



AMU ANNUAL REPORT 2018

AMU – Azione per un Mondo Unito (Action for a United World) is a Non-Governmental Development Organization (NGO) established in 1986 and inspired by the spirituality of the Focolare Movement, having the Communion as method and Universal Fraternity as purpose of its action.

Everyone involved

AMU's approach is to act jointly with the beneficiary populations, with a deep and full respect of their social, cultural, and economic specificities, thus laying the foundations for a real, effective and sustainable cooperation. In such a vision, our engagement for a more united and fraternal world goes hand by hand with the promotion of the *Development of Communion*. Every person, with her/his needs and specificities, is central and is fully involved in each phase of the project, as from conception, and encouraged to be main actor of her/his personal and communitarian development.

Inspired by this vision, AMU's intention is to promote reciprocity among all the relevant actors: beneficiaries, supporters, technical staff and volunteers. Every person guards unique treasures and an innate desire for sharing with others; we all have so much to offer, and at the same time so much to receive from others. Quite often, those receiving help, as soon as they deem not to need it anymore, are ready to offer their help to others, thus beginning to share their skills and goods with those most in need.

Exchanging of life experiences between the supporters and the communities where the projects are carried out, enriches everyone, makes us more aware and helpful to others' needs, reinforcing our sense of being part of the one and only human family.

AMU is an NGO recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; it is recorded in the list of non-profit entities by the Ministry decree n° 113/2015. AMU is also recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research for the training of school staff on issues related to globalization and human rights (Ministry decree n° 170 / 2016). AMU is associated with CIPSI, Coordination of Popular Initiatives of International Solidarity, an Italian network of development NGOs (<https://www.cipsi.it/>).

Inclusion, above all else

Also during 2018 the issue of job inclusion was among our priorities; as a matter of fact 37,5% of all our ongoing operations (15 out of 40 in total), particularly in Latin America and Europe, were focused on this topic.

Another area on which we focused our priority was post-emergency assistance and rehabilitation, this being the main issue in 40% of our operations (16 out of 40), mainly linked to the situation in Syria, but also Ecuador, Haiti, Philippines, Italy, etc.



Since some years, AMU is also committed in favour of the inclusion of migrants, displaced persons and refugees; this being the main topic in 40% of our operations (16 out of 40). In this regard, a new interesting experience has been the set-up of a centre for the protection of UM, within the framework of a temporary partnership with other Italian cooperatives and associations.

During 2018, based on its established experience on projects focused on the right to water access, AMU started a new project for drinking water supply and water management *Water source of life and development in Bururi* (Burundi). In the meanwhile, in Egypt the project *Chance for tomorrow* continued to provide support to the strengthening of civil society sectors oriented to the role of women and to interreligious dialogue.

In 27.5% of AMU's actions (11 out of 40, including projects of major size and impact), the capacity building aspect of local partners was central, through various on-site missions of AMU's staff, and missions of members of various local partners at AMU's headquarters.

Ongoing projects:	12
Ongoing small size projects:	14
Ongoing emergency actions:	14
Direct beneficiaries:	16.561
Indirect beneficiaries:	72.302

Countries with active projects: Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti), Africa (Burundi, Ivory Coast, Nigeria), Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Giordania, Siria), Asia (Philippine, Myanmar, Pakistan), Europe (Italy, Portugal).

Countries where feasibility studies are currently in process: India, Mexico, Peru, Central Africa Republic.

Syria Emergency Program

Since 2012, AMU has been present in the most affected areas of the war with different actions of the *Syria Emergency Program* consisting of various kinds of projects carried out with the communities of the Focolare Movement active in different cities and villages: social and health assistance; household income support; education, training and job placement. Despite the decrease in violence (bombs and explosions) in many areas, the effects of the war are still perceptible and even increasing, due to the decrease of international aid and severe unemployment coupled with very low wages.

Support for medical treatment and therapies

AMU has launched two health support projects in the cities of Homs and Kafarbo. AMU's commitment is to contribute to the costs for radiographies, analyses, chemotherapy, dialysis, interventions. In 2018, the



number of assisted patients increased compared to the previous year, reaching 40 in Kafarbo and 75 in Homs. Psychological assistance to patients was also implemented with home visits.

