



ICU – Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria

Onlus

Social Report 2022

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Introduction

Pursuant to Article 14, paragraph 1, of Legislative Decree No. 112/2017, the Institute for University Cooperation draws up a social report, an instrument for reporting on the organisation's responsibilities, behaviours and economic, social and environmental results. It thus makes available to members, employees and third parties (including public administrations) an account of all the activities carried out and the results achieved in the year 2022. The objective of this document is to make ICU's work accessible, in a clear and transparent manner, to all stakeholders and interested parties, sharing aspects of the organisation, its work and its mission, which go beyond an exclusively economic reporting. This is why ICU draws up the social report, which is a tool for accountability, awareness, dialogue and improvement.

1) Methodology adopted for the drafting of the social report

In drawing up the social report, ICU follows the guidelines indicated in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies decree of 4 July 2019, which makes its publication mandatory for Third Sector entities. The drafting of the document follows a qualitative and quantitative approach that intends to offer with transparency all the relevant information for a complete assessment of ICU's work, documenting with a critical attitude the objectives achieved and the objectives to be achieved, also making a comparison with the data for 2020.

For the collection of the objectives and indices for the individual projects, a form was sent to the project leaders to collect data on the activities carried out in 2022, i.e. information on the direct and indirect beneficiaries reached, the outputs resulting from the activities implemented and, as far as possible, the effects produced on the main stakeholders. This data is also communicated and sent to the various funding bodies following the periodic deadlines required for both project reporting and activity progress reporting.

2) General information on the institution

The ICU introduces itself:

The ICU - Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria Onlus is recognised by the European Commission and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) as a Civil Society Organisation.

The ICU was founded in 1966 on the initiative of some Italian professors with the aim of fostering the development of culture and science at the international level in the service of mankind. This aim can be summarised in a dual and interdependent action of:

1. Human and social development in less industrialised or transition countries through international cooperation programmes, with a focus on training;
2. Spreading a culture of cooperation for development understood as the integral promotion of human dignity.

Since its establishment, ICU has implemented more than 500 cooperation projects in over 40 countries in Latin America, Africa, the Mediterranean Basin and Near East, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The main sectors of intervention are: university cooperation, education and vocational training, hygiene and health, rural development, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, promotion of women, social development and emergency. ICU is a partner of ECHO - European Community Humanitarian Office - for the management of emergency projects, is a member of Link 2007 and is a USAID-recognised body. ICU collaborates with and receives funding from the Italian Development Cooperation Agency (AICS - MAECI), the European Union and International Organisations. It is also supported by Italian and international foundations, companies and private citizens.

Name:

Istituto per la Cooperazione universitaria Onlus, non-governmental organisation, founded in 1966, which implements development cooperation projects in countries of the South.

Fiscal code:

80046590586

Legal form and qualification under the third sector code:

Non-profit organisation and NGO, recognised as eligible by Presidential Decree No. 921 of 05/09/1967 and ONLUS by right pursuant to Article 10 of Legislative Decree 460.97.

Registered office address:

Viale G. Rossini 26.

Other locations in Italy:

Milano, Firenze, Segesta (TP), Bari.

Foreign offices:

Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Rwanda, Burundi, Libya, Guatemala, Bolivia.

Our MISSION and VISION:

A fundamental pillar underpinning ICU's action in the pursuit of its objectives has always been the focus on the dignity of the person, understood as a subject inclined to learning and responsible for his or her own future and that of the community in which he or she lives. This was the conviction that led to the foundation of the ICU and has continued to inspire all its activities. In fact, ICU's aim is to *promote self-development in the countries of the South* in which it operates. This is why the activities that ICU implements always include a strong component of education and training of the civilian population and local institutions. Capacity building, understood as the transfer of technology, methodology and know-how, is a permeating theme of ICU's strategy in its relations with local partners. The technical assistance that the Institute provides through its projects is always aimed at improving local skills and operational capacities. In line with these inspiring ideas, ICU's initiatives are based on solid relationships with local partners (representatives of institutions and civil society), built and consolidated following years of collaboration. This mode of cooperation ensures a correct identification of local needs, an efficient and adequate implementation of the projects and a sustainability of the implemented activities, thanks to the continuous presence of local partners, which guarantees the continuation of the results obtained over time.

Statutory activities identified by reference to Art. 5 Legislative Decree No. 117/2017 and/or Art. 2 Legislative Decree No. 112/2017 (corporate object):

The activity of ICU, carried out within the framework of culture and solidarity, is deployed through development cooperation activities (as indicated in letter "N" of Article 5 of Legislative Decree No.117/2017).

The institute, which is a non-profit, non-governmental body, is inspired in its conduct by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. To achieve its aims, the Institute aims to promote provisions and implement initiatives that:

- a) implement development cooperation programmes and projects, with particular regard to the health, agriculture and energy and vocational training sectors, without excluding other sectors and at all levels in developing countries
- b) implement humanitarian and emergency interventions
- c) implement development education, training and information programmes and projects

- d) make use, where possible, of the highest professional skills available in developed countries
- e) encourage the participation of broader social strata in education, particularly higher education, and the training of students
- f) facilitate the interchange of teachers and collaboration between scientific investigation institutes
- g) support the establishment and strengthening of institutions for scientific research and teaching
- h) encourage the organisation of courses, congresses, seminars and any other initiative aimed at improving experience in the field of university activities.

The Institute intends to carry out these tasks also in collaboration with other Bodies with similar purposes and with International Organisations of culture and cooperation and, to this end, it may enter into special agreements with national and international bodies and institutions.

Links with other Third Sector organisations:

ICU is a member of Link 2007 - Association of Italian NGOs.

3) Structure, governance and administration

Statutory bodies

President and Legal Representative
(appointed on 19/12/2022)
Federico Eichberg

Secretary General
(appointed on 31/10/2007)
Andrea Vigevani

Board of Directors
Until the 28/10/2023
Federico Eichberg – President and legal rep.
Daniele Salvatore Giunta – vice-president
Paolo Arullani – member
Massimo De Angelis – member
Alessandro Bortolussi – member
Raffaella Ferraro – member
Alberto Ribera - member

General Council
Dr. Giovanni Diana – member
Prof. Paolo Arullani – member
Associazione ARCES – member
Prof. Claudio Buoni – member
Dott. Julien Nagore – member
Fondazione RUI – member
Dott. Giovanni Mottini – member
Ing. Pietro Papoff – member
Dr. Erik Peterson – member
Prof. Alberto Ribera – member
Prof. Giovanni Scanagatta – member
Dr. Andrea Vigevani – member
Dr. Federico Eichberg – member
Prof. Leonardo Urbani – member
Dott. Piergiovanni Palla – member
Dott. Daniele Salvatore Giunta – member
Prof. Pierluigi Murro – member
Dr. Massimo De Angelis – member
Dr. Alessandro Bortolussi – member
Dr.ssa Serena Angioli – member
Dr.ssa Luciana Mantino - member

Board of Auditors
(nominates the 28/10/2020
in office until 31/12/2023)
Dott. Francesco Morrone (president)
Dott. Alessandro Forgione
Dott. Manlio Bordi

Non-statutory bodies

Director
Daniele Bonetti
(nominates the 22/06/2015)

Mapping of main stakeholders ...

ICU collaborates with many national and international, institutional and civil society actors to best carry out its activities in the countries of intervention. Below are some of the main stakeholders:

Financiers





FONDAZIONE TERZO PILASTRO
ITALIA E MEDITERRANEO



Partners Abroad





Fondation Assistance Internationale
Lugano - Switzerland

Partners in Italy





... and modalities of their involvement: The various ICU projects are regularly reported on as required by the funding bodies. The reports submitted periodically communicate the objectives achieved, the activities carried out and the economic and quantitative data; in addition, some funding bodies provide for the six-monthly submission of the progress of the projects they have funded. In addition, final events are planned as part of the project activity where all the achieved objectives are communicated. The other partners are involved in the definition and operational implementation of the projects.

4) People working for the organisation



ICU HQ ROMA

MANAGEMENT

President:
Federico Eichberg

Secretary General:
Andrea Vigevani

Director:
Daniele Bonetti

ADMINISTRATION

Paola
Matteoni

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

PDM Jordan / Kurdistan –
Francesca Oldani – Valeria Lamberti

PDM Tunisia / Libya / Burundi –
Daniela Peschiulli

PDM Lebanon / Syria –
Sara Immè

PDM Rwanda / Latin America –
Alessandra Oodrah

PDM Italy/European Union –
Serena de Angelis

Project development consultant -
Nicolò della Chiesa

ICU FIELD OFFICES

LEBANON AND SYRIA

Claudio Errighi
Josè Antonio Naya
Villaverde
Gabriella Esposito
Mario Ghoraeib
Hussein Hoteit
Chadi Charbel
Camilla Rebora

LIBYA E TUNISIA

Lorenzo Errighi
Mario Michelini
Valeria Lonni
Yousri Benkhalifa
Yahya Abidi
Senda Gharbi
Giulia Angelosanti
Serena De Angelis

RUANDA

Marco Serafino
Evode Uwanyrigira
Riccardo Mariani

BURUNDI

Martino De
Stefanis
Philbert Ndizeye
Olivier Jayne

JORDAN AND KURDISTAN

Sofia Rossi
Martina Terraglia
Gabriele Marchesi
Cecilia Leone
Gazal Soudani
Giulia Scichilone

Global Reunion – 16-20 may 2022

The Global Reunion was an opportunity for ICU HQ and project managers and managers at the field offices to meet and exchange ideas. More than 40 participants from 9 countries shared successes and lessons learnt from our work. The event was also an opportunity for an exchange of information between teams from different countries and some of our partners and funders, including the Italian Development Cooperation Agency, Irretec, Levante and Gouvernement Monaco.

