



## Making more and more children happy and healthy

Whenever the departure of a mission of our "Children's Heart" Program draws near, I can't help but imagine our volunteer doctors and **nurses** as they say goodbye to their loved ones before they leave: the hugs, the affectionate words. They will be away for a week, flying thousands of miles from home. And that's not all: they often have to ask for a week's leave in the hospital where they normally work, in order to go on a mission.

And then I wonder: but what about the children, husbands or wives of these doctors and nurses, how proud of them must they be? Yes, because those who go off volunteering for "Children's Heart" are going to save lives. And I think there is no higher act of solidarity.

For Mission Bambini, 2022 was a special year, because finally - after the stop imposed by the pandemic - we resumed missions to go and **operate on children** who are born with severe heart disease in a country where they have little hope of being cured. The first country we returned to is Uganda. And then throughout the year missions to Nepal, Eritrea, Albania: not only to perform surgery, but also to visit children who had already undergone surgery and train local doctors and nurses.

Since 2005, when the "Children's Heart" Program began, we have saved 2,553 children, more than 23,000 have been examined, and more than 500 local doctors have been trained. All this is done through missions abroad, but also by supporting hospitals in the countries where we intervene and in some cases by bringing children to Italy. In 2022, 17 children had surgery in our country. And here, too, we involved - for the first time our volunteers: not doctors in this case, but ordinary people who decide to devote their time to welcoming children and the families that come with them.

The year 2022 was also marked by another important novelty. To crown our now more than a decade-long commitment to supporting early childhood education services in Italy, we launched the "Scintilla (Spark)" **project**. This project has networked 4 centers - the "Stars of Mission Bambini" - in Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (in the province of Milan). The long-term goal is to develop a model of intervention that can be replicated in other contexts and expand the national network of "Stars" over the years to ensure the protection of children's rights, especially in vulnerable situations.

In addition to these, there have been many interventions that are featured in this "Annual Report". Some were emergency actions, such as those for mothers and children who fled Ukraine because of the war and were welcomed in Italian schools. Others will have continuity over time because they respond to structural needs, such as the "Mission Bambini's Space" that offers emotional support to students within schools.

In any case, all these interventions are only possible thanks to the solidarity of our volunteers and also the donors who support us, the companies and foundations that work with us. That is why I hope to always have you by our side, our goal being to make more and more children happy and healthy. Thank you for your solidarity.

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This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with the **Guidelines for the preparation of the social report of Third Sector organizations** (Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Policies of July 4, 2019). The figures contained in this Annual Report refer to the activity of the whole Mission Bambini Group, if not otherwise specified.

The consolidated accounts of Mission Bambini Italy for the year ending on 31/12/2022 with notes and mission report are published online at www. missionbambini.org and have been **certified by Deloitte & Touche S.p.A**.

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## **THE WORLD OF MISSION BAMBINI**

"St. Clelia School" in Kitanga, Uganda



## **Identity and Values**

Mission Bambini ETS (Entity of the Third Sector) is a Foundation that was **created in Italy in the year 2000** thank to the initiative of Goffredo Modena and his family. The mission is "to provide help and support to children who are poor, sick or uneducated or have been victims of psychological or physical abuse, giving them the opportunity and the hope of a better life". Our work has always been focused on children and our aim is to accompany them towards their future: we want to be their lucky stars.

According to article 4 of the Code of the Third Sector, as an ONLUS (Non-Profit Organization of Social Utility) Mission Bambini is to all intents and purposes an Entity of the Third Sector (ETS) pursuing non-profit civic, solidarity and social utility purposes. The Foundation rejects any kind of cultural, racial or religious discrimination and operates with the utmost respect of children's rights. In the pursuit of its

mission, the Foundation conforms to the values of Liberty, Justice, Truth, Respect for others and Solidarity. In early 2015, the Italian Foundation established Mission Bambini Switzerland and the Friends of Mission Bambini Fund in the U.S., effectively creating the **Mission Bambini Group**.

There are two main areas of intervention, active both in Italy and abroad. **Education**, to combat educational poverty among minors by guaranteeing access to quality education and training. **Health**, to promote prevention and ensure access to timely treatment to protect the health of children and young people, with particular reference to children suffering from heart disease in countries with a poor health system.

During 23 years of activity the Mission Bambini Group has supported over **1,400,000 children** by means of over **2,000** aid projects in 77 countries all over the world.

**MISSION BAMBINI IN SHORT** 

23
years of activity

2,000 projects implemented

1,4 MILLION children and young people helped

77
countries of intervention



## **Statutory Bodies**

Mission Bambini ETS has the following institutional bodies for the purpose of governance: President, Board of Directors (BoD), General Manager, Technical Committee, and Board of Trustees.

The **President** is the legal representative of the Foundation, he summons and chairs the Board of Directors, carries out its decisions and exercises the functions which are entrusted to him by the Board of Directors as a general rule or on particular occasions. In cases of urgency, he may take the measures within the competence of the Board of Directors, subject to ratification by the Board at its first meeting.

The Board of Directors decides the guidelines of the Foundation's activities, identifying projects to be implemented; draws up and approves annually the final budget, the budget estimate, and, if necessary, the social budget; defines the Foundation's operational structure; decides on amendments to the bylaws; and rules on extraordinary operations. It appoints the members of the BoD, the General Manager and the members of the

Technical Committee. Besides the President Goffredo Modena, the members of the Board of Directors are Maria Paola Villa, Sara Modena, Elisabetta Modena, Ottavio Crivaro, Roberto Bercè and Andrea Visconti.

The **General Manager** oversees the administrative activities of the Foundation. To this end he/she performs any necessary and consequent act and reports to the BoD. Additional powers may also be delegated to the General Manager aimed at the execution of specific resolutions adopted from time to time by the BoD, or in general any power related to the implementation, coordination, and execution of the Foundation's activities.

The **Technical Committee** has the task of identifying and reporting to the BoD initiatives and projects consistent with the Foundation's purposes; it expresses non-binding opinions on the Foundation's programs of activities and the results achieved by the initiatives implemented by the Foundation; and it monitors and controls the progress of projects approved by the BoD. It is composed of the Presi-

dent, the General Manager, the Head of the Projects area, and other high-profile individuals with expertise in the Foundation's purposes and activities who are appointed by the BoD.

The **Board of Trustees** verifies the regular bookkeeping and accounting procedures and prepares its annual report which is attached to the balance-sheet. The members of the Board of Trustees are: Marco Moroni (President); Daniela Colicchia and Marco Marzorati.

In 2019 Mission Bambini created the **Honor Committee** to assist the Board of Directors in networking with national and international business, academic, and philanthropic circles with the aim of furthering the Foundation's statutory activities. Members are invited into the Honor Committee by the President. These members are: Baldassarre Agnelli, Giulio Artom, Giovanni Battista Benvenuto, Chiara Buttè, Ignazio Rocco di Torrepadula, Dario Giambelli, Aldo Lombardo, Stefano Marianeschi, Bruno Mazzetta, Manuela Mezzetti, Maria Laura Risolo, Lucio Tabini.



## **History: milestones**

#### **Year 2000**

Mission Bambini is founded in Milan on January 18 under the name of "Helping Children" on the initiative of Mr. Goffredo Modena, an engineer. In 2001 the Foundation receives the recognition of ONLUS - Non-Profit Organization of Social Utility; in 2016 the registration in the list of NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations will be accomplished. The first project supported is in Brazil: a nursery school for 100 children.

#### **Year 2002**

The 1st Mission Bambini volunteer leaves for Madagascar, visiting the school in the village of Sarodroa. There will be two more firsts for our volunteers: in 2007, with the 1st National Volunteer Meeting; in 2019, with the 1st edition of "Volontariando".

#### **Year 2005**

The "Children's Heart" program is born, with the goal of saving the lives of severely cardiopathic children born in the poorest countries. On the weekend of December 3 and 4, the first edition of "Santa Claus for a Day" is held: a large national street festival, which will become a regular event over the years in support of the Foundation's projects.

#### **Year 2006**

Mission Bambini launches **educational projects in Italy**, with a focus on early childhood. Over the years, the Foundation will first start or expand more than 100 nurseries and play spaces throughout the country, thanks to the program called "A nursery for every child"; later, through **adoptions in Italy**, it will make these services accessible to the most fragile children.

#### **Year 2009**

In response to the **earthquake that hit L'Aquila**, the Foundation implements concrete projects for children and communities in Abruzzo. The Foundation will take action during other emergencies: 2010, earthquake in Haiti; 2013, earthquakes in Central Italy; 2020, Covid-19 pandemic in Italy.

#### **Year 2014**

"Helping Children" becomes "Mission Bambini". It is also the year of the 1st edition of "Banco per l'infanzia": the first national collection of early childhood products, carried out together with Prénatal and other commercial chains such as Chicco. Ellen Hidding is the testimonial of the initiative. From this experience, the Foundation will create together with Feltrinelli two other product collections: "Banco dei desideri" and "GiroLibro".

#### **Year 2015**

Mission Bambini begins its involvement abroad with the **Mission Bambini Switzerland Foundation**, based in Lugano and the **Friends of Mission Bambini fund**, based in New York.

#### **Year 2016**

It's called **#GivetheBeat**, it supports the Children's Heart program and is the Foundation's first crowdfunding campaign.

The crowdfunding activities will culminate in late 2020, with the creation of the Mission Bambini platform **attivati.missionbambini.org**.

#### **Year 2020**

Mission Bambini is now celebrating **20 years of operation**: more than 1.4 million children altogether helped, through 1,700 projects in 75 countries.

#### **Year 2022**

By registering with the Single National Register of the Third Sector (RUNTS), the Foundation officially becomes a Third Sector Entity and takes on the new name of Mission Bambini ETS.



## **Intervention Methods**

The main objective of Mission Bambini is to build di**rect responses** to the needs of children and their families, with operating models that are effective and replicable in a variety of contexts, optimizing the use of available economic and financial resources. To this end, the Foundation values networking and collaboration with its stakeholders, in particular with other non-profit organizations (partners) that operate at a local level based on their deep know-how on specific intervention issues. This allows Mission Bambini to have an in-depth knowledge also of the different territorial contexts, to pursue greater effectiveness and to enhance the skills of each of the actors involved in the implementation of the projects, being concretely close to the children and families in the region.

Specifically, there are mainly three methods of intervention

adopted by Mission Bambini:

- "grant-making": the Foundation grants non-repayable financial resources to partner organizations for the implementation of projects of local scope and predefined duration (usually one year, possibly renewable);
- "capacity building": in addition to the allocation of financial resources, the Foundation combines activities

   including training aimed at developing the managerial and fundraising capacities of partner organizations, but also their skills on a strictly educational level (e.g. through psycho-pedagogical training courses);
- "direct implementation": the Foundation becomes the creator and promoter of projects in which other partner organizations are not involved except in a secondary role; the Foundation itself is responsible for the implementation of these projects and takes direct

responsibility for the beneficiaries through its own teams of experts including psychologists, teachers, educators and pedagogical consultants.

In Italy, the first two modes of intervention are also used by the Foundation within the framework of so-called "network" projects: these projects are generally national in scope (but also local) and, in addition to involving several partners (not only private social organizations, but also schools, institutions, local authorities, research bodies), are generally co-financed by third parties, such as other Foundations. On the other hand, three strictly intended "direct implementation" projects are currently under way: abroad, the "Children's Heart" project for the treatment of childhood heart disease; in Italy, the "Mission Bambini Space" project for the implementation within schools of activities aimed at enhan-

## Stakeholder Map

In pursuing its mission, the Foundation interacts with and benefits from the collaboration of various categories of subjects - both internal and external to the organization - who share its values and charitable aims, always focusing on the beneficiaries of its interventions: children, young people and their families.



cing the emotional and social development of students; and the "AllenaMenti per il futuro (Training Minds for the Future)" training program dedicated to young NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

Also in 2022, together with four partner organizations in as many locations throughout the country, the Foundation created the "Scintilla (Spark)" project: a network of early childhood social and educational centers linked by common intervention models and psycho-pedagogical approaches.

The Foundation's work is generally focused on children and young people, but it increasingly involves families and local communities, with the aim of strengthening their educational role, creating real "educating communities" around the direct beneficiaries of the interventions, especially in Italy. Children and young people are not only beneficiaries of the

interventions: the Foundation promotes their right to parti**cipation** and active citizenship initiatives. In fact, every child from early childhood has the right to participate in decisions that affect him or her, in different ways depending on age. Participation promotes self-esteem in children and develops their sense of responsibility and ability to socialize. With this in mind, Mission Bambini has joined the CRC Group, which monitors the state of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at national level. Since 2020, the Foundation has also joined the Italian network Alleanza per l'Infanzia: a think tank working on issues regarding girls, children and adolescents in Italy, to guide government policies and people's opinions in order to produce significant changes in the lives of the very young. At the international level, on the other hand, Mission Bambini is part of Eurochild, a network of organizations and people working with and for children in Europe.

In addition, since 2021 the Foundation has adopted its own "Child Protection Policy" with the aim of defining processes of partnership and involvement of various stakeholders that can protect children from any abuse or violence. In addition, specific training courses on this issue have been carried out for internal staff, with the aim of also passing on to volunteers, visitors and staff of partner organizations the skills for identifying and reporting abuse.

Finally, during 2022 Mission Bambini particularly concentrated its focus on the environment, also thanks to its partnership with the Selva Urbana Association. On the one hand by promoting good daily practices of respect for the environment, through the testing of the educational game "PiantaLà" for elementary school children. On the other through new urban reforestation actions, which led in particular to the planting of 1,000 trees in the municipality of Gaggiano on the outskirts of Milan.



## REPORTING METHODOLOGY

Mission Bambini does not use specific social reporting standards, but carries out constant monitoring of the projects implemented, verifying their effectiveness from both a qualitative and quantitative point of view. This activity is carried out in close coordination with the partners, who share biannual progress reports with the Foundation. Particularly in some Education projects in Italy Mission Bambini has been testing grids and outcome assessment indicators to track the impact generated by interventions. The information contained in the reports - specifically, the number of beneficiaries involved in the individual projects - is aggregated according to intervention programs, also in order to produce the data that is included in the Annual Report to illustrate the project results obtained.

With regard to the number of beneficiaries reached each year, the following calculation criteria are used: if a beneficiary or a group of beneficiaries are involved in two or more activities, they are counted only once; if a project is imple-

mented on a service that involves a number of children, only the children on whom the project has directly intervened, responding to a specific need, are counted as beneficiaries.

Finally, it should be noted that the Foundation also assesses the effectiveness of its projects on **indirect beneficiaries**, such as the families or communities of reference of the children helped. However, the aggregate data relating to beneficiaries reported in the Annual Report include only direct beneficiaries.

#### **PORTRAIT**

- Name of the entity: Mission Bambini ETS (Entity of the Third Sector)
- Tax code: 13022270154
- VAT registration number: 5494870966
- Head office address: Largo Ildefonso Schuster 1, Milan
- Other offices: Headquarters (Italy): Via Ronchi 17, Milan Swiss branch: Mission Bambini Foundation Switzerland, Via Nassa 21, Lugano
- Legal form and qualification according to the Third Sector Code: Foundation, Entity of the Third Sector (ETS)
- Areas of operation: Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and, particularly, Italy
- **Values and goals pursued:** help and support children who are poor, ill, uneducated or who have suffered physical or moral violence, giving them the opportunity and hope of a life worthy of a person
- Statutory activities: social and socio-sanitary assistance, education, training
- Links with other Third Sector entities:
- Mission Bambini is part of the following national and international networks: Working Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Group), Alliance for Childhood, Eurochild, Testamento Solidale Committee:
- The Swiss Foundation is a member of ProFonds.
- **Context of reference:** Mission Bambini's projects respond to the issues of educational poverty, access to education and protection of the psychological and physical health of children and young people. In the sections of the Annual Report dedicated to projects in the field of Education and Health, some "contextual data" is provided, useful for understanding the dimension of the issues addressed.

