### **Marist International Solidarity Foundation ONLUS**

## **ACTIVITY REPORT 2014**





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## 1. WHO WE ARE

### **MISSION**

The mission of FMSI is to promote innovative thinking and practical initiatives for the benefit of children and young people, especially those considered most vulnerable and neglected. FMSI works to establish a better world for children where their rights are respected and protected, where they can grow and mature in safe and healthy environments, free from violence and fear, and where their future is bright and rich with opportunity.

### **VISION**

"Seeing the world through the eyes of a poor child".

Telling their story.

Transforming our hearts.

Changing their life.

FMSI – ONLUS was established with a specific purpose: to help make the world a better place for children and young people.

Inspired by the vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat and promoted by the Marist Brothers of the Schools, FMSI works in the fields of children's rights and international solidarity. It was officially established in Italy as an ONLUS (a government recognized non-profit organization with a social purpose) in 2007. In 2011 FMSI was granted the Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

FMSI has a primary focus on child rights. We seek to promote innovative thinking and practical initiatives for the benefit of children and young people, especially those considered most vulnerable and neglected. Its hope is to provide opportunities for children and young people to receive a meaningful education for the development of their full potential.

FMSI established an office in Geneva, Switzerland, home of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This gives it the opportunity to participate in relevant UN conferences, meetings and working groups dealing with child rights. By sharing in the expertise of an international Marist network, FMSI is able to engage in discussions and decisions on standards and international agreements dealing with the human rights of children and young people.

FMSI offers training programs in child rights, UN mechanisms and UN procedures to encourage its colleagues to become aware of and actively engaged in efforts to help improve the quality of life for children around the world.

FMSI Cono Sur office in Santiago (Chile) coordinates, with particular attention to the issue of children's rights, the Foundation's activities



The Marist Brothers' General House in Rome, where FMSI has its headquarters. Photo: the chapel and the offices

in the Marist region of Cono Sur, which includes Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The objectives of this office are related primarily to the implementation of strategies for the promotion of the rights of children and adolescents in the Cono Sur countries, in dialogue with local government institutions and the UN delegations, through FMSI's special consultative status with the ECOSOC.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### **BOARD OF AUDITORS**

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### WHERE WE ARE

- HEADQUARTERS
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   00144 Roma, Italia
- REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN GENEVA 37-39 rue de Vermont 1211 Genève 20, Suisse
- COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE CONO SUR REGION FMSI Cono Sur Grajales 2176 Santiago, Chile

## 2. ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE **CHILD AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

### SEPTEMBER 12, 2014: Day of general discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

The focus of the day was on "digital media and children's rights". The discussion offered many perspectives concerning the problems that affect children in the digital age. Some of the key themes that were emphasized or highlighted during the meeting:

- Governments, schools and parents need to find the balance between the protection and the empowerment of children;
- In digital media, children are frequently ignored or forgotten;
- There is a lack of relationship or connection between children and adults regarding the manner of understanding media: "children live in

the world of technology".

the world of technology, adults use

A meeting of FMSI Cono Sur, preparing

Latin America countries.

reports for the Universal Periodic Review of

Three key lines of action were developed concerning the empowerment of children:

- In digital media empowerment is of crucial importance to maximize the beneficial effects and minimize the harm or danger;
- This is only possible through a perspective that will include the sustained and constant collaboration of the many areas involved;
- It should be based on a balance between protection and participation, in such a way that children themselves are the



Br. Evaristus Kasambwe, Joseph McDonald and Br. Vicente Sossai Falchetto at the United Nations in

promoters or instigators of a safe and participative digital world.

With this perspective, the participants in the Day of general discussion formulated the following recommendations:

- The areas concerned should ensure that children are listened to and that their point of view is taken into account;
- Laws and policies that will develop should be based on evidence;
- Areas concerned should ensure assistance and support that include mechanisms of accusation and telephone lines of friendly help for children, in order to provide security in the digital media.

FMSI participated in the Day of general discussion represented by the members of its office in Geneva, and it presented two documents, one in the name of UMBRASIL (União Marista do Brasil) and another one in the name of the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Spain).

## SUBMISSION OF REPORTS for the Universal Periodic Review

In 2014 FMSI submitted reports to the United Nations for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the following states:

- Bolivia
- Chile
- Italy
- Madagascar

The reports were submitted to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the framework of a process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States every four and a half years.

The process provides the opportunity for each State under review to declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. At the same time, it allows the delegations of other Member States to make "recommendations" and suggest further steps for the country in question.

In its reports on Bolivia, Chile, Italy and Madagascar, FMSI formulated recommendations regarding the rights of children. As always, FMSI insisted on the right to education, on child labor, street children, training of teachres, on avoiding discrimination in schools, on the promotion of a healthy life style among adolescents, on sexual abuse, access to education, on the trafficking of human beings and sexual tourism.

FMSI maintains the hope that the recommendations



contained in its reports, when accepted by governments, will contribute to improving the conditions of children in the countries mentioned, promoting a change of legislation, the introduction of favorable policies, the allocation of sufficient resources for the protection and development of minors. FMSI believes that this could produce lasting positive effects for the well-being of children.

FMSI relied on the FMSI Cono Sur Office and the link persons, its local contact people, to generate a draft report on children's issues within their region. Without their collaboration, we would not have been able to use the UN mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review in such an effective way.

## LOBBYING the permanent missions of the states in Geneva

At the presentation of the reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bolivia, Chile, Italy and Madagascar, pressure was put on the permanent diplomatic missions of several countries of the UNO,

in Geneva. This is because the recommendations contained in the reports, if adopted by the participating States, will become binding for the country and be subject to examination.

For FMSI and other NGO's to exercise pressure on the United Nations is a fundamental part of the process to assure that topics of interest or concern are taken into account during the debate on the country submitted to examination.