Fee structure

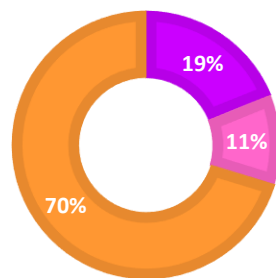
ICU employees are contracted under an open-ended contract assimilated to the CCNL contract for commerce, and salaries meet the criteria required by the same decree. There is no inequality of more than eight times between the higher remuneration paid to the employee and the minimum.

For foreign staff, contracts are concluded according to union agreements, with reference to the association Link2007, of which ICU is a member.

For corporate offices, the activities of the various members do not provide for any remuneration, as stipulated in the articles of association.

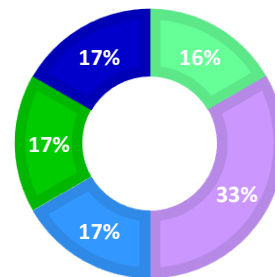
TYPES OF CONTRACTS

- Permanent Employees
- Collaborators in Italy
- Collaborators Abroad

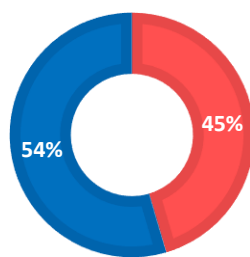


CONTRACTUAL LEVELS OF EMPLOYEES

- Cadre employees
- Tier 1 Employees
- Tier 2 Employees
- Tier 3 Employees
- Tier 4 Employees

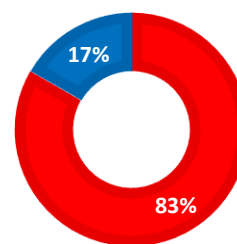


Staff composition by gender:



- Women
- Men

Staff composition by gender in the Rome office:



- Women
- Men

The ICU also collaborates with various universities (e.g. Luiss, Sapienza, IULM, etc.) to host trainees, generally for a period of three to six months.

5) Objectives and activities

"Our activity is to initiate development processes that can continue after the end of a project: stimulating progressive autonomy is a key factor in making people more responsible and free. We have always worked, we work and we will continue to work with this method."



Our sectors



Environment, Agriculture, rural development, livelihoods



Renewable energy and energy efficiency



Waste management



Inclusione sociale, Social inclusion, protection and emergency



Education



Our projects in 2022

During 2022, ICU operated in Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Africa and Europe, managing 24 projects and concluding 24 contracts with different funding agencies (some projects are co-financed by different donors).

Geographical distribution

Sectors of intervention

Latin America

Bolivia
Guatemala

Environmental protection and sustainable development; Fisheries; Agriculture; Economic

Middle East and North Africa

Tunisia, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

Sustainable agricultural development; Water management; Energy efficiency; Agriculture; Economic development; Vocational training; Emergency

Africa

Ruanda e Burundi

Development of the coffee and fruit and vegetable chain; Renewable energy for basic services

LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA – Sustainable food sovereignty in 7 Aymara indigenous communities by facilitating the participation and decision-making of community organisations

Country of realisation: La Paz - Bolivia
Main funding body: PROGETTO 8 X 1000 Presidenza dei Consigli dei Ministri
Total Project Amount: 311.783,85 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 123.951,92 €

Project Description

The project is developed in 7 rural communities in the municipality of Mecapaca: Jancosuni, Colquechata, Cochiri, Azupaca, Yanari Bajo, Yanari Alto and Tumusa. These are native Aymara indigenous communities, bilingual with Aymara as their mother tongue (they speak Spanish well) and with their own cultural and traditional universe.

The general objective seeks to sustainably improve the quality of life of the indigenous communities of the department of La Paz, through the reduction of malnutrition in 50% of the children of the 7 beneficiary communities who are under 5 years of age and with suspected acute malnutrition due to malnutrition or the presence of parasites.

The specific objective is, to achieve sustainable food sovereignty in 7 indigenous Aymara communities in the municipality of Mecapaca, by facilitating the participation and decision-making of community organisations.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

R1. IMPROVED PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF QUALITY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THROUGH CONCRETE MEASURES CHANNELLED THROUGH WOMEN'S AND MEN'S AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

R1.A1. Training seminars on modern and ancestral good agricultural practices - 54%

This activity started in May 2022 with the scheduling of workshops coordinated with the women's organisation Bartolina Sisa of the project communities.

Workshops were held on:

- 1. Potato crop management and production where training was provided on topics such as soil preparation; uprooting from the soil; characteristics of good quality seed; planting under technical conditions; natural fertiliser; cultural work; irrigation; timely harvesting; tuber selection and product marketing.
- 2. Pest and disease management, providing them with the conceptual and practical tools to control pests and diseases that minimise crop losses. It was implemented in five communities of Cochiri, Colquechata, Azupaca, Tumusa and Yanari Alto.

- 3. Use of bio-indicators, showed that bio-indicators, which are a mechanism to generate local early warning information to minimise crop risks, are used by experienced producers to cope with annual climate variability.

- 4. Use of natural fertilisers (jiri), natural fertilisers, also known as organic fertilisers, have long been used with the intention of increasing soil fertility, as well as improving soil structure for the benefit of crop development.

R1.A2. Identification and cultivation, sowing and harvesting of certified potatoes - progress of 45%.

The activity started on 1 February 2022. During that month and the next, contacts were made with the new authorities of the project beneficiary communities Yanari Alto, Yanari Bajo, Azupaca, Colquechata, Tumusa, Cochiri and Jancosuni to socialise the project and identify the communities' indigenous potato varieties.

Once the indigenous potato varieties were identified in June and July 2022, an awareness-raising workshop was held for 6 communities Cochiri, Colquechata, Azupaca, Tumusa, Yanari Bajo and Yanari Alto on the recovery of indigenous potato varieties. The importance of recovering native potato varieties with high resilience to climate change, pests and diseases was discussed with the producers.

To date, monitoring of native potato planting in communities has been carried out. The activity will end in May 2023 when the communities will have harvested the crops for this campaign (October 2022 - May 2023).

R1.A3. Purchase, distribution, sowing and harvesting of certified potatoes.

The project involves the acquisition of 220 quintals of commercial potatoes to be delivered to each beneficiary, in exchange for the sowing of native potatoes in the same proportion.

During the month of June, Azupaca, Colquechata, Cochiri and Yanari Alto managed through their women's organisations Bartolina Sisa the provision and purchase of certified seed potatoes. These communities left their request and the list of their beneficiaries to purchase the seed potatoes. As a result, 146 quintals (qq) of certified seed potatoes were purchased for the communities mentioned above. The seed was distributed on 18 October in the following quantities: Azupaca Community (25 quintals), Colquechata (35 quintals), Cochiri (36 quintals) and Yanari Alto (50 quintals).

After the distribution of the potato seed, the beneficiary communities proceed with planting. However, these communities are planting at the risk of low production due to climate variability.

R1. A4 Training workshops on human, civil, political and economic rights and drafting a community manifesto.

The activity consists of the development of 3 training workshops in the 7 project communities. The training workshops are: human rights, economic rights and the right to a life without violence with gender equality; similarly, with training workshops the communities will produce a poster expressing their rights before the end of the project.

Through coordination with the authorities in Bartolinas, dates were set and seminars on human rights were held in 4 communities, Cochiri, Yanari Alto, Jancosuni and Yanari Bajo, seminar

on the right to a life without violence with gender equality in 6 communities in Cochiri, Yanari Alto, Jancosuni, Yanari Bajo, Colquechata and Azupaca.

The seminars were held in Aymara and Spanish, showing images and photographs that aroused the interest of the participants.

At the end of the workshops in the 7 communities, a poster will be made, where each community will show through drawings the most important rights to be claimed and which are not being realised. This poster and the best drawings and declarations will be reflected in a calendar poster that will be prepared at the end of the project.

R1. A5 SLIM and community ombudsman training seminars

The activity started in November and December of the 2022 administration with the SLIM officers of the Mecapaca Municipality, during the training the SLIM officers (Municipal Comprehensive Legal Service), explained the functions of the ombudsman's office in the areas they support (women, elderly, disabled and rights of adolescent boys and girls in the DNA), likewise, they explained the requirements or steps to file a complaint in case of violence and, finally, what aspects men should take into account in order not to incur violence, rape, etc. The workshops were held in 6 project communities, in the community of Tumusa the workshop could not be held due to the non-participation of the beneficiaries, the activity was rescheduled.

Participation in the SLIM training workshops was very active, with a total of 194 beneficiaries (109 women and 85 men).

R1. A6 Training seminars in human nutrition (theory) and food preparation (practice)

Participation in the nutrition workshops where 172 beneficiaries (103 women and 69 men) from the six communities were trained was active. The Jancosuni community is missing, which will take place in March 2023.

Under the indicator, boys and girls are beneficiaries, started with a nutrition and food preparation workshop at the Tumusa Community Education Unit. The Nutrition workshop for boys and girls was very dynamic and addressed the importance of nutrition through drawings. Sixteen primary school students (7 girls and 9 boys) participated in the workshop.

In total, 13 different preparations were made in 6 project communities. It will conclude with a second breath preparation workshop in the other communities.

R2. STRENGTHENED WATER COMMITTEES ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER IN COMMUNITIES

R2. A1. Workshops to update or prepare the Statutes, Regulations and the Operation and Maintenance Plan with periodic information to users.

First, visits were made to the communities to plan the organisation (in case there was none) or reorganisation (in case it already existed) of water committees. To date, the meeting has taken place with three communities, Cochiri, Jancosuni and Tumusa.

In the community of Cochiri, the Irrigation Committee was reorganised, ratifying its functions to the Irrigation Committee, which operated during the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 administrations; the community did not have the integration of the secondary water network for irrigation; AYNI managed the completion of the distribution network of this community

irrigation system. In June, another committee was appointed to carry out the administration of the irrigation system and plan the irrigation shifts. Three workshops were held in this community with the irrigation committee and users.

