

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Marist International  
Solidarity  
Foundation ETS

**FMSI**

For the benefit of children

Children: Protagonists of Change





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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Dear Brothers, Friends and Supporters of FMSI,

I have the honour of presenting FMSI's annual report, which highlights the activities carried out by the Foundation during 2024. Throughout this year, FMSI has strengthened its commitment to ensuring that child rights permeate every aspect of its work. Our unwavering dedication to education, participation and justice continues to drive our mission, placing children, especially those in vulnerable conditions, at the heart of our efforts.

A key area of focus for FMSI in 2024 has been the active participation of children in our projects and advocacy initiatives. Children are not just beneficiaries but active agents of change, shaping policies and interventions that directly affect their lives. Through various programs, we have created spaces for children to engage meaningfully in decision-making, reinforcing their agency and leadership.

**FMSI's advocacy efforts have seen remarkable progress during 2024, with 8 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submissions integrating child participation as a fundamental element.** By amplifying the voices of children at international human rights forums, we continue to influence policies and systems to better serve their needs. Our presence at the United Nations remains crucial, allowing us to uphold and defend children's rights on a global scale.

The Foundation has also experienced significant growth in fundraising, demonstrating a clear and steady upward trajectory. More importantly, FMSI has strengthened its reputation among the Administrative Units, fostering increased confidence in our ability to support projects and provide sustainable solutions for children at the margins. This ongoing trust enables us to expand our reach and impact year after year.

A highlight of 2024 was on May 29th, when FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI of the Marist Brothers' Institute hosted an online event titled **"Unveiling Contemporary-Day Slavery: A Marist Event for Awareness and Action."** The event highlighted key projects in Bolivia, Bangladesh, and Haiti, addressing forced labor, human trafficking, and child exploitation. A powerful testimony by Ms. Esperanza Flores Bautista, former President of Child Workers in Bolivia, underscored the urgent need for policy advocacy, structural change, and international solidarity to combat contemporary slavery.

FMSI is also positioning itself as a key pro-

vider of capacity building for the Marist Institute. Mission Capacity Development is a crucial pillar for the future, and we remain dedicated to assisting provinces in developing strategic programs and offering training in project management, financial responsibility, strategic planning, and budget design. By equipping communities with the necessary tools and knowledge, we foster long-term growth and sustainability.

In addition to long-term development, FMSI has demonstrated its **capacity to respond to emergencies**, as seen in our support for crisis situations in Lebanon and Brazil. Our rapid response initiatives ensure that children and affected communities receive urgent assistance, laying the foundation for sustainable recovery.

Looking ahead, FMSI continues to evolve as an instrument for responding to future challenges. We prioritize long-term processes over short-term projects, ensuring sustainability and systemic impact. Furthermore, our approach to development prioritizes structural and systemic change rather than temporary relief, addressing the root causes of inequality and injustice. Transparency in decision-making and accountability are at the core of our governance, reinforcing the trust of our partners and beneficiaries. We live in a world where many children still suffer from hunger, lack of education, exploitation, and violence. These injustices deepen social inequalities and limit the opportunities available to the most marginalized. **FMSI remains steadfast in its mission to provide opportunities for these**

**children, advocating for their rights and empowering them as active participants in shaping their own future.**

I wish to conclude by expressing my gratitude to the FMSI Staff and Board. The Foundation thrives because of their commitment to the well-being of children. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to implement impactful initiatives, upholding our Mission and the Marist Brothers Charism. The leadership and vision of the Board continue to guide us in achieving our goals with integrity and purpose.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our Partners and Donors. Your generosity and trust make it possible for us to reach children in the most fragile conditions worldwide. Every project, every initiative, and every success are made possible by your unwavering support.

With deep appreciation,  
**Br. Ken McDonald**  
 President, FMSI



## VISION

We believe in a world where childhood is respected, where children live free from violence and fear, where they are recognized as fully-fledged citizens and active members in their communities & society.



## MISSION

We act to develop the potential of children and young people - especially those in the most vulnerable and marginalized groups - through education, advocacy and solidarity initiatives.



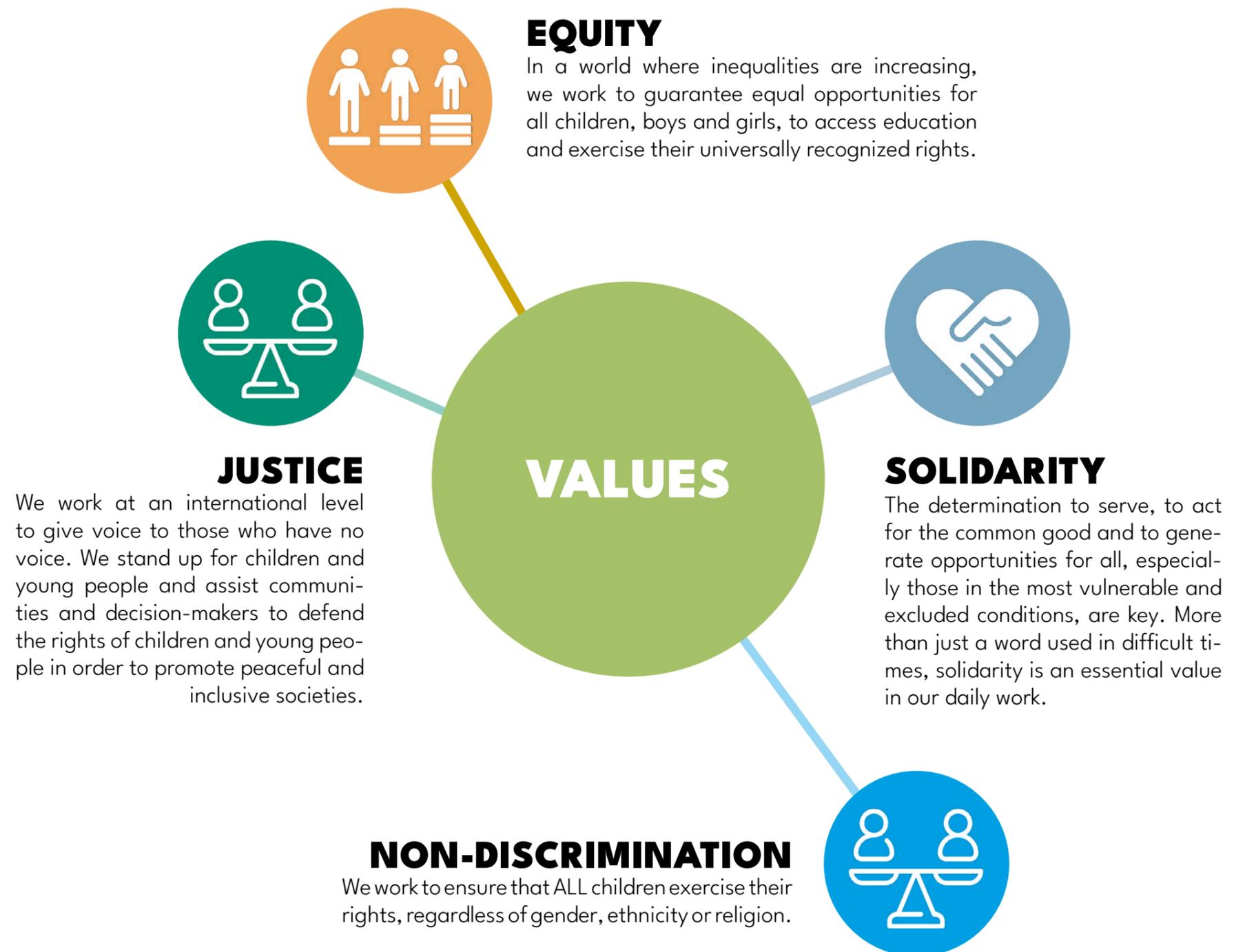
# WHO WE ARE

Established by the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools in 2007, **the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (ETS)** works around the world for the rights of children and adolescents and to ensure better living conditions for them. Together with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, FMSI is the Institute's body responsible for its work with the United Nations.

The Institute of the Marist Brothers was created in France on 2 January 1817 by Saint Marcellin Champagnat and today has more than 2400 members who work in 79 Countries on 5 continents. The Marist network operates through 590 schools as well as 26 universities, social works, youth movements and programmes, wherever children and young people are most in need.

**For 17 years, FMSI has been dedicated to nurturing the potential of children and youth, empowering them to play an active role in social transformation within their communities.**

Throughout its history, FMSI has **supported more than 600 projects** and initiatives focusing on inclusive education, solidarity, and child rights **across 69 countries worldwide** with a particular emphasis on addressing vulnerability and marginalization.





# OUR HISTORY

Our History

## CREATION OF FMSI

2007

- FMSI REACHES THE MILESTONE OF 300 PROJECTS WORLDWIDE
- FMSI PROMOTES THE MARIST NGOS NETWORK PROCESS THROUGH MEETINGS IN ASIA PACIFIC AND IN ROME

FMSI JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU CATHOLIQUE DE L'ENFANCE (BICE)

2008

- MEETING IN BELEM DO PARÁ (BRAZIL), WHERE FMSI IS INVITED TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN TAKING THE SOLIDARITY NETWORK TO A GLOBAL LEVEL
- FMSI SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION AD GENTES MARIST PROGRAM FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ASIA

2009

2010

INTEGRATION INTO THE NETWORKS OF CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT AND INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CENTER OF GENEVA (CCIG)

2011

OBTENTION OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE ECOSOC OF THE UNITED NATIONS

2012

- FMSI REACHES THE MILESTONE OF 18 UPR SUBMITTED FOR 17 COUNTRIES
- CREATION OF FMSI ASIA

2013

CREATION OF FMSI CONO SUR

2014

- FMSI JOINS THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN (MMI-LAC)
- FMSI JOINS THE CCIG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CREATION OF THE "FRATELLI PROJECT" IN LEBANON

2015

FMSI REACHES THE MILESTONE OF 34 UPR SUBMITTED FOR 25 COUNTRIES

2017

- COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME
- FMSI JOINS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BICE
- FMSI MANAGES THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NETWORK OF SOLIDARITY

2018

- CREATION OF "NEW HORIZONS 2', THE FIRST MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECT INVOLVING THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
- CREATION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY, THAT WORKS TOGETHER WITH FMSI ON ADVOCACY AND CHILD RIGHTS

2019

- FMSI BOARD APPROVES THE 2021- 2025 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF FMSI
- FMSI SUPPORTS PROJECTS WORLDWIDE AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020

2021

- FMSI PUBLISHES ITS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT AND ADOPTS THE 231 MODEL
- FMSI REACHES THE MILESTONE OF 400 PROJECTS IN 65 COUNTRIES THE WORLD

2022

FMSI CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

- FMSI REACHES 500 PROJECTS IN 68 COUNTRIES AND 67 UPR PRESENTED FOR 43 COUNTRIES

- FMSI BECOMES AN A THIRD SECTOR ENTITY AND MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK NGO FORUM

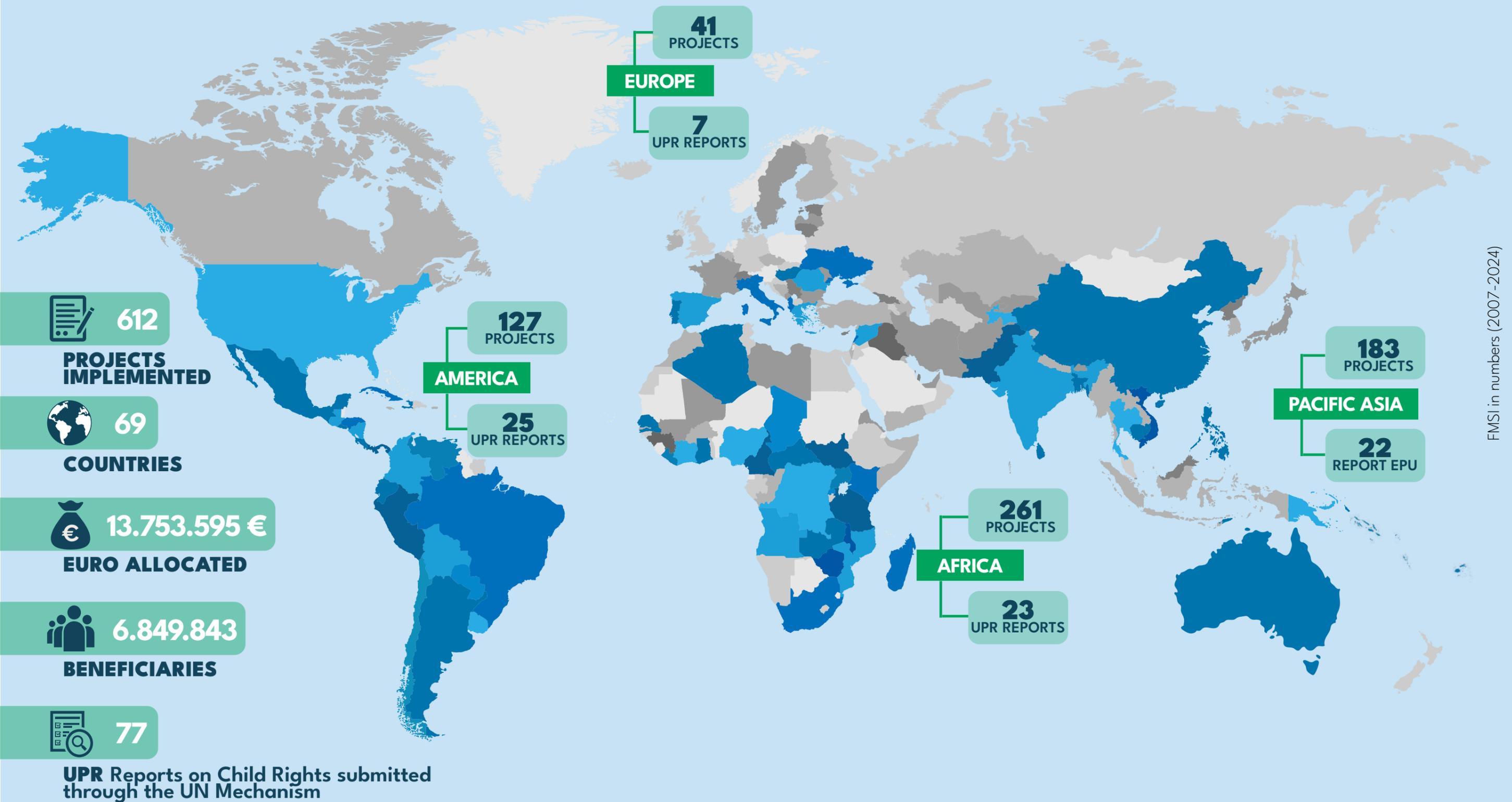
2023

2024

- FMSI REACHES THE MILESTONE OF 612 PROJECTS IN 69 COUNTRIES AND 77 EPU REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR 43 COUNTRIES



# FMSI IN NUMBERS (2007-2024)



FMSI in numbers (2007-2024)

# STAKEHOLDER MAP





# THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTION

In 2024, FMSI continued its commitment to advancing children's rights in all regions where the Marist Brothers of the Schools are active and particularly in areas of marginalization.

The work of FMSI in the field of solidarity and education has been continuous and fruitful and has led, in 2024, to the realisation of **84 educational, solidarity and emergency projects** implemented in **29 countries of the world**, constantly placing child rights at the centre of its actions and working to eliminate all kinds of social inequalities.

The Institute of the Marist Brothers and FMSI place paramount importance on the centrality of **child rights**, ensuring that they are at the forefront of all its actions and initiatives, along with a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children: In 2024, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI have successfully collaborated to present a total of **10 UPR reports, 8 of which were prepared with the active participation of children**. These reports, a result of close partnerships with various stakeholders, were presented for Bolivia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Portugal, DR Congo, Spain.

FMSI's action in 2024 included the global fundraising campaign for *Fratelli* Lebanon and for Brazil.

All its initiatives in Inclusive Education, Solidarity and Advocacy, have been inspired by these basic principles:



**Coherence:** Aware of growing global challenges, FMSI has responded by concentrating its resources and capacities where they are most needed, with a particular focus on interventions in the regions of the world that suffer the most economically vulnerable conditions.

**Effectiveness:** FMSI has promoted fair, effective, efficient interventions with a broad social impact in favour of children and youth in **Syria, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Nigeria** and wherever

intervention was needed to guarantee the fundamental rights of those in vulnerable and marginalized conditions, in line with the foundation's statutory purpose. FMSI has not limited itself to large projects, believing that long term benefits can also be achieved through small, very specific interventions, as long as they are able to generate long term results for the communities.

**Efficiency:** Each FMSI project aims to ensure the best relationship between resources employed and results achieved. All projects, therefore, must be able to demonstrate that the planned results are achieved with a fair and balanced cost/benefit ratio.

**Transparency:** FMSI operates thanks to financing by private and institutional donors and promotes transparency and legality in the use of the funds received as an act of responsibility towards those who support and sustain the initiatives and activities of the foundation. For this reason, FMSI guarantees transparency and accountability through a multiplicity of instruments: the 231 model, the creation of a supervisory body, timely reporting of projects, annual publications and certification of the financial statements in accordance with the regulations of the Italian Civil Code.

The tools used to provide information to the public on the resources collected and their destination are: narrative and financial reports according to the procedures and models provided by the donors, the FMSI website, social media and this document.

# METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

**Preparation of the report has been marked by a strong desire to provide its stakeholders with a clear and complete picture of how FMSI implements its statutory principles in the context in which it operates.**

This document was prepared following the provisions of the “*Guidelines for the Preparation of the Financial Social Statements of Third Sector Entities*” adopted by decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Policies (published in the Official Gazette no. 186 of 8-9-2019). Its objective is to report all FMSI activities carried out in 2024. The frequency and the boundaries of reporting coincide with those of the 2024 Annual Report Sheet, approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 30th May 2025. In defining the themes and methods of reporting, particular attention was paid to the information being provided to stakeholders.

For this reason, the Annual Report has been created using a participative process that involved various actors at different levels:

- All FMSI Staff, including those involved in accounting and communication
- The FMSI Board
- The Secretariat for Solidarity-CMI
- Donors, through the official project documents and reports submitted in the period Jan-Dec 2024
- Local Project Managers responsible for each project funded and implemented
- External control bodies in both the design and revision phases of the content and financial sections of the document.

In order to provide complete and transparent information to **stakeholders**, and with the intention of guaranteeing comparability over time, this Annual Report 2024 implements the same classification and presentation of achievements proposed in the 2023 edition.

Analysis of the results achieved by the implemented projects was carried out using the official project documents and reports submitted in the period from January to December 2024: the focus of the analysis was therefore placed on the changes produced by the intervention, which were relevant for the achievement of the results and measured through a system of indicators. Since project implementation does not correspond to the calendar year, for those projects financed in 2024 but not yet finalized as at 31.12.2024, the official project data in the application form are taken into account.

All projects which began after October 2024 (MDG1000; CMR0400; COL0106; ZMB0301; MOZ0400; LBN0440; BGD0311; NGA0300; ZMB0700; HTI0401) are not included in the statistics because it would be too premature in relation to the status of implementation and thus the achievement of results.

In contrast, the statistics take into account the results produced by projects excluded for the same reason in the 2023 version (KHM0410; MDG0900; NGA0200; TCD0400; BGD0419; COL0210; KEN0800; ZAF0220; COL0200; SYR0620; SYR0610; LBN0118).

Beginning from 2024, FMSI, together with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, is strengthening its commitment to Advocacy and Child Rights projects and activities by placing greater emphasis on amplifying children’s voices in all its actions.



# LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2024



PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN €
DYAN KE HO RON TOG” - Woman who fights Sewing and dressmaking school	Chad	<b>32.920,00 €</b>
Premio FMSI 2023 - Enfants sans violence	Ivory Coast	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Construction of additional eleven classrooms at the Centre Scolaire St. Marcellin Champagnat to improve its capacity for the learning conditions in Bouake	Ivory Coast	<b>149.714,00 €</b>
Construction of classrooms in Douala, as Primary School for 800 displaced Anglophone Children	Cameroon	<b>100.000,00 €</b>
Science Laboratory Equipment Project - St. Pius X Catholic College - Tatum	Cameroon	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Food for pupils and students: Orore and Roo	Kenya	<b>12.600,00 €</b>
Support the Brothers in Roo and Orore to provide food for the pupils and students in the schools	Kenya	<b>10.000,00 €</b>
Building the Brothers house in Orore, Kenya	Kenya	<b>4.383,00 €</b>
Support for the families affected by heavy rains in Kenya	Kenya	<b>15.000,00 €</b>

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN €</b>
Training program to enhance Marist Brothers of Africa' skills and competences in child safeguarding and child rights	Kenya	<b>15.050,00 €</b>
Completion of six classrooms elementary school at the Marist Brothers Catholic School in Kpan Marshall District to promote the teaching and learning conditions (Liberia)	Liberia	<b>90.000,00 €</b>
Construction of a Primary School in order to offer appropriate learning conditions at Ampahidrano - Fianarantsoa	Madagascar	<b>127.725,00 €</b>
Construction of a Multipurpose hall in order to offer appropriate learning conditions at Ampahidrano - Fianarantsoa	Madagascar	<b>18.330,00 €</b>
Feeding Program Betroka	Madagascar	<b>10.000,00 €</b>
New Horizons for a transformative education model in Madagascar	Madagascar	<b>41.500,00 €</b>
Construction a new Provincial House for the Marist Brothers in Antsirabe	Madagascar	<b>40.000,00 €</b>
Accesso all'acqua potabile per la comunità di Betroka	Madagascar	<b>8.000,00 €</b>
Construção de um Noviciado em Moçambique	Mozambique	<b>20.000,00 €</b>
Equity of access to quality education for girls and disadvantaged children in Malawi	Malawi	<b>60.058,00 €</b>
Solar Power Installation for Hopeville Rehabilitation Centre Uturu, Nigeria	Nigeria	<b>9.319,22 €</b>
Upholding the right to quality education, resilient livelihood and decent jobs for children and young people with disabilities and marginalized in Nigeria	Nigeria	<b>41.000,00 €</b>
Solar powered borehole for Marist College, Yangoji, Nigeria	Nigeria	<b>6.570,00 €</b>





<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN €</b>
Support for the families affected by the crisis brought on by War in the Eastern region of DRC	DRC	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Support for needy students at Institut Industriel Chololo	DRC	<b>4.520,00 €</b>
Support for the family living in refugee camps in Congo	DRC	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Establishment of Toilets, Water tank, school desks, and Farm area	DRC	<b>72.609,00 €</b>
Purchase and/or making of 200 school desks	DRC	<b>4.400,00 €</b>
Three2Six Refugee Children's Educational Project	South Africa	<b>39.646,00 €</b>
Three2Six Refugee Children's Education Project	South Africa	<b>35.000,00 €</b>
Regional Event on the Day of the African Child	South Africa	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Miglioramento della qualità dell'istruzione del St Marcellin Skills Training Centre a Chibuluma (Zambia)	Zambia	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Solar Water Pumping And Lighting System	Zambia	<b>9.238,83 €</b>

# LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2024

PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN €
Empowering children and women in the defence, promotion and advocacy of their rights and in the care of the environment	Bolivia	23.250,00 €
Support for the people affected by the flooding in Brazil	Brazil	15.000,00 €
Support for the people affected by the flooding in Brazil	Brazil	330,70 €
Support to the people affected by the fires in Chile	Chile	15.000,00 €
Support to the people affected by drought and water scarcity in La Pista, Maicao	Colombia	15.000,00 €
Heart without borders for children in conditions of extreme vulnerability and at risk of exploitation, trafficking, and abuse in La Pista	Colombia	25.000,00 €
Centro Comunitario La torre, Medellín: actividades socio culturales (contratar un maestro, equipamiento pedagógico, artístico, deportivo y tecnologico)	Colombia	20.000,00 €
Formación catequética y pastoral y programa escuela para padres de familia en Maicao, Hermanos Maristas y La Salle	Colombia	17.450,00 €
Relief Initiative to support the Haitian children and families to face the ongoing emergency	Haiti	15.000,00 €
Relief Initiative to support the Haitian children and families to face the ongoing emergency II	Haiti	15.000,00 €
Education and training opportunities for children domestic workers, vulnerable youth and teachers in Jérémie II	Haiti	51.980,00 €
Education programme for secondary schools in Dame-Marie and Latiboliere	Haiti	18.699,93 €

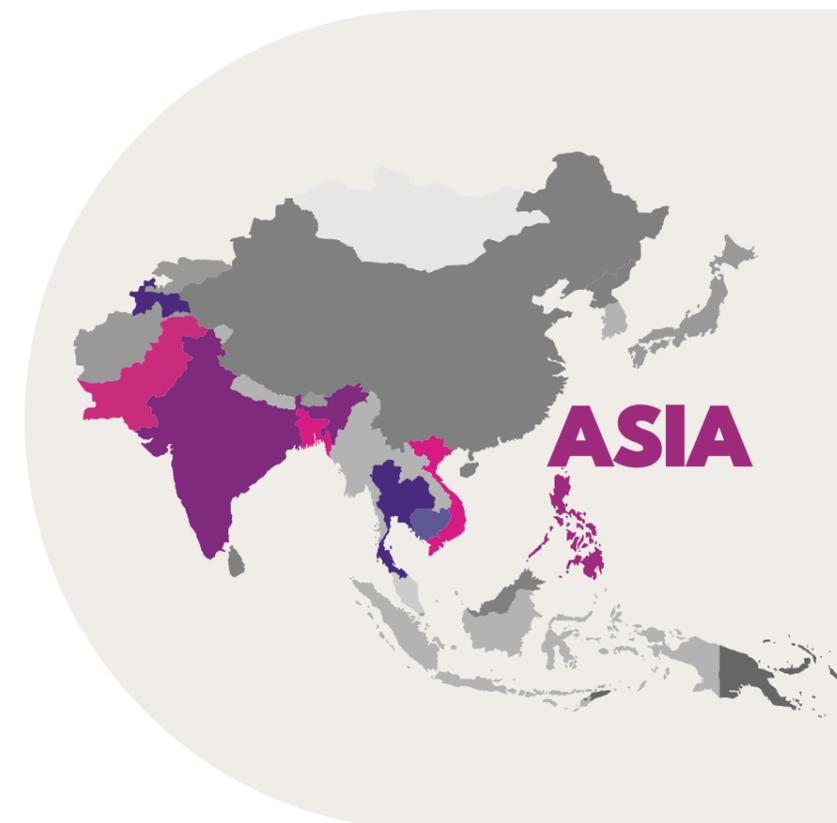


# LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2024

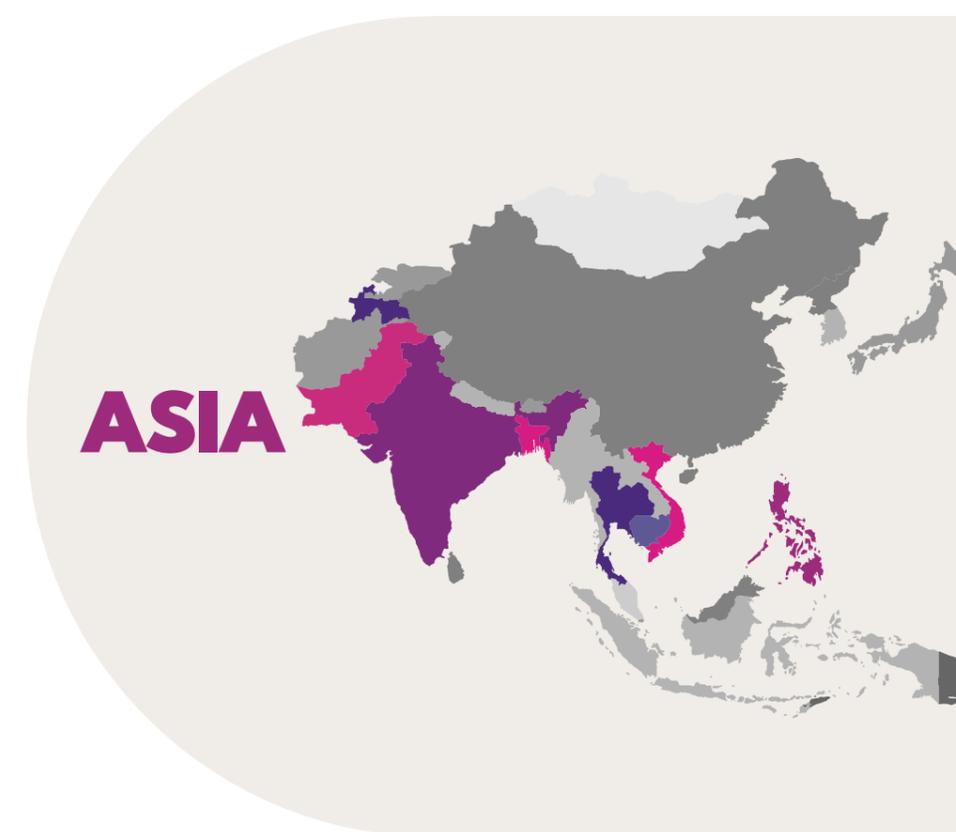


PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN €
Ofrecer a los niños y las niñas de la escuela “Marista de Champagnat” una comida al día para contribuir a una educación de calidad y distribuir una canasta de alimentos o un kit alimenticio en tres momentos (Navidad, Pascua y Verano).	Haiti	<b>4.959,91 €</b>
School Feeding Program to support quality education at the Ecole mariste Champagnat	Haiti	<b>4.000,00 €</b>
Premio Margot També 2024 “Estrategias lúdicas para mejorar enseñanza-aprendizaje”	Mexico	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Supporting Marist School Educators in Venezuela	Venezuela	<b>42.999,61 €</b>

PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN €
Moulovibazar Education Program	Bangladesh	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Sponsorship Moulovibazar Editoriales 2023	Bangladesh	<b>13.331,55 €</b>
Sponsorship Moulovibazar Editoriales Maristas	Bangladesh	<b>13.724,00 €</b>
Education and health programs for children with disabilities in Cambodia	Cambodia	<b>39.500,00 €</b>
Scholarship totalling € 7,340 for the Marist Educational Center (MEC) in Pailin and two students, Samnieng and Sameth, with € 4,500 scholarship, studying in Sen Monorom und Phnom Penh	Cambodia	<b>11.840,00 €</b>



<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN €</b>
Cambodia - Nourishing vulnerable students´ healthy life style	Cambodia	<b>22.174,38 €</b>
For the Marist Center of Hope (MCH) we can give to the program „Nourishing vulnerable students’ healthy life style in Pailin (70 students)	Cambodia	<b>13.000,00 €</b>
Scholarship Program for Pulong Students (2 students)	Cambodia	<b>4.190,00 €</b>
Marcellin program: Protecting poor Children at Risk and Children in conflict with the Law	Philippines	<b>25.884,00 €</b>
Education without borders: equity of access to quality education for Santal children and drop-out young people	India	<b>17.600,00 €</b>
SCHS students in danger of being dropped out	Pakistan	<b>2.552,00 €</b>
Equity of access to quality education and human rights for Burmese migrant children	Thailand	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Equity of access to quality education and human rights for Burmese migrant children	Thailand	<b>10.000,00 €</b>
Premio FMSI 2024 : DAR YAK ZAMIN - Une place pour chacun: développement du premier café social au Tadjikistan	Tajikistan	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Ta Do project	Vietnam	<b>3.552,00 €</b>

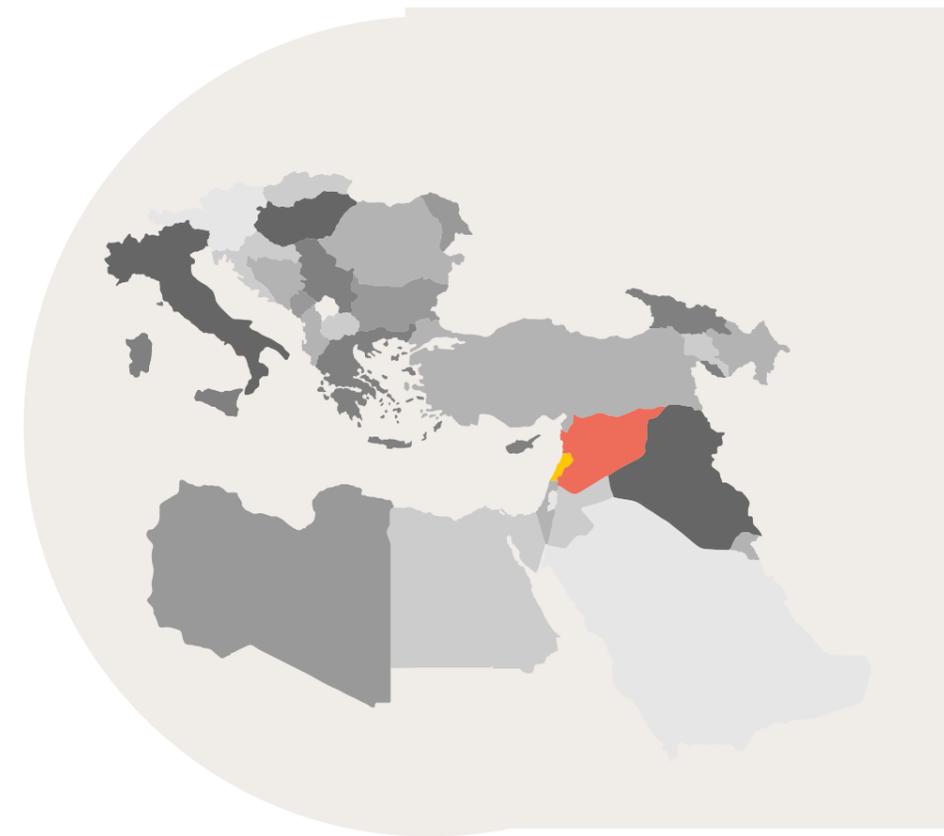




<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN €</b>
Fratelli Project	Lebanon	<b>2.270,00 €</b>
The Fratelli Project	Lebanon	<b>225.217,00 €</b>
Emergency Assistance for Conflict-Affected Families Near the Fratelli Centre	Lebanon	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Teachers salaries and transport	Lebanon	<b>20.000,00 €</b>
Emergenza Libano	Lebanon	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Lebanon Emergency	Lebanon	<b>15.000,00 €</b>
Emergency in Lebanon	Lebanon	<b>9.822,17 €</b>
Solar Panels Fratelli Centre	Lebanon	<b>62.600,00 €</b>
Renovation of a part of 'simple infrastructure', directly benefiting about one thousand children/adolescents at Socio Educational Centre at Rmeileh (Lebanon)	Lebanon	<b>66.480,00 €</b>
Fratelli	Lebanon	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Promoting the overall well-being of Syrian-displaced and vulnerable Lebanese population in Rmeileh (Lebanon)	Lebanon	<b>4.000,00 €</b>
Humanitarian Aid to the displaced and vulnerable population in Rmeileh, Lebanon	Lebanon	<b>5.000,00 €</b>
Empowering Economic Resilience through Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship	Syria	<b>74.444,50 €</b>

# LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2024

PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN €
Girls in Aleppo Project	Syria	9.000,00 €
Earthquake support	Syria	65.000,00 €
Paniere di Natale	Syria	5.920,00 €
Earthquake support	Syria	61.454,11 €
Seeds - Support Emotional Expression Development Skills	Syria	3.326,00 €
Donation from Aliazal Foundation	Syria	50.000,00 €
Building capacities for the Marist Missions to serve children and young people	Multi-country	14.700,00 €



# AREAS OF INTERVENTION

**More than half of the world's children are exposed to some form of violence or discrimination every year.**



## EDUCATION FOR ALL

Projects in this area look to achieve specific outcomes, such as increasing access to quality education at all levels and increasing literacy levels and attendance, especially for girls.

