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IBO Italy

An extract from the Social Responsibility Report 2012

Who We Are

IBO Italia is a Non-Governmental Organization of Christian inspiration operating in the field of national and international volunteer work. The network of which it is a member began its operations in 1953 in northern Europe, with the first work camps serving to rebuild destroyed houses for World War II refugees. In fact, IBO is the Flemish acronym for *Internationale Bouworde*, which translates as "International Builder Society". Located in Italy since 1957, IBO was officially established as an association in 1968 and was named suitable for work in the field of international cooperation by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972 (IBO was the first NGO in Italy to officially carry out an international-cooperation project approved by the MFA). Member of CCIVS - Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service - since 1957 under the aegis of UNESCO, IBO has been registered in the Provincial Charity Registry since 2005 and it is part of the Italian NGO Federation Volontari nel mondo (Volunteers in the World) - FOCSIV since 1972.

Vision

A society in which everyone takes responsibility for the wellbeing of others and of the community at large. A world in which education is available to everyone, so every person is free to choose where and how to live, in his or her country of origin or elsewhere.

Mission

IBO Italia aims to create the conditions necessary for access to education and training in developing countries and to develop a social consciousness in young people through shared experiences and concrete work performed gratis for people in need.

Values

- ▲ Volunteer work as a means of social involvement;
- ▲ Teamwork and solidarity;
- ▲ The importance and richness of cultural diversity;
- ▲ Labor as an instrument of advancement and independence;
- ▲ Respect for mankind and for the environment through the encouragement of justice, peace and equity;
- ▲ Consistency in one's everyday choices

Activity

IBO Italia works in the fields of International Cooperation (projects involving Cooperation, Child Sponsorship) and Responsible Solidarity (Work and Solidarity Camps, European Voluntary Service, Civil Service, Youth Exchanges, Development Education).

Objectives

The activities of International Cooperation are intended to:

- sensitize families to the importance of education for their children;
- create facilities to satisfy primary needs as well as facilitating school attendance;
- provide training and support to teachers;
- promote local employment using training courses and job placement.

The activities of Responsible Solidarity are intended to:

- provide and encourage opportunities to participate in volunteer experiences of medium to long term;
- raise awareness and involve citizens in the fight against poverty and economic and social imbalances;
- constitute a network of local volunteer groups.

Our history

IBO Italia was born in Italy in 1957, thanks to Father Angelo Marcandella, a young priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart and the son of Italian immigrants in Belgium.

Father Angelo had followed the movement "International Builder Membership" since its creation in 1953 in Europe by another priest, Father Werenfried van Straaten, better known as "Bacon Priest." The Bacon Priest, who some years before had founded the "Oostpriesterhulp" or "Church of the Silence" (today known as "Aid to the Church in Need") acquired this nickname for his engagement with poor German refugees of the Second World War who, after having escaped from the blasted cities at the end of the war, crowded together on the borders with Belgium and Holland. In his collecting campaigns, Father Bacon took everything that Flemish housewives could spare; above all bacon (which earned him the lifelong nickname of the "Bacon Priest") which he then gave to the evacuee families.

One Sunday morning, during the Mass, he gave some small holy pictures to the children and told them to hang them on the walls of their houses. Whereupon he saw a little girl crying and he asked her why she was so sad. The little girl replied that hers was one of five families living in a warehouse. Her family was in the center and so there were not any walls. Disconcerted, he founded "International Builder Memberships" to build houses for them, with the help of many young people who came from all over Europe to support him. Working teams of "white overalls", thanks to the donation of thousands of white overalls from a German paint company, flooded Europe, including Italy. Their aim was to build houses for who could not afford to buy them.

The first office of IBO Italia was in Cognola di Trento, then Pontenure (PC), Piacenza, Cesate (MI), Casalpusterlengo (LO), Cassana (FE) and today the national headquarters resides in the center of Ferrara.

Over time IBO Italia has undergone various transformations. It became an official association (1968) and then a Non-Governmental Organization (1972), when the first cooperation project in Zaire was carried out for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1974 IBO Italia was one of the founding NGOs of *Volontari nel Mondo* - FOCSIV (Federation of Christian Organizations for International Volunteer Service), at that time still known as FOLM (Federation of Lay Missionary Organizations).