To date, 7 workshops have been held in 3 communities; the communities that have irrigation systems are Azupaca, Colquechata, Tumusa, Cochiri and Jancosuni; Yanari Alto and Yanari Bajo do not have an irrigation system and Yanari Bajo has one, but the slope has dried up. The workshops are planned according to the degree of organisation the irrigation committees have: there are more and less organised; however, most have by-laws and regulations and an operational and maintenance plan.

R2. A2. Construction of the Jancosuni irrigation system and measurement of irrigation water volume before and after construction.

In May 2022, the construction company ASKI started the construction redevelopment works; in June 2022, the company established its camp in the community and started the construction of the intake works, the sand removal chamber and part of the adduction pipe network, the suspension bridges, the sludge purge chamber, the water storage, distribution and valve chambers. The beneficiaries provided labour for these constructions, carrying out excavations for the foundations of the works, digging of trenches, opening of roads to the water intake and to the construction area of the main reservoir, storage of materials and transfer of materials to the works throughout the construction process.

In December 2022, the pre-delivery of the irrigation system was carried out in coordination with the construction company ASKI SRL and the site manager AYNI; during this pre-delivery, it was verified that all the works carried out were in operation and that there were no faults in the irrigation system.

R2. A3. Collection of copro parasitological samples and deworming campaign in the 7 communities.

This activity was coordinated with the health centres in the municipality.

Due to the geography of the location and the distance between some communities, it takes time to schedule the collection of samples and to coordinate with the families (mothers) of the children who will deliver their samples in sterile containers. Despite these obstacles, a sample was taken in February from 35 children between the ages of 1 and 10 from the communities of Azupaca, Colquechata and Tumusa.

In the other communities, the sampling will be carried out in March and April. The activity was delayed because the communities' health centres deemed it appropriate to carry out the laboratory tests and the de-worming campaign with the children and parents attending the educational units of their communities. Educational management ended on 21 November 2022 and many children do not return or change educational units and it will be difficult to follow up.

Guatemala 8xmille: Fighting child malnutrition in ten indigenous communities in Chimaltenango

Country of implementation: Guatemala

Main funding body: 8x1000 del Consiglio dei ministri
Total Project Amount: 252.700,97
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 91.986,42 €

Project Description

The project aims to improve the food security, health and availability of livelihoods for 335 families with children under the age of 5 and/or with pregnant women from ten indigenous communities in the department of Chimaltenango, Guatemala, as a means of combating the high rates of chronic malnutrition affecting children under the age of 5 (50% nationally and 80% in the action areas), thus helping to combat the country's biggest problem. ICU and FUDI have already worked in 7 of the 10 communities during 2018, so 195 new families were worked with in this project and 140 families already beneficiaries of the 2018 action will be further accompanied in order to further follow the children's development.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The project ended in December 2022. All planned activities were successfully completed.

ALMA: "Accompanying women in rural areas of Guatemala for the generation of decent work opportunities".

Country of implementation: Guatemala
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 1.303.979 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 254.351,49 €

Project Description

The project aims to provide answers to the economic vulnerability of Guatemalan women, in particular Mayan women living in the western areas of Guatemala, Chimaltenango, Sololá Sacatepequez and Escuintla, territories with high indices of poverty, lack of work or undeclared work, and high rates of migration.

The close link between training (human, technical and entrepreneurial), production and marketing of their products through the strengthening of the Ixoqí social enterprise and the associationism of small producers is proposed as a strategy.

The overall objective is 'to contribute to improving the economic conditions of women in the indigenous rural areas of Guatemala, through the generation of decent work'. This objective reflects, on the one hand, the need and desire of women to generate an income through work, to contribute to the well-being of their families, already affected by the economic

consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, and, on the other hand, to achieve greater personal autonomy and independence.

The specific objective is to 'accompany women in rural areas living in vulnerable conditions in the generation of decent, formal employment opportunities, respectful of the environment and cultural traditions, through the creation of new productive activities, the formalisation of existing activities, and support for access to credit and innovation, from a market perspective'.

The impact to be achieved is through the generation of new job opportunities, the strengthening of existing jobs, and the raising of women's awareness of the benefits of regularising their activities and the rights and duties associated with formal employment. In this way, the economic empowerment of women is sought, for a better quality of life in their communities. It also seeks to reactivate the economy of these areas, affected by covid-19 and strengthen the resilience of women.

The expected results are: **R1)** Improved the technical, entrepreneurial and self-esteem skills of 1000 women in vulnerable situations, for the production and marketing of quality products that meet the needs of the local market; **R2)** Facilitated the transition to regularisation of trained women workers; **R3)** Promoted the productive activities of women through the delivery of productive kits (Initial Capital) and access to micro-credit programmes; **R4)** Improved or renewed products and adapted to the needs of the national, Central American and international markets.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- 1) **Improving the technical-entrepreneurial skills and self-confidence of 1,000 women in a vulnerable situation**, for the production and marketing of quality products that meet the demands of the local market.

The training process saw the stable participation in 20 courses (technical, human and business training) of 479 women beneficiaries (210 in Ixoqí and 264 in Las Gravileas), a participation 40% higher than expected, demonstrating a very significant demand for technical training among women in vulnerable economic situations in the areas of Chimaltenango, Sololá, Sacatepéquez and, to a lesser extent, Escuintla.

- 2) **Facilitated transition to formality for trained workers**

Through the external services of a company specialised in business support for small producers in rural areas, called Impacto Empresarial, the project started to raise awareness and train 20 instructors and 120 students in courses on labour rights and duties and in transition to formalisation of activities.



Participante Heidi Xuyá muestra a sus compañeras lo aprendido sobre cómo hacer preguntas a Rita la asistente virtual de la SAT con el uso de su celular.

3) Promoted women's productive activities through the provision of productive kits and access to local microcredit programmes

At the end of the training courses, between November and December 2022, the positive result of the Project was the delivery to 370 beneficiary women of a production kit, in the form of a bag with essential materials and tools (cutting and sewing, typical embroidery, natural fibres, cooking, pastry-making) that will enable them to start a micro-production of handicrafts and/or food products at home, according to the knowledge acquired during the training course



4) Improved or renewed products adapted to the needs of the national, Central American and international markets

On 7 October 2022, the Intangible Heritage Encounter was held, with the presence of around 180 beneficiaries of the ALMA project, who sold their handicrafts, in typical fabrics, leather, natural fibres, foodstuffs and traditional local recipes over the course of one day.



NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

WISPER - Water-efficient Innovative Solutions Portfolio for Enhancing Resilience

Country of implementation: Tunisia-Jordan
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 1.250.316,40 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 386.645,69 €

Project Description

The overall objective of the project, implemented from October 2020 until April 2023, is to contribute to the promotion of efficient water use in rural areas of Tunisia and Jordan in order to adapt and improve resilience to the water-related impacts of climate change. Specifically, it aims at improving the technical, institutional and market environment that supports the adoption and dissemination of innovative solutions leading to efficient water use in agricultural irrigation, in the governorate of Nabeul in Tunisia and the governorate of Balque, Karak and Mafraq in Jordan.

The main activities carried out are:

In Tunisia:

- Testing and demonstration of efficient and environmentally friendly water management systems
- Elaboration of an experimental study to test different water mixtures on 3 different plots of land
- Elaboration of an experimental study on the reuse/disposal of desalination by-products

In Jordan:

- Testing and demonstration of innovative irrigation systems powered by photovoltaic units
- Testing and demonstration of decentralised TWWP systems for isolated communities in 3 different facilities
- Testing and demonstration of an innovative polymer to improve water retention in soils at NARC - Research
- Testing and demonstration of new water retention boxes on 3 different tree crops in 3 different areas
- Testing and demonstration of a new irrigation tape system in a NARC plot on different crops
- Automation of a soilless fertigation system with cooling pads
- Development, testing and demonstration of 1 simple and low-cost prototype system in a greenhouse
- Development of experimental research on the reuse/disposal of desalination by-products

In Tunisia and Jordan:

- Organisation and realisation of 3 training courses

- Organisation and implementation of 1 training on innovative solutions for 30 technicians and agronomists from CRDA, TVC and EA;
- Organisation and implementation of an advocacy campaign to influence decision-makers to include tested innovative solutions in public subsidy programmes;
- Implementation of business plans on the application of water efficiency solutions;
- Involvement of equipment suppliers to facilitate the creation of partnerships/businesses and expand tested innovative technologies and solutions;
- Organisation and implementation of dissemination initiatives

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The WISPER development is confirming its coherence with the project general objective which is to contribute to the promotion of efficient use of water in rural areas in Tunisia and Jordan in order to adapt and enhance resilience to water-related impacts of climate change.

Additionally, the installation of the first technological innovations and the launch of the first experiments, has allowed the project to advance towards its specific objective which is to improve the technical, institutional and market context to scaling up innovative solutions. The operational phase of the project is ongoing and the progressive introduction and testing of innovations are progressively improving awareness about them in the areas of intervention. Some project innovations are installed at the partner research stations demo-plot while other innovations are installed at the farms level impacting directly farmers. The role of the project is to reach and spread scientific and technical conclusions about each innovation installed and sharing such knowledge and good practices to beneficiaries' farmers.

Two years since the beginning of the project, its logical structure remains intact. However, considering the constraints explained above, the project needs a revision of its actual outputs. ICU believes to complete all field experiments and to produce high quality scientific researches regarding the experiments completed in the frame of the project. In addition, following the completion of the experiments it is confirmed that a series of trainings will take place as per outputs 2.1.1 and 2.2.1. Finally, a dissemination campaign will be designed in order to inform and influence all relevant stakeholders in Tunisia and Jordan. The logic of the project is based on three main pillars: the first is installing technological innovations and the realization of scientific studies; - the second is testing and data collection of the innovation introduced; - the third is teaching, disseminating in order to introduce into local farming contexts the innovations that the project has proved to be a value-added for beneficiaries.

