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ANNUAL REPORT 2017



WHO WE ARE

Un Ponte Per ... is an association for international solidarity born in 1991 immediately after the end of the bombing on Iraq. From the very beginning its aim has been the promotion of solidarity initiatives for the Iraqi population affected by the war. Originally called “Un Ponte Per Baghdad”, the association later became simply Un Ponte Per... after expanding its work into Serbia, Kosovo and various Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries.

The purpose of the association is to prevent the outbreak of new conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, through advocacy campaigns, cultural exchanges, cooperation projects and civil peace interventions. Un Ponte Per... considers solidarity interventions to be indivisible from the commitment to building links between the Italian civil society and the civil societies of the countries in which it operates.

WHAT WE DO

In **Iraq**, for over 25 years, UPP has implemented health, cultural and educational projects while supporting peace and human rights. This has been possible thanks to the many supporters in Italy and in collaboration with UN agencies and the European Union. The work was carried out during the entire period of the embargo to Iraq and then through the 2003 war with the implementation of emergency interventions in the most affected areas. After that conflict, Un Ponte Per ... launched initiatives in support of the Iraqi civil society. These were committed to protecting cultural heritage, human and environmental rights, minorities rights, freedom of expression and association, and the culture of nonviolence. UPP has also been active in the recent Iraq conflict with emergency interventions, first response and constant aid distribution, also including peacebuilding. The long-term commitment to the Iraqi and Kurdish people and their rights has always been at the base of our humanitarian work.

In **Syria**, UPP has been operating in the north-east of the country since 2015 by sending humanitarian aid and supporting the important work of the Kurdish Red Crescent in response to the health emergency caused by the conflict. At the same time, a program to support the Kurdish municipalities was launched. Since 2011, UPP has been carrying out an extensive program of assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries.

UPP has been active in **Jordan** for 11 years, working with local organizations that support the rights and protection of women and minors, with specific projects for the schooling of Syrian children and the assistance of women victim of gender based violence. The first experimentation of the Civil Peace Corps, launched in 2017, was also included in this framework.

In **Lebanon**, UPP intervenes with solidarity actions in support of the Palestinian and Syrian refugees in the country. Since 2016, it has started a National Civil Service program abroad, sending young volunteers involved with the local schools and recreational centres managed by the local partners. Additionally, in 2017 the association sent more volunteers as part of the first experimentation of the Civil Peace Corps.

In **Palestine** the association is engaged with “Civil Peace Interventions” and solidarity delegations, as well as the promotion of awareness campaigns.

In the **Balkans**, where UPP has been active since 1999, the association collaborates with the displaced Serbian communities in the area, and particularly in Kosovo to support the families most in need.

Until 2010, UPP’s campaign in **Turkey**, ‘Un Ponte Per... Diyarbakir’ actively promoted and supported the recognition of rights for the Kurdish people.

In **Italy**, Un Ponte Per ... works closely with schools, universities, social communities and trade unions to build bridges of peace and knowledge with the countries in which it intervenes. It promotes campaigns for peace and disarmament, the defence of the common goods and the reception of migrants and refugees. UPP is engaged in actions of institutional advocacy for the protection of human rights activists and defenders of all the countries in which it operates.



THE RECONSTRUCTION AFTER DAESH

With the liberation of Mosul, in July 2017, and the withdrawal of the Daesh (Islamic state) militia from a large part of the Iraqi territory, Un Ponte Per... (UPP) has initiated a wide programme to accompany the minorities communities in the gradual return from the refugee camps to their homes. In the same areas where it was working in 2011 to promote dialogue and social cohesion, UPP has immediately intervened to reconstruct the scholar and healthcare facilities damaged by the conflict, offering psycho-social support to families returned home.

Specifically, in Nineveh's plain UPP has started the **Ma'an Na'ud** project (come back together) to assure psychological support and reproductive health protection to the thousands of families that were coming back to the devastated villages of Bashiqa, Qaraqosh and Bartella, in the complex context of the reconstruction of towns and villages devastated by the conflict, through the rehabilitation of health clinics and the strengthening of psychosocial support abilities of the social workers, teachers and psychologists in the schools. From September the polyfunctional health centre in Bashiqa has been rehabilitated and has assisted over 200 women in 3 months.

