



Marist International
Solidarity
Foundation ETS

FMSI

For the benefit of children

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Children: |
Seeds of Change |*



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Dear Brothers, Friends and Supporters of FMSI,

It is with gratitude and renewed hope that I present to you FMSI's Annual Report for 2025, a year marked by deep commitment, courageous participation, and transformative solidarity. This report unfolds under the guiding theme "Children: Seeds of Change," a conviction that has shaped our vision, our actions, and our advocacy throughout the year.

Children are not only the reason for our mission; they are its driving force. When we create spaces where children are heard, protected, and empowered, we are not simply responding to needs—we are nurturing the seeds of a more just and humane world.

This belief was powerfully reaffirmed on 20 November, as we joined the global community in celebrating the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, renewing our collective responsibility to place

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

children's rights at the very centre of our work.

In 2025, FMSI strengthened its advocacy at the international level, submitting 12 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports to the United Nations, all developed with the direct and meaningful contribution of children. These processes went beyond consultation: children analysed their realities, articulated their concerns, and proposed recommendations to their respective governments.

By ensuring that their voices reached UN human rights mechanisms, we affirmed a simple but essential truth—human rights must be at the centre of everything we do, and children must be recognized as legitimate actors within them.

Alongside advocacy, FMSI has continued to accompany the Marist Mission in its ongoing transformation, helping shift expressions of solidarity toward an approach centred on child-rights. This journey calls us to move beyond assistance alone, embracing rights-based frameworks that promote participation, accountability, and systemic change. In doing so, we remain faithful both to international human rights standards and to the Marist Charism that places children and young people, especially the most in vulnerable conditions, at the heart of mission.

The year 2025 was also marked by an extraordinary, record-breaking level of support from our donors. This unprecedented trust has strengthened FMSI's capacity to respond, innovate, and accompany communities with greater depth and continuity.

Your generosity is not only financial—it is a powerful sign of shared belief in children as agents of change.

In the face of emergencies, FMSI continued to act with urgency and compassion. A particular focus this year was the emergency campaign for the Democratic Republic of Congo, responding to the devastating impact of violence and instability on children and families. Even in crisis, our commitment remains clear: emergency responses must protect children's rights while laying the groundwork for dignity, resilience, and long-term recovery.

None of this would be possible without the people who carry FMSI's mission forward. I extend my sincere gratitude to the FMSI Staff and Board of Directors, whose professionalism, dedication, and integrity guide every decision. I also wish to offer a special word of thanks to Br. Ken McDonald, former President of FMSI, for his leadership, vision, and faithful service, which have laid strong foundations for the journey ahead.

Additionally, I recognise all the direct and indirect efforts made by the members of the founding body - *Casa Generalizia Dell'istituto dei Fratelli Maristi Delle Scuole*, which unites efforts and establishes increasingly integrated and cooperative processes.

Finally, to our partners, Brothers, friends, and donors: thank you for continuing to walk with us. By standing with children—listening to them, believing in them, and defending their rights—you help ensure that the seeds we plant today will grow into a future mar-

ked by justice, peace, and hope.
With deep appreciation and commitment,

Br. Jorge Gaio
FMSI President



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.



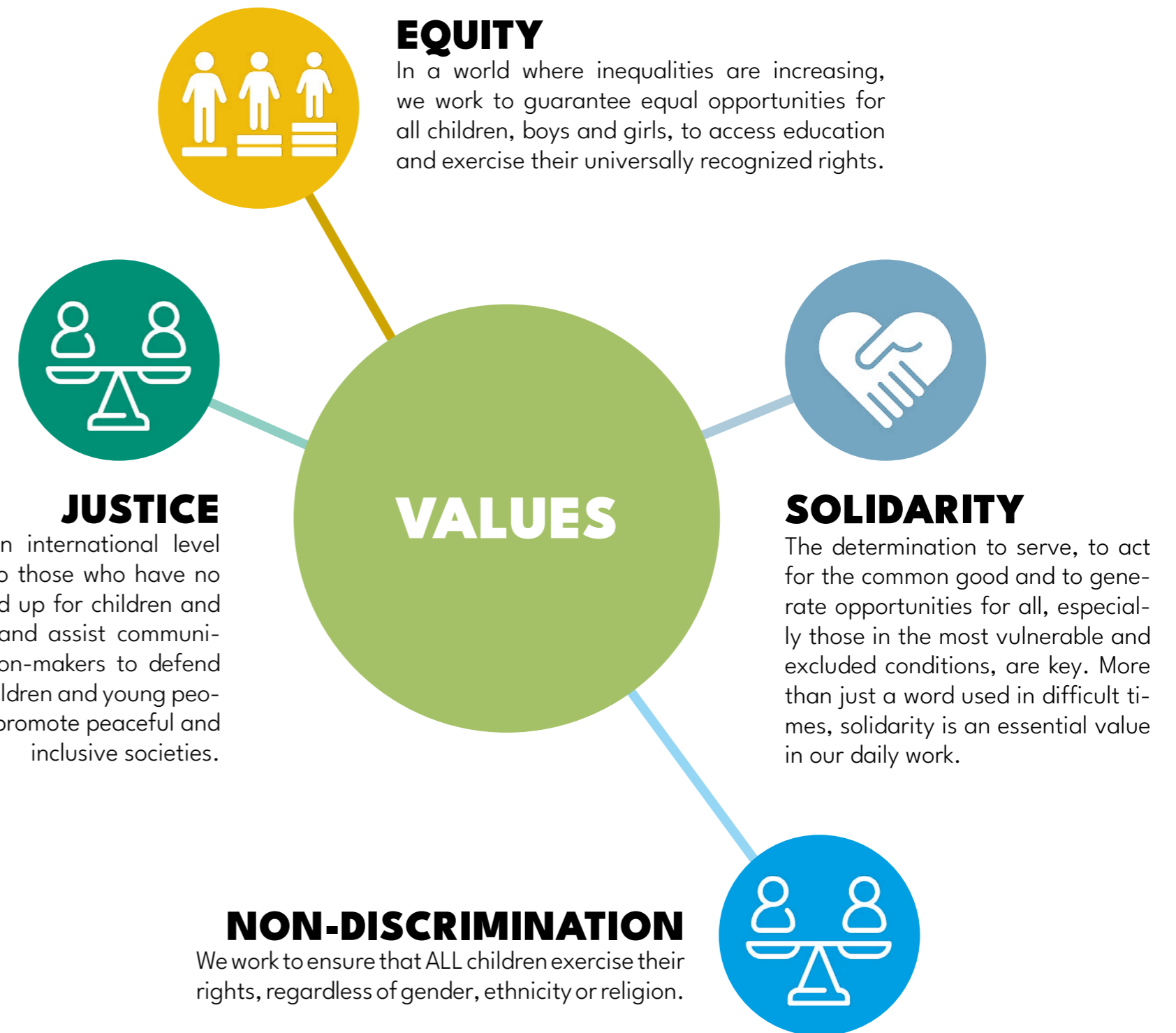
WHO WE ARE

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 18 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.

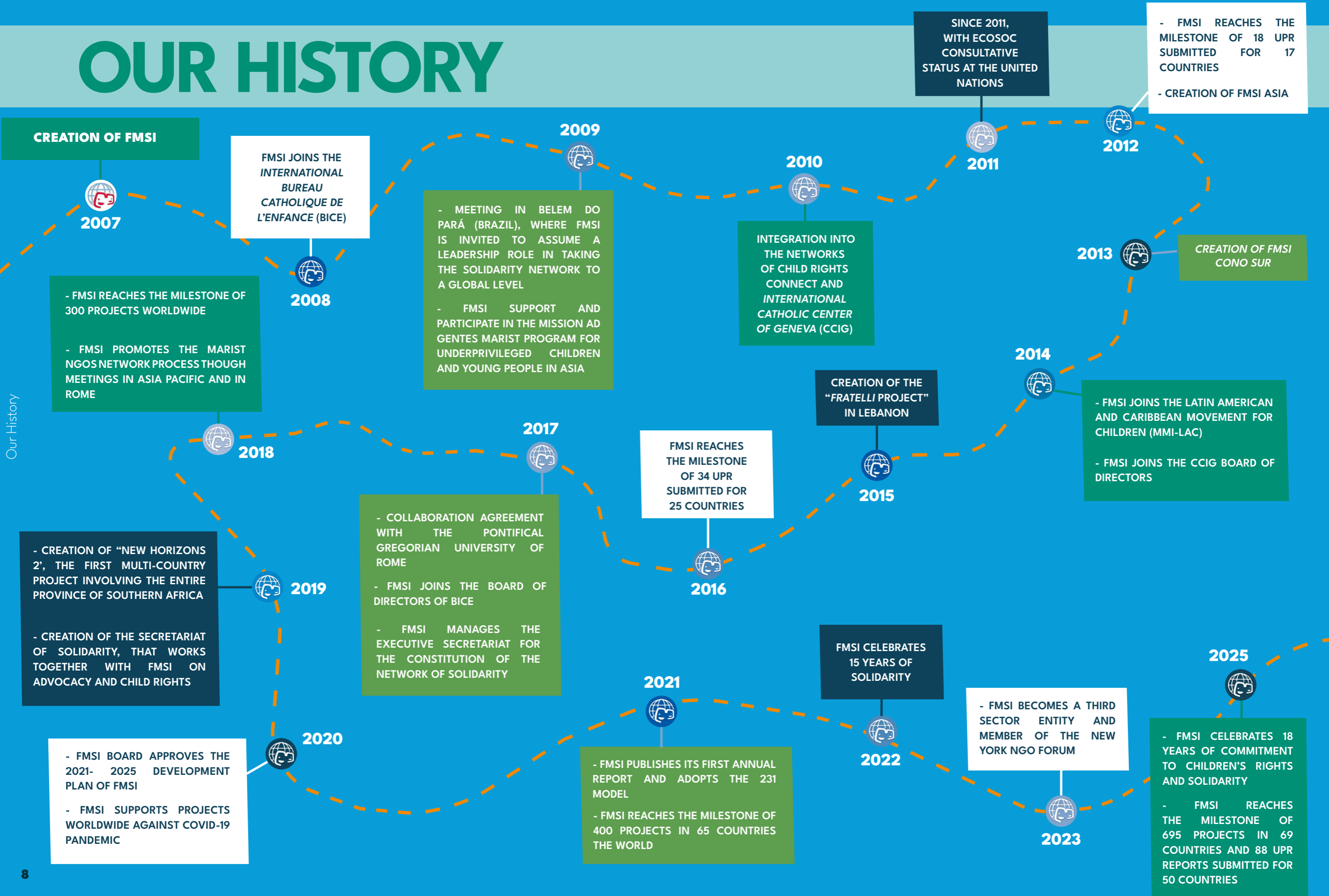
Throughout its history, FMSI has **supported more than 695 projects** and initiatives focusing on inclusive education, solidarity, and child rights **across 69 countries worldwide** with a particular emphasis on addressing vulnerability and marginalization.





OUR HISTORY

Our History



18 YEARS OF FMSI

FMSI, 18 YEARS WALKING ALONGSIDE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

On 24 October, eighteen years ago, in a small room at a notary's office in Rome, the Marist International Solidarity Foundation was born.

Since that day, many changes have taken place in the world. FMSI too has changed, grown, and renewed itself. Yet one thing has never changed: the conviction that every girl and every boy has the right to a safe childhood, to a quality education, and to the opportunity to build their own future.

Today, eighteen years after its founding, FMSI celebrates a story made of relationships and communities, as well as of numbers—across continents, schools, villages, emergencies, and renewed lives. A story built together with educators, Marist Brothers, local partners, and donors who have believed in the power of solidarity.

Special thanks go to the former President, Br. Kenneth Charles McDonald, for his leadership, dedication, and passion, which helped guide the Foundation through the most crucial stages of its growth.

Over the years, the Foundation has worked in contexts marked by war, migration, and poverty, supporting schools, educational programmes, and emergency initiatives that have restored dignity and hope to thousands of children, young people, and families.

Not only solidarity, but real participation: every project has become a space for learning and for rights, where those living in vulnerable conditions have been able to make their voices heard.

Since 2011, with consultative status at the United Nations, FMSI has also brought that voice to the places where policies are shaped. Through advocacy pathways and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), girls, boys, and adolescents have been involved in formulating recommendations addressed to their governments.

A concrete sign of how participation can turn into real change: new laws, awareness-raising campaigns, and an increasingly shared culture of rights.

Every milestone is the result of collective work.

FMSI never walks alone: it works in network with Marist and lay organisations, with journalists, institutions, and local communities. And it does so thanks to the constant support of donors who share the same vision: a fairer world, where every childhood can be lived to the full.

Eighteen years on, the Foundation looks to the future with the same energy as on its first day.


With the strength of lived experience and the certainty that every step, every encounter, and every project can help build a future in which rights are not a privilege, but an everyday reality.



WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE,
CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE



FMSI IN NUMBERS (2007-2025)

695 
PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED

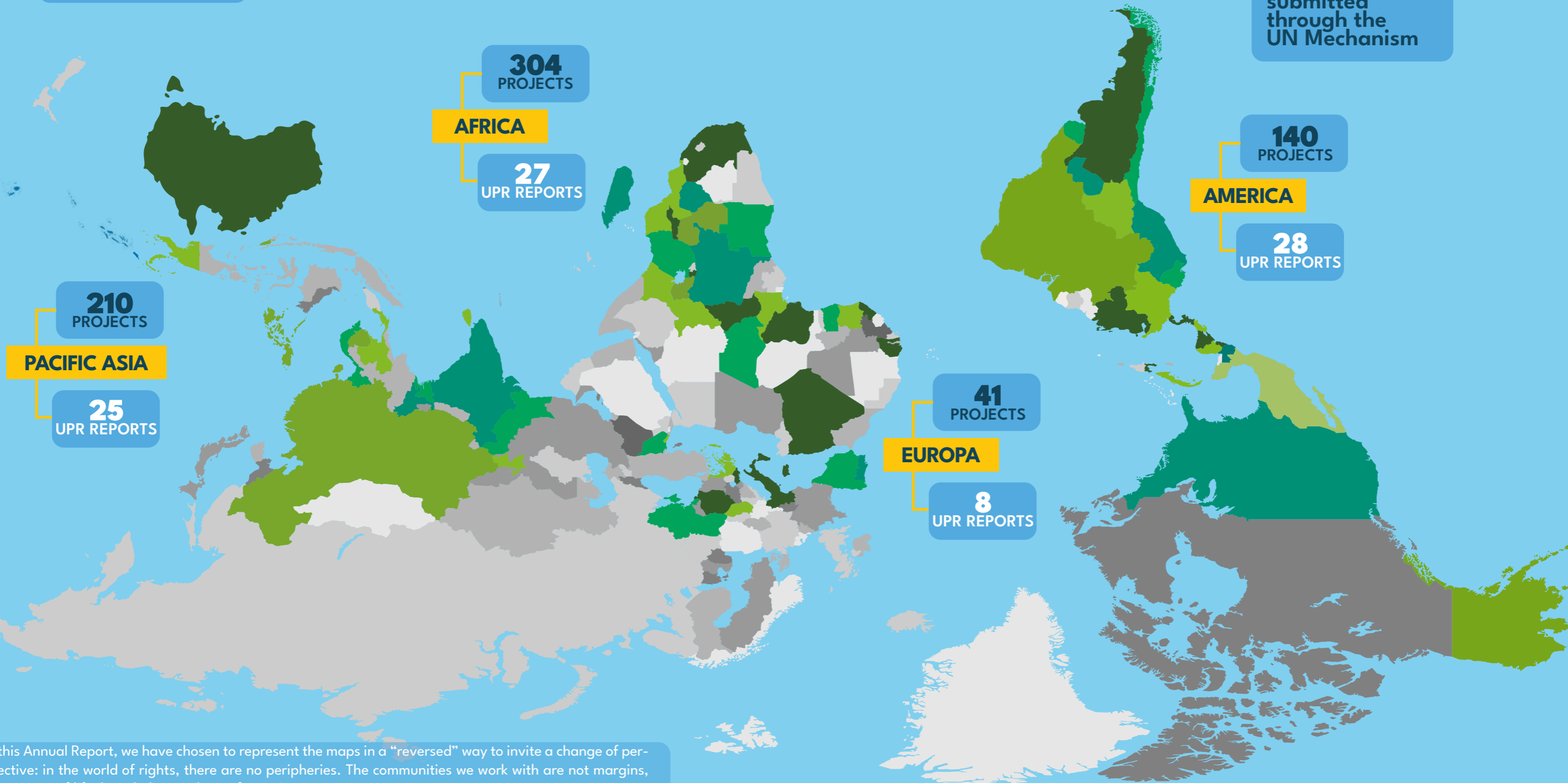
69 
COUNTRIES

7.094.929 
BENEFICIARIES

15.778.224 
EURO ALLOCATED

88 
UPR Reports
on Child Rights
submitted
through the
UN Mechanism

FMSI in Numbers



i In this Annual Report, we have chosen to represent the maps in a “reversed” way to invite a change of perspective: in the world of rights, there are no peripheries. The communities we work with are not margins, but centres of life, knowledge, and transformation.

STAKEHOLDER MAP





THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTION

In 2025, 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 2025, to the realisation of **83 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 2025, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI have successfully collaborated to present a total of **12 UPR reports, all prepared with the active participation of children**. These reports, a result of close partnerships with various stakeholders, were presented for Malawi, Mozambique, Liberia, Rwanda, Australia, the Solomon Islands, Paraguay, Honduras, the United States, Lebanon, Belgium, Singapore.

FMSI's action in 2025 included the global fundraising campaign for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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 wherever its intervention is 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. Methodological note 186 of 8-9-2019). Its objective is to report all FMSI activities carried out in 2025. The frequency and the boundaries of reporting coincide with those of the 2025 Financial Statements, approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 20th May 2026. In defining the themes and methods of reporting, particular attention was paid to the information 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 2025
- 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 2025 implements the same classification and presentation of achievements proposed in the 2024 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 2025: 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 2025 but not yet finalized as at 31.12.2025, the official project data in the application form are taken into account.

All projects which began after October 2025 (CAF0100, COD0523, HTI0730, HTI0740, HTI0750, IND0212, IND0300, IND0301, INT0400, LBN0121, LNB0158, LBN0401, MDG0406, MOZ0400, MOZ0401, NGA0103, NGA0400, RWA0201, SYR0336, SYR0346, SYR1000, THA0102, SYR0612; MDG1200; KHM0700; PNG0200; SYR0612; INT0207; COD0520; COD0521; BGD0421; SYR0315) 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 consider the results produced by projects excluded for the same reason in the 2024 version (MDG1000; MDG1001; CMR0400; COL0106; ZMB0301; LBN0440; BGD0311; NGA0300; ZMB0700; HTI0401).