Initiatives include ensuring access to vocational training, increasing the number of qualified teachers, building or adapting school facilities to be sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities and gender equality to provide **safe, inclusive and high-quality learning environments for all**.

In forging these initiatives, we envision a future where education becomes a transformative force, breaking barriers and providing a foundation for children to actively contribute as agents of peace and positive change.



## ADVOCACY & CHILD RIGHTS

FMSI works to recognise, promote, and guarantee the rights of children, particularly in contexts where they are denied access to basic human rights: adequate health care, healthy and balanced nutrition, education and protection from violence.

Today's children face new threats which undermine the full enjoyment of their rights, but they also have new tools and opportunities to realise and defend them.

FMSI's initiatives at the United Nations aim to build strong policy systems at regional, national and international levels, based on development strategies for children's rights. FMSI also promotes initiatives in which children and young people become **aware** of their rights, **participate** in situations that affect them, **hold** and **defend** civil, social, political, cultural and economic **rights**.



## LOCAL AND EMERGING NEEDS

New global challenges impact on fundamental areas such as health, education and local economies, and potentially increase inequalities and generate new forms of poverty among children.

Hunger and malnutrition, difficult access to basic services, discrimination and social exclusion, as well as lack of participation in decision-making processes affect millions of boys and girls around the world. Our projects in this area are based on development strategies in favour of the most economically vulnerable. They are gender sensitive and support actions against poverty, hunger, injustice, climate change, and the lack of access to services or adequate health systems.

**FMSI's emergency projects** support all individuals in **vulnerable situations** in order to reduce their exposure to extreme weather events, wars, epidemics, disasters and economic, social and environmental shocks.



**Data source:**

INVESTING IN CHILDREN - An Accelerator for  
the Sustainable Development Goals - 2023,  
UN Special Representative of the Secretary-Ge-  
neral on Violence Against Children

# AREAS OF INTERVENTION



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

We prioritize economic growth that aligns with **environmental responsibility**, integrating sustainability into business and governance practices.

Our efforts are directed at reducing environmental risks, promoting resource efficiency, and encouraging industries to adopt **sustainable models** that minimize their ecological footprint.

By supporting policies and practices that balance economic prosperity with environmental stewardship, we work towards a future where long-term **stability** and **sustainability** go hand in hand.



## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We focus on fostering **inclusive** economic opportunities and strengthening community well-being through responsible social and governance strategies.

Our initiatives aim to address inequalities and discrimination while ensuring economic stability and **social sustainability**.

We are committed to protecting decent work conditions, promoting ethical labor practices, and encouraging responsible behaviors that support thriving communities.

Education plays a pivotal role in building a **fair and resilient** society, and we empower children and young people as **proactive agents of change**.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARIST MISSIONS IN THE WORLD

FMSI is at the service of the Institute not only to provide financial support to projects but also for the strategic development of **solidarity on a global level**.

Its activities support Marist communities belonging to Provinces and districts around the world, identifying tools to respond adequately to their needs as a Global Family.

Initiatives in this field aim to enhance the ability to **act on behalf of children** with more effective actions and more sustainable strategic projects. These initiatives contribute strategically to strengthening the solidarity capacities of the Institute.

# 2024 RESULTS



## LONG-TERM OUTCOME



Enhanced equity of access to quality education for children in situation of vulnerability and marginalisation.

**15.603**

- 110** Adults men
- 100** Adults women
- 5.835** Children under 18 (boys)
- 5.120** Children under 18 (girls)
- 240** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 402** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 12** Schools
- 210** Teachers and school staff
- 1.976** Young people (19-25) boys
- 1.598** Young people (19-25) girls

2024 Results

## MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME



**6.872**

- 30** Adults men
- 30** Adults women
- 3.835** Children under 18 (boys)
- 2.520** Children under 18 (girls)
- 17** Classrooms
- 1** Multipurpose halls
- 1** Other educat. institutions/centers
- 400** School desks
- 9** Schools
- 23** Teachers and school staff
- 6** Villages equipped for learning

Enhanced quality education improving/updating appropriate learning resources and school facilities.



**4.446**

- 50** Adults men
- 30** Adults women
- 1.275** Children under 18 (boys)
- 1.018** Children under 18 (girls)
- 4** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 6** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 15** Teachers and school staff
- 1.151** Young men (19-25)
- 897** Young women (19-25)

Enhanced quality education using appropriate teaching methodologies.



**6.067**

- 2.035** Children under 18 (boys)
- 1.900** Children under 18 (girls)
- 4** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 1.191** Young men (19-25)
- 937** Young women (19-25)

Increased literacy, numeracy, skills (including transversal competencies) and qualifications in formal, non-formal and informal settings.



**2.373**

- 498** Children under 18 (boys)
- 1.077** Children under 18 (girls)
- 10** Other educat. institutions/centers
- 5** Other Entities
- 153** Schools
- 143** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 325** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 162** Young men (19-25)

School and the social context are safer, more inclusive and sustainable.



**LONG-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**Children/individuals belonging to groups and/or minorities in condition of vulnerability have enhanced access to their rights.**

**3.409**

- 441** Adults men
- 300** Adults women
- 1.114** Children under 18 (boys)
- 1.054** Children under 18 (girls)
- 250** Young men (19-25)
- 250** Young women (19-25)

**MEDIUM-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**11.844**

- 264** Adults men
- 252** Adults women
- 3.794** Children under 18 (boys)
- 3.928** Children under 18 (girls)
- 50** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 56** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 350** Teachers and school staff
- 1.521** Young men (19-25)
- 1.619** Young women (19-25)
- 10** Brothers and Marist Staff

Children or individuals in condition of vulnerability are more aware of their rights and better prepared to defend them.



**20.591**

- 73** Adults men
- 151** Adults women
- 10.146** Children under 18 (boys)
- 10.186** Children under 18 (girls)
- 35** Teachers and school staff

Children or individuals in condition of vulnerability empowered to address human rights violations and assess government compliance in human rights obligations.



**10.574**

- 5.129** Adults men
- 5.130** Adults women
- 7** Schools
- 308** Teachers and school staff

Civil society organization empowered to address human rights violations and assess government compliance in human rights obligations.



**25**

- 25** Brothers and Marist Staff

CSOs are more aware of their potential to become agents of change and human rights defenders.



**LONG-TERM OUTCOME**



Children and individuals in vulnerable conditions affected by war, forced migration, natural disasters, or violent environments experience enhanced living conditions.

**19.871**

- 2.913** Adults men
- 2.813** Adults women
- 4.471** Children under 18 (boys)
- 4.826** Children under 18 (girls)
- 109** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 2.269** Young men (19-25)
- 2.470** Young women (19-25)

**MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME**



**31.007**

- 3.396** Adults men
- 4.169** Adults women
- 7.548** Children under 18 (boys)
- 7.783** Children under 18 (girls)
- 9** Schools
- 407** Teachers and school staff
- 3.537** Young men (19-25)
- 3.697** Young women (19-25)
- 20** Toilets
- 1** Water tanks
- 100** Water filters
- 140** Shelter kits
- 200** Containers for safe water storage

Basic needs, including food, health, shelter, psychological support, clean water, sanitation are provided to children and individuals in condition of vulnerability affected by emergencies.



**14.475**

- 1.371** Adults men
- 1.524** Adults women
- 3.301** Children under 18 (boys)
- 3.073** Children under 18 (girls)
- 1** Other education institutions/centers
- 381** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 841** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 2.086** Young men (19-25)
- 1.897** Young women (19-25)

Emergency resilience is strengthened through healthcare initiatives, psychological support, and awareness campaigns.



**LONG-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**Enhanced environmental conditions,  
community resilience and sustaina-  
bility.**

**5**

- 3** Other education institutions/centers
- 2** Local Communities

**MEDIUM-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**2.550**

**2.550** Trees/plants

Promoted sustainable farming practi-  
ces that enhanced food and nutrition  
security.



**2.097**

- 530** Adults men
- 510** Adults women
- 170** Children under 18 (boys)
- 200** Children under 18 (girls)
- 232** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 390** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 40** Young men (19-25)
- 25** Young women (19-25)

Conducted programs to raise aware-  
ness about reducing food waste and  
promoting sustainable consumption  
among community members.



**392**

- 125** Adults men
- 125** Adults women
- 62** Children under 18 (boys)
- 72** Children under 18 (girls)
- 1** Other educat. institutions/centers
- 7** Brothers and Marist Staff

Facilitated access to renewable energy  
technologies and climate adaptation  
tools, improving resilience in agricultu-  
ral practices.



**SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

**LONG-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**Created new sustainable and inclusive economic opportunities.**

**95**

- 2** Adults men
- 32** Adults women
- 22** Children under 18 (boys) WD\*
- 22** Children under 18 (girls) WD\*
- 1** Other entities
- 6** Young men (19-25)
- 10** Young women (19-25)

**MEDIUM-TERM  
OUTCOME**



**347**

- 29** Adults men
- 80** Adults women
- 99** Children under 18 (boys)
- 43** Children under 18 (girls)
- 46** Young men (19-25)
- 50** Young women (19-25)

**Increased technical and vocational skills.**



**90**

- 90** Adults women

**Support initiatives promoting rehabilitation and sustainable, inclusive opportunities.**

# 2024 RESULTS



**MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME**

**114**

- 39 Adults men
- 26 Adults women
- 12 Children under 18 (boys)
- 12 Children under 18 (girls)
- 25 Brothers and Marist Staff

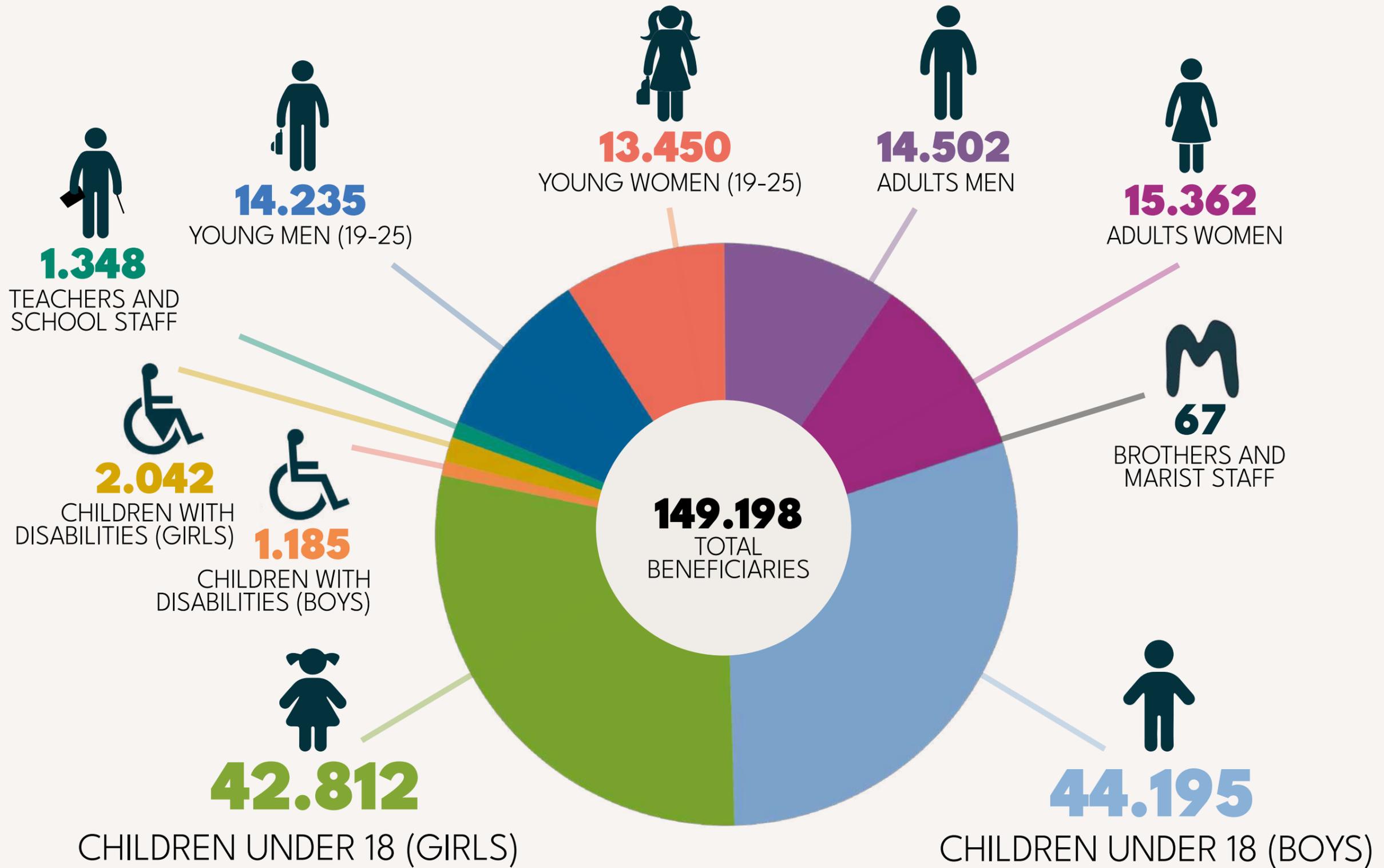
Strengthen Marist organizational capability to deliver effective development initiatives.