While the battle to free Mosul was still ongoing, UPP was among the first international organization to return to Qaraqosh and the surrounding villages, thanks to the strong connections with the Christians and

Yazidi local communities. UPP has immediately intervened to respond as its best to the population needs: beside the distribution of humanitarian aids for 842 families in 12 villages, a school able to welcome more than 1000 children was restored. Meanwhile, UPP has supported a group of local artists, *Colour Fingerprint*, in their commitment of covering the messages of death left by Daesh with colourful murals containing messages praising peace and life on the walls of Qaraqosh.

In the first half of the year, Un Ponte Per... has distributed water, food and sanitation kits, reaching thousands of people fleeing the military operations: the **Darna** program ("our home") has provided assistance to the displaced families; meanwhile a specific team of female doctors and social workers of the **Zhyan** project (life) has monitored, through a mobile healthcare clinic, the state of reproductive and mental health of the women that reached the Debaga refugee camp (Erbil). At the same time a team of **Mass Communication** project operators was involved in guiding displaced families. Finally, thanks to the **Ahlein III** (Welcome) project, operators and psychologists monitored the health status of displaced children from Mosul in the surrounding camps, identifying the most serious cases and the type of intervention necessary to alleviate the traumas they suffered. A commitment continued even after

the liberation of the city, with the launch of psycho-social services in 25 schools in the east of Mosul.

Donors: UNHCR, UNICEF, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, Waldensian Church, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, private donations, CCFD-Terre Solidaire.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

Un Ponte Per... has worked on the border between Syria and Iraq since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, welcoming and guiding people fleeing the conflict, distributing basic necessities.

In the first six months of 2017 have been held training courses for doctors, social workers, volunteers, educators and psychologists working in mental health centres. This was possible thanks to the **Psycho-social and orientation support program** active for three years in all the camps that welcomed Syrians in the Erbil and Dohuk areas. Protected spaces for children and play-therapy activities have also been created. 4,293 were the assisted persons who had access to mental health services during the project, while 948 were outreached through the awareness and advocacy activities based on a community approach.

Donors: OCHA, UNHCR.

Moreover, during the year UPP was able to work, through the **Taleem Lil-Jamie** project (Education for all), to improve the educational conditions of the Syrian minors and the host communities in the Sulaymaniyah area. This was done in close synergy with the teachers of the schools involved through training and non-formal education activities. Throughout the project it was possible to hire one minibus to accompany 210 Syrian children to school, to organize training on resilience groups for about 100 educators in five schools of Sulaymaniyah and to create a Youth Centre in the Syrian refugee camp of Barika to accommodate daily 350 boys and girls aged 12 to 19, involving them in recreational and educational activities.

Donors: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, private donations, Veneto Region, Municipality of Mogliano Veneto.



*On page 4
Church destroyed by Daesh.
Iraq. Qaraqosh, July 2017
Photo by Massimo Mucchiut.*

*On page 5
A boy from the group of Iraqi artists "Colour Fingerprint"
working to erase writings left by Daesh.
Iraq. Qaraqosh, February 2017
Photo by Marta Malaspina.*



SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH

A central theme in the commitment of Un Ponte Per... is supporting young people as real actors of change. In this direction, UPP launched a three-year program in 2015 with the aim of facilitating dialogue, social cohesion, mutual knowledge and reconciliation through the opening of five youth aggregation centres in Iraqi Kurdistan, dedicated to all minority communities. The **Youth Across Ethnicities** program has seen the creation of the Centres in Dohuk, Sulaimaniyah, Zummar and Erbil, where in 2017 only were held 164 social, cultural, musical, sporting and aggregating activities involving about 6,800 young people. Worth of mention is the creation of the comic book "*Kurdistan, dispatches from the Iraqi front*", published by Becco-Giallo, in which the author Claudio Calia tells the stories of the young Iraqis, Syrians and Kurds who animate these Centres. As a result of a musical workshop created with Italian artists and young local musicians in the Centres it was also published the CD named "*Walking Sound*".

With the same objectives also a new community **Cultural centre** was opened in Sulaymaniyah, in the Arbat district. Here members of the different communities (Iraqi, Syrian and Kurdish) work together to promote gender-sensitive outreach activities, languages, after-school courses for children, cooking classes, and

specific focus activities on the management and mediation of inter-community conflicts. Over 4,300 people were involved in the activities.

Donors: UNDP, European Union, CEI, Waldensian Church, Autonomous Province of Bolzano.