## **Human Resources**

As of 31/12/2022 Mission Bambini's staff consisted of **30 employees**. They are organized by function and divided into 5 offices (Projects, Fundraising, Communication and events, Volunteering, Finance and controlling). The heads of the offices report directly to the General Manager, a role held by Sara Modena since 2018.

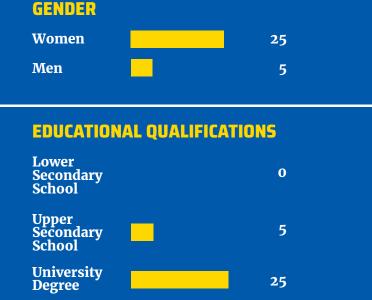
The National Collective Labor Agreement (CCNL) of reference is the UNEBA contract - Natio-nal Union of Social Assistance Institutions and Initiatives. According to article 16 of the Third Sector Code, Mission Bambini's employees

receive an economic treatment equal to or greater than that provided for by the reference CCNL. The ratio between lowest and highest salary is 1:3.3 and therefore well below the limit of 1:8 set by the same article.

All employees are involved monthly in a plenary meeting to update on the Foundation's activities. For the same purpose from the year 2020 an internal newsletter is sent monthly to employees. In addition to employees, as of 31/12/2022 1 volunteer of the Universal Civil Service worked for the Foundation.

#### **BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYEES BY CATEGORY, GENDER, AGE AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**





## **FOCUS ON 2022**

During the year 2022 Mission Bambini confirmed remote working, recognizing that employee satisfaction is enhanced by flexible organization modes that facilitate a work-life balance and also positively affect the quality and productivity of work. Remote working, which was introduced within management practices in 2020 on an emergency basis, has been regulated since 2021 by way of an ad hoc policy and related individual agreements signed by all employees.

Among the new tools adopted with the introduction of remote working a particularly important one is the "Performance Management System", thanks to which for each organizational role the achievement of related goals and the development of related soft skills, i.e. the required organizational behaviors, is evaluated. The basic soft skills, cross-cutting to each role, have been identified as: trust, responsibility, working to objectives, communication and teamwork. To proportionately reward the achievement of professional goals, the Foundation develops an incentive plan each year.

## **Volunteering**

Mission Bambini promotes the culture of giving by offering various opportunities to be a volunteer and help children in need living abroad or in Italy. Whatever activity they choose to carry out, our volunteers know that:

- children have always been the main beneficiaries of our help: our task is to support and accompany them towards their future, so that they can accomplish their dreams and desires;
- time is precious and we are grateful to the volunteers for choosing to donate it: every minute spent helping a child is a minute gained in the challenge of giving that child back the dignity to which he or she is entitled;
- in addition to time, we want to give value to the **skills and enthusiasm** of our volunteers;
- we are a non-profit organization, secular, independent and we ask volunteers to share the values that guide our work: Freedom, Justice, Truth, Respect for others, Solidarity;

 together we can achieve something important, to do good to many children: the first step to begin this journey together is mutual trust.

The Foundation can count on a network of **600 volunteers** throughout the country: 175 of these are new volunteers having started volunteering during the year 2022. During 2022, volunteers donated a total of more than **7,000 hours of volunteer work** in support of the Foundation's activities and projects.

Among the most active volunteers, Mission Bambini chooses volunteer Coordinators, with the role of representing the Foundation at a local level, promoting its mission among civil society, institutions, companies and the media. As of 31/12/2022 there were 22 active Coordinator volunteers.

## **Proposed activities**

Mission Bambini provides several opportunities to be a volunteer. First of all, volunteer activities for education in Italy, in schools and early childhood social and educational centers. In the first case, volunteers mainly carry out two activities:

- tutoring: ongoing support in learning and doing homework, for students in difficulty;
- · education towards sustainable development: raising awareness on the issue of environmental protection, for primary school children. For younger children (age group 0-6 years), during 2022 volunteers took part in the new "Scintilla (Spark)" project, helping to set up the four "Stars" - that is, the socio-educational centers involved in the project - in Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (MI). Throughout the year, moreover, volunteers attended fun-recreational activities that

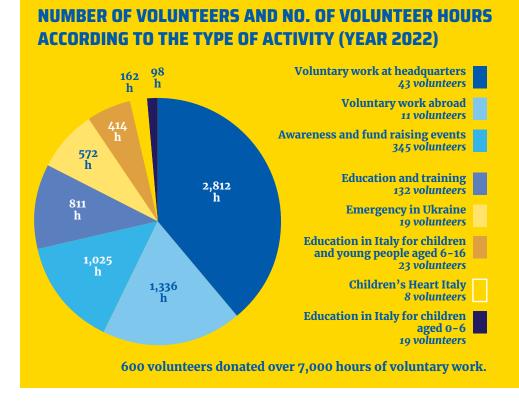
were organized directly by the "Stars".

Volunteer activities for education abroad, on the other hand, involve the possibility of an international volunteering experience lasting at least two weeks, working on one of the Education projects supported by the Foundation in Africa, Asia, Latin America or Europe. Trips take place only to those countries and projects that Mission Bambini at the beginning of each year assesses as being suitable to visit, based on health and socio-political conditions. After a two-year stop imposed by the pandemic, volunteer travel abroad finally resumed during 2022.

Finally, volunteer activities
for support, awareness and
promotion involve volunteers
as promoters of the values and
mission of the Foundation on
many occasions. First of all,
during national initiatives
organized by Mission Bam-

bini, such as the "Banco dei Desideri (the Wishes Counter)", which takes place in the laFeltrinelli bookstores all over Italy during the month of September. Also included in the area of support, awareness and promotion is "Mission Bambini on tour": a series of initiatives promoted and organized directly by volunteers enhancing passions, interests and personal contacts with the aim of raising awareness of the Foundation at the local level, raising public and participant awareness, and raising funds. This new way of volunteer involvement was launched in 2022: the Foundation offers support in planning, organizing and promoting initiatives. This also includes headquar**ters volunteering**, with volunteers engaged in carrying out office activities in support of staff. People who volunteer for Mission Bambini are adequately trained by the Foundation and supervised throughout their journey.

In particular for aspiring volunteers, Mission Bambini periodically organizes "Volontariando": an initial training meeting to learn about the Foundation's activities and all its volunteering opportunities.



## **FOCUS ON 2022**

The year 2022 was marked by the increasing involvement of volunteers in project activities, so much so that the 16th National Meeting of Volunteers held on October 1 at the Foundation's headquarters and named "La nostra marcia in più (Our extra gear)", referring precisely to volunteers, was dedicated to this topic.

For example, in 2022, volunteers took part in the "Children's Heart" project in Italy for the first time, with a team of 8 people dedicated to welcoming and supporting children arriving in our country for surgery (there were 4 during the year). Another team of 7 volunteers, on the other hand, took part in a humanitarian mission to Poland to bring aid to mothers and children who fled the war in Ukraine.

As for involvement in education projects in Italy, volunteers tutored students at the Istituto Comprensivo Don Orione and carried out environmental educational activities in some schools in Milan, including the "PiantaLà" game. Also in Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (MI), volunteers helped set up the "Stars" - the socio-educational centers of the "Scintilla (Spark)" project - and attended activities organized directly by the "Stars", such as the "Garden of Discovery" in Sesto San Giovanni.

International volunteer missions started again in 2022: since August, a total of 11 volunteers visited some educational projects supported by the Foundation in Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Serbia, Thailand and Uganda during the year.

Finally with regard to support, awareness and promotion activities, 2022 saw a great participation in the "Banco dei Desideri (the Wishes Counter)" with more than 100 volunteers in laFeltrinelli bookstores in more than 50 towns and cities over the two days of the initiative. 2022 was also the launch year of "Mission Bambini on Tour": a series of initiatives promoted and organized directly by volunteers. 16 were carried out over the year in different Italian cities. Finally, volunteers also participated in crowdfunding campaigns promoted by the Foundation: in particular, 16 volunteers acted as "personal fundraisers" for the #GivetheBeat campaign in support of "Children's Heart".

#### THE WORLD OF MISSION BAMBINI

#### **TESTIMONIES**

My experience as a tutor has been absolutely positive. We did not present ourselves as institutional figures, but as authority figures to whom the students can refer. I felt the long-term positive effects of this activity, in terms of study method, orientation and especially the cooperative attitude. The pupils are now aware that it is not important to be able to do everything on their own, that it is possible to ask for help when they need it, and at the same time that they too have the ability to help others.

Virna Sassi, volunteer in student tutoring

In Bomet I was a guest at the home that shelters a dozen children and young people because they are orphans or because their families cannot take care of them. My days were spent at school. And I can say that I loved all these children from day one, as they loved me. What they want is simply to listen to you, to look at you, to be with you. After the first difficulties mainly due to the language, everything went smoothly. It was my first experience of this kind abroad and I would do it again 1,000 times.

Valentina Ghisu, volunteer in Kenya



I met Sier and her dad Donaldo, who arrived from Albania. Sier means "like the wind", and like the wind she swept me away with her will to live. I met Aloysius and his dad Dennis, from Uganda. They taught me what a father can go through in order to save his child. But I also understood what dignity is. There is something most precious, which can be spent but cannot be purchased, which always diminishes and never increases: time. The volunteer has no hesitation in using this most precious commodity to help people in need.

**Gianluca D'Elia**, volunteer for "Children's Heart" Italy



Gianluca with Sier, who came to Italy with her dad to undergo heart surgery





Volunteers are more and more an integral part of activities and projects: a true "extra gear". Their involvement represents a fundamental "driving force" in the activities of Mission Bambini, because they live first-hand experiences in contact with children, families and the environments in which the Foundation operates. The 16th National Meeting of Volunteers, held on October 1 at the Foundation's headquarters in Milan and entitled "Our extra gear", with reference precisely to volunteers, was dedicated to this theme.

## **Mission Bambini Switzerland**

Mission Bambini Switzerland, formally founded on 28 January 2015 with headquarters in Lugano, is a **Swiss foundation** to all intents and purposes, under the control of Swiss federal law and tax authorities. Goffredo Modena is the Founder and President.

The Foundation, which was created to enhance and widen Mission Bambini's valuable existing relations to Swiss private donors, companies and foundations, has the mission to provide concrete support to children who are impoverished, sick, without education, or have undergone physical or psycho-

logical abuse, all over the world and in Switzerland. In 2015 Mission Bambini Switzerland joined **ProFonds**, the umbrella Association of all Swiss public utility institutions.

In addition to Goffredo Modena (President) and Sara Modena (General secretary), the members of the **Board of Directors** of Mission Bambini Switzerland are: Antonio Carbone, Ottavio Crivaro, Clara Mascetti. In 2018 the Swiss Foundation also created the **Honor Committee**, with the function of assisting the BoD in its statutory activities. Members are invited into the Honor Committee by the

President of Mission Bambini. The members of the Honor Committee of Mission Bambini Switzerland are: Michele Clerici, François Geinoz, Diego Lissi, Daniela Mascetti.

During 8 years of activity Mission Bambini Switzerland has implemented **72 aid projects in favor of needy children** in 14 countries all over the world.

#### **Results in 2022**

In 2022 Mission Bambini Switzerland donated 261,797 francs to children support projects as part of its statutory activity.

In Switzerland, the Foundation has strengthened its commitment in the Canton of Ticino, for children with autism spectrum syndrome. Together with Fondazione ARES it organized, for the third consecutive year, a highly specialized summer camp in Giubiasco, aimed at involving the entire educational community. Specific efforts were devoted to children with the most severe forms of autism spectrum syndrome, who are generally excluded from any kind of summer camp, partly because they require a 1:1 child-to-caregiver ratio. The campus involved a total of 44 children between 2 and 14 years of age, and offered additional support to their families in their difficult role of "caregivers".

After the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Foundation pro-

vided emergency aid both to organizations operating locally and in support of Ukrainian refugees who had arrived in Italy. In the first case, thanks to a partnership with the Swiss aid organization Helvetas, Mission Bambini Switzerland helped ensure clean water and build adequate shelters for the benefit of internally displaced persons in the municipalities of the Ivano-Frankivsk and Kiev provinces. In the second case, the Foundation helped support a psychological counselling service offered by specialized operators to help refugee children placed in schools in Padua and Milan process the trauma they had suffered, and involving families in group and individual activities aimed at reducing the difficulties of adapting to a different cultural environment.

As for the field of Health, on the other hand, the Foundation continued to support the "Children's Heart" Program for the treatment of children with severe heart disease in the poorest countries, helping to cover the cost of diagnostic examinations and post-operative follow-up. Also in **Zimbabwe**, in 2022 the Foundation provided support to 800 mothers and children who received health care through obstetrics and gynecology services at Luisa Guidotti Hospital in Mutoko. Finally, during the year, a blood emergency fund was financed in **Uganda** at the Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital in Kalango, which guaranteed blood transfusions to patients suffering from diseases such as malaria or sickle cell anemia or to mothers who had problems during childbirth, benefiting a total of 650 people. At the same time, training courses aimed at reducing the hospital inflow for non-critical cases and increasing the timely admission of the most serious cases were organized at the same facility, benefiting 56 local health workers.

#### THE WORLD OF MISSION BAMBINI

In the field of Education abroad, Mission Bambini Switzerland continued its support of the "Pink Scholarships" Program in favor of secondary schooling for young women. Specifically, the Foundation contributed to promote scholarships for girls who could have been forced into underage marriage in Bangladesh, Brazil, India and Uganda. This Program aims at increasing the number of girls attending and completing secondary

education in the poorest countries, helping them obtain a diploma, a professional qualification, or a university degree. The Foundation covers school fees, the expenses for stationery and books and, if necessary, board and lodging.

Again in the field of Education abroad, the Foundation also supported two educational projects in Pondicherry, **India**, and in Sangkhlaburi, **Thailand**, providing hundreds of children with quality inclusive education, shelter and psychosocial support.

#### **FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**

The work of Mission Bambini Switzerland continues to focus mainly on three aspects: women's education as a fundamental tool for emancipation, children's right to health, and inclusive learning for fragile children and children with specific syndromes in the region of Canton Ticino.

In the future, the Foundation intends to continue along this path, strengthening the **collaborative relationship with its project partners and the various stakeholders** and intensifying its awareness-raising activities on the central issue of child protection. In fact, the right of children to be children, to live a serene childhood, protected and rich in possibilities, must not vary according to latitude. The aim of the Foundation is therefore to involve, if possible, an ever-increasing number of supporters, donors and companies that believe in its work and want to contribute to its realization.

#### **RESULTS IN 2022**

3,140 children and young people helped

11 projects implemented

Countries of intervention





The educational camp represents a place, both physical and emotional, that is truly special. Here each child is seen in his or her uniqueness, accompanied on his or her personal path of growth and autonomy, taken by the hand and helped to face the many daily challenges, some small others seemingly overwhelming. In this sense, this experience is an investment in the future of these children: here they learn to be together, to play, to overcome frustrations, they learn that their lives are not gray but can be in color.

An educator from the summer camp for children with autism spectrum syndrome



"Pink Scholarships" program operates.