Household income support

In 2018 thanks to income support activities, 285 families from the cities of Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Kafarbo, Baniyas and Tartous received assistance to guarantee their right to food, health, study and housing. Home visits carried out by the project staff weaved very good relationships and helped combat loneliness and isolation through listening and sharing.

School reinforcement programs and experiences for a peaceful childhood

Since two years, in the cities of Damascus and Homs, AMU is supporting two educational centres, aimed to offer a space where children can learn and live in their own dimension.

The children attending these centres experience complicated situations in their families, moreover the war and the other difficulties preclude them from living a serene childhood. For this reason, beyond the study extracurricular activities are also offered during the two months of summer holidays.

An art therapy workshop was organized in Damascus with a specialist, who by means of drawing helped the children to express what they experienced during the war.

A novelty of the 2018 projects is the support to 22 teenagers from Damascus who are preparing for the exam to obtain the ninth-grade diploma: a fundamental element for continuing their studies or finding a job. This course is specifically addressed to students in serious financial difficulties, who cannot take private support lessons and who would risk not passing the exam.

An experience of great value, started many years ago, is the School for training and hearing rehabilitation "EHIS" for 75 deaf-mute children in Aleppo. During 2018, beside of the ordinary lessons, this school offered many other activities to prepare this children to become self-sufficient.

Training courses and job placement

Along 2018, vocational training was also an important area of intervention. The course of *alpine* traditional handicraft course continued, attended by 31 young people. In November 2018, there was the start of a course attended by 15 people to train socio-health assistants for elderly people who are sick and alone. The course will end in June 2019 after a 30-day internship.

Syria Emergency Program, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- 220 total participants attending the school reinforcement programs;
- 75 deaf-mute children enrolled at EHIS;
- 285 families supported with targeted assistance projects;
- 115 patients assisted in various ways;
- 46 young people attending professional training courses.



Sustainable Tourism - Northwest Argentina

The Sustainable Tourism Program in Northwest Argentina aims to generate development for 7 indigenous and rural communities in vulnerable situations. The proposal of a *Community tourism* is an opportunity for generating job and additional income to the main local economic activities such as agriculture, livestock and crafts.

Thanks to this project, the participants have been able to start new services like accommodation, catering and guide services as well as the sale of handicraft products.

Sustainable Tourism - Northwest Argentina, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- capacity building for the technical staff members;
- 27 small entrepreneurs trained on agricultural activities;
- 40 small entrepreneurs trained on tourism business activities;
- 11 micro credit granted;
- 350 tourist visiting the programme activities,
- 81 business activities supported by the programme;
- 20 new small business activities started within the programme;
- 21 legally established micro-enterprises;
- 6 community development micro-projects financed by a reciprocity fund: 1 communitarian building for the sale of handicrafts, 1 honey extraction and sweets production room, 1 professional electrician and plumber course for young people, 1 irrigation pipeline, 1 forest nursery, 1 dining room for the reception of tourists;
- 1 improved website with high quality images and videos; 1 digital catalogue of handicrafts items for the promotion of local products; 6 tourist packages promoted at local, national and international level with a network of contacts of 20 tour operators.

Incubator of *Communion Enterprises* - Brazil

The *Program for strengthening inclusive communion enterprises – PROFOR* aims to improve the quality of life of people in situations of social vulnerability through the incubation of sustainable businesses that allow the generation of decent jobs and the supply of products/services accessible to the most disadvantaged population, in different regions of the Brazil.

This project is part of the program *Living Fraternity*.

Incubator of Communion Enterprises - Brazil, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- pathways to strengthen the capacity of the local team in the *Social Finance* area, with the presentation of 5 local financing proposals;



- strengthening of the revolving fund generated by the reimbursement of start-up capital granted to micro-entrepreneurs;
- strengthening of relationships with other Economy of Communion (EoC) initiatives in Brazil, collaboration with the *Spartacus business centre* for the incubation of new businesses activities;
- participation in events and initiatives within the *Social Finance Ecosystem*;
- 5 new companies assisted in the initial incubation process - in collaboration with the *Spartacus business centre*.

Incubators of Social Enterprises - Cuba

In Cuba, an open training program on the Economy of Communion and on the incubation of business with a social impact is active. The beneficiaries of this proposal are people who have an entrepreneurial vocation and a desire to generate a positive social impact through their work.