Un Ponte Per ... also leads **Fursa** (Opportunity), an important program of social support and development aimed at young people in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, with particular attention to Syrian refugees. During 2017 several activities involving 6,890 boys and girls were organized to encourage social development and social cohesion with the aim to promote greater autonomy for young people in the Syrian community. Moreover, two community radio stations (in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah) have been created and managed directly by the boys and girls. These broadcast self-produced programs in Kurdish, Arabic and English on various topics ranging from human rights to social cohesion, awareness, advocacy as well as music.

Donor: European Union.

In the same perspective was conceived the **Yalla Shebab** project in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate, aimed at fostering social cohesion and building trust between the Syrian refugee community, the displaced Iraqis and the hosting Kurds through professional

training courses and work placement programs. A vocational training centre was set up in the Deir Maryam al-Adhra Monastery, which organized training courses for 50 girls and boys for a total of 150 hours of theory and 350 hours of practice in local companies. The same Training Center also gave birth to "Dwrman w Darzi" (Needle & Thread): 24 Iraqi, Syrian and Kurdish women attended a sewing workshop to get going again, proposing to local companies their own models of working clothes.

Donor: Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI).

The youth center first gives mental encouragement to the people so they can start living again, and we work to reduce religious extremism and the ideology of hatred ...



We think that Zummar is like a flower that grows out of the ruins of a destroyed city, and step by step slowly everything will be better.



PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

As part of the Program for the protection of minors in conflict zones, with the second phase of the project **Ibtisam** (Smile) Un Ponte Per ... was able to accompany 3,185 displaced Iraqi students and Syrian refugees attending 13 schools in Erbil. This precious path of psycho-social support was run during the 2016-2017 school year. At the same time 157 training courses were held for teachers and social workers, in addition to 696 parents involved in resilience groups. Donor: Caritas Switzerland.

In the same context took place the third phase of the **Ahleln!** (Welcome!) project. During 2017 the attention was focused on 25 Iraqi schools in the liberated areas of Mosul east, Tel Kaif and Bashiqa, as well as refugee camps where thousands of displaced Iraqi families found refuge. Approximately 6,000 boys and girls comprised in the age group 5-17 years have been involved since June, while family resilience groups have been organized for 1,944 people. Donor: UNICEF.

On the other hand the triennial **Zhyan** (Vita) project focused on the Erbil Governorate. It delivered three clinics specialized in reproductive health which have provided assistance to over 20,000 Iraqi, Kurdish and Syrian women. In particular, in 2017 a mobile gynaecological clinic was purchased and subsequently managed by specialized personnel who provided assistance to women and children in the reception camps created to welcome the new families coming from the Mosul area. At the same time 9,947 women had access to reproductive health services between clinics and home visits. The project also guaranteed access to psychological support services for 1,272 women and adolescents. At the end of the year, the clinics were handed to the Health Department of the Governorate of Erbil in order to ensure continuity of the valuable work carried out in recent years. Donors: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, private donations.



PEACEBUILDING AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Three years of occupation of Daesh have left deep wounds in the Iraqi communities, exacerbating the inter-communal tensions already present, increasing distrust and mutual resentment. In order for the effects of violence not to become new outbreaks of conflict, Un Ponte Per ... has always supported a response to the humanitarian emergency with a broad intervention aimed at strengthening social cohesion and community participation in peacebuilding processes, with a strong focus on young people and women. Such activities have intensified after the military defeat of Daesh.

Paths of coexistence in Mesopotamia and the Middle East is an important program launched at the beginning of 2017 with the aim of overcoming the fundamentalisms induced by Daesh. It endeavours to build a path of trust among the communities involved, develop their sense of belonging to a common cultural and environmental heritage (Mesopotamia) and favour the participatory management of the territory and supporting coexistence practices and pacts. Eight Iraqi cities are involved, as well as a Syrian and a Turkish city, all along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Thanks to the precious work of many young activists were organized local social forums able to mobilize

over 6000 people in events and campaigns, with the aim to rebuild ways of peaceful coexistence.
Donor: Fondation Assistance Internationale (FAI).

