Society of St. Vincent de Paul
COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

CIAD

CIAD'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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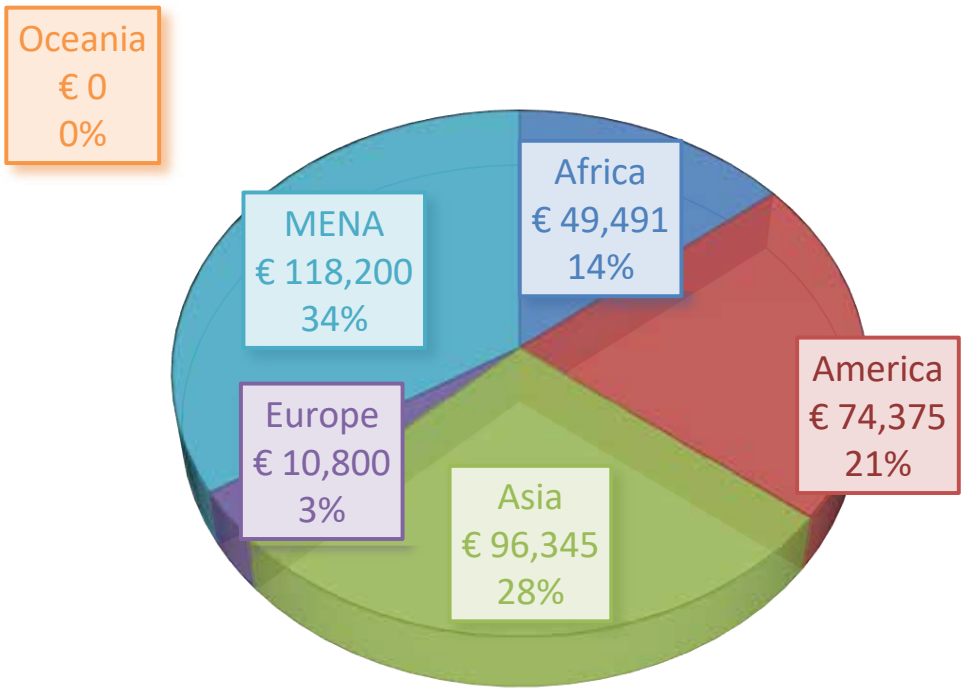
CGI's Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) is the department in charge of reviewing requests for funding made by the SSVP worldwide, under the Solidarity and Special Projects Vice Presidency. The CIAD is responsible for four areas:

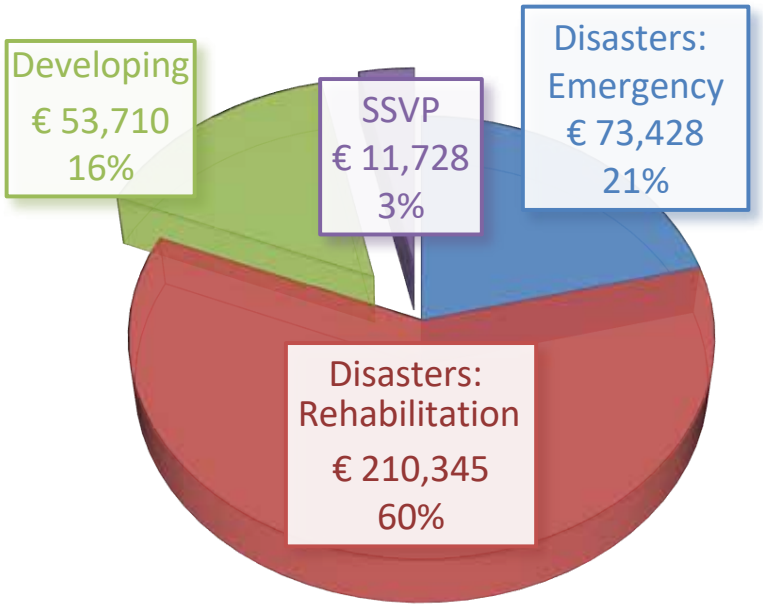
1. Disaster Relief: emergency relief and rehabilitation programs after natural or man-made disasters;
2. Development: solidarity, self-help, profit making and systemic change-oriented projects;
3. SSVP Expansion: establishment and growth of the SSVP in new countries (SSVP Plus project);
4. Strengthening structures where necessary.

Due to the global pandemic and its consequences, resulting in a severe decrease in donations, the funding provided by the CIAD in 2021 has been exceptionally low, while needs keep on increasing. Despite this, the Commission has done its best to reach out to our countries.

Key figures

€ 349,211 granted to 31 countries.





Some of our Projects: Disaster Relief

Emergency

Although 'emergency' is not the core vocation of Vincentians, our members have the opportunity to be 'on the spot' almost anywhere in the world. The CIAD has an emergency process that allows the speedy release of small grants to cover basic needs after a disaster occurs. These efforts can range from temporary shelter, food, water, medicine, or whatever the immediate need may be. However small this grant is, (usually € 3,000 to 5,000), it is a heartfelt gesture of solidarity with the affected SSVP and their friends in need. It reinforces our fraternal bonds while allowing local Vincentians to immediately initiate effective care for those who suffer, by any means.