The program was developed through training actions of different levels and kinds, addressed to entrepreneurs, students, or citizens interested or willing to learn more about the Economy of Communion.

Incubators of Social Enterprises – Cuba, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- 72 people trained and more acquainted about entrepreneurship and EoC;
- improved capabilities of local technical staff in coaching and mentoring for entrepreneurs and business activities in the incubation phase;
- 13 micro enterprises supported during the incubation phase.

Sunrise Ecuador

Sunrise is a community development and rehabilitation project, set up to address the needs of 3 communities in the Province of Esmeraldas (Ecuador) hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in April 2016. This catastrophic event left serious material losses and severely affected the physical and psychological health condition of the population.

The project, conceived together with the *Opera di Maria* and other organizations, such as the local church and the members of the communities themselves, is focused on post-earthquake rehabilitation and mainly consists of actions for resuming economic activities, improving the psychosocial conditions of the local population and the construction of community infrastructures.

Sunrise Ecuador, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- support to the process for the establishment of associations formed by the beneficiaries;
- 24 people received training on haircuts and beauty treatments;
- 17 people attended courses on bread making;



- 1 women's association established in Macarà;
- 1 association of bakers established in Sàlima;
- start-up of 2 beauty salons;
- start-up of 1 community bakery;
- 21 jobs opportunities created through the bakeries and the beauty salons;
- 400 children attending recreating and playful activities;
- 3 dwellings partially repaired.

RAISE - social-working integration

The RAISE - *Resposta Alternativa de Integração Social e Empreendedorismo* (Alternative Response to Social Integration and Entrepreneurship), is a project carried out together with AMU Portugal, as a response to the economic crisis in Portugal and the consequent sudden increase in unemployment.

Based on the experience of the Economy of Communion, the project is addressed to unemployed persons and offers job reintegration plans by job placement or setting up business projects.

RAISE - social-working integration, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- 6 new business models or business plans were tutored and guided, in partnership with the *Economy of Communion Incubating Network* (EoC-IIN);
- training on qualification opportunities developed by public and private bodies;
- training on finding opportunities and tools for vocational integration or for the support of self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- 62 women and men received a tailored accompaniment and psychosocial support in collaboration with the IEPP, the *Gabinete de Inserção Profissional - GIP* (Office for Professional Insertion) and other institutions;
- 21 refugees residing in the Concelho of Alenquer have received training on the Portuguese language and culture;
- 27 refugees were accompanied with psychosocial support.

Water: source of life and development - Burundi

Since access to drinking water is a human right, this project located in the Rukanda area in the municipality of Bururi, aims to assure this right to the local population, in order to reduce risks of diseases and improve local hygiene and health conditions. More generally, it aims to improve living conditions, reduce poverty and lay the foundations for the development of income generating activities through community microcredit. Thus, access to clean water will be the gateway to other important development aspects.

The main activity performed during 2018 was the construction of the water supply pipeline from the natural spring reaching the village along a distance of about 23.3 Km.



Other activities carried out were awareness raising among the beneficiaries on the fight against diseases caused by lack or poor hygiene, training of the population on the management of the common good, and launch the first community microcredit group.

This project is part of the programs *Living Fraternity* and *Teens 4 teens*.

Water: source of life and development – Burundi, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- 24 people trained to raise awareness among the population on the management of the common good;
- 10 community microcredit animators were trained;
- 1 group of *Savings and Internal Lending - SILC* launched, with 25 members and 5 credits for income generating activities disbursed within the microcredit group;
- and 5 economic activities initiated by the members
- agreement with the beneficiaries regarding the availability of land for the water facilities and their involvement and collaboration as a workforce;
- seminars and coordination meetings with representatives of beneficiaries, local public institutions, religious institutions, non-governmental organizations active on access to water issues in the intervention area;
- water supply infrastructures achieving 68% of total activities: 12.15 Km of water pipeline, 4 water tanks, 20 public water fountains.

Fare Sistema Oltre l'Accoglienza - Italy

“Fare Sistema Oltre l'Accoglienza” is an inclusion program for people in vulnerable conditions and aims to integrate young people, minors and adults, foreigners and Italians in socio-working opportunities existing at the national level.