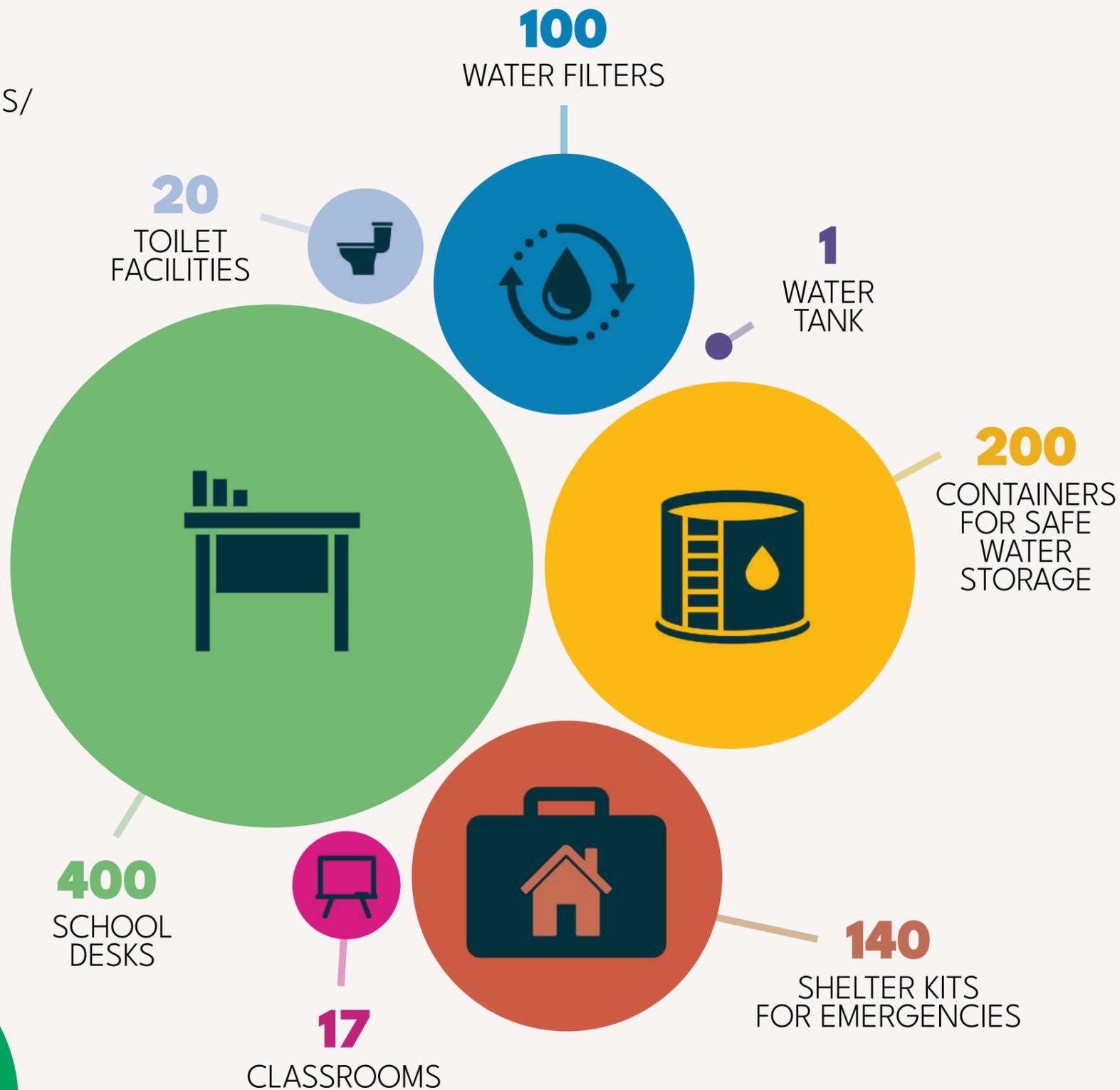
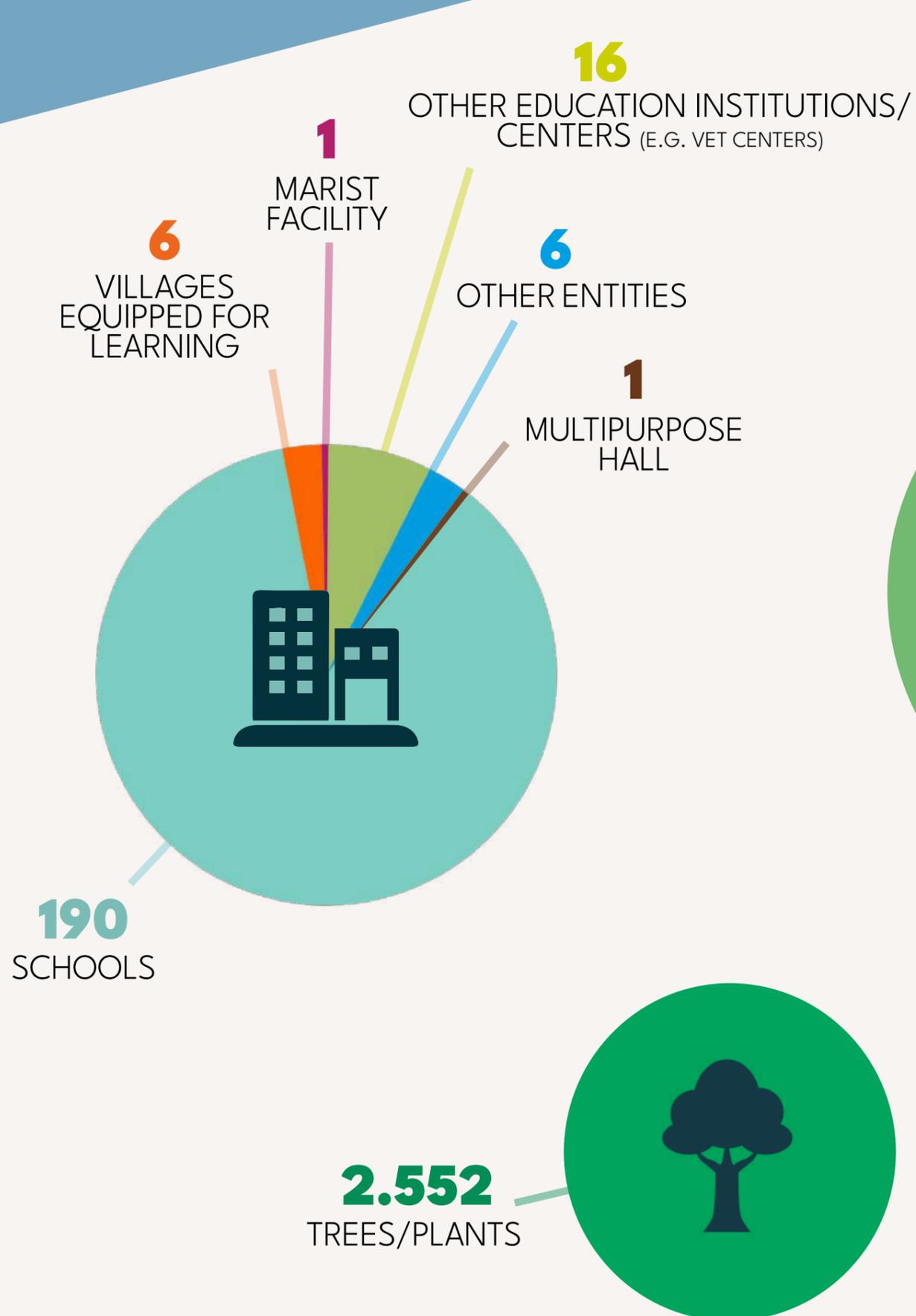
**1**

1 Marist Facility

Enhanced Marist facilities for Mission Capacity Development.

# 2024 RESULTS





# FOCUS ON ADVOCACY & CHILD RIGHTS



# 2024 UPR COUNTRIES

FMSI's commitment to human rights has been a constant since its creation. FMSI is strongly and firmly dedicated to the promotion and defense of rights, with a particular focus on the rights of children and young people, as well as their empowerment as agents of change. FMSI increasingly works to create spaces for listening and participation, ensuring that children and young people themselves can share their experiences, express their needs, and actively contribute to building a more just and inclusive future.

Drawing on the collective experience of the Marist worldwide presence, **FMSI plays a crucial role in highlighting at the international level - before governments and the United Nations - the state of human rights for children and young people, especially those living in conditions of greater vulnerability.**

## HOW IS FMSI COMMITTED TO PROMOTING AND DEFENDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THROUGH ITS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES?

To achieve its objectives, FMSI, in collaboration with the Marist Brothers' **Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI**, actively engages in various United Nations advocacy mechanisms. One key tool in this effort is the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**, a mechanism that allows organizations to submit reports and recommendations to the United Nations.

The active involvement of FMSI and other civil society organizations in the review process of the country under study is essential to enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of the UPR process. These interactions facilitate a broader exchange of resources and advocacy efforts, ultimately leading to a more in-depth assessment of human rights conditions and a stronger framework for governments.

In 2024, **FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI** successfully contributed to the submission of a total of **10 UPR reports for Bolivia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Portugal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Spain.** These reports were developed in collaboration with both Marist and non-Marist entities, further strengthening networking efforts.

Additionally, **8 out of the 10 UPR** reports were based on information and insights gathered through the **active participation of children and young people**, ensuring that their voices and perspectives were central to the process. This was made possible through on-site visits or online workshops conducted in collaboration with various Marist missions, the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, and FMSI.



COUNTRY	JOINT SUBMISSION	CHILDREN INVOLVED
BOLIVIA	✓	
COSTA RICA	✓	✓
FIJI	✓	✓
ITALY	✓	✓
KENYA	✓	✓
KIRIBATI	✓	✓
MADAGASCAR	✓	✓
PORTUGAL	✓	✓
DRC (DEM. REP. OF CONGO)	✓	✓
SPAGNA	✓	



## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

During the last quarter of 2024, the FMSI team met to discuss the next steps in the area of Advocacy & Child Rights, specifically:

### - UPR reports to be submitted for sessions 50, 51, and 52<sup>1</sup> in 2025, with a total of 12 potential UPR reports.

During the meetings, the reports to be developed and the topics to be analyzed were identified, along with defining the next steps, such as establishing contact with local actors, identifying potential partners, structuring data collection efforts, and drafting the reports. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of amplifying and increasingly listening to the voices of children, ensuring they take center stage in sharing their experiences and advocating for their rights. For the first four reports of session 50, the groundwork has already been laid to gather information through the direct participation of children and young people.

### - Oral Statement

FMSI is committed to engaging in other advocacy mechanisms at the United Nations, such as Oral Statements delivered by civil society organizations during the sessions of the Human Rights Council. Their purpose is to summarize accepted or “noted” recommendations on priority issues for children and youth who participated in the drafting of EPU submitted by the Foundation. In this context, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity are working to ensure that more and more children and young people themselves take the floor, bringing their voices, experiences, and demands directly to international forums.

- **Participation of partners** involved in the drafting of UPR reports in official United Nations sessions, with training and follow-up activities included in the trip to Geneva.

### - November 20, 2025

Each year, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI work to make this day an opportunity to celebrate children’s rights, organizing events that reflect their commitment to communities and collaborating with other organizations and stakeholders to amplify their impact.

## NETWORK

To achieve its goals in the area of advocacy and promotion of Human Rights, FMSI works together with various partners:

- **Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI** The coordinated and joint work with the Secretariat of Solidarity – CMI is fully integrated into daily operations. A clear example is the collaborative work carried out within various civil society participation mechanisms at the United Nations, as analyzed in the previous section. Likewise, the participation of FMSI members in the working groups of the solidarity network is significant. Particularly important is the engagement in the NGO/Foundations group, which aims to enhance coordination with other Marist entities worldwide, and the Children’s Rights group, whose primary objective is to reflect on and propose common actions to improve the situation of children and young people in Marist missions.

### - Nel mondo Marista

FMSI remains committed to maintaining relationships and coordination with the Human Rights Delegates of the Provinces across the entire Marist Institute. This collaboration facilitates communication of new developments, sharing of best practices, learning from initiatives already being implemented in different Provinces and Districts, and assessing future partnerships. In this regard, throughout 2024, FMSI’s Advo-

cacy area conducted visits aimed at strengthening existing relationships with partners on the ground, as well as developing or monitoring various projects directly related to this area. These included visits to Cuba, Vanuatu, Australia, Madagascar, Uruguay, New Zealand, the United States, Chile, Colombia, Thailand.

### - Civil Society Organizations

Throughout 2024, FMSI continued and further strengthened its collaboration with BICE<sup>2</sup>, CCIG<sup>3</sup>, ERI<sup>4</sup>, CRC<sup>5</sup> and IIMA<sup>6</sup>. These partnerships enable FMSI to deepen and expand its impact in the defense of human rights, both through advocacy actions and joint initiatives.

<sup>1</sup>Sessions 50, 51 and 52 refer to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycles to be held in 2025 under the United Nations Human Rights Council. Each UPR session examines a group of UN member states according to a set schedule.

<sup>2</sup> *Le Bureau International Catholique de l’Enfance*

<sup>3</sup> *Centre Catholique International de Genève*

<sup>4</sup> Edmund Rice International – Christian Brothers

<sup>5</sup> Child Rights Connect

<sup>6</sup> *Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice* – Salesian Sisters

## INITIATIVES AND TRAINING

- **May 2024** – Training Course on Human Rights Advocacy Projects: this course strengthened advocacy skills by providing knowledge on concrete projects for the protection of children’s rights at both local and international levels. Participants improved their ability to develop and implement advocacy projects, addressing challenges, developing solutions, and responding to donor requirements. The course fostered a network of experts in Latin America capable of collaborating at different levels. Additionally, it integrated theory and practice, with exercises and monitoring tools to help participants evaluate and improve advocacy actions.

- **Education and Advocacy for Child Rights in Africa – February-May 2024:** this training course for Marist provinces in Africa represents a regional program aimed at strengthening the protection and rights of children across the continent, with a lasting impact on populations in the most vulnerable condition. Supported by CSAC (Conference of Superiors of the African Continent), it lays the foundation for future initiatives in 2025, such as the creation of a network of child rights clubs. This pilot project aims to create a safer environment for children and may inspire similar initiatives in other Marist regions.

- **Marist International Solidarity Network (RMSI) Assembly:** in June 2024, the Marist International Solidarity Network Assembly was held in Rome, with FMSI actively participating from its preparation stage. The main theme of the assembly was solidarity, with a specific focus on the area of human rights.

- **Training Course on United Nations Mechanisms – November-December 2024:** this training course on UN mechanisms for human rights protection initially provided a foundation

on human rights, their history, and their role within the UN system, highlighting the importance of civil society. The course then delved into the UN treaty system on human rights and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, with a focus on advocacy strategies. Finally, in the last module, participants were introduced to concrete initiatives and results achieved within the Marist world through collaboration with Marist Brothers in different countries, offering practical tools for implementing human rights at the local level.

## PUBLICATIONS

### - UPR Booklet

In 2024, FMSI, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, published its second booklet, **“Every Right for Every Child – 2024 Report on the Rights of Children”**.

The booklet aims to explain and illustrate the work carried out in 2024 in the field of Advocacy & Child Rights, with a specific focus on the UPR mechanism. It includes a dedicated section on the reports submitted to the United Nations in 2024, analyzing the key issues and challenges highlighted thanks to the invaluable contributions of Marist missions in the countries under review. These missions played a crucial role in collecting the necessary information to promote the protection of human rights. Acting as supervisors, defenders, and voices for marginalized and vulnerable populations, local partners provided information, analysis, and recommendations, helping to shed light on human rights violations and related challenges.



**DISCOVER THE BOOKLET ONLINE, CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE**

- **UPR Map:** the UPR Map of the Institute is an important monitoring tool that documents the commitments and actions of the Marist Institute in the context of universal periodic reviews on human rights.



**DISCOVER THE MAP ONLINE, CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE**

- **Articles and News:** to continue raising awareness on the importance of human rights, particularly those of children and young people, periodic articles are published on the websites of FMSI and the Marist Institute.

## EVENTS

### Voices of Tomorrow – November 20, 2024

For the Institute, FMSI, and the Secretariat of Solidarity – CMI, few moments of the year are as significant as November 20, **World Children's Day**. This date marks the anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of two fundamental documents: the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

This year, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it was an opportunity to listen to the voices of children from different parts of the world and reflect on the future of their rights.

The event featured the participation of numerous experts and activists, such as Markus Heinze (Franciscans International) and Alessandra Aula (BICE). However, one of the most significant moments was the video intervention of children from Costa Rica, Madagascar, Portugal, and Kenya, who shared their experiences, hopes, and visions for a better future.

The event also included testimonies on how children can actively use the United Nations human rights mechanisms, thanks to the participation of a boy belonging to the Star of The Sea Province, who shared his experience.

This event was an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate the achievements made, but also to renew the collective commitment to a fairer and safer future for children worldwide.

FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI continue to work tirelessly to collect children's voices and empower them to become protagonists in the promotion and defense of their rights, expressing the challenges they face and their aspirations for change **to build a more fraternal, just, and sustainable world.**



DISCOVER THE EVENT  
ONLINE, CLICK OR  
SCAN THE QR CODE



# FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS



LEARN ABOUT THE  
CAMPAIGN ONLINE,  
CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE



## EMERGENCY IN LEBANON

The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon has reached critical levels following the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that began on September 23, 2024. Bombings have devastated the south of the country, the Bekaa Valley, and Beirut, causing over 3,800 deaths, more than 15,000 people injured, and the displacement of 1.2 million people, including over 300,000 children. Many families, upon returning to their cities after the ceasefire, found their homes destroyed and continued to live in conditions of extreme vulnerability.

In response to this emergency, FMSI launched a fundraising campaign to support the **Fratelli Project**. Despite the risks, the *Fratelli Project*, in collaboration with its management Council, chose to remain operational, providing educational and humanitarian support to families affected by the crisis. The key goal was to offer concrete assistance to people in the most vulnerable conditions and support them in the difficult process of rebuilding.

Thanks to donors' generosity, which include **the Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies**, FMSI raised **61.824,51€** in 2024/2025, an amount entirely allocated to humanitarian aid with no deductions for administrative costs.

This amount made it possible to finance several crucial activities, including:

- A safe educational space: 267 children found a protected environment where they could participate in educational and recreational activities and receive a daily snack.
- Family visits: a fundamental action to listen to the needs of those affected by the conflict and provide psychological and social support.
- Distribution of humanitarian aid: mattresses, food, and hygiene kits were provided to alleviate the suffering of displaced families.

The entire amount raised was used with full respect for the principles of transparency, impartiality, and dignity of the beneficiaries.

Your support has truly made a difference for thousands of people who have faced this emergency with courage and resilience. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in our mission and for supporting the *Fratelli Project* during such a difficult time.





## EMERGENCY IN BRAZIL



In the first months of 2024, the southern region of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, was hit by devastating floods following heavy rains. The tragedy left an indelible mark on local communities: 183 dead, 27 missing, and over 600.000 displaced. The waters swept through entire cities, destroying infrastructure, schools, and social projects managed by the Marist Brothers of Brazil.

In response to this emergency, FMSI launched a fundraising campaign to support the affected families.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, which include **the Global Marist Family Fund for Humanitarian Emergencies, 30,330.70€** was raised, an amount entirely allocated to humanitarian aid with no deductions for administrative costs.

The funds collected enabled the distribution of essential goods, including food, blankets, towels, personal hygiene kits, and cleaning supplies, helping to ensure a minimum level of security and dignity for families in need. The solidarity shown was a tangible sign of hope in a time of great suffering.

Beyond the distribution of material aid, the campaign also helped strengthen the social support network for affected communities, promoting psychological assistance initiatives and educational support for children and families in the most vulnerable conditions. This intervention not only alleviated immediate hardships but also provided tools to face the reconstruction phase with greater resilience.

FMSI monitored every stage of the intervention, ensuring maximum transparency in resource management, in accordance with the Third Sector Code.

We express our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to this initiative. Thanks to your support, we were able to provide immediate and concrete assistance, strengthening the resilience of the affected communities.

LEARN ABOUT THE  
CAMPAIGN ONLINE,  
CLICK OR SCAN THE  
QR CODE



# FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY

## UNVEILING CONTEMPORARY-DAY SLAVERY: A MARIST EVENT FOR AWARENESS AND ACTION

Despite international efforts to eradicate it, contemporary-day slavery remains a harsh reality for millions worldwide. It manifests itself in various forms, including forced labor, human trafficking, child exploitation, and domestic servitude. Economic inequality, armed conflicts, and weak legal protections create conditions where individuals - especially women, children, and marginalized communities - are coerced into exploitative situations. They manifest themselves in many forms, from child labor and domestic servitude to forced migration and human trafficking.

Unlike historical slavery, approved and recognized by the society of the time, contemporary slavery often operates in the shadows, hidden within supply chains, informal economies, and even private households. Addressing this crisis requires stronger policies, global cooperation, and grassroots initiatives to dismantle systemic oppression and restore dignity to those affected. It is imperative for governments, civil society and faith-based organizations to work together to ensure this happens.

