 8 projects

**4,827 recipients and direct recipients 1,023 people, of which 500 belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, participated in training sessions**

The intervention of Un Ponte Per in Italy in 2023 was transversal to the sectors identified by the 2021-2025 Strategy: Human Security, Civil Society and Young Generations, and closely linked to purpose 3: Supporting the active protagonism of the new generations in generating models for an inclusive and supportive society founded on the principles of environmental and social justice, transfeminism and ecopacifism.

The young assignees of the Universal Civil Service worked on the connections that exist between the phenomenon of climate migration and migration. They did this through the production of specific articles and podcasts on the topics mentioned, reporting the direct experience of environmental activists in Tunisia, Iraq and Italy. Through these interviews they tried to reconstruct the work of the civil societies of the countries examined on the subject of climate justice, but also the consequences of climate change that these territories directly experience. Through interviews they then investigated the topic of migration due to climate change. Articles and podcasts were disseminated on all social channels and disseminated to citizens through information initiatives. This work was carried out in partnership with the EL-Comedor Giordano Liva association and with the contribution of Legambiente.

The activities of the local UPP Committees focused on combating educational poverty starting from the analysis of the critical issues produced by the years of the pandemic and the world crisis

which has brought the theme of war back to the center of society's discourse on the new generations: isolation, overexposure to social media, mental distress, fear and worries. Through the Community Educational Pacts tool, the involvement of students, teachers, parents and local institutions was supported with the aim of creating an inclusive educational community.

The approach was the same used in the UPP missions abroad: horizontal, decolonised, aimed at favoring local realities and partners, without imposing working models and tools, but offering help and support while respecting the cultures and traditions of the different actors with whom we relate. A network of local partners, in which structured associations such as Libera and Arci collaborated with small associations and cooperatives rooted in the territories, proposed and supported non-formal education activities in dozens of schools, involving thousands of students of all ages.

Un Ponte per has continued the fight against climate change, focusing mainly on Italian and European territory. In 2022, it launched the "(E)mision (Im)possible" project, together with other European and Italian partners. An ambitious initiative, which saw the creation of training packages aimed at raising awareness on reducing emissions, aimed above all at non-governmental organizations and international cooperation donors. In 2023 the project was strengthened and a data collection process was undertaken regarding our organisation's emissions, which will allow us to develop a reduction strategy. This project has also allowed us to forge stronger ties with the Universities that have decided to adopt the training modules produced by the project. This project marked a significant step forward in the path undertaken by Un Ponte per, in collaboration with the association A Sud, to effectively face the



challenge of climate change and to raise internal staff awareness on the topic of climate change and the impact of our work. With respect to the fight against climate change and education, the "Climate Sentinels" project started in 2023, which in its first phase produced training modules for teachers on the topic of climate change.

## Main results

- **4,827 young people (16% women) participated and benefited from the activities organized in the area**
- **1,023 young students (of which 500 belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, 64 or victims of stigma) followed training courses and training activities**
- **1 MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) course lasting 25 hours and available in 5 languages aimed at promoting positive climate actions in the field of cooperation and the third sector**
- **650 hours of non-formal education workshops on topics such as care of the territory, the fight against cultural stereotypes, women's rights, disability, peace, legality and the fight against the mafia phenomenon, poetry slam, urban art, theater and social circus**

## > STORY

# ERADICATE: THE CIVIL SERVICE GIRLS

"The 2023 Civil Service project aimed to create in-depth materials on the link between the climate crisis and migration. The course was held in collaboration with the Pisa association El Comedor Estudiantil Giordano Liva, which manages schools in Nepal and Peru, as well as an Italian school for migrant people in Pisa. Together with our colleagues at Comedor we created "Eradicate", a series of articles and a podcast born from our study work to understand the complexity of the links between the climate crisis and migration. The first part of the articles aims to provide key definitions with respect to the concepts of crisis and climate injustice and their relationship with migration, while the last chapter of our journey featured people who engage in activism and/or who they deal with the climate crisis in Iraq, Tunisia and Italy. Through interviews and questionnaires they talked about their experiences, practices and their goals. The research work carried out for writing the articles was also the starting point for the development of a non-formal education laboratory for schools, which we created with a class from the Fermi institute in Pontedera, in the province of Pisa. For all of us, being in a class was a new experience and therefore very busy, but also one of the best moments of the Civil Service, because it was interactive and shared".

Giulia Bigongiari and Sara Raffaelli, Universal Civil Service 2023

## > FOCUS

# COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORIES: THE LOCAL COMMITTEES

2023 was a year full of initiatives promoted by the activists of Un Ponte Per present on the national territory, always networking with the local associations with which we have established solid ties, sharing common objectives.

In Lombardy, the local Committee of Milan and Monza was the protagonist of numerous events in solidarity with the Syrian population hit by the earthquake, contributing to the campaign launched by the association, and in favor of Russian, Belarusian, pacifists and conscientious objectors. and Ukrainians. At the same time, the activists promoted appeals, moments of in-depth analysis and mobilizations together with the No CPR network to denounce the inhuman conditions of the migrants held in the Repatriation Permanence Centres. Finally, with the "Gr(E)at Lab" project, we worked in the schools of the Gratosoglio neighborhood in Milan to improve the quality of educational services for children, through non-formal education workshops that use art, sports, games and clowning.

In Piedmont, the Turin local committee was active on peace issues, with weekly demonstrations which saw the average participation of 65 people every Saturday, and with the organization of in-depth moments in collaboration with the Culture, Politics and Society Department of the University of Turin and with the Agite territorial network. Furthermore, on the occasion of Christmas, a local fundraising initiative was launched to support our Peace Workshops in Iraq.

At the center of the commitment of the activists of the local Tuscany Committee was the theme of feminism and ecofeminist practices. The Committee organized a series of presentations of the book "My place is everywhere" by Silvia Abbà, UPP operator, to testify to the stories of struggle of Iraqi women who are fighting to make their voices heard and self-determination. At the same time, the Committee has carried out initiatives in collaboration with the BDS Campaign, to promote boycott, divestment and sanctions actions for the rights of the Palestinian people, and with the NO BASE movement, against the militarization of the territories and the construction of the military base in Coltano.

The work of the activists of the local Campania Committee focused on the theme of peace, the fight against gender violence and the environment. Meetings were promoted in Campania schools on peace education, climate change and environmental protection, training activities and workshops which saw the participation of over 350 students. Furthermore, continuity was given to the partnership with the "Naples Human Rights Film Festival", now in its third year. At the center of the 2023 edition were the rights of boys and girls in war contexts.

Starting from October 2023, active participation in mobilisations, demonstrations and public events in solidarity with the population of Gaza has been transversal to all Committees.





## A BRIDGE OF BOOKS OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN

Building a bridge of books that crosses the Mediterranean, from Tunisia to Italy, to create a more inclusive prison environment and offer reading opportunities to Arabic-speaking prisoners so that they are considered in their entirety and dignity, a necessary starting point for any inclusion and rehabilitation process. From this idea the Kutub Hurra project was born. Books at open ports, thanks to the collaboration between Un Ponte Per, the Tunisian association “Lina Ben Mhenni” and a network of Italian entities active in penitentiaries to bring fiction and poetry books in Arabic to be made available to prisoners/ and Arabic speakers in Italian prisons. In Italy, in fact, 30% of the prison population is Arabic speaking. Yet, in our prisons there are very few books in Arabic. This is how the book can become a tool to encourage cultural dialogue, to make known the roots of those who live far from their country, to make prisoners feel recognized. An initiative that aims to create a more inclusive prison environment, promote emancipation and recognition by offering Arab-speaking prisoners access to readings in their own language.