At the beginning of 2017, Un Ponte Per... launched the triennial program **Mesopotamian Youth for Democracy, social cohesion and reconciliation in Iraq**, to strengthen the participation of young people in political and peacebuilding processes. This was done by supporting the two local platforms of the Iraqi Social Forum (Baghdad) and the Kurdistan Social Forum (Erbil) that bring together networks, associations and trade unions throughout the country. Parallel working groups of the two forums work on issues such as social justice and human rights, protection of displaced communities and minorities, promotion of peace journalism and tolerance in the media, environmental rights, protection of cultural heritage and participation of women in the processes of policy-making. Young activists meet in a social centre opened purposely in Nassiriya. Through the year Un Ponte Per... supported the respective national events of the two forums that saw the participation of over 5,400 activists and volunteers, as well as a unified conference at Sulaymaniya to strategically unite the campaigns, overcoming the political division be-

tween Kurdistan and rest of Iraq.

Donor: European Union.

The Road to Nineveh: social cohesion, peace and coexistence program was eventually concluded.

Thank to this project, local teams of mediators and peace workers were formed in four districts of the Nineveh Governorate, allowing them to work with special citizen committees on reconciliation and reparative justice among displaced communities. At the end of 2017, with some of the same partners, a new similar program was opened in the enclaves of Christian, Yazid and Shebak minorities in the Nineveh Plain. It began by carrying out a detailed analysis of the dynamics of the conflict and adopting a gender based focus in all activities. These programs have been enhanced during advocacy meetings with the European Union in order to promote an increased commitment to reconciliation in Iraq within the new strategy of the European External Action Service.

Donors: UNDP, GIZ.

Since 2009, as part of its work with Iraqi civil society, UPP has supported the **Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)** — a coalition of Iraqi and international civil society organizations. ICSSI holds an annual conference which brings together hundreds of activists, journalists, trade unionists, women's associations, and representatives from NGOs from all over the country. UPP supports ICSSI's advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns by relaunching them in Europe. Among the most important are: *Shahrazad* (women's rights); *Save the Tigris and the Iraqi Marshes*; *Save Iraqi Heritage*; *Workers' Rights*; *Freedom of Expression, Press and Information*; the *Baghdad Marathon*.

UPP also supports the activities of the Iraqi Social Forum, and is committed to protecting *Iraqi Women Human Rights Defenders* (WHRDs). In 2016, in collaboration with Iraqi WHRDs and the Iraqi Women's Journalist Forum, UPP opened a centre in Baghdad which provides legal aid and protection for activists. At the national level, Un Ponte Per. has activated a "digital clinic" to provide informational assistance to the threatened activists on the web, or to those who want to protect themselves against data theft and defamatory campaigns. Both services have helped over 50 WHRDs in one year to defend themselves against attacks and threats.

Donors: Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI, Karibu Foundation, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.



*On page 6
The boys and girls of the Erbil Youth Centre.
Iraq. Erbil, September 2017.
Photo by Arianna Pagani.*

*On page 7
An excerpt from the comic "Kurdistan. Dispatches from the Iraqi front" by Caludio Calia.
Published by BeccoGiallo, December 2017.*

*On page 8
Annual conference of the Iraqi Social Forum Solidarity Initiative.
Iraq. Sulaimaniyah, December 2017.
Photo by Un Ponte Per...*

*On page 9
Ninos, a Christian from Qaraqosh, and Ali, a Shiite from southern Iraq, involved in one of our peacebuilding interventions.
Iraq. Qaraqosh, December 2017
Photo by Un Ponte Per...*



HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

After more than 6 years, the war in Syria does not stop. US military operations for the liberation of Raqqa from Daesh saw a massive use of weapons, which caused an unprecedented number of displaced and wounded, as well as civilian casualties. In the north-east of the country Un Ponte Per..., active since 2015, has intensified its commitment in collaboration with the Kurdish Red Crescent to guarantee health assistance to the victims of the conflict.

In 10 months, thanks to the second phase of the **Safe** project, humanitarian loads of medicines and medical equipment were delivered to cover the needs of 33,982 people. These allowed the supply of six Kurdish Red Crescent Clinics and guarantee the access to free treatment for 88,273 patients, including 20,957 women in gynaecology wards and 20,398 in paediatric wards. Sanitary kits for 600 families have also been distributed.

Donors: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, Waldensian Church, private donations.

During the siege of Raqqa, Un Ponte Per... set up 2 **Centres for the stabilization** of the wounded which in

5 months gave assistance to 5,232 people. A third clinic was set up in the refugee camp of Areesha, offering throughout 4 months internal medicine, paediatrics and gynaecology services to over 42,800 displaced Syrians, with peaks of 400 patients a day in the month of October alone. 15 ambulances were purchased to allow specialized medical teams to move around the city, across the front line, and rescue the civilian victims. After the liberation of the city, the health care assistance was moved to the surrounding rural areas, where ambulances and mobile clinics continued to operate. At the same time, training was organized for 60 doctors and nurses of the Kurdish Red Crescent on psychological first aid (PFA) techniques, on the management of civilian casualties in places of conflict, on decontamination procedures in case of chemical attacks and on procedures to be taken in mined areas.