On **May 29th**, 2024, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity of the Marist Brothers' Institute hosted a compelling online event titled **"Unveiling Contemporary-Day Slavery: A Marist Event for Awareness and Action."** The event served as a critical platform to shed light on the persistent and evolving forms of contemporary slavery, an issue that continues to affect millions worldwide despite global efforts to eradicate it. The discussion highlighted key projects implemented in **Bolivia, Bangladesh, and Haiti**, each focusing on combating various manifestations of contemporary slavery. Brothers and project managers from these regions shared firsthand experiences, providing invaluable insights into the challenges faced by affected communities and the strategies employed to promote liberation and dignity. The testimonies brought to life the harsh realities of forced labor, human trafficking, and exploitative practices that disproportionately impact children and marginalized populations.

A particularly moving moment of the event was the intervention of Ms. Esperanza Flores Bautista, the former president of Child

Workers in Bolivia. Drawing from her personal experience, she provided a powerful testament to the resilience of those directly impacted by exploitative labor conditions. Her words underscored **the urgent need for structural changes, policy advocacy, and international solidarity to break the cycle of exploitation.**

**This event reinforced FMSI's ongoing mission to advocate justice and dignity for all, particularly for children and communities in condition of vulnerability.**

By raising awareness and fostering collaboration, the event was another step toward a future where every individual can live free from exploitation.

Even though the event has concluded, the fight against contemporary slavery continues. Awareness is the first step, but action must follow. This event must serve as a reminder that collective efforts can indeed create a world where dignity, freedom, and justice prevail.



**DISCOVER THE EVENT  
ONLINE, CLICK OR  
SCAN THE QR CODE**



# FOCUS ON SOME OF OUR PROJECTS



## SDGs

1 SCONFIGGERE LA POVERTÀ	3 SALUTE E BENESSERE	5 PARITÀ DI GENERE
2 SCONFIGGERE LA FAME	4 ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ	10 RIDURRE LE DISUGUAGLIANZE
		16 PACE, GIUSTIZIA E ISTITUZIONI SOLIDE

## LAUDATO SÌ GOALS

2 SCONFIGGERE LA FAME	7 ENERGIA PULITA E ACCESSIBILE
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------

## CRCs GOALS

2 NO DISCRIMINATION	23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	29 AIMS OF EDUCATION	31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS
4 MAKING RIGHTS REAL	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION	30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



DISCOVER THE VIDEO  
PROJECT ONLINE, CLICK  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

# MALAWI



## Equity of access to Quality Education in Malawi

The **Girls' Empowerment Clubs** have been at the heart of this initiative, serving as a key tool to **strengthen resilience, develop psychosocial skills, and improve access to quality education for girls in Malawi.**

These clubs have provided safe spaces for girls to build confidence, enhance problem-solving abilities, and acquire essential life skills through training programs incorporating problem-based learning, role-playing, case studies, and practical exercises. Over time, the success of these clubs also attracted the attention of boys outside the school system, leading them to participate. Thus, what were initially exclusive clubs for girls turned into mixed clubs, further promoting **inclusive education and equitable participation.**

The project has also facilitated **stakeholder engagement**, involving Ministry of Education officials, NGOs, traditional leaders, and community organizations, to reinforce education system capacity and ensure the representation of groups in a condition of marginalization, particularly girls, in decision-making processes.

Malawi faces severe gender disparities in education, with only 50% of girls completing primary school and just one in five graduating from secondary education. Additionally, over 40% of girls marry before 18, often forcing them to drop

out, a situation worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address this, the initiative expanded **Open Day Schools**, improving access to secondary education, and strengthened Girls' Empowerment Clubs to help girls stay in school, feel safe, and gain essential socio-emotional and life skills. Key activities included the creation of seven new Girls' Empowerment Clubs, peer counselor training, communication and self-confidence development programs, psycho-social support, and the construction of a girls' hostel in Senga Bay, Salima, an area where girls have historically been excluded from education.

Targeting **seven schools** (four Marist and three non-Marist), the initiative reached **2,974 students, 160 teachers**, and various key stakeholders, improving education quality and equal access for girls.

Notable results include a **93% improvement in end-of-term results, a 98% reduction in dropout rates, and the reintegration of 50 girls into school.** Nevertheless, challenges persist, particularly in non-Marist schools, where deep-rooted cultural beliefs, economic pressures, and peer influence discourage girls from pursuing education. In some areas, families prioritize farm work over schooling, while many young girls see marriage to men working abroad as a sign of success.

The project identified a need for stronger role modelling, increased community engagement, and ongoing support for Girls' Empowerment Clubs to **shift mindsets, break barriers, and sustain impact.** Through its holistic approach, the initiative has not only improved access to education but also provided hope to youth in vulnerable condition, ensuring they have the skills, support, and opportunities to build a better future.

At the end of the project, the Girls' Empower-

ment Clubs played **an active role in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** process for Malawi, engaging more than **300 students** in advocacy efforts to promote education rights and gender equality at the national level.

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**12.022** Children and young people have enhanced equity of access to quality education, improved teaching methodologies, increased literacy and numeracy skills, in safer, more inclusive schools.

**6.009** Children and young people have strengthened resilience through healthcare initiatives, psychological support, and awareness campaigns.

**280** Children and young people improved awareness of children's rights and enhanced capacity to defend them.

**7** Schools and their social context are safer, more inclusive and sustainable.

# MADAGASCAR



## Ensuring Equitable Access to Quality Education in Fianarantsoa, Madagascar

Madagascar faces significant educational challenges, with over **1.7 million children aged 5 to 14 currently out of school** and a declining net primary school enrolment rate of just **69.4%**. Many children, particularly in rural areas, are deprived of their right to education due to **financial constraints, long distances to existing schools, and limited access to quality teaching**.

In response to this pressing need, a collaborative effort—supported by the **Marist Province of the USA and the Marist District of West-Central Europe**—has made possible **the construction of a new primary school and a multi-purpose hall in Fianarantsoa**. This initiative is designed to bridge the education gap and provide inclusive, high-quality learning opportunities to children who would otherwise be left behind.

**The new primary school will be fully functioning in 2025** and will cater to children from Fianarantsoa and neighbouring communities, ensuring access to a safe and structured learning environment led by experienced educators. Currently, many children remain idle during school hours, unable to attend classes due to **the lack of nearby schools or financial hardship**. Young girls, in particular, face incre-

ased vulnerability, with risks of **early pregnancies and exposure to unsafe conditions** due to limited educational opportunities. By establishing a well-resourced, accessible school, the project aims to **empower children and break the cycle of poverty through education**.

In addition to the school, the construction of a **multi-purpose hall** will create a dynamic space for **educational programs, extracurricular activities, and community engagement**. Strategically located alongside the school, this facility will serve as a hub for learning and skill-building, further reinforcing the commitment to **inclusive and equitable education**.

With the dedicated presence of the Marist Brothers, this project ensures that **every child, regardless of their socio-economic background, can receive a quality education**—an essential step towards **a more just and prosperous future** for the children of Fianarantsoa and beyond.

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**180 BOYS AND 170 GIRLS** have access to enhanced quality education improving/updating appropriate learning resources and school facilities.

**1** New school and the social context are safer, more inclusive and sustainable.





**SDGs**

**4** ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ



**10** RIDURRE LE DISUGUAGLIANZE



**LAUDATO SÌ GOALS**

**2** SCONFIGGERE LA FAME



**CRCs GOALS**

<b>28</b> ACCESS TO EDUCATION	<b>30</b> MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION
<b>29</b> AIMS OF EDUCATION	<b>31</b> REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS



**SDGs**

<p><b>3</b> SALUTE E BENESSERE</p>	<p><b>10</b> RIDURRE LE DISUGUAGLIANZE</p>
<p><b>4</b> ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ</p>	<p><b>13</b> AGIRE PER IL CLIMA</p>

**LAUDATO SÌ GOALS**

<p><b>2</b> SCONFIGGERE LA FAME</p>	<p><b>4</b> ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ</p>	<p><b>7</b> ENERGIA PULITA E ACCESSIBILE</p>
<p><b>3</b> SALUTE E BENESSERE</p>	<p><b>5</b> PARITÀ DI GENERE</p>	

**CRCs GOALS**

<p><b>2</b></p> <p>NO DISCRIMINATION</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION</p>



DISCOVER THE VIDEO PROJECT ONLINE, CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE

# CAMBODIA



## Education and health programs for children with disabilities in Cambodia

In Cambodia, **children with disabilities are among the first to drop out of school, with girls facing additional barriers due to economic hardship, stigma, and early marriages.**

To address these challenges, **LaValla School in Takhmao** implemented inclusive education initiatives, ensuring that an equal number of boys and girls were enrolled and organizing girl-led activities to boost self-esteem and promote gender equality. Additionally, plans for future school expansions include more places reserved for female students, reinforcing the school's commitment to gender equity.

**The Education and Health Program for Children with Disabilities in Cambodia** has successfully improved access to quality education and enhanced health outcomes, strengthened advocacy for disability rights, and promoted environmental awareness. The high quality of education at LaValla is reflected in its **low student-teacher ratio (1:11)**, well-equipped facilities, and the fact that all teachers are graduates of the school itself, all of them with disabilities, many holding university degrees.

The school outperforms government institutions by providing a library, computer lab, music centre, and internet access, while students consistently demonstrate academic excellence, notably winning **the 2023 IT Global Compe-**

**tion for South Asia.** To further support students, boarding accommodations are provided, ensuring that all attendees receive housing and care.

Beyond education, **the project has improved the health and well-being of children with disabilities** through regular medical check-ups, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, and access to assistive devices. A comprehensive rehabilitation program has been implemented for both residential students and those from neighbouring villages, offering **qualified medical support** to those who would otherwise lack access to healthcare.

Another key achievement has been the **advocacy for disability rights.** The project facilitated collaboration with the Cambodian government, Catholic NGOs, and other organizations, creating communication channels for people with disabilities within the CACD network and organizing three awareness events with local public schools to challenge **stigma and discrimination.** Students also participated in disability rights campaigns, ensuring greater representation and inclusion in decision-making processes.

Environmental sustainability was also a core focus, with students actively engaging in eco-friendly initiatives such as waste reduction, recycling, and green space development. The school minimized energy waste by avoiding air conditioning, switching to gas cooking, and installing solar panels to reduce electricity costs. Environmental education programs helped students understand the link between sustainability and their daily lives, fostering a generation of environmentally responsible citizens.

The project achieved all its expected outcomes, with **85% of high school students passing national exams and advancing to higher education.** Those in vocational training successfully secured jobs with decent wages,

demonstrating the program's effectiveness in empowering youth for independent living. Additionally, students benefited from extracurricular activities, such as music, sewing, English, and computer classes, while participating in study tours, disability rights events, and international exchange programs.

Ultimately, this initiative ensured **equity in education and healthcare for children with disabilities**, promoted social inclusion, and fostered behavioural change towards **environmental responsibility.**

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**154** Children with disabilities have enhanced equity of access to quality education.

**154** Children have strengthened their resilience through healthcare initiatives, psychological support, and awareness campaigns.

**466 ADULTS AND 106 CHILDREN** Are more aware of their rights and better prepared to defend them.

**154** Children have conducted programs to raise awareness about reducing food waste and promoting sustainable consumption among community members.

**1** School and its social context are safer, more inclusive and sustainable.

# COLOMBIA



## Support for People Affected by Drought and Water Scarcity in La Pista, Maicao

The Emergency Assistance Project in La Pista, Maicao, under the Marist Norandina Province and coordinated by the Solidarity Team, has provided essential support to **170 families in vulnerable conditions**, including migrants, refugees, Colombian returnees, and host communities, directly benefiting **850 people**. The initiative has responded to the severe water scarcity and extreme drought crisis caused by the “*El Niño*” phenomenon, which has severely impacted **La Guajira**.

To address urgent needs, the project has distributed drinking **water (two 20-liter bags per family)**, **shelter kits (roofing sheets, wooden slats, plastic, and basic tools)**, **essential medicines, water filters and safe water storage containers**. They were delivered to **100 families, one water filter each, along with training on their maintenance**. Fuel costs were covered for food and supply distribution.

**One of the main challenges was the lack of access to potable water**, increasing the risk of **disease, malnutrition, and social inequality**. The climate crisis has deepened the vulnerability of these families, making it even more difficult for them to access basic resources. To ensure an effective and sustainable response, the project prioritized a participatory approach, ensuring active community involvement in all phases,

from the initial consultation to implementation and evaluation. **Community leaders from the 12 settlement blocks collaborated in project planning, promoting collective work and self-management.**

Key activities included needs assessments through home **visits and surveys, a market analysis to select suppliers, the procurement of supplies, and their distribution to beneficiary families**. Thanks to this intervention, **340 families** received water, food, equipment, and shelter, securing support for at least one month.

The project was **successful in both scope and participation**, meeting all objectives within the planned timeframe. Beyond immediate assistance, **the initiative strengthened community resilience, promoting self-management and social engagement**. This approach has not only addressed the emergency but also laid the foundation for **future sustainable and coordinated interventions in the region**.

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**170** Families in condition of vulnerability supported.

**850** People directly reached.

**340** Families received food, shelter, and water containers.

**100** Water filters distributed with training to 100 families.

**12** Community blocks actively involved in all phases.



DISCOVER THE VIDEO PROJECT ONLINE, CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE



### SDGs

<b>2</b> SCONFIGGERE LA FAME 	<b>4</b> ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ 	<b>10</b> RIDURRE LE DISUGUAGLIANZE 	<b>13</b> AGIRE PER IL CLIMA 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIP PER GLI OBIETTIVI 
<b>3</b> SALUTE E BENESSERE 	<b>6</b> ACQUA PULITA E SERVIZI IGIENICO-SANITARI 	<b>11</b> CITTÀ E COMUNITÀ SOSTENIBILI 	<b>16</b> PACE, GIUSTIZIA E ISTITUZIONI SOLIDE 	

### LAUDATO SÌ GOALS

<b>1</b> SCONFIGGERE LA POVERTÀ 	<b>3</b> SALUTE E BENESSERE 	<b>5</b> PARITÀ DI GENERE 
<b>2</b> SCONFIGGERE LA FAME 	<b>4</b> ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ 	<b>6</b> ACQUA PULITA E SERVIZI IGIENICO-SANITARI 

### CRCs GOALS

<b>2</b>  NO DISCRIMINATION	<b>12</b>  RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	<b>27</b>  FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	<b>31</b>  REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS
<b>6</b>  LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	<b>24</b>  HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	<b>28</b>  ACCESS TO EDUCATION	<b>32</b>  PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK



**SDGs**

<p><b>1</b> SCONFIGGERE LA POVERTÀ</p>	<p><b>3</b> SALUTE E BENESSERE</p>	<p><b>5</b> PARITÀ DI GENERE</p>	<p><b>12</b> CONSUMO E PRODUZIONE RESPONSABILI</p>	<p><b>15</b> VITA SULLA TERRA</p>
<p><b>2</b> SCONFIGGERE LA FAME</p>	<p><b>4</b> ISTRUZIONE DI QUALITÀ</p>	<p><b>10</b> RIDURRE LE DISUGUAGLIANZE</p>	<p><b>13</b> AGIRE PER IL CLIMA</p>	<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIP PER GLI OBIETTIVI</p>

**LAUDATO SÌ GOALS**

<p><b>1</b> SCONFIGGERE LA POVERTÀ</p>	<p><b>5</b> PARITÀ DI GENERE</p>
<p><b>2</b> SCONFIGGERE LA FAME</p>	<p><b>6</b> ACQUA PULITA E SERVIZI IGIENICO-SANITARI</p>

**CRCs GOALS**

<p><b>2</b></p> <p>NO DISCRIMINATION</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>AIMS OF EDUCATION</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS</p>

# MEXICO



## School and Family Gardens for Food Sovereignty in Rural Mayan Communities of Yucatán

This project promoted **food sovereignty and the right to healthy eating** through the creation of agroecological school and **backyard gardens**, combining Mayan ancestral knowledge with modern educational practices. A total of **323 primary school children** from rural Mayan communities learned and applied sustainable farming techniques, becoming active agents in improving their own nutrition. In all **6 participating schools**, school gardens were established with the **direct involvement of students**, who cultivate, harvest, and understand the value of growing their own food.

The educational component was reinforced by the training of **30 teachers**, who integrated agroecological practices into their curriculum and promoted the **use of local and seasonal foods, while respecting Mayan culture and knowledge**. Bilingual teaching materials, guides, and a traditional recipe book were developed, fostering a circular learning **dynamic between home and school**. Furthermore, **250 parents**—many without prior access to education—became actively involved in garden maintenance and educational sessions, leading to **a shift in attitudes towards local food production**.

A baseline nutritional and environmental survey conducted with the support of the Marist University of Mérida revealed that **52% of children showed below-standard growth indicators, and 15% suffered from chronic malnutrition**, highlighting the urgency and the relevance of the intervention. School workshops, participatory planning, and a School Exchange Meeting in Tahdzibichén promoted **the voice and participation of children**, as well as the engagement of families and local communities in food education.

The project also influenced local public **policies on the right to food** by coordinating proposals with local actors, under **the Social Dialogue for Food Sovereignty (DSSA) framework**. As a result, the Preschool Education Department invited the team to **replicate the model in other schools across the state**—recognizing its success, impact, and scalability.

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**323** Children trained in agroecological cultivation.

**6** Schools with functional school gardens.

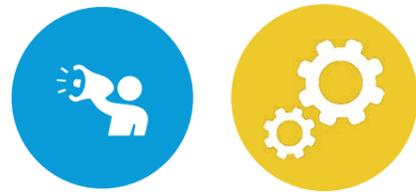
**30** Teachers trained and engaged.