At an operational level, so far the project has: a. completed the preliminary phase of analysis and selection of beneficiaries and field sites; b. almost completed the preparation of technical specifications; c. launched the majority of tenders for the purchase of equipment; d. completed the procurement phase of 5 activities in Jordan while in Tunisia the first 10 PV system units has been installed as well. Once the installation of all innovations will be completed and the 3 studies finalised (mixing water experiment and 2 desalination studies), the project will be able to have scientific contents to run its training and dissemination activities planned for the second half of 2023.

Replacement of halogen street lamps in Nabeul with new LED street lamps.

- Preparation of 2 feasibility studies (legal and environmental impact) to facilitate the construction of a waste recovery centre that will treat household waste from 6 communes in Grand Nabeul.
- 330: LED lamps installed as public lighting
- Start of 2 feasibility studies for the implementation of a waste recovery centre: a legal study and an environmental impact study.

Number of beneficiaries reached: 2,000 beneficiaries reached by the installation of 330 LED lights in the streets of Nabeul.



SAWIAN: Strengthening social protection services for vulnerable adolescents and their families among refugees and host communities in Amman, Irbid and Russeifeh

Country of implementation: Jordan
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: EUR 973.771,80
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 566.185,63€

Project Description

The project is promoted and supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - Amman Office, as part of its initiative entitled "Emergency Initiative for the Protection and Integrated Care of the Most Vulnerable among Jordanian Refugees and Host Communities" AID 11731/02. The project aims to promote the protection of vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian adolescents and their families in the target areas (particularly girls at risk of SGBV - sexual and gender-based violence - and early marriage and boys at risk of SGBV and child labour) through an integrated system of social protection services, economic support and community engagement. The initiative targets more than 1,000 people among the vulnerable population (70% Syrian refugees, 50% women, 7% persons with disabilities), and 5 CBOs (in Amman: Al Manara; in Irbid: Erhaba Charitable Association and Der Yousef Charitable Association; in Russeifeh: Alerada wa Altasmeem and WFWP). The project aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian adolescents and reduce their risk and exposure to negative phenomena such as child labour, early marriage, abuse and other forms of SGBV.

Activities

- 1.1 Awareness-raising activities to identify vulnerable adolescents and their families
- 1.2 Academic tutoring and support for adolescent girls and boys (12 - 17 years)
- 1.3 Life skills training for adolescent girls and boys (12 - 17 years)
- 1.4 Case management, psychosocial support and referral services for adolescents who are victims or at risk of SGBV, violence and other types of abuse or out-of-school
- 1.5 Basic computer training for adolescents on distance learning platforms
- 2.1 Education cash assistance for vulnerable families
- 2.2 Cash assistance for cases of extreme vulnerability
- 2.3 Support for innovative small businesses to increase income opportunities for refugees and local communities
- 2.4 Covid prevention activities (distribution of hygiene kits and information materials, CBO training on disease prevention)
- 3.1 Establishment of youth centres in target CBOs
- 3.2 Selection and training of 20 mentors for academic mentoring (1.2 and 1.3)
- 3.3 Meetings of groups of adolescents in CBOs to design community-based initiatives
- 3.4 Awareness sessions for parents (on positive parenting, how to relate positively to adolescents, risks associated with early marriage and child labour, etc.)
- 3.5 Awareness sessions for teachers on project topics
- 3.6 Interactive theatre for teachers, students and parents to raise awareness of project issues and stimulate community dialogue

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Beneficiaries reached in 2022 by outcome:

RI: Improved access to essential services (protection, education and reproductive health) for Syrian and Jordanian adolescents (12-17 years), including persons with disabilities, victims or at risk of child labour, early marriage and other forms of SGBV

- 1299 adolescents (46%F, 68% Syr, 8%PWD) who were victims or at risk of school drop-out, child labour, early marriage and other forms of abuse and SGBV were placed on a prevention and response pathway

- 104 cases were reintegrated into school and 24 were referred to other services.

R2: Increased capacity of Syrian and vulnerable Jordanian adolescents and their families to meet their basic needs.

- 200 families received financial assistance

- 40 people (20 in Irbid and 20 in Ruseifeh) received training to start innovative businesses (fruit drying and tyre recycling) (67.5% W, 20% Syr, 7.5% PWD)

R3: Strengthening the community-based protection system through active involvement and inclusion of community members.

- 6 Community initiatives identified and implemented by adolescents and young people

- among those involved, 69.1% on average showed an improvement in their knowledge on project-related topics

ProAgro: Supporting the development of sustainable agri-food micro-enterprises and creating employment opportunities in disadvantaged areas of Tunisia

Country of implementation: Tunisia
Main funding body: AICS –Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione e Sviluppo; cooperazione monegasca in Tunisia
Total Project Amount: 2.000.000,00 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 434.993,56€

Project Description

The project aims to help improve living conditions in rural areas of Tunisia by strengthening micro-enterprises in the agri-food sector. With the project, micro-enterprises in the milk, vegetable, date, aromatic and medicinal herbs, and olive tree sectors in the governorates of Beja, Kasserine, Kebili, Le Kef, Mahdia and Sidi Bouzid have a better production, processing and marketing capacity and are more integrated in associative forms and within their supply chain. The intervention logic is based on three strands of action 1) the strengthening of agri-food micro-enterprises through technical-managerial training, assistance in the development of improvement plans and accompaniment and support in accessing credit; 2) the training of young graduates and their accompaniment in the start-up of technical assistance activities in favour of producers, combined with activities to represent companies supplying inputs and technologies that will enable technicians to generate an income by making their activities sustainable and helping to spread knowledge and innovation among enterprises 3) the strengthening of market links between Tunisian and Italian enterprises, to foster marketing opportunities for the products of Tunisian companies on the Italian market and for Italian inputs and technologies on the Tunisian market. The main expected impacts of the project are: efficiency and better market insertion of companies, strengthening of technical assistance in the agri-food sector, better positioning of the agri-food sector in international markets, improving the relevance of the agri-food system in Tunisian policies, and improving the living conditions and inclusion of women in Tunisian companies.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

A.1.2: Strengthening of technical and management skills by DAFNE, DiSTAS and E4Impact of APIA trainers who will provide training and coaching to micro-enterprises.

A training of trainers on the horticulture sector, realised by the University of Tuscia, took place in presence in Tunisia in June 2022. Topics covered during the training included: the horticultural production system, certification of horticultural products, classification, fertilisation and irrigation of artichoke, tomato and watermelon crops, and discussion of different agricultural practices.

A.1.3 Strengthening of the technical-administrative and commercial capacities of 400 selected MIs, establishment of new forms of association or consolidation of existing ones where useful to strengthen enterprises.

In January 2022, the agri-food micro-enterprises companions concluded a coaching mission aimed at drawing up bankable business plans for the benefit of the agri-food micro-enterprises selected within the project. Thanks to this activity, since February 2022, the beneficiaries have started applying for credit from banks and microfinance institutions. This activity shows a homogeneous and well-balanced gender distribution, as of the 269 business plans delivered, 136 concern projects submitted by women and 133 projects submitted by men.

A.1.4 Gender profiling of 60 selected pilot enterprises (10 per governorate) and development of a coaching programme aimed at integrating women into unconventional professions, fostering the dissemination of a gender-sensitive corporate culture in Tunisia.

The partner WeWorld-GVC started gender training in the first quarter of 2022. The pathway with companies continued with customised coaching sessions in the second half of 2022. A total of 68 beneficiaries participated in the coaching programme, 50 of whom were women aged between 18 and 46. In order to give continuity to this process, it was deemed pertinent to launch a second phase of activities, which was implemented in the first half of 2023. For this second phase, the format of 2 Bootcamps was followed, one dedicated to the project's target female entrepreneurs and the second dedicated to officials of the target administrations. The rationale is to create a meeting space between beneficiaries from the six target regions and to stimulate synergies and the sharing of good practices. An attempt was made to attract more participants to the planned activities and to gather some suggestions concerning the organisation of the trainings in order to better meet the expectations and needs of the participants.

A.1.5 Accompanying selected micro-enterprises and associations to access credit or state incentives for investments that increase their production capacity, value creation, access to markets and employment generation.

In April 2022, ICU initiated a collaboration with the Tunisian Solidarity Bank BTS aimed at facilitating the credit application procedures of ProAgro project applicants. Out of the 62 dossiers submitted (selected on the basis of criteria of merit and quality of the proposals), 41 were given preliminary approval by the BTS and the applicants concerned were informed of the need to submit their applications at the regional BTS level with a view to a more in-depth treatment of their business plans and with the aim of finalising their applications and, if approved, receiving the project grant, which is equivalent to 10% of the investment cost envisaged by the business plan submitted, up to a maximum of €10,000 grant per beneficiary.

The remaining applicants were told to submit their applications independently or to the BTS or other commercial banks or microfinance institutions.

A 2.1 Selection of 85 young graduates (5 for each relevant supply chain in the 6 governorates) and theoretical-practical training in the main innovative technologies of the agri-food sector in the supply chain of each one

At the beginning of 2022, the post-training assessment test of young candidates for technical sales agencies or start-ups was carried out. Out of 85 candidates surveyed, only 65 responses were received. On the basis of specific criteria (training attendance rate and test score), 40 candidates were selected to be admitted to the second phase to develop their business plans, 78% of whom were young women (29 technical-commercial agency project holders and 11 start-ups), distributed across the 6 target governorates

A2.2 Personalised coaching for the 34 young people who passed Phase I for evaluation and accompaniment in the development of their business idea

In March 2022, a personal coaching and support mission was carried out for the 40 selected young people, in order to ensure active support for project feasibility studies and the development of business plans, for the benefit of the 40 young people who intend to set up technical-commercial agencies and/or start-ups with the aim of creating added value for the benefit of the applicants and creating jobs in the disadvantaged areas covered by the project.