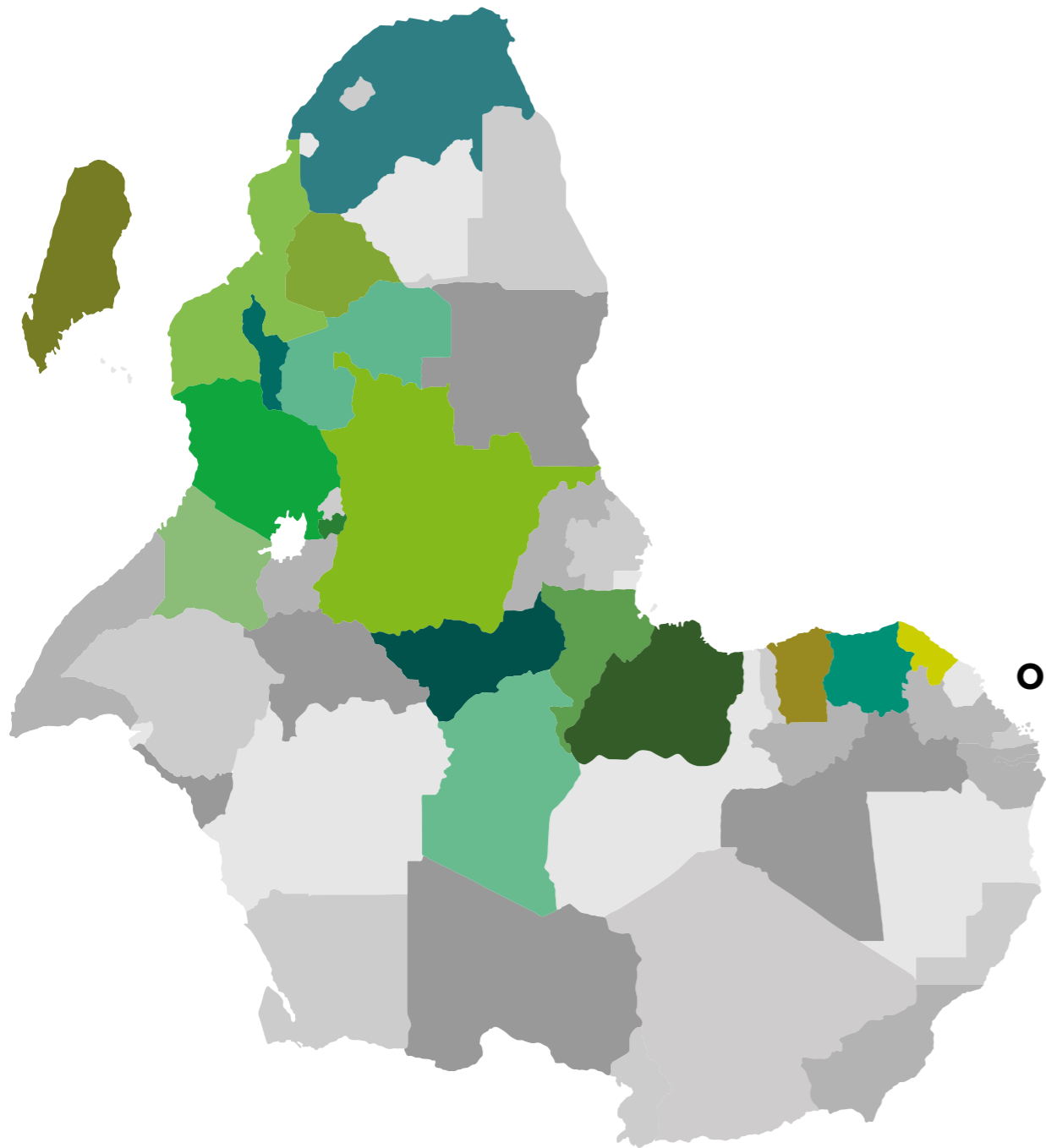
Beginning from 2024, FMSI, together with the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI, is strengthening its commitment to Advocacy and Child Rights projects and activities by placing greater emphasis on amplifying children’s voices in all its actions.



LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2025

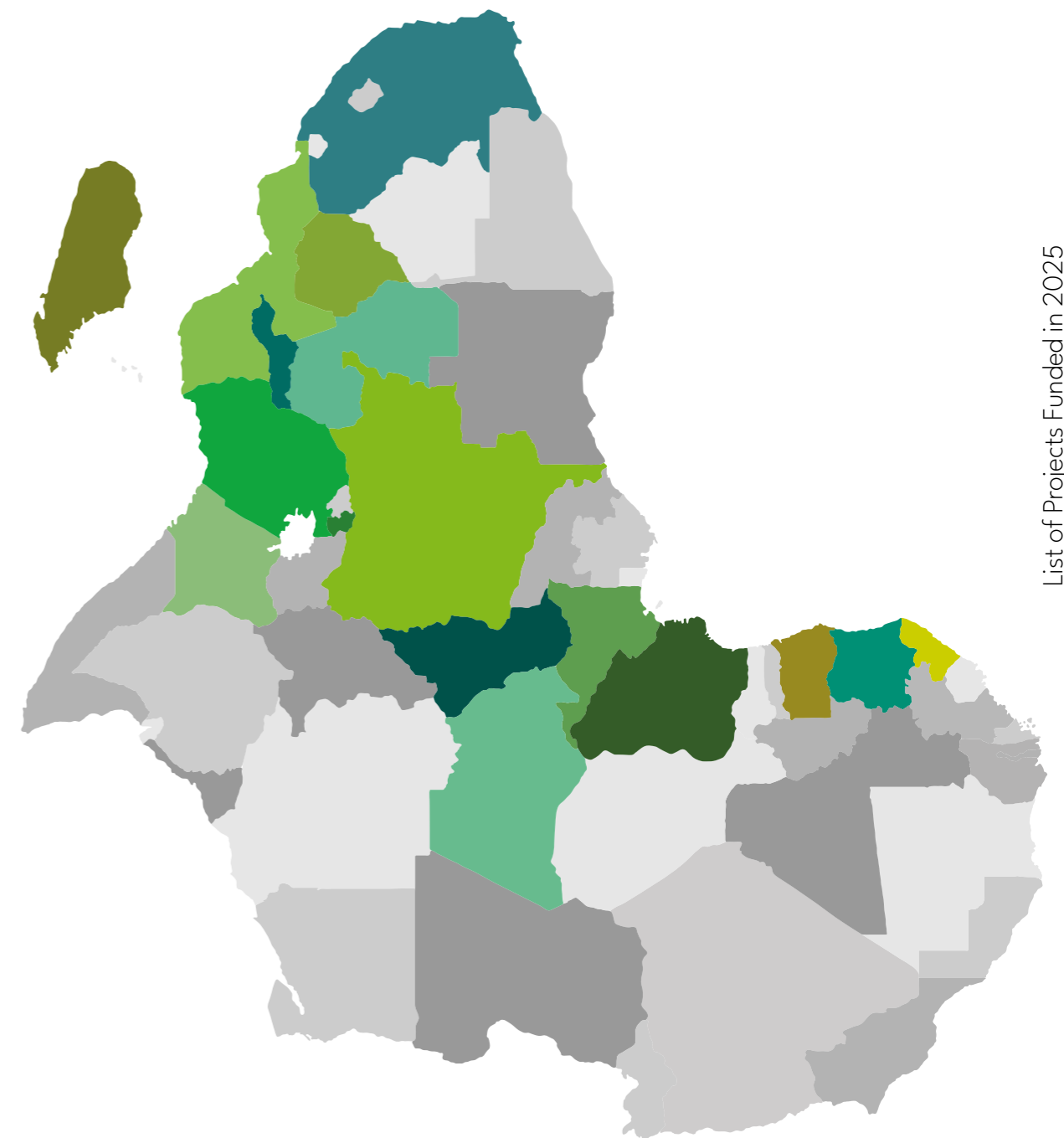
AFRICA

List of Projects Funded in 2025

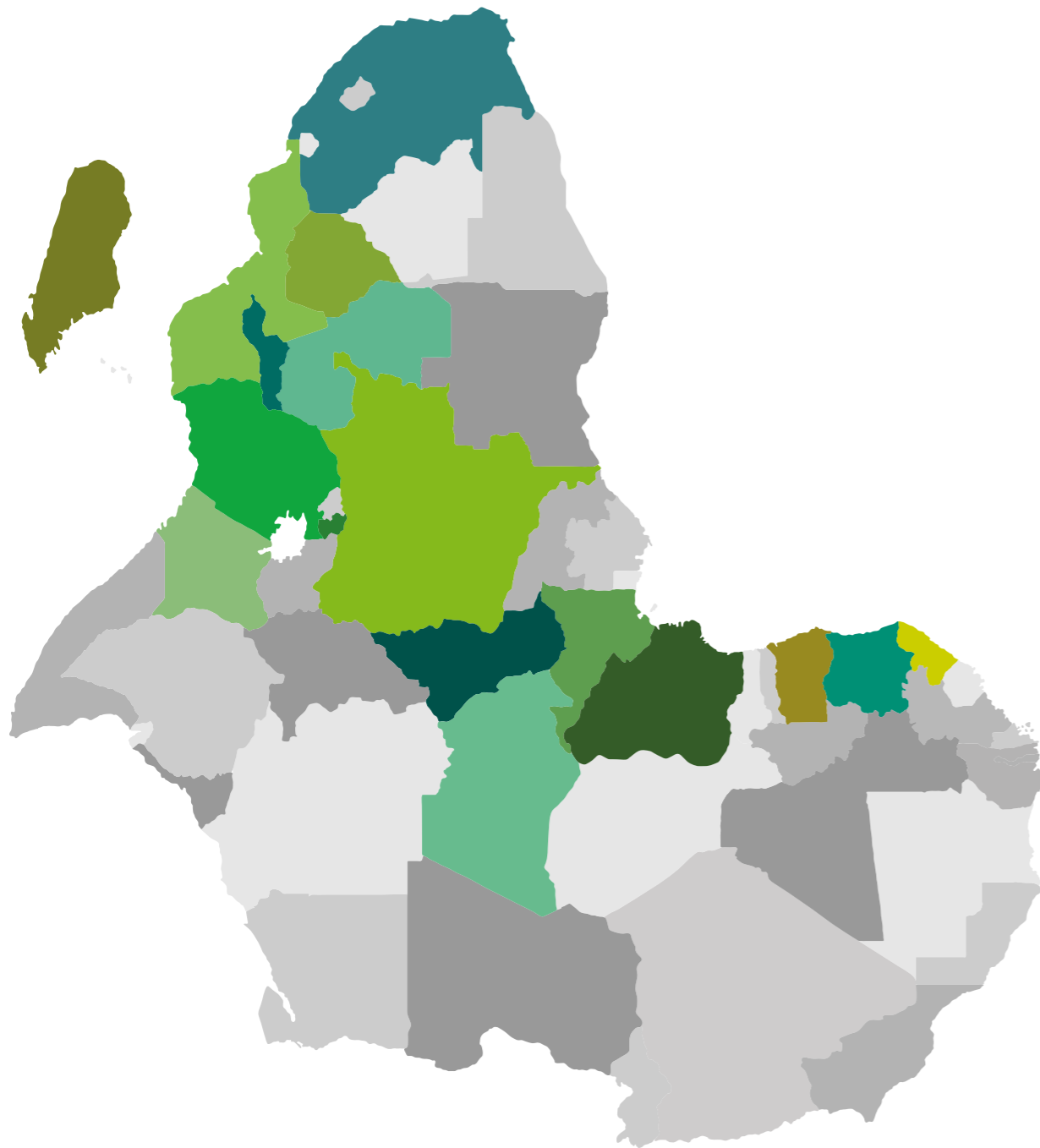















COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Accès aux équipements de laboratoire de biologie, sciences physiques et chimie au Lycée Saint Marcellin CHAMPAGNAT de Berberati en République Centrafricaine	5.000,00 €
CAMEROON	Construction of classrooms in Douala as primary school to improve and promote access to education for displaced for 800 Anglophone children/students	57.303,00 €
	A project to set up a science laboratory in a Marist School to enhancing students' understanding of scientific concepts through hands on experiment and investigation	4.151,97 €
	Help to students who have experienced violence, displacement and loss to reduce their traumatic experiences through psychosocial support at Saint Albert's Comprehensive College (SACC) Bafut	5.000,00 €
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	Support to the people affected by the conflict in DRC	15.000,00 €
	Support to the people affected by the conflict in DRC	15.000,00 €
	Support to the people affected by the conflict in DRC	10.000,00 €
	Humanitarian support for conflict-affected communities in DRC	15.000,00 €
	Support for EP 1 and EP 2 Chololo: Marist primary schools assisting internally displaced students from the Mbole-Lengola conflict	5.000,00 €
	Rebâtir l'Espoir: Résilience et Autonomie pour les Enfants Victimes de Conflits et d'Abus au Nord Kivu	5.000,00 €

IVORY COAST	<p>Nutrition, education and healthcare for internally displaced people, vulnerable families, orphans and people without financial means in Minova and Bobandana village in South Kivu in DRC</p>	8.560,00 €
GHANA	<p>Construction of a kindergarten (six classrooms) block for the improvement of early childhood education at Buokrom Estate, Kumasi</p>	40.000,00 €
KENYA	<p>Support to the Brothers in Roo and Orote to provide food for the pupils and students in Bishop Mugendi Secondary Sschool, Ogange and Kuja Primary School for disabled children and food for St. Monica Group</p> <p>Borehole cleaning water well at Bishop Mugendi School in Roo</p> <p>School fees to support Bishop Mugendi Secondary School in Roo</p>	<p>14.000,00 €</p> <p>2.100,00 €</p> <p>5.000,00 €</p>
LIBERIA	<p>Completion of six classrooms elementary school at the Marist Brothers Catholic School in Kpan Marshall District to promote the teaching and learning conditions (Liberia)</p>	45.636,00 €
MADAGASCAR	<p>Accesso all'acqua potabile per la comunità di Betroka</p> <p>Support to the people affected by the cyclone Dikeledi in Madagascar</p> <p>Feeding Program Betroka</p> <p>Feeding Program Betroka</p> <p>New Horizons for a transformative education model in Madagascar</p> <p>Purchase of furniture for provincialate at Antsirabe / Madagascar</p>	<p>7.000,00 €</p> <p>15.000,00 €</p> <p>27.126,80 €</p> <p>22.439,88 €</p> <p>41.000,00 €</p> <p>10.000,00 €</p>



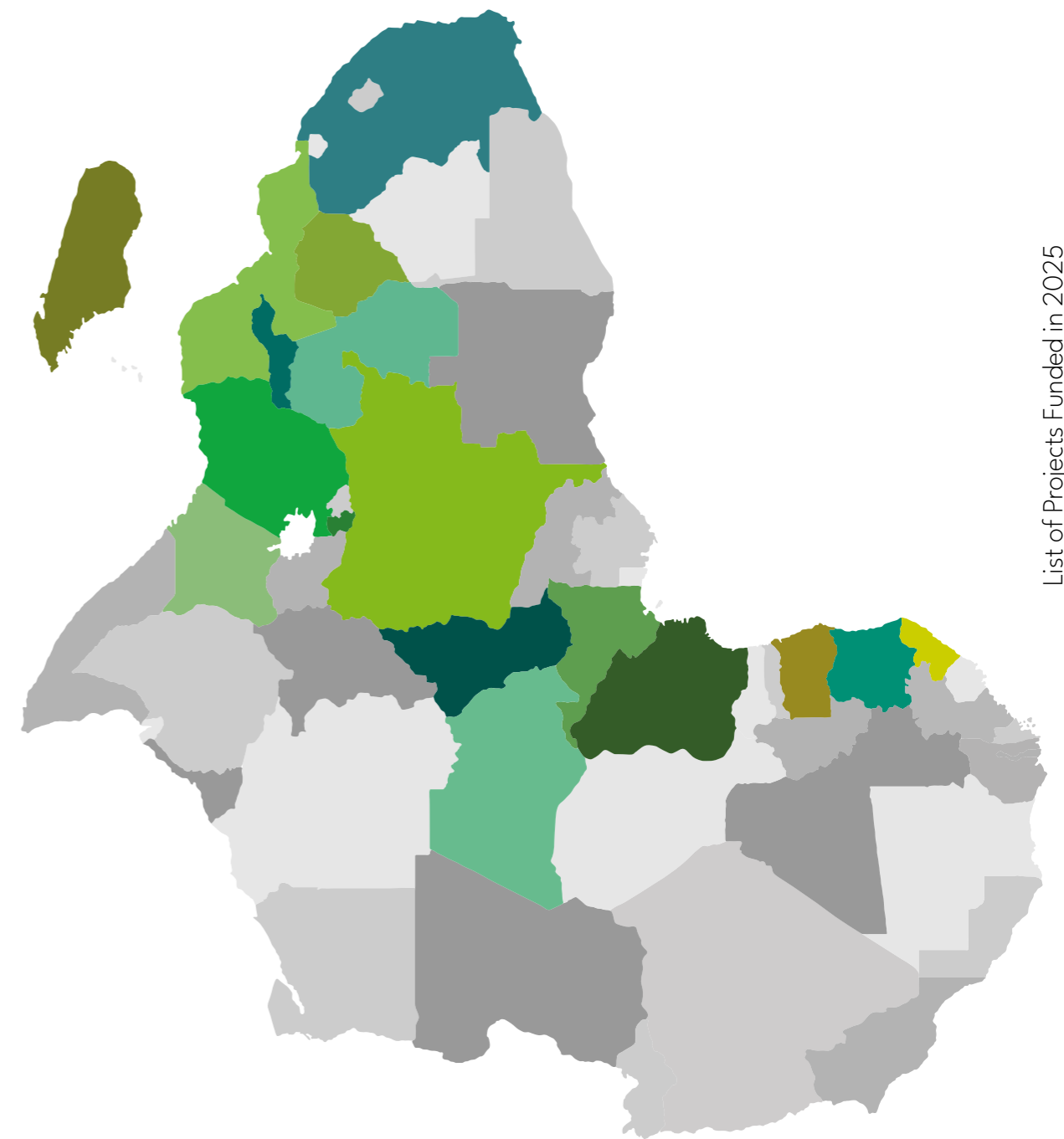
List of Projects Funded in 2025



MOZAMBIQUE	 Construção de um Noviciado em Moçambique	20.000,00 €
	 Construction of a block of dormitories at the Marist Novitiate (FMS) in Matola	18.000,00 €
	 Construction of ten classrooms at the Escola Secundária Marista de Bilene	157.191,00 €
MALAWI	 Toyota Hilux for the Marist brothers in Malawi	18.650,00 €
	 Football equipment and training of studentes and teachers at Likuni Open Secondary School	2.035,00 €
	 Solar energy to grant education in Dedza, Malawi	43.423,85 €
NIGERIA	 Support to Girls Empowerment Clubs	1.500,00 €
RWANDA	 Establishment of Water pump system to benefit all facilities in Save area	146.953,00 €
	 Reshaping and construction of the novitiate in Save – Rwanda	20.000,00 €
	 Reshaping and construction of the novitiate in Save – Rwanda	29.672,41 €
CHAD	 Community program for the access to education of the vulnerable children in Koumra – Chad	910,00 €
	 Dyan ke ho ron tog	458,00 €
TANZANIA	 MAVUNO Modal Girls Secondary School in Karagwe, Kagera Region, Tanzania. Purchasing of 25 computers	7.500,00 €