Donor: European funds.

After the liberation of the areas of Raqqa, Ras El Ain and Tabqa from Daesh, Un Ponte Per... started a project to guarantee **Integrated Reproductive Health Services to women** who needed assistance during



maternity. In a few months, 3 hospitals previously used by Daesh as military bases and partially destroyed were rehabilitated. In the facilities 1,292 children and girls were born in safety conditions. Furthermore, in the same hospitals, have been created 3 new intensive care units for the newborns, surgical rooms used for caesarean sections, supplementary consultation services for children's health and consultation for women's health. Over 26,500 women were assisted in total. Never neglecting the information and prevention processes, particular attention was paid to reproductive health, sexual and gender violence through informative sessions and health education programs.

Donor: UNFPA.

To broaden the intervention of Un Ponte Per... in the north-east of Syria, a program was launched at the end of the year to **increase the governance capacities of the Kurdish municipalities of Iraq and Syria**, thus favouring better management of territories and local realities. This was possible thanks to the strengthening of the direct dialogue between the Italian and Kurdish civil societies, and through the communication and shared planning between the respective municipalities.

Donor: ANCI.

IRAQI REFUGEES IN SYRIA

Immediately following the launch of the offensive to liberate Mosul at the end of 2016, UPP started a health care assistance program for Iraqis seeking refuge in Syria, primarily in the Al Hol (Hasakeh) camp. A **health centre** structured in 3 clinics (generic, gynaecological and paediatric) has been set up in order to offer through the year free treatment to about 70,000 people, of which 25,000 are minors.

Donor: UNHCR.

*On page 10
Rehabilitation of a hospital used by Daesh as a base.
Syria. Tabqa, October 2017.
Photo by Alessio Romenzi.*

*Up
Pharmaceutical Dispensary of the Kurdish Red Crescent.
Syria. Gerke Lege, December 2017.
Photo by Linda Dorigo.*



OPPOSING SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, Un Ponte Per... has been active in Jordan with support, guidance, protection and assistance programs for refugee families. During 2017 UPP's work was focused on supporting children and combating social exclusion.

Thanks to the projects **Marasati Ahla** (My most beautiful school) and **Ibtisam** (Smile) it was possible to intervene in 11 schools of Amman and Irbid where in addition to removing the existing architectural barriers to facilitate access to students, teachers and staff with disability, UPP worked to create more welcoming and inclusive environments. 421 teachers and 30 technicians from the Jordanian Ministry of Education have been trained on psycho-social pathologies and on the inclusion of children with disabilities. At the same time continues the collaboration with "She Fighter" - the first women self-defence centre in the Middle East - with the organization of meetings and practical workshops on the main techniques of protection from gender violence dedicated to teachers and students.

Donor: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS.

Our support to people with disabilities continues in the project **Adreen** (We can), targeting people with physical or mental disabilities –both congenital and caused by the conflict – among Syrian refugees and the most vulnerable categories of the Jordanian population. The intervention enabled access to healthcare, psychosocial support and mobility aids (such as prostheses, crutches, and wheelchairs) for over 640 people including women, girls, men, and boys. The project includes an important training component on rehabilitation, proper usage of mobility aids, and improvement of autonomy for people with disabilities.

Donor: OCHA.

The attention to vulnerable communities also leads the program **Bina'a Jusour** (Building bridges), which promoted the launch of a cafeteria managed by people with psychiatric conditions, the training of Iraqi refugees in pizza-making, as well as the support to production of mobility aids for the physically challenged. The intervention also targets the youth of refugee and host communities thanks to a program of traineeships in several humanitarian organizations operating in Jordan.

Donor: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS.

The Jordanian mission also hosts the Civil Peace Corps pilot program, which brought 4 young Italian volunteers to Jordan with the aim of promoting solidarity and tolerance between the host population and the refugee community from Syria. The initiative, called **Ahlan!** (Welcome), promotes psychosocial support and recreational activities, nonviolent conflict mediation, education, and formation in the multifunctional centres and social spaces of the partner organization Jordanian Women Union in Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa, monitoring the needs of the local communities.