The lobbying activity is begun at least one month before the date of the examination, due to the fact that the adoption of a position by a state requires time and consultations between the capital of the state, its embassy in the state which is the object of the UPR and the institutions in Geneva. In order to obtain the results, the person carrying out the lobbying enters into contact with the delegates who are in charge of the Universal Periodical Revision of the Council of Human Rights. In order to facilitate the lobbying of the NGO's, UPR info – an accredited organism with ECOSOC – organizes "preliminary sessions" in Geneva among the NGO's and the States under revision.

# 3. ACTIVITIES WITH POLITICAL IMPACT

## PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS in the Agenda Post 2015

The participation of girls, boys and adolescents is one of the rights that FMSI wants to promote. We are convinced that children and adolescents have valuable opinions to contribute. In this sense, the organizations of the World Movement for Children (MMI-LAC), developed programmes to ensure that the voices of children and adolescents be taken into account in the discussion of the Objectives of Development Post 2015.

Young people participating in the consultation on the 17 Objectives of Development Post 2015.



In 2014 a friendly version of the report was drawn up with the 17 "Objectives of Sustainable Development" defined by the Open Working Group of the United Nations. This version of the document was translated into English, French, Icelandic, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, German and Chinese, in order to make it known in different continents. The Coordinator of FMSI Cono Sur participated in its editing. During the month of October a consultation was carried out in 10 countries of Latin America: Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru and Chile. Of the 17 Objectives, the 1,080 children and adolescents who participated, indicated that the most important are: 1st To end Poverty, 2nd To end hunger, 3rd To promote a healthy life, 4th To provide quality Education and 5th To live in Peace. 447 of the children who participated represented FMSI: 30 from San Salvador (El Salvador), 32 from Montevideo (Uruguay), 25 from Bogota (Colombia), 198 from Chile and 162 from Mexico.

The summary of the reflections was made known in key events such as the Pan American Congress of Children, with the senior people involved in human rights in MERCOSUR, in visits to the chanceries and permanent missions, and in the events that are held in the headquarters of the



United Nations, in New York, where a young student from the Champagnat School of Villa Alemana (Chile) was present.

## VI WORLD CONGRESS for the Rights of Childhood and Adolescence

From the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of November the VI World Congress for the Rights of Childhood and Adolescence was held in Puebla (Mexico). The topics presented by specialists in the rights of children referred especially to themes such as autonomy, family diversity, and the management of social networks. Experts from the world participated in the Congress, during the celebration of 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. FMSI was represented by a person from its office in Geneva.

In a similar way the Congress of Children and Adolescents took place. This was an event which Mexican Marists representing FMSI facilitated. FMSI contributed financially to this event.

At this event the children and adolescents who participated had the opportunity to speak, to play and to discuss on rights; they had other activities such as workshops or philosophy for children and a consultation on investment in childhood.

## XXI PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS in Brasilia

From the beginning of the XX century the countries of Latin America have been getting together at a certain period of time to evaluate and forecast the situation of children in the continent. This is the highest level of decision-making in the Inter-American Institute of the Child (IIN), an organism depending on the Organization of the American States (OEA). In 2014 the representatives of 26 countries met together between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December in Brasilia (Brazil).

During the previous months steps had been taken to try to get the recommendations of the civil society included in the resolutions of this Congress, centered on the theme: "Violence against children and adolescents. At 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: constructing environments of peace". During the Congress there was a parallel meeting in the headquarters of UMBRASIL (Marist Union of Brazil), between representatives of MMI-LAC, Rosa Maria Ortiz from O.E.A. and the Special Representative of the United Nations on violence against Children, Martha Santos Pais. Representatives from Marist Brazil and from FMSI (the team from the Geneva office), together with other organizations of the continent, dialogued on the inclusion of the directives to protect the rights of children and adolescents in the Agenda Post 2015.

### FMSI COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE CONO SUR REGION

On the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the XXI General Chapter of the Marist Institute (2009) challenged the Brothers "to convert themselves into experts and defenders of children and youth in a courageous and prophetic manner in the public forums". Five years later, the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important international treaty was a good moment to move forward on the impact on national politics. In the month of March 2014 the first meeting of FMSI Cono Sur was held in Santiago de Chile. This was an occasion to share and strengthen what the Marists have been doing in favor of the rights of children in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

As part of this process, in the month of May, through FMSI Cono Sur, the Foundation incorporated itself into the "World Movement for the Children in Latin America and the Caribbean" (MMI – LAC). This is an important coalition of international organizations that work in the promotion and defense of the human rights of children and youth. This is an unsurpassable opportunity to bind ourselves with other organisms which are attentive to situations such as violence against boys and girls, the agenda of the United Nations juvenile penal justice, migrant children, among others.

Since 2013 FMSI has been developing its institutional activity in the region of the "Southern Cone" through its office in Santiago de Chile: FMSI Cono Sur. From there, it coordinates and collaborates with the representatives of Marist and non-Marist organizations, national and international, and dialogues with the representatives of these institutions.



■ Br. Álvaro Sepúlveda, Coordinator of FMSI Cono Sur, during the 70<sup>th</sup> pre-session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

# 4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

### **FMSI- ASIA BRANCH**

FMSI-Asia Branch coordinated the Foundation's activities in Asia, in dialogue with the Marist administrative units of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), East Asia (Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Japan) and the Marist District of Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Viet Nam). The Office was created in March 2013 with the signing of a memorandum of Agreement by FMSI and the Marist Asia Conference, which represents the above mentioned administrative units.

It was intended primarily to assist the Marist missions' project management, fundraising, and the promotion of children's rights, but very soon it also became a logistics center for training activities in the area, and for the implementation of child protection policies.

### TRAINING IN THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

In 2014 FMSI, through its office in Geneva, organized days of training and seminars on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the mechanisms of protection and defense of human rights, of the United Nations, addressed to Religious, facilitators, educators of the Institute of the Marist Brothers. In particular,

- FMSI was present in the various courses of formation of the Brothers in the Marist Centers of spirituality of El Escorial (Spain) for Spanish-speaking religious men, and of Manziana (Rome) for English-speaking religious men. The Marist themselves completed their formation with a visit to the headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva.
- Information sessions were organized in the Marist International Center (MIC), in Nairobi, in Kenya, for the young Marists in formation.