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA	Three2Six Refugee Children’s Educational Project	65.232,50 €
	FMSI Regional Event on the Day of the African Child	5.000,00 €
ZAMBIA	Miglioramento della qualità dell’istruzione del St Marcellin Skills Training Centre a Chibuluma (Zambia)	15.000,00 €
	Borehole Drilling Marist Brothers, Chassa Secondary School, P/B 2, Sinda, Zambia	3.000,00 €
ZIMBABWE	Support to the formation of young Brothers in the Province of Southern Africa	71.257,60 €
	Support to the formation of young Brothers in the Province of Southern Africa – 2nd installment	63.587,24 €
	Renovation of Marist Brothers community-Nyan-ga community house	7.405,95 €
MULTI-COUNTRY	Training session in Child Safeguarding - Child Rights Week for Africa	5.044,82 €
	Building a Regional Network of Youth Empowerment Clubs: advancing education, equality, and advocacy in Marist Schools across Africa	3.050,66 €

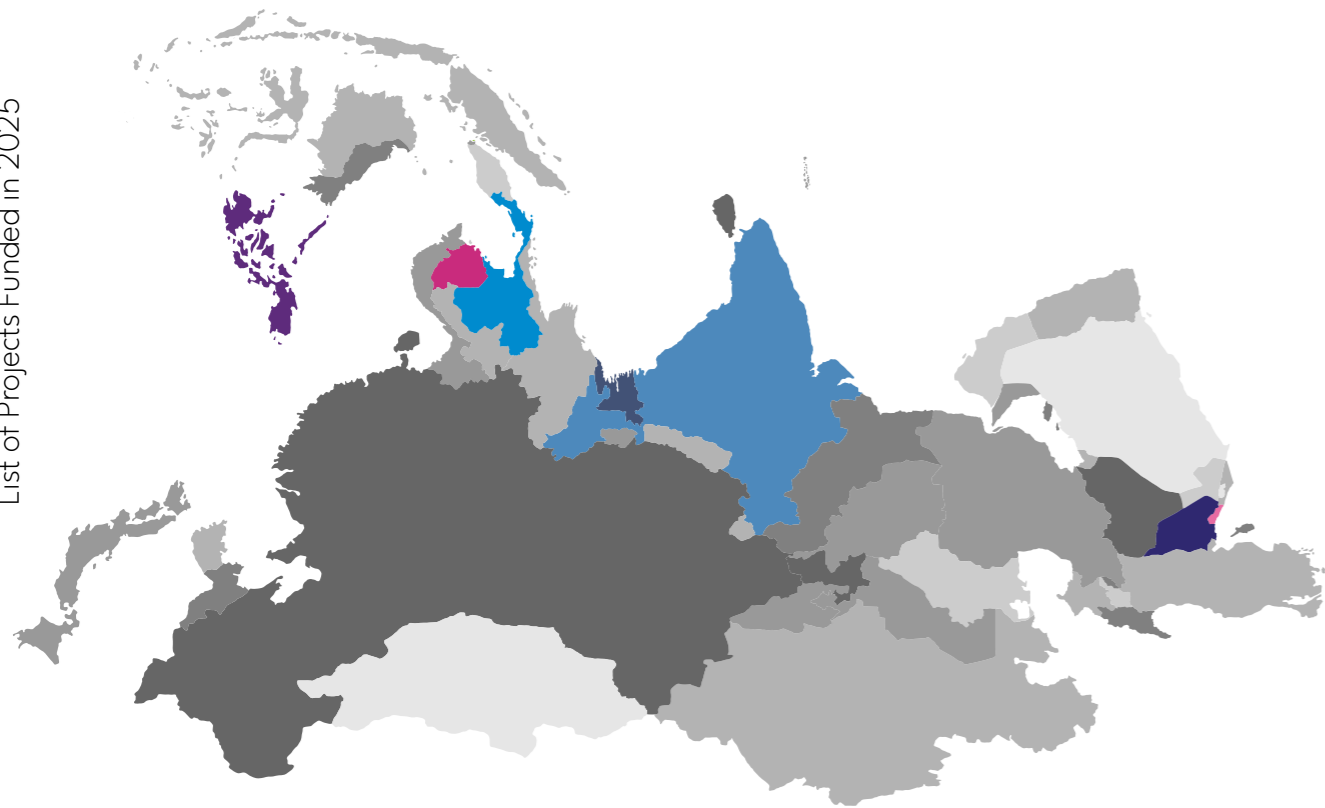


List of Projects Funded in 2025

LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2025

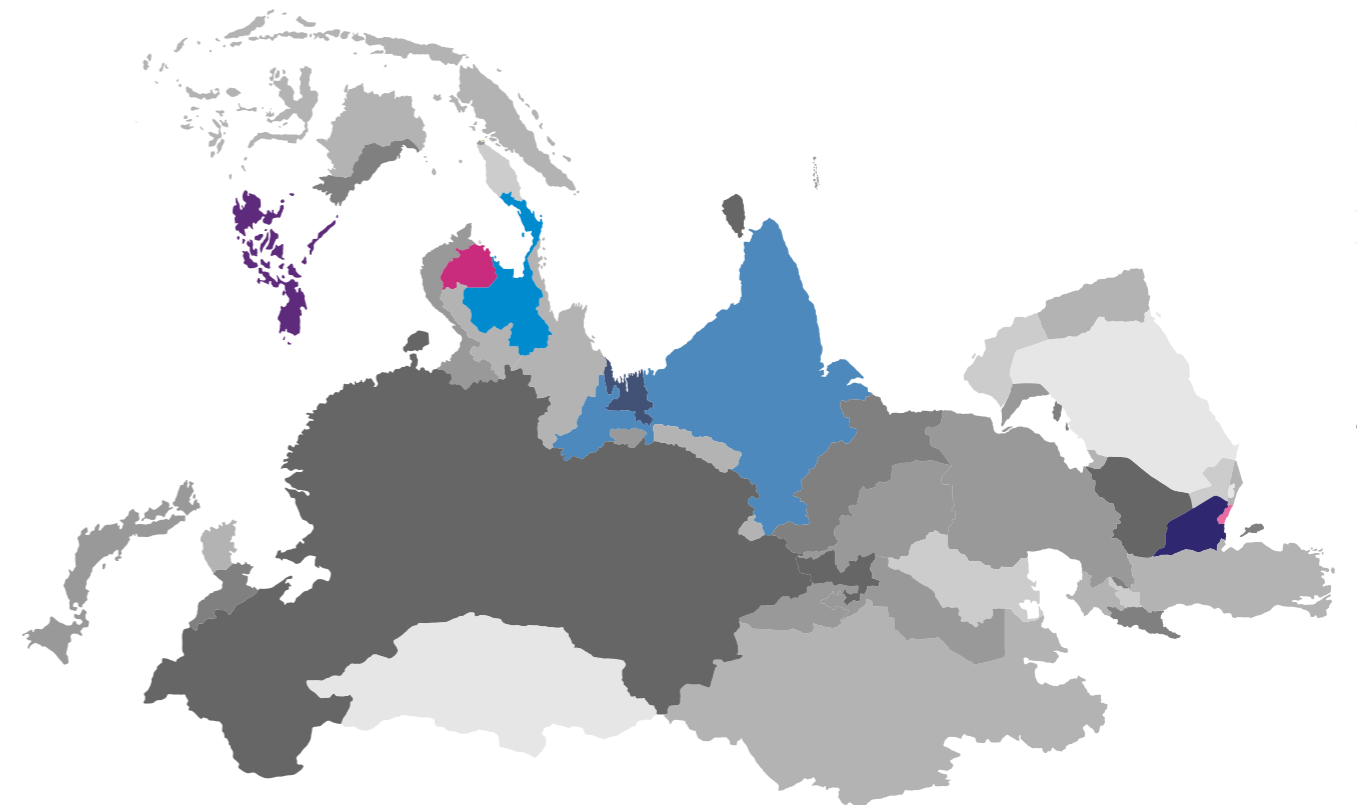
ASIA

List of Projects Funded in 2025



COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
BANGLADESH	Sponsorship Moulovibazar Editoriales Maristas	14.227,99 €
	Moulovibazar Education Program	17.421,07 €
	Moulvibazar Education Program: Improving Security and Access to Quality Education in the Tea gardens	25.000,00 €
INDIA	Quality Education for the unreached Tribals and minority young people	15.000,00 €
	Quality Education for the unreached Tribals and minority young people	2.384,00 €
	Construction of a Primary school (12 classrooms) in Talit to provide a good quality education to 300 students	30.000,00 €
	Construction of a Primary school (12 classrooms) in Talit to provide a good quality education to 300 students	19.500,00 €
CAMBODIA	Scholarship Program for Pulong Students	3.000,00 €
	Education and health care of the students for the Marist Education Center (MEC) and the Marist Center of Hope (MCH), as well as to the Bunong students from Pulong	30.000,00 €
	One disability, a hundred potentials. Inclusive education and health programs for children with disabilities in Cambodia II	18.175,00 €
	Improving learning facility for students with physical disability: purchasing of bookshelves, chairs and tables, and windows blinds at la Valla School in Takhmao	4.500,00 €

LEBANON	Feeding support to the displaced and vulnerable population in Rmeileh, Lebanon	3.000,00 €
	Fundraising Campaign: Emergenza Libano	12.002,34 €
	Fratelli Project	100.000,00 €
	Promoting the overall well-being of Syrian -displaced and vulnerable Lebanese population in Rmeileh, Lebanon	1.000,00 €
	THE FRATELLI PROJECT: Ensuring access to socio-educational activities for Iraqi and Syrian displaced children in Lebanon (Rmeileh and Bourj Hammoud)	79.875,00 €
	Fratelli Project	21.828,75 €
PHILIPPINES	Kids lodging in Palawan	1.300,00 €
SYRIA	Sharing Bread	76.061,07 €
	SEEDS - Psycho-Social Support Program for IDPs in Aleppo, Syria 2024-2025	90.200,00 €
	Olive Oil Fundraising Campaign	5.821,00 €
	Food Basket	2.773,00 €
	Food Basket	2.262,00 €
	Empowering Economic Resilience through Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship	43.000,00 €
	Sharing Bread	23.719,57 €
	Sharing bread (Aleppo)	12.000,00 €
THAILAND	Equity of access to quality education and human rights for Burmese migrant children	15.000,00 €

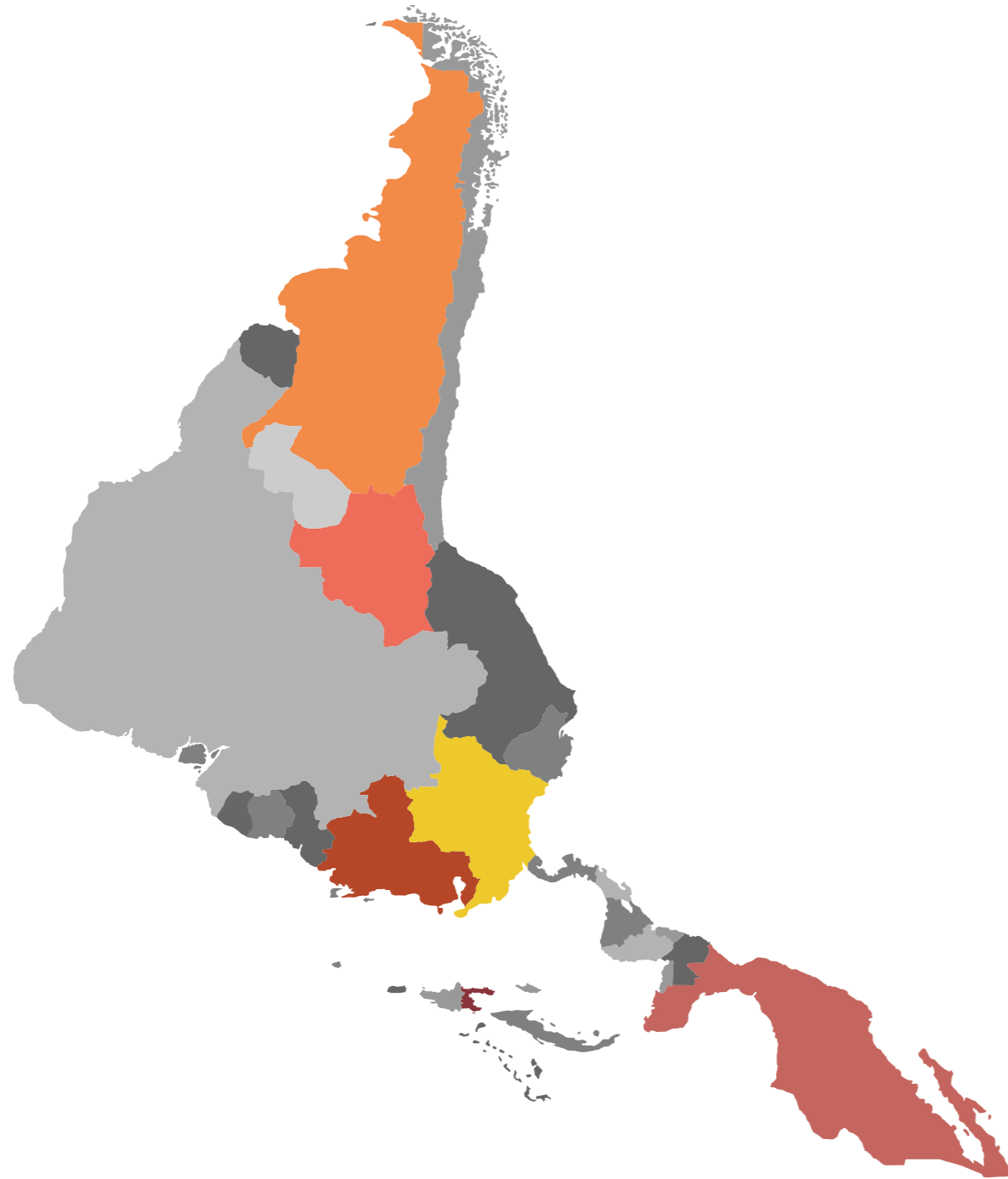


List of Projects Funded in 2025

LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2025

AMERICA

List of Projects Funded in 2025



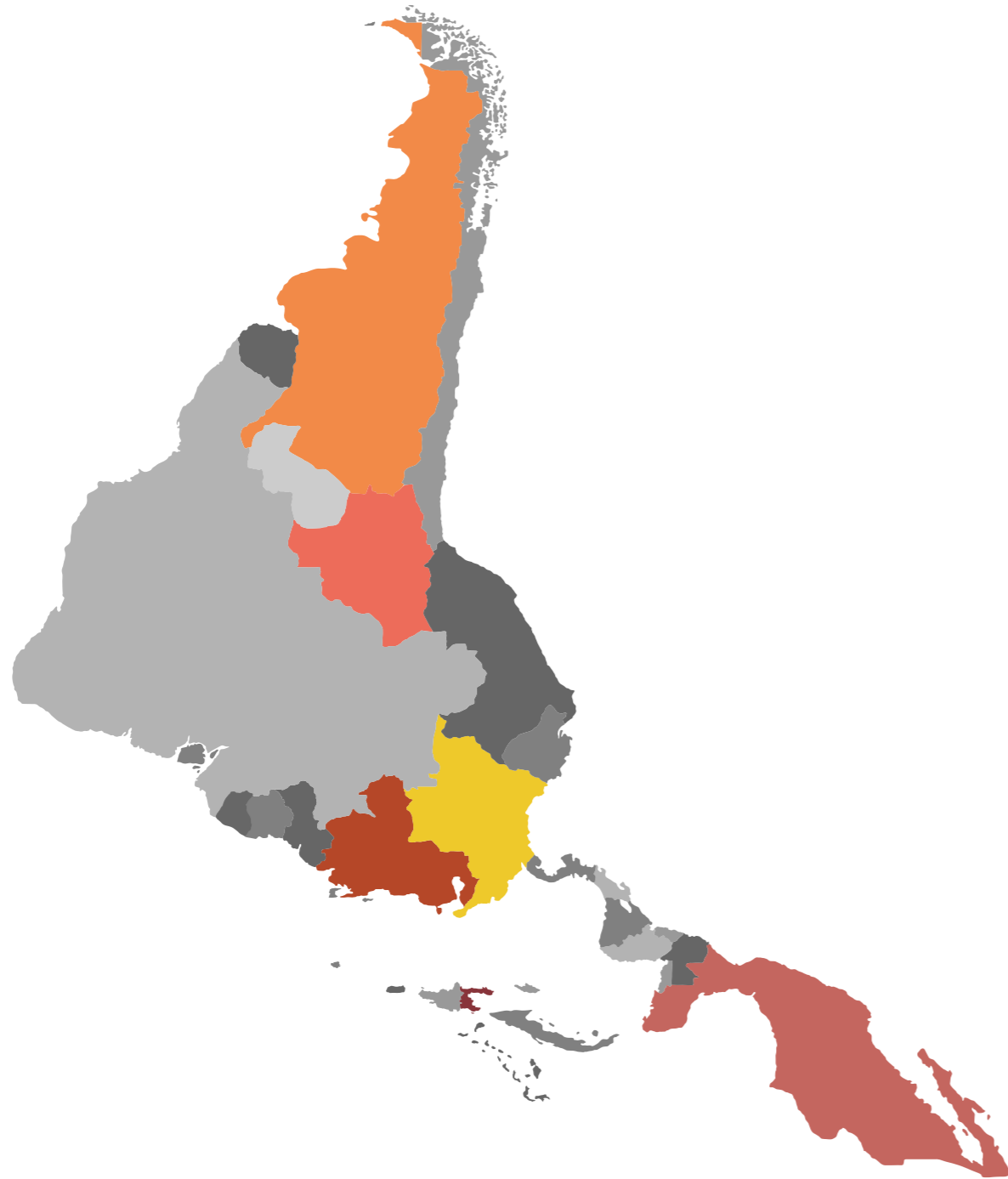
COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
ARGENTINA	Social Cooperative Construction ESCUELA CA-CIQUE FRANCISCO SUPAZ- PARAJE POZO DEL SAPO - MISIÓN NUEVA POMPEYA – CHACO	43.000,00 €
BOLIVIA	Empowering children and women in the defence, promotion and advocacy of their rights and in the care of the environment	23.250,00 €
COLOMBIA	Empowering children and women in the defence, promotion and advocacy of their rights and in the care of the environment	24.439,00 €
	Construction of well in Maicao (Columbia) to provide potable water at the compound which assist the migrant population from Venezuela	60.082,00 €
HAITI	Education and training opportunities for children domestic workers, vulnerable youth and teachers in Jérémie II	21.000,00 €
	School Feeding Program to support quality education at the École mariste Champagnat	1.000,00 €
	School Feeding Program to support quality education at the École mariste Champagnat in Jérémie and the Apostolic Center in Cayes	3.000,00 €
	School Feeding Program	14.954,61 €
	Restoring hope in Haiti: Emergency aid after Hurricane Melissa	15.000,00 €
MEXICO	Promozione giovanile della pace e della risoluzione non violenta dei conflitti in undici comunità indigene di Oaxaca	6.721,00 €
	Youth promotion of peace and no violent conflict resolution in eleven indigenous communities in Oaxaca	5.000,00 €