A cultural cooperation project that represents at the same time an innovative challenge to the logic of one-way aid, a concrete practice of decolonization of cooperation through the journey of these books from the south to the north of the Mediterranean. In 2023 we delivered a total of 200 books to 4 penitentiary facilities: the Casal del Marmo juvenile penal institute and the Regina Coeli prison, both in Rome; the “Due Palazzi” prison in Padua and the Sollicciano prison in Florence, reaching a total of 8 penitentiary institutions involved since the start of the project the previous year. But we don't just bring books to enrich the libraries: together with the associations active in the institutions we have planned reading groups and moments of discussion and comparison, as well as translations that encourage intercultural dialogue between Italian and Arabic-speaking inmates. Activities that have had an extremely positive impact on the communities involved. The initiative continues to grow and, in addition to the involvement of new institutions, activities are planned outside the prison boundaries in territorial library networks, involving entities from various Italian cities such as Padua, Livorno, Pisa, Florence, Rome, Genoa and Milan, encouraging the exchange of experiences between librarians, mediators, guarantors, operators and volunteers of the associations involved.

**Project name:** Kutub Hurra

**Donor:** Haiku Lugano Foundation, private donations

**Partner:** Lina Ben Mhenni Association, volunteer associations active in penitentiary institutions, University of Florence, Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty of the Municipalities of Florence, Livorno, and Padua

**Project duration:** January 2020-June 2025



## LEBANON

### 5 projects

### 545 direct recipients

Today Lebanon represents a constantly changing context that requires a careful and dynamic choice of methods of intervention and relationship with the territory. Although the country is showing the first signs of recovery after the 2019 economic default and subsequent protests, the picture remains uncertain and the small Middle Eastern state continues to show deep fault lines. The re-emergence of inter-community tensions, fueled by the inability to provide answers to the issue of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, represent issues that continue to make Lebanon a powder keg, in a perpetual balance between stasis and open conflict. A conflict which, moreover, since the beginning of the Israeli military offensive in Palestine and the subsequent involvement of Hezbollah has begun to directly affect the southern area of the country, causing thousands of displaced people, hundreds of victims and the destruction of homes and vehicles subsistence of the civilian population.

The situation is extremely delicate, and it is in this context that Un Ponte Per continues to reiterate its commitment to supporting the less well-off sections of the population: minors, women, elderly people and people with disabilities, who are the first to experience the effects of the uncertainty facing the country, especially if they belong to that refugee population systematically excluded from the production and social security mechanisms. Around these people and their needs, also in 2023, UPP continued to work to intervene above all on the right to education and health, to promote social cohesion, peace building and the self-determination of women and young. The same methodological approach drives all interventions

support of the Palestinian and Syrian refugee population in various refugee camps: such as the "Mental Health Care Program", active in the camps of Nahr al-Bared, Ain el Helwe and Beddawi, which aims to provide health and psychological assistance to children and young people; the "Family Happiness" distance support project, which since 1997 in partner centers Beit Atfal Assomoud has guaranteed health and educational support in the various fields in which the organization is active; or "Basket Beats Borders" and the "Sport for Peace" Multifunctional Sports Center, in the Shatila field, concrete examples of how sport can become a tool for youth and female participation and empowerment in contexts of urban and social marginality.

Solidarity initiatives that actively involve the Civil Peace Corps present in the country. Last but not least, the "Women Peacebuilders in Action" project, innovative for its ability to weave relationships from one side of the Mediterranean to the other. Structured to promote the participation of young people and women in peace processes and non-violent conflict resolution, consistently with UN Resolution 1325, the project involved Iraqi, Libyan, Tunisian, Italian and Lebanese organisations, leading them to the creation of a shared operational curriculum, several cycles of workshops and training sessions. A rich and diversified path in which our Lebanese partners have played a key role.

### Main results

- **524 people, 55% of whom were women, had access to information campaigns and interventions regarding access to and exercise of human rights (health, protection, legal assistance, employment, social inclusion)**
- **61 entrepreneurial actors (associations, cooperatives, businesses) supported through micro-finance, of which 11 led by young people under 35**
- **5 young people between 18 and 28 years old involved in the projects**

## &gt; STORY

## FROM FLORENCE TO SHATILA: SPORT AS A MEANS OF EMANCIPATION

In May 2023, a delegation of activists from Un Ponte Per spent a week of sport, solidarity and friendship in the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila, in Beirut. But they were not alone on this journey. Accompanying them were the athletic trainers of the Centro Storico Lebowski in Florence, the first football sports club with popular ownership. The aim of the mission: to train 3 groups of young footballers from the Palestine Youth Club of Shatila, which for years has been a point of reference for the popular sport of the camp, paying particular attention to girls and the potential that sport can offer in their path of emancipation and self-determination.

We know well the value of sport at all latitudes. But in a marginalized place like Shatila camp, it becomes invaluable. Born in 1948 and sadly famous for the 1982 massacre, it is one of the most overcrowded places on the planet. Here you have the constant feeling that there is no air. Today it hosts around 25,000 people in extremely critical conditions. The city of Beirut does not provide any municipal services to the people living in the camp. Electricity arrives thanks to power generators, which work only as long as fuel is available. A tangled network of electrical cables dangles above the narrow alleys. The water flowing from the taps has a salty taste. The drinkable one must be purchased. Today, due to the serious economic crisis in Lebanon, poverty is increasing to extremely worrying levels. Added to all this is the historically disadvantaged situation of Palestinian refugee people in Lebanon, who for decades have found themselves socially excluded due to the impossibility of enjoying most civil and socio-economic rights.

The delegation's program included a cycle of daily training with girls and boys, adolescents and young people. At the end of the week, a tournament was organized involving teams from other refugee camps in Beirut. Finally, young students from UNWRA schools present in Shatila camp were involved in a series of meetings with the aim of involving them in sporting activities. A new relationship of friendship and solidarity, born from the common passion for sport, which will continue to bear fruit during 2024.

**Project name:** Basket Beats Borders, Shatila Sport Center

**Donor:** Private donations

**Partner:** Palestinian Youth Club

**Project duration:** January 2016-ongoing



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# SERBIA

## 1 project

### 24 recipients of which 50% were women

In Serbia, the weight of the economic crisis caused by the slow recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine weighs on many families. Poverty does not affect all people in the same way. Across the country, the most vulnerable communities, such as large families or those living in rural areas, as well as displaced people, are facing major challenges. Rising food and energy prices and education costs are putting a strain on families' ability to meet daily needs. Since 1999, in the aftermath of the NATO bombings of Yugoslavia, our intervention has been concentrated in central Serbia, in the villages around Kraljevo, the city that in the past recorded the largest number of displaced people from Kosovo and Metohija.

Through the distance support program “Svetlost” and the “Donate a greenhouse” campaign, Un Ponte Per works in both the educational and food sectors. In collaboration with the Serbian Red Cross of the city of Kraljevo, in 2023 Un Ponte Per ensured scholastic support for 27 children belonging to single-parent families, often with children suffering from disabilities and without a stable income. Since 2016, 36 greenhouses have been built for as many families to allow them to produce food even during the harsh Serbian winter.