The CIAD has recently sent emergency support to the SSVP Philippines, after super typhoon Rai, in December, which is known to be at least equally destructive as was Yolanda in 2013.

In 2021, the CIAD has supported the Vincentian relief aid in different countries:

- **Argentina** (earthquake);
- **Haití** (after the worst earthquake since 2011);
- **Indonesia**, **Timor Leste** and **Malawi** (floods);
- **Nicaragua** (tropical storms);
- **Brasil** heavy rains);
- **St Vincent and the Grenadines** and **DR Congo** (volcano eruptions);
- **Palestine** (outburst of violence);
- **Bangladesh**, **Caiman Islands**, **Sri Lanka**, **Macedonia** and **Madagascar** (Covid-19 relief).

Long-term support

After the emergency phase, when media coverage has stopped, and if our resources permit, the CIAD continues to support the SSVP countries in their efforts to stabilize affected people and help them get back to "normal life" as much as possible. This can include, but is not limited to, reconstruction, education, livelihood projects, food support, clean water, relocation, medical care, mental healthcare, friendship, other resources, etc.

INDONESIA

Home repairs after cyclone (**€ 44,000**)

- Beneficiaries: **8** homeless families
- Conferences in the country: **391**
- Members: **4,000**

In 2018, Indonesia was affected by a tremendous earthquake and several other climatic disasters. After assisting victims continuously, it is only in 2020 that the SSVP Indonesia was able to start with a reconstruction programme, providing new homes to 8 families. The second phase was conducted successfully in 2021.

LEBANON

Support to war refugees (**€ 111,910**)

- Beneficiaries: **90** elderly people
  1,000 children refugees
- Conferences in the country: **50**
- Members: **930**

For several years, Lebanon has been receiving war refugees, mainly from Syria and Iraq. Refugees represent around 25% of the total population and live in extreme poverty. The National Council of SSVP is supporting many of them in many ways; with these two projects: they give free hot meals twice a week to 90 elderly refugees, and supplement education fees. Besides the refugees, the country is going through a despairing economic and political crisis, as well as being hit hard by Covid – not to mention the still vivid consequences of the explosion of Beirut Harbour.

INDIA

Covid assistance (**€ 50,000**)

- Beneficiaries: Thousands of Covid affected families in **87** Central Councils
- Conferences in the country: **7,355**
- Members: **70,100**

Around July 2021, India was undergoing an extremely severe second-wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. They had an overwhelming need and demand for hospitalization, medicine, oxygen and burials/cremation. SSVP India deployed its own ambulances wherever available and hired some with medical facilities. Temporary facilities were set up to admit patients, since hospitals touched maximum capacity. Oxygen concentrators and cylinders were supplied in the worst affected areas. CIAD supported SSVP India in responding to this demand as well as providing health care, meals and medicines to people in quarantine, especially elderly people. They also provided basic support to people and families, who had lost their job or their only breadwinner, children who have been orphaned after losing their parents, with love, care and guidance for the future.

MOZAMBIQUE

Basic support to displaced families (**€ 10,000**)

- Beneficiaries: Around **200** families
- : **33**
- Members: **815**

In 2021, SSVP Mozambique has continued assisting displaced families from the Northern part of the country, which was severely affected by terrorist attacks. They are continuously providing food, medicines, as well as Vincentian love and care to these families at the camps.

MALAWI

Basic assistance to flood victims (**€ 1,000**)

- Beneficiaries: Around **1,000** families
- Conferences in the country: **258**
- Members: **3,500**

Malawi is affected, every year, by heavy floods alternating with severe drought periods. With CIAD's support and that provided by their Irish twins, the local SSVP is bringing assistance to affected families with food and medicines, as well as basic relief items such as blankets or mosquito nets.

MADAGASCAR

Food assistance to hunger victims (**€ 7,000**)

- Beneficiaries: Hunger-affected families
- Conferences in the country: **150**
- Members: **2,970**

The Southern part of Madagascar has been suffering a long period of severe hunger, which effects are worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. In collaboration with SSVP France, and with the generous financial support of SSVP South Tyrol, the CIAD has responded to their call for help which allowed them to provide food to several hundreds of affected families.

Development Projects

Whenever, and wherever, it has the opportunity of doing so, CIAD wishes to support local Vincentian initiatives in favour of Systemic Change and sustainable development. The goal might be to create employment and self-sustainment opportunities for the poor, to provide them with direct aid or to generate income for the Society. It is also dedicated to encourage the continued good work of Conferences through their activities. Unfortunately, lack of funding has it that this remains a small part of the grants released.