VENEZUELA Teachers project

36.986,53 €

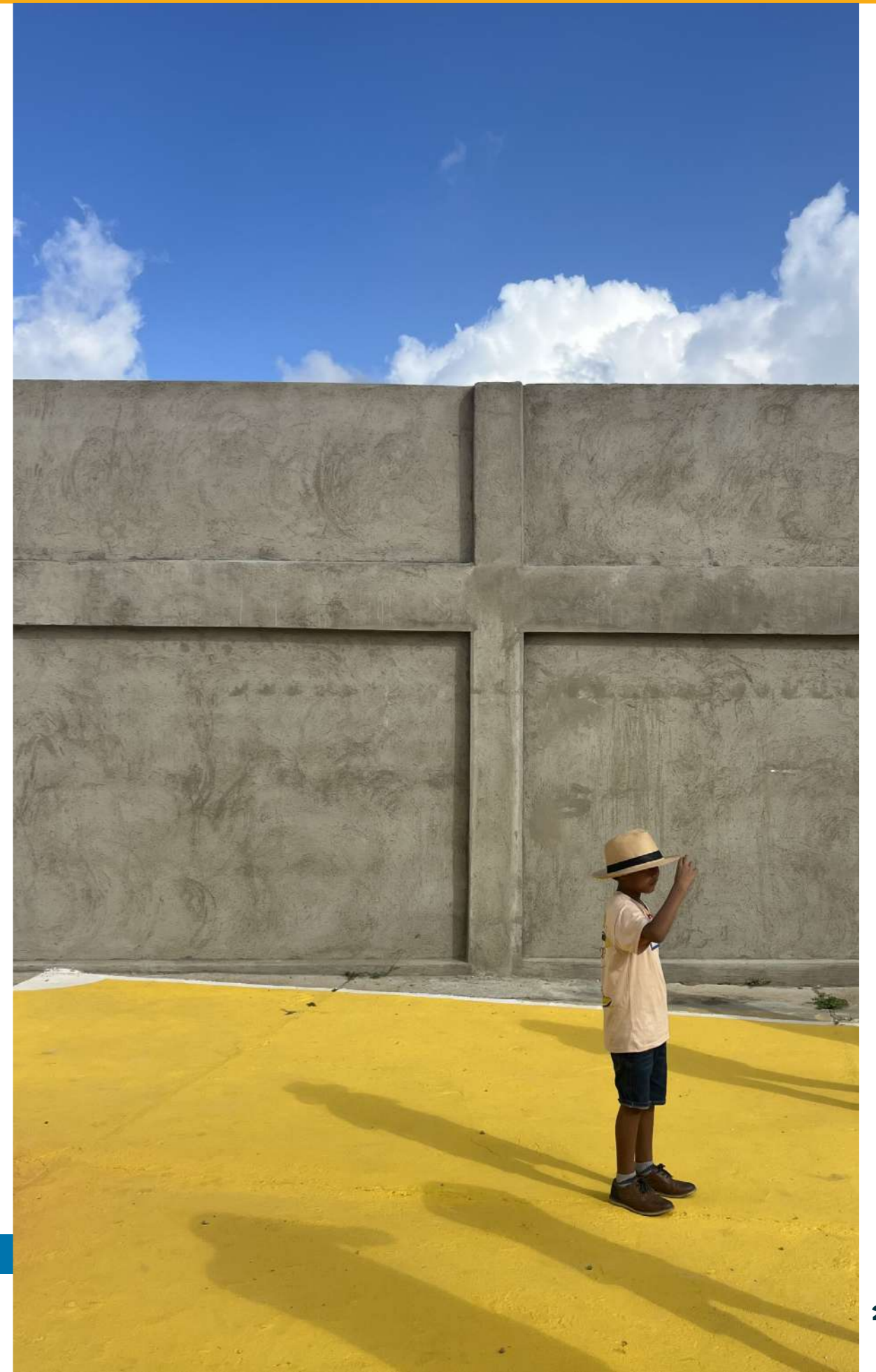
MULTI-COUNTRY CARE - Children's Action for a Resilient Environment. Fostering environmental awareness and action in Haiti and Mexico

27.000,00 €



2025 TOTAL

2.029.673,61 €



AREAS OF INTERVENTION



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 **situations of vulnerability** order to reduce their exposure to extreme weather events, wars, epidemics, disasters and economic, social and environmental shocks.



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

Data source:
INVESTING IN CHILDREN - An Accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals - 2023,
 UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

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

FMSI 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, FMSI works towards a future where long-term **stability** and **sustainability** go hand in hand.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

FMSI's initiatives aim to address inequalities and discrimination while ensuring economic stability and **social sustainability**.

FMSI is 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 scale**.

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.

2025 RESULTS



LONG-TERM OUTCOME



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

10.993

- 4.764** children (under 18) boys
- 3.642** children (under 18) girls
- 10** children with disabilities - boys under 18
- 9** children with disabilities - girls under 18
- 1.250** young people (19-25) boys
- 1.318** young people (19-25) girls

2025 Results

MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME



7.288

- 3.122** Children under 18 boys
- 2.654** Children under 18 girls
- 32** Classrooms
- 1.395** School desks
- 5** Schools
- 68** Teachers and school staff
- 12** Toilets

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



1.707

- 240** Adults men
- 250** Adults women
- 459** Children under 18 boys
- 472** Children under 18 girls
- 15** Schools
- 271** Teachers and school staff

Enhanced quality education using appropriate teaching methodologies.



10.603

- 4.817** Children under 18 boys
- 4.912** Children under 18 girls
- 133** Children with disabilities - boys
- 113** Children with disabilities - girls
- 320** Young people - boys
- 308** Young people - girls

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



1.834

- 200** Adults men
- 200** Adults women
- 586** Children under 18 boys
- 604** Children under 18 girls
- 3** other education institutions/centers (e.g. VET centers)
- 43** Schools
- 198** Teachers and school staff

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



**LONG-TERM
OUTCOME**



Children enjoy and exercise their rights more equitably — especially those from minority groups or in situations of vulnerability.

990

- 25** Adults men
- 45** Adults women
- 386** children (under 18) boys
- 374** children (under 18) girls
- 80** young people (19-25) boys
- 80** young people (19-25) girls

**MEDIUM-TERM
OUTCOME**



7.161

- 200** Adults men
- 200** Adults women
- 1.937** Children under 18 boys
- 1.902** Children under 18 girls
- 277** Children with disabilities - boys
- 257** Children with disabilities - girls
- 100** Teachers and school staff
- 1.144** Young people - boys
- 1.144** Young people - girls

Children/individuals in situations of vulnerability are more aware of their rights and better prepared to claim them.



1.899

- 162** Adults men
- 944** Adults women
- 336** Children under 18 boys
- 277** Children under 18 girls
- 90** Young people - boys
- 90** Young people - girls

Children/individuals in situations of vulnerability are empowered to address violations and to monitor government compliance with human-rights obligations, safely and meaningfully.



715

- 350** Adults men
- 350** Adults women
- 15** Schools

Civil society organizations are empowered (capacities, resources, protections) to address violations and to monitor government compliance with human-rights obligations.



13

13 Brothers and Marist Staff

Civil society organizations act as agents of change and human-rights defenders (engaging communities, proposing policy solutions, accompanying cases, and promoting remedies).



LONG-TERM OUTCOME



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

27.361

- 4.645** Adults men
- 5.093** Adults women
- 6.662** Children (under 18) boys
- 7.080** Children (under 18) girls
- 70** Children with disabilities - boys under 18
- 70** Children with disabilities - girls under 18
- 1.586** Young people (19-25) boys
- 2.155** Young people (19-25) girls

MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME



92.645

- 6.345** Adults men
- 7.393** Adults women
- 13.666** Children under 18 boys
- 13.829** Children under 18 girls
- 41.765** Meals distributed
- 23** Workshops on healthcare
- 44** Teachers and school staff
- 70** Brothers and Marist Staff
- 3.676** Young people - boys
- 4.511** Young people - girls
- 2** Water pump
- 1.308** Hygienic kits
- 3** Borehole
- 3** Water tank
- 4** Water filters
- 2** Containers for safe water storage
- 1** Well

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



9.793

- 970** Adults men
- 1.162** Adults women
- 2.082** Children under 18 boys
- 2.867** Children under 18 girls
- 73** Children with disabilities - girls
- 764** Young people - boys
- 1.054** Young people - girls
- 12** Toilet
- 712** Hygienic kits
- 1** Generator
- 1** Water drainage system
- 95** Children with disabilities - boys

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



**LONG-TERM
OUTCOME**



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

1.555

- 1** Borehole
- 1.095** children (under 18) boys
- 362** children (under 18) girls
- 10** Schools
- 16** Solar panels
- 69** Teachers and school staff
- 2** Solar water pumping systems

**MEDIUM-TERM
OUTCOME**



7.438

- 7.420** Trees/plants
- 9** School gardens
- 9** Schools

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



848

- 200** Children under 18 boys
- 217** Children under 18 girls
- 25** Environmental workshops
- 133** Children with disabilities - boys
- 113** Children with disabilities - girls
- 80** Young people - boys
- 80** Young people - girls

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



129

- 64** Children under 18 boys
- 64** Children under 18 girls
- 1** Schools

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



**SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**LONG-TERM
OUTCOME**



New sustainable and inclusive economic opportunities created.

235

- 2** Adults men
- 2** Adults women
- 64** Children (under 18) boys
- 64** Children (under 18) girls
- 64** Children with disabilities - boys under 18
- 22** Children with disabilities - girls under 18
- 1** School
- 11** Young people (19-25) boys
- 5** Young people (19-25) girls

**MEDIUM-TERM
OUTCOME**



256

- 2** Adults men
- 7** Adults women
- 43** Children under 18 boys
- 43** Children under 18 girls
- 11** Young people - boys
- 150** Young people - girls

Increased technical and vocational skills.



266

- 15** Adults men
- 2** Adults women
- 120** Young people - girls
- 120** Bed spaces
- 7** Other entities
- 2** Sewing machines

Support initiatives promoting rehabilitation and sustainable, inclusive opportunities.

2025 RESULTS



MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME

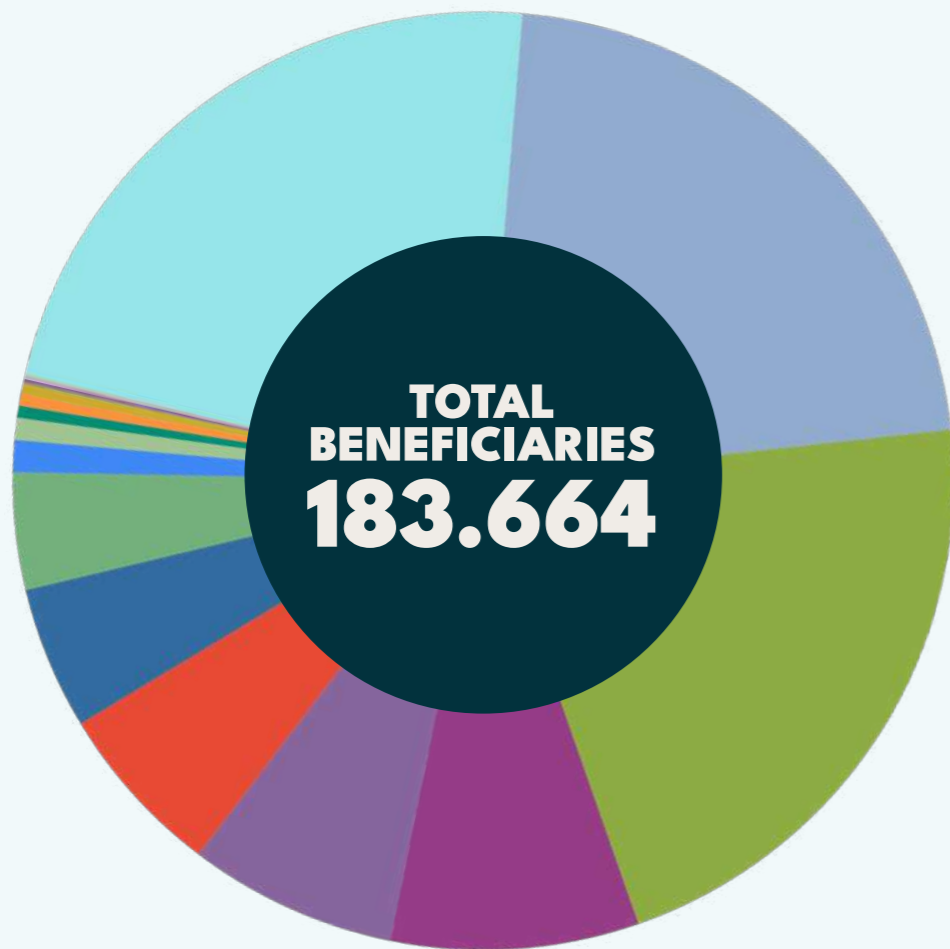
63
63 Brothers and Marist Staff

Strengthen Marist organizational capability to deliver effective development initiatives.

43
18 Bed spaces
1 Schools
1 Vehicles
20 Brothers and Marist Staff
3 Marist Facilities

Enhanced Marist facilities for Mission Capacity Development.

2025 RESULTS



BOYS (UNDER 18)
40.219



GIRLS (UNDER 18)
39.299



ADULT WOMEN
15.648



ADULT MEN
13.156



YOUNG WOMEN (19-25)

11.015



YOUNG MEN (19-25)

9.012



TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF

750



BOYS WITH DISABILITIES

740



GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

657



BROTHERS AND MARIST STAFF

166



DISTRIBUTED MEALS
41.765



TREES/PLANTS
7.420



HYGIENE KITS
2.020



SCHOOL DESKS
1.395



BED SPACES
138



SCHOOLS
99



CLASSROOMS
32



ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS
25



TOILET FACILITIES
24



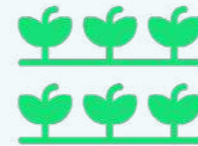
HEALTH WORKSHOPS
23



SOLAR PANELS
16



SCHOOL GARDENS
9



OTHER FACILITIES
7



WATER TANKS
6



WATER WELLS
5



WATER FILTERS
4



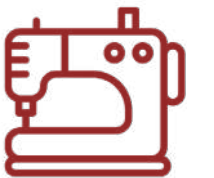
OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS/CENTERS
3



MARIST FACILITIES
3



SEWING MACHINES
2



SOLAR-POWERED WATER PUMPING SYSTEMS
2



WATER PUMPS
2



WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
1



POWER GENERATOR
1



VEHICLE
1

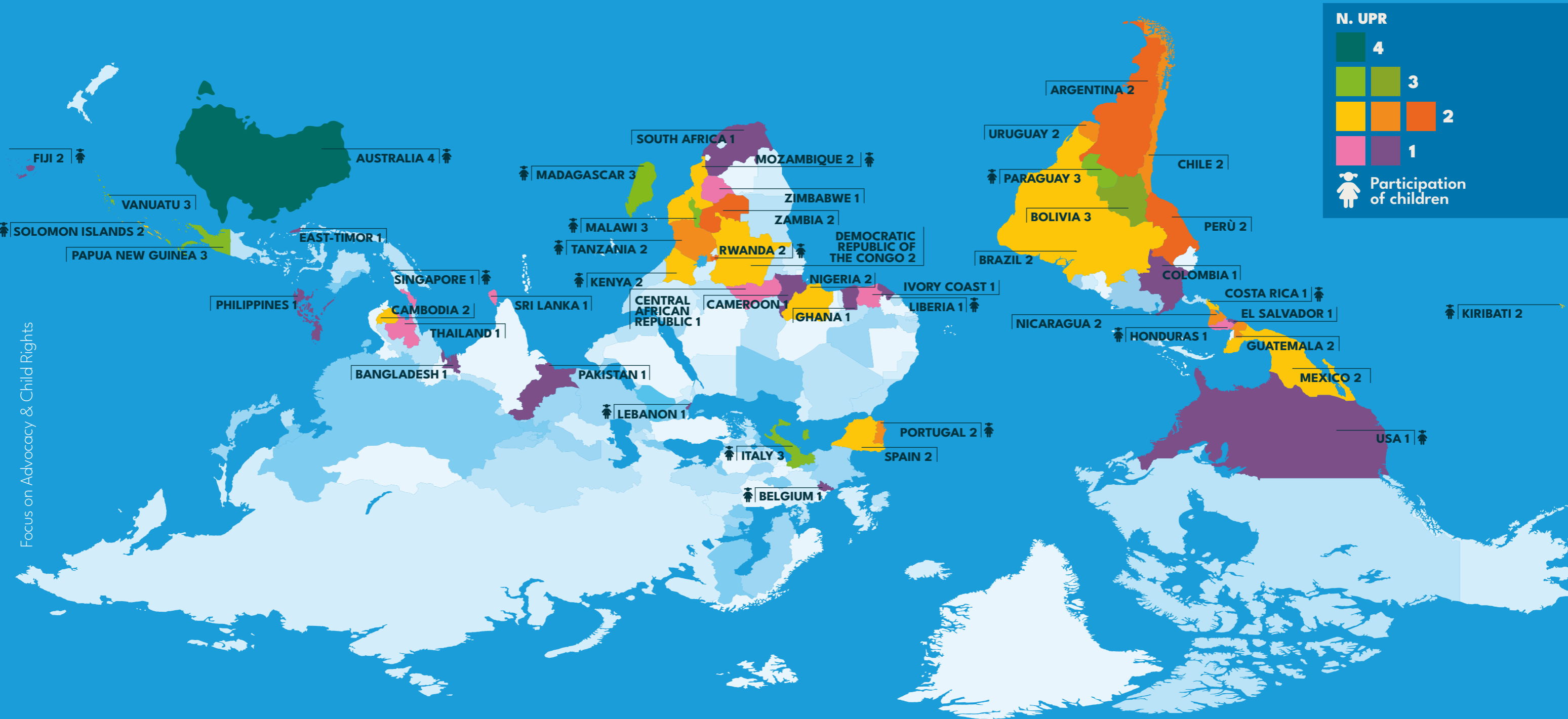


FOCUS ON ADVOCACY & CHILD RIGHTS

In Malawi we need more schools since
schools are far apart from each other
at school.
2. Prices of commodities should be
reduced since some children may not
be able to purchase commodities so
as to improve their living standard.
3. People in rural areas should be
employed in different sectors
so that the youth can be
able to improve their living standard.