A2.3 Implementation of an internship programme in Italian and Tunisian companies and financial or input support for the creation of 17 start-ups (1 for each relevant sector in the 6 governorates) by the trained young people

Among those selected under A2.2, 20 beneficiaries were identified to carry out internships based on the profiling already carried out during the coaching phase, with the aim of strengthening their technical and managerial skills. The internships, lasting one month, were implemented in August 2022. By the end of 31 August 2022, 75% of the young people (15 out of 20 young people) had completed and validated their placements, of which:

- 13 young people whose project idea is to set up a technical-commercial agency;
- 2 young people whose project idea is to create start-ups.

A.3.2: participation in trade fairs for the promotion of agri-food products in Italy and the SIAT agricultural and entrepreneurship fair Riyeda in Tunisia by the Tunisian MI and AMI and APIA

Under the slogan "Smart Investment for Sustainable Development", the Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency - APIA, partner of the ProAgro project, organised the 14th edition of the International Agricultural Investment and Technology Exhibition - SIAT 2022 in October 2022 at the Kram Exhibition Park in Tunis. A stand of the ProAgro project hosted 5 project beneficiaries, representatives of the 5 sectors of intervention (Dates, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Fruit and Vegetable Products, Olives and Olive Oil, and Milk and Milk Derivatives) with the aim of promoting their products and to get in touch and network with other companies and stakeholders (clients, institutions, financing bodies, etc.).



Nabeul Ville Verte – NVV

Country of implementation: Tunisia
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 7.000.204,29 €

Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 1.828.104,86€

Project Description

The project aims to improve the living conditions of the citizens of Nabeul Municipality and the municipality's own capacity to adapt to climate change by empowering it to implement the actions of its sustainable energy and climate plan in an inclusive and participatory manner, promoting an integrated approach between local public and private actors.

The goal has three main principal infrastructural components:

1. The construction of a waste-to-energy center.
2. The replacement of halogen street lighting in the streets of Nabeul with new LED lamps and a remote management system.
3. The installation of solar-powered boilers on public buildings used for sports activities.

These three activities are complemented by complementary activities with the aim of:

1. Train city staff in the operation and maintenance of the new installations
2. Drafting a flood action plan and training those responsible for the plan in its financing
3. Introduce new training modules on sustainable issues and equip two workshops at ISET in Nabeul
4. Promote capacity building activities for Tunisian institutions, on issues of sustainability and climate change adaptation
5. Promote communication and environmental awareness activities through local media.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Replacement of halogen streetlights in Nabeul with new LED streetlights.
- Preparation of 2 feasibility studies (legal and environmental impact) to facilitate the establishment of a waste recovery center that will treat household waste from 6 communes in Grand Nabeul.
- 330: LED lamps installed as public lighting.
- Initiation of 2 feasibility studies for the implementation of a waste recovery center: a legal study and an environmental impact study.

Number of beneficiaries reached: 2,000 beneficiaries reached by the installation of 330 LED lights in the streets of Nabeul.

Civil Society Engagement for Circular Green Economy – CSE4CGE

Country of implementation: Jordan
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 422.029 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 196.577,28€

Project Description

The CSE4CGE project aims to improve and increase the level of involvement and participation of local civil society organisations in climate and environmental policies and strategies. In fact, the project focuses on the role of CSOs as connecting actors between the local population and institutions. To this end and as part of the project, CSOs have been involved to directly engage in supporting the two municipalities of Irbid and Karak, the project implementation sites, in defining and planning new common strategies related to solid waste management, and have been included as intermediary connecting actors between governmental institutions, the local population and the private sector.

The project is implemented in cooperation with two local partners, Euro Jordanian Advanced Business Institute (EJABI) and Organic Fertilizers Eco Systems (OFES), local non-governmental organisations, which provide training in Governance and Management and Waste Management, respectively. Both partners also have experience working in support of the municipalities where the project is implemented.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Output 1.1. – Creation of a committee, consisting of CS organisations and government institutions.

A committee of CS and governmental institutions has not yet been established. Although a strong committee of CS and governmental institutions has not been officially established, a strong mechanism of constant cooperation and communication has been established and consolidated during the project implementation. Both municipalities of Irbid and Karak had frequent meetings and several opportunities to meet directly with people and members of different CS, either by participating together in some trainings or through an important mediation role of the main partner ICU together with partners OFES and EJABI and a contractor Qutoof.

Output 1.2. - Local decision makers are more familiar with the circular economy model for solid waste management.

All training courses delivered so far have increased the overall knowledge of local decision-makers in the circular economy. The training programme presented the following topics: 'basics of sorting and recycling', 'working mechanism in solid waste management', 'reuse of recyclable and sorted materials'. In addition, the knowledge of the beneficiaries, both municipal staff and members of the local CS, was strengthened in particular through the training for the drafting of the Action Plan, as it was an interactive programme carried out with participatory methodology.

Output 1.3. “Drafting of two Action Plans, tailored to the capacities of individual municipalities, in order to implement a national waste management strategy”.

Two action plan documents were drafted as a result of the training conducted between June and August 2022. The training was carried out by the two partners Ofes and Ejabi, who conducted some sessions together in both municipalities and then concentrated each partner in one municipality: Ejabi on Irbid, and Ofes on Karak. The training consisted of 20 days/sessions in each municipality and the methodology chosen was highly participatory, in order to encourage the beneficiaries to develop their own Action Plan, focusing on their specific and real needs.

Output 1.4. "The CS, in agreement with the municipalities, implement key activities in line with the municipal solid waste action plans identified by the steering committee."

The CSs involved in the last project activity, actively participated in the implementation of a major awareness-raising campaign, which included both a social media campaign led by CS members, coordinated and followed up by an expert company, Qutoof, contracted by the ICU for this activity; and, in addition, included a major awareness-raising campaign that led to the creation of 28 Green Stations for the collection of sorted waste. These Green Stations were set up at the CSOs' premises and are managed directly by their responsible staff. The management of the Green Stations also includes a reward system for those who deliver a significant amount of separated waste to the Stations, in order to encourage local communities towards separate waste collection and good waste management practices in general. To this end, an online application has also been created to record each waste delivery by the local population and to ensure, at the same time, relevant and innovative data collection on separate waste collection and public participation (people who deliver waste, gender, age, quantity of waste, materials, frequency, etc.).



RE-FIT - Retrofitting of public buildings through green technologies and processes

Country of implementation: Lebanon
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 1.875.000 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 321.231,34 €

Project Description

RE-FIT is an EU-funded project implemented by ICU, Arc-en-ciel, Fondation Diane and the University of Genoa. It supports Lebanon's energy transition through low-carbon and energy-efficient solutions consisting of the installation and modernisation of photovoltaic (PV) panels and batteries in public buildings, encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation, and raising community awareness of ER/E. The project to modernise and upgrade existing renewable energy and energy efficiency installations involves 25 public buildings. The photovoltaic installations of ten public schools and two municipalities were completely rehabilitated, including: two of them with replacement of lithium batteries with the same capacity, three of them using recycled batteries to test more sustainable options. The installations of eleven public schools and two municipalities saw their capacity doubled, three of them using lithium batteries and cooled panels.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Refurbished ER public facilities (26 buildings)

20 new buildings were added, and an international tender was launched and awarded on 25/10/2022. Different technical solutions are being tested, as described in the tender documents: different hybrid inverters, which allow on-grid and off-grid operation, different types of batteries, acid Led, acid Gel Led, lithium, with different connection modes, use of refrigerated panels. At the suggestion of the Ministry of Education, pilot experiments are underway to link the old retrofitted system to an existing battery-free system in schools, making them both accessible in a cost-effective manner. The results of the experiments are included in the installation and maintenance manuals and will be widely disseminated to MEHE staff and installers cooperating with the Ministry.

- New disposal system for photovoltaic panels and batteries (electronic waste)

In June 2022, Arcenciel had a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment; the Ministry team informed Arcenciel that we do not need a transport waiver to complete our activities under the RE-FIT project (Arcenciel only needs this waiver if we transport the batteries to a recycling facility within the country, which does not apply to our project). Collection activities have started and Arcenciel has so far stored 12 batteries at Ecoserv, the dedicated storage area prepared by Fondation Diane according to environmental standards.

On 24 November 2022, Arcenciel and ICU met with the team responsible for the export of hazardous waste at the Ministry of the Environment and discussed the procedures and documents required to export the batteries that Arcenciel is collecting. The ministry team was very supportive. They offered us their guidance and the application that we have to fill out together with the relevant guidelines. In the coming period, Arcenciel's Environment Programme will take the necessary actions to realise this export.

- Conducting a comprehensive analysis of the current and potential value chain of batteries in Lebanon.

An in-depth study on the health and environmental implications is planned for May 2022, with the support of the AUB and in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. The first results were discussed in January 2022 and a special presentation with the participation of the Ministry of Health is planned for May-June 2022. The study is in progress and its finalisation

has been delayed pending the approval of the AUB Ethics Committee, which was granted in January 2023; the finalisation and final presentation will be carried out in the year 2023.

- Low-carbon and energy-efficient solutions and processes (e.g. recycling practices) promoted and disseminated

After data collection, a maintenance manual and recommendations for new installations will be distributed to all stakeholders and disseminated nationwide. The manual is being printed and will be disseminated during the life of the project. Together with Diane Foundation and ECOSERV and with the support of UNIGE and ARC en Ciel, a plan for reuse (recharging of batteries) and export for proper disposal is being drawn up. Contacts have been made with (Greek by AEC) to dispose of the batteries properly and a mechanism for re-exporting the batteries and procedures for granting the necessary permits have been discussed with the Ministry of the Environment. A detailed study on the re-use of batteries is being prepared by UNIGE; the content of the study will also be disseminated to all stakeholders.