**250** Parents actively involved.



DISCOVER THE VIDEO PROJECT ONLINE, CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE

# MULTI-COUNTRY



## Advanced training program on project cycle management and impact on children's rights

In May 2024, **FMSI**, in collaboration with **CCIG and Miseen Cara**, launched an advanced training program in project cycle management, with a focus on child rights and advocacy. The course engaged representatives from **14 countries across the Americas**, aiming to build capacity in political advocacy and human rights, equipping participants with practical tools to work at both local and international levels.

The program was structured into **four main modules**. The first explored the importance of participating in human rights advocacy projects, with emphasis on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The second module addressed the challenges in drafting advocacy proposals, highlighting donor expectations and data collection. The third focused on evaluating the impact of advocacy actions prior to the UPR, and the final module allowed for presentation of results and guided feedback.

With over **40 participants** at the start and continued engagement throughout, the course enabled them to design, implement, and evaluate effective advocacy projects, tackle obstacles, and strengthen their capacity to in-

fluence public policies in favor of children's rights.

This program is a clear expression of **FMSI's commitment to institutional capacity development, and of the collaborative work with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI** to promote the rights of children and young people worldwide.

## THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

**43** Participants in total from 14 countries in the Americas.

**3** Cooperating organizations: FMSI, CCIG, Miseen Cara.

**1** Secretariat of Marist Institute.

### SDGs



### LAUDATO SÌ GOALS



### CRCs GOALS



# TRAINING ACTIONS

## TRAINING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY FMSI AND THE SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY-CMI OF THE MARIST BROTHERS INSTITUTE IN 2024

During 2024, FMSI, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI of the Marist Brothers Institute, carried out several important training programs aimed at enhancing the capacities of religious and lay personnel involved in Marist solidarity initiatives. These training activities focused on various aspects of project management, fundraising, human rights advocacy, and the operational and strategic development of solidarity actions.

Training conducted by FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity in 2024 has made a significant contribution to the professional development of personnel involved in Marist solidarity projects. Through a series of targeted, practical, and interactive training modules, participants were equipped with essential tools and strategies to design, manage, and fund effective, sustainable projects. These initiatives reflect the ongoing commitment of FMSI to strengthening the global Marist Mission, enhancing collaboration, and ensuring that solidarity actions make an impact and are sustainable.

**- Capacity Building in Project Management and Fundraising:** in 2024, FMSI conducted a comprehensive training course on Project Management and Fundraising, specifically designed for religious and lay personnel from Asia, Madagascar, and Syria. The primary objectives of the course were to strengthen the participants' skills in project design, financial management, and effective program development, all within the framework of long-term planning and sustainable development. The training also highlighted the importance of sustainability and collaborative fundraising as shared responsibilities within a global ecosystem.

**- Training on Human Rights Advocacy Projects:**

Another key area of focus for FMSI in 2024 was the promotion of Human Rights advocacy. FMSI organized several training modules aimed at providing participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for engaging in effective Human Rights Advocacy Projects.

**- Collaborative Capacity Building with the Marist Province of Norandina:** FMSI worked closely with the Marist Province of Norandina to enhance internal processes, improve organizational alignment, and strengthen the effectiveness of solidarity actions. This collaborative process emphasized the importance of continuous learning, knowledge sharing, and improving the instruments used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of solidarity projects. A significant focus was placed on creating a strategic, systemic approach to fundraising, ensuring the sustainability of solidarity efforts within the Province.

In addition to the formal training sessions, FMSI continued to provide ongoing support to participants through regular follow-up sessions, ensuring the effective implementation of skills and strategies learned during the training.

Support of the Marist Brothers' Institute represents a fundamental pillar in the long-term approach to protecting children's rights and promoting their well-being. The Marist Brothers' Institute has always been committed to ensuring that its structures, programs, and activities align with the principles of child safeguarding and respect for human rights, being a strategic partner in educational and community development initiatives. In this context, a project titled **"Training program to enhance Marist Brothers of Africa's skills and competences in child safeguarding and child rights"** was implemented in 2024, funded by an external donor. This program sought to strengthen the skills of the Marist Brothers in Africa in child protection and children's rights. It represents a significant step towards empowering and raising awareness among Marist personnel on crucial issues related to child protection.

# TESTIMONIALS



**BR. FRANCIS JUMBE**  
**MALAWI**

**In your experience, what are the most effective ways to empower children to take an active role in decision-making processes within your projects?**

Every child deserves respect. This helps them feel valued and confident in expressing their opinions. This recognition empowers them to participate in decision-making within their families and communities.

Psychosocial support and peer counseling further strengthen this by encouraging active listening, allowing children to express emotions freely and find solutions to their challenges. Engaging them in project decisions ensures relevance and meaningful participation, as seen in scho-

ols where students helped select psychosocial topics. Additionally, e-learning has given children greater control over their education, with a learner-centered approach leading to improved academic performance and engagement.

**Can you share a concrete example where children's participation has directly influenced a positive change in your community or environment?**

In working with out-of-school youth, the **“Equity of access to quality education for girls and disadvantaged children in Malawi”** project encouraged them to identify their own income-generating activities. After thoughtful discussions, they chose goat keeping, which they felt would benefit their families and communities. This sense of ownership sparked enthusiasm and quickly led to positive results.

A rights-based approach to education, especially emphasizing girls' schooling in both Marist and non-Marist schools, has led to a significant rise in female enrollment. In some schools, girls now outnumber boys, marking a major shift in communities that traditionally prioritized boys' education.

Girls' participation in empowerment clubs and psychosocial training has given them a stronger voice. Initially shy and hesitant, they are now more assertive, proving that, like boys, they can be key agents of community development by standing up, speaking out, and taking action.

**What challenges do you face in promoting children's leadership, and how can organizations better support their active engagement as agents of change?**

Leadership opportunities for children must be age-ap-

propriate to avoid overwhelming them with unrealistic expectations. Assigning tasks that match their developmental stage allows their leadership skills to be recognized and nurtured.

Cultural norms often reinforce the idea that leadership is reserved for elders, making it harder to accept children and youth in such roles. While local culture is valuable, embracing a global mindset can help integrate new perspectives that recognize young people as capable leaders.

Stereotypes linking leadership to age continue to limit children's participation in decision-making.

**Changing this mindset is crucial to ensuring that all children, regardless of gender, age or background, have opportunities to develop leadership skills.**

Lack of support systems further hinders children's leadership potential. Schools, families, and communities must create meaningful spaces where children can take initiative and practice decision-making in a safe, guided environment. Proper mentorship ensures they grow into leadership roles rather than being discouraged by unrealistic expectations or criticism.

**In your experience, what are the most effective ways to empower children to take an active role in decision-making processes within your projects?**

It should be noted that all the **Blue Marists'** educational programs prioritize children's rights especially the right to participate and all involve beneficiaries in decision-making processes. Our educational projects reflect this commitment by considering children's needs as our utmost priority, rather than viewing meeting these needs as an end goal. To incorporate their opinions and ensure participation, we engage with parents, especially in projects involving very young children who may not be able to voice their own needs. Parents serve as effective representatives to express their children's needs, and these significantly impact the project. For older children, we create spaces where they can engage in activities of their choice. These spaces allow them to express and share their opinions on issues related to the projects. This inclusive approach ensures that children's voices are heard and valued in our educational initiatives.

**Can you share a concrete example where children's participation has directly influenced a positive change in your community or environment?**

Last year, we were invited by the Marist Mediterranean Province to join the child protection initiative "**Your Voice Matters**", aimed at youth, and structured in three levels. The first level was local, where youth discussed protection policies, focusing on where they feel safe and where they feel at risk, offering suggestions to improve safety. The second level connected youth from **Syria and Lebanon**, allowing them to share outcomes and ideas on enhancing participation in decision-making. The third level involved youth from the entire Mediterranean Province, discussing topics like online protection and bullying. This year, we launched a similar initiative, in whi-

ch young people elected a council to represent them and to follow up their suggestions about protection and safe co-living. The goal was to involve youth in shaping and applying policies, supporting their voices, and encouraging active participation in decision-making. Some of their proposals will be implemented.

**What challenges do you face in promoting children's leadership, and how can organizations better support their active engagement as agents of change?**

In my opinion, one of the biggest challenges in fostering children's leadership is societal norms and inherited mindsets that see children merely as children, with a belief that their voices don't matter. Society often overlooks the fact that children are naturally true to themselves, and their innate goodness needs recognition and encouragement. Another challenge is the lack of spaces, customs, and training to involve children in decision-making. Many parents also struggle with effective communication, impacting their ability to create a culture that encourages their children to express themselves. For example, in our educational programs, parents are often surprised by how seriously we value a child's feelings and opinions.

Many say, "*No one taught me how to do this,*" highlighting how societal methods of rearing children are often inherited without questioning these methods. These meetings are beginning to make a long-term difference. To better support children as agents of change, organizations should focus on enhancing and expanding safe spaces for youth and providing training for adults and parents involved. **The goal is to empower youth to express their opinions freely and confidently.**



**ODETTE MAKOUKJI**  
**SYRIA**



## STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE UPR PROCESS

### KIRIBATI



#### What was it like to be part of the UPR process? How did you feel knowing that your voice was being heard by an important decision maker?

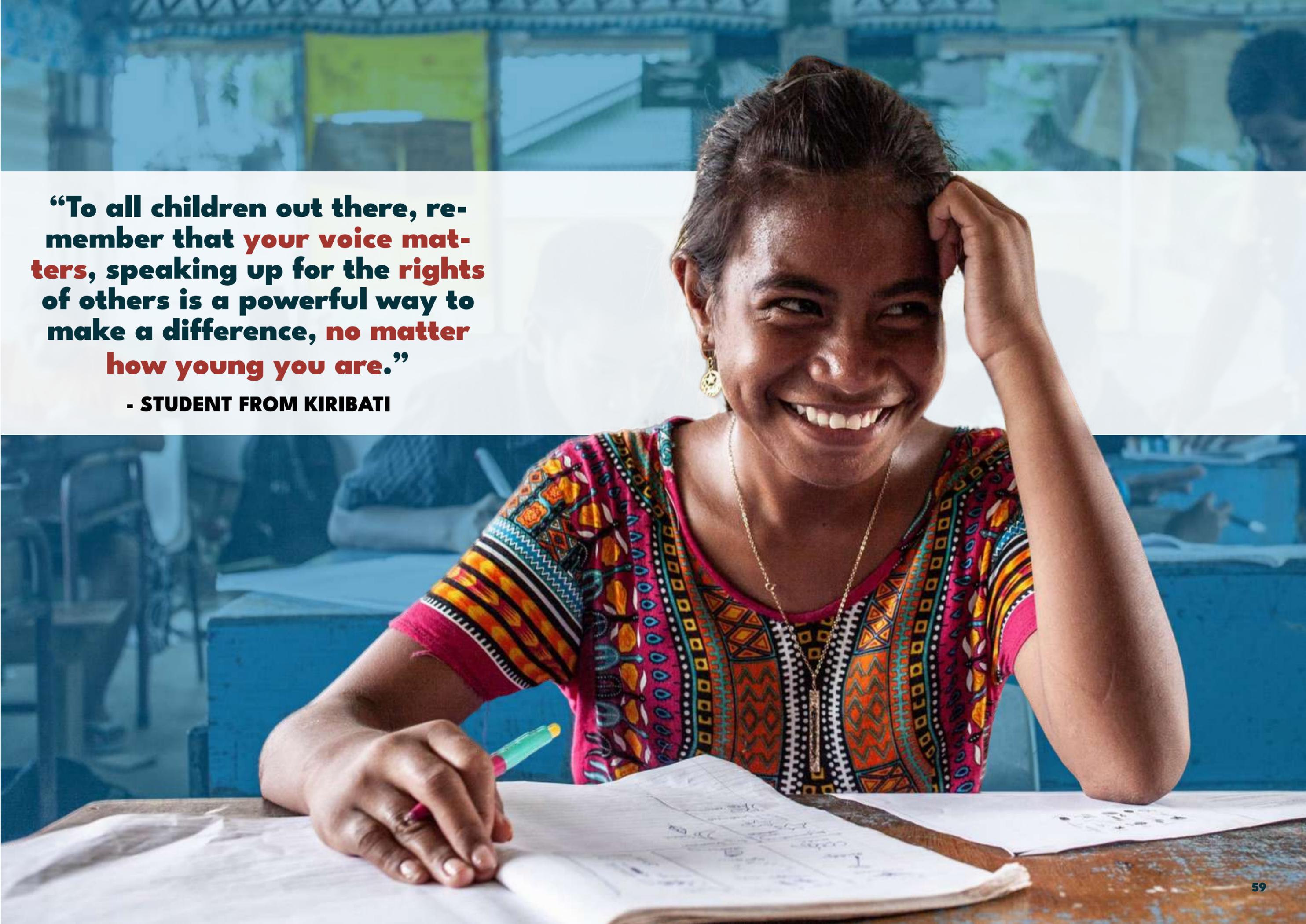
- Hopeful, Lucky to be part of the UPR.
- I feel happy to know that my voice was being heard by an important decision maker, I think they will go through the issues that we have reported to them and they will make a solution to this kind of issue.

#### What issues affecting children did you highlight in your report, and why do you think they are important for your country?

- Transport, climate change, teenage pregnancy.
- The first issue is transport, this issue is very important because most public transport doesn't pay attention to students, they only take adults, while the school bus is not enough for everyone. This issue will affect students for being late to school.
- The second issue is climate change, this issue threatens food security by making it harder to grow and afford food. It is very important for students to study because students will get hungry, while hunger leads to weakness, lack of focus, and poor academic performance.
- The third issue is teenage pregnancy, this issue can have a major impact on students' lives, affecting their education, health, and their future. This issue is very important to the students' future.

#### What message would you like to give to other children about speaking up for their rights and being agents of change?

- To all children out there, remember that your voice matters, speaking up for the rights of others is a powerful way to make a difference, no matter how young you are. Here are a few important messages to keep in mind.
- Believe in yourself, your thoughts and feelings are important. Don't be afraid to share them.
- Be informed. Learning about your rights and understanding what they are is the first step to standing up for them.
- Remember you are the future, and it is your passion and effort that will help shape a better world. Keep shining your light and speaking out.
- I will use this platform in order to be heard.



**“To all children out there, remember that **your voice matters**, speaking up for the **rights of others** is a powerful way to make a difference, **no matter how young you are.**”**

**- STUDENT FROM KIRIBATI**

### Governance and Administration

The Marist International Solidarity Foundation ETS has the statute of a participatory foundation under Italian law and its legal and operational headquarters are located at the General House of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools (its founder) in Piazzale Marcelino Champagnat n.2, Rome. Its fiscal code is 97484360587.

The mandate of the previous councilors ended with the approval of the 2021 Annual Financial Statements. The new Board, in office since 01/06/2022, met 2 times during the year 2024 (on May 27 and on December 13). The meeting in May was held in telematic mode for all members and the December meeting in presence at the Foundation’s headquarters, although it was possible for some Councilors to join the meetings in telematic mode, in accordance with the provisions of the Statute. The term of office of the Councilors ends with the approval of the 2024 Budget.

In addition to the ordinary management activities of the Board, including the approval of the 2023 Financial Statements, the 2024 Budget and the 2023 Annual Report, the Board accepted the resignation of one member, in accordance with the provisions of the statutes. This resulted in a reduction of its members to five. It is important to specify the commitment to adopt all the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with the current legislation on the Third Sector - Legislative Decree no. 117/2017. This commitment complies with the provisions of the registration in the Single National Register of the Third Sector (RUNTS), referred to in Article 45 of the same decree, which took place on 04/10/2023 with resolution no. G13035.

# ORGANISATION

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLE	NAME	ORIGIN	TERM OF OFFICE
President	Kenneth Charles McDonald – FMS	Australia	2022 - 2024
General Secretary	Maria Inmaculada Maillo	Spain	2022 - 2024
Councilor	Jorge Gaio – FMS	Brazil	2022 - 2024
Councilor	Angela Matulli	Italy	2022 - 2024
Councilor	Rebecca Jane Bromhead*	Australia	2022 - 2024
Councilor	Fortune Chiedzo Chakasara – FMS	Zimbabwe	2022 - 2024

\* No longer a member of the FMSI Board of Directors as of December 13, 2024.  
The members of the Board of Directors do not receive remuneration.