REPORTS SUBMITTED BY FMSI* FROM 2007 TO 2025

*FROM 2019, UPR REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY-CMI



Focus on Advocacy & Child Rights



88

UPR reports presented by FMSI*



1313

Recommendations presented by FMSI in 88 UPR



1990

Boys and girls actively involved in the UPR process



565

Recommendations addressing issues raised by FMSI have been accepted by the states reviewed



482

Recommendations addressing issues raised by FMSI were considered by the states reviewed

FMSI's commitment to human rights has been a constant since its creation. FMSI is strongly and firmly dedicated to the promotion and defence of rights, with a particular focus on the rights of children and young people, as well as their empowerment as agents of change.

With this in mind, 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 presence worldwide, FMSI plays a crucial role in highlighting, even at the international level—before States and the United Nations—the human rights situation 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 examination 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 2025, FMSI, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Solidarity – CMI, submitted 12 UPR reports, a significant leap from previous years.

The countries involved were Australia, Belgium, Honduras, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Singapore, Solomon Islands, USA, and Paraguay (co-sponsorship).

This year, FMSI reached a historic milestone: for the first time ever, all UPR reports were co-developed with children, marking a shift from consultation to genuine co-creation.

In addition to the UPR reports, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity – CMI participated in the EU Pre-Sessions for Rwanda, Lebanon, and Australia, engaging children and young people directly in shaping the UPR process.

EU PRE-SESSIONS: BRINGING THE VOICES OF CHILDREN TO THE TABLE

In 2025, FMSI participated in the EU Pre-Sessions for **Rwanda, Lebanon, and Australia**. These sessions are a critical part of the UPR process, offering civil society the opportunity to present recommendations to the European Union Delegation based in Geneva.

Through consultations with young people from Marist social works in these countries, FMSI ensured that children's voices were at the heart of the presentations.

2025 UPR COUNTRIES



AUSTRALIA



BELGIUM



HONDURAS



LEBANON



MALAWI



MOZAMBIQUE



RWANDA



SINGAPORE



SOLOMONS ISLANDS



USA



PARAGUAY



LIBERIA

KEY CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RWANDA

Children emphasized the importance of education and child protection, advocating for equal access to primary and secondary education for all, regardless of background. They also called for stronger child protection systems and increased support for mental health and psychosocial services for children and adolescents.

LEBANON

Students highlighted the need for free and quality education for all, particularly refugees and migrant children. They also addressed the lack

of documentation, which prevents many children from accessing education and services. Recommendations included providing identification documents to ensure full participation in society.

AUSTRALIA

The key issues raised included youth crime, online child protection, and the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. Students called for expanded mental health programs for incarcerated youth and stronger online protection tools against harmful content on social media. They also recommended more support for refugees, ensuring better access to education, financial support, and mental health services for young refugees.

These consultations ensured that children and young people from Rwanda, Lebanon, and Australia had an active role in shaping policies affecting their future. FMSI's participation in these EU Pre-Sessions further strengthened the UPR process by ensuring that children's concerns were given the weight they deserve at the international level.

ORAL STATEMENTS AND FURTHER ADVOCACY

In 2025, FMSI also facilitated oral statements delivered by children at UN sessions for countries such as Costa Rica, Portugal, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kiribati. This reflects the increasing importance of child-led advocacy and their growing presence in international forums.

This expansion is accompanied by a strategic increase in training opportunities and capacity-building efforts, aimed at empowering not only Marist Brothers and lay partners but also children and young people to engage actively in advocacy and child rights work.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

During the last quarter of 2025, the FMSI team met to discuss the next steps in the area of Advocacy & Child Rights, specifically:

• UPR Reports to be submitted in 2026

FMSI is already preparing for the submission of UPR reports for the next sessions, for 13 countries where the Marist Brothers are present: Tanzania, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, USA, Syria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Timor-Leste, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Thailand. Workshops involving children in the UPR process will continue to be a core component of these efforts.

• Oral Statements

FMSI is committed to engaging with 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's submitted by the Foundation.

• Participation in UPR Pre-Sessions

FMSI intends to continue participating in the UPR Pre-Sessions as a key advocacy mechanism. By doing so, FMSI will ensure that children's voices are brought directly to international discussions during the UPR process, especially within the Permanent Missions to the United Nations. These pre-sessions provide a crucial platform for civil society organizations and children to influence the discussions before the final dialogue between the UN and national governments.

• Country Visits and Engagement

FMSI continues to prioritize visits to countries where UPR reports are submitted to engage local missions and further build connections with national partners.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

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 analysed in the previous section. Additionally, the participation of FMSI members in the working groups of the solidarity network is significant, particularly in the NGO/Foundations group and the Children's Rights group.

• Within the Marist World

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, and assessing future partnerships. Throughout 2025, FMSI conducted visits to Belgium, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Paraguay, Greece, Argentina and USA.

• Civil Society Organizations

FMSI continued and further strengthened its collaboration with BICE, CCIG, ERI, CRC, and IIMA, deepening and expanding its impact in the defence of human rights, both through advocacy actions and joint initiatives.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES

FMSI has expanded its advocacy training and capacity-building initiatives, helping build knowledge about child rights and advocacy mechanisms across Marist communities globally.

- **Child Rights Training Week – Africa (March 2025)** Focused on establishing a continent-wide network of Youth Empowerment Clubs (YECs), building leadership, advocacy, and child protection capacities. Thirteen delegates from five African provinces were trained, each tasked with establishing YECs in their local communities.

- **Training on UPR and UN Mechanisms (Geneva)** Training for Marist Brothers and lay partners in advocacy best practices.

- **Planned Training on UPR and UN Mechanisms (Rome & Geneva, 2026)** Aimed at strengthening the knowledge and skills of Marist Brothers and lay partners for child rights advocacy at the local level.

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

CHECK OUT THE BOOKLET ONLINE—CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE



- **UPR Booklet Update** FMSI's second edition of the UPR Booklet in 2025 reflects on the reports submitted this year, analysing the challenges and key issues identified through the participation of Marist missions in various countries.



- **Articles and News** FMSI continues to raise awareness about child rights, particularly focusing on children's direct participation in advocacy mechanisms and how their voices are increasingly integral to the global conversation on human rights.

KEY EVENTS

- **Marist Solidarity Day (October 28, 2025) and Volunteer Day (December 5, 2025)**

Events aimed at engaging the Marist community and amplifying the impact of FMSI's advocacy.

WATCH THE EVENT—CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE



- **World Children's Day – November 20th, 2025 “My Voice, My Right”**

World Children's Day is a day for the Global Marist Family to truly listen to children, learn from them, and allow their voices to shape our communities, institutions, and public witness.

On this day, the Secretariat of Solidarity of the Marist Brothers – CMI and FMSI came together to celebrate a global event that places children and young people at the very heart of our mission. Their voices were the focus—sharing their experiences, reflections, hopes, and highlighting the pathways to realizing their rights.

During this event, the voices of children from South Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Honduras, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Paraguay, and the Solomon Islands were heard. These children had actively participated in UPR processes, local advocacy initiatives, and direct project engagement, contributing their recommendations and concerns through the 12 reports submitted during the year.

WHY NOVEMBER 20TH?

This date marks the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the United Nations in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, both vital milestones in global

child rights protection. But more than just a day of remembrance, it is a day of responsibility—a reminder that promises alone are not enough. Reality can be harsh.

CHALLENGES IN 2025

While progress in education continues, significant challenges remain:

- **600 million children worldwide** are unable to reach basic proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, with two-thirds of them enrolled in school.

- **473 million children** live in areas affected by war or armed violence, with education often being the first casualty in conflict zones. Schools are destroyed, teachers displaced, and children deprived of protection, healthcare, and basic needs like safe water and nutrition.

In this context, World Children's Day serves as a day of action for children, by children. The 2025 theme, “My Voice, My Right”, called on adults and institutions to listen more deeply to children's ideas, their leadership, and their demand to define the world they live in. When children's voices are prioritized, it transforms programs into movements for change.

For the Marist Institute, children's participation is not optional—it is intrinsic to our mission. When children and young people become active protagonists of change, our work gains deeper meaning, greater sustainability, and stronger relevance. Empowering them ignites transformation, turning them from beneficiaries into agents of their own rights, thereby multiplying the positive impact across their communities.

On November 20th, 2025, we not only listened but also celebrated and learned from children's experiences. It was a moment to reflect on what has been achieved and, even more important—

ly, to renew our shared commitment to building environments where children's rights are respected, their voices heard, and their dreams encouraged to inspire our future. This day belongs to the entire Marist Family — a reminder that the most authentic way to honour World Children's Day is to give children the floor and let their voices lead the way.

World
children's
day



"My voice,
my right"



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

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



EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE INTERNAL CONFLICT IN THE EASTERN REGION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing one of the most severe and complex humanitarian crises in the world. In 2025, the situation worsened dramatically, reaching levels of violence, displacement, and deprivation not seen for decades. Ongoing clashes between government forces and armed groups, particularly M23, intensified across North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes every month.



This escalation of violence has had devastating consequences for civilian populations. Entire communities have been uprooted, access to food has become increasingly limited, and humanitarian assistance has been severely constrained. Education has been deeply affected, with nearly two million children in the Kivu provinces unable to attend school due to closures caused by insecurity and displacement. For many families, daily survival has replaced any sense of stability or normality.

In response to this critical situation, **FMSI, in cooperation with the Marist Province of East Central Africa (PACE), launched an emergency intervention to support internally displaced persons, families in situations of extreme vulnerability, orphans, and those lacking the means to meet their most basic needs.**

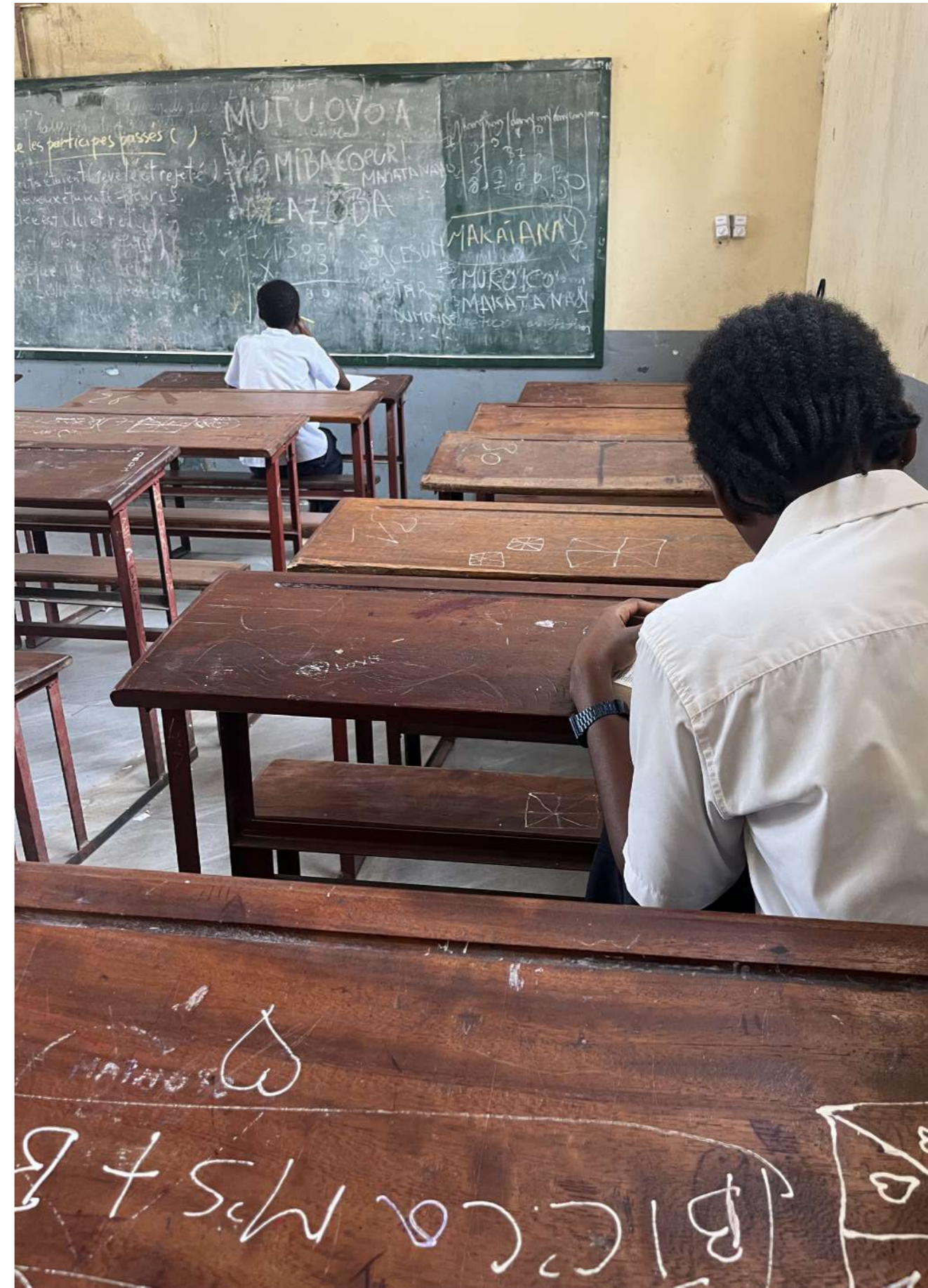
In its initial phase, the response focused on the distribution of essential food and hygiene kits, prioritizing the protection of health, dignity, and well-being, particularly for children, women, and the elderly.

Alongside life-saving assistance, the intervention also placed strong emphasis on education as a key element of recovery. Displaced children were welcomed into Marist schools, ensuring continuity of learning despite the trauma and disruption caused by conflict. Access to education has allowed many children to regain a sense of routine, recover months of lost schooling, and begin to overcome the psychological impact of displacement and war.

These actions continue to provide much-needed relief to affected communities and help families take the first steps toward restoring a sense of normality in their lives.

However, the needs remain immense.

For this reason, the emergency campaign continues and will expand, with the goal of reaching an even greater number of people and offering sustained support to those most affected by the crisis.



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



EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN SYRIA



The Christmas fundraising campaign for Aleppo, launched in collaboration with the “Aiutiamo la Siria” Solidarity Group, aimed to provide support to elderly individuals living in vulnerable conditions in Aleppo, Syria.

This campaign was specifically focused on addressing the challenges faced by the members in the most fragile conditions of society, particularly those who have been severely affected by the ongoing conflict in the region.

The primary goal of the initiative was to distribute **essential care kits** during the Christmas season to elderly individuals who have been under the care of the Blu Marists network in Aleppo.

These kits included basic but critical items: intimate apparel, socks, a quilt for warmth, and an electric thermal bag to help mitigate the harsh winter conditions. The distribution was organized with the help of **155 dedicated volunteers of the Blue Marists**, who worked tirelessly to ensure that these vital supplies reached the elderly beneficiaries in time for the festive season.

Through the generous contributions of donors, a total of **250 elderly individuals** were directly supported by this initiative, that, **thanks to 40 donors, raised €4,740.**

The total amount raised for this cause demonstrated the strong solidarity of the global community and their commitment to supporting populations in vulnerable conditions in crisis zones.

The Blu Marists’ ongoing efforts in Aleppo are an essential part of a larger network of care, and this initiative highlights the importance of continued support for such humanitarian projects.



FOCUS ON SAFER INTERNET DAY

EMPOWERING CHILDREN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ONLINE EXPLOITATION: THE MARIST COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION

In an increasingly digitalized world, where children's lives and relationships extend far beyond physical spaces, online safety has become a critical dimension of child protection. Digital environments offer opportunities for learning, participation, and connection, but they also expose children to significant risks, including online exploitation, abuse, and cyber violence. Protecting children in these spaces requires not only robust safeguarding systems but also the active empowerment of children themselves as rights holders and protagonists of their own protection.

Against this backdrop, **on 11 February 2025, the Marist Institute, through the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI and FMSI, hosted an online event entitled "Safeguarding Innocence: Strategies Against Online Child Exploitation and Abuse."** The event provided a vital platform for reflection, exchange, and action on how to address online risks while promoting children's agency, participation, and resilience in the digital world.

The initiative reaffirmed **the longstanding Marist commitment to child protection**, rooted in the values of education, solidarity, justice, and human dignity. These principles continue to guide Marist safeguarding efforts, ensuring that children grow in environments that are not only safe but also empowering. The event opened with an intervention by Br. Ken McDonald, who was at the time FMS Vicar General and President of FMSI, who reaffirmed the Institute's zero-tolerance approach to abuse and its commitment to safeguarding children in all contexts, including digital spaces. His address emphasized the importance of prevention, awareness, and shared responsibility across the Marist community.