Among the many girls I met, I particularly remember Pushpa, who is studying law and would like to become a judge. She told me that until a few years ago there were no educational opportunities for Dalits, that is, the "outcastes".

Now, however, the Foundation's projects for women's secondary and tertiary education are bringing about a change in mentality. We women, together with men, Pushpa said, can be agents of change, gentle as flowers but also strong as fire.

**Maria Torelli**, Mission Bambini's Program Coordinator, returning from a mission to Bangladesh



Ilaria together with the "children of the forest" in Thailand.

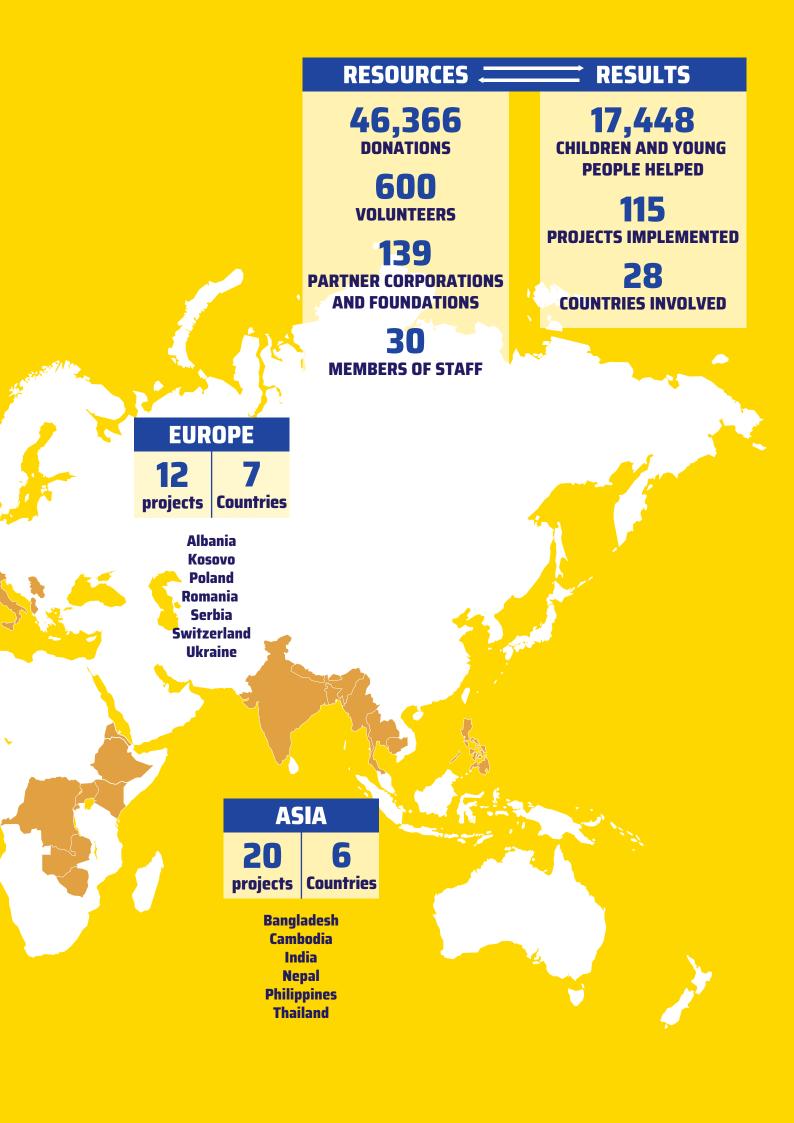
The target beneficiaries of "Children of the Forest", on the Myanmar border, all belong to the Mon and Karen ethnic groups: they are the children or grandchildren of refugees who fled to Thailand due to ethnic persecution. Almost all of them do not have identity documents or, consequently, the right to education and health care. Our project aims to hinder the neglect of these children by their families and foster their social integration through shelter and education.

**Ilaria Romanò**, Mission Bambini's volunteer coordinator, returning from a mission to Thailand

# Countries involved and Results 2022



Dominican Republic Ecuador





## **Aim**

To fight juvenile educational poverty by guaranteeing access to quality education and training, also in support of work and social inclusion, in Italy and abroad. Educational poverty is the condition in which a child or adolescent is deprived of the right to learning in the broadest sense, from cultural and educational opportunities to the right to play. Economic poverty and educational poverty feed on each other.

## **FOCUS ON 2022**

During the year 2022, Mission Bambini's interventions in the field of Education were confronted with the medium- to long-term negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the emotional and social development of children and young people, particularly in Italy. Moreover, in our country - also due to the sharp rise of inflation - there has been an increase in absolute poverty among children, with a consequent increase in the already large social inequalities. Finally, the war in Ukraine - in addition to the direct damage of the conflict - has caused an increase in commodity prices in most of the countries where the Foundation operates, contributing to worsening living standards of the most vulnerable segments of the population. Specific activities in 2022 are described in the "Focus on 2022" boxes within the following pages.

## In Italy

The beneficiaries of the educational projects carried out by Mission Bambini in Italy are minors in the preschool age group (0-6 years), and in the age group covered by compulsory education (6-16 years), and young people between the age of 16 and 24 who are not in education or employment.

The Foundation has been involved in early childhood education services (0-3 years) since 2006: historically, in fact, in our country the places available in this type of services cover a share of the target population that is significantly lower than the 33% parameter set by the European Union in 2002. These services, however, are fundamental:

on the one hand, they support the reconciliation of family and working life, promoting the greater participation of women in the labor market; on the other, they represent - in environments characterized by strong material and educational poverty - a unique opportunity for the well-being and healthy psycho-physical development of children from the earliest years of life. While initially the commitment was focused on increasing the number of nursery places by supporting the start-up of new services or the strengthening of existing ones, today Mission Bambini - by expanding its intervention to preschools (3-6 age group) - promotes a model of "community" nursery and school, which makes

these services highly accessible and inclusive, while also encouraging the strengthening of parenting skills.

Making the most of its many years of experience in the field of Education 0-6, in 2022 Mission Bambini gave birth to the new "Scintilla (Spark)" project: a network of socioeducational centers for early childhood - the "Stars" - united by common intervention models and psycho-pedagogical methodologies. Together with organizations with which the Foundation has been working for years, the first four Stars were launched during the year in Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (MĪ), ensuring a visible presence of Mission Bambini on the Italian territory.

#### PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

The largest national network of nurseries and preschools (there are currently 12) supported by the Foundation to guarantee free or subsidized access to disadvantaged families also remains active. As does the other national project, "Ora di Futuro", promoted together with Generali Italia and The Human Safety Net.

For minors in the 6-16 age bracket, Mission Bambini has been carrying out interventions with the specific objective of countering educational poverty and preventing school **drop-outs** since 2006. For pupils who have dropped out of compulsory school or are at high risk of dropping out, the Foundation offers the possibility of attending the so-called "second chance schools", aimed at obtaining a secondary school diploma. In addition, Mission Bambini carries out study mentoring, guidance and empowerment activities, aimed at promoting the schooling remediation of beneficiary pupils and providing them with essential tools to make informed choices regarding their course of study. Since 2016, Mission Bambini has been cooperating

directly with schools, carrying out interventions aimed at improving the educational offer, upgrading internal and external school spaces through employees' voluntary work weeks, setting up classrooms and educational labs ("Scuole di Classe" project), and training teachers. The interventions are carried out mainly in suburban schools.

Two national projects are currently active in this field. The first is "Strings: small numbers on the move", selected by the Social Enterprise Con i Bambini as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty: the project was launched in 2020 in partnership with 10 preschools and elementary schools in Milan, Naples and Catania. The second is the "Mission Bambini Space": implemented directly by the Foundation in 3 schools in Milan, Padua and Rome, it aims to promote the well-being and harmonious growth of pupils through psychosocial workshops and multidisciplinary activities. As a result of the emergency related to the war in Ukraine, 74 refugee students attending schools in Milan and Padua also

benefited from these activities, with the aim of helping them to process the trauma they had experienced.

Finally, during 2022 Mission Bambini renewed its commitment to young people outside study/training paths and the labor market ("NEET Not in Employment, Education or Training"). Once the "Mi Chance - Opportunities for the Future" project, funded by Fondazione Cariplo and implemented in partnership with three other non-profit organizations and the Education Department of the Municipality of Milan, ended in March, the Foundation continued the implementation of the "AllenaMenti per il Futuro" (Training minds for the future) project: a free course for young people aimed at promoting personal growth and the rediscovery of talents as elements of success, expanding both training and work opportunities and creating effective paths to improve employment skills.

## **Abroad**

The educational projects implemented by Mission Bambini abroad have the specific objective of guaranteeing access to quality primary and secondary education, even in the poorest countries and in the most difficult contexts. The interventions promote education in the broadest sense, i.e., the development of individual talents, relational and soft skills, after verifying that the necessary nutritional, health and psychological preconditions exist for good learning on the part of children,

girls and boys. In addition to primary and secondary schools, the Foundation also supports entities that provide complementary educational support (nursery schools, after-school care) and residential facilities that, in addition to education, offer care to children in particular need: orphans, HIV-positive, refugees.

Since 2018, Mission Bambini has also been promoting the "Pink Sponsorships" Program for women's secondary and tertiary education. The objective is to increase the number of girls who attend and complete higher education in the poorest countries, helping them to achieve a diploma, a professional qualification or a degree. By giving girls the opportunity to continue their studies, early marriages are avoided and the risk of early pregnancies, maternal and neonatal mortality is reduced. A woman with a college degree also contributes to women's empowerment and gender equality in societies where women and girls still face severe discrimination.

## **Facts and Figures**

#### **ITALY**

#### **Absolute poverty**

1,950,000 families, 7.5% incidence.
1,384,000 minors, 14.2% incidence.
10% percentage of families living in absolute

10% percentage of families living in absolute poverty in Southern Italy.

### **Early infancy educational services**

Only 27.2% of the target population find a place in an early infancy educational service (0-3 age bracket), compared to a 33% European target. The percentage sinks on the islands (15.9%) and in the Southern regions (15.2%).

Among the 12 Italian provinces where less than 40 percent of women aged 35-44 are employed, none reaches 20 nursery places per 100 children.

#### **School drop-outs**

12.7% of young people between 18 and 24 have dropped out of school in Italy, compared to a 9% European target. Among EU countries, Italy has the third largest number of drop-outs after Romania (15.3%) and Spain (13.3%).

#### **Young NEET**

3 million young girls and boys in the 15-34 age group are outside study/training paths and the labor market, i.e., a 25.1% incidence. In Europe only Turkey, Montenegro and Macedonia are worse off.

SOURCES. #1: Istat, statistics on absolute poverty in Italy in the year 2021. #2: Istat, statistics on the offer of nursery and support services for early childhood in the 2020/2021 school year; openpolis - Con i Bambini calculation based on Istat data (2020) #3: openpolis - Con i Bambini calculation based on Eurostat data, 2021. #4: Eurostat, 2021.

#### **ABROAD**

#### **Primary education**

**58 million children** all over the world have no access to primary school. In the poorest countries 1 child out of 4 does not go to school.

In particular, 32 million girls are excluded from primary education.

#### Secondary education

**617 million children and young people** worldwide are unable to achieve minimum levels of proficiency in reading and mathematics, even though two-thirds of them attend school.

30 million girls have no access to the lower grades of secondary school, 67 million girls to the higher grades.

Due to the pandemic 147 million children missed more than half of their classes in attendance between 2020-2022.

SOURCES. #1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Unicef, 2021-2022.

## Educational projects: partner and activities per age group and geographic area

Age group	Partner in Italy	Partner abroad	
0-6	Early infancy educational services  • nurseries and play areas (o-3 years) • pre-school (3-6 years)		
6-16	Schools • primary s • secondar  After-scho  Teachers' training institutions	schools y schools ool and youth centers Residential care centers	
<b>16-24</b>	"AllenaMenti per il futuro" (Training minds for the future) directly managed Other nonprofit organizations cooperating in other projects	Institutions providing education, vocational training and employment opportunities	



## **Activities in Italy**

#### **Educational services:**

- grant access free of charge or at reduced fee
- increase training opportunities
- longer opening hours

#### For parents:

- parent-child workshops
- training courses
- counseling desks
- · mutual help groups
- · psycho-pedagogical help
- "family fund"

#### For establishments:

- · small renovations and furniture
- supplies of consumer goods (hygiene articles and food)
- training for educators

#### **Educational services:**

- upgrading of teaching materials and development of innovative educational methodologies
- support for students' emotional and relational well-being
- study support for girls and boys with obvious economic and social fragility
- pre-orientation and counselling meetings
- second chance schools (with secondary degree)

#### For establishments:

- ordinary upkeep and renovation of buildings (inside and outside)
- increase of IT equipment
- training for teachers

## Educational services and first employment opportunities:

• "AllenaMenti per il futuro" (Training minds for the future): group training and individual counseling (to improve motivation and personal growth, prepare young people to actively look for employment, start vocational or general training)

### **Activities abroad**

#### **Educational services:**

- grant access free of charge or at reduced fee
- increase training opportunities

#### For establishments:

- small renovations and furniture
- supplies of consumer goods (hygiene articles and food)



#### **Educational and residential services:**

- cover school fees and other expenses: enrolment fees, books, uniforms, school supplies
- · cover the cost of school meals
- · complementary learning support: after-school learning
- · residential care

#### For establishments:

- · ordinary and extra-ordinary upkeep
- increase of IT equipment

## Educational services and first employment opportunities:

- · cover school fees and school supplies at high schools, vocational training courses and universities for the most deserving girls
- cover the expenses for out-of-home care for girls

### **Education Italy: directly implemented projects**

In the "direct implementation" mode of intervention, the Foundation - in addition to being the creator and promoter of the projects - also takes care of their implementation. This means that Mission Bambini directly takes charge of the beneficiaries of the actions, through its teams of experts composed - as far as Education Italy is concerned - of psychologists, pedagogists, educators and pedagogical consultants. During the year 2022, there were two active

projects with direct implementation in the field of Education in Italy. The first - dedicated to elementary school children - is "Mission Bambini Space": launched on an experimental basis in 2021, in 2022 it was fully implemented in 3 elementary schools in Milan, Padua and Rome. The second - dedicated to children in the age group 0-6 years - is "Scintilla (Spark)": launched in 2022 in Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (MI), it plans to involve other cities in the coming years.

## "Mission Bambini Space" Project

"Mission Bambini Space" is the project implemented by Mission Bambini within schools in collaboration with the University of Padua - Department of Socialization and Developmental Psychology to foster the emotional and social development of schoolchildren.

The project was initiated following a discussion with the Headmasters of the Foundation's partner schools, from which it emerged how many children – also because of the pandemic and its socio–economic consequences – experience within their household situations of great stress that they are unable to cope with and that affect the proper development of cognitive and socio–emotional skills at school. For this reason,

the Foundation has introduced within schools the "Mission Bambini Space": a dedicated classroom where, thanks to the continuous presence of a psycho-educational team, children and young people in need receive emotional support. The project also includes:

- multidisciplinary workshops during school time in order to give young students valuable tools for emotional regulation;
- **training courses** for teachers.



## "Scintilla (Spark)" Project

"Scintilla (Spark)" is the new project launched by Mission Bambini during 2022 in the field of Education in Italy for the 0-6 age group: a network of educational centers - the "Stars" - dedicated to about 200 children and their families living in fragile socio-economic environments with early childhood services of poor quality.