### BOARD OF AUDITORS

ROLE	NAME	TERM OF OFFICE
Chairman	Dr. Giovanni Battista Provenzano	2023 - 2025
Auditor	Dr. Luigino Fiorio	2023 - 2025
Auditor	Dr. Fabrizio Levantini	2023 - 2025
Substitute	Dr. Giovanni Sebastio	2023 - 2025
Substitute	Dr. Rocco Positano	2023 - 2025

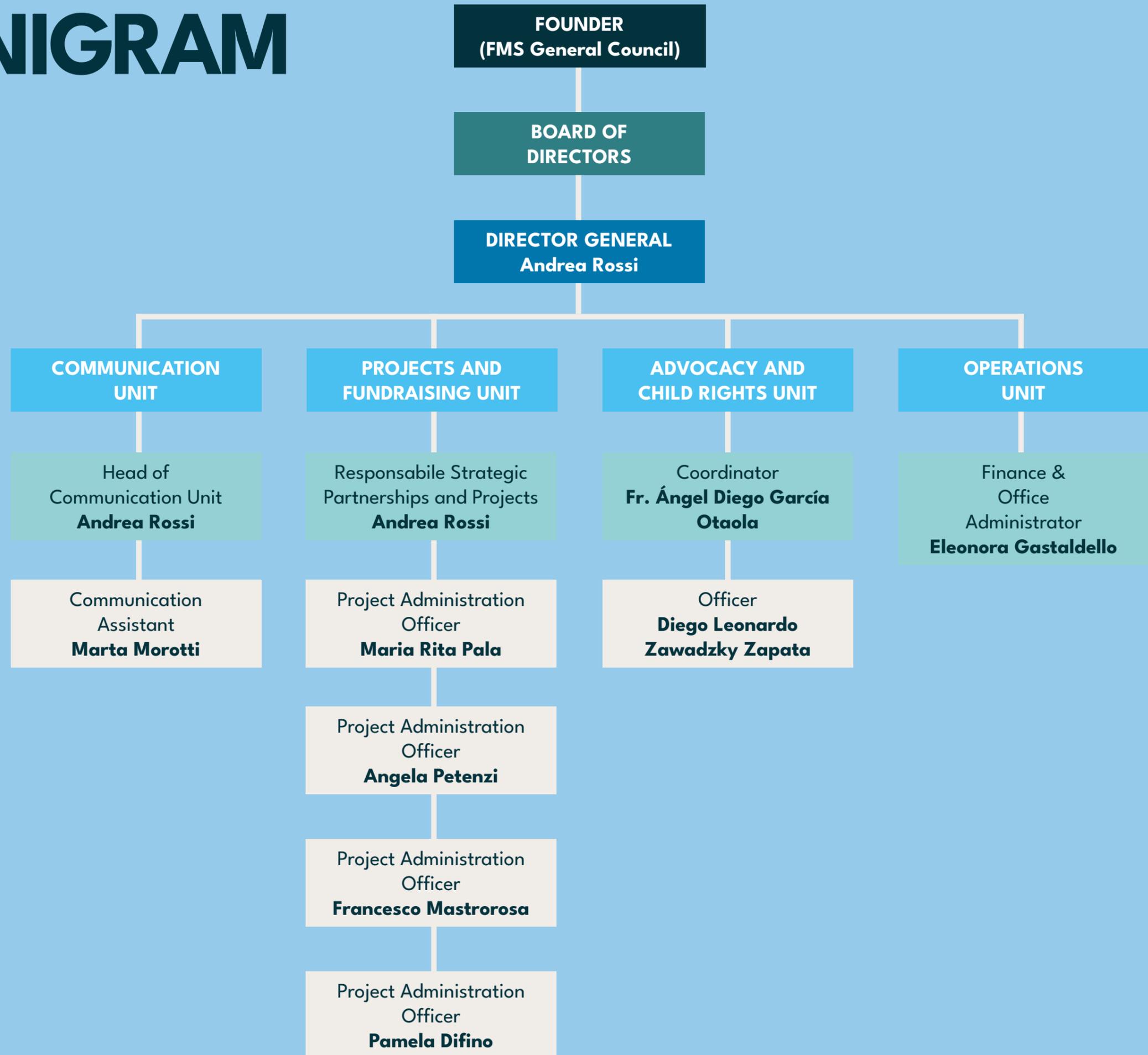
The total fees paid to the Board of Auditors in 2024 amounted to €6,067 (plus IVA and legal charges).

### SUPERVISORY BOARD

#### Luca Pardo, Lawyer

In accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree no. 231/2001, although it does not have any regulatory obligation, FMSI has its own MOGC 231 Model, a Manual of Procedures, a Code of Ethics and a Supervisory Board, this task being assigned to Luca Pardo, Lawyer.

# ORGANIGRAM

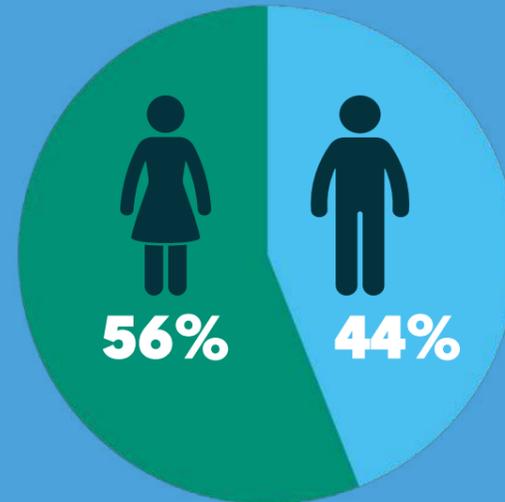


# OUR STAFF

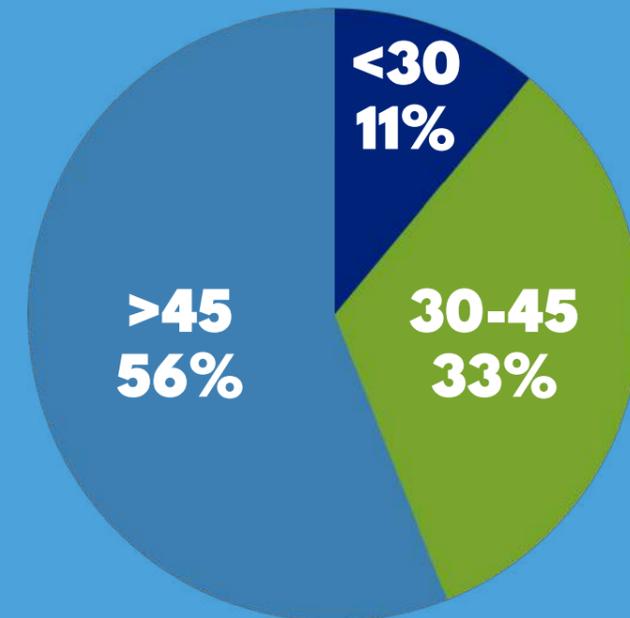
Throughout most of 2024, FMSI had 7 permanent operational staff: a General Director, a Financial and Administration Officer, a Communication Assistant and 4 Project Managers. As of 31/12/2024, the workforce totalled 9 members due to the presence of 1 trainee and 1 intern. The applied contract is the National Collective Labour Contract “Social Welfare Institutions, AGIDAE” and 71% of employees as of 31/12/24 were hired on a permanent basis.

Within the staff there was a fixed-term contract, and a two-year apprenticeship contract active. Additionally, there are also three individuals who work on a voluntary basis in individual fundraising and awareness campaigns. It is worth noting the valuable contribution provided by the two Brothers, members of the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, operating in the Advocacy and Child Rights unit. The work of volunteers and Brothers is valued in the “Figurative Costs” section of the Annual Financial Report.

## GENDER



## AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE 4,5 YEARS



## AGE

### TABLE OF CONTRACTUAL LEVELS

ROLE	DIRECTOR	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER
LEVEL	F2	D1	D1	D1	D1	D1	C2
TYPOLOGY	Permanent Full-time	Fixed-term Full-time	Apprenticeship/ Permanent Full-time	Permanent Full-time	Permanent Part-time	Permanent Part-time	Full-time Apprenticeship

### SALARY TABLE

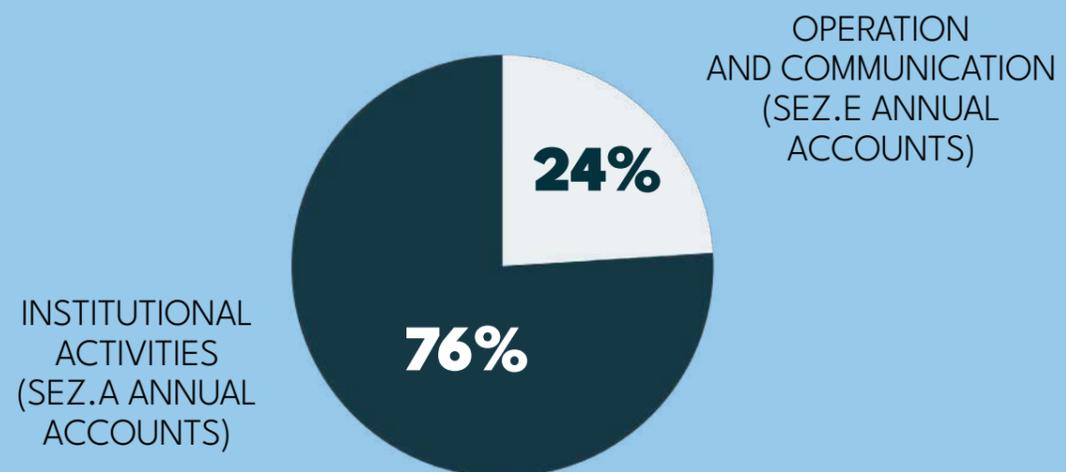
GROSS ANNUAL SALARY (€)	No. of employees	Of which part-time
15.000 – 19.999	3	1
20.000 – 24.999	2	1
25.000 – 45.000	2	-

In compliance with the Third Sector Code legislation, art. 16 of Leg.ve Decree n.117/2017, the ratio of FMSI employees’ pay differentials - calculated on the basis of the gross annual salary - is 2.37, therefore much smaller than the 1 to 8 ratio ceiling allowed.

During the year, an extra-curricular internship was completed within the Communication Unit and an extra-curricular internship and an internship were launched within the Projects Unit. With respect to the internship in the Communication area, the goal was to give greater visibility to the Foundation through social channels, organize and promote FMSI events, strengthen communication tools for greater usability of the Foundation's contents and actions. Subsequently, the intern undertook an apprenticeship within FMSI. With regard to the Projects Unit, the objective of the two interns was to acquire and strengthen skills in the development, presentation and management of project proposals for education and promotion of children's rights and to support project managers in the implementation and reporting activities of ongoing projects.

The distribution of the work commitment of FMSI's staff is strongly oriented towards managing ongoing projects in various countries worldwide and seeking funding opportunities for new development projects thanks to the commitment to communication and dissemination through social channels. Equally important are the efforts and attention devoted to ensuring proper and transparent organizational management and functioning processes.

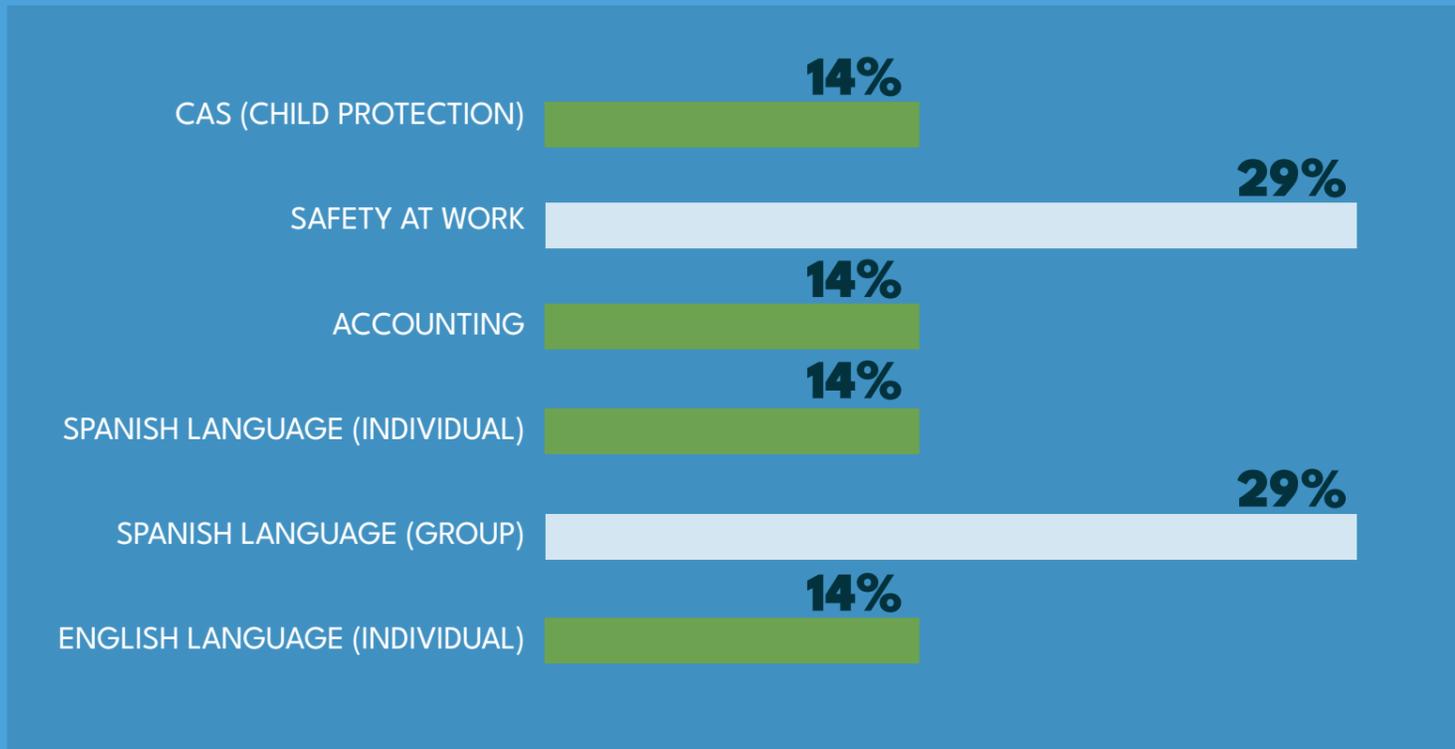
From 2023, FMSI implemented an internal management control system to monitor and calibrate the workload of human resources in different intervention areas. This system allows an analytical reporting of the work commitment in accordance with the classifications required by the Third Sector Code regulations. Additionally, a procedure for monitoring the financial progress of ongoing projects has been introduced and implemented to enhance the efficiency of project financial management: identifying and preventing issues, improving reporting quality, facilitating information flow, providing calibrated tools, and strengthening field representatives.



In accordance with the new classification of activities introduced in the Third Sector Reform, the projection reflects the allocation of human resources adopted during the preparation of the Annual Financial Report.

Every year, FMSI's Board of Directors allocates funds for the enhancement and development of its staff's skills. During 2024, there were 6 training programs, totalling 234 hours of training provided, involving most of the Foundation's employees, focusing on what have been identified as the main areas of interest:

- **Language skills, 3 courses and 42% of staff involved**
- **Technical skills (Child Rights area and operation area), 2 courses and 28% of the staff involved**
- **Safety at work, 2 courses and 28% of the staff involved.**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>A) Expenditure on general interest activities</b>		
1) Supplies		
2) Services	53.141,94 €	28.230,54 €
3) Use of third party assets	5.520,29 €	10.368,21 €
4) Staff costs	212.315,31 €	200.709,69 €
5) Annual amortizations	1.349,25 €	712,58 €
7.1) Donations for projects	2.257.835,26 €	1.756.876,79 €
7.2) Other operating expenses	21.811,72 €	17.935,31 €
<b>Total A)</b>	<b>2.551.973,77 €</b>	<b>2.014.833,12 €</b>
<b>C) Fundraising costs</b>		
1) Costs for regular fundraising	6.110,00 €	7.192,26 €
<b>Total C)</b>	<b>6.110,00 €</b>	<b>7.192,26 €</b>
<b>D) Charges from financial assets and liabilities</b>		
1) Bank charges	4.362,06 €	4.184,57 €
6) Other charges	2.550,00 €	
<b>Total D)</b>	<b>6.912,06 €</b>	<b>4.184,57 €</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>E) Operating expenses</b>		
1) Supplies	169,90 €	
2) Services	36.795,90 €	31.025,65 €
4) Staff costs	27.762,57 €	23.190,61 €
7) Other charges	2.755,43 €	896,56 €
<b>Total E)</b>	<b>67.483,80 €</b>	<b>55.112,82 €</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2.632.479,63 €</b>	<b>2.081.322,77 €</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>A) Revenue from general interest activities</b>		
1) Donations from Founder	366.603,50 €	397.048,86 €
5) Public contribution (5 per mille)	-	-
6) Donations from private entities	2.229.027,34 €	1.717.148,66 €
8) Donations from public entities	29.400,56 €	-
10) Other revenues	2.564,86 €	2,58 €
<b>Total A)</b>	<b>2.627.596,26 €</b>	<b>2.114.200,10 €</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>C) Revenues from fundraising activities</b>		
1) Revenues from regular fundraising	3.951,00 €	5.286,23 €
<b>Total C)</b>	<b>3.951,00 €</b>	<b>5.286,23 €</b>
<b>D) Revenues from financial and asset activities</b>		
1) From bank charges	1.433,54 €	1.255,54 €
2) From other financial investments	-	-
<b>Total D)</b>	<b>1.433,54 €</b>	<b>1.255,54 €</b>
<b>E) General support income</b>		
2) Other	2.443,06 €	5.871,44 €
<b>Total E)</b>	<b>2.443,06 €</b>	<b>5.871,44 €</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.635.423,86 €</b>	<b>2.126.613,31 €</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>2.944,23 €</b>	<b>45.290,54 €</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		
<b>Figurative Costs</b>		
1) From general interest activities	106.473,12 €	187.935,80 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.473,12 €</b>	<b>187.935,80 €</b>
<b>Figurative Income</b>		
1) From general interest activities	-	101.243,00 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101.243,00 €</b>



# NETWORKS AND PARTNERS



BICE (*Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance*) is an international network composed of over 80 organizations around the world committed to defending the dignity and rights of children. BICE bases its work on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which it contributed during its drafting. BICE implements interventions in partnership with its network members in various areas of the world where children are victims of violence, poverty, discrimination, war, and forced displacement. BICE advocates for children's rights before national and international institutions, particularly at the United Nations, actively participating in the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. BICE also conducts numerous research studies, particularly on resilience, children's rights, and spirituality. FMSI has been a member of BICE for over 10 years, during which they have implemented training projects for educators and local workers and resilience initiatives. FMSI and BICE have also collaborated in presenting reports on the situation of children in States undergoing UPR reviews and in organizing advocacy and awareness-raising events.