A central theme of the event was **children's protagonism in safeguarding processes**. Ms. Agnes Reyes, Lay Marist from the Philippines, delivered a powerful presentation on child empowerment, highlighting how children - when equipped with knowledge, skills, and supportive environments - can actively protect themselves online. Her contribution included a video te-

stimony illustrating how children in vulnerable contexts are becoming key actors in promoting their own safety, challenging the perception of children as passive recipients of protection.

The discussion was further enriched by Ms. Bárbara Pimpão Ferreira, Lay Marist from Brazil, who presented the "*Defenda-se*" campaign. This initiative encourages children to recognize risks, assert their rights, and take proactive steps to defend themselves against online threats. By promoting self-protection strategies and awareness-raising, the campaign embodies a rights-based approach that places children at the center of safeguarding efforts.

From an institutional and systemic perspective, Ms. Valerie Philpott, Safeguarding Advisor for Misesan Cara, addressed the importance of building comprehensive safeguarding frameworks capable of responding effectively to online risks. Her intervention highlighted the need for clear policies, coordinated procedures, and continuous capacity building to ensure that child protection systems remain responsive to evolving digital challenges.

The event also provided space for listening directly to young people's perspectives. Ms. Mónica Yerena, Lay Marist from Mexico, presented the results of a survey on adolescents' and young people's perceptions of online safety. The findings offered valuable insights into how young people experience digital environments, the risks they identify, and the types of support they consider most effective in navigating online spaces safely.

The event concluded with reflections from Br. Diego Zawadzky, who was at the time Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI. He underscored the importance of sustained commitment, collaboration, and innovation in safeguarding children's rights in the digital age. His closing remarks reaffirmed that protecting children online is not a one-time effort, but an ongoing responsibility that requires vigilance, education, and the meaningful participation of children themselves.



ONLINE EVENT **11TH FEBRUARY 2025** 13H PM CET

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safeguarding innocence: strategies against online child exploitation and abuse



This event marked an important step in strengthening the Marist response to online child exploitation and abuse.

By combining awareness-raising, institutional safeguarding, and the empowerment of children as active agents of protection, **the Marist Institute and FMSI continue to advance a vision of a world where children can grow, learn, and participate safely - both offline and online - free from exploitation and fear.**

The strong global participation in the event further highlighted the relevance and urgency of the topic. The initiative brought together members of the Marist global family from 44 countries, reflecting a shared and collective commitment to safeguarding children in the digital world.

This wide engagement reinforced the importance of addressing online risks through coordinated, international efforts rooted in education, awareness, and solidarity.

To ensure continuity and broader access, the full recording of the event has been made available online, with subtitles in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, allowing the reflections and insights shared to reach an even wider audience.

By extending the conversation beyond the event itself, the Marist Institute and FMSI continue to foster dialogue, learning, and action on child protection and online safety, reaffirming that safeguarding children is a shared and ongoing responsibility.

WATCH THE
EVENT—
CLICK OR
SCAN THE
QR CODE



FOCUS ON PEACE CAMPAIGN

PEACE CAMPAIGN – “MY NAME IS CHILDHOOD” - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE – 2 OCTOBER 2025

On the occasion of the International Day of Non-Violence, the **Marist International Solidarity Foundation ETS (FMSI), together with SED – Solidaridad, Educación, Desarrollo, launched the peace campaign “My Name is Childhood”**. The initiative places children and their rights at the centre of public discourse, reaffirming the Marist commitment to peacebuilding and the protection of people in the most vulnerable situations.

The campaign adopts a symbolic and narrative approach, giving a name to each child—real or fictional—and speaking through that name to convey what it means to grow up in contexts marked by conflict, crisis, or violence. Through this method, the campaign seeks to humanise data and statistics, making visible the concrete impact of war and instability on children’s lives and rights.

At a global level, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises continue to affect a significant number of countries, including Ukraine and Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and South Sudan. In these contexts, children and young adolescents are among the most affected rights-holders, facing disruptions to their education, threats to their safety, loss of family ties, and limited access to essential services.

Grounded in the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the campaign highlights the obligation to safeguard children’s rights to life, survival, and development, as well as their rights to identity, family, education, and safe environments. These rights must prevail over the logic of war and guide policies, decisions, and public communication at all levels.

“My Name is Childhood” was conceived as a collective initiative, open to the entire Marist family and to organisations and institutions committed to peace and human rights. The campaign promotes a shared vision that calls for child-centred approaches in crisis responses, unimpeded humanitarian access to protect civilian populations, the preservation

of schools as safe and violence-free spaces, and ethical communication practices fully aligned with safeguarding standards.

As part of the campaign, a shared symbol—a dove carrying a kite, representing peace and childhood—was developed to provide a common visual identity. The symbol was used across communications and advocacy moments, reinforcing a unified message and strengthening collective engagement.

By giving visibility to children’s voices and experiences, “My Name is Childhood” contributes to FMSI’s broader advocacy and peacebuilding efforts, reaffirming the organisation’s commitment to ensuring that, even in contexts of conflict and crisis, children are recognised not only as people affected, but as rights-holders whose dignity and future must be protected.



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



Handwritten Arabic script.



PAZ

Un mundo sin conflicto
ni problemas y donde los
personas respetan los
leyes y a los mismos

Tranquilidad interna,
para tener respeto propio
y un entorno de este mismo.



FOCUS ON SOME OF OUR PROJECTS



THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

1.188 Children are directly involved in inclusive education, nutrition, and environmental learning through school gardens.

1.998 People indirectly reached, including families and community members, through improved food practices, awareness, and knowledge transfer.

9 School gardens were established and operational as living classrooms for sustainability, nutrition, and children's rights.

471 Children regularly monitored for nutritional indicators (weight and height), strengthening prevention of malnutrition.

171 Restavèk children in Haiti supported through access to education, protection, and nutritious food.

70 Teachers trained in food education, agroecology, and garden-based learning methodologies.

6 Schools with integrated Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate resilience plans.

44%+ Active participation of girls and children in condition of marginalization, promoting gender equality and inclusion.

SDGs



LAUDATO SI GOALS



CRCs GOALS





HAITI & MEXICO



School gardens for sustainable education and empowerment in Haiti and Mexico

Children are not only beneficiaries of change, but powerful agents of transformation. Through the project **CARE – Children’s Action for a Resilient Environment**, implemented in Haiti and Mexico, children become true seeds of change, cultivating resilience, environmental awareness, and social justice within their schools and communities.

At the heart of the initiative are **school gardens, conceived not merely as spaces for food production but as living classrooms where children learn about nutrition, biodiversity, climate resilience, and their fundamental rights**. Rooted in the principles of integral ecology, the project responds to interconnected challenges such as food insecurity, malnutrition, educational exclusion, and environmental degradation, particularly affecting children in vulnerable contexts.

In **Haiti**, the project operates in a context marked by extreme poverty, food insecurity, and the persistence of the Restavèk system, a form of child domestic servitude that deprives thousands of children of education and protection. By integrating school gardens into the educational framework of Marist Centres, the initiative improves access to nutritious food while strengthening children’s right to education. For many Restavèk children, the garden becomes a space of dignity and belonging, where learning, care, and participation replace exploitation and exclusion. Through hands-on activities, children gain practical skills, improve their nutritional

status, and develop confidence as active contributors to their own well-being and that of their communities.

In **Mexico**, the project focuses on indigenous Maya communities in the Cuxtal Ecological Reserve in Yucatán, an area of high environmental value but deep social inequality. Here, school gardens help reconnect children with traditional agroecological knowledge, promote healthy and culturally rooted diets, and strengthen environmental stewardship from an early age. Working in close collaboration with the Marist University of Mérida and public education authorities, the initiative supports the institutionalization of food education within the school system, ensuring long-term sustainability and scalability.

Across both countries, **children play a central role** in the project’s design and implementation. **They actively participate** in cultivating gardens, monitoring growth, learning climate-resilient practices, and sharing knowledge with their families. In doing so, they become advocates for healthy food, environmental protection, and community resilience. The project also integrates a strong rights-based approach, addressing gender equality, inclusion of children with disabilities, and the empowerment of children in the most marginalized conditions.

Beyond the school environment, CARE fosters community engagement and policy dialogue.

Families, teachers, local authorities, and civil society actors are involved in building shared ownership of the initiative, while project outcomes contribute to broader advocacy efforts - inclu-

ding the integration of results into Haiti’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR), reinforcing food security and education as fundamental human rights.

By transforming **school gardens into spaces of learning**, protection, and participation, CARE demonstrates how children, when empowered and supported, can become catalysts for lasting change. As seeds of change, they nurture not only plants, but also hope, dignity, and a more just and sustainable future for their communities.





BOLIVIA



Project “EMPODÉRATE” - Empowering children and women in the defence, promotion and advocacy of their rights and in the care of the environment – A long journey for the rights

The “Empoderate” Project is the result of a long and shared journey that builds on two previous initiatives developed in partnership with the Irish organization **Misean Cara**. It was created with the aim of strengthening the rights of children and women in Bolivia, preventing violence, and promoting a culture of care for both people and the environment.

Throughout the project, children’s rights education was at the core of all activities. Thousands of people were reached through training initiatives carried out in Marist schools across Bolivia and in collaboration with many other local partners. Teachers, parents, and students were involved in learning pathways that encouraged dialogue, awareness, and responsibility, helping schools and communities become safer and more inclusive spaces for children and women. Particular attention was given to child workers and other vulnerable groups, supporting them in developing leadership skills and a stronger voice to defend their rights.

Empoderate worked closely with communities, combining education with concrete actions. Public events such as marches for children’s rights and the creation of murals in public spaces helped bring these issues to the wider population, making children’s rights visible and shared. At the same time, environmen-

tal activities such as reforestation initiatives and the creation of school gardens strengthened awareness of the right to live in a clean, healthy, and protected environment. These actions were developed with the active participation of school communities and allowed children and young people to experience care for the environment as a collective responsibility.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the project was its strong **focus on advocacy**. Children themselves, including child workers, actively took part in drafting documents addressed to candidates in the Bolivian political elections, calling for children’s rights to be included in public agendas and policies. This participatory approach reinforced the idea that children are not only beneficiaries of rights, but also active agents for change. Alongside this, a draft law was presented to the Bolivian Legislative Assembly to promote peaceful mediation training in schools, an approach developed within the project to prevent violence and bullying, with the goal of extending it to all schools across the country.

The project also contributed to generating and sharing knowledge. In collaboration with the Public University of Cochabamba (UMSS), “Empoderate” supported the gathering of data and research on the situation of working children in Bolivia, making this information accessible both to the general public and to social sector professionals.

By the end of the project, **more than 3700 people had been reached through educational and community initiatives aimed at promoting children’s rights and preventing violence against children and women.** Over 500 people benefited directly from **school gardens** and renewable ener-

gy solutions, exceeding the original targets, while several advocacy actions helped raise the issue of child labour and the protection of child workers and women among policy makers.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of local partners, from Marist schools to the UNATSBO (Union of Working Children in Bolivia) to Public University of Cochabamba (UMSS) and other groups and congregations operating in different regions of the country.

A special acknowledgement goes to the project coordinator, Mauricio Siñaniz Zambrana, and to the entire local team, whose daily work, passion, and close connection with the communities turned *Empoderate* into a concrete step forward in the long journey towards rights, dignity, and social change.

SDGs



CRCs GOALS





THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

259 Adolescent and youth leaders who took part in training activities and are actively involved in establishing initiatives in their schools to educate other students about children's rights and protection.

15 Schools trained in alternative approaches to conflict resolution and dispute mediation.

60 Teachers who, after receiving training, act as facilitators by training students in their schools to become peer mediators.

13 Advocacy actions carried out, involving children, adolescents, and young working people in dialogue with policy makers.

360 Teachers involved in the implementation of initiatives in their schools to educate students about children's rights and protection.

890 Student leaders participating in school-based initiatives to promote children's rights and protection.

401 Parents involved in creating school initiatives to educate other parents about children's rights and protection.

100 Working children participating in initiatives to educate other children about children's rights and protection.

167 Men who attended workshops designed to strengthen their ability to promote and defend women's rights.

944 Women who attended workshops that empowered them to claim and effectively defend their rights.

10 Schools benefiting from the creation of community school gardens.

5.000 Seedlings planted as part of reforestation activities.

1 UPR Report produced on the situation of child labour in Bolivia.





SDGs



LAUDATO SÌ GOALS

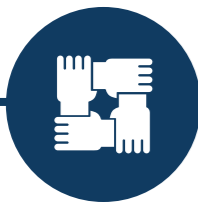


CRCs GOALS





RWANDA



A New Drinking Water Distribution System for the Community of Save - Access to safe water for 24 compounds serving education, health, and community life

In Save, Rwanda, the rehabilitation of the **drinking water distribution system** has recently been completed. The new system now guarantees safe, regular, and sustainable access to water for 24 compounds serving the local community, **benefiting approximately 15,000 people.**

The intervention involved facilities belonging to different ecclesial and educational bodies present in the area:

- several Marist facilities, engaged in educational and training activities;;
- facilities of the Diocese of Butare, hosting pastoral, social, and community services;
- facilities of the Congregation of the Benebekira Sisters, active in education and in accompanying people in the most vulnerable condition.

Before the intervention, the distribution system faced serious challenges: obsolete pipelines, frequent leakages, and an irregular water supply that made it difficult to ensure continuous access to drinking water. This situation had a direct impact on health, hygiene, and the regular functioning of educational and community activities.

The rehabilitation of the system included **the replacement of the entire distribution network**, as well as water pumps and storage

tanks. The new distribution network and the optimization of access points now ensure a more stable and efficient water supply for all the facilities involved.

Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right and an essential condition for human dignity. Thanks to this intervention, students, religious communities, educational staff, and families can now rely on safe water for daily use, improving hygiene and health conditions and reducing the risks associated with water-borne diseases.

In particular, the project strengthens:

- **the quality of community life within the compounds;**
- **the continuity of educational and pastoral activities;**
- **the protection of health, especially for children, young people, and persons in vulnerable condition.**

The rehabilitation of the water distribution system in Save is the result of concrete collaboration among different ecclesial bodies, united by the desire to respond to an essential local need. The Marists, the Diocese of Butare, and the Benebekira Sisters share a common vision: placing people at the centre, while promoting integral and sustainable human development.

This intervention demonstrates that investing in basic infrastructure does not merely mean improving technical services, but rather **creating the conditions for a more just, healthy, and dignified future** for the entire community of Save.

The intervention carried out in Save fully aligns with the recognition of access to drinking water as a fundamental human right, essential for life, health, and human dignity.

The United Nations has affirmed that safe water and sanitation services are indispensable conditions for the realization of other rights, including the right to health, education, and an

adequate standard of living. Ensuring a reliable water distribution system in the compounds of Save therefore means not only improving infrastructure, but also strengthening the protection of people's rights and those of the community—particularly children, young people, and the most in vulnerable condition—by creating a safer and more enabling environment for integral human development.

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

15.000 People gained access to drinking water, with the following benefits:

- **Improved public health.** Significant reduction in waterborne diseases (diarrhea, cholera, intestinal infections), with a direct impact especially on children and people in vulnerable conditions.
- **Reduction in child mortality.** Access to safe water contributes to preventing diseases that are among the leading causes of mortality in children under five.
- **Improved nutrition and hygiene.** Availability of water for safe food preparation, personal hygiene, and the cleaning of domestic and community environments.
- **Greater access to education.** Children—especially girls—are no longer required to walk long distances to fetch water, resulting in increased school attendance.
- **Reduced workload for women and girls.** Local access to water alleviates a task traditionally borne by women, allowing more time for educational, productive, and community activities.
- **Strengthened community resilience.** Communities become more resilient to drought periods and climate shocks thanks to safe and sustainable water systems.
- **Support for local socio-economic development.** Improved hygiene and health conditions support agricultural activities, small livestock farming, and micro-economic initiatives, contributing to poverty reduction.



COLOMBIA



The Marist Project Corazón Sin Fronteras strengthens the right to water on the Colombia-Venezuela border

The Marist Project Corazón Sin Fronteras, promoted by the Norandina Province, has taken a decisive step to improve the living conditions of children in situations of extreme vulnerability with the construction of a potable water well in Maicao (La Guajira, Colombia), inaugurated on 16 September.

This intervention guarantees stable and safe access to drinking water in one of the most challenging contexts in the region: La Pista, the largest informal settlement in Latin America. Here, more than **14,000 people, most of them Venezuelan migrants, face systematic violations of fundamental rights, including access to water, education, sanitation, and food.**

The project directly benefits more than **220 children who regularly participate** in the educational, protection, and community activities of the Marist social work, and reaches over 800 children through broader community initiatives, school support, feeding programmes, and recreational and educational activities.