The project was launched in partnership with four **educational centers** run by organizations with which the Foundation has been working for years in the towns of:

- **Bari**: Nest Educational Hub of APS Mama Happy, Libertà district;
- Catania: Spazio Gioco of the Talità Kum Association, Librino district;
- Naples: Centro Infanzia Pizzicalaluna of Solidee cooperativa sociale ETS;
- Sesto San Giovanni (MI): La Porta Magica of La Grande Casa scs.

The "Stars" welcome, along with others, children living in difficult socio-economic situations by ensuring access to services with **subsidized fees** or, in special cases, free of charge. Each "Star" also, in accordance with its specific features and the context in which it operates:

- offers an educational path built on the real needs and requirements of each child, also with the involvement of families;
- meets the needs of families, by extending opening hours or flexible access to service;
- strengthens the educational role of families,

- through psycho-pedagogical parenting support courses or group and individual training activities;
- helps families who even if only temporarily
   have problems coping with some essential expenses, through a real "family fund".

Educators engaged in the "Stars" receive specific training, through courses on childhood-related psycho-pedagogical issues. Moreover, with "Scintilla (Spark)" Mission Bambini intends to develop **a model of intervention** that can be replicated in other contexts and expand the national network of "Stars" to ensure the protection of children's rights, especially in fragile situations. With this in mind, it has entered into a collaboration with the Center for Research on **Intercultural Relations of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan**, aimed at identifying and outlining teaching guidelines that are crosscultural and applicable across all the "Stars" and, at the same time, supporting the collection of data that report the impact this educational system has on children in the 0-6 age group.

## "Services 0-6": a first impact evaluation

The "Scintilla (Spark)" project grew out of the experience gained from the national network project "Services 0-6: a passport to the future" selected by the Social Enterprise Con i Bambini as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty. This project started in 2018 and ended in 2021 involving 39 partner entities in 12 municipalities in 8 Italian regions. An initial impact evaluation of the project, conducted by Fondazione Zancan, the entity in charge of monitoring and evaluating the project's impact, was completed in 2022. This evaluation, both of a qualitative and quantitative nature, confirmed the achievement of the set goals and in particular:

- almost 300 children aged 0-3 (more than 50% of whom experiencing economic hardship, about 1/3 with special educational needs) have benefited from nursery services;
- more than 250 children aged 3-6 (around 40% of whom experiencing economic hardship, 1/5 with special educational needs) have benefited from preschool services;
- more than 900 children (at least one third of whom experiencing economic hardship)

- have benefited from extracurricular activities of various kinds;
- more than 1,000 parents have been involved in workshops aimed at strengthening their parenting and relational skills;
- the testimonies of the various participants interviewed (contact persons, operators/ volunteers and families) confirmed the inclusive nature of the services offered and the increase in the number of socio-educational opportunities aimed at children and families;
- specifically for children, improvements were noted in the cognitive, psychomotor, autonomy and social-relational spheres: these changes were observed more in children with disabilities or cognitive difficulties/delays;
- initial positive spillovers also emerged for the **extended territorial environments** in which the project was implemented.

**Further evaluation steps**, again by Fondazione Zancan, two years after the end of the project will investigate the intensity and persistence over time of the benefits for the target children and families and the impact extended to the target community.

## **Education in Italy: active network projects**

Making the most of the national network of **qualified partners** – with the aim of ensuring a greater impact of the interventions also through access to important funding lines, made available by foundations, other institutional donors or companies – in recent years the Foundation has designed and implemented several "network" **projects**. These projects are characterized by the following elements: involvement of several partners (not only private social organizations, but also schools, institutions, local authorities and research bodies), territorial extension, generally over-regional, multi-year duration and co-financing. Moreover, these projects often have a strong **innovative character**: in fact, it is important for funders to implement new solutions to chronic or emerging social problems, with a view to a subsequent scaling-up of such solutions by other implementing entities as well.

During the year 2022, there were two active network projects on a national level. The first is "Ora di Futuro", promoted by **Generali Italia** and **The Human Safety Net**. Launched in 2018, "Ora di Futuro" emphasizes the central role of parental figures through parent-child workshops, training courses on parenting skills, and support and accompaniment for the most fragile families. The second national project is "Stringhe: piccoli numeri in movimento (Strings: small numbers on the move)", selected by the **Social Enterprise Con i Bambini** as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty. Launched in 2020,

"Stringhe" brings into schools a new educational approach, based on the combined use of coding and robotics with psychomotricity and sports activities.

On a local scale, during 2022 there were two active network projects, both in the city of Milan. The first is "MiChance - Opportunità al futuro (Opportunities for the Future)" financed by **Fondazione Cariplo**. This project was launched in 2020 to work on the protection of the right to study, integrating operations into the local public-private system and making them sustainable over time, and was concluded in March 2022. The second project is "NaturalMente a Scuola", supported by Fondazione di Comunità Milano - Città, Sud Ovest, Sud Est, **Martesana** in partnership with Fondazione Snam and Selva Urbana APS. The aim of the project, which started and ended in 2022, was to help the children of the two Comprehensive Institutes involved (IC Marcello Candia and IC Ermanno Olmi) regain a connection with the environment through educational tools based on play and sensory experiences.

Finally, during 2022, Mission Bambini was a partner in the project "Paripasso - Per crescere insieme", promoted by Stripes Cooperativa Sociale and selected by Con i Bambini as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty. The project, aimed at children in the 0-6 age group, involves the creation of territorial HUBs dedicated to children in the areas of Desio (MB), Valle Trompia (BS), Rome, Castel Volturno (CE) and Bari.

#### Ora di futuro

**Beneficiaries (2022):** 917 parents and 1,187 children aged 0-6 (direct and indirect beneficiaries)

Supported by: Generali Italia and The Human Safety Net

N° of partners: 8

Places: Bari, Bologna, Mogliano Veneto (TV), Moncalieri (TO), Naples, Rome,

Sesto San Giovanni (MI), Verona **Duration:** *on going* (start in: 2018)



#### NaturalMente a Scuola

**Beneficiaries (2022):** 605 children aged 6-11 **Supported by:** Fondazione di Comunità Milano - Città, Sud Ovest, Sud Est, Martesana (call for bids 57)

N° of partners: 3 Place: Milan

Duration: 1 year (2022)



### Stringhe - piccoli numeri in movimento

**Beneficiaries (yearly):** 2,080 children aged 5-11, 200 families and 185 educators or teachers

**Supported by:** Con i Bambini (call for bids "Un passo avanti")

**N° of partners:** 18 among which, on a national level, CNR National Research Council - Istituto per le Tecnologie Didattiche, Cooperativa Stripes and Palestra

per la Mente, Fondazione Laureus Italia, Avanzi

Places: Catania, Milan, Naples Duration: 4 years (2020 - 2024)



The "Strings - small numbers in motion" project is promoted by Mission Bambini and implemented together with a network of 18 local or national partners. Selected by the social enterprise "Con i Bambini" as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty, it is the first project in Italy that combines digital and movement education.

Carried out mainly within schools and the school system, it involves the introduction of activities for children that are based on the combined use of coding and educational robotics on the one hand, with psychomotricity and sports activities on the other, for a total of **46 hours per year per class of curricular teaching** under the name of "Strings". In the preschools and elementary schools involved there is a properly trained team consisting of: 1 psychomotricist/coach, 1 digital educator, 1 education consultant.

Classroom activities involve the combined presence of team members and teachers, who gradually take over the activities.

The main objective of "Strings" is to counter educational poverty in the relevant contexts, through the testing and development of **new, integrated teaching methods**. In addition to being integrated, the new methodology will be replicable and sustainable: at the end of the project it can also be adopted by other suburban schools, with low investment for materials and equipment. Recipient children will be able to strengthen their soft skills, subjective, relational and methodological skills that are essential but often difficult to foster in all pupils, especially in environments with widespread educational poverty, such as: autonomy and self-confidence; communication, analytical and teamwork skills; problem solving; resiliency and responsibility.





Digital education and motor activities of the "Stringhe (Strings)" project, with testimonial Ivana Di Martino (photo right).

## FOCUS ON 2022 🍾

During the school year 2021–2022, some measures adopted within schools and early childhood education services to contain the spread of the Covid–19 pandemic were gradually scaled back and finally lifted, such as: the use of masks and spacing within classrooms, the prohibition of educational outings, and limitations of group workshop activities. This has had positive effects on the emotional and social development of children and young people and in general on the Foundation's projects in the field of Education in Italy.

With regard specifically to educational projects dedicated to the 0-6 age group, the main novelty in 2022 was the launch of the "Scintilla (Spark)" national project, promoted by Mission Bambini based on the experience gained from the national network project "Services 0-6: a passport to the future", which was concluded in 2021 and was selected by the Social Enterprise Con i Bambini as part of the Fund for Countering Juvenile Educational Poverty. The "Scintilla" project has created and supports a network of socio-educational centers for early childhood that are real "community" nurseries and scho-ols, where the goal of accessibility is combined with other important objectives, such as: the adoption of common intervention models and psycho-pedagogical methodologies, the strengthening of parenting skills, and the improvement of the economic-financial sustainability of the services themselves. Furthermore, as part of "Scintilla", the Foundation established a real "family fund" to meet the temporary difficulties of some of the target families in covering some essential expenses, such as: food or early childhood supplies, pediatric visits, purchase of medical devices, utilities, rent. Access to the Fund is governed by objective parameters on the socio-economic situation of families, but is also based on their willingness to actively participate in psycho-educational parenting courses.

As far as individual project within schools are concerned, the "Stringhe - piccoli numeri in movimento (Strings: small numbers on the move)" project continued in 2022. In curricular and extracurricular hours, psychomotricity, motor education and digital education workshops have been launched in 5 elementary

school and 4 preschools in Milan, Naples and Catania. The project also includes activities and training courses for teachers: 185 those involved in total. Also during 2022, the first school year of experimentation of the "Mission Bambini Spaproject, carried out in partnership with the University of Padua - Department of Psychology of Socialization and Development, ended: 361 students were involved in 3 elementary school in Milan, Padua and Rome. The initiative aims to create a serene and welcoming school environment where students can feel safe and motivated and where emotional and social development is enhanced along with the cognitive aspect of learning. Following the emergency related to the war in Ukraine, 74 refugee students enrolled in the Foundation's partner schools in Padua and Milan also benefited from the intervention, with the aim of helping them to process the trauma they had experienced. With the 2022/2023 school year, the project will be further consolidated and activities expanded.

In addition, in response to the increase in the number of boys and girls at risk of dropping out of school, in September 2022 Mission Bambini integrated all school dropput prevention interventions, with a view to greater synergy between the teams of pedagogues, educators and counselors involved in the various projects. In particular, study coaching, guidance and empowerment activities were carried out, aimed at: promoting curricular catch-up; fostering the acquisition of essential tools to make informed choices regarding the course of study; encouraging the proper development of cross-curricular skills.

For young NEETs, the Foundation has carried out 4 editions of the "AllenaMenti per il futuro" training course with activities such as career guidance and training aimed at entering an educational or work path.

## Projects in the field of education in Italy: results

#### 2022

## 0-6 age group

**1,684 children** beneficiaries of educational services

1,260 parents beneficiaries of actions aimed at improving parenting skills

80 educators trained

### 6-16 age group

2,080 children and teenagers involved in the "Stringhe" project

**805** students involved in environmental education activities

435 students involved in social and emotional skills strengthening activities, among whom 74 Ukrainian refugee students

**393 students** beneficiaries of counselling activities

**76 students** supported in their studies

407 teachers trained

**12 schools** received interior and exterior space improvement work ("Scuole di Classe" project)

## 6-24 age group

38 young people attended the course "Allenamenti per il futuro"75 young people beneficiaries of "second chance schools"

#### **Since 2006**

17,545 children between 0-6 helped

24,977 children and teenagers between 6-16 helped

1,507 young people 16-24 helped

## **Education abroad: active projects**

Over the years, Mission Bambini has developed long-lasting partnerships with educational institutions in various countries around the world: there are currently 18 countries with a total of 29 active educational projects. For the Foundation, working in partnership means being able to co-design more effective interventions with local partners, thereby achieving a greater impact on the lives of children in terms of educational benefits. In most of the countries in which the Foundation operates, the **negative effects of the war in** Ukraine - particularly rising prices and difficulties in sourcing raw materials - came on top of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, making it more difficult for partners to implement projects on a regular basis.

In 2022, **project monitoring missions** by Mission Bambini staff and volunteers resumed with greater intensity than in the pre-covid period, promoting the exchange of best practices, networking and sharing of experiences among partners. In response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, the Foundation focused on bringing concrete aid to families and ensuring that children can continue their education by activating emergency interventions in 3 other countries: directly in Ukraine, Poland and Romania.

The Foundation has also worked to **strengthen the centrality of beneficiary children and youth** by promoting their integral well-being and active participation, including listening to partner organizations to ensure that projects continue to respond effectively to needs. Needs that have expanded in many cases as a result of the pandemic and the effects of the Ukrainian crisis, with increased demands for psychosocial and economic support not only in children but also in their families.

## Abroad: fields of intervention per country (2022)



## **FOCUS ON 2022**



Globally, 2022 has been deeply marked by the war in Ukraine: according to UNICEF, more than 5 million children have been directly affected by the war's effects on the education system; but significant increases in commodity and energy prices due to the conflict have made it more difficult to ensure quality education for children in many countries around the world.

The pandemic has also had a very negative impact on education: according to UNICEF. between 2020 and 2022 as many as 147 million children have missed more than half of their classes in attendance, with an increasing risk of dropping out of school.

To cope with this complex situation, in 2022 Mission Bambini again provided full spending flexibility to local partners in the 18 intervention countries to ensure that children, girls and boys continue to have access to quality primary and secondary education through its 29 active education projects. The Foundation's support was used for: implementation of educational

sroom/remote (online) education; adjustment of school facilities and residential care centers to local regulations through the purchase of products, and handwashing systems; and awareness-raising campaigns for infection prevention. In addition, aid to families in greater economic difficulty continued through the distribution of food products (flour, rice, corn, pulses, and where possible also fruits, vegetables, clean water) and through psychosocial support efforts. Also during 2022, the vast majority of students supported by Mission Bambini were promoted to the next grade. There were 587 beneficiaries of the "Pink Sponsorships" program for female secondary and tertiary education.

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, Mission Bambini also implemented with local partners various measures to help the affected population both within Ukraine (residents and displaced persons) and abroad (refugees).

## Projects in the field of education abroad: results

#### 2022

3,833 children, girls and boys

supported by means of educational and residential care projects

**587 girls** supported in secondary and tertiary education thanks to grants from the "Pink Sponsorships" program

#### **Since 2006**

31,984 children, girls and boys supported by means of educational and residential care projects **2,409 girls** supported in secondary and tertiary education thanks to grants from the "Pink Sponsorships" program



## **Aim**

Promoting prevention and ensuring access to timely treatment to protect the health of children and young people, with particular reference to children suffering from childhood heart disease in countries with a poor health system. In Italy, interventions are aimed at protecting the psychological and physical wellbeing of children and young people. The WHO – World Health Organization establishes the essential role of mental health for the social fulfillment of the individual and his overall health status.

## **FOCUS ON 2022**

During the year 2022, the gradual end of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent easing of related restrictions allowed Mission Bambini to resume some activities in the field of Health, particularly the missions abroad of the "Children's Heart" program for the treatment of congenital or acquired heart diseases. The activities carried out by the Foundation in Italy to respond to the psycho-social, emotional and relational impact of the pandemic on children and young people are described in the chapter dedicated to projects in the field of Education, since this type of intervention was mainly carried out within and in collaboration with schools. Specific 2022 activities in the field of Health are described in the "Focus on 2022" sections in the following pages.