Based on the firm belief that inclusion is an experience of reciprocity in which we all are called to participate, the goal of this project will be achieved setting up a national network, made up of families, companies, associations and institutions. One of the most important aspects of the 2018 activities was related to the awareness and independence process of the young beneficiaries. The vocational training process in many cases was preliminary for the job placement. In some other cases, attitudinal orientation and reorientation activities were carried out, for acquainting the beneficiaries with the Italian working system. An important tool has been the individual autonomy plans, which highlighting experiences, skills and abilities acquired over the years, both in the country of origin and in Italy, prepare an action plan for the socio-occupational inclusion of the migrant. For acquiring greater autonomy, Italian L2 courses were held, as well as orientation and accompaniment courses focused on housing autonomy and consultancy by lawyer experienced in immigration issues.

This project is part of the programs *Living Fraternity* and *Teens 4 teens*.

“Fare Sistema Oltre l'Accoglienza”- Italy, 2018 main activities and achievements:



- over 400 people were involved in awareness-raising meetings focused on the culture of inclusion;
- 56 new young people included in the Program have benefited from, or are benefiting from activities aimed at job placement;
- 8 young people were hired at companies in the programme network; 25 attended an Italian course and 9 passed the CILS certification exam;
- 70 new Individual Autonomy Plans have been implemented;
- 32 contracts between job placement and internship renewal aimed at job stabilization;
- 1 beneficiary obtained the driving license type "B" mandatory for his employment;
- 9 beneficiaries are now able to live in autonomy;
- 47 new companies formally joined the Program;
- 22 new families joined the Program;
- 12 new associations and 18 reception centres have joined the program and actively participate in it.

Iraqi refugees in Jordan

The biggest challenge that Iraqi refugees face is the impossibility of working permits in Jordan. In fact as Iraqis and refugees they are not allowed to work, except in local ecclesiastical structures and under the responsibility of the Church.

For this reason, Caritas Jordan has created a *Business definition area*: a method to help developing skills and provide people with various managerial and business knowledge that can be used immediately.

AMU supported Caritas Jordan with the *Support to Iraqi refugees through training courses for new lifestyles and work starting projects* that allowed Iraqi refugees in Jordan to obtain training and means for a better economic sustainability.

Iraqi refugees in Jordan, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- a total of 122 Iraqis refugees have been trained:
 - 49 in the agriculture
 - 14 women in gastronomy/food production
 - 12 in the carpentry shop
 - 47 in agriculture and carpentry;
- out of the 122 refugees who have undergone this training, 50 have been chosen to work with the Cash for work method (work and payment per day).

Chance for tomorrow - Egypt

Shubra is one of the most populous and poorest neighbourhoods in Cairo, Egypt.

There are many children and young people forced to leave school because of the need for financial support to their families, very often because of the difficult economic and social conditions (death of parents, divorces, detentions).



Chance for tomorrow is a program for personal growth, social inclusion and integration implemented by both Christian and Muslim people.

During 2018 weekly training meetings on social empowerment, citizenship rights and duties, health and psychological education and household management took regularly place. In collaboration with the Al-Hayat Mental Health Foundation, 3 groups of psychological and social self-help for women and 4 groups of psychological support for boys became active.

As far as work inclusion is concerned, wicker handicraft activities have been implemented with the creation of 15 workshops, producing over 1,600 pieces, and participating in 11 market exhibitions.

During 2018, 2 cooking workshops for 20 women have been implemented for a specific training related to cooking and catering service.

Weekly training meetings on civic education, health education, workshops for practical communication activities and sports workshops, communication workshops, art, literature, music, singing, and painting have been implemented for the children.

Women, boys and girls, participated in summer and winter camps, cultural trips and other moments of meeting, sharing and leisure.

This project is part of the programs *Living Fraternity* and *Teens 4 teens*.

Chance for tomorrow – Egypt, 2018 main activities and achievements:

- 150 girls, 174 boys and 85 women participated at the project activities;
- 870 people participated in awareness-raising activities and other events open to the territory;
- 141 training activities were carried out for the various beneficiaries;
- 108 fun and recreational activities such as trips and summer camps were carried out;
- 51 women acquired basic professional skills suitable for carrying out a job: 6 women in sewing; 14 in printing and 31 in wicker handicraft;
- 8 women found a stable and decent job opportunity at some companies in the area;
- during 2018 the volunteers involved in the project doubled.