## Main results

- **27 families supported financially to guarantee an adequate educational path for their children, and prevent school dropout and child labor**



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# SYRIA

## 11 projects

**387,806 recipients of protection, health, psycho-social and mental health support services.**

**2,642,219 indirect recipients of healthcare waste management and municipal solid waste recycling services.**

In north-east Syria, the humanitarian situation continues to be highly critical. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of individuals requiring assistance increased considerably, reaching a total figure of 2.6 million people. People are particularly affected by the difficulty in accessing basic services due to the ongoing low-intensity conflict, the economic crisis and health emergencies. The lack of basic sanitation, caused by the interruption of water supply, poor waste management, displacement and the absence of sufficient housing solutions, contributes to the spread of epidemic diseases. The health system is seriously compromised by the consequences of the conflict, inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of health personnel.

Un Ponte Per has been operating in the area since 2015, establishing itself today as one of the main players in the health sector. Our work focuses both on local communities and in camps for displaced people, offering basic health services, protection and livelihood support, as well as interventions in hospital and municipal waste management.

In 2023, together with our local partners, we supported the operation of 24 health facilities, including public facilities and clinics in camps for displaced people, and 15 polyclinics. Additionally, we provided assistance in the rural areas far from any health service through mobile health teams and a coordination center which includes around 40 ambulances. In addition to guaranteeing access to basic medical care, Un Ponte Per has also focused its intervention on improving the quality of primary healthcare services, through training aimed at increasing the technical skills of local healthcare professionals in terms of planning, management and delivery of services. With the "ISHRAF" and "ERSHAD" projects, we have worked and continue to work to strengthen the local health system, mapping health needs and creating coordination platforms between all

the actors involved (local institutions, local organizations, international NGOs, etc.) to facilitate a collaborative approach to health governance in the area. Furthermore, since 2018 we have supported the Municipalities and local authorities of north-east Syria through decentralized cooperation projects with a focus on environmental health. In 2023 we supported the municipality of Hasakeh by launching the first municipal system of separate collection and recycling of municipal solid waste in the entire region, and we supported the management of medical waste of numerous public and private healthcare facilities, from the training of healthcare personnel to the collection and disposal in the dedicated areas that we have built in collaboration with the local authorities. We also supported the Water Directorates in a region affected by a very serious water crisis.

As regards protection services, in addition to activities in the clinics, such as awareness-raising and psycho-social support, Un Ponte Per together with the local partner manages three Safe Spaces in Raqqa, one for women and girls with space for children /and under 5 years old; one for childhood and one for adolescence, offering group activities and individual support against gender violence and for the protection of the minors. In 2023, we carried out protection awareness campaigns through community sessions and radio programmes. Finally, to strengthen the action of local organizations on combating gender violence, Un Ponte Per collaborates with the Women's Houses (Mala Jin) to strengthen their capacity to support women who have survived violence.

## Main results

- **73 health facilities, both in displaced persons camps and in urban and rural areas, supported by medical waste management services, of which 15 polyclinics supported with health services (emergency and infectious diseases, maternal and child health and reproductive health, internal medicine)**
- **1,015 participants in training/empowerment actions aimed at people belonging to discriminated, stigmatized and excluded groups**
- **323 staff members of public or non-profit healthcare facilities increased their skills on health and protection issues**
- **17 cooperatives and small income-generating activities were supported through micro-credit**
- **136 volunteers involved in campaigns for environmental awareness and waste recycling in Hasakeh**

## > STORY

# THE SAFE SPACES OF RAQQA

After 12 years of crisis in Syria, life for displaced families has become even more difficult. Although the Syrian conflict has disappeared from the front pages of newspapers, millions of girls and boys continue to live in extremely precarious conditions, without ever having known a different life. Among them are Mariam, Bissan and Ghazal, three sisters born in Aleppo, a city known for the siege and the atrocities suffered by fleeing civilians. Six years ago, during a bombing, they lost their 10-year-old brother. Shortly after, her mother also disappeared. Mariam is the youngest and dreams of becoming a pediatrician. Bissan, a lover of singing, is 11 years old. Ghazal, shy and passionate about football, is 13. After escaping from Aleppo, the three sisters took refuge in Raqqa, where they live with their father and adoptive mother, Nada. War has inflicted severe trauma on the mental health of children, who are forced to face loss and displacement. In Raqqa, since 2021 Un Ponte Per has opened three Safe Spaces to offer protection from violence and psychological support to children and women. "In the Safe Space, we see boys and girls smiling again," says Nada. "They were shy and didn't want to spend time with others, but after we brought them into the Safe Space, we are seeing significant progress. They open up more, make new friends and regain self-confidence." Six years after the battle of Raqqa, boys and girls continue to grow up in the rubble, and 60% of them do not go to school. "It's a huge challenge to raise a child here," Nada confides worriedly. "It's even more difficult to raise a daughter." The story of Miriam, Bissan and Ghazal is similar to that of many other girls and boys forced to live among the rubble of war, often without schools or services that can make their childhood peaceful. Safe Spaces were created for this: to try to ensure them those rights that the war deprived them of. In 2023 alone, over 8,400 women, girls and boys were involved in the activities of the 3 centres. "We love Safe Space activities," the sisters tell us. "We can sing, draw and express our opinions. Here we feel safe and free to dream of a better future." With projects like Spazi Sicuri, Un Ponte Per continues to protect and nurture the dreams of Syrian girls, offering them a light of hope in a world marked by war and destruction.

**Project name:** Darna Al Aman

**Donor:** AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 8×1000 funds of the Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai, private donations

**Partner:** Doz

**Project duration:** January 2021-April 2024



## > FOCUS

# ISHRAF: FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN SYRIA

Twelve years of conflict, over 6 million internally displaced people, 14 million people in need: these are the numbers of an emergency that is slowly disappearing from the news, no longer considered as such even by international donors. These are the numbers of a war that continues, even when it seems that the weapons are silent, leaving behind a social fabric to be rebuilt and infrastructures that are deeply damaged, if not totally destroyed. For these reasons, since 2015 the commitment of Un Ponte Per in the north-east of Syria, where an attempt at self-government informed by the principles of democratic confederalism is underway, has focused on the rehabilitation and strengthening of public health structures, in order to guarantee free and equal access to health services for all.

With the ISHRAF project, we have worked to give further strength and stability to this action, launching an important pilot initiative with the aim of understanding and addressing the root causes of the weaknesses of the health system and defining a strategy for strengthening the health system and management capacity by the Autonomous Administration of North-East Syria (AANES).

In a year of work, the project made it possible first of all to provide an updated snapshot of the health system in the area, which due to the continuation of the conflict did not have recent data and studies. An initial demographic analysis of the population and primary health needs was followed by the mapping of all the operational health structures, their potential and the evaluation of the quality of the services offered both by the public medical centers and those supported by international NGOs, as well as an analysis of the real training and updating capabilities of medical personnel by local institutions.

At the same time, through the creation of multi-stakeholder coordination platforms, for the first time, the various local actors operating in the sector were able to come together and exchange information on the gaps and priorities on which to intervene. In this way, a multidisciplinary group of experts was able to outline the priority areas of a general strategy to strengthen the health system in the medium term. This was the starting point of the next phase of the program: with the ERSHAD project (from October 2023 to September 2027), we will outline the future roadmap of this process of strengthening the health system in north-eastern Syria.