## **Abroad**

Abroad, Mission Bambini has been operating in the field of healthcare since the year it was established and since 2005, through the "Children's Heart" Program, it has been working with the specific objective of reducing the mortality rate of children affected by congenital or acquired heart diseases, with particular attention to the weakest segments of the population. Heart defects are, in fact, among the most widespread congenital anomalies and, for this reason, represent one of the most serious health problems at a global level. Half of the children born with heart disease risk their life, if they are not treated in the first years; the others face serious growth problems.

There are three modes of intervention:

- missions of volunteer doctors in countries where there are equipped hospitals, but the local teams are not able to perform the most complex pediatric cardiac surgery operations; - travels of children to Italy, in
- cases where it is not possible to operate in the country of birth;
- **support to local hospitals**: supply of equipment and consumer goods, interventions to improve health structures, covering the costs of operations for the poorest families.

The training of local medical personnel is one of the qualifying points of Mission Bambini's action: the long-term objective is, in fact, to make the countries of intervention autonomous in the treatment of childhood heart disease.

Based on the experience gained through the "Children's Heart" Program, the Foundation implemented in Eritrea the **project "Ur**gent Care and Prevention to Contribute to the Improvement of the Eritrean Health System" funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation from June 2021 to November 2022, following up on a previous project funded by the same Agency and concluded in September 2020. One of the goals of the project was to prevent rheumatic heart disease: in fact, in some countries - such as Eritrea - many children born healthy develop heart disease as a result of untreated or poorly treated infections. Prevention activity is fundamental in this respect, and to implement it the project carried out specific training

#### **PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH**

for local staff, enhancing their skills and improving the overall autonomy of the Eritrean health system.

In the field of healthcare, Mission Bambini also supports hospitals abroad which guarantee access to quality healthcare services to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population, particularly mothers and children. In 2022 the Foundation continued its cooperation with the "Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital" in Kalongo, Uganda, where it had supported the renovation of the pediatrics department. Du-

ring the year, Mission Bambini funded a "blood emergency fund" for the hospital, Covid-19 prevention activities within the hospital pediatric services, and training courses aimed at employees of lower level healthcare centers to improve their case management skills, reducing the inflow to the hospital for non-critical cases and increasing the timely admission for more serious cases.

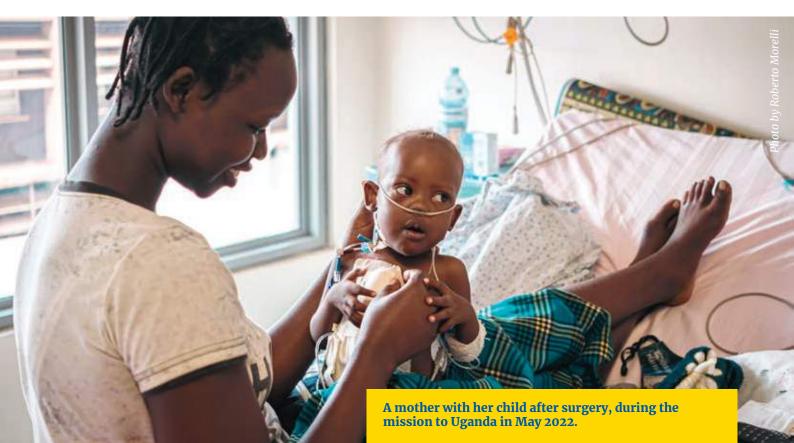
Moreover, since 2001, in synergy with the projects supported in the field of Education, Mission Bambini has also guaranteed an adequate level of psychophysical well-being to the children themselves, ensuring access to quality education. This means, on the one hand, guaranteeing timely medical care or psycho-social support to the children of the educational projects, and on the other hand, activating prevention and awareness activities in collaboration with its partners.

# In Italy

In Italy, Mission Bambini's commitment in the field of healthcare is recent and can be traced back to the objective of protecting the psychophysical well-being of children and young people. The main intervention addresses the issue of psychological distress in adolescence, with particular reference to the female gender.

In fact, starting from the year 2018, the Foundation supports the **residential structure** "Omada" in Milan. The facility, which is accredited and under contract with ATS - Agenzia di Tutela della Salute Milano Città Metropolitana, welcomes girls from the age of 12 sent by the service of Child Neuropsychiatry for a psychological distress that requires a community rehabilitation path. This type of path aims to strengthen the personal

identity of the girls, give them the opportunity to live constructive relational experiences, improve the management of affections and ultimately the quality of life. The Foundation's support for the project has also been confirmed for 2022–2023, with the aim of helping supported girls become more autonomous and capable of integrating into the economic and social environment.



# Facts and figures

#### **Abroad**

#### Healthcare for mother and child

More than 5 million children worldwide die before the age of five, due mainly to pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. Of these, nearly 50% die in the first month of life.

**45.4 million children** under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, due to climate change and widespread drought, insecurity and instability, and conflicts such as the war in Ukraine that has caused a surge in food prices.

In the world there are **287,000 maternal deaths** due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. The substantial progress achieved between 2000 and 2015 has largely stalled or in some cases even reversed.

The number of **mothers suffering from acute malnutrition** has risen from 5.5 million to 6.9 million in the countries most affected by the global food and nutrition crisis.

## **Childhood heart disease**

According to estimates, 1 million children are born every year all over the world with congenital heart disease.

**50% of cardiopathic newborn children** are at risk of dying if they do not receive pediatric heart surgery during the first years; 80% live in a country where the health system is poor and unable to guarantee adequate treatments.

SOURCES #1: UNICEF, 2022



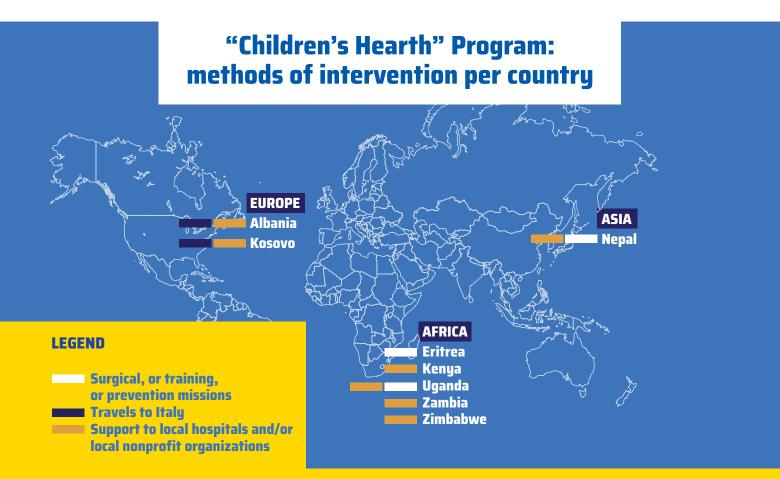
## The "Children's Heart" Program

Since its launch in 2005, the "Children's Heart" Program has been Mission Bambini's main line of intervention in the field of healthcare abroad. The program is **directly managed and imple-mented** by the Foundation, which defines strategy, countries and methods of intervention. Scientific Advisor of the program is Dr. Stefano Marianeschi, Head of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda in Milan.

Over the years, Mission Bambini has established multi-year partnerships with qualified foreign public hospitals, mainly those where the surgical missions are carried out. A mission lasts one week and allows an average of ten children to be operated on. The missions are repeated several times in the same hospitals, to give continuity to this type of activity, which also has a high educational value. Moreover, there are active partnerships with other healthcare facilities and local nonprofit organizations: in addition to the surgery performed

by local teams the Foundation's support makes it possible to carry out other activities such as screening (diagnostic examinations) and post-operative follow-up. The Program is active in 8 countries.

Overall, more than **100 pediatric cardiac surgery health professionals** (in addition to cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, intensive care physicians and nurses, and technicians) are available as volunteers from Italy, Spain, the UK, and the USA. Italian professionals work in some of the best hospitals in the country: ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda in Milan, Ospedale Regina Margherita in Turin, ASST Papa Giovanni XXIII in Bergamo, Hesperia Hospital in Modena (partnership with Hesperia Bimbi Onlus), Ospedale del Cuore G. Pasquinucci in Massa (partnership with "Un Cuore, Un Mondo" Massa). As part of the Program, the Foundation also collaborates with the Italian Embassies in the countries in which it organizes surgical missions and with local nonprofit organizations.



**Foreign partner hospitals:** Clinic Madonnina del Grappa in Shkodra (Albania), Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Center in Kathmandu (Nepal), Uganda Heart Institute in Kampala (Uganda), University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka (Zambia), Luisa Guidotti Hospital in Mutoko (Zimbabwe).

# **FOCUS ON 2022** 🟋

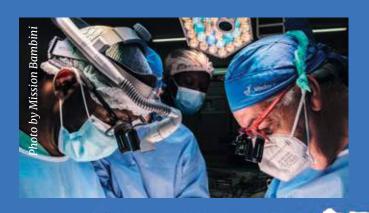


In 2022, thanks to the easing of restrictive measures put in place to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, after a two-year pause, we could finally resume the missions abroad of the "Children's Heart" program. The missions specifically took place in: Uganda, surgery and training mission (5 children underwent surgery); Nepal, an evaluation mission under which some children were visited and one operated on, plus a cardiological screening mission (12,000 children examined); Eritrea, training of 18 local doctors on cardiological screening and follow-up mission to children who had undergone surgery in previous years.

Moreover, in Nepal, the Foundation's support enabled cardiac surgery for 67 cardiopathic children on the waiting list, covering the costs of transportation to Kathmandu, food and lodging for children and accompanying persons. Mission Bambini also supported follow-up to continuously monitor drug therapy for children operated on in previous years in Zimbabwe (56 children) and Kenya (36 children). Other children were examined in Zambia, Albania and Kosovo. In Italy, we supported the hosting of 17 children with heart disease from Albania, Uganda, and Kosovo who received surgery at the ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda in Milan, in cooperation with Regione Lombardia.

Finally, the Foundation provided funding for **3 scholarships** in collaboration with the International Heart School for as many foreign physicians to attend the annual inter-university master's program "Cardiac Surgery and Technologies Applied to Cardiac Surgery" organized by the University of Bergamo together with the University of Milan-Bicocca. Thanks to the training received, it is estimated that each one of these physicians will be able to perform surgery on 20 children over the course of a year.

A total of **150 children** were saved through pediatric cardiac surgery during 2022.



#### **TESTIMONIES**



Nepal is a country with many majestic mountains and many rivers: it is quite difficult to move from one area to another, transportation is a challenging task. Our activities started more than 10 years ago, with a specific goal: to reach the most remote areas to diagnose, find children with heart disease and then bring them to the capital Kathmandu for surgery. In 2019, Mission Bambini began supporting our activities and continued to do so during the pandemic. This support has been crucial and over the years has allowed us to operate on and save the lives of 140 children. We will continue together in this effort, with screening camps and interventions, always counting on your help. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Dr. Anil Bhattarai**, President of the Nepalese "Save the Heart" Organization.

# Eritrea: the project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Prevention of rheumatic heart disease, cardiac surgery, treatment of kidney failure, and urological surgery: these are the focus areas of the project "Urgent Care and Prevention to Contribute to the Improvement of the Eritrean Health System", sponsored by Mission Bambini and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (www.aics. gov.it), as part of the Humanitarian Aid Program in Support of Vulnerable Populations in Eritrea.

The project - which started in June 2021 and ended in November 2022 as a follow-up to an earlier project that ended in September 2020 and had been funded by the same agency contributed to **improving the** health status of the Eritrean **population**. On the one hand through specific training of local staff on the prevention of rheumatic disease, and on the other hand through activities to treat heart disease and for patients with kidney failure and urological disorders that needed to be treated surgically. The project helped **train local healthcare personnel**, in particular on these aspects: use of echocardiographs, identification of the main forms of rheumatic and congenital heart disease, and methods of taking care of patients with chronic and acute renal failure. The training is carried out with the involvement of Italian volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians and goes hand in hand with the strengthening of local health facilities through the provision of appropriate diagnostic and treatment tools. The project is implemented in partnership with the following associations: "Un Cuore, Un

Mondo" Massa, "Un Cuore, Un Mondo - Padova" Onlus, As. Me.V. Calabria ODV.

During 2022, with regard to cardiac surgery, a post-pandemic evaluation mission was carried out, while, with regard to the prevention of rheumatic heart disease, the remaining 3 regional hospitals and the pediatric cardiology department of the Orotta Hospital were equipped with **echocardiographs**. A training mission on the prevention of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) was also carried out. In order to improve renal insufficiency care, 3 **more artificial kidneys** were purchased and 3 missions were carried out during which the machines were installed and 1 doctor, 10 nurses and 1 technician from the dialysis department of the Orotta

Hospital were trained on their use and the care of patients with chronic and acute renal failure and patients with refractory heart failure. Within the framework of this project, activities to support urological surgery also resumed: through 2 missions by a urological surgeon (during which 95 patients were examined and 53 received surgery) and through the purchase of equipment and supplies.



Project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation



Maria Torelli, Mission Bambini's Program Coordinator, delivers one of the echocardiographs donated thanks to the project.

## Healthcare projects abroad: results

## 2022

**150 children** received heart surgery, of whom 17 in Italy (coming from Albania, Kosovo and Uganda) and 133 abroad thanks to the "Children's Heart" program

97 foreign doctors or paramedics

were trained, also as part of the "Children's Heart" program (among the latter, three were trained through scholarships in Italy)

**650 patients** benefited from the "Emergency Blood Fund" established at the "Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital" in Kalongo, Uganda

## **Since 2005**

**2,553 children** have undergone heart surgery and 23,415 children have undergone a medical examination thanks to the "Children's Heart" Program



## Healthcare projects in Italy: results

2022

**10 girls** suffering from psychological distress were included in a community rehabilitation path

# Projects for Ukrainian children and families affected by the war

After the outbreak of war in Ukraine in February 2022, Mission Bambini carried out various **actions to help the affected population**, both on Ukrainian soil (for residents and displaced persons) and in other countries (for refugees). A total of four such interventions were undertaken in Ukraine, one in Poland, one in Romania, and two in Italy.

The first operations provided concrete aid in response to material needs; subsequent interventions, particularly those in Italy, offered **broader and more lasting support** to children and families fleeing the war, **on the psychological and educational levels**. Interventions abroad were implemented in partnership with different local organizations.

## **TARGET COUNTRIES**



#### **POLAND**

On March 21, 2022, a **convoy of three vans car-rying humanitarian aid supplies** departed from Mission Bambini's Milan headquarters for Krakow, Poland.

The convoy, composed of a group of six volunteers from the Foundation, carried early childhood clothing, powdered milk, diapers, baby food, personal hygiene products, warm thermal

clothing for adults and children, and toys. The products - donated by the Foundation's partner companies - were delivered to the offices of the Internationaler Bund Polska and the Jewish Community Centre Krakow, the two local partners identified by Mission Bambini as committed to ensuring the necessary support for mothers and children fleeing the war in Ukraine.



## ROMANIA

In the capital Bucharest, a refugee camp was set up at the Ferdinand I school made available by the municipality. Inside, Mission Bambini supported the educational initiative of Fundacia Inocenti, by creating a play area where more than 1,000 children came together and by setting up a reception/guidance desk for families.