RUSSIA

Basic Conference activities (**€ 7,850**)

- Beneficiaries: Orphans and elderly
- Conference in the country: **1**
- Members: **7**

The only SSVP Conference in Russia is located in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. The CIAD is supporting their daily activities, mainly conducted in elderly homes and orphanages, where the Vincentians provide love and care, food assistance, recreational activities as well as spiritual support.

CAMEROON

Farm - **€ 4,800** (**€ 20,000 over 3 years**)

- Beneficiaries: **5** permanent and **100** temporary workers
- Conference in the country: **42**
- Consocios: **146**

Since 2019, the CIAD has supported this project (the last phase was completed in 2021). The goal is to develop an organic market garden to promote sustainability practices. The farm is used to train the local community on organic farming. It generates income to support the work carried out by the Conference (Foumban) to help local families and young people. Production is also used for food distribution to needy people supported by the Conference: 60 families, 300 prisoners and 100 young people. Last, the farm generates job opportunities for five permanent workers and over 100 local students during their school holidays. Thus, they can earn money to pay for school fees, clothing and supplies.

HAITI

Rice Farm (**€ 17,237**)

- Local farmers, SSVP Councils, Conferences assisted people
- Conferences in the country: **32**
- Members: **480**

In one of the poorest countries in the world, the Society is active and dynamic, and the Vincentians have decided to reduce their dependence on external support. For this, they have developed the project of a rice farm. CIAD has supported the first phase consisting in the purchase of a plot of land and material). The farm will provide food for the poor, jobs to local farmers as well as an income for the local SSVP, aimed at conducting their daily work with the neediest. They can rely on the success and experience of a successful similar project managed by a youth Conference in neighboring Dominican Republic.

GRENADA

Daily breakfast for kindergarten childrena (**€ 3,200**)

- Beneficiaries: **31** children (aged 3-4)
- Conferences in the country: **33**
- Members: **480**
- Partner: One Canadian Conference

This project is located in a poor rural community. As most of the children in the kindergarten do not get one at home, the project will ensure that each child receives a healthy breakfast daily for a year. This will support each child's physical, mental, emotional and academic development. This project was publicized by the CIAD as 'project of the month' and received generous support from a Conference in Canada.

ISRAEL

School material (**€ 3,200**)

- Beneficiaries: **77** schoolchildren
- Conference in the country: **1**
- Members: **6** (Haifa)

In this politically sensitive area, in particular with persecutions against Palestinians, the Vincentians fight to help the most disadvantaged. Every year, for the new school year, they provide school bags and supplies to students from poor families. Each school bag contains notebooks (ordinary and drawing), pencils, pens, geometry boxes, a pencil case and a calculator. While they usually raise funds amongst their benefactors and friends, it has not been possible this year due to the joint effects of Covid and of a tense political climate.

COLOMBIA

Repairs at a SSVP home for the elderly (**€ 17,730 (€ 35,460 en 3 años)**)

- Beneficiaries: **45** elderly
- Conferences in the country: **200**
- Members: **1,692**

The SSVP in Bogota runs a residential care home for homeless elderly people hosting 45 residents, who receive shelter, support and health services as well as companionship and friendship in the Vincentian tradition. The structure has deteriorated, and an extensive schedule of repairs and rehabilitation has proved indispensable. While the local SSVP has raised approximately 50% of the total budget, the CIAD has approved to complement this effort.

SSVP Plus and Expansion

The CIAD is also in charge of funding SSVP Plus projects, which is geared towards implementing and developing the Society in countries where it is not present, and of supporting the Society institutionally in countries where it is weak or has structural difficulties.

In 2021, like in 2020, efforts in this area have been made almost impossible due to the Covid-19 crisis, hampering travel possibilities.

In the framework of the "strengthening" mission, the CIAD has supported some of the costs to settle the legal structure of **El Salvador**'s National Council, covered running costs of the National Council of **Haiti** and provided communication material to the SSVP **Cuba**.

A step forward within the SSVP Plus programme was the reestablishment of our Society in two countries: the CIAD supported the mission costs to establish **Liberia**'s National Council, and to expand the SSVP in new Dioceses of **Tanzania**.

Current Situation

The CIAD's work is essentially supported with donations made by the National Councils to the Fund for International Solidarity (FIS). However, any spontaneous donation is most welcome!

At present time, the FIS is virtually empty: donations are still generous, but inevitably smaller; and needs are more and more pressing. As a result, the CIAD can hardly support any initiative. Some projects awaiting funding are as follows:

- **Madagascar**: reconstruction and relief aid to fire, cyclone and flood victims;
- **Mozambique**: assistance to terror displaced families (ongoing);
- **Lebanon**: support to elderly refugees; hot meals for the elderly (ongoing); and baby milk project;
- **Colombia**: repairs to SSVP's residential care home for the elderly (phase 3);
- **Sri Lanka**: water project in a poor village;
- Covid assistance in many countries, as the CIAD's support is limited to small grants.

If you wish to support the CIAD by means of the Fund for International Solidarity (FIS), get in touch with your National Council or the CGI.

For further information, contact

cgi.ciad@ssvpglobal.org

CIAD