- Support for existing and new ER/EE SMEs (e.g. SMEs promoting innovative solar energy solutions).

During the year 2022, new companies were incorporated and training topics were expanded to reach more companies to be supported.



GOTHAM - Governance tool for the sustainable allocation of water resources in the Mediterranean through stakeholder collaboration. Towards a paradigm shift in groundwater management by end users.

Country of implementation: Spain, Italy, France, Lebanon and Jordan
Main funding body: European Union; PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area)
Total Project Amount: 1.600.000 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 90.805,71 €

Project Description

The GOTHAM project aims to change the paradigm in groundwater management by creating a user-oriented tool that enables effective governance for the conservation of groundwater quantity and quality in the Mediterranean basin. Specifically, the activities involving the ICU are: the mapping of stakeholders, the analysis and preparation of the community engagement strategy; the implementation of the Community of Practices through the co-creation workshops; the development of a comprehensive diagnosis of the water balance and water quality dynamics in the three pilot groundwater bodies; the hydrometeorological characterisation of case studies focusing on their vulnerability to climate change; the definition of the groundwater governance framework and the impacts derived on the quantitative and chemical status of groundwater and the definition of socio-technical scenarios; the assessment of the environmental, social and economic impact of the implementation of the GOTHAM tool; the preparation of the GTOOL replication and transferability plan; the implementation of pilot/case studies and local capacity building in Jordan and Lebanon; the drafting of a recommendation to guide the adaptation and future use of GTOOL both in EU countries and in the Southern Mediterranean; the definition of the GTOOL business model; the development and implementation of a communication plan.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Stakeholder mapping in Lebanon and Jordan, analysis and identification of needs and preparation of community engagement strategy;
- Creation of the Community of Practice (CoP) through co-creation workshops in the Lebanese and Jordanian case studies;;
- Cocreation Workshop 1: implemented in the two case studies in order to understand the needs of stakeholders regarding GTool functionality and to assess their opinions regarding water conservation;
- Cocreation Workshop 2: implemented in the two case studies, in order to help each stakeholder group choose which sub-modules they would like to access and the type of visualisation they need, from the various options;
- Development of a comprehensive diagnosis of the dynamic water balance and water quality in the two groundwater bodies
- Analysis of conditions; development of agricultural water demand assessment module;
- Hydrometeorological characterisation of the case studies, with particular attention to their vulnerability to climate change;

- Groundwater governance framework and derived impacts on groundwater quantitative and chemical status;
- Definition of socio-technical water scenarios in the two case studies;
- Collection and preparation of information and data necessary for the development and integration of the GOTHAM tool (Gtool).

Beneficiaries: groundwater stakeholders and communities in Iaat-Baalbeck (Lebanon) and the Azraq Basin (Jordan)



Green City - Territorial partnerships for sustainable and resilient urban development

Country of implementation: Lebanon - Jordan
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 1.125.000 euro
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 98.773,84 €

Project Description

The project contributes to strengthening the links between Italian territorial authorities and foreign local authorities, promoting the creation of territorial partnerships between the Municipality of Marsala, the Municipality of Alcamo and the Municipalities of El Ain, Hermel, Boudai and Dekwaneh in Lebanon and Irbid and Karak in Jordan, with the objective of promoting sustainable and resilient territorial development through the enhancement of urban development management and planning skills in the energy field and in the management of solid urban waste. The framework focuses on three components:

- 1) Introduction and strengthening of good management practices, separate collection and treatment, waste recycling and circular economy;
- 2) Improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of the use of renewable energy in municipal facilities and municipal schools;

3) Creation of international territorial partnerships for the exchange of know-how, the promotion of municipalism and the appropriation of urban management in environmental and energy matters.

The aim of the project is to make urban settlements inclusive, sustainable but also resilient and able to adapt to climate-related risks, by strengthening the efficiency and service delivery of the target municipalities and reducing their costs through both technological innovations and the reduction of pollution effects in cities and adaptation to climate change. The project was therefore structured to include: training courses aimed at strengthening the planning and management skills of policy-makers; the development of urban action plans and the initiation of actions within municipalities to help reduce costs and improve services; the building of territorial partnerships for the exchange of know-how and good practices, and with study visits to virtuous Italian municipalities; the creation of a multi-level civic awareness with training days for civil society organisations, awareness-raising campaigns aimed at schools, citizens and the private sector.

The multistakeholder approach adopted envisages the involvement of other partners among international and local actors. Technical-institutional partners: for Jordan, the German Jordanian University (GJU) and the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), respectively the main universities in the energy and environmental field at local and regional level, and the Lebanese agency of the Ministry of Energy involved in all major decisions, initiatives and projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Technical assistance and civil society involvement partners: Arcenciel, a Lebanese organisation with strong experience in the waste sector, environmental issues and training of municipal staff and civil society; Ejabi and Ofes, Jordanian organisations with experience in waste management, decades of work with local municipalities and civil society training. Ecosystem Partners: The Institute for University Cooperation (ICU), an organisation active in the field of international cooperation and rooted in the two project countries, which acts as a link between local authorities, local and regional institutions, civil society and the project partners.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The project started in August 2022 and by the end of the year, preliminary and preparatory work was done to implement the activities.

RELIEF - Improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable sections of the Iraqi population belonging to the Christian-Chaldean refugee minority in Lebanon

Country of implementation: Lebanon
Main funding body: AICS –Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione e Sviluppo
Total Project Amount: 526.263,20 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 261.229,61 €

Project Description

The initiative - which started in January 2021 and ended in January 2023 - aimed to promote a multi-sectoral intervention to improve the quality and accessibility of educational and psychosocial support services for the Iraqi Christian-Chaldean refugee community in Lebanon and offered by the St. Thomas educational centre run by the Chaldean Charitable Society in Lebanon (CCSL), the local project partner. The education centre is located on the eastern outskirts of Beirut, in the Governorate of Mount Lebanon (Metn District).

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable segments of the Iraqi Chaldean population through the implementation of various activities: improving the school structure and educational services provided by the St. Thomas educational centre, implementing socio-educational activities and psychosocial support for teachers, students and families, empowering the staff belonging to the Chaldean Charitable Society, increasing opportunities for social cohesion between different communities through the organisation of sports events and extra-curricular activities in the area of intervention. The activities organised within the framework of the initiative were in line with the project's two specific objectives: to improve the sustainability, quality and accessibility of St. Thomas school services for children outside the formal and informal Lebanese school system belonging to the Chaldean Christian minority and to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable families belonging to the Chaldean Christian minority.

The Iraqi refugee crisis is unfortunately still a current issue in Lebanon: since the 2003 war, Lebanon has become a destination for thousands of Christian families living in Iraq, especially in the Baghdad region. The number of displaced Iraqis then increased dramatically between 2014 and 2016 as Christian minorities, including the Chaldean minority to which around 80 per cent of Iraqi Christians belong, were targeted by waves of ideological extremism and political violence adopted by Islamic State militias, and even today, several displaced families arrive in Lebanon through the Syrian borders. Currently, the number of Iraqi refugees of the Chaldean faith in Lebanon stands at 6500, grouped in about 2000 families, most of them residing in the project target area.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Increased the number of school staff and school subjects taught resulting in an improved school curriculum and teaching quality;
- Improved the level of competence of school staff on educational and child protection issues through the organisation of training courses;
- Increased the fund-raising capacity of the local partner through the implementation of training and empowerment activities;
- Improved the vocational skills of youth and adults belonging to the Chaldean Iraqi community in Lebanon through the organisation of Vocational Trainings;
- Improved the social and psychological support service for minors and adults belonging to the Chaldean Iraqi community in Lebanon; implemented child protection paths for vulnerable cases
- Increased opportunities for social cohesion between communities through the implementation of recreational activities outside St. Thomas School.

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2022: 1,804 Indirect beneficiaries reached in 2022: 3500



ESMES – Energy Smart Mediterranean Schools Network

Country of implementation: Italy, Tunisia, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 3.333.333,33 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 597.927,36 €

Project Description

Energy trends in the Mediterranean region are characterised by increasing energy demand, dependence on fossil fuels, high CO₂ emissions, etc., with negative consequences for the environment. Buildings are responsible for a significant part of total energy consumption, causing 36% of CO₂ emissions. In this context, increasing the energy performance of the building stock has a key role to play in the transition towards a smarter, renewable and decarbonised energy system and, in the long term, towards a climate-neutral economy. The ESMES project will specifically focus on optimising energy consumption in public schools through innovative pilot actions based on renewable energy monitoring and energy efficiency (REEE). At the same time, the project will enhance the capacity of 5 public institutions to implement innovative energy rehabilitations. ESMES intends to contribute to greater awareness and better energy habits in schools through practical training in REEE delivered to 8,000 students. On an economic level, savings of €30,000/year are expected due to the return on REEE investments. Finally, the project is expected to save 240 tonnes of CO₂/year, 270,000 kWh/year from RE and 30,000 kWh/year through energy efficiency.

Who will benefit?

- 44 schools, of which 10 with REEE (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) rehabilitations
- 50 energy and education decision makers
- 37,000 school users, staff and students
- Universities, research centres, NGOs and SMEs in the sustainable energy sector

Expected results

- 1 competition among 34 schools to reduce energy consumption

- 5 national energy efficiency hubs
- 5 strategies to support an efficient and economical energy mix in school buildings
- 10 energy rehabilitations implemented in public schools in Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Italy and Spain and certified through energy performance certificates

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The school competition, running in a total of 35 schools, is nearing completion in almost all countries, while in others it is continuing to enable more students to be trained.

Smart meters have been installed in the pilot schools and the monitoring of energy consumption and energy audits are almost completed in the 6 pilot schools. This paved the way for analysing bids for the purchase and installation of additional equipment at the pilot schools (renewable energy and energy efficiency).