Not only that, during the project, in collaboration with the Raqqa School of Nursing, we organized the first post-graduate course on "Primary Care Management" which saw the participation of 48 enrolled students.

**Project name:** ISHRAF

**Donor:** DG Near/EU

**Partner:** Local authorities, Local and international NGOs

**Project duration:** Septemeber 2022-September 2023





## > FOCUS

# HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SYRIA

When we started our intervention in the north-east of Syria 8 years ago with the support of local clinics, there were no facilities for the disposal of municipal and medical waste. In a region of the country where water scarcity is an increasingly urgent issue due to drought and desertification caused by climate change and new dams built in Turkey, which reduce the flow of rivers such as the Euphrates, improving waste management, including efforts to limit groundwater pollution, has quickly become a priority. Also thanks to the attention on environmental protection and ecology of local and regional authorities, since 2019, together with the Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC) and with the support of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) we have started a training program specialized initiatives aimed at local institutions, triggering a process of change and laying the foundations for the launch of the first municipal recycling pilot project in north-east Syria. In 2023, thanks to two integrated projects - Zero Waste and Gemar Zero - together with the Municipality of Hasakeh, which has over 230,000 inhabitants, we completed the implementation of a door-to-door separate collection system for recyclable materials, such as plastic, metals, cardboard and organic waste, raising awareness among citizens of the new waste management plan.

At the same time, within the same program, we contributed to creating a complex system of medical waste management throughout the entire territory of north-eastern Syria, through the training of health center staff on the procedures to be followed for collection, transport and disposal, and the supply of vehicles dedicated to the exclusive transport of potentially dangerous medical waste, the construction and maintenance of specific disposal areas. During 2023, this system was further expanded to include over 45 healthcare facilities and to provide technical support to 8 municipalities in the area. Thanks to the new project supported and started in September 2023, Nifayat at-Tubiya, Un Ponte Per has introduced advanced tools for digital monitoring in medical waste disposal areas and has strengthened municipal staff with targeted training. The Department of Public Health has thus strengthened its structure for the management of healthcare waste, integrating three qualified Monitoring Officers in the areas of Qamishlo and Hasakeh, with the task of monitoring activities in the healthcare facilities affected by the project.

**Project name:** Zero Waste, Gemar Zero, Nifayat at-Tubiya

**Donor:** Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), Prosolidar Foundation

**Partner:** Local authorities, Kurdish Red Crescent

**Project duration:** April 2023-July 2024





# UKRAINE

## 1 project

**5,700 Number of recipients of awareness campaigns, interventions that improve access to and exercise of human, social and economic rights**

**5 civil society organizations directly involved**

In 1998 the bombings of Belgrade convinced us to build bridges of peace on our continent. In 2022 we made a similar decision following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February of that year. While the international community focused only on humanitarian aid and military support, almost no one dialogued with civil society to support the efforts of Ukrainian activists to protect social cohesion, continue to educate for peace, help young people to manage and overcome the traumas experienced. Thus was born A Bridge for Ukraine, started with the caravans of the “Stop the War Now” coalition, with which we first reached Lviv to bring humanitarian aid, then Kiev to meet civil society engaged in peacebuilding and nonviolent resistance, and to support conscientious objectors. 2023 saw us continue to strengthen the bridges of solidarity together with our Ukrainian and Romanian partners, with the support of the boys and girls of the Civil Peace Corps.

The second phase of the “Peace Support Ukraine” project was therefore born in response to the crisis situation in Ukraine, and the constant instability of the country in the last two years. Despite threats of increasingly violent attacks, civil society organizations have worked tirelessly to mitigate the social and psychological impacts of the invasion, focusing primarily on peace education and trauma care. However, the social recovery process requires significant support, especially considering that some

regions still remain occupied. The project had a significant impact by promoting social cohesion in national reconstruction plans, emphasizing the importance of social recovery alongside economic reconstruction. Despite logistical difficulties, dialogue spaces have been created to unite polarized communities and offer psychosocial support to civil society and the Ukrainian diaspora in the region. This increased community participation, reducing internal tensions and promoting trust and collaboration between local partners. The people involved in the project have acquired the awareness and skills necessary to face the difficulties linked to the war context. Ukrainian society is facing challenges that promote a greater sense of awareness and social cohesion. These critical moments have brought increased attention to the need to strengthen solidarity internally and externally. Furthermore, recognition of the importance of actively supporting civil society, especially young men and women participants, has emerged as a key priority to successfully address these challenges. Precisely because of the still highly critical context, peace-building requires a long-term commitment. It is essential to focus on rebuilding the social fabric and on educational interventions aimed at protecting human rights, supporting youth and promoting social recovery.

## Main results

- **5700 beneficiaries of online mental health and trauma processing awareness campaigns reached**
- **59 peacebuilding initiatives in the country, including 3 “All for Peace” calls with around 20 organizations and 56 meetings/interviews during activities in 5 Ukrainian cities with Ukrainian and international organizations**
- **128 volunteers, peacebuilders and professionals engaged in the nonviolent transformation of conflicts**
- **5 reports developed and disseminated online on the need for peacebuilding in Ukraine and on nonviolent resistance**
- **15 exercises developed starting from the Peace Schools Methodology for First Aid and peace education**

## ACT NOW FOR THE PEACE OF TOMORROW

“Ukrainian society today is very polarized. Before the war we were divided between east and west. Today the situation has become further complicated: we have refugee people, internally displaced people, people who have left the country and will not return and people who instead will; there are those who fight and those who refuse to do so. What will become of Ukrainian society after all this? How will it manage to emerge from this enormous collective trauma? Teaching young people useful tools for dialogue, explaining to them how to use them in their communities, then becomes fundamental. They will be able to sit with other people, discuss, say that even with all these terrible experiences 'we are still human, we are survivors, and in our unity we can find the strength to move forward'. We must build a solid society because, when the war is over, our country cannot be based on hatred and division. If we wait until the war is over to do this, it will be too late: we need to start working now to build peace. If we want to hope for any kind of forgiveness, any attempt at understanding, we need to start now. Starting from our communities, explaining to people how to work with trauma, how to deal with the terrible experience they are experiencing, but also creating spaces for understanding and forgiveness. We should forgive someday, and if we are not ready to do so it will bring consequences that will make the state of affairs even more horrible. When I drive through my destroyed country, shrouded in darkness, and I see people continuing to fight I am convinced that there is still hope. We are a resilient country, our hearts are still full of light, I am sure we will get out of this. Everyone in Ukraine today experiences trauma first-hand: we don't have the funds to rebuild everything, but we can talk to people. Having safe spaces in which to sit, drink a coffee and talk together: even this alone represents hope for the future.”