#### **UKRAINE**

Through the donation of tablets for remote learning Mission Bambini contributed to the support of educational activities aimed at displaced Ukrainian children hosted in the eco-villages of the organization "Global Ecovillage Network of Ukraine", located in the western part of the country that was not under bombing.

Mission Bambini purchased a used ambulance, which left from Modena and reached Ukraine in early May loaded with urgent medical supplies to be donated to the Lviv Children's Hospital, along with another vehicle loaded with goods, including toys. The operation was initiated by Dr. Stefano Marianeschi, Scientific Advisor of the Children's Heart Program, in partnership

with Hesperia Bimbi Onlus in Modena. The urgent medical supplies were later transferred by ambulance to Dnipro Hospital in the war zone. In the region of Ivano-Frankivsk and in the city of Kiev, in partnership with Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Mission Bambini Switzerland helped to ensure access to drinking water for communities and to improve sanitation in the **shelters** set up inside schools to accommodate homeless families.

Finally, also in Ukraine, Mission Bambini supported the distribution of clothing and personal **hygiene products** - donated by the Foundation's partner companies - through the Brothers of St. Francis of Assisi Foundation.

#### ITALY

Starting in April, Mission Bambini launched an initiative to offer psychological and language support to Ukrainian children who had fled the war and were placed in 7 schools in the city of **Padua**. The intervention also included training activities for teachers, coaching activities for classmates, and support activities for the parents of the Ukrainian children. A special psycho-pedagogical team worked on the project, supported by 4 Ukrainian students attending the University of Padua who volunteered as interpreters. Among the schools involved was also the VII Istituto Comprensivo San Camillo, where the Foundation had launched the "Mission Bambini Space" project in autumn 2021. The operation was carried out in partnership with the Department of Educational and School Policies of the City of Padua and the Department of Psychology of Socialization and Development of the University of Padua and with the support of Mamo Educational Foundation.

Starting in May, the same type of operation was also carried out at 5 Comprehensive Institutes in **Milan**. The intervention was implemented in partnership with the Sigmund Freud University. Once the first reception phase was over, since November 2022 Mission Bambini has held a series of psycho-educational and playful meetings to continue to provide psychological support

and in addition promote the creation of social networks among Ukrainian refugee families in our country. The meetings will continue during 2023 and were carried out in cooperation with the University of Padua and with the support of Map Foundation.

A total of **74 Ukrainian children and parents** benefited from these interventions during 2022.



An activity carried out with Ukrainian children in a school in Padua, thanks to support from the Foundation.



## **Source and Destination of Funds**

### **Source of Funds**

In 2022 the donations received by **Mission Bambini Italia** amounted to a total of 3,603,448 euros and the income from activities of general interest amounted to 2,174,887 euros. The income from secondary activities amounted to 182,195 euros and general support activities brought in 11,711 euros. The total income was therefore **5,972,240 euros**.

The funds collected through donations are devoted to the project or projects selected by the donor. If the donor has not expressed a specific preference, Mission Bambini usually allocates the funds to the most urgent projects or those with the highest priority. When the amount needed to support a project has been reached, the

remaining funds are devoted to other Mission Bambini's projects aimed at helping children.

The contributions from private and public entities totaling 1,444,122 euros that appear in the Statement of Operations under Income and Revenues from Activities of General Interest, include the income derived from the use of the equity reserve called "Restricted Reserve Allocated by Third Parties" as per accounting standard OIC 35 that came into effect for the financial statements as of December 31, 2021. These contributions thus correspond to the value of what was disbursed during the year 2022 on commitments arising from contracts with Foundations, Associations and Companies.

## **INCOME AND REVENUES BY SOURCE ACTIVITY**

	AMOUNT (€)
From general interest activities	2,174,887
From miscellaneous activities	182,195
From fundraising activities	3,603,448
From financial and capital activities	0
From general support	11,711
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES	5,972,240

## **FOCUS ON 2022**

The Financial Statements of Mission Bambini Italia for the year ended December 31, 2022 have been prepared taking into account the "Guidelines" issued by Decree dated 04/07/2019 of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, in implementation of Article 13 paragraphs 1 and 3 of Legislative Decree No. 117/2017, which governs the Code of the Third Sector. The Code is one of the pillars of the so-called "Reform of the Third Sector" and is the comprehensive collection of regulations affecting the sector.

In particular, the Financial Statements in question were compiled according to the accounting standards set forth in Document No. 35 issued by the OIC - Organismo Italiano di Contabilità in February 2022.

The data provided in these pages dedicated to "Source and Destination of Funds" relate only to Mission Bambini Italia. In the final section of this Annual Report devoted to budget data, the 2022 financial statements of Mission Bambini Switzerland and Mission Bambini Italia are shown separately, each with the comparative financial statements for the previous year ended December 31, 2021.

## **Destination of funds**

In 2022, the **funds devoted by Mission Bambini Italia to general interest activities** amounted to **3,595,949 euros**. These funds include those allocated to support projects in favor of children and all the expenses connected to the projects' realization.

Expenses from fundraising activities also include all outreach costs, in order to respond to

the directions dictated by the so-called "Third Sector Reform".

11% of the organization's expenses have been covered thanks to funds donated by the Founders.

#### **EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES FOR SOURCE ACTIVITIES**

#### **TOTAL EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES**

5,969,573



## **Private donations**

Private donations are the **main source of funds** for the projects implemented by Mission Bambini. The Foundation has a number of successful fundraising activities targeting private donors: in addition to the well-established activities, such as direct marketing and the 5x1000 taxpayer donation, in the last few years the Foundation has developed more innovative ways such as crowdfunding, online fundraising, or the so-called "Digital donor care", which is mainly aimed at regular donors but was also used to send out the annual certification to all donors. The goal is to increasingly integrate traditional analog tools with digital ones in order to move on rapidly in the digitization process.

In 2022 private individual donors have supported the Foundation's activities with **2,985,541 euros**. In the first part of the year, most appeals to donors were dedicated to the **Ukraine emergency**, to help children and families who were badly affected by the war. In the first stage, the Foundation worked to provide immediate relief, bringing basic necessities, medicines and drugs to displaced people. In a second



e conservare

# 5x1000: a signature that costs nothing

In 2022, the financial statement shows an amount of **224,926 euros** under the heading "Income from 5xthousand", which have been raised thanks to 4,964 Italian tax-payers who have chosen to donate 5‰ of their taxes to Mission Bambini in their income tax statement for 2021. These funds will be used for the statutory activities in favor of children in need in Italy and all over the world.

phase, the intervention focused on refugee mothers and children in Italy, with the aim of offering shelter and educational support.

Fundraising from individual donors is ensured continuously throughout the year, especially thanks to regular donations to education programs in Italy (child sponsorships), education abroad (international sponsorships) and the "Children's Heart" program for the treatment of childhood heart disease. In 2022, the Foundation also introduced "micro-regular" support: a regular donation of €5 per month helps create a fund for cases of children's poverty in Italy and around the world. Regular donors are periodically updated through a "Digital donor care" activity: in fact, the "MY Mission Bambini" digital space was created for them, a private and dedicated webpage where regular donors can check out real-time updates, news and multimedia content related to their support for the Foundation's projects.

Moreover, thanks to the 3 issues of the house organ "Mission Bambini NOTIZIE", the Foundation has been keeping its supporters up to date on its activities and projects. Besides reporting on various projects, the magazine gives voice to the donors themselves, for example, those who chose to celebrate a special occasion with solidarity gifts or decided to make a donation as a tribute to loved ones who have passed away.

## **Relationship with donors**

During 2022, as always, the Foundation has kept its relationship with all donors alive, making its closeness felt. A valuable tool in this effort is the **conversation on the phone**, which was already tested at the beginning of the Pandemic and was made possible thanks to help of many volunteers willing to contact supporters even from their homes. During 2022, Mission Bambini also kept diversifying fundraising tools, **promoting digital ways of donating**, and printing QR codes on papers to facilitate digital donations.

Finally, also in 2022, the Foundation felt it was important to listen to the voice of its donors and

asked them to answer a number of questions included in a **digital survey**. The questionnaire was sent via email and SMS in June, to more than 65,000 contacts. It was an important opportunity to gather interests, preferences and valuable insights, as well as an opportunity to complete and update donors' contact information. Useful insights also emerged on how to better manage certain aspects of fundraising and communication.

## **Digital fundraising**

The digital fundraisers promoted by Mission Bambini during 2022 were mainly aimed at supporting the initiatives implemented to deal with the **Ukraine emergency**, and were held on the attivati.missionbambini.org platform.

In detail, the "Ukraine Emergency - Phase 1" and "Ukraine Emergency - Phase 2" fundraisers brought in over 43,000 euros, which were used to provide support and shelter to Ukrainian children and their families fleeing from war. Specifically, these funds enabled the Foundation to donate basic necessities such as warm clothing, powdered milk, baby food, medicines and hygiene products. In addition, thanks to the involvement of the early childhood socio-educational centers of the "Scintilla (Spark)" project and the "Mission Bambini Spaces" within schools, Mission Bambini offered Ukrainian refugee

children in Italy a language mediation service and psychological support through specialized educators.

Finally, in November, December and for the first part of January, the **#GivetheBeat crowdfunding campaign** – now in its 5th edition – to save the lives of children with heart disease born in Nepal, Uganda, Eritrea, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Albania and Kosovo returned. Thanks to the partnership with Mediolanum Foundation, which again in 2022 deployed a group of its "heart beaters" alongside other "personal fundraisers" and pledged to double the donations received, a total of more than 94,000 euros was raised.

In total during 2022 thanks to all digital fundraisers, the Foundation raised **more than 175,000 euros**.



In March 2023, Marco Galbiati (bottom right on the photo, with red top) took part in the "Children's Heart" surgical mission to Nepal.

# QuindiCiSiamo in memory of Riccardo Galbiati

QuindiCiSiamo is the fundraising campaign started by Marco Galbiati, an entrepreneur, to remember his son Riccardo – who died of heart failure at the age of 15 – and to give many children with heart problems the chance to go on living, thanks to Mission Bambini's "Children's Heart" project. Launched in the fall of 2022, thanks to a huge wave of solidarity the initiative reached its initial goal within a few days: to raise the funds needed to perform surgery on 15 children. Therefore, the campaign has been extended to the whole of 2023, to operate on as many hearts as possible.

#### **TESTIMONIES**

I personally have always thought that helping a child with heart disease to survive is one of the most important and noble actions you can take. If you can then share this with an organization that you can trust, where you meet enthusiastic, special and simple people like Mission Bambini, everything becomes easy. Needless to say, the joy of helping is worth much more than the little financial gift you give.

**Fabio Ravezzani**, Director of Telelombardia and a keen supporter of Mission Bambini



Fabio Ravezzani at Niguarda Hospital in Milan with the mother of a child who received heart surgery.

We thought of the children with whom our son will play in the future, but who now lack his material fortune in terms of health and affection. We thought that a solidarity gift could multiply our joy of that moment, sharing it with other children and their families: the recipients of Mission Bambini's interventions. Thinking of you was a natural consequence: for us, supporting you is a joy that we have been experiencing for many years now.

**Elena and Valerio** chose to celebrate the Christening of their son Alessandro with solidarity favors from Mission Bambini



Elena and Valerio with son Alessandro.

## The new digital platform to help children

At the end of 2020 Mission Bambini created the crowdfunding platform called attivati.mis-sionbambini.org, and used it during the whole of 2022 to activate its main digital fundraisers. Through the proprietary platform, the Foundation can fully customize campaigns and individual fundraising pages: in fact, it is possible to create institutional campaigns promoted directly by Mission Bambini, but also to organize events and special initiatives with testimonials and companies. In 2022 a page dedicated to the "Scintilla (Spark)" project was created within the platform to give individual "Stars" the opportunity to promote digital fundraisers on their own.

In addition, the new platform offers all donors the possibility of **opening a fundraiser in just a few simple steps**, for example on the occasion of a birthday or a birth, to remember a loved one, to challenge friends to a sporting activity or to organize remote charity events such as yoga courses, cooking classes or creative workshops. The promoter of the collection will only have to choose the occasion, the amount to be reached and tell why he or she decided to get personally involved in support of children, sharing the initiative with friends and relatives.



## Legacies

With a legacy to Mission Bambini, it is possible to give happiness and health to children who live in difficult environments, in Italy and all over the world: a commitment that has defined the Foundation's work for more than 20 years. By guaranteeing medical care and access to quality educational services, we want to "make childhood the most beautiful game there is", as the new dedicated campaign for legacies states, based on the "dire, fare, baciare, lettera, testamento (say, do, kiss, letter, testament)" game that any Italian born in the 1970s and 1980s remembers, even if only as a nursery rhyme.

Thanks to the funds collected through legacy bequests, the Foundation strengthens its commitment to children: a legacy is in fact similar to a bridge, an ideal link between the present and the future. By choosing to allocate a part of one's own assets to Mission Bambini – no matter which amount – one begins to build the future of many children, improving their living

conditions in Italy and in the rest of the world.

The decision to make a bequest is a **far-sighted choice of altruism and responsibility** towards future generations, but it is also a way to leave an undying trace of one's best side, the side that is attentive to the needs of others, especially children. Every year, thanks to the generosity of those who include the Foundation in their wills, Mission Bambini is able to guarantee thousands of children the opportunity to go to school, to receive adequate medical care, to be supported in their essential needs together with their families.

Since 2020, Mission Bambini has been part of the **Comitato Testamento Solidale** network: an alliance of several non-profit organizations created to spread and promote in Italy the value of a solidarity legacy, which, without taking anything away from the legitimate heirs, allows to make a contribution to building a more equitable world.

### On TV with the legacies ad

Among the tools of the new communication campaign to promote legacies, Mission Bambini also created a 30" TV spot, which was broadcast from October 2022 on Mediaset Italia networks (including Canale 5, Italia 1 and Retequattro). The image shows a photo taken during filming.



#### **TESTIMONIES**

I have been a Mission Bambini volunteer for 8 years: I believe in volunteering as a way of making things better. After a training experience with Mission Bambini, I began to think about a bequest in my will. From my mother I inherited a positive attitude toward "the time after our time", and reflecting on it inspired me to look more deeply into the subject. Indeed, thinking that there are aids that remain when, as late as possible – God willing, we are no longer here, has given me a greater peace of mind. After several conversations with Mission Bambini staff I got all the information I needed and after choosing the people and entities I wanted to leave as beneficiaries, I went to the family notary and filed the bequest. I strongly recommend it, as it gave me motivation and peace of mind.

Stefano Giuliani, a Mission Bambini volunteer



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## Partnership with companies

The history of Mission Bambini has been marked since the very beginning by many significant relationships and partnerships with **companies** operating both domestically **and globally**. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is now an essential value for all companies, from large multinationals to small and medium-sized enterprises; the pandemic crisis and later also the Ukraine war have led companies to rethink their strategies and to take on an increasingly central role towards the communitv and the environment. This commitment has given rise to valuable partnerships between the corporate world and the Third Sector: partnerships that gain more and more importance in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the UN 2030 Agenda.

Mission Bambini's partnerships with companies often begin with **liberal donations**, and soon turn into long-la**sting relationships**. In recent years, companies have become increasingly attentive to the health and well-being of their employees, and many choose to involve their employees in **volunteering projects** to support the local area in which they operate and their community. Through its "employee engagement" activities, Mission Bambini also acts as a reference counterpart, using a "tailor-made" approach to build engagement programs

based on the company's needs and objectives. In 2022, in particular, the Foundation launched "Social Team Building": a new format that combines corporate volunteering with corporate training, integrating practical activities with a module dedicated to the development of "soft skills". It is an innovative model that links people, community and sustainability, designed together by Mission Bambini and the company to generate social impact on the community and give participating employees the opportunity to test and challenge themselves.