The first cross-border thematic workshop was held online on 15-16 February 2022, during which the project partners presented the challenges and strategies facing the management of the rehabilitation of public schools; in addition, the partners discussed a range of practices for improving renewable energy solutions for school buildings, exchanging information, challenges and objectives.

The project extension, approved in August 2022, granted a 12-month extension, a crucial step to allow the partners to proceed smoothly with the implementation and completion of the various activities.



REESTART-Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Energy Transition And Reinforced Trust between SMEs and ESCOs

Country of implementation: Lebanon
Main funding body: European Union; 5x1000 (come da verbale ICU del 28/10/2020); Fondazione Terzo Pilastro
Total Project Amount: 2.496.759,00 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 747.387,52€

Project Description

The overall objective of this project is to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation in support of Lebanon's clean energy transition. The specific objective is to achieve higher levels of investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency in Lebanon by creating

a more favourable environment for ESCOs (Energy Service Companies) to operate and grow. ICU is specifically in charge of the overall technical and financial management of the project, supporting the local partner in defining the selection criteria for SME and ESCO companies, implementing an awareness-raising campaign for SMEs on the benefits of ES and existing financing opportunities, and supporting partners in planning and implementing capacity building for ESCOs in terms of energy auditing, technical, legal and financial capacity.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

A1.2.2 Realisation of Energy Audits and Intervention Plans for Selected SMEs

A total of 76 SMEs partnered with their respective ESCOs and went through the selection process to carry out the energy audit of 35 beneficiary SMEs. The ESCO-SME partnership allows the ESCO to be selected together with the 35 SMEs and thus be the main implementer of the energy audit.

A.1.3.1 Provision of technical assistance to 35 SMEs and 10 ESCOs to access existing SE funding; private financial incentives to SMEs willing to "green" their plant or production process

The activity included 5 information sessions to introduce the SMEs to the existing SE investment concessional credit funds (eligibility rules, type of facilitated technologies/sectors/investments, credit application submission to commercial banks, VIF financial incentives: how to apply for an investment fund, Lebanese investor landscape). However, there is a major concern related to the current economic situation in Lebanon, which is considered a major obstacle to the realisation of our activities. According to the World Bank, the Lebanese economy is sinking into a deliberate depression. These factors have affected sustainable financial assistance for energy to the SME-ESCO model. Therefore, this activity has been redesigned to support SMEs and ESCOs to reach out to international investors and donors through the development of green financing and proposal submission to investors.

A2.3.1. Selection, implementation and monitoring of 6 partially subsidised energy intervention pilot projects

During this year, the 6 partially subsidised pilot energy projects were selected. Following the SME selection process, a total of 35 SMEs in partnership with their respective ESCOs underwent the selection process of the 6 Pilot Projects, to implement the ECMs of the Energy Audit according to the ESCO Model. The ESCO-SME partnership allows the ESCO to be selected together with the 6 SMEs and thus to be the main implementer of the pilot project. Therefore, it was important to carry out a screening and ranking of the ESCOs, especially after the selection of the 35 SMEs for the energy audits.

A2.2.1 Designing a Capacity Building Programme for ESCOs

Capacity building training comprises three modules. The first, Energy Management, will provide participants with an understanding of industry best practices for Energy Management & Auditing, including how to optimise systems to help reduce costs, improve profits, and increase occupant satisfaction. The Measurement & Verification module will provide participants with an understanding of industry best practices for measurement and verification. The third module, Performance Contracting & Funding, on the other hand, aims to raise the standard for funding professionals.

A3.1.1 Creation of a Lebanese Federation of ESCOs

Given the current situation in terms of the economic and political crisis that Lebanon is facing, and in order not to skip this important project outcome, we opted for the creation of an ESPC committee (a small modified version of a Super ESCO). The committee will comprise local ESPC professionals. The tasks of this committee are to provide technical assistance and support to ESPC applicants through the development and implementation of the ESPC project, as well as to provide arbitration services. In addition, this committee will become the national body that will oversee and catalyse the implementation of the ESCO model in Lebanon.

A3.2.1 Conducting a comparative analysis of the Lebanese regulatory framework and international good practices

The key elements of the relevant laws were commented on one by one and the corresponding elements in the Lebanese texts were sought for each of them. In most cases, it emerged that there is not a complete overlap between the EU/Italian provisions and agreements and the measures adopted in Lebanon, due to the different socio-economic conditions in the two areas and the different state of the respective energy systems. However, similar topics were analysed against each other, highlighting their main specific peculiarities.

At the conclusion of the study, some suggestions and comments on the Lebanese regulatory and legislative texts examined were reported, as main (but not exhaustive) recommendations for a greater dissemination of energy efficiency solutions in the country.

During this third year, an ENEA representative, Giovanni Stoppiello, travelled to Beirut from 29 March to 5 April 2022 and joined the local ICU staff to assess the procedure by which 35 Lebanese energy companies involved in the project activities, after attending a high-level training course, could participate in the implementation of energy audits for local SMEs, in order to submit proposals for the implementation of "pilot projects", in accordance with the REESTART project objectives.

Food4Resilience – Improving food security and access to income to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable Syrian households in the Damascus governorates

Country of implementation: Syria
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 523.166,57 €
Importo speso per la realizzazione delle attività e del raggiungimento degli obiettivi previsti dell'anno 2022: 41.193,58 €

Project Description

The project promotes food security through the provision of inputs for agriculture and animal husbandry, vocational training and the establishment of income-generating activities for 1450 farmer/farmer families. It thus ensures access to sustainable food and a varied and quality diet.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The project is currently in the implementation phase. In the target governorates of rural Damascus, Homs and Hama, the project will reach: 320 farming families, who will see the quality and variety of food products of vegetable origin produced by them improved; 260

livestock farming families, who will see the quality and variety of food products of animal origin (meat, dairy products) improved; 30 women, who will strengthen their knowledge on dairy food production, vegetable processing and preservation for access to income and the start-up of a small income-generating activity. This is done through the distribution of inputs and kits for agriculture and livestock breeding and specific training for the beneficiaries.

Food4resilience – Assistance to improve food security for strengthening the resilience of the population in need - Syria (139/19 FM)

Country of implementation: Syria
Main funding body: 8x1000 Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri
Total Project Amount: 248.586,29 € (of which 240,586.29 financed by PCDM)
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 28.082,61 €

Project Description

The project "Food4resilience - Assistance in Improving Food Security for Strengthening the Resilience of the Population in Need - Syria (139/19 FM)", implemented by ICU with the local partner SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent), contributes to strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable rural population groups in the governorate of Rural Damascus, by improving food security and the availability of means/sources of livelihood for smallholder farming families in the target area of intervention. Specifically, the project 1) improves the quality and variety of food products of vegetable origin (cereals,) for 224 farming families in the Rural Damascus Governorate thanks to the increase and diversification of crops made possible by the distribution of certified wheat seeds and triple phosphate fertilisers and the launching of on-the-job training courses for agri-food production and domestic horticulture, and 2) strengthens the knowledge of 60 women on dairy food production and vegetable processing and preservation to access income and start a small income-generating activity thanks to training courses on self-production and food sales and the provision of basic equipment.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The project officially started on 1 August 2022. In the first few months, preparatory activities for the project took place, i.e. selection and contracting of staff, identification of the office, car, and logistical definition and selection of beneficiaries. Currently, the project staff is working on the organisation and implementation of training activities and the purchase of inputs and agricultural equipment that will then be distributed to the 224 beneficiary families. In general, over the project implementation period (18 months) the planned activities will be: 1) Purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs and equipment (certified wheat seeds, triple superphosphate fertilisers) and organisation and implementation of on-the-job technical training courses on good practices for agri-food production for 224 beneficiary families in the Rural Damascus governorate; 2) Purchase and distribution of equipment for vegetable processing and preservation and organisation and implementation of on-the-job vocational training courses for vegetable processing and preservation for 30 young women in the Rural Damascus governorate.

PROSIM “Promoting Sustainable Irrigation Management and non-conventional water use in the Mediterranean” A_B.4.1_0317

Country of implementation: Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Sicily, Spain
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 3.333.331,624 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 704.073,11 €

Project Description

In all Mediterranean countries, climate change, water losses due to inefficient irrigation systems and lack of awareness of modern solutions at farm level are the most common issues to be addressed. The PROSIM project will address these challenges by reducing pressure on water resources in the affected areas of Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Spain.

The project will increase water use efficiency by 30 per cent and replace clean water with unconventional water by up to 100 per cent through 9 innovative solutions to optimise water consumption. The project also hopes to increase investments in sustainable irrigation by 5-10% by governments, financial institutions and farmers and build local capacities to adopt/improve them.

Cross-border capacity building, roadmaps and plans for improved water management will be implemented based on project results, while promoting public-private cooperation, together with investments in adopting/expanding the proposed solutions.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- CEBAS (PP4) organised Activity 3.1.2: Study Visit on Mixed Water Solutions in Spain for PPs from 10 to 13 May 2022. This activity allowed the Italian (BEN), Jordanian (PP1), Tunisian (PP3) and Moroccan (AP02) partners to see the activities implemented by CEBAS within the PROSIM project, in particular the advanced DSS (IS9) and also the equipment that farmers and irrigation water consumer organisations use for saving and recycling water in this arid region of Spain.
- CEBAS (PP4) finished the development and testing of the advanced DSS (IS9) and was able to carry out a demonstration during the study visit to Spain to partners.
- NARC (PP1) launched and/or installed most of its equipment during the year 2022. Only IS1, IS8, IS9 and the IS2 technologies added by WISPER will be launched and installed in 2023.
- DGGREE (PP3) has launched a number of equipment tenders during 2022 and are in progress or being installed.
- During 2022, the ICU-PROSIM team worked on the replacement of the Lebanese partner PP2 (Ministry of Agriculture) with a Major Amendment of the project and in August 2022 it was implemented. PP2 was replaced by the Regional Cooperation Federation in Bekaa (RCFB). However, the Managing Authority reversed its decision and cancelled the change due to political issues. The ICU-PROSIM team had to make two new Major Amendments in order

for the RCFB to be accepted back into the project, but four months later. This problem reduced the RCFB implementation time from 9 to 5 months.