Donors: Department for Youth and Civil National Service, Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI.



*Page 12
Activity in schools with Claun Pimpa
Amman, Jordan. July 2017.
Photo courtesy of Marta Malaspina*

*Right
Opening event of the pizzeria run by Iraqi refugees.
Amman, Jordan. October 2017.
Photo Un Ponte Per... (TBC)*

LEBANON AND PALESTINE



PROTECTION OF MINORS

For years, UPP has been present in Lebanon with its Child Sponsorship program, **Family Happiness**. This program offers support from a distance to Palestinian and Syrian-Palestinian children who are refugees in Lebanon. In 2016, UPP launched the National Civil Service program abroad, Education without Borders, which brought four Italian volunteers to Lebanon until 2017. After receiving specialized training in Italy, the four young volunteers have been involved in non-formal education tracks targeting Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian children. The courses are active in Shatila and Bourj el-Barahneh camps, where volunteers teach English for pre-schoolers and for kids attending remedial classes in the afternoon, alongside recreational activities.

Donor: National Civil Service Abroad.

The mission in Lebanon also hosts a pilot program with Civil Peace Corps, four young Italian volunteers involved in the project **Dealing with the Future**, which aims at supporting and enhancing the efforts led by local organizations towards social inclusion and mediation in Beirut with young Palestinian and Syrian refugees, and young Lebanese activists.

Donors: Department for Youth and Civil National Service, Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI.

CIVIL PEACEKEEPING INTERVENTIONS

The presence of Civil Peace Corps and international volunteers, especially in rural areas of the West Bank, is considered an effective tool for reducing the violence inflicted by settlers and abuse by the army. Since 2010, UPP has been a partner in this project, and has contributed a group of young volunteers every October, when olives are harvested in Palestine. Once back to Italy, the groups prepared the material necessary for the harvest, organized awareness raising events and started a blog:

raccogliendolapace.wordpress.com

Donors: private donations.

*Up
Activities with Palestinian children and girls as part
of the "Education Without Borders" project
Lebanon. Beirut, March 2017
Photo by Giorgio Lentini.*

SERBIA AND KOSOVO



THERE IS A CHILD

In the summer of 2017 the volunteers of the UPP Serbian branch organized a summer stay for about 50 Serb children coming from Kraljevo, Metohija and Kosovo. The program for hosting Serbian refugee minors in Italian accommodation facilities and families has continued from 1999 to 2012. In recent years, the children have been hosted in some cities of Greece and Montenegro. The initiative was organized in collaboration with the Red Cross of Kraljevo.

Donors: private donations.

SOLIDARITY TRIPS

Also in 2017, in collaboration with the Italian Geographical Society, the usual trip to build solidarity and increase knowledge took place in Serbia, Kosovo and Metohija, accompanied by UPP volunteers in Serbia. These regular trips provide an opportunity for local families to meet Italian families who participate in the distance support program called **Svetlost**.

Donors: private donations.

SOLIDARITY GREENHOUSES

Thanks to contributions from many supporters, in 2017, UPP was able to donate 11 greenhouses for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables to needy families in the distance support program **Svetlost**.

Donors: private donations.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

FAMILY HAPPINESS

The project **Family Happiness** supports school attendance for Palestinian youth in Lebanese refugee camps. Primary attention goes to orphaned children, or those who struggle with serious social or health conditions. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Palestinian NGO, Beit Atfal Assomoud, which has been active in the camp since 1974, and which also works to provide health and social support in 10 of the 12 other camps in Lebanon. In 2012, the city of Naples, through the project, 'Smiles', supported 5 Palestinian youth in refugee camps, and organized a day of awareness-raising for some high schools in the city. Since 2013, the program has expanded to reach Syrian children and adolescents, as well as Syrian-Palestinian refugees in the country, with daycare and nurseries, temporary classrooms, trainings, and healthcare services.

Donors: private donations.

FARAH

The project, **Farah** (Joy), aims at supplying medical assistance and care, and follows the treatment of Iraqi minors suffering from chronic or serious illnesses. The program provides support from a distance for minority children living in the country, and is carried out in collaboration with the Kurdish-Iraqi organization, Yaum al-Hurriyya. The medicine provided is purchased locally, and local partners ensure its distribution to families. The children who participate in the project generally reside in small villages in the area, particularly those which are more remote, far from the main hospitals in the region.

Donors: private donations.