The Foundation carried out seminars for the defense and promotion of the rights of minors at the regional level of Asia, through its office for Asia (in Bangkok, Thailand). From here it collaborated with the key people of the Marist Administrative Units to carry out activities of planning or programming (study in practicability, the search for financing, monitoring) and of training on advocacy and on policies of protection of children, In relation to this last point FMSI has carried out:

- Training in the rights of children and protection against abuses was given in 15 schools in General Santos City (Philippines, August-September 2014). This training has involved the principals of the schools, the teachers and representatives of the students, that is a total number of 160 people.
- Training in the rights of children for 35 educators and those responsible for social centers from 16 countries of Asia (March, Bangkok, Thailand). Thanks to that, these workers have strengthened



their activities in favor of underprivileged children and have created a network in the region for the defense of the rights of minors.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES in the Marist world

FMSI received from the Marist Institute the mandate to coordinate the development of the policies of protection of minors in the Marist Administrative Units, continuing the work of the ad hoc Commission of the Institute for the protection of children. During the year FMSI identified the key people of each Administrative Unit, to prepare for a meeting to discuss and exchange good practices.

The FMSI-Asia Branch collaborated in the editing and revision of child protection policies to be adopted in the Administrative Units and the Marist educational structures of Asia.

### **RAISING AWARENESS**

FMSI produced a small publication entitled "Children's Right to Participation". It contains statements of children on their experiences of participation, sets out extracts of texts from institutions and organizations of the United Nations.

The booklet was distributed in the Marist world during Advent, as a help for personal reflection, and in Marist schools as a means of thinking about participation as a right of minors. It was seen as an instrument for personal growth and of social change.



## 5. OUR PROJECTS



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MAULA PRISON

- Marist Brothers and Misean Cara (Ireland)
- Lilongwe, Malawi
- 55,500 Euros

We have previously worked in this professional-training project for the young detainees in this prison. In the course of 2014 the project was completed and is about to begin functioning at full capacity. The following is an extract from the report sent to FMSI at the beginning of 2015 by Br. Fernand Dostie, the head of the project.

"The building of Maula Prison dedicated to the school (the Basic Skills) is practically complete. There only remains the setting up of the steel shelves in the warehouses and the tables in the room to be used as the tailor's shop, because – it seems unbelievable – we cannot manage to get bolts or screws: they have been blocked at the border for weeks. As soon as we are can release them we will be able to finish the fitting up of everything and the structure will be complete.

In the meantime, we have begun to use the building. In fact, the school has already been officially recognized as a Training Center by TEVET (Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training) and also as a Test Centre by the Ministry of Labour and Commerce. Officials from the Ministry come to Maula Prison to hold the exams.

One of the detainees teaches masonry or brickwork to a group of 15

- Photographs: students attending the vocational training courses in Maula prison;
- the new building for the vocational training of the young detainees, boys and
- girls, Maula prison.



Two Marist Brothers with a group of young people attending the Marist center in Acharnés (Athens, Greece).

colleagues. In a few days time they will be able to use the large room for practice and, once they are judged ready by one of the guards who has a Grade 1 Masters in construction, the charge for exam (5000 Malawian Kwacha for each one) will be paid and the officials of the Ministry of Labour will come for the English written exam and the practical exam.

Eight of the 15 apprentices have already presented themselves for the 3<sup>rd</sup> level in brickwork; four passed in the written exam and the practical test and seven only the practical test, while only one failed. After this experience, we have decided to open a school of literacy for 51 students. At the beginning over 200 registered but because of lack of teaching personnel we have been able to take only about 50 at a time. Next September these will be integrated into the elementary school and we will be able to dedicate ourselves to the others.

One of our difficulties is the lack of personnel for supervision, and for this reason we cannot teach things which need the use of the metal instruments given to us by TEVET. Those objects could be used as weapons and become dangerous, especially in the overcrowded cells. Together with the officials responsible for the prison we hope to employ an adequate number of supervisory personnel in order to guarantee the full development of all the school activities.

Next week I will have a meeting with two construction companies which are ready to train two members of the personnel in woodwork and carpentry in such a way that they can be in charge of the teaching and the organization of the Training Center. The Director is already selecting the persons concerned".



- I The new building for the vocational training of the young
- detainees, boys and girls, Maula prison.