## **FOCUS ON 2022**

Once the pandemic ended, during 2022 Mission Bambini resumed the organization of volunteer activities at full capacity: more than 300 employees were involved. Most of them took part in the "Scuole di Classe (Classy Schools)" project, which involves upgrading school buildings through routine maintenance activities such as painting and cleaning indoor and outdoor spaces. The partner companies in these activities were: **Schneider Electric, Goldman Sachs, Covivio, Nielsen, Clifford Chance, Sanofi**. Schneider Electric and **Mediobanca Group** employees also took part in the planting initiatives promoted by Mission Bambini in partnership with Selva Urbana Association, and planted 100 and 1,000 trees respectively in the municipalities of Rho and Gaggiano (in the Milan province).

The partner companies' commitment to social work also found practical expression in other ways: **Fastweb** employees took part in a number of events promoted by the Foundation, such as "Civil Week" in Milan and the "Banco dei Desideri (Wishes' Counter)"; **Amazon** and **Latham & Watkins** employees took part in remote volunteering activities, supporting young participants in the "Train Minds for the Future" course in writing their CVs and simulating a job interview with them. The first two "Social Team Building" projects took place in the spring, with **Mediobanca Group** and **Bearing Point** employees engaged in building a sensory garden inside two schools in Milan and Turin.

"In kind" donations of goods and products for the most fragile children and families were also an important help received from companies, including: Chicco, Parmalat S.p.A., Emirates, Amazon, Unilever, Kuehne & Nagel, VF Corporation, Latham & Watkins, Lidl. Moreover, many companies took action to help Ukrainian children and families affected by the war, donating hygienic and food essentials, clothing and early childhood products. Among them: Prénatal, Bottega Verde, Paramount Italia, PBN.

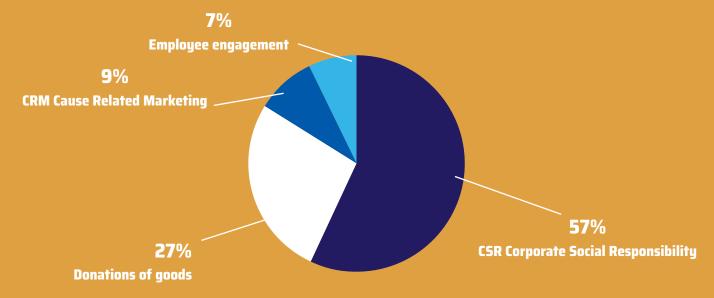
Finally, in 2022 the partnership with **WeWard** gave a significant result in terms of "corporate well-being": a free app that turns the users' steps into opportunities for solidarity. During the year, thanks to the contribution of app users, 4 Mission Bambini projects were funded, reaching over 400 children and families.

## **Companies: results 2022**

## 127 partner companies

## 893,309 euros collected

## Percentage of funds raised by companies by type of activity



The figures refer exclusively to Mission Bambini Italia.

#### **TESTIMONIES**

We have chosen to work with Mission Bambini on an on-going basis and concretely support the valuable work in aid of the most fragile children, to give them a chance for real change. This is precisely why we have chosen to support the programs dedicated to Education in Italy: we want to offer security to the new generations,

to ensure that our support continues over time, so as to guarantee them a future of hope and the opportunity to express their full potential and talents.

**Fabrizio Bonavita**, Managing Director of Primonial REIM Italy



## Partnership with foundations and other bodies

Cooperation between Mission Bambini and other foundations and funding bodies, both Italian (also public bodies) and international, has developed considerably over the years. The main purpose of these partnerships is to launch innovative and highly effective interventions. Mission Bambini guarantees this group of donors constant monitoring and timely evaluation of the projects financed, thus ensuring continuous improvement. In fact, there is a growing awareness of the importance of measuring the effectiveness of interventions, using methodologies focused on qualitative aspects as well as strictly quantitative ones.

The network of non-profit organizations that Mission Bambini has been able to build and strengthen over time has become a truly evolving **laboratory** of ideas and projects. Thanks to its network of partners, the Foundation is able to carry out high impact interventions, both in Italy and abroad. These projects are often rewarded by important funders (other foundations and grant-giving bodies) who select them through special calls for funding because they are in line with their own strategic intervention priorities.

In addition, other small or medium-sized foundations that decide to work with Mis-

sion Bambini find it a reliable partner for achieving their statutory objectives. At times, interventions are co-designed together with funders, also by experimenting with new models and sharing best practices and relationships. Through this highly collaborative operating method, the benefit for Mission Bambini and the donor is double: on the one hand, economic resources are shared on interventions in the educational or healthcare fields, while on the other hand, skills and knowledge are mutually enhanced.

## **FOCUS ON 2022**

Also during 2022, support and collaboration with other foundations and donor organizations proved to be fundamental to Mission Bambini's interventions in favor of children, youth and families in need.

In particular, the "Ora di Futuro" project aimed at families with children aged 0-6 years, promoted by **Generali Italia and The Human Safety Net** (the foundation created by Generali) continued. In the 8 "Ora di Futuro" centers set up in cooperation with Mission Bambini, interactive parent-child workshops, training courses for parents and individual coaching and counseling were held to improve relationships within the family unit and strengthen parenting skills, involving a total of 917 parents and 1,187 children in the 0-6 age bracket.

**Mediolanum Foundation** confirmed its partnership with Mission Bambini in 2022 as well, again endorsing the #GivetheBeat crowdfunding campaign in support of the "Children's Heart" project. In addition to doubling the amount of donations collected to a maximum of 30,000 euros, the Foundation joined the fundraiser with several groups of its volunteers.

**Fondazione di Comunità Milano - Città, Sud Ovest, Sud Est, Martesana** also continued to cooperate with Mission Bambini in 2022, co-funding the "NaturalMente a Scuola" project carried out in Milan in partnership with Fondazione Snam and Selva Urbana APS, to help children reconnect with the natural environment through educational tools based on play and sensory experiences.

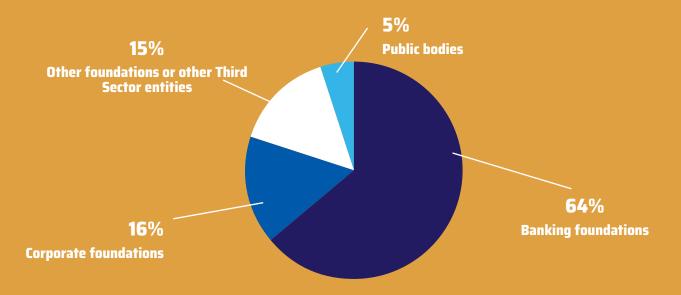
Finally to be noted during 2022 is the contribution of other funding bodies such as: **Cariplo Foundation** for the "MiChance – Opportunities for the Future" project on the issue of the right to schooling in Milan; **Snam Foundation** for the "Classroom Space" project within an elementary school in Rome, for the emotional and psychological wellbeing of students; **Barbara Genovese Foundation** for the "Garden of Discovery" project in Sesto San Giovanni (MI); **Mamo Educational Foundation** for the support of activities in favor of Ukrainian children who arrived in Italy fleeing the war in their country.

## Foundations and other bodies: results 2022

# 12 partner foundations and other bodies

1,387,053 euros collected

## Percentage of funds raised by foundations by type of entity



The figures refer exclusively to Mission Bambini Italia.

#### **TESTIMONIES**

Through a Family Program, The Human Safety Net, Generali's global foundation, supports parents in 24 countries with children aged 0-6 living in vulnerable conditions, with the aim of helping them build a solid foundation for their children's future. Since 2018 Mission Bambini has been one of our partners in Italy: together we develop educational activities in 8 family centers in different Italian locations. Within the centers, we offer: child-parent workshops, training courses and discussion groups for parents, individual support for solving specific problems, and we build educational pathways with families to help the youngest children release their motor, emotional and cognitive potential and build stronger foundations for growth.

**Jennifer Pluchinotta**, Program Manager of The Human Safety Net Italia



Jennifer Pluchinotta (on the left, in the photo) along with Serena Sartirana, Program Coordinator Childhood Area of Mission Bambini, at the summit sponsored by The Human Safety Net in Venice in November 2022.

## **Communication**

Through its communication activities, Mission Bambini aims, on the one hand, to **inform public** opinion about the conditions of need experienced by children and young people in Italy and around the world and the projects implemented to help them, and, on the other, to **promote events and fundraising initiatives** aimed at supporting these projects.

The communication style used by the Foundation is always balanced, never harmful to the dignity of children and respectful of the sensibilities of the public. In 2022 the Foundation was again able to give the right level of visibility to its projects and interventions, through continuous press office activity and through an increased use of digital communication tools.

#### **Events**

At national level, in 2022 Mission Bambini promoted the 4th edition of the "Banco dei **Desideri (Wishes Counter)"** in partnership with laFeltrinelli. The event took place over the weekend of September 17 and 18, involving 110 laFeltrinelli bookstores in more than 70 Italian cities. More than 11,800 items were collected, with a commercial value of more than 43,000 euros. The books, games and stationery products donated during the two days were subsequently distributed to 88 entities previously selected by the Foundation - including schools and children's educational services - to benefit children and young people who did not have the opportunity to return to the classroom with everything they needed for the new school year.

At local level, particularly noteworthy was the piano concert "The Music of the Heart" with musician and composer Emiliano Toso, held on the evening of Thursday, December 15 in the splendid setting of the Palazzo delle Stelline in Milan. The event was sponsored by Mission Bambini to raise funds for the "Children's Heart" project. Thanks to his background as a biologist, Emiliano Toso composes music played on acoustic instruments tuned to 432 hertz instead of 440. Music in this frequency

produces harmonics that deeply affect the listener, promoting physical and emotional well-being. Therefore, the concert successfully touched and captivated the large audience. The initiative was made possible thanks to the support of Azimut Capital Management and Parlux.



Two volunteers during the 4th edition of the "Wishes Counter" in laFeltrinelli bookstores.



Musician and composer Emiliano Toso during the "Music of the Heart" concert.

## **Digital communication**

Website, newsletter and social networks are still the main digital communication channels used to tell **donors**, **volunteers and supporters** about the projects, fundraising campaigns and events promoted by the Foundation. As of July 2022, there is also an active Mission Bambini profile on TikTok. In addition, with the specific goal of offering the most immersive and personalized experiences to its "community", during 2022 Mission Bambini used its digital channels to broadcast the multimedia productions created by the Foundation during the year (see page 59 below for a detailed account).

In addition, throughout the year, several partnerships with **influencers, testimonials, and a real-time narrative** of some of the Foundation's interventions made it possible to reach a wider audience while engaging followers with in-depth content. Among the real-time narratives of particular note was the day-by-day account of the humanitarian mission to Poland, supporting mothers and children who fled Ukraine because of the war. A similar narrative was also done on

the occasion of the Children's Heart mission to Nepal, guiding the community inside the screening camp set up in the rural province of Gorka together with doctors and volunteers.

Notable partnerships with influencers and online publications were those with Amica and IoDonna to promote "solidarity wedding favors" during the spring, as well as the involvement of influencers such as Martina Panagia, Francesca Bubba and Francesca Crescentini (aka Tegamini) at Christmas. With the latter, the Foundation also worked on an in-depth video on neonatal heart disease, featuring an interview with Dr. Stefano Marianeschi – Scientific Advisor of "Children's Heart" – explaining to the influencer community the diagnostic and perinatal treatment methods, as well as the Foundation's commitment to this issue. The video was broadcast in support of the #GivetheBeat crowdfunding campaign.

## Digital communication: results 2022

Compared to 2021, the results have improved and, with the exception of Twitter which remains stable, all show the following increase: +4% site hits, +2.6% followers on Facebook, +30% followers on Instagram, +18% followers on LinkedIn, and +24% newsletter subscribers.

71,203 individual website users 59,737 newsletter subscribers 28,137 follower on Facebook 4,140 follower on Instagram 3,042 follower on Twitter 4,216 follower on LinkedIn





## **FOCUS ON 2022**

## Promotion of the "Scintilla (Spark)" project

For each of the 4 early childhood socio-educational centers launched during the year 2022 thanks to "Scintilla", Mission Bambini held as many local events to present the project to the public. These events were organized together with local partners, in the presence of municipal institutions and with the involvement of families: April 28 in Bari, May 26 in Sesto San Giovanni (MI), June 7 in Catania, and January 26, 2023 in Naples.

Prior to the presentations and the start of educational activities, the interior and exterior areas of the 4 Stars were customized with "Scintilla" **fittings and decor elements**, specially created to highlight the "star" as a key symbolic and visual element in the communication of the project. The Foundation's volunteers helped with the setting up of the spaces.

**Ellen Hidding**, who has been at Mission Bambini's side for many years with a focus on early childhood educational projects, is the patroness of "Scintilla" and took part in all promotional and communication activities of the project.



Setting up one of the Stars of the "Scintilla" project.



The group of volunteers and educators who set up the Mission Bambini's Star in Bari.



General Director Sara Modena at the presentation of the Mission Bambini's Star in Catania.



President Goffredo Modena with Ellen Hidding during the official opening of the Star in Sesto San Giovanni (MI).

## **Multimedia productions**

In 2022 Mission Bambini worked on different multimedia productions for an **innovative and engaging narrative** of the activities and projects implemented. In particular, mid-2022 saw the launch on the Foundation's social channels of the first podcast signed Mission Bambini, telling the story of the new "Scintilla (Spark)" project and the different area contexts in which it is implemented, through the voices of its protagonists: mothers, educators, heads of educational services and experts. The **podcast "Scintilla: viaggio nell'Italia dei piccoli"**, hosted by Ellen Hidding, featured the Stars of Bari, Catania, Naples and Sesto San Giovanni (Milan) in four mini-seasons. In addition, a video was created for each of the 4 Stars dedicated to telling the story of "Scintilla" and the different settings in which the project takes place.

During the summer, the Foundation's second podcast in partnership with laFeltrinelli was born, taking the community back in time, to their school years, reminiscing together about childhood summers, the first school day, and their favorite book. The "Ricordi" podcast also aimed to promote the "Wishes Counter" and was produced with the help of volunteer Alessandra De Luca, a professional speaker, who gave her voice to the project.

Finally, for the promotion of the #GivetheBeat campaign, Mission Bambini created and launched two more brand new multimedia products: a Virtual Tour and a 360° Video for the storytelling of the "Children's Heart" mission held in May 2022 at Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Both products allow for an immersive experience, virtually taking part in the mission and its phases. In particular, the Virtual Tour is available on the Foundation's website, on the page called "Life on Mission" within the section dedicated to "Children's Heart". The 360° Video, on the other hand, has been enjoyed through special visors by volunteers, donors and supporters on a number of occasions promoted by the Foundation, from the National Volunteer Meeting to the Christmas concert "The Music of the Heart".



The audience at the Christmas concert "The Music of the Heart" could watch the 360° Video on the mission to Uganda through special visors.



The Virtual Tour allows to virtually join one of the "Children's Heart" missions: scan the QR code to access the dedicated



## **Auditing Report**

As required by the Guidelines for the preparation of the social report of entities of the Third Sector issued by Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Policies on July 4, 2019, below is the report of the Controlling Body (Board of Auditors) on Mission Bambini's compliance with the rules and the Articles of Association for the year 2022.