CCIG (*Centre Catholique International de Genève*) was established in 1950 and over time has involved an increasing number of organizations working in development cooperation, education, social assistance, and human rights. With over fifty years of experience working with the United Nations and its consultative status with ECOSOC, CCIG provides services and assistance to NGOs interacting with or working within the UN system. Through its network, CCIG promotes the exchange of information and best practices among NGOs in their relations with international organizations, offers training sessions and seminars on UN human rights mechanisms, and facilitates the sharing of experiences through meetings and public awareness events. FMSI and CCIG jointly implement projects to strengthen local communities and train workers, as well as initiatives defending human rights—especially children's rights—in various countries.



Child Rights Connect is a global network of 80 national and international NGOs committed to ensuring that all children fully enjoy their rights as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Child Rights Connect works with independent NGOs in all countries that have ratified the CRC and/or its optional protocols. Since its founding in 1983, the group has gained significant experience in children's rights, providing a coordinated platform for NGO action and playing a key role in major developments related to children's rights. The network includes members at national, regional, and international levels, including other networks and child-led organizations. Child Rights Connect maintains working relationships with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and holds ECOSOC Special Consultative Status, enabling full participation in UN deliberations.



Edmund Rice International (ERI) is a non-governmental organization committed to improving the living conditions of children and young people marginalized by poverty, lack of access to education, legal status, their living environment, or involvement in armed conflict. ERI works at the international level to promote and defend the rights of children and youth, particularly the fundamental right to education. FMSI and ERI collaborate on international campaigns for children's rights and in the submission of reports on the situation of children and young people in states participating in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.



FOCSIV (*Federazione degli Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario*) is the largest Italian federation of Christian organizations for international cooperation and volunteering, with 86 member organizations operating in over 80 countries worldwide to carry out development projects in the following areas: social and health, agriculture and food, education and training, child and youth protection, institutional strengthening, human rights defense, and gender equality. FMSI is a member of FOC-SIV and actively participates in the initiatives promoted by the Federation, such as awareness campaigns, fundraising, institutional lobbying, and regional projects. The latest initiative was the [Tutti Fratelli Guide for Integral Ecology](#).



The Forum of Catholic NGOs in Rome was created to promote the active role of NGOs in civil society at various levels (local, national, and international) and within the United Nations, contributing to the implementation of human rights and the promotion of social justice. FMSI has participated by presenting its own projects as good practices in cooperation at various seminars and events organized at FAO by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD, and WFP, in collaboration with the Forum of Catholic NGOs.



The three Marist Publishers - Edelvives in Spain, Gram in Argentina, and FTD in Brazil - work together to create synergies and new opportunities for the Marist mission through entrepreneurial activity, promoting education as a factor for human and social development. The three publishers support FMSI's programs for access to education for children in economic vulnerability and marginalization.



*Fratelli* Lebanon is a Lebanese association formed by the Marist Brothers and the De La Salle Brothers, created to implement joint programs for children and youth – both Lebanese and migrant/refugees – in conditions of greater vulnerability. In particular, the Association is responsible for the Brothers for Social Inclusion program, which promotes the human and economic development of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through educational activities (literacy, schooling, vocational courses), socialization, and recreational activities aimed primarily at children and youth.



The Marist Network of Solidarity *Corazón Solidario* was officially founded in 2006 in Belo Horizonte to promote collaboration among NGOs, foundations, and other Marist entities in Latin America for solidarity and children's rights. FMSI participates in the coordination committee of the network, which defines rules for collaboration, plans strategies and initiatives, and promotes training courses for network members. The *Corazón Solidario* Network is composed of 26 regional Marist organizations for solidarity and children's rights promotion, 5 international NGOs, 13 local and national NGOs, and 42 informal local groups.



The Blue Marists, founded in 2012 and inspired by the Marist charism, are named after the blue color of their shirts, which make them easily recognizable by the local population. Since the beginning of the war in Syria, the group, made up of 155 people of all ages, both Christians and Muslims, manages 15 programs to assist the population of Aleppo and displaced communities in nearby camps, providing for basic needs (food, milk for children, hot meals for the elderly, medical assistance, housing), education (schooling for children, vocational training for youth and adults, promoting women's empowerment), and the initiation of local microenterprises.



The De La Salle International Solidarity Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by the Brothers of the Christian Schools to promote children's rights, with a particular focus on providing access to education and training for minors at risk of social and educational exclusion. The foundation emphasizes gender equality and the sustainability of projects. FMSI and the De La Salle International Solidarity Foundation have been collaborating for years on projects supporting migrant and refugee children and in training local educators.



Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) is an international Australian organization focused on development cooperation. Concentrating its work in the Asia-Pacific area, AMS carries out projects primarily in the education sector, ensuring access to quality education for children and youth in condition of vulnerability through the implementation of programs and the construction of school facilities. The collaboration between FMSI and AMS has focused over the years on creating inclusive schools with strong involvement from local communities.



The Spanish NGO SED (*Solidaridad Educación y Desarrollo*) works to promote the Right to Education in Africa, Latin America, and several countries in Europe and Asia. In Spain, it focuses on Education for Development and social change for a more just and compassionate world, through awareness campaigns, promoting Sustainable Development Goals, and Human Rights. Promoted by the Marist Brothers of Spain, SED trains over 100 volunteers per year and supports them in their service in volunteer programs across 14 countries.



The Organization Solidarity with South Sudan was initiated by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the Union of Superiors General (USG) to promote the development of South Sudan through education, healthcare, and sustainable agriculture. FMSI has supported the programs of Solidarity with South Sudan, which operate in four communities, particularly the training of local primary school teachers, nurses, and midwives.



**Croce Rossa Italiana**

The Red Cross aims to provide healthcare and social assistance both in times of peace and during war. The Italian Red Cross (CRI) is under the patronage of the President of the Republic and is part of the International Red Cross Movement. In its international actions, it coordinates with the International Committee of the Red Cross in conflict zones and with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for other interventions. FMSI has donated food supplies and health materials to the Italian Red Cross for COVID-19 prevention.



The Marcellin Foundation was founded in 1993 by the Marists of the Philippines to “support and promote the general well-being of at-risk children and children in conflict with the law.” FMSI collaborates with the foundation in supporting the Marcellin Center, which provides a safe, family-like environment for street children and offers a complete rehabilitation program as an alternative to prison for minors in conflict with the law, in collaboration with the government, schools, and local entrepreneurs, promoting improvements to the local juvenile justice system.



The Three2Six Program, implemented in South Africa for years, aims to provide quality education to migrant and refugee children in order to integrate them into the formal school system. FMSI has supported and collaborated with Three2Six since 2016, with over 2,500 children having successfully participated in the program. Three2Six has received both national and international recognition and participates in various advocacy and awareness activities related to migrant and refugee children's access to quality education.



The Italian Army has supported FMSI projects since 2018 – the year it actively supported the Marist Brothers' efforts in Lebanon to ensure quality education for Syrian, Iraqi, and Lebanese children. The Italian Army, part of a broader context of international forces under the UN framework and faithful to its humanitarian vocation, provides significant logistical support within the *Fratelli* Project, which FMSI has been implementing in Lebanon since 2018. Equally important is the humanitarian support provided through the Military Ordinariate for vulnerable individuals in the city of Rome.



The Community of *Sant'Egidio* is a Catholic lay movement founded in 1968, now present in more than 70 countries across several continents. It supports various initiatives for the people in the most vulnerable conditions. Committed to peace and dialogue between peoples, the Community of Sant'Egidio has been present in Ukraine since the start of the war, assisting the population fleeing and under bombardment by providing food and medical care.



The Francesco Realmondo Association, created in memory of Professor Francesco Realmondo from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, works alongside social workers in Italy and abroad, training them to become resilience tutors. In Italy, it offers support to individuals holding international protection status. Abroad, it works in countries affected by war and environmental disasters, in conditions of poverty and chronic vulnerability. In collaboration with FMSI, the Association has provided training in Syria, Lebanon, and Haiti to help people develop resilience and transform pain into a new starting point.



The PUCPR is one of Brazil's oldest institutions of higher education (the first course in Administration and Finance was created in March 1931, and it was recognized as a university in 1948) and is considered the best private university in the southern region of the country by the Ministry of Education (MEC). A private non-profit institution, it is legally linked to its sponsor, *União Brasileira de Educação e Assistência* - UBEA, a philanthropic institution that is part of the Marist Network.



The NGO *FUNDAMAR*, promoted by the Marist Brothers of Central America, was founded in 2001 to promote sustainable development for children, youth, and families residing in the most disadvantaged areas of Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. In addition to development projects, the organization is a member of important NGO networks in Central and South America for the promotion and defense of children's rights. FMSI has long collaborated with *FUNDAMAR* on educational and training projects, particularly aimed at children, youth, and ethnic minorities, and in advocacy activities for children's rights in Latin America and Central America.



*Centre Culturel* Champagnat Chad is a cultural and social center that provides youth living in conditions of economic and social vulnerability with opportunities for socializing and education in a highly educational environment, offering sports, recreational, cultural activities, and vocational training courses.



St. Paul's Mulungushi Primary School, established by the Marist Brothers in the rural Kapiri Mposhi District of Zambia, provides primary education to 465 students (221 boys and 244 girls) from families of farm laborers living in economic difficulty.



*Centro Educativo Marista Nuestra Señora del Pilar* is an educational institution managed by the Marist Family in Cochabamba, Bolivia, addressing children and youth in conditions of greater economic and social vulnerability.



*Instituto Técnico Vocacional Jesus Obrero* in Ateos, El Salvador, offers vocational training courses to help youth enter the labor market and avoid falling victim to criminal gangs.



*Coeur Sans Frontières* (CSF) is a lay Marist fraternity, established in June 2007 in Goma, working closely with the Marist Congregation in the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect children's rights and ensure access to education and vocational training. CSF collaborates with local traditional leaders, religious leaders, local authorities, child protection community networks (RECOPE), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).



La Marist Preparatory and Junior High school (Sabin Akrofrom – Ghana) was founded in 1998 by the Marist Brothers of Ghana to provide quality education to the poor population of Sabin-Akrofrom and surrounding areas. This peri-urban area in the Ashanti Region lacked school facilities to accommodate a growing youth population, and families with difficult economic conditions could not afford to send their children to city schools. Many children were excluded from the school system due to their inability to afford tuition fees and because they were of working age.



ISCOS is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1983 from the experience of the Cisl trade union to promote actions and international cooperation projects based on the principles of solidarity, social justice, human dignity, and peace. ISCOS's priorities include: defending trade union freedoms and human rights, fighting poverty and discrimination, and supporting communities affected by natural disasters and wars.



PNAEE. In 1944, the Marist Brothers, together with former students, launched 54 Literacy Centers to combat illiteracy in the country. In 1956, the Patronage began educational activities for children excluded from the educational system, and in 1959, it was established as a non-profit Civil Association. From 1991, it supported Community High Schools in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. In 1997, the National Council for Literacy and Educational Extension (PNAEE) was restructured to resume its original goal of combating illiteracy and educational delay. Since 2003, in collaboration with Marista University, it has promoted a Bachelor's Degree in Intercultural Education and a Master's in Secondary Teaching, offering access to higher education and teacher training for indigenous contexts.

# UPR PARTNERS



The University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome promotes integrated teaching and research structures, pursuing the primary goal of promoting the well-being of individuals. It offers students an educational experience aimed at their cultural, professional, and personal growth, focusing on acquiring competencies in the spirit of service. It fosters knowledge, interdisciplinary sciences, and research in all areas that contribute to the overall well-being of individuals. It cares for patients in the unity of their material and spiritual needs, following a vision of life open to transcendence.



Red RUN (Congregaciones Religiosas con representación en las Naciones Unidas) is a network of religious congregations with consultative status at the United Nations, reflecting on the human rights situation in Bolivia and undertaking actions that influence public policies aimed at guaranteeing human rights. Its objectives are to promote active participation of populations in the construction of public policies, establish channels between national decision-making bodies and individuals whose rights are violated, and support actions that promote a change in consciousness.



Movimiento Franciscano Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación (JPIC) was founded in Bolivia in July 1983 to promote greater commitment of the Franciscan family to the country's sociopolitical reality. Its guidelines include promoting the evangelical values of justice, peace, and integrity of creation; creating networks at national and international levels; and coordinating concrete actions to promote human rights, freedom of expression, and the restoration of victims' rights.



Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación - Conferencia Boliviana de Religiosos (JPIC-CBR) is a commission formed by different religious congregations, organized in October 2013, aiming to promote the values of Justice, Peace, and care for creation, as well as the ongoing formation and updating of religious congregations on this topic.



DNI – Bolivia aims for girls, boys, and adolescents to be recognized by society and the State as citizens, subjects of rights, and protagonists of social change within the framework of a culture of rights.



Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia

Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia (CEDIB) is a civil organization that analyzes and provides information on extractivism and human rights in Bolivia.



Instituto de Investigación de la Facultad de Humanidades de la Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno (UAGRM) seeks to influence the effective exercise and protection of the human rights of children, adolescents, and young people through the systematization of information, the development and promotion of research, communication, training, and by holding the State and society accountable.



Universidad Mayor de San Simón – Carrera de Ciencias de la Educación aims to investigate and intervene in educational issues from various theoretical and methodological perspectives through research projects, contributing to educational improvement at local, regional, national, and international levels.



Ñañope is a private, non-profit foundation working in service of domestic workers. Its vision is to improve the quality of life of current and future female domestic workers, both in their professional and personal lives. It offers guidance, training, legal and personal counseling, social networking, and cohabitation opportunities, aiming to prevent human trafficking and ensure dignified life options for its beneficiaries.



Asociación de Apoyo a Familiares Víctimas de Trata y Tráfico de Personas (ASAFAVITTP) is an association composed of families affected by human trafficking, with legal status.



Fundación Hombres Nuevos was founded in 1992 as a non-profit entity whose goal is to improve the quality of life of Bolivia's most disadvantaged populations, promoting equal opportunities through access to basic rights. Its intervention areas include education, health, culture, leisure, and social promotion projects.



Jubilee Foundation is an institution working on governance, public policy, democracy and human rights. It promotes leadership through processes of research, analysis, dissemination, outreach and training, building capacity in allies and networks, to strengthen democratic processes and institutionality, with a rights-oriented approach to extreme poverty reduction.



REPAM Bolivia is a network that cultivates, nurtures and strengthens horizontal processes with peoples and church organizations in the Amazon and other territories. It promotes engaged and sensitive meetings that are also capable of influencing other spheres of awareness and impact.



Fondazione Siamo Mediterraneo Onlus was founded in 2018 by the Mediterranean Marist Province to support the social initiatives of the Marist world in Italy. It works to combat educational poverty and promote social inclusion, transmitting the values of peace, justice and solidarity to ensure equal opportunities for all.



Cooperativa Marcellino Champagnat Impresa Sociale Onlus was established in 2017 with psychoeducational, rehabilitative and sociocultural projects, inspired by the educational method of St. Marcellin Champagnat, aimed at children and adolescents “at risk,” with judicial problems, developmental disorders or difficult family situations. Since 2020, it has run the Marcellin Champagnat Salon Community, welcoming minors aged 13 to 18 with social and judicial problems.



IIMA is an international NGO with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Present in 97 countries, it focuses on the education of children and adolescents, especially those living in the most vulnerable circumstances.



VIDES International is an international NGO with special consultative status with ECOSOC. Founded in 1987, it aims to promote local and international volunteer service and protect the rights of children and women.



Champagnat Foundation (FCH) is a social solidarity nongovernmental organization focused on education, protection and promotion of children’s rights. It works to improve the living conditions of people and communities in vulnerable conditions, promoting social inclusion, human rights and equality of opportunity. Present in Portugal since 1995.



Lar Marista di Ermesinde (LME) is a private non-profit social solidarity institution founded in 1994 by the Marist Brothers of Portugal. It takes in children and youth in at-risk situations, providing them with education and training appropriate for their integral development, according to the Law for the Protection of Minors and Youth.

### **Staff involved:**

Br. Kenneth Charles McDonald - President  
Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola – Advocacy and Child Rights Unit Coordinator  
Br. Diego Leonardo Zawadzky Zapata – Assistant Advocacy and Child Rights Unit  
Andrea Rossi – General Director  
Eleonora Gastaldello - Finance Administration Officer  
Angela Petenzi - Project Administration Officer  
Francesco Mastrorosa - Project Administration Officer  
Maria Rita Pala - Project Administration Officer  
Pamela Difino - Project Administration Officer  
Marta Morotti – Communication Assistant

### **Credits**

Marta Morotti  
Marcello Romagnoli  
Maria Rita Pala  
Pamela Difino  
Andrea Rossi  
Eleonora Gastaldello  
Sara Pilar Cos Maruri  
Mauricio Rocabado Durán  
Fratelli Libano  
Province Brasil Sul-Amazônia  
Province México Occidental  
Australian Marist Solidarity

### **Languages review**

Br. Diego Leonardo Zawadzky Zapata  
Br. Michael Sexton

All information in this document is verifiable and documented. Data is collected in a systematic manner. This Annual Report was approved by the Board of Directors on May 30, 2025.

For information on the 2024 Annual Report:  
Andrea Rossi - arossi@fms.it





**Marist International  
Solidarity  
Foundation ETS**

**FMSI**

For the benefit of children

P.le M. Champagnat, 2  
00144 Rome, Italy  
tel.: +39 06 54 5171  
fax: +39 06 54 517 500  
C.F. 97484360587  
**email: [fmsi@fms.it](mailto:fmsi@fms.it)**



[www.fmsi.ngo](http://www.fmsi.ngo)