COUNTRY	PROJECT *Project realized with the contribution of third parties	RESULTS	LOCAL PARTNER	GRANT IN EUROS	FINANCING/CO- FINANCING ENTITY
Albania	Support for the St. Joseph the Worker Center for Professional Training	Purchase of equipment for the computer room of the Center for Professional Training of Fier, that assists 300 young people every year.	ENGIM Ente Nazionale dei Giuseppini del Murialdo	4,919.00	
Bangladesh	Teaching material for the children of the tea plantations of Sreemangal	Provide books and notebooks for 600 children (boys and girls) of ten elementary schools promoted by the local Parish. The children are the sons and daughters of the tea plantations workers.	St Joseph the Worker Parish	3,735.00	
Bangladesh	Access to education for the children of the tea plantations *	The project foresees the construction of a secondary school in the zone of Molouvibazar for the children who live in the tea plantations, and the training of the teachers of the elementary schools of the zone. The school will have a hostel for students to allow the girls to attend school, for a total number of 250 students a year.	Marist Brothers	133,600.00	PMK (Germany), Misean Cara (Ireland)
Bolivia	Santiago de Quilloma Educational Center: furnishings for the dormitory	To provide the furnishings and household linen for the 35 students (age from 7 to 16 years) residing in the edu- cational center in the Province of Pacajes, department of La Paz.	Centro de Apoyo al Desarrollo de la Mujer Campesina	3,700.00	
Cambodia	Health Centre	Basic health assistance, medicine, prevention for 483 persons (23% children) of the village of O'chet Pram, Pailin.	Marist Solidarity Cambodia	3,500.00	
Congo DR	Reduce the technological gap	Installation of the Internet network for the Marist University of Congo, in Kisangani, for the benefit of 800 students and teachers.	Marist University of Congo	4,430.00	
Congo DR	Primary School for the refugee children of Bobandana	A permanent program has been instituted for access to primary education by dispersed children, orphans, street children of the zone of Bobandana. Every year 300 children, boys and girls, benefit from the program.	Marist Brothers	10,000.00	
East Timor	Reconstruction and development of the educational system in East Timor	The multiple activities of training and re-qualification of local teachers of the Catholic Teacher Training Institute of Baucau was supported; this is the only existing project in Timor for the institutional development of the sector of education, benefitting a total number of 100 persons.	Marist Brothers	100,000.00	Italian Bishops' Conference
Greece	'Heart without Frontiers' Social Center: educational and scholastic support	Accompaniment for one year of 25 primary school children, among the less privileged of the neighbourhood of Acharnés (Athens), with afterschool activities and supplementary meals.	Corazon sin Fronteras Centre	5,000.00	
Guatemala	Laboratory and courses in computer science in the Marist School *	The department for training in computer science of the Marist School that cares for the children of the poor neighborhood of Chinautla, with a total number of 950 pupils, has been renewed and enlarged.	Marist Brothers	20,279.00	Italian Bishops' Conference
Haiti	Construction of a youth social center in Jeremie	The project foresees the establishment of a youth center for social promotion and the training of the youth of Jeremie. At present the center is under construction.	Marist Brothers	85,904.00	
Haiti	Program for the elementary school for children who are domestic workers *	The program guarantees access to school education for 100 children, who are domestic workers, and includes courses of primary education, nourishment and promotion of their rights.	Marist Brothers	20,000.00	PMK (Germany)
India	Professional training for socio-economic promotion of Santali youth	Through professional training and work experience, the project promotes youth of the Santali minority, for a total number of 90 persons a year.	Marist Brothers	29,000.00	Italian Bishops' Conference
India	S. Marcellin High School for the Dalit children of Mangamanuthu	A Superior Secondary School has been opened for Dalit youth, through the construction of 8 new class rooms, 3 science laboratories and a room for informatics or computer science. 240 boys and girls are benefiting from this project.	Marist Brothers	100,000.00	Italian Bishops' Conference, Misean Cara (Ireland)
Italy	Program SLM	Subsidies for underprivileged boys for one year of attendance at primary and secondary school in Rome.	Association of the San Leone Magno Ex-Alumni	16,999.50	San Leone Magno Fund (Italy)
Ivory Coast	Support for the Marist School of Korhogo	Purchase of text books for 451 children of the Marist School of Korhogo, in the north of the country.	Marist Brothers	3,720.00	
Ivory Coast	Not one less - impulse to schooling in West Africa	Subsidies for the children of the school complex S. Marcellin Champagnat of Bouaké.	Marist Brothers	2,500.00	

Liberia	Program of educational and psycho-social assistance after the Ebola epidemic.	The program assists 15 scholastic communities of Monrovia in the resumption of educational activities after the epidemic of Ebola. It offers psycho-social support to children and to the families of Barnersville.	Marist Brothers	3,170.00	
Madagascar	Improvements in the structure of the St. Charles School	The external structure of the Marist School St. Charles of Fianaransstoa has been made secure for the benefit of 200 children and boys.	Marist Brothers	2,500.00	
Malawi	A mill for the girls of Katete	Purchase of an electric mill to grind the maize (corn) for the 40 girls of Katete, a female secondary school with an attached boarding establishment in the zone of Mzuzu.	Sisters of the Holy Rosary	3,620.00	
Malawi	Technical-informatics furnishings or equipment for the Mtendere Secondary School	Purchase of equipment and tools for the production of educational aids for the Marist Secondary School of Mtendere, which in the afternoons gives non-formal courses to underprivileged boys of the local community.	Marist Brothers	3,000.00	
Malawi	Professional training for the young people of the prison of Maula	The project promotes the social reinsertion of the 2,500 young people who were detained, men and women, in the prison of Maula with professional training courses, education and economic activities.	Marist Brothers	55,500.00 Mi	Misean Cara (Ireland)
Mexico	The voice of the young in the VI World Congress for the Rights of Children	Participation in the VI World Congress for the rights of Children and Adolescents of a delegation of children, representing the networks for the rights of minors in Latin America.	Marist Brothers	5,000.00	
Philippines	Training in the rights of children and protection of minors	Training in the rights of children and protection against abuse in 15 schools of General Santos City. It involved the principals, teachers and representatives of the students, for a total number of 160 persons.	Marist Brothers	19,100.00 Mi	Misean Cara (Ireland)
Romania	San Marcelino Champagnat House: educational and scholastic support	Contribution for current expenses (one year) of the San Marcelino Champagnat House of Bucharest, for the accompaniment of 35 Roma children.	Marist Brothers of Romania Association	5,000.00	
South Sudan	Scholarships for students of South Sudan	Aid to six young persons to attend Solidarity Teacher Training College, the training school for aspirant teachers, opened by Solidarity with South Sudan in Yambio.	Solidarity With South Sudan	5,000.00	
Syria	Assistance to the needy locally and scholastic activity for the refugees of Aleppo	Scholastic support and the furnishing of emergency supplies to the refugee families of Aleppo, assisted by the Blue Marists in the neighborhood of Djabal Al Sayde.	Marist Brothers	2,914.00	
Tanzania	Improvement of the scientific training for the young people of Mwanza	The program wants to offer quality training in scientific subjects for the young people of the area: the construction of new well equipped laboratories has begun and courses for re-qualification will be given for the science teachers of the zone.	Marist Brothers	108,000.00 Ar (H	Anonymous Foundation (Holland)
Thailand	Training to the partners in Asia on the rights of children	35 educators and those responsible for social centers from 16 countries in Asia have been trained in the management of projects and on the rights of children. These operators have improved their activity in favor of underprivileged children and have created a network for the defense of the rights of minors in the Asiatic region.	Marist Brothers	11,289.49 Mi Ar (H	Misean Cara (Ireland), Anonymous Foundation (Holland)
United States of America	Summer Program "Camp Marist"	Subsidies for the participation of ten economically underprivileged boys for the summer camp "Camp Marist", organized by the Marist Brothers of New Hampshire.	Guadalupe Regional Middle School	5,000.00	
United States of America	Training programme	Purchase of a vehicle for the transportation of 260 underprivileged boys of Christ the King School, Newark, to the professional training project, an integral part of the scholastic program.	Christ the King Preparatory School	5,000.00	
United States of America	Program "One to One Technology"	Providing technical-informatic equipment for underprivileged students of the Marist Secondary School of Bayonne, in New Jersey.	Marist High School	5,000.00	
Uruguay	Local intervention for the prevention of exploitation of minors	The carrying out of a programme of prevention of child labour and of sexual exploitation in the eastern area of Montevideo.	Hogar Marista Community Educational Centre	4,850.00	
Vietnam	English courses for blind young people of Ha Noi	Production of educational aids in braille and English lessons for 20 young people of the Center for Training and Rehabilitation for the blind of Ha Noi, in order to enhance employment prospects.	Marist Brothers and Blind Association	5,000.00	
Vietnam	New Horizons Project	Courses in English and Informatics, social and cultural activities were carried out, for children and young people of the neighbourhood of Ha Noi, with more than 500 benefitting.	Marist Brothers	10,000.00 Ar	Anonymous Foundation, Marist Brothers (Italy)
Zambia	Domestic Science at the St. Marcellin Secondary School	Furnishing equipment and tools for the domestic science laboratory of the Marist Secondary School St. Marcellin in Kalulushi.	Marist Brothers	3,270.00	