Mariia Levchenko, peacebuilding expert with the Peace Support Ukraine project

**Project name:** Peace Support Ukraine

**Donor:** 8×1000 funds of the Istituto Buddhista Italiano Soka Gakkai

**Partner:** Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Nonviolence International Ukraine, Institute for Peace and Common Ground Ukraine (IPCG), Ukrainian Leadership Academy (ULA)

**Project duration:** July 2022-January 2024



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# PEACE SUPPORT UKRAINE

Since the first months of the conflict in Ukraine, Un Ponte Per has started a project in collaboration with various Ukrainian organizations to strengthen the capacities of young Ukrainians to engage in social cohesion, resilience to the trauma of war and in the creation of spaces so that their opinions are heard and included in the country's reconstruction process. The Peace Support Ukraine project was divided into three lines of action. The first concerned support for young people, carried out together with the Ukrainian Leadership Academy, through the production of podcasts in which young people were encouraged to reflect on the future of their country: over 8,700 listens sign in. At the same time, a series of online courses were created, involving over 350 young people, from high schools to young workers, addressing topics such as personal resilience, the management of crisis contexts, but also international dialogues. With the second line of work, together with the partner Institute for Peace and Common Ground, we worked to put together a methodology intended for principals, teachers, psychologists and mediators on trauma management techniques and in general on an approach educational that takes into account both the ongoing conflict and the traumas suffered. Over 200 schools were involved. The project framework was also enriched by the actions of the Association for Middle Eastern Studies and its network of activists in the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine. The activists of this network have worked to promote the experience of nonviolent resistance carried out by civil society in Ukraine. The spread of nonviolent narratives and the personal stories of activists means that attention is paid to alternative narratives that challenge internal polarization, clichés and "black-white" visions of reality.

The reconstruction of the social fabric was at the center of the meetings organized together with Patrîr, the Romanian partner, such as the two "Kyiv Social Recovery" conferences held in May and November 2023: supporting the reconstruction of the social fabric and supporting communities in transformation and management of their experiences related to the conflict. The importance of the inclusion of Ukrainian civil society, in fact, goes hand in hand with the physical reconstruction of infrastructures and the rehabilitation of basic services for the population affected by the war, in order to contribute in the most effective, inclusive and safe way possible to post-conflict recovery. Finally, a valuable contribution was given by the boys and girls of our Civil Peace Corps, active in Romania, a transit country for people who left Ukraine after the start of the war, to date more than 80 thousand. The CCPs are committed to promoting the integration of Ukrainian refugee people into Romanian society through community activities, language courses and advocacy at local and international level for the respect of the rights of displaced populations.

**Project name:** Peace Support Ukraine

**Donor:** 8x1000 funds of the Istituto Buddhista Italiano Soka Gakkai

**Partner:** Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Nonviolence International Ukraine, Institute for Peace and Common Ground Ukraine (IPCG), Ukrainian Leadership Academy (ULA)

**Project duration:** July 2022-January 2024





# REGIONAL ACTIONS - MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**2 projects, involving Iraq, Syria, Libya,  
Tunisia, Lebanon**  
**12 civil society organizations directly  
involved**

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 commits states to promote the participation of women in peace processes and in the definition of security practices and policies. This is a global challenge that can significantly change the way social conflicts and international disputes are managed. Un Ponte Per has therefore decided to work on this issue at a regional level in the countries in which it operates. The fourth phase of the "Women Peacebuilders in Action" project was also placed in this sense, part of a broader initiative involving women and young people from civil society in Italy, the Middle East and North Africa. This program aims to promote active participation in peace processes and non-violent conflict transformation, in line with UN Resolution 1325 and Italy's IV National Action Plan (2020-2024).

Through various projects, the program has strengthened the creation of a network between civil society organizations in Italy, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia and Libya, focused on women's rights and peacebuilding, allowing the exchange of good practices and the creation of synergies in the region. The main objectives include the empowerment of women, girls and peace activists and the promotion of Resolution 1325.

Despite logistical challenges, the program has adapted its activities, allowing for fruitful exchanges and active participation of women

in various conflict contexts. Advocacy and awareness initiatives have seen the creation of conferences, round tables, a strong presence in the media and in educational institutions. A significant achievement was the conference on Resolution 1325 organized in Duhok (Iraqi Kurdistan) in 2022, which discussed crucial issues regarding women's rights and participation in peace processes.

As global conditions improved after the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, activities took place mainly in person, with a focus on female training and leadership. In the second part of the program, a system of micro-financing was introduced which allowed greater autonomy for civil society organizations, improving the response to local needs and strengthening women's leadership skills.

In 2023, an internal training seminar was organized in Tunis for the creation of a joint document of recommendations on the implementation of Resolution 1325, highlighting the importance of collaboration between institutions and civil society to promote women's safety.

The construction of peace through the active participation of refugee people and civil society is the central theme of another intervention involving the Mediterranean area, promoted by our Catalan partners at NOVACT. The Syrian refugee crisis, many of whom will not return to Syria, can be seen as an opportunity to involve new actors in social cohesion programs in countries such as Iraq. This project has made it possible to strengthen the youth participation of refugee people and host communities in the promotion of peace and democracy, also expanding the intervention to the network of local NGOs in the north-east of Syria, often forgotten by the international community.



## Main results

- **100** young refugees, displaced persons and host communities in Jordan and Catalonia contributed to creating a network that works on the topic of peacebuilding, with particular attention to the adoption of an approach based on human rights and gender and environmental justice
- **245** Iraqi, Tunisian, Libyan and Lebanese women participated in training events on peacebuilding, mediation and Resolution 1325, acquiring skills on implementation and active methodologies in the social and youth movements of which they are part
- **12** civil society organizations received support in advocacy practices, **74** nonviolent action, strategic planning, fundraising
- **10** civil society organizations have undertaken the process of building a Peacebuilding Academy and contributed to the exchange of good practices between Italian, Lebanese, Iraqi, Tunisian and Libyan organizations during various meetings
- **660** people in person and over 3,000 people via social media involved by local organisations, financed through the awarding of small grants



## > FOCUS

# CIVIL PEACE CORPS

Established in 2013 with Italian law n. 147, the Civil Peace Corps are made up of volunteers dedicated to operating in areas of conflict or risk of conflict, engaging in the promotion of "civil, non-armed and non-violent defense" alternatives. Currently in their third and final year of experimentation, their actions are guided by the ideals of nonviolence, local ownership, fairness and impartiality towards the conflicts with which they interact.

Un Ponte Per has played a crucial role since the beginning of the process for the recognition of these Corps in Italian legislation. In 2023, it launched a new CCP program, involving 12 volunteers in Lebanon, Romania and Jordan, to which are added 4 volunteers operating in Italy, specifically in the Land of Fires in Campania.

In Lebanon, the CCP's activity focuses on supporting democratization, mediation and reconciliation processes, with a particular focus on social cohesion and education, collaborating with local organizations such as Permanent Peace Movement, Shatila Youth Club and Amel International.

In Romania, CCPs collaborate with PATRIR, a renowned local organization engaged in peacebuilding, mediation and support for peace processes. Here, volunteers are dedicated to supporting the Ukrainian diaspora, focusing on peace education as one of the pillars of the project.

In Jordan, the group works alongside entities such as Athar, OurStep and BePositive, which deal with education, mental health issues and rehabilitation support for psychomotor disabilities respectively, offering a comprehensive and accessible service.

In Italy, the Terra dei Fuochi group is engaged in environmental monitoring in an area of Campania strongly influenced by eco-mafias, supporting the local community in dealing with these environmental emergencies.

Until mid-2024, Veronica, Luca, Ludovica, Elisa, Sebastian and others will be engaged in direct monitoring of respect for human rights and in supporting civil society initiatives to promote reconciliation and mediation. Their main objective is to demonstrate that it is possible to resolve conflicts with non-armed and non-violent civil defense methods, proposing valid alternatives to the use of military force.