The construction of the well was made possible thanks to the technical accompaniment and coordination of resources by Marist International Soidarity Foundation (FMSI), with the financial support of the **Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI).**

In a territory marked by high temperatures, scarce rainfall, and a lack of water infrastructure,

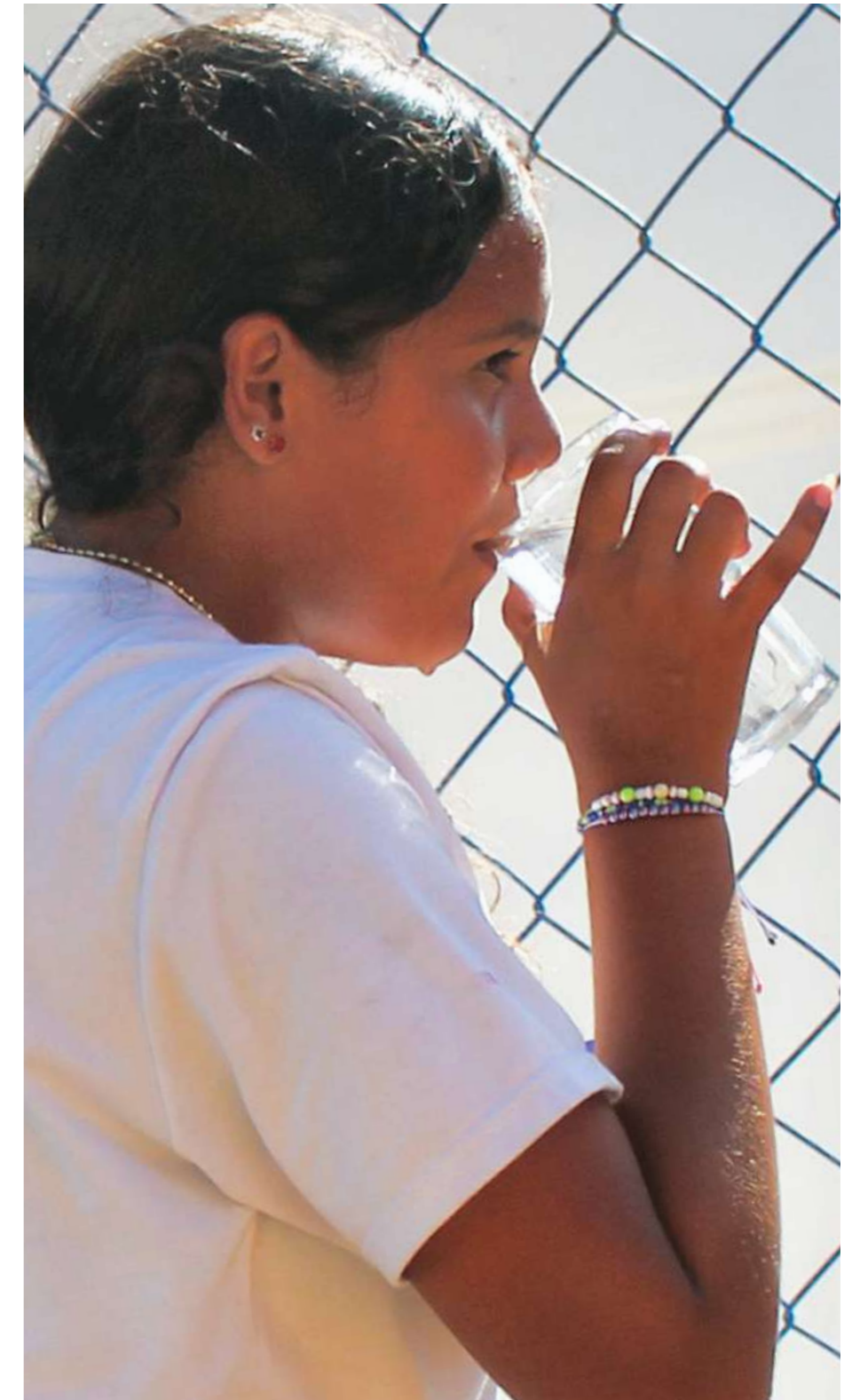
families are often forced to rely on water purchased privately or delivered by trucks, representing a significant economic burden for households already living in precarious conditions. **The new well reduces this dependency and strengthens the sustainability of the educational and community work** carried out by Corazón Sin Fronteras since 2019.

The impact of the project is concrete and multi-dimensional:

- Direct improvement in children's health, hygiene, and nutrition;
- Strengthening of educational, safeguarding, and protection activities;
- Increased sustainability of school and community feeding programme;
- Creation of a safer, healthier, and more child-centred environment for migrant and host-community children.

Beyond technical considerations, the well represents a visible sign of the Marist charism, inspired by the legacy of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, and a structural response to long-standing exclusion.

Access to water becomes a gateway right, enabling the fulfilment of other fundamental rights and reaffirming the project's commitment to transforming unjust realities and ensuring every child's right to develop in a healthy, safe, and opportunity-filled environment.



THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

+200 Children directly benefiting from educational and protection activities.

+800 Children reached through community-based initiatives.

1 Potable water well, constructed and operational in La Pista settlement.

1 Highly vulnerable border territory with a large migrant population.

SINCE 2019 Continuous Marist presence in the largest informal settlement in Latin America.



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

SDGs



LAUDATO SI GOALS



CRCs GOALS





THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

246 Children and young people with disabilities directly supported through inclusive education, health, and rehabilitation services.

230 Children under 18 empowered to access quality education and develop independence and life skills.

168 Children with disabilities expected to complete the school year across primary, secondary, university, and vocational education.

168 Children receiving continuous medical and rehabilitation support, including physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, and regular health checks.

59 Assistive devices provided to enhance mobility, autonomy, and participation in daily life.

150 Children strengthening self-reliance and resilience, developing skills for independent living.

10 Girls with disabilities actively engaged in girl-led leadership activities, promoting gender equality and confidence.

5 Student-led ecological initiatives, positioning children and school staff as agents of change in environmental sustainability.

SDGs



LAUDATO SI GOALS



CRCs GOALS



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



CAMBODIA



“One Disability, a Hundred Potentials”: Inclusive education and health programmes for children with disabilities

In Cambodia, children with disabilities face intersecting forms of exclusion that limit their access to education, healthcare, and participation in society. Environmental degradation, poverty, and social stigma further compound these challenges, disproportionately affecting children in the most vulnerable conditions. Within this context, the project “One Disability, a Hundred Potentials”, implemented through LaValla School by Marist Solidarity Cambodia, places children with disabilities at the heart of change - recognising them as active seeds of transformation for inclusive and sustainable communities.

At LaValla School, inclusion and environmental responsibility are deeply interconnected. The project adopts a holistic approach that combines inclusive education and health services with ecological awareness and sustainable practices, helping children understand the strong link between their own well-being and the health of the environment. In a country where access to clean water, energy, and safe living conditions remains uneven, environmental education becomes a powerful tool for empowerment.

Children actively participate in student-led ecological initiatives, including waste management and recycling activities, environmental awareness sessions, and the care of green spaces within the school. These actions transform the school into a living laboratory where children learn by doing - developing responsibility, cooperation, and leadership while contributing to

a healthier environment. Through this daily engagement, children with disabilities are not only learners but agents of change, demonstrating that environmental stewardship is accessible to all.

The project also integrates **sustainable practices into school infrastructure and daily life**. Energy-saving measures, responsible waste management, and environmental education activities promote long-term behavioural change among students, staff, and the wider school community. These practices reinforce the idea that sustainability is not an abstract concept, but a shared responsibility rooted in everyday choices.

Alongside environmental action, LaValla provides access to quality education, rehabilitation, and assistive devices, ensuring that children with disabilities can participate fully in school life and environmental activities alike. Health and rehabilitation services improve mobility and autonomy, enabling children to engage actively in ecological initiatives and community life. This inclusive model challenges stereotypes by showing that children with disabilities are capable contributors to environmental protection and social development.

Environmental education also becomes a bridge to advocacy and social change. By engaging families, teachers, and local institutions, the project promotes a broader culture of sustainability and inclusion beyond the school walls. Children’s involvement in environmental initiatives strengthens their confidence and voice, encouraging them to speak up not only for their own rights but also for the protection of their communities and natural resources.

By linking inclusive education, environmental

stewardship, and children’s protagonism, “One Disability, a Hundred Potentials” **encourages children with disabilities to cultivate awareness, responsibility, and hope** through small but meaningful actions, children – thereby laying the foundations for a more inclusive and environmentally sustainable future in Cambodia.



TRAINING ACTIONS

TRAINING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY FMSI AND THE SECRETARIAT OF SOLIDARITY-CMI OF THE MARIST BROTHERS INSTITUTE IN 2025

Empowering Change Through Formation

In 2025, FMSI strengthened its commitment to systemic and lasting change by investing in strategic formation initiatives aimed at placing children’s rights at the centre of mission, advocacy, and institutional practice. These actions were conceived not as isolated learning moments, but as tools for transformation, capable of generating impact across projects, policies, and communities.

UPR and Children’s Rights: Commitment and Impact of the Institute

On 27 August 2025, FMSI and the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI facilitated a global online session on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a concrete instrument for advancing children’s rights. The session explored why the Marist Institute engages in the UPR, how it does so, and what change it seeks to generate. Through stories from Bangladesh and the Philippines, advocacy was presented as transformative solidarity, rooted in real lives. Children’s protagonism emerged as a key pillar, illustrated through experiences such as the “Defenda-se” campaign in Brazil and Mexico, the OSAEC programme in the Philippines, and children’s oral statements during the UPR in Costa Rica. The use of tools such as the FMSI interactive UPR map highlighted how local experiences connect to national and international accountability processes.

Child Rights First: A Rights-Based Approach in All We Do

In September 2025, FMSI delivered a two-part in-person formation at the Marist Brothers’ General House in Rome, focused on embedding a Child Rights-Based Approach across all dimensions of organizational life. The training marked a shift from child-focused approaches to child-led and rights-driven practice, addressing go-

vernance, strategy, and daily decision-making, and translating these principles into practice through child-led advocacy and UPR engagement.

From Knowledge to Transformation: Youth Empowerment, Advocacy and Safeguarding

The formation journey placed strong emphasis on youth empowerment and participation, grounded in the Marist guide “Stand Up, Speak Up & Act.” The documentary on **Youth Empowerment Clubs** in Malawi offered a concrete example of how children and young people can organize, speak out, and lead change when supported by safe and enabling environments. Building on this foundation, participants deepened their understanding of children’s rights frameworks, advocacy tools, and the UPR, linking local empowerment initiatives to systemic change. Safeguarding was addressed as an essential condition for participation, through a child-rights-based lens and practical case studies, including the Madagascar Province Child Protection Programme. The later stages of the formation focused on co-design and sustainability, with participants developing Youth Empowerment Club models adapted to their contexts and reflecting on networking and long-term collaboration.

Building Capacities for Child Protection and Digital Safety with the SMSM

A dedicated component of the 2025 formation focused on child protection and digital safety, delivered for the benefit of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM). Addressing emerging risks such as online exploitation, cyberbullying, and grooming, the training framed digital safeguarding as the same child protection mission applied to new spaces. Concrete Marist experiences, including “Defenda-se” and OSAEC, demonstrated how prevention, awareness, and empowerment can be effectively combined to protect children while strengthening their agency.

Across all training actions, a shared message emerged:



WATCH THE VIDEO
ONLINE, CLICK OR
SCAN THE QR CODE



formation becomes transformative only when it equips people to act differently. By combining knowledge, practice, and reflection, FMSI reaffirmed its role in capacity building and accompaniment, supporting regions, provinces, and the SMSM Sisters in embedding children's rights, advocacy, safeguarding, and participation into everyday practice. In doing so, the 2025 formation fully embodied the theme Children, Seeds of Change.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TRAININGS

- **Strengthened Child Rights Approach:** Participants deepened their understanding of children as rights-holders and agents of change, shifting from child-focused to child-led and rights-based practice.
- **Increased Capacity for Advocacy and Systemic Change:** Marist actors enhanced their ability to engage with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a strategic tool to influence policies, amplify children's voices, and promote accountability at national and international levels.
- **Empowered Children's Protagonism:** Concrete experiences demonstrated how children's meaningful and safe participation can drive change, including child-led campaigns, safeguarding initiatives, and direct engagement with UN mechanisms.
- **Stronger Institutional Coherence:** The training reinforced an integrated logic of rights, connecting projects, safeguarding, advocacy, monitoring, and communication into a coherent and impactful organizational approach.
- **Enhanced Local Ownership and Capacity Building:** Regions and provinces were equipped with tools and methodologies to build local capacities, ensuring sustainability and long-term impact beyond individual training sessions.
- **Reinforced Marist Identity and Mission:** By rooting formation in Marist values of solidarity, justice, and presence, the training strengthened a shared commitment to placing children at the centre of all actions.



TESTIMONIALS



ISABEL
MARIST SCHOOL OF ALAJUELA,
COSTA RICA



“

Policies and decisions aimed at supporting and protecting children and youth only truly work when we take into account our (the youth) experiences and opinions. ”



YENNEYDI
CORAZÓN SIN FRONTERAS,
COLOMBIA



“

We empower children and adolescents and teach them to be resilient, children who shine in the darkness, who are not afraid to speak up. ”





WATCH THE VIDEOS
ONLINE, CLICK OR
SCAN THE QR CODES



VENNEDICH
MARCELLIN CENTER,
PHILIPPINES



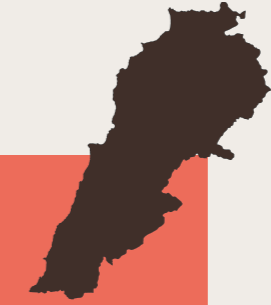
“

*The Marcellin Foundation
is more than a shelter.
It is a home for us.
It is a family.
It is a place where broken
stories are rewritten with
hope.*

”



**STUDENT
PROJECT FRATELLI,
LEBANON**



“

*If it weren't for the Fratelli
School, I wouldn't be
studying right now. This
school has given us many
rights and taught us so
much. (...) A child's right is
to learn, eat, study, go to
the hospital if they get sick,
have clothes, have a family,
and their right is to learn
everything.*

”



Governance and Administration

The Marist International Solidarity Foundation ETS is a Foundation of Participation and has its legal and operational headquarters at the General House of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools (its Founder) in Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat n.2 in Rome. Its fiscal code is 97484360587.

The mandate of the previous Councilors ended with the approval of the 2021 Annual Financial Statements. The new Council, in office since 01/06/2022, met 2 times during the year 2025 (on May 30 and on December 5). The meetings were held in person at the Foundation’s headquarters, and it was possible for some Councilors to join the meetings remotely, according to the provisions of the Statute. The mandate of the Councilors ended with the approval of the 2024 Annual Financial Statements (during the meeting of May 30). However, given that the General Chapter was held in September 2025 with the election of the new General Council of the Founder Institute—responsible for appointing the President and the new Board of Directors of the Foundation—it was decided to extend the mandate by one year, until May 2026, in accordance with the Statute and the Italian Civil Code.

In addition to the regular management activities of the Board, including the approval of the 2024 Financial Statements, the 2025 Budget, and the 2024 Annual Report, the resignation of the President was accepted. This was followed by the appointment of Br. Jorge Gaio (formerly a Board member) as the new President, and Br. Niño Mayor Pizarro as a new member, ensuring the Board’s composition remained at five members, in accordance with the Statute. 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.

ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLE	NAME	COUNTRY	CHARGE DURATION	EXTENSION
Former Chairman	Kenneth Charles McDonald – FMS*	Australia	2022 - 2024	2025
Chairman	Jorge Gaio – FMS	Brazil	2022 - 2024	2025
Secretary-general	Maria Inmaculada Maillo	Spain	2022 - 2024	2025
	Angela Matulli	Italy	2022 - 2024	2025
	Fortune Chiedzo Chakasara – FMS	Zimbabwe	2022 - 2024	2025
	Niño Mayor Pizarro – FMS	Philippines		

* No longer a member of the FMSI Board of Directors as of September 1, 2025. 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
	Dr. Luigino Fiorio	2023 - 2025
	Dr. Fabrizio Levantini	2023 - 2025
Substitute	Dr. Giovanni Sebastio	2023 - 2025
Substitute	Dr. Rocco Positano	2023 - 2025

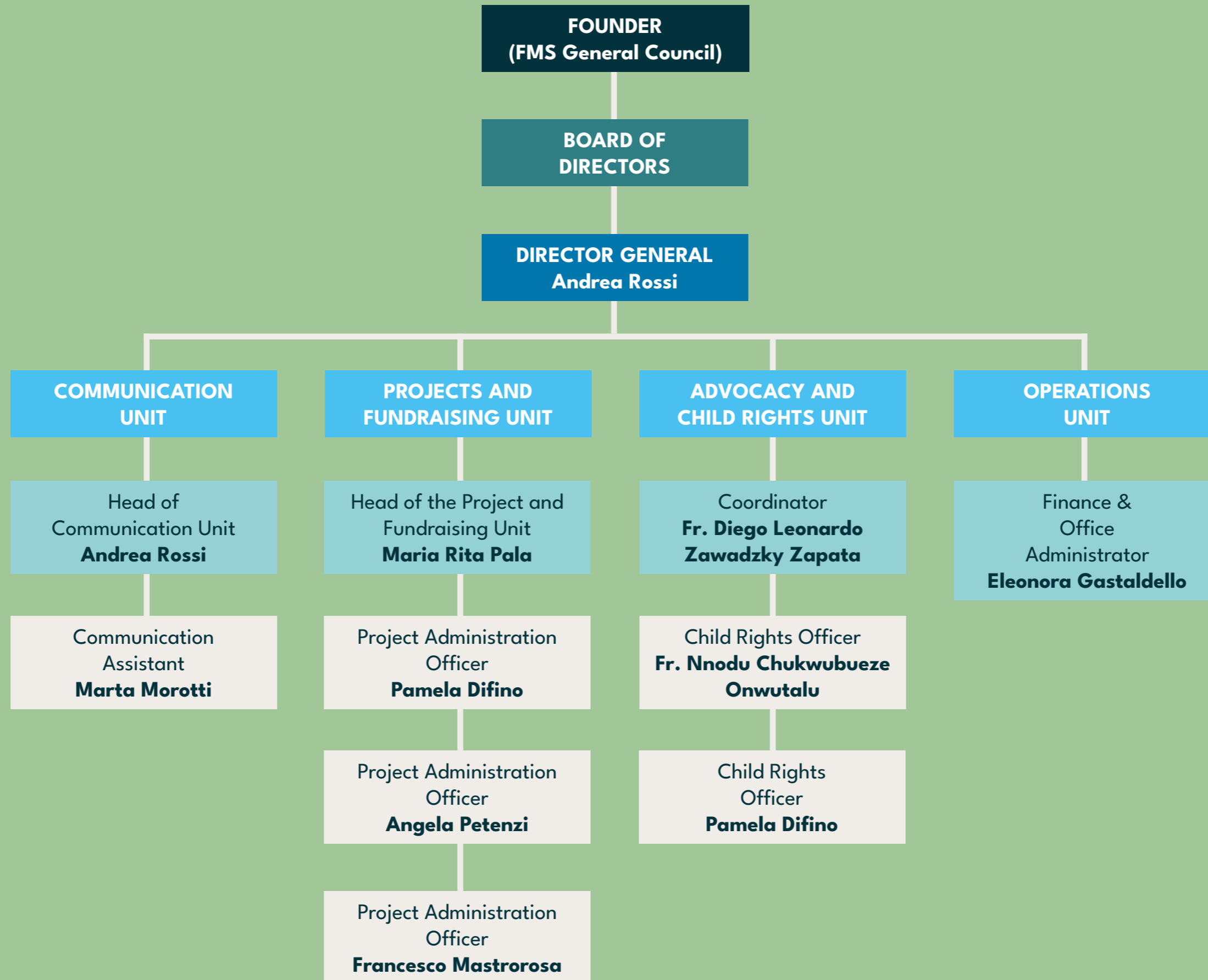
The total fees paid to the Board of Auditors in 2025 were amounted to € 6,067 (plus IVA and legal charges).