### FMSI is grateful to all friends, partners, and supporters who with their

contributions have made possible support for many Marist projects.

A special thanks to the Marist West Central Europe Province, for the collaboration of the German and Irish Brothers.

In Germany, FMSI has been able to count especially on Br. Heinrich Schamberger, Br. Bernhard Seigel, Br. Karl Heinz Haag from Maristen-Fuersorge und Missionsverein. Besides allocating donations for the projects of FMSI, the Brothers accompanied the personnel of the Foundation in their visits to the German funding bodies, acting as an intermediary and facilitating the relationships.

In Ireland Br. John Hyland work as an intermediary was valuable; it made it possible to have access to funding by Misean Cara, a consortium of 89 religious and lay missionary organizations. Br. John Hyland was proposed as the link for the Foundation in Ireland, and thus, in his relationship with Misean Cara, he was able to collect information and updating, participate in meetings and accompany the staff of FMSI when they went to present the projects in search of funding.

Both in Germany and in Ireland, moreover, FMSI staff were always able to count on a warm and fraternal welcome and acceptance in the Marist communities of Furth and Dublin.

### ST. MARCELLIN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE DALIT BOYS OF MANGAMANUTHU

- Marist Brothers, Italian Bishops' Conference and Misean Cara (Ireland)
- Mangamanuthu, India
- 100,000 Euros

The Marist Brothers have been in India since 1974, specifically in a State in the south called Tamil Nadu. From the beginning they have dedicated themselves to the poorest or marginalized boys, particularly to those of the Dalit social caste (the Untouchables), which is particularly widespread in the region. The Dalits live grouped in small villages, in rural areas where they dedicate themselves to agriculture, enough for survival, but frequently made more difficult during the dry season.

The Marist Brothers are committed, as always in educational activity, to doing everything possible to guarantee assistance to these boys and a high level of instruction. And it is precisely their dedication and the scholastic results obtained by the boys of their schools that has aroused particular attention

regarding them.

The Marists started with the project "Operation Rainbow", assisting the boys and families affected by AIDS in the city and the surroundings of Tiruchirappalli (known also as Trichy). They then created an important educational center with a primary and secondary school in Udayapatty. In 1999 they were called by the Bishop of Dindigul in Mangamanuthu, to direct and administer the St. James R.C. Middle School, a historical school in the Diocese which was about to celebrate its centenary. In the years 2003-2006 the school center was re-structured: in addition to the Primary School (from first to fifth grade) - then returned to the responsibility of the Diocese, with the name of Red Cross Primary School - the Middle School became a complete secondary school with classes nine and ten, and took the name of St. Marcellin High School.

At present it has approximately 600 pupils from about sixty villages around the area of Mangamanuthu. What is surprising are the results of the national examination at the end of the tenth class. Normally 100% of the pupils pass with very high marks. The result is particularly impressive when it is reaized that many of the pupils belong to the Dalit caste and



Students and teachers in front of the St. Marcellin High School, in Mangamanuthu, India. The school caters for about 600 pupils from the surrounding villages.

therefore are considered inferior and as a result are socially marginalized...

The project of which FMSI took charge in 2014, served to extend the secondary school to classes 11 and 12, introducing the "Higher Secondary School", adding new classrooms and above all laboratories for science and computer science or informatics in order to give teaching of a higher standard. Normally, in fact, the schools for the poor are of a very low quality and far away from the villages. Only education can allow the opportunity to get out of the vicious circle of poverty and marginalization.

For the Marist Brothers the completion of this



school was an absolute priority since their arrival to Mangamanuthu. After some provisional arrangements, with classrooms under thatch roofs, this is a dream come true for them and for the people of the area. Moreover, the project is perfectly integrated into the diocesan plan for the promotion of Dalit boys, particularly numerous in that territory.

The PTA (Parents & Teachers Association), has also been very important; it was able to involve local political representatives who made themselves responsible for a grant for the science laboratories and for the salary of four teachers. It is a matter of importance politically, because the Hindu local Government has understood that it is only by putting together public and private resources that relevant social results can be obtained. The area is Hindu in its majority, with a good presence of Christians, but in the school and also in the local population life together is peaceful and natural.