Global citizenship education

This activity is an intercultural training path, opened to teachers and educators, children and young people of schools of all categories, and youth groups throughout the national territory, aimed to form the new generations on inter- culture, respect and mutual recognition. The project idea was inspired by the desire to make children and young people the real actors of citizenship actions through the so-called *6x1 methodology*, that is, 6 steps for a goal, borrowed from Service Learning system.

Living Peace International project

Living Peace is a peace education project promoted by AMU, the NGO New Humanity and the movement Teens for Unity. Since 2011, over 1,500 schools, 500,000 children, young people and educators have been



involved in its various activities. Currently, 67 international organizations are working in synergy with the project to create new peace initiatives.

During the year, various activities were carried out at local and international levels. Main event of 2018 was the Living Peace youth forum, held as part of the *Genfest*, a worldwide event of the Movement Youth for a United World, held in the Philippines on August 2018 with the attendance of 1.100 young people from different parts of the world.

Global citizenship workshops for children and teenagers

In addition to the workshops offered to the participants of the above mentioned projects, AMU has created several workshops about global citizenship for children and teenagers, specially within the *Village for the Earth*, an event that took place in April in Rome.

Within the frame of a national school programme, AMU organized a 5 meeting- course for high school students, on responsible lifestyles.

AMU and Economy of Communion - EoC

Since 2006, AMU has joined the Economy of Communion project and is receiving part of the profits donated by the companies participating in the project for development projects focused to restore work and dignity to people in conditions of social and economic vulnerability.

In 2018, thanks to the these contributions and with the collaboration with several local commissions of the Economy of Communion around in the world, the following projects were carried out:

- Multi-year development projects:
 - Program of reinforcement of Inclusive Communion Companies
 - Sustainable and Solidarity Tourism Program - TSNOA
 - RAISE II Alternative Response for Social Integration and Entrepreneurship

- Micro-actions:
 - Training for the development of the EoC in Cuba *Casa Alba* professional training school
 - Strengthening for business plans of the Gestar group Support to the *Finca la Fe* farm
 - AIPEC call: "Fare Sistema Oltre l'Accoglienza"
 - development of the Economy of Communion in Cuba

- Emergencies:
 - Assistance and rehabilitation for people affected by the earthquake in Central Italy.

EoC contributions for projects in 2018: € 70.363,33



Our supporters

2018 was marked by various events in support of AMU's projects, organized by local communities' groups scattered throughout Italy and Europe. Families, art performing groups, companies, schools, and associations have been the actors of several fundraising initiatives organized according to the spirit of universal fraternity. These include: the "Let's share" day at the Hotel Baia Azzurra (Italy), which for the last working day of the season allocates the entire income of the bar and restaurant to the PROFOR project; the *La Fagiolata solidale* in Bilbao (Spain) which includes a competition between chefs and many supportive diners as a jury, and the gift wrapping activity during Christmas period at a toy store in Mantova (Italy).

During 2018 there were 570 private donors for a total collection of € 893,270.80. In addition to small personal or periodic donations, this amount also includes small events or moments of sharing:

- personal fundraising events € 57,620;
- events organized by groups € 298,252.92;
- youth fairs called *Spring fairs* € 5,858.08.

During 2018, 20 companies supported us with their donations, with a total contribution of € 174,978.23.

In the same year we received € 293,300.56 from public bodies and institutions (public and private), and € 93,562.55 from the taxpayers choice in favour of AMU when submitting their tax declaration.

Received contributions

In 2018 AMU received contributions for a total of € 1.280.133,91, originated by:

- private € 718.295,57 (56%);
- taxpayers choice € 93.562,55 (7%);
- companies € 174.978,23 (14%);
- bodies / Institutions € 293.300,56 (23%).

Contributions assignment - by sector

In 2018 AMU used funds for a total of € 1.341.620,48, assigned for:

- Cooperation projects € 928.488,31 (69%);
- General Management € 131.578,42 (10%);
- Global Citizenship Education € 81.253,73 (6%);
- Emergency € 200.300,02 (15%);



Contributions assignment - by geographical area

- Europe 14%;
- Asia 4%;
- Africa 48%;
- Middle East 26%;
- Latin America 7%.