## 4.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Un Ponte Per's commitment is made possible thanks to the contribution of institutional donors, foundations, private donors. In 2023 our budget decreased by 22% compared to 2022.

96% of the funds that finance our projects come from institutional donors and foundations, but it is in the support of all the people who choose to be at our side every day as partners, activists, donors that we find energy and inspiration to walk together with the communities we work with and build new bridges between people.

The contribution of individual donors, although limited, is fundamental because it allows us to respond quickly to the challenges we find ourselves facing and the needs that come to us from the territories in which we operate.

94% of the funds we use are intended for international cooperation projects and activities related to our mission: promoting peace and defending human rights. Only 0.43% is reinvested in fundraising activities to strengthen our base of supporters.

The 2023 Financial Statement closed with an operating surplus of €514, which will be allocated to free assets in Profit reserves or Operating surpluses.

**FUNDS RAISED: 15.464.996 €**

**FUNDS EMPLOYED: 15.464.482 €**

### 4.1 Reporting standards

The budget template adopted complies with the Third Sector Reform and in particular with the decree of 5 March 2020 published in the Official Journal of 18 April containing the Adoption of the Budget forms for Third Sector Entities.

This scheme was also adopted taking into account the objectives of the institution (lack of profit-making purposes) and the activities carried out by the same.

The financial statements for the year ended 12/31/2023 correspond to the results of the regularly kept accounting records.

The evaluation criteria adopted comply with the provisions of the art. 2426 Civil Code and are comparable with those adopted in previous years.

The accounting principles (OIC) envisaged for joint-stock companies are applied with the exception of OIC 35 specific for Third Sector Entities (ETS).

The items, grouped in the presentation of the balance sheet and management report, are commented on in this explanatory note. This also explains, when significant, the changes in their consistency compared to 2021.

Furthermore, steps were taken to:

- evaluate the individual items according to prudence and in anticipation of the normal continuity of the institution;



- include only the income actually realized during the financial year;
- determine the proceeds and costs in compliance with the temporal accrual, and regardless of their financial manifestation;
- consider separately, for the purposes of the relative evaluation, the heterogeneous elements included in the various items of the financial statements.

The financial statements are drawn up in euro units (EUR) and are comparable with those of the previous year.

## 4.2 Financial Statement

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY'</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
A) Receivables from members for payment of dues	0	0
B) Fixed assets	463.940	784.742
II. Tangible fixed assets	461.500	782.302
Lands and buildings	461.500	782.302
III. Financial fixed assets	2.440	2.440
Equity investments and securities	2.440	2.440
C) Current assets	17.655.412	17.188.070
II. Credits	12.691.401	12.079.171
1) Receivables from customers	0	0
3) Towards Public Bodies	11.255.111	10.639.751
Receivables from Italian and European entities	10.332.971	6.567.099
Receivables from international bodies	922.140	4.072.652
4) Towards private entities for contributions	1.275.436	1.213.698
Receivables from Private Foundations	1.275.436	1.213.698
6) Receivables from other Third Sector organisations	1.100	1.243
9) Tax Credits	6.100	7.078
10) da 5x1000	0	0
11) Towards others	153.655	217.401
IV. Liquid Assets	4.964.010	5.108.899
Cash and cash equivalents	122.379	81.203
Bank Deposits	4.841.632	5.027.696
D) Accrued income and prepaid expenses	8.756	12.842

Accrued income	1.010	0
Prepaid expenses	7.746	12.842
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY'</b>	<b>18.128.108</b>	<b>17.985.654</b>

LIABILITIES	2023	2022
<b>A) Net worth</b>	<b>14.218.110</b>	<b>11.285.965</b>
II Restricted assets	<b>13.955.329</b>	<b>11.000.404</b>
1) Statutory Reserves	0	0
2) Reserves bound by decision of the Institutional Bodies	58.120	53.766
3) Restricted reserves allocated by third parties	13.897.210	10.946.638
3 - Unrestricted assets	<b>262.266</b>	<b>284.788</b>
1) Operating surplus from previous years	41.334	40.561
2) Land and Buildings Reserve	220.792	244.087
3) Share premium reserve	140	140
IV Operating result for the year	514	773
<b>B) Provision for risks and charges</b>	<b>20.000</b>	<b>71.348</b>
3) Provision for exchange rate and credit risks	20.000	71.348
<b>C) Severance indemnity fund</b>	<b>191.605</b>	<b>160.715</b>
1) T.F.R. Found	191.605	160.715
<b>D) Debts</b>	<b>3.698.393</b>	<b>6.467.626</b>
1) Debts to banks	3.787	17.298
4) Debts for institutional activities towards bodies of the same association network	3.247.382	5.803.020
7) Supplier debts	46.420	26.180
9) Tax debts	7.147	16.029
10) Debts to social security and welfare institutions	34.307	39.491
11) Debts to employees and collaborators	252.137	217.968
12) Others different	107.214	347.640
<b>E) Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1) Accrued expenses	0	0
2) Deferred income	0	0
<b>TOTAL PASSIVITY'</b>	<b>18.128.108</b>	<b>17.985.654</b>

MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AS OF 12/31/2023

A) ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL INTEREST					
A) CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	A) REVENUES, REVENUES AND PROCEEDS	2023	2022
2) Services	10.045.710	13.592.602	1) Income from membership fees and contributions from the founders	10.591	13.156
Costs for cooperation, institutional, SAD, campaign activities	10.045.710	13.592.602	5) Proceeds of 5x1000	32.778	30.036
4) Personal	4.126.733	4.765.174	6) Contributions from private individuals	1.254.603	1.518.819
Local staff engaged in institutional programs	2.258.383	2.623.261	Private entities and foundations	1.254.603	1.518.819
Staff in Italy and abroad engaged in institutional programs	1.868.351	2.141.913	8) Contributions from Public Bodies	13.652.472	17.960.855
7) Various management charges	409.680	572.208	National and European bodies	9.749.428	10.658.259
General support costs for foreign missions	409.680	572.208	International bodies	3.903.044	7.302.596
9) Provision to restricted reserve by decision of the institutional bodies	27.300	19.511	10) Other revenues, annuities, and proceeds	77.918	46.842
10) Use of restricted reserve by decision of the institutional bodies	-22.946	-65.169			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14.586.477</b>	<b>18.884.326</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.028.362</b>	<b>19.569.708</b>
			Surplus/deficit	441.885	685.382

B) DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES					
B) CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	B) REVENUES, REVENUES AND PROCEEDS	2023	2022
	0	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>			Surplus/deficit	0	0

C) FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES					
C) CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	C) REVENUE, REVENUES AND PROCEEDS	2023	2022
1) Regular fundraising charges of which	67.277	69.919	1) Proceeds from regular fundraising	352.049	198.169
Services	31.689	36.090	2) Proceeds from occasional fundraisers	0	0
Personal	35.589	33.829	3) Other income	0	0
2) Charges for occasional fundraisers	0	0			



3) Other charges	0	0			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67.277</b>	<b>69.919</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>352.049</b>	<b>198.169</b>
			<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>284.772</b>	<b>128.251</b>

D) FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ASSETS					
CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	REVENUE, REVENUE AND PROCEEDS	2023	2022
1) On banking relationships	7.857	13.731	1) From banking relationships	72	101
2) On loans	6.677	17.239	3) From building heritage	9.181	9.181
3) From building heritage	18.223	18.291	5) Other income	75.332	6.070
5) Allocation to the Exchange and Credit Risk Fund	20.000	37.958	Contingent income, profits on exchange rates and credits	1.866	4.459
6) Other Charges	54.657	48.469	Use of Funds and Reserves	71.348	1.611
Exchange losses	39.128	7.264	Profits on exchange rates and rounding	2.118	
Credit losses, contingent liabilities, rounding	15.529	41.205			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107.412</b>	<b>135.689</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84.585</b>	<b>15.352</b>
			<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-22.829</b>	<b>-120.336</b>

E) GENERAL SUPPORT					
CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	PROCEEDS	2023	2022
2) Services	125.920	133.994			
3) Enjoyment of third party assets	36.278	34.358			
4) Personal	467.449	475.030			
7) Other charges	26.253	1.284			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>655.901</b>	<b>644.666</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-655.901</b>	<b>-644.666</b>

<b>TOTAL CHARGES AND COSTS</b>	<b>15.417.068</b>	<b>19.734.599</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES</b>	<b>15.464.996</b>	<b>19.783.229</b>
			Operating surplus/deficit before taxes	47.928	48.629
			Taxes	47.414	47.856
			<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>773</b>

The financial statements above are true and real and correspond to the accounting records.

The undersigned Alfio Nicotra, in his capacity as President and Legal Representative of the Un Ponte Per ETS Association declares

that this electronic document corresponds to the one transcribed in the company books or in any case kept at the Company's headquarters.

# 5.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

### 5.1. Diversity, non-discrimination, equal opportunities

Un Ponte Per enunciates its commitment to anti-discrimination (and zero tolerance towards discriminatory behaviours, choices or methods, which are not based on the pre-eminence and urgency of needs) with a transversal approach, through:

- its ethical principles;
- its code of conduct;
- adherence to the ICRC code of conduct.

The valorization of diversity of gender, culture, physical and mental abilities, extraction and origin, and language can be appreciated through: the interventions of Un Ponte Per aimed at inclusiveness and responding to a precise determination of the Assembly, made explicit and expressed through the 2021-2025 Strategy , the interventions in favor of groups particularly exposed to discrimination, and therefore marginalization.

The pursuit of equal opportunities is appreciable as, and can be found through:

- specific sector of investment and commitment, identified as a specific objective in all areas of intervention;
- the positioning on the pursuit of the dictates of Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security;
- the commitment to maintaining a strong presence of women in the Association, and in particular in positions of responsibility and reference;
- gender diarchy for the co-Presidency, identified as a formula for representing equal opportunities pursued by Un Ponte Per;

- some positions of affirmative feminism, such as joining the global strike of 8 March in all Un Ponte Per missions and the systematic proposal of internal activities during that day for the deepening of the imbalances of power imposed by the patriarchy.

We recognize that an inclusive work environment, which values and respects diverse perspectives and experiences, is essential to our success in achieving development and humanitarian goals. In recruiting and selecting staff, we seek to ensure a balanced representation of people from diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and geographic origin. This allows us to build a multidimensional team that reflects the diversity of the contexts in which we operate. We promote an inclusive work environment that values openness to dialogue, mutual respect and fairness. We support staff training and awareness-raising on the issues of diversity and inclusion, in order to create awareness and promote an attitude of acceptance and respect towards all colleagues.

## 5.2 Anti-corruption

Un Ponte Per has an internal policy to combat all forms of corruption, which, like other policies, is the subject of continuous training and awareness. Anti-corruption also finds particular attention in the commitment to supporting the activation and consolidation of a local organized civil society which is provided with coordinates and tools to avoid corruption dynamics which, otherwise, they would be inclined to accept and which would therefore end up fueling.

An important contribution on this topic is also made through active participation in the “Sbilanciamoci!” campaign whose spirit of active and counter-proposal surveillance is one of the essential pillars of a society that wants to be and remain free from the corruption imposed by great powers and interests. Over the years, some of the experts of “Sbilanciamoci!” were put in contact, through Un Ponte Per, with activists in Iraq and in the north-east of Syria, so that the means and skills gained within the campaign were transferred across the border, in a pact of alliance and mutual solidarity between peoples oppressed by corruption.

## 5.3 Data protection

In the humanitarian sector, the protection of beneficiaries' data was already the subject of profound protections, based on the codification of cases, the encryption of tools, the principles of protection and the granting of consent. The protections introduced by EU Regulation 679/2016, also called GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) has pushed all actors, including the third sector, to strengthen protections against any undue extraction, collection, storage and analysis of the data of all people physical, in the European space. In general, third sector organizations operating in international cooperation have extended the protections of the GDPR to all individuals they engage with, whether they are part of the organization's staff or beneficiaries and co-agents of its services and initiatives. This applies regardless of whether they are located within the EU or outside the EU, and

irrespective of their ability to initiate redress procedures.

Since 2018, Un Ponte Per has developed the following dedicated policies:

- Cookie Policy (site)
- Data Protection Policy (action in health and protection and specific section of the security plans regarding protection of data integrity and sanitization of data in case of evacuation)
- Information for members, staff, candidates, and individual donors
- Information, forms and consents for recipients and activities of Un Ponte Per
- Regulation on data management with and for partners
- Information, forms and consents relating to communication and social media

By writing to the e-mail address [privacy@unponteper.it](mailto:privacy@unponteper.it) (specially dedicated) you can make requests and disputes regarding the use and storage of your data. Express and denied consents are sent to the same address through registration on the UPP website.

## 5.4 Whistleblowing

Un Ponte Per has a policy dedicated to whistleblowing which, in addition to the provisions of its system of verification and investigation of violations of the code of conduct and policies (which apply to all people belonging to Un Ponte Per, regardless of whether employed or voluntary, from the type of working relationship established as well as to members and members of delegations, to journalists accompanied in their initiatives in the territories of UPP action, to donors visiting UPP structures and places of intervention and so on) intends to reinforce:

- the public commitment of Un Ponte Per towards the community as a whole, not to be a place where damage is caused to the community (be it related to rights, the environment, corruption, terrorism, violence institutional, gender violence, organized crime and so on);

- to therefore encourage and support those who have doubts about the quality of UPP's action, its development and its effects;
- to protect with all due means, internally and externally, anyone who exposes themselves to these violations or, with their reporting, contributes to clarifying doubts that may hover over the quality of UPP's action, its development or its effects and to learning about the whole organization.

## 5.5 Relations with businesses

In 2020, Un Ponte Per renewed its policy on the ethical standard that suppliers must present in order to have a commercial relationship with Un Ponte Per.

In particular, the policy is presented to all potential interested suppliers among the initial documents that explain the supply needs of Un Ponte Per as a sine qua non for the establishment of a commercial relationship between the two entities. As required by the new procurement manual, the policy is among the documents to which aspiring suppliers must commit without reservations in order to be considered eligible by Un Ponte Per.

The Good Business CoC policy identifies various areas in which suppliers must commit to maintaining the required ethical standard, i.e., but not limited to:

- labor rights
- human rights
- environmental impact
- prohibition of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse
- prohibition of exploitation of minors
- ban on modern slavery
- anti-corruption
- anti Terrorism
- anti-fraud

Since 2021, Un Ponte Per has carried out an a priori verification procedure of the profiles of companies/firms or people who intend to provide a service or provide goods or work to Un Ponte Per.