The public grant does not solve the financial problems of the school, which cannot depend fully on the fees of the pupils because the majority of the families are peasants with very poor harvests and frequently have to face dry seasons. St. Marcellin School however, has created a fund for scholarships in favor of a certain number of students: it is a form of borrowing money that can be paid back in time or also repaid in kind by several useful services for the functioning of the

- Br. Mario Meuti, Director of FMSI's Project Department, at the
- St. Marcellin High School.

school. Other income will come from the renting of the classrooms for meetings and public events, as well as courses for adults and the use of the laboratories by people from outside. project was started in July 2014 with the support of the Marist Province of Cruz del Sur, in dialogue with local public and private institutions, especially the educational and health projects.

## TERRITORIAL INTERVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF EXPLOITATION OF MINORS

Besides the input and group work, information was collected directly from children and young people for a first survey of the child-labour. This is an important piece of work, when it is considered that no information exists nor has there been any type of investigation into this problem in the area of Montevideo in which the Hogar Marist Educational Center is situated.

 Hogar Marist Community Educational Center

## NOT ONE LESS – IMPULSE TO SCHOOLING IN WESTERN AFRICA

Montevideo, Uruguay

Marist Brothers

4,850 Euros

Bouaké, Ivory Coast

The construction of a network of protection for children and the sensitizing of the younger ones to the dangers of work and sexual exploitation began with training seminars in which almost 40 persons participated representing 20 institutions of the territory, guided by professional specialists on the theme of the exploitation of minors.

• 2,500 Euros

The project concerns the eastern area of Montevideo and the Camino Maldonado, where child-labour and exploitation of minors are a concrete reality for children and young people. The 47 pupils (boys and girls) of the S. Marcellin Champagnat, Marist primary and secondary school in Bouaké, have received help that has allowed them to go to school for a year also enjoying the right to a meal.



The project was promoted by the Marist Mediterranean Province, with the objective of making possible the schooling of the children of families which have very few economic opportunities and to create a fund of scholarships for 4 countries of Western Africa: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Liberia, Cameroon, FMSI contributed to this general

Pupils during the distribution of the questionnaire to gather information on child labour (Montevideo, Uruguay).



project in collaboration with the Association of Former Pupils of San Leone Magno, the Marist School in Rome (Italy).

### TEACHING MATERIAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE TEA PLANTATIONS OF SREEMANGAL

- Marist Brothers and St Joseph the Worker Parish
- Sreemangal (Moulvibazar), Bangladesh
- 3,735 Euros

600 children from 10 primary schools received everything necessary to go to school: notebooks, satchel or school bag, pens and pencils, uniform. The children come from the communities that have settled around the city of Sreemangal, the "tea capital" of Bangladesh, and they are the children of workers in the plantations, a marginalized and exploited minority. The Parish of Saint Joseph the Worker, with the help of missionaries, organized a network of 36 primary schools dispersed in the tea plantations, in order to give the children basic



From the top: Brothers César Henríquez and Eugenio Sanz with a group of people in Sreemangal, in the tea gardens (Moulvibazar, Bangladesh); Br. César with a mother and her child.

instruction. The small project has already produced a positive effect: encouraged by the free distribution of materials and uniforms, the children registered in the 10 schools that have benefited have increased in 2015.

Besides, a profitable link with a project of Caritas was made, as the uniforms are made by local people who have followed courses in sewing offered by Caritas.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROMOTION OF SANTALI YOUTH

- Marist Brothers and the Italian Bishops' Conference
- Talit, India
- 29,000 Euros

The region of Western Bengal is among the largest in the whole of India as regards the number of inhabitants. The majority of population is formed by young people. The Marist Brothers have been present in Western Bengal for some years in the rural area of Talit, about 100 km. from Kolkata, the capital city, where the presence of the Santali ethnic group is very



#### strong.

The Santali ethnic group is very numerous in India and has a history of virtue and courage for having fought against the British regime. In 1850 the Santali hero Sidhu, gathered around him 10,000 Santali people, instituting almost a parallel government to that of the British. In the past the Santali lived from the products of the forest, hunting and fishing. Today they continue to possess unique capabilities in the production of musical instruments, rugs and baskets made of intertwined plants. This tradition has been transmitted from one generation to the next, even if at present the majority of the Santali work in cultivating rice.

Many of them do not have their own land and work as farm laborers for less than 3 dollars a day. The children and young people from this ethnic group have great difficulty getting into formal schooling and they leave school without finishing their education. Parents do not encourage frequent schooling, because they themselves are illiterate and children and young people constitute a help in the daily activities of the family. But by abandoning school the young lose every opportunity of finding work different from that of a farm laborer and of improving their economic situation, thus improving themselves socially. Many of the young, no longer finding themselves within the Santali tradition and, at the same time, not being able to insert themselves into society, become lost and dependent on drugs and

From this the Marist Brothers project for the creation of a professional training center for Santali young people was born. In collaboration with FMSI and with the contribution of the Italian Episcopal Conference, the center wants to offer training to 360 young people a year, boys and girls, in various professional courses which will give them the opportunity of finding work or beginning a trade of their own, getting out of the situation of poverty and marginalization.

The center was established in an already existing building in the Diocese of Asansol called "Talit College". Some of the areas were adapted in order to

- Photographs: (from the top) a group of Santali boys in the professional training center, Talit College; the classroom for
- the tailoring courses.



The new classrooms for the professional formation of the young Santali at the Talit College. The Talit College belongs to the Asansol Catholic Diocese, in India.

hold the courses. The topics chosen for training are: tailoring and sewing, repairing furniture, mechanical engineering, repairing of bicycles, digital printing, welding, carpentry, installation of solar energy equipment.

It was decided to start the first phase with only three courses: tailoring and sewing, English language and computer science or informatics. The latter two courses are applicable to all the professional sectors and tailoring is the course that permits insertion into the world of work more rapidly than the others. These courses were chosen carefully to give girls access to training. In addition, the parents of the young people were involved in the project through awareness activities and direct participation in the work of adaptation of the Talit College classrooms.

After three years of the center's functioning, it is planned to carry out an evaluation of the courses and of the real labor movement. Talit is a small center and far away from the city, so the professional sectors may soon be filled up. Structures were organized in this way in order to be able to easily modify the courses.