SVETLOST

The project, **Svetlost** (Illuminating Invisible Children), aims to provide support to displaced families from Kosovo, both in southern Serbia and to those returning to Kosovo, as well as to families who are not refugees but are still struggling with poverty and hardship. In 2010, the project was relaunched, thanks to the book and DVD, 'The Scream from Kosovo', which, through powerful testimonies and videos, describes the living conditions of refugees from Serbia and Kosovo 10 years after the conflict in 1999. Since the beginning of 2011, in collaboration with the Monastery of Decani, the project has also extended to the Serbian communities in Kosovo.

Donors: private donations.

ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN



SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS

Since the beginning of 2015, UPP has been actively committed to welcoming migrants to Italy and encouraging mutual recognition, increased understanding and cultural exchange. Across the country, this support has been strengthened and realized through the implementation of micro-projects run by local committees of UPP, dedicated to welcoming migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2017 support continued for the **S.T.A.M.P.** project, a mobile help desk aimed at migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and transit workers in the urban area of Rome. The project was conceived by "Resistenza Meticce", a network active in the capital for many years. S.T.A.M.P. makes available for free some services and tools useful to support the transit of those who want to continue their journey, at the same time it improves the reception conditions and the possibility of autonomy of those who have decided to stay in Italy, or have been forced to do so. The project covers three areas of intervention: linguistic orientation and basic information on transports, offices and documentations; legal assistance and free healthcare orientation; a free Wi-Fi area and computers equipped with headsets and microphones for Skype calls.

Donors: Waldensian Church, private donations.

Simultaneously, Un Ponte Per ... promoted in Rome the activities of the project **The Sound Routes**. House concerts and jam sessions in the city's premises were organized to foster the meeting of young artists and musicians - migrants, refugees and Italians - in order to facilitate the mutual exchange of knowledge and integration as well as to break down common stereotypes.

Donor: European Union.

*On page 14
The children of the Al Tahira school, renovated by Un Ponte Per...
Iraq. Qaraqosh, March 2017
Picture from Un Ponte Per...*

*Up
One of the "The Sound Routes" project house concerts.
Italy. Rome, May 2017.
Photo of Marmorata 169.*



BUILDING PEACE, STARTING FROM SCHOOLS

The training and peace education programs that Un Ponte Per ... carries out on the national territory offer every year, to boys and girls, the tools to become respectful citizens of different cultures, starting from the schools as privileged places for the construction of tolerance and integration.

In 2017, the **Peace Education Group** of the association focused its efforts particularly in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Tuscany thanks to the initiative of the respective local committees. Paths dedicated to numerous issues have been organized in the schools: from human rights to overcoming stereotypes and prejudices, from nonviolent management of conflicts to adolescence and the expression of one's own emotions. In total there are 24 schools in which the Un Ponte Per ... volunteers worked during the year.

Special attention was also given to the creation of

school twinnings between Italian students and their peers in the countries where UPP operates, such as Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Through the exchange of video presentation, skype calls and e-mail, these young people have the opportunity to get to know each other, overcoming stereotypes and confronting themselves in tackling common problems.

Finally, training courses were held involving 169 teachers from primary and secondary schools on the themes of nonviolence, active listening and peace education.

Funding: private donations.

*Up
One of the children involved in the "Imagine the future" workshop, where primary school students were stimulated to invent creative solutions to everyday problems.
Italy. Rome, December 2017.
Photo by Benedetta Sanna.*



IN DEFENSE OF...

During 2017, Un Ponte Per ... has continued its commitment in defence of human rights activists through the network **In Defence Of - For human rights and those who defend them**, which the association has strongly contributed to build. In this direction, in January 2017 the first major success of the network was the approval by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of a resolution on the issue that incorporated some requests from the network. Furthermore, in May, a series of events was organized with Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders. *Donor: Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI.*

DISARMAMENT, PEACE AND “SBILANCIAMOCI”

In Italy Un Ponte Per ... is an active part in the initiatives of the Rete della Pace (Network of Peace), the **Tavolo Interventi Civili di Pace** (Civil Peace Intervention Table) and the **Rete Disarmo** (Disarmament Network) for the promotion of Civil Peace Corps, civil peacebuilding, disarmament and arms control, as well as the **Sbilanciamoci** campaign (Commit Ourselves campaign) for an economy of justice and a different model of development. Among the initiatives of 2017 stands out the experimentation of the Italian Civil Peace Corps to be sent to conflict zones, consistent with the demands of the "*Another Defence is possible*" campaign, which collected over 52,000 signatures for a proposed law of popular initiative delivered to the Italian Parliament.