To this day, IBO Italia conducts many projects in Latin America, Africa, Asia, in addition to thousands of work camps throughout Europe, with the participation of tens of thousands of volunteers.

Governance and Operating Structure

The various decision - making bodies in IBO Italia are: the members' assembly, the board of directors, the audit committee and working committees.

The assembly meets once a year to approve both the final balance sheet for that year and the operating budget for the next year, and to deliberate on the planning of activities of the association, the internal regulations and the creation of local groups. Every 3 years the assembly nominates the 9 members of the board of directors, which has the duty to determine the strategies of the organization and oversee its operations. The president and vice president are elected among the board members by majority vote.

The assembly annually confirms the decisions made by the board, which meets more frequently. The audit committee is composed of 3 members and checks the budgets. The conjunction between political and operating structure is embodied in the working committees, which analyze the progress in the various sectors and create strategies to be submitted to the board. The members and the board perform the political role, while the professional structure performs the technical one.

As far as concern the area of international development cooperation, some of the on going projects are:

Peru – 2 Shores Project

During May 2012, the second year of the project began, co-funded by the Cariplo Foundation. The following activities took place:

Completion of construction and structural adjustments of the laboratory. The laboratory has been completed during 2013 with the allocation of fixtures and necessary equipment and it is currently hosting at least 30 artisans.

In 2013, three technical training courses for working with stone were organized: one on sculpture, one on carving techniques, and one on modeling techniques. The courses involved 20 artisans.

Thanks to the technical development, the young craftsmen have been able to raise the quality of their work and increase the marketing of their products through the two exhibitions center in Jangas and Barranco in Lima.

Ecuador – Cooper-Attiva

In 2012, thanks to the contribution of the Italian Episcopal Conference, it was possible to complete the allocation of machinery for the new woodworking cooperative in the rural village of Angamarca, which then allowed for

the recruitment of 15 young people, an important achievement for such a rural and isolated community with high rates of poverty. The cooperative has been placed in the vicinity of the production and marketing channels already active with the other 6 cooperative network of *Artesanos Don Bosco*. Over 60 young artisans participated during 2012 in the professional training courses to improve their wood carving techniques. In addition, 8 micro-loans have been granted to young craftsmen in order to support the renovation and/or construction of the new housing. Thanks to the implemented activities, the project will improve the socio-economic level of 120 young artisans and their families, thus reaching at least 800 people.

Romania - Pinocchio Education and Daily Center

In 2012, 53 children between the ages of 3 and 14 years old were enrolled in the center. The majority of these children are from the local Romani minority. Services, such as after-school, literacy, and non-formal education activities (creativity workshops, hygiene and nutrition education, recycling, sports, music, and cinema) were offered to them. A dining hall service was started that offers them one meal and one snack per day. Moreover, the mediation between the school and family have planned talks with the teachers of the children enrolled in the center in order to reduce the dropout rates and improve the level of education among children, especially for those most at risk. It has also organized various times for the families of the enrolled children to do the same (number of beneficiary families is about 20). The daily educational staff of the *Rom pentru Rom* monitors the school attendance of the children enrolled at the center and then compares it to the weekly attendance at the center in order to have an overview of the quality of education for these beneficiaries.

The indirect beneficiaries of the socio-educational services provided by the Pinocchio center are the families of the children enrolled at the center (approximately 300 people).

On May 14, 2012, a dining hall, bathrooms, a kitchen, new spaces for educational activities, a woodworking workshop, and an office open to the public were unveiled.

Ukraine and Moldavia – Preventing the Trafficking of Minors

In 2012 of the project we focused on the continuity of the training of street operators.. Specifically, the following activities were carried out:

- a period of job training of Ukrainian and Moldavian street operators with the presence of three Italian street operators
- two training seminars in Moldavia and Ukraine on on – line training, prevention of male prostitution, trafficking prevention at schools.

PROJECT PARTNER: AMICI DI HUAYCAN

Amici di Huaycan is a voluntary association based in Rome, founded in 1999 as an initiative of a group of Italian volunteers committed to implementing and supporting local initiatives in favor of children in the slums of Huaycan, Lima. Their engagement in this area has grown since 1995, when one of the founding members, moved by the extreme poverty and social decay of the place, spent a year of service in the slums, seeking, together with a group of local people, to start educational activities for children and young people.