At the same time, Un Ponte Per also applies a code of ethics to donors, legal entities, who wish to contribute to the action of Un Ponte Per as a form of charity and social investment. .

The code of ethics prevents anyone (including the Presidency) from accepting donations in any form from legal entities that violate its parameters (e.g. investors in armaments and military security, including private ones, extractivism, environmental damage, notorious violation of the rights of work, financial speculation and so on). The code of ethics for donors can be found on the Un Ponte Per website, here: [https://www.unponteper.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Codice\\_Etico\\_Corporate\\_UPP.pdf](https://www.unponteper.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Codice_Etico_Corporate_UPP.pdf)

## 5.6 Countering sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse (sea and coc)

In this context, Un Ponte Per has a dedicated policy that expresses zero tolerance on any form of sexual abuse and exploitation towards the recipients and their communities of reference, including, by definition, prostitution.

Harassment (Sexual Harassment), which occurs between male and female colleagues, male and female partners, male and female volunteers, is instead dealt with by the Un Ponte Per code of conduct.

These violations are terribly costly, eroding the legitimacy of the spirit and action of Un Ponte Per and profoundly damaging the human dignity of those who suffer them.

In 2021 Un Ponte Per added an email dedicated to dealing with reports of violations of this policy and that on the protection of and minors, as well as sexual harassment between colleagues, members and volunteers: [safeguarding@unponteper.it](mailto:safeguarding@unponteper.it).



## 5.7 Protection of boys and girls

During 2020 Un Ponte Per developed, consolidated and produced its policy on the protection of boys and girls. The policy clearly distributes the responsibilities inherent in ensuring that Un Ponte Per acts in the direction of safeguarding boys and girls, in all its activities, communications and relationships. The policy is inspired by and consistent with the literature of the cluster group on the protection of minors in Iraq, which Un Ponte Per had previously contributed to developing and validating and which it was already adhering to.

## 5.8 Environmental Protection and Conservation

Un Ponte Per dedicates specific interventions to the topic, as can already be seen among the methods chosen for action across all sectors and areas of intervention of the 2021-2025 Strategy. Together with A Sud, a partner organization since 2020 expert in environmental issues, Un Ponte Per has for some years developed an intervention program organized on the diffusion of a virtuous model of climate approach by civil society organizations engaged in international cooperation and particularly, due to the specific critical issues inherent, to those involved in an emergency.

On this front, also in 2023 the (E)mision (I)mpossible program continued to organize online training courses for students, male and female humanitarian workers through which they acquire basic skills on climate change and related mitigation measures. Un Ponte Per, always as part of the intervention, it is collaborating with the other partners to create a tool for measuring the environmental impact in development cooperation projects which will be tested in the areas in which it works in the coming months. At the same time, the organization has worked intensely in the process promoted by DG ECHO for a transitional approach to environmental resilience.

The process involved various phases of consultation and review promoted by the ECHO team with the implementation partners and the participation of Un Ponte Per for each phase.

Making the most of the challenges posed by the pandemic, Un Ponte Per has developed, consolidated and disseminated its “Senza Carta” (Paperless) policy, which intends not only to validate the management and electronic validation of documentation (also for legal purposes) but to encourage the sole production electronic version of the documentation itself, even going beyond the option of dematerialization alone.

## 5.9 Mechanisms for receiving and managing feedback and complaints

The reception and management of feedback and complaints in Un Ponte Per is structured along three main lines:

1. The mechanisms for receiving and responding to complaints and feedback (Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanism - FCRM), but also for requesting information in programs and projects, specifically addressed and aimed at stimulating active surveillance and gathering conclusions from the communities receiving the and of the participants in the services;
2. The mechanisms for receiving and investigating violations of the code of conduct and policies, which must be available to anyone and with particular attention to stakeholders;
3. The mechanisms specifically dedicated to residual complaints that do not reveal problems in terms of the quality of the interventions or on the integrity of the action, but which still remain essential to keep the dialogue open with those around us.

Un Ponte Per has developed:

- a general policy on complaints, intending here to guarantee and solicit a continuous and dialogic space with anyone who wants or needs to express a negative comment on the actions, methods or approaches of the association. This policy is the entry point for any comment or report and applies both at headquarters and operational levels, in Italy and abroad, and in individual actions and projects.

- a policy on the reception and processing of reports of violations of the code of conduct and all policies, which can also be activated following receipt of the same via the complaints policy. These channels can be accessed via the email address:
  - [reclami@unponteper.it](mailto:reclami@unponteper.it)
  - [complaints@unponteper.it](mailto:complaints@unponteper.it)
  - [safeguarding@unponteper.it](mailto:safeguarding@unponteper.it)
- a policy on the standard organization and regulation of FCRM, so that UPP interventions in the various territories can have as reference a clear picture of the means, times and skills necessary to establish functioning and viable mechanisms, which contribute to the learning of organization and maintenance of active surveillance on the correctness, adequacy and correspondence to the needs of its action, its personnel and its representation. This channel is accessed according to multiple channels established at country level or at project level in the various missions of Un Ponte Per;
- In 2021 UPP also opened a specific channel, inherent to the provisions of the Model pursuant to Legislative Decree. lgs. 231/2001 (and its Code of Ethics and its special parts) and addressed to the Supervisory Body: [odv@unponteper.it](mailto:odv@unponteper.it)

## 5.10 Management and control model pursuant to Legislative Decree. lgs. 231/2001

Un Ponte Per adopts a management model consistent with the former legislative decree. lgs. 231/2001. Specifically, the model takes into account:

- relevance of the crimes pursuant to Legislative Decree lgs. 231/2001 with respect to the main activities of Un Ponte Per identification of specific risk areas with respect to relevant crimes (4 identified areas transposed into special parts A, B, C, D of the model);
- preparation/reorganization of responses to risk areas and for prevention, control and sanction purposes.

The model then adds specific regulation for the risk of aiding irregular immigration and a specific procedure for the investigation and sanctioning of violations.

Together with the model, the Supervisory Body is established, a body responsible, with the support of various operational figures of the organisation, for supervising, monitoring the application, transposing violations, sanctioning and strengthening the 231 model.

The Supervisory Body, also briefly referred to as the SB, can be reached via the dedicated email [odv@unponteper.it](mailto:odv@unponteper.it).



Name	Un Ponte Per ETS
Acronym	UPP
Tax ID code	96232290583
VAT number and REA registration	04734481007
Legal form	Recognized association
Qualification pursuant to the Third Sector Code	Other institution
Lists in which the organization is registered	ETS: Registered at the RUNTS rep. n. 128584 NGO: Registered in the AICS List Decree n° 2016/337/000281/5 Recognized Associations (Rome Prefecture)
Registered office address	Via Angelo Poliziano 18-20-22, 00184 - Rome
Other Italian offices (operational)	Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi 33 - Pisa Via Peyron 8 - Turin Via Vernicchi 154 - Casalnuovo di Napoli Via Antonio Rosmini 75 - Monza
Other locations abroad	Iraq (Erbil, Suleymanya, Dohuk, Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, Nassiryia) Siria - Nord-est (Amouda, Raqqa) Giordania (Amman) Libano (Beirut)
Territorial areas of operation	Jordan, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, North East Syria, Serbia, Tunisia-Libya, Ukraine
Association network	AOI - Association of Italian NGOs







[www.unponteper.it](http://www.unponteper.it)