#### REPORT OF THE CONTROLLING BODY

#### Social Report as of 31.12.2022 - Mission Bambini Foundation ETS

#### Reporting on the monitoring activity and its findings

Pursuant to Art. 30, para. 7 of the Code of the Third Sector and Art. 11.5 of the Foundation's Articles of Association, during the year 2022 we have monitored the compliance with the civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes by the "Mission Bambini Foundation ETS", with particular regard to the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the above Code of the Third Sector.

The monitoring activity was carried out in accordance with the current regulatory framework and was specifically concerned with the following:

- verification of the exclusive or principal performance of one or more activities of general interest referred to in Art. 5, para. 1, for civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes, in accordance with the particular rules governing their performance, as well as, if necessary, of activities other than those indicated in Art. 5, para. 1, of the Third Sector Code, provided that they are within the limits of the statutory provisions and based on criteria of subsidiarity and instrumentality established by Ministerial Decree No. 107 of May 19, 2021;
- compliance, in the fundraising activities carried out during the reporting period, with the principles of truthfulness, transparency and fairness in dealings with supporters and the public, the verification of which, pending the issuance of the ministerial guidelines referred to in Article 7 of the Code of the Third Sector, was carried out on the basis of a comprehensive review of existing regulations and best practices in use;
- the pursuit of the absence of the purpose of profit, through the allocation of assets, including all its components (revenues, income, proceeds, income however denominated) to carry out the statutory activity; the observance of the prohibition of distribution, even indirectly, of profits, operating surpluses, funds and reserves to founders, associates, workers and collaborators, directors and other members of the corporate bodies, taking into account the indices referred to in Article 8, para. 3, letters a) to e), of the Code of the Third Sector.

## Certification of compliance of the social report with the guidelines set forth in the decree of July 4, 2019, of the Ministry of labor and social policies

Pursuant to Art. 30, para. 7, of the Code of the Third Sector, during the fiscal year 2022 we verified the compliance of the social report, prepared by the "Mission Bambini Foundation ETS", with the Guidelines for the Preparation of the Social Report of Third Sector Entities, issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies by Ministerial Decree 4.7.2019, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 14 of the Code of the Third Sector.

The "Mission Bambini Foundation ETS" has declared that it has prepared its social report for fiscal year 2022 in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

While the responsibilities of the governing body for the preparation of the social report in accordance with the procedures and timelines set forth in the rules governing its preparation remain unchanged,

1

the controlling body is responsible for certifying, as required by law and by the Foundation's Articles of Association, that the social report complies with the Guidelines of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

The auditing body is also responsible for ascertaining whether the content of the social report is manifestly inconsistent with the data reported in the annual financial statements and/or with the information and data in its possession.

To this end, we have verified that the information contained in the social balance sheet faithfully represents the activities carried out by the institution and is consistent with the information requirements of the relevant Ministerial Guidelines. Our conduct was guided by the relevant provisions of the Rules of Conduct for the Control Body of Third Sector Entities, published by the CNDCEC in December 2020. Accordingly, we also verified the following aspects:

- compliance of the structure of the social report with respect to the sectional organization set forth in paragraph 6 of the Guidelines;
- presence in the social report of the information referred to in the specific sub-sections explicitly
  provided for in paragraph 6 of the Guidelines, except for adequate explanation of the reasons
  why specific information was not shown;
- compliance with the principles for the preparation of the social report set forth in paragraph 5 of
  the Guidelines, including the principles of relevance and completeness that may result in the
  need to supplement the information explicitly required by the Guidelines.

On the basis of the work we have done, no evidence has come to our attention that would suggest that the entity's social report has not been prepared, in all significant aspects, in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines set out in Ministerial Decree 4.7.2019.

Milan, June 6, 2023

The Controlling Body

Marco Moroni (President)

Daniela Colicchia

Marco Marzorati Marco Ar

## A reading guide

This Annual Report has been drawn in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of the social report of Third Sector entities (Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Policies of July 4, 2019). With particular reference to para-graph 6

"The structure and content of the social report" of the said Guidelines, the reader is of-fered below a cross-reference table showing on which pages the various contents required are to be found within this Annual Report.

SOCIAL REPORT GUIDELINES (PARAGRAPH 6)	MISSION BAMBINI'S ANNUAL REPORT	2022
Required content	Title	Page
Methodology used in the preparation of the social report	Reporting Methodology (box)	10
General information on the institution	History: milestones Portrait (diagram)	7 10
Structure, governance and administration	Statutory Bodies Stakeholder Map (diagram)	6 8
People working for the institution	Human Resources Volunteering	11 12>14
Goals and activities	Identity and values Intervention Methods Mission Bambini Switzerland Countries of Intervention and Results in 2022 Education Projects (whole chapter) Healthcare Projects (whole chapter) Emergency Ukraine	5 8-9 15>17 18-19 20>33 34>41 42-43
Economic and financial situation	Fundraising and Communication (whole chapter) Mission Bambini Switzerland: balance sheet and profit and loss account Mission Bambini Italia: balance sheet and financial statement	44>59 64 65>67
Monitoring by the control body	Auditing Report	60-61



## **Balance sheet (CHF)**

ASSETS	2022	2021
LIQUIDITY AND ASSETS HELD IN THE SHORT TERM	183,419	274,792
Cash accounts Assets held in bank accounts	5,687 177,732	8,333 266,459
ACCRUED INCOME AND PREPAID EXPENSES	11,578	0
CURRENT ASSETS	194,997	274,792
LIABILITIES	2022	2021
PAYABLES FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	52,321	67,201
OTHER SHORT-TERM PAYABLES	20,227	23,076
Short-term payables to general government Other short-term payables	5,983 14,244	7,812 15,264
ACCRUED EXPENSES AND SHORT-TERM PROVISIONS	1,490	111,379
Costs payable Revenues received in the following year Short-term provisions  DEBT CAPITAL	1,490 0 0 <b>74,038</b>	1,295 79,000 31,085
		201,656
FOUNDATION CAPITAL	50,000	50,000
RETAINES EARNINGS	70,959	23,136
Profit carried forward Annual profit/loss EQUITY CAPITAL	23,136 47,823 <b>120,959</b>	19,860 3,276 <b>73,136</b>
	120,555	73,130
LIABILITIES	194,997	274,792

## Income statement (CHF)

	2022	2021
	2022	2021
NET INCOME FROM DONATIONS	374,812	450,715
DIRECT COSTS	-261,797	-348,112
Promotional and fundraising costs	-261,797	-348,112
Donations (disbursements)	-224,810	-317,719
Institutional costs	-36,987	-30,392
GROSS PROFIT I	113,015	102,603
PROPERTY INSURANCE, CONTRIBUTIONS, TAXES AND AUTHORIZATIONS	-718	-51
ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT COSTS	-15,823	-18,753
Administrative costs	-15,823	-18,119
Licensing and support	0	0
Consulting and development	0	-634
ADVERTISING COSTS	-42,489	-70,329
Travel costs, customer support	-1,777	-85
Advertising consulting, market analysis	-40,712	-70,243
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	-6,834	-8,615
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE INTERESTS AND TAXES	47,151	4,855
FINANCIAL COSTS	572	-1,380
Interest costs	-6	0
Other financial costs	-580	-1,380
Other financial income	1,158	0
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE TAXES	47,722	3,476
EXTRAORDINARY COSTS, UNIQUE OR RELATED TO OTHER ACCOUNTING PERIODS	100	-200
ANNUAL EARNINGS	47,822	3,276

# Balance sheet (€)

ASSETS	2022	2021
A) MEMBERSHIP FEES OR CONTRIBUTIONS DUE	0	0
B) FIXED ASSETS		
I - Intangible fixed assets	20.457	24.040
3) industrial patent rights and rights to use intellectual property  Total	38,167 <b>38,167</b>	21,019 <b>21,019</b>
II - Tangible fixed assets	30,107	21,013
2) plant and machinery	0	271
aguipment (electronic office equipment)     other assets (furniture and fixtures)	9,664 20,023	17,571 6,100
Total	29,687	23,942
III - Financial fixed assets 1) equity investments in:		
a) subsidiaries	48,309	48,309
3) other securities	1,303,327	1,327,006
Total Total fixed assets	1,351,636 1,419,490	1,375,315 1,420,276
	1,419,490	1,420,276
C) CURRENT ASSETS I - Inventories		
4) finished goods and merchandise	39,249	55,565
Total	39,249	55,565
II - Accounts receivable due within one year  1) from customers	28,639	8,067
3) from public entities	17,553	87,764
4) from private entities for contributions	0	10,000
6) from other Third Sector entities 7) from subsidiaries	1,095,360 52,501	1,249,341 64,856
12) from others:		0 1,030
within the next financial year	73,518	83,478 424
beyond the subsequent fiscal year  Total	424 <b>1,267,995</b>	1,503,930
IV - Cash and cash equivalents		
1) bank and postal deposits 2) checks	1,704,667 2,000	1,325,359 2,000
3) cash and valuables on hand	6,974	23,039
Total	1,713,641	1,350,398
Total current assets	3,020,885	2,909,893
D) ACCRUED INCOME AND PREPAID EXPENSES	214	1,359
TOTAL ASSETS	4,440,589	4,331,528
LIABILITIES	2022	2021
A) SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
I - Endowment fund of the institution II - Restricted assets	1,071,378	1,071,378
2) restricted reserves by decision of institutional bodies	187,200	153,000
3) restricted reserves allocated by third parties  III - Unrestricted assets	1,315,365	1,623,710
1) profit or surplus reserves	478,912	576,452
IV - Operating surplus/deficit	2,667	-97,539
Total  B) PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND CHARGES	3,055,522	3,327,001 0
C) PROVISION FOR SEVERANCE PAY	439,800	376,160
D) PAYABLES DUE WITHIN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR	433,000	370,100
7) accounts payable to suppliers	686,880	446,218
9) tax payables	50,351	42,898
10) accounts payable to social security institutions	63,124	50,941
11) payables to employees and collaborators  Total	144,912 <b>945,267</b>	88,210 <b>628,267</b>
E) ACCRUALS AND DEFERRALS	0	100
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,440,589	4,331,528

## Operating Statement (€)

COSTS AND CHARGES	2022	2021
A) COSTS AND CHARGES FROM GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES		
1) Raw, subsidiary and consumable materials and goods 2) Services 4) Personnel 5) Depreciation and amortization 6) Provision for risks and charges 7) Miscellaneous operating expenses	421,256 204,256 768,778 0 0	369,771 156,706 614,682 0 0
Disbursements Italy Disbursements abroad Miscellaneous expenses for projects 8) Allocation to restricted reserve by decision of statutory bodies 9) Use of restricted reserve by decision of institutional bodies  Total	1,284,616 735,305 147,538 120,000 -85,800 <b>3,595,949</b>	893,122 620,793 23,514 0 -97,000 <b>2,581,588</b>
B) COSTS AND EXPENSES FORM MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES		
1) Raw, subsidiary and consumable materials and goods 3) Use of third-party assets 8) Opening inventories <b>Total</b>	32,488 5,741 98,846 <b>137,075</b>	57,112 2,342 112,095 <b>171,549</b>
C) CHARGES FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES		
1) Charges from regular fundraising activities 2) Charges from occasional fundraising activities 3) Other expenses (Personnel) <b>Total</b>	923,551 0 393,505 <b>1,317,056</b>	657,609 15,621 416,291 <b>1,089,521</b>
D) COSTS AND CHARGES FROM FINANCIAL AND CAPITAL ACTIVITIES		
1) On bank relationships 6) On loans <b>Total</b>	25,358 18,096 <b>43,454</b>	26,264 0 <b>26,264</b>
E) GENERAL SUPPORT COSTS AND CHARGES		
1) Raw, subsidiary and consumable materials and goods 2) Services 3) Use of third party assets 4) Personnel 5) Depreciation and amortization 7) Other expenses  Total	1,957 299,423 95,801 381,051 39,499 58,308 <b>876,039</b>	6,570 286,763 101,091 390,622 27,430 58,033 <b>870,509</b>
TOTAL COSTS AND CHARGES	5,969,573	4,739,431

INCOME AND REVENUES	2022	2021
A) REVENUES, INCOME AND INCOME FROM GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES		
1) Income from membership fees and contributions from Founders	65,000	100,000
2) Income from members for mutual activities	110.100	0 250,581
4) Liberal donations 5) Income from 5x1000	118,186 224,926	250,581 233,792
6) Contributions from private entities	1,298,324	859,000
7) Revenues from third-party services and transfers	245,198	353,574
8) Contributions from public entities 9) Income from contracts with public entities	145,798	28,243
10) Other revenues, returns and income	0 77,455	0 137,340
	247, 007	4 000 000
Total Surplus/deficit general interest activities (+/-)	2,174,887 -1,421,063	1,962,530 -619,058
Surplus/deficit general interest activities (+/-)	-1,421,005	-013,030
B) REVENUES, ANNUITIES AND INCOME FROM MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES		
2) Contributions from private entities	71,203	60,275
<ul><li>3) Revenues from services and transfers to third parties</li><li>7) Closing inventories</li></ul>	28,462 82,530	20,470 98,846
Total	182,195	179,591
Surplus/deficit from miscellaneous activities (+/-)	45,120	8,042
C) REVENUES, RETURNS AND INCOME FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES		
Income from regular fundraising activities	3,603,448	2,377,354
2) Income from occasional fundraising activities	0	117,008
Total	3,603,448	2,494,362
Surplus/deficit from fundraising activities (+/-)	2,286,392	1,404,841
D) REVENUES, INCOME AND INCOME FROM FINANCIAL AND ASSET ACTIVITIE	ES	
2) From other investments	0	5,409
Total	0	5,409
Surplus/deficit from financial and capital activities (+/-)	-43,454	-20,855
E) GENERAL SUPPORT INCOME		
2) Other general support income	11,711	0
Total	11,711	0
Surplus/deficit from general support activities (+/-)	-864,328	-870,509
TOTAL INCOME AND DEVENUES	E 072 2/0	/ C/1 002
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES	5,972,240	4,641,892

## The main partners of Mission Bambini in 2022





#### Mission Bambini ETS - ITALY

- · Via Ronchi, 17 20134 Milan
- · +39 02 21 00 241
- info@missionbambini.org
- www.missionbambini.org





#### WITH A DONATION

- **Postal account:** n. 17252206
- **IBAN for transfer:** IT19Q 03069 09606 100000067111
- BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMMXXX

   Tax code for 5x1000:
- **Donate by credit card at** missionbambini.org:



13022270154

#### **WITH A SPECIAL GESTURE**

- Solidarity favors
- Legacies
- Donations in memory

## ACTIVATE YOUR FUNDRAISER

attivati.missionbambini.org

#### **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

volontari@missionbambini.org





#### Mission Bambini Foundation - SWITZERLAND

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- · +41 (0)91 922 23 11
- · info@missionbambini.ch
- · www.missionbambini.ch

#### DONATIONS BY CREDIT TRANSFER

- CHF: CH21 0024 7247 1445 7740 L
- EUR: CH69 0024 7247 1445 7741 R
- Swift: UBSWCHZH80A

in



#### Friends of Mission Bambini fund - USA

#### PLEASE MAKE US DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:

King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor - New York, NY 10020 Ph. +1 (212) 713 7660 / info@kbfus.org / www.kbfus.org

#### GIFTS BY CHECK OR BY WIRE TRANSFER:

write your check to KBFUS, write "Mission Bambini" in the memo section, and send it to KBFUS; or contact KBFUS by email or by phone