Amici di Huaycan became an official NPO in 2004 and it is entirely founded by volunteers. Its mission is to protect the fundamental rights of children living in Huaycan subject to deprivation, hunger and abandonment. As a result, they have successfully supplied locals with adequate food and basic medical care, as well, the association have extended the opportunities to study to all, regardless of an individual's age or mental ability.

Over the years Amici di Huaycan's level of intervention has expanded to include a local network that has produced synergies with local actors in the private and public sectors. In 2002 a group of locals since the beginning involved with Amici di Huaycan established a local association named as Amigos de Huaycan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The project, "Guarantee education to 120 deprived kids in Huaycan, Perú," is part of a broader initiative aimed at improving children conditions living in the Zone R of Huaycan settlement, Lima.

Context analysis

The geographical area of intervention is located in one of the twenty-six zones that make-up the *pueblo joven* of Huaycan. At an administrative level, the Huaycan urban settlement is one segment of the district Ate-Vitarte, in the central eastern part of Lima. It was the 1980s that witnessed the area's greatest influx of migrants from the

Andean regions; many of which moved out of economic necessity, hoping to find more lucrative job opportunities, whilst others fled the violence of the civil war between the armed forces and the terrorist organization *Sendero Luminoso*. The settlement of Huaycan was officially recognized by the city of Lima in 1984 through a special law, which had the ambition to create a planning and residential development control program. That aim was only partially achieved. Today the settlement occupies an area of approximately 5,690 square kilometers ordered into zones A-Z. Its expansion follows the vertiginous slopes of the terrain; planes of dry and desert land formed the base on which many of the first settlements resided, however, the expansion takes the settlements further up the natural accents of the hills and away from the few main roads.

According to the latest census of 2007, the settlement had a population of 104,000 people, however, the data in 2012 estimated a population nearer to 140,000 inhabitants. In terms of governance, Huaycan, officially named as *Comunidad Urbana Autogestionaria*, benefits from a pyramidal system that offers representation for the local inhabitants, and reflects a governing body much more close to the people than the municipal administration of Vitarte.

Like many other *pueblos jóvenes* that are characterized by poverty Huaycan has faltered in the face of progression; the scarcity of food and water has hindered productive activities pushing people further toward the capital in search of work. The majority of the households (many of which are single-parent) have unstable incomes resulting in many taking precarious jobs paying far less than the minimum wage.

As a result, 60.7% of the population is living in poverty and 17% in extreme poverty. The main socio-economic indicators attest that 56% of homes do not have bathroom facilities or a working sewage system, 33% do not have direct access to water and 24% have no electricity supply. 58% of homes are made of earth and straw (known as *esteras*) and generally unhealthy environments with poor hygiene. The areas that are worse affected by these conditions are those that lie in higher slopes where water is supplied only through tankers and in extreme conditions is carried by hand.

The common denominator amongst families of Huaycan is the shared experience of separation from their original context. Migrants lose contact with family, with their social fabric, with shared values and culture. Some of them do not speak Spanish and have to face these enormous difficulties in isolation, without being able to count on the support of neighbors or relatives.

With the support of Amici di Huaycan, since the end of 1990s the local association has directed activities towards children and their families that have enriched their quality of life. According to the 2007 census, children up to the age of fourteen constitute 25% of the population and represent one of the most vulnerable categories. Coupling the high number of single parent households and the widespread daily commute to Lima in search of work results in inadequate care been given to children.

Many of the children live on the streets by day, at risk of violence, drug and alcohol abuse leaving many open to the pressure of criminal gangs (*pandillas*), which hold the promise of an easy, albeit, small financial gain. The family structure is often complex relating to issues stemming from economic scarcity but also to widespread macho culture that feeds a culture of domestic abuse often inflicted upon women and teenage girls; furthermore, male abandonment of the family unit (who is often the sole source of income) is common in Huaycan.

Disease is also widespread with 80% of children suffering from chronic malnutrition, which often leads to gastrointestinal infections, intestinal parasites and skin conditions, and more worryingly poor hygiene can trigger Tuberculosis (TB) and chronic respiratory diseases that are known to be common.