Another element considered was economic sustainability, because the young Santali people are not able to pay the cost of their training. So it is necessary to ask the Government for recognition of the center and then organize activities to sell products made by the tailors and other services in order to gain income with which to finance the costs of the center. Together with Br. Alex Arockiasamy, who is responsible for the project, we congratulate the first group of young people who began their training!

## 'HEART WITHOUT FRONTIERS' SOCIAL CENTER: FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

- Corazon sin Fronteras Center
- Athens, Greece
- 5,000 Euros

25 children of primary school age were accepted in to the center directed by the Marist Brothers of the "Corazón sin fronteras" Association in Acharnés, in the suburbs of Athens. Acharnés is a marginalized



Photographs: (above) the children do their homework supervised by the staff of the "Heart without frontiers" Center, in Acharnés,
Athens. (Below) Doctor Estela visits her patiens in O'chet Pram health center, Cambodia.

area marked by unemployment, poverty, family disintegration, frequent occurrences in places which are areas of massive and rapid immigration.

The center of the Marist Brothers offers children an environment where they can study and play every afternoon during the school year; a protected and healthy environment, a place of encounter for educational, social and cultural and sports activities. Specifically, in 2014, the activities of the center were: individual and group educational support, computer science, singing, music, excursions, football, basketball and volley ball.



### **HEALTH CENTRE**

- Marist Solidarity Cambodia
- O'chet Pram (Pailin), Cambodia
- 3,500 Euros

110 children and their families received basic medical assistance in the Center installed by Marist Solidarity Cambodia in O'chet Pram, near Pailin.

The illnesses most frequently found have been discovered: gastritis, diarrhea, typhoid fever, malnutrition, vaginitis, hypertension, myalgia, infections of the skin and respiratory and urinary tracts. The more serious cases were sent to Battambang and Phnom Penh for specialist attention.

Three people work in the center, as volunteers: a doctor, a midwife and a driver. The staff, besides rendering service in the center at O'chet Pram, visit the families in the surrounding villages twice a week and give courses on hygiene and health once a month.

The center enjoys the permission of the local health authority.

### PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER THE EBOLA **EPIDEMIC**

- **Marist Brothers**
- Monrovia, Liberia
- **3,170 Euros**

The year 2014 will be remembered for the epidemic of the Ebola virus, an epidemic without precedent because of the territorial extent, the number of those affected, and of the victims. Since March 2014, the month in which the first cases of Ebola were officially confirmed in the forest region of Guinea Conakry, the epidemic spread until it reached the neighbouring countries of Liberia and Sierra Leone, with a limited number of cases in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and, with a separate block in the Democratic Republic of Congo. 15,000 cases were registered and more than 5,000 deaths in the three countries most seriously affected, among which Liberia was the most affected. For the first time, the epidemic did not remain confined to rural villages, but it spread to the large cities and the capitals, rendering the control, the identification of cases and the identification of the chain of infection even more difficult.

The Marist Brothers of Monrovia, who for years have directed and administered one of the schools of the city, the Sr. Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School, launched the alarm after having closed the school, and asked FMSI for help for the poorest families of the area of Barnersville and the organizing of activities for prevention against the spread of the virus.

FMSI responded by supporting an emergency program in collaboration with the Spanish NGO SED, which oversaw:

a) The supplying of a large basket of food to the poorest families of the community of Barnersville; b) A program of infection prevention with visits from house to house by trained personnel: training in prevention of the spread the Ebola virus, distribution of chlorine and other material for protection, collecting information on the situation and on the level of the risk of spread.

The financial support to the poorest families to buy food was made necessary after the block of



Young patients waiting to be visited in the center of O'chet

Pram (Pailin, Cambodia).

commercial exchanges had rendered the cost of essential goods unaffordable. There was also a crisis in the production of commercial crops, for example palm oil, rubber, cacao, on which the survival and the purchasing power of many families depended. With this activity 60 families, with a total number of 300 persons, were reached, of this number the majority being children. Thanks to the supplying of food it was not only possible to satisfy basic needs, but the moving of the people was stopped, which would have increased the risk of infection.

The program then concentrated on prevention activity that in the absence of a cure or vaccination, is the only way to hold back and avoid the spread of the sickness, especially in the neighborhoods where the population is very dense. Awareness raising was provided for from house to house and in busy public places, by means of local facilitators who explained the virus and the preventive measures and distributed hygiene-sanitary kits to facilitate the adoption of the necessary measures. With this activity 1,200 persons were reached. As Br. Anthony Siryeh, who is responsible for the project, said: "The program has permitted the families in greater difficulty to continue to live a normal life and to play an active part in the prevention of the spread of the virus as an alternative to spreading panic. People have felt that they have been helped and have been able to act as a lever on their resources to help the community". FMSI remains at the side of the Marist Brothers of Monrovia and of the community affected by the virus of Ebola with a new program directed to the schools and to communities.

## 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report is based on the financial statements available in FMSI Office. It gives an account of the sums collected by the Foundation, and their use in 2014. Some brief notes are given to help in interpreting the figures. Notice that in this report is also given information on the projects in which FMSI has contributed to carry out collaborating in seeking financing, directly in favor of the counterparts or partners in loco (contributions of third parties).

#### **INCOME**

**Donations from the Founder:** the General House of the Marist Brothers of the Schools is the Founder of FMSI and its principal donor. Apart from the amounts the General House grants the Foundation each year, consideration must be given to the free allocation of rooms and services, as well as the provision of personnel.

**Donations from individuals**: this applies to the amounts received, directly or through the Marist Provinces and institutions, from friends and benefactors of the Foundation who wish to contribute to its projects and programs for the benefit of children.

**Donations from agencies**: this corresponds to the funding received from private organizations for carrying out specific projects.

**Public contributions:** "5x1000" that the Italian taxpayers can allocate for an organization with a social utility purpose.