SUPERVISORY BOARD

Lawyer Luca Pardo

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, a task assigned to Lawyer Luca Pardo.

ORGANIGRAM

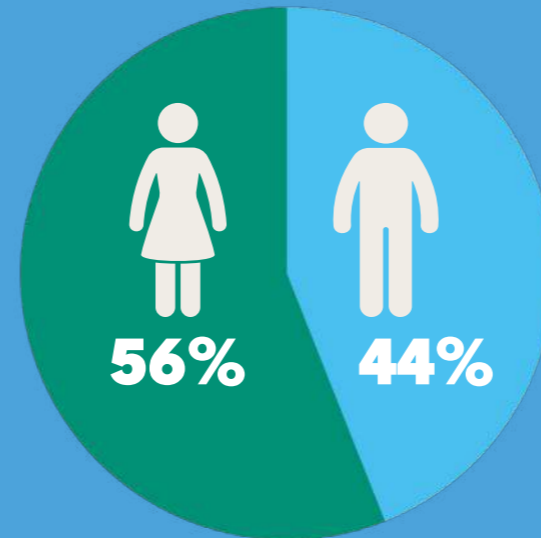


OUR STAFF

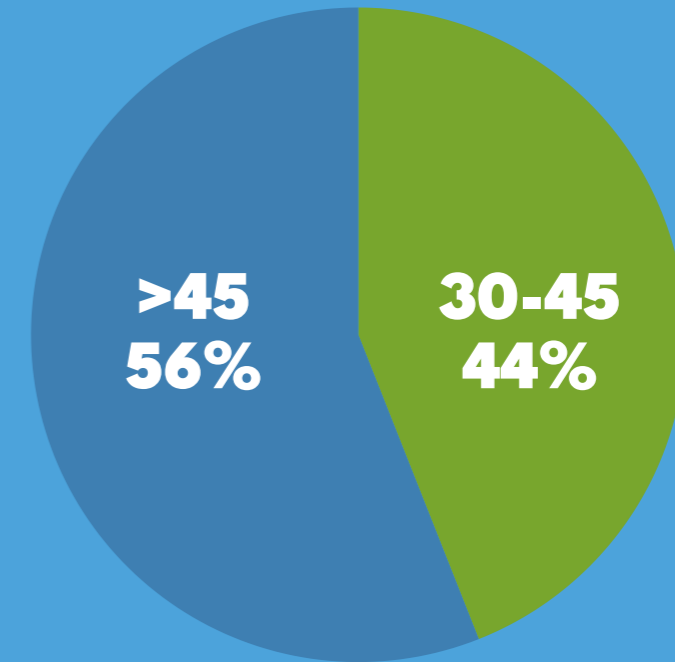
Throughout the year 2025, the operational staff of FMSI was permanently composed of 7 people: a General Director, 1 Financial and Administration Officer, 1 Communication Assistant, 1 Head Project Unit and 3 Project Managers and two Marist Brothers. As of 31/12/2025, the workforce has reached 9 members due to the presence of 1 intern and of one external collaborator. The applied contract is the National Collective Labour Contract “Social Welfare Institutions, AGIDAE” and 85% of employees as of 31/12/25 were hired on a permanent basis.

Within the staff there was 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’s worth noting the valuable work provided by the two Brothers 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 5,07 YEARS



AGE

TABLE OF CONTRACTUAL LEVELS

ROLE	DIRECTOR	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER	OFFICER
LEVEL	F2	D1	D1	D1	E1	D1	C2
TYPOLOGY	Permanent Full-time	Permanent Full-time	Permanent Full-time	Permanent Part-time	Permanent Full-time	Permanent Part-time	Full-time apprenticeship

SALARY TABLE

Gross Annual Salary (€)	No. of employees	Of which part-time
15.000 – 19.999	1	1
20.000 – 24.999	-	-
25.000 – 45.000	5	1
45.000 – 55.000	1	-

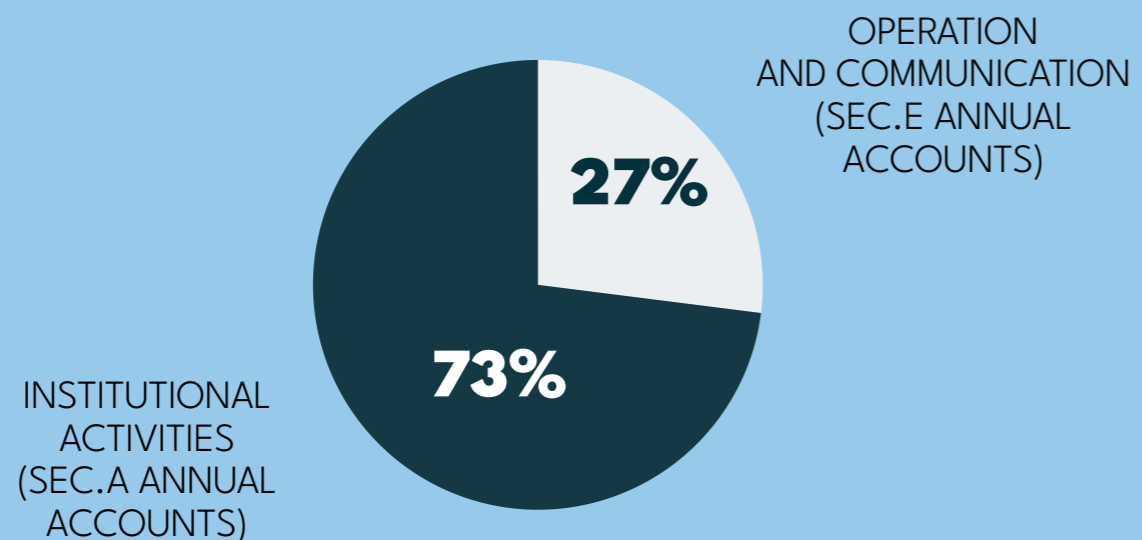
In compliance with the Third Sector Code legislation, art. 16 of Leg.ve Decree n.117/2017, the ratio of salaries major difference between FMSI employees - calculated on the basis of the gross annual salary - is 1.99, therefore much smaller than the 1 to 8 ratio ceiling allowed.

During the year, an extra-curricular internship has started within the Communication Unit and Project 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.

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 workload is strongly oriented towards managing ongoing projects in various countries worldwide and seeking funding opportunities for new development projects also 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 of the organization.

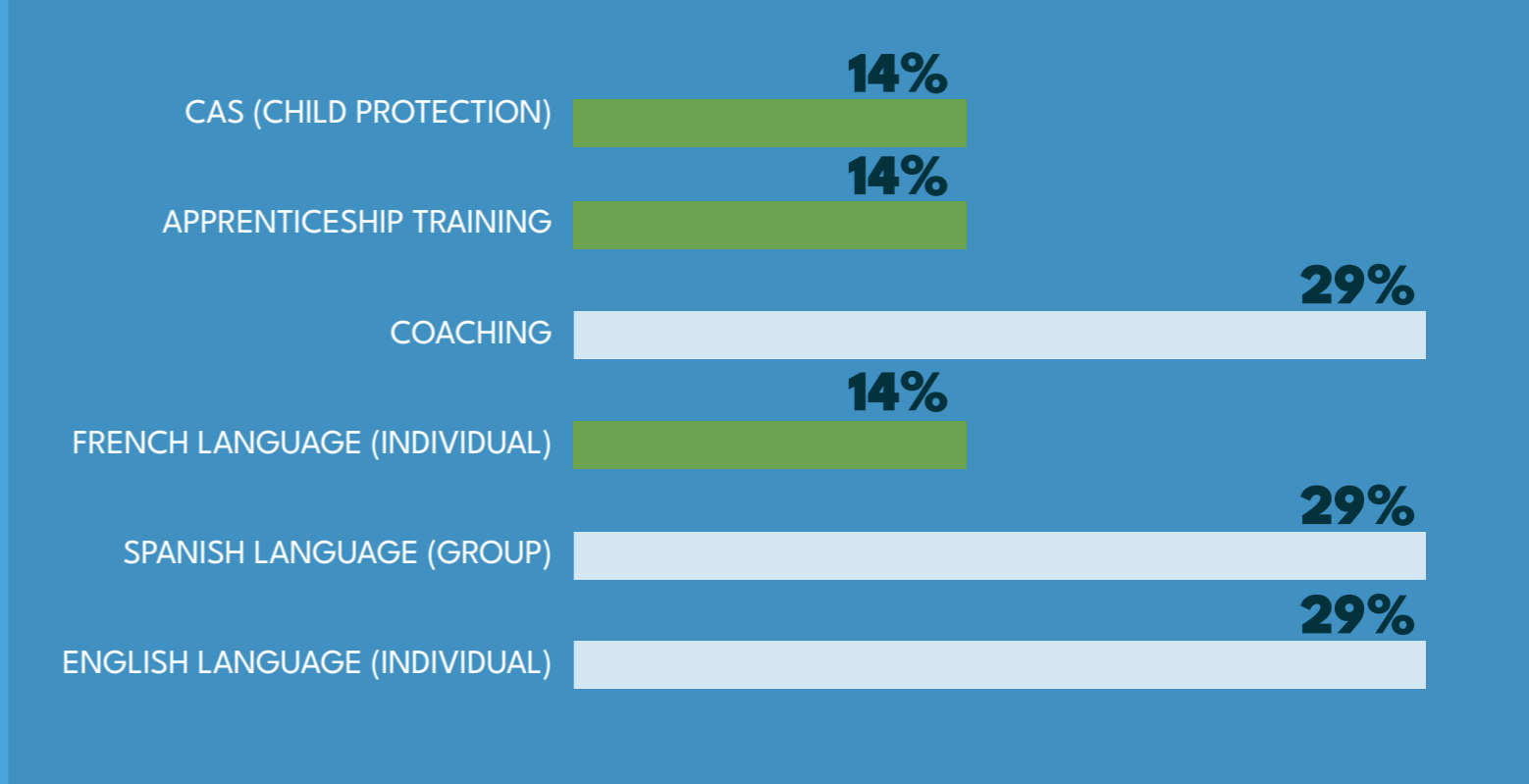
In 2025, FMSI implemented the internal management control system to monitor and calibrate the workload of human resources in different intervention areas. This system allows an analytical reporting of the work commitment in accordance with the classifications required by the Third Sector Code regulations. 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 with the Third Sector Reform, the projection reflects the allocation of human resources commitment 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 2025, there were 6 training events, totalling 252 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 57% of staff involved**
- **Technical skills (Child Rights area and operation area), 3 courses and 57% of the staff involved**



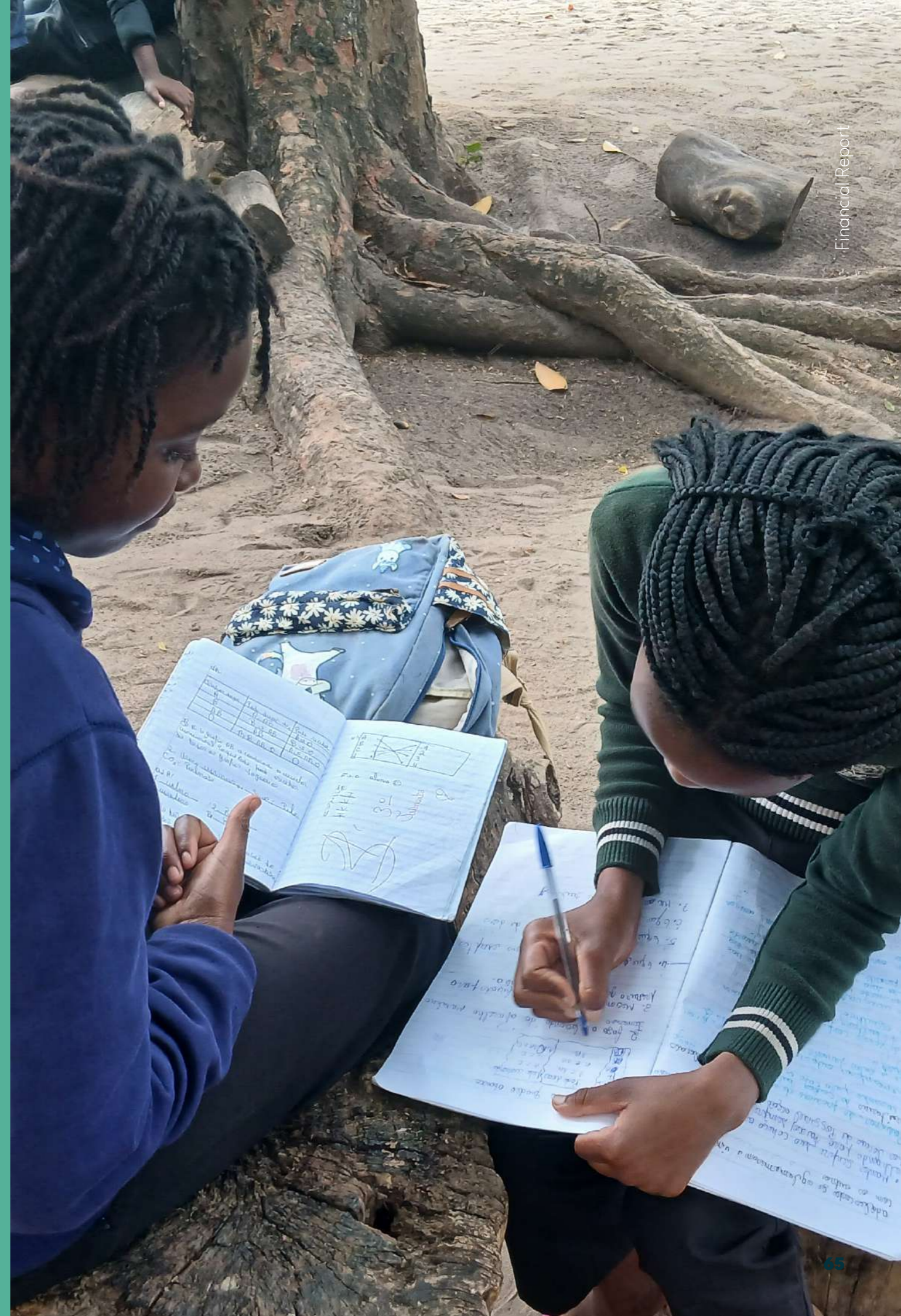
FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURES	2024	2025
A) Expenditure on general interest activities		
1) Supplies	-	-
2) Services	53.141,94 €	43.814,06 €
3) Use of third party assets	5.520,29 €	5.864,91 €
4) Staff costs	212.315,31 €	231.396,89 €
5) Annual amortizations	1.349,25 €	642,29 €
7.1) Donations for projects	2.257.835,26 €	2.029.673,61 €
7.2) Other operating expenses	21.811,72 €	21.561,19 €
Total A)	2.551.973,77 €	2.332.952,95 €
C) Fundraising costs		
1) Costs for regular fundraising	6.110,00 €	7.507,50 €
Total C)	6.110,00 €	7.507,50 €
D) Charges from financial assets and liabilities		
1) Bank charges	4.362,06 €	3.200,58 €
6) Other charges	2.550,00 €	645,65 €
Total D)	6.912,06 €	3.846,23 €

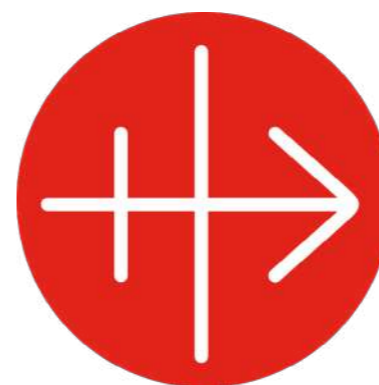
	2024	2025
E) Operating expenses		
1) Supplies	169,90 €	229,36 €
2) Services	36.795,90 €	38.036,56 €
4) Staff costs	27.762,57 €	44.225,62 €
7) Other charges	2.755,43 €	2.102,58 €
Total E)	67.483,80 €	84.594,12 €
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2.632.479,63 €	2.428.900,80 €

INCOME	2024	2025
A) Revenue from general interest activities		
1) Donations from Founder	366.603,50 €	400.355,66 €
5) Public contribution (5 per mille)	24.735,48€	29.510,80 €
6) Donations from private entities	2.229.027,34 €	1.898.866,71 €
8) Donations from public entities	4.665,08 €	-
10) Other revenues	2.564,86 €	10.595,75 €
Total A)	2.627.596,26 €	2.339.328,92 €

	2024	2025
C) Revenues from fundraising activities		
1) Revenues from regular fundraising	3.951,00 €	86.200,44 €
Total C)	3.951,00 €	86.200,44 €
D) Revenues from financial and asset activities		
1) From bank charges	1.433,54 €	1.564,00 €
2) From other financial investments	-	-
Total D)	1.433,54 €	1.564,00 €
E) General support income		
2) Other	2.443,06 €	1.465,56 €
Total E)	2.443,06 €	1.465,56 €
Total	2.635.423,86 €	2.428.558,92 €
Operating result	2.944,23 €	341,88 €
TOTAL INCOME	2024	2025
Figurative Costs		
1) From general interest activities	106.473,12 €	188.790,71 €
Total	106.473,12 €	188.790,71 €
Figurative Income	2024	2025
1) From general interest activities	-	-
Total	-	-



NETWORKS AND PARTNERS









ADVOCACY PARTNERS



PROVINCES

WE WORKED WITH IN 2025



Partner Provinces



STAFF INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT:

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Br. Nnodu Chukwubueze Onwutalu - Advocacy and Child Rights Coordinator Assistant
Andrea Rossi - General Director
Eleonora Gastaldello - Finance & Office Administrator
Angela Petenzi - Project Administration Officer
Francesco Mastrorosa - Project Administration Officer
Maria Rita Pala - Head of the Project and fundraising Unit
Pamela Difino - Child Rights and Projects Officer
Marta Morotti - Communication Assistant
Enrica Todde - Communication Intern

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Mauricio Rocabado Durán
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Marist Province of Mexico Occidental
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Marist School of Terra Vermelha
Three2Six Project

LANGUAGES REVIEW

Br. Ataíde José de Lima
Br. Michael Sexton
Br. Jesús Alberto Rodríguez Delgado

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, 2026.

For information on the 2025 Annual Report:
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PRECAUCIÓN

MAKAWA
MK-0175

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**Marist International
Solidarity
Foundation ETS**

FMSI

For the benefit of children

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