In addition to poor health, children often receive a bad education. In absence of support they are prone to skip school or attend intermittently, which also leaves problems to escalate; for example, learning difficulties may go undetected.

In recognition of the issues affecting those in Huaycan, the local association established a daycare center within Zone G; the center has provided, for a number of years, a place for the children to eat, study and access health services. The success of this daycare center has prompted its expansion in the Zone R of Huaycan as it is one of the most recent settlements, and generally devoid of basic amenities due to its hard, rough terrain.

Project initiative

The project aims to improve the education activities and health services for 120 children living in the R Zone of Huaycan settlement. In this Zone the local association currently manages some poor premises where several daily activities are implemented. These building need to be rebuilt and restored and a specific building program is active, invoked by the construction process known as Construction & Therapy (C&T). This approach, proposed by the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow (Scotland), is based on the idea of a complete involvement of the local community from the

preparation phase until the construction activities. In the meanwhile, different activities are carried on. The center is active on two sides: children education support and provision of socio – health services.

On the first side, the following activities are implemented:

1. Support for homework: the purpose of this is to allowing students to review the school subjects in which they have difficulty, participate in competitions and challenges aimed at improving grammar, writing, mathematics and educational games. To encourage support for the study of children with learning difficulties, economic support for private school fees will be provided. To ensure continuity in the school curriculum educators of the center are in regular contact with schools of reference, through meetings and interviews with teachers.
2. School equipment: for children coming from families in serious economic difficulty, a financial support for the purchase of a complete set of school supplies will be provided.
3. Scholarships & Vocational training: Students that finish compulsory schooling with good grades and a motivation to continue their studies can apply for a scholarship at a vocational school near Huaycan; the average duration of vocational schooling is three years. Depending on the family's economic conditions, the percentage of support granted to the scholarship can vary: enrolment and school fees, transport to / from school, materials.
4. Extra-curricular activities: at least 4 extra-curricular education courses, designed to supplement the educational service offered by the center will be organized. In particular the proposed curricula will be: music workshop; painting workshops; ArtTherapy, sports and leisure activities.

Concerning the socio – health sector, the center aims to assure the following services:

1. Canteen service: children will have lunch and a healthy snack for six days a week. The meals will be prepared with the support of nutritionists who work in the area, to ensure all dietary requirements are met that will help a child's natural development and the prevention of disease.
2. Awareness campaign: through a series of regularly scheduled meetings, the parents will be taught basic food hygiene rules (i.e. the treatment of food and water), and on what type of food is known to assist natural child development. Parents will also be made aware of measures that may be taken to reduce the risk of TB.
3. Health care monitoring: in collaboration with the social worker and health care professionals in the area, at least two annual controls of growth to monitor height and weight will be organized. Once a year, they will also carry out a screening to identify children at risk of TB infection in the hope of preventing and managing new cases early.
4. Counseling services: the psychological counseling service will be ensured thanks to the collaboration with a local psychologist who will base her work on the observation of group and family dynamics, with input from the operators of the after-school support, the families, and the head of home visits to identify those cases that require attention.

In summary, the center in Zone R intends to facilitate the following services:

- ⤴ The provision of afterschool support by coordinating with other school facilities.
- ⤴ Economic support for the costs associated with basic education.
- ⤴ A safe and secure environment that offers protection from external dangers through adult supervision.
- ⤴ A place in which children can feel safe to speak about problems or issues in the hope of being directed toward a solution.
- ⤴ The provision of two meals/day to guarantee a healthy diet for children.
- ⤴ A healthcare monitoring program for children in conjunction with other health facilities.
- ⤴ A base that provides psychological support for young people with difficulties, and if required, for family units that may require treatment to help individuals foster good relationships.

Beneficiaries

The proposed intervention will benefit 120 children and teenagers between the ages of six and sixteen years. Indirect beneficiaries are the families of the children (at least 500) and the local community in the area of Huaycan (2.000 people). Direct beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of an analysis of the family unit and the following aspects will be taken into consideration: poverty, single-parent household, parents working away, and problems of domestic violence and alcohol abuse.