At the same time, UPP collaborated with the Disarmament Network and the Milex Observatory to the drafting of the dossier "*Iraq. 14 years of Italian military expenditures*", and to the report "*Commit ourselves! How to use public spending on rights, peace and the environment*" of the "Sbilanciamoci" campaign. *Donors: Waldensian Church, private donations.*

Up
The Other Parade, the flash mob organized on the occasion of 2nd June by Un Ponte Per ... along with other pacifist associations.
Italy. Rome, June 2017.
Photo by Matteo Nardone.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GIULIO REGENI

UPP endorses and participates in the campaign, launched at both the national and international level, to discover the truth about the death of the Italian researcher, Giulio Regeni, killed in Egypt on January 25, 2016. UPP took part in days of mobilization, and promoted activities to gather information related to the campaign.

ITALIAN-KURDISH SOLIDARITY NETWORK

UPP supports the Italian-Kurdish Solidarity Network, and participates in related initiatives which take place in Italy, as well as in activities that seek to disseminate information and raise awareness.

BDS CAMPAIGN

This initiative supports the academic and cultural boycott of Israeli institutions — not individual citizens of Israel — and the boycott of Israeli products, starting with those from settled areas within the Occupied Territories. This form of non-violent resistance takes a stand against the violation of human rights as established by the Geneva Convention and UN resolutions. The campaign, originally launched in 2005 by a majority of organizations within Palestinian civil society, was inspired by the movement against Apartheid in South Africa. It was relaunched in Italy in 2009, with strong backing from UPP.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

UPP identifies with the aims and processes of the World Social Forum, which organizes periodic international and regional meetings in support of social movements, ultimately grounded in the conviction that another world is possible — one based on solidarity, on social and environmental justice, and in opposition to neoliberal globalization. In 2013, the axis of this project shifted from South America to the Mediterranean and the Maghreb, in order to provide a sense of continuity and resilience to the impulse behind the Arab Revolts within local civil society.

OBSERVATORY IRAQ

The purpose of this project is to promote and disseminate accurate information about the situation in Iraq and in the Middle East and North Africa more generally, through the website, www.osservatorioiraq.it. Founded in 2004, the site — now a key resource for registered journalists — is continuously updated with news and reports. In 2012, the project was re-launched with new editors and new graphics, achieving high standards, and successfully publishing an original study on the post-revolution situation in the Arab countries. Since 2013, Observatory Iraq has been independent of UPP, though they still support one another, and their initiative. In 2014, together they completed a book entitled: *La crisi irachena. Cause ed effetti di una storia che non insegna* (The Iraqi Crisis: The Consequences of Our Failure to Learn from History) on the emergency that broke in Iraq (published by: Edizioni dell'Asino). In 2016, UPP and the Iraqi Observatory jointly edited another book, *Rivoluzioni Violate. Cinque anni dopo: attivismo e diritti umani in Medio Oriente e Nord Africa* (Violent Revolutions. 5 Years Later: Activism and Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa), Edizioni dell'Asino. During 2017, the editorial staff continued to present the book in many Italian cities.

INFORMATIONS

Official Name: Associazione Un Ponte Per... (UPP)

Year of establishment: 1991

ONLUS: Recognized by the "Anagrafe delle Onlus" AGEDRLAZ Prot. n° 0022455 del 27/03/2015

NGO: Recognized by AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (Decreto n° 2016/337/000281/5)

VAT number: 04734481007

Fiscal Code: 96232290583

Framework Partnership Agreement con l'Ufficio della Commissione Europea degli Aiuti Umanitari (ECHO)

International Partners: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR, European Commission, ECHO, UNDP, UNOPS, OCHA, CARITAS Switzerland, Swiss Cooperation, AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Italian Local Authorities: 10 Regions, 20 Provinces, 50 Municipalities.

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www.unponteper.it

www.sostegniadistanza.unponteper.it

Facebook: @unponteper

Twitter: @ponteper

Instagram: @unponteper

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unponteper

DONATIONS

Bank current account:

Account name: Un Ponte Per...

Bank name: Banca Etica

IBAN: IT52 R050 1803 2000 0000 0100 790

SWIFT: CCRTIT2T84A

Online:

<https://fundfacility.it/unponteper>

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