**Revenues from financial activities**: the heading refers mainly to the results of the financial management of the patrimony of the Foundation.



A group of children in Sreemangal, Bangladesh.

### **EXPENDITURE**

**Financing of projects**: money disbursed by the Foundation for projects or scholarships for disadvantaged students

**Activities to promote and protect the rights of the child**: expenses incurred by the Foundation for working at the United Nations in Geneva, advocating and lobbying for children's rights.

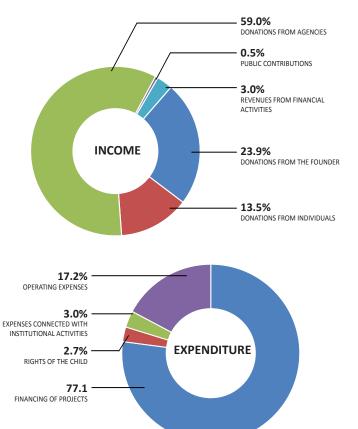
**Expenses connected with institutional activities**: this corresponds to the operating costs in the carrying out of activities related to the projects and the advocacy for child rights.

**Operating expenses:** expenses associated with the ordinary running of the offices of the Foundation. The figure does not include the headquarters location, the services and emoluments of the personnel made available freely by the Founder, as a supplementary contribution towards carrying out the Foundation's objectives.



Children of a school in Sreemangal (Bangladesh) wearing the new uniforms.

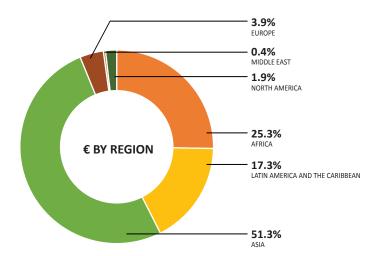
INCOME	Euros
Donations from the Founder	150,000.00
Donations from individuals	84,737.40
Donations from agencies	369,985.00
Public contributions	3,331.55
Revenues from financial activities	18,922.85
Total	626,976.80
EXPENDITURE	Euros
Financing of projects	675,620.99
Activities for the rights of the child	23,419.00
Activities for the rights of the child  Expenses connected with instit. activities	23,419.00 26,467.89
•	,
Expenses connected with instit. activities	26,467.89
Expenses connected with instit. activities  Operating expenses	26,467.89 150,934.11
Expenses connected with instit. activities  Operating expenses  Total	26,467.89 150,934.11 <b>876,441.99</b>



### **Contributions of third parties**

Are finances donated or allocated by third parties for projects in which FMSI has collaborated in the drawing up or writing up of the project and the seeking of funds. Such financing or funds are directly disbursed by the funding agency to the partner of FMSI in loco. FMSI considers this funding as a result – even though indirect – of its work of advocacy and coordination of the projects; therefore, these are included in this report, in order to present a more complete picture of the activity of the Foundation on behalf of Marist missionary initiatives.

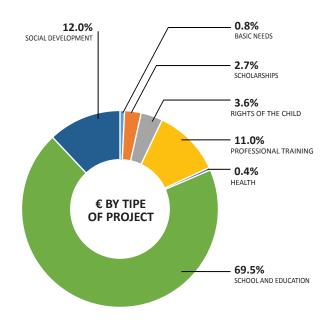
PROJECT FUNDING BY REGION*	Euros
Africa	204,710.00
Latin America and the Caribbean	139,733.00
Asia	415,224.49
Europe	31,918.50
Middle East	2,914.00
North America	15,000.00
Total	809,499.99



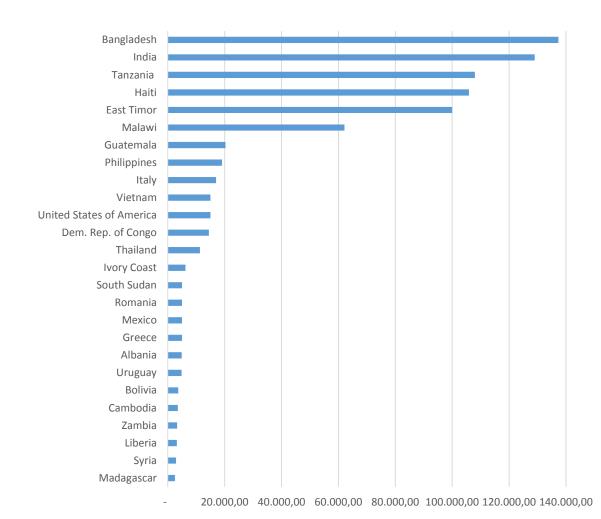
PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY*	Euros
Bangladesh	137,335.00
India	
	129,000.00
Tanzania	108,000.00
Haiti	105,904.00
East Timor	100,000.00
Malawi	62,120.00
Guatemala	20,279.00
Philippines	19,100.00
Italy	16,999.50
United States of America	15,000.00
Vietnam	15,000.00
Democratic Republic of Congo	14,430.00
Thailand	11,289.49
Ivory Coast	6,220.00
Greece	5,000.00
Mexico	5,000.00
Romania	5.000,00
South Sudan	5,000.00
Albania	4,919.00
Uruguay	4,850.00
Bolivia	3,700.00
Cambodia	3,500.00
Zambia	3,270.00
Liberia	3,170.00
Syria	2,914.00
Madagascar	2,500.00

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{*}\text{Projects}}$  enabled with the contributions of third parties are included.

FUNDING BY TYPE OF PROJECT*	Euros
Basic needs	6,084.00
Scholarships	21,999.50
Rights of the child	28,950.00
Professional training	89,419.00
Health	3,500.00
School and education	562,354.00
Social development	97,193.49
Total	809,499.99



### **€ BY COUNTRY\***



<sup>\*</sup>Projects enabled with the contributions of third parties are included.

## 7. OUR DONORS

### **Individuals**

Andrés Rodríguez Rojo, Spain
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Aktion Hoffnung GmbH, Germany Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, Italy Anonymous Foundation, Holland Misean Cara, Ireland

## **OUR PARTNERS**







L'HERMITAGE





































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