- In March 2022, the ICU-PROSIM team attended the WaterExpo in Tunisia to present the project and network.

- During 2022, the ICU-PROSIM team significantly increased the number of publications on the ENI CBC MED website and also on the project's LinkedIn page to reach the number of publications per year required by the programme. The number of followers on the LinkedIn page increased from 80 to 400 and interactions with the ENI CBC MED communications manager via the programme's LinkedIn page became continuous.



CROLET – Creation of Job Opportunities through the Territorial Economy - Supporting Local Development in the Governorates of Sidi Bouzid and Kebili

Country of implementation: Tunisia
Main funding body: Italian Ministry of the Interior
Total Project Amount: 1.666.666.26 €
Amount spent for the realisation of the activities and the achievement of the objectives foreseen for the year 2022: €114,583.08

Project Description

The project CROLET - Creation of Job Opportunities through the Territorial Economy - Support to Local Development in the governorates of Sidi Bouzid and Kebili, is part of the "MININT_RELINT 2019" call for proposals of the Italian Ministry of the Interior for cooperation and assistance projects in third countries.

CROLET is implemented by ICU, in partnership with the project leader organisation WW-GVC, in the two Tunisian governorates of Sidi Bouzid and Kebili, respectively in the centre and south of the country and among the most economically disadvantaged.

Within the broader project aiming at strengthening local development in the two governorates, ICU's activities focus on the creation of new enterprises and jobs and the consolidation of existing enterprises in four economic sectors of intervention, two per governorate. (Dates and Fruit and Vegetables in Kebili, Olive Oil and Fruit and Vegetables in Sidi Bouzid)

Activities will include:

- a specific training course in technical, business management and in water and energy saving for 140 beneficiaries interested in agricultural and agri-food sectors;
- a coaching and "incubation" programme (help in drawing up a business plan, access to credit and marketing) for 40 entrepreneurs in the agricultural and agri-food sectors;
- the provision of an endowment fund for the 40 AGRs (Income Generating Activities) of the agricultural and agri-food sectors.

The three-year project started in November 2020 and is 90 per cent financed by the Italian Ministry of the Interior, for a grand total of €1,666,666.26

ICU activities started in March 2021 and have a budget of €495,471.60

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

At the end of the training sessions for agri-food micro-enterprises at the end of October, all training materials (PPT presentations and relevant documents) were shared with the participants via e-mail by ICU staff and, in the period from November to January, ICU was responsible for the development of a comprehensive database integrating all beneficiaries' data, i.e., their project ideas, channel of intervention, planned activity, project location, training modules attended, participation rates, and evaluation scores in the pre- and post-training tests. At the end of the training course, the database developed identified a total of 72 beneficiaries who attended the training courses with a participation rate of at least 60 per cent.

A number of difficulties were encountered during the project implementation, mainly caused by the low commitment of the beneficiaries to the training sessions offered. This can be explained either by the irregularity of available transport, which prevents beneficiaries from attending the organised training sessions, or by the existence of numerous cooperation projects in the regions of Sidi Bouzid and Kebili, which means that beneficiaries are involved in several projects at the same time. As ICU, we are implementing the Crolet project as part of a programme that includes several projects with the same themes and which share the same areas of intervention, and for certain activities such as selecting young people who wish to set up technical and commercial agencies and implementing a training programme that is adapted to their project ideas, enabling them to strengthen their technical and managerial skills. This activity was carried out with some delay in order to get feedback and capitalise on the interventions made to adapt and improve our strategies and working methodology.



INCLUSIVE – Supporting the inclusion of boys and girls with disabilities in Jordanian public schools and kindergartens in Irbid Governorate

Country of implementation: Jordan
Main funding body: AICS – Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo
Total Project Amount: 899.999.97 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 466.871,53 €

Project Description

The project aims to support the Jordanian Ministry of Education in the implementation of its '10-Year Strategy for Inclusive Education' by promoting the inclusion of Jordanian children and refugees with disabilities in Jordanian public schools, starting with pre-school education (kindergartens) and offering a system of inclusive education, providing an integrated system of services, improving the accessibility of buildings and educational activities within them, and working on raising awareness among key stakeholders about the rights of children with disabilities and the importance of inclusive education.

The project considers it essential to work on raising awareness among key stakeholders about the rights of children with disabilities and the importance of inclusive education. This increased awareness should not be an end in itself, but should be used to increase the motivation of stakeholders and promote their active participation in this process.

The project, in line with the Ministry of Education's three-year action plan, provides an integrated approach that works simultaneously at various levels to address the identified needs and to support the school inclusion of 105 boys and girls with disabilities aged 5 years (KG2) to 16 years (35 pre-school children, 70 children aged 6 to 16 years), while simultaneously intervening to improve the general accessibility of the 7 target schools and 7 pre-schools (seven buildings in total, each including school and pre-school), teacher preparation and awareness-raising among the most relevant stakeholders about the rights of persons and children with disabilities and the benefits of inclusive education.

Under **Outcome 1**, the project will offer identified boys and girls and their families various support services that are integrated with the educational support offered by the shadow teachers under Outcome 3, and will be part of the personalised educational plans prepared by the teachers. In addition to offering support to families and ensuring adequate support within schools, it is essential to work on the awareness of key stakeholders regarding the rights of children with disabilities and the importance of inclusive education. Activities under **Outcome 2** therefore promote the active participation of key stakeholders in awareness-raising activities on the human rights and inclusive education of persons with disabilities and stimulate the creation of initiatives proposed by the stakeholders themselves, in order to promote ownership of the initiative, stimulate lasting behavioural change and ensure greater sustainability over time. The activities implemented under Outcomes 1 and 2 will be complementary to the inclusion work and will be carried out within the educational institutions. On the one hand, these buildings and the activities therein will be made more accessible and suitable for children through infrastructural works and the provision of tools, technological devices, furniture and materials that make educational activities accessible to people with disabilities. The rest of the activities under **Outcome 3** will ensure the inclusion process at school by hiring 25 shadow

teachers and supporting assistants trained in methods and strategies to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities. These teachers will develop a customised educational plan for each student (105 boys and girls, 35 pre-schoolers) and implement it during the school year in coordination with regular teachers and professionals in charge of providing rehabilitation services.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

During the reporting period, 135 CWD were enrolled in the 7 schools identified, 59 children with disabilities (7 Syrian, 51 Jordanian, 1 other - Palestinian) had access to safe and supportive learning environments. A total of 25 shadow teachers were trained to support CWDs and facilitate enrolment and retention. These teachers were women because AICS-funded schools are girls' schools, due to the presence of kindergartens (KG), which is a mandate of the project. 51 parents received coaching sessions and 31 CWDs received a transport allowance for five months. During the reporting period, all 7 schools were provided with visual aids as a result of the needs assessment conducted by the MC. All 7 schools were also reformed to ensure full accessibility for CWDs. 5 CWDs were provided with accommodation equipment to ensure that students receive the support they need to realise their full potential. 36 teachers received training in early childhood development. 4 support groups were established in 4 different areas of Irbid to support CWD parents; the project funded 4 small grants to support project proposals written by the parent groups. 28 volunteers were trained to organise an awareness-raising campaign and disseminate CWD rights in their communities. A 3-month awareness-raising campaign was conducted in schools and communities, reaching out to key actors in the community. 7 plays were performed in 7 schools to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Social, Emotional, Ethical and Compassionate Learning (SEEC) training was implemented in 4 targeted schools in the Irbid area, with a total of 86 student and teacher participants (an unexpected increase from the original agreed number of 60 students and 16 teachers). The training is based on the idea that education can, and indeed should, be expanded to promote the values and skills that lead to greater happiness for teachers, students and society at large.

SEARCHED – Strengthening Employment and entrepreneurial Activities to Recover COVID-19 Epidemic Damages

Country of implementation: Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan
Main funding body: Union for the Mediterranean
Total project amount: 503.416,81 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 242.266,26 €

Project Description

The SEARCHED project aims to play a relevant role in addressing the current and expected socio-economic impact that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is having on the MENA region through a multi-sectoral approach in three different countries; Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan. The specific objective of the project is to improve the business environment taking into

account the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting capacity building and training programmes for the unemployed population, and developing resources and services for SMEs, focusing on the agribusiness and energy efficiency sectors in Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan to enable income generation and job creation. The agriculture and energy efficiency sectors are seen as key to increasing the resilience of the target countries to the consequences of climate change, water scarcity, food insecurity and migration; a situation exacerbated by the current global pandemic that profoundly affects the most vulnerable population groups, who are also the least able to cope.

The overall objective is to help mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan.

The beneficiaries of the project are: local technical institutions working in the agro-food sector (in Tunisia and Jordan); 81 young graduates/enrolled in postgraduate courses and 40 young people from rural areas/farmers in Tunisia and Jordan (< 35 years old); 200 SMEs and/or SME associations (of which 60 are women) working in the agro-food sector in Tunisia; 35 SMEs and 50 ESCOs in Lebanon.

The project started on 16 July 2021 and ended on 30 June 2022.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Tunisia:

- 25 members of the APIA - Agence de Promotion des Investissements Agricoles have been trained on financial and technical issues and are in turn able to train project beneficiary enterprises;
- 214 micro-enterprises working in the agri-food sector were trained on financial and technical issues;
- 1 customised information desk was created for access to foreign markets for the benefit of the small and medium-sized enterprises benefiting from the project;

Lebanon:

- 99 people including financial institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), NGOs, researchers were reached through an awareness-raising campaign on the benefits of using sustainable energy and financing opportunities;
- 5 information sessions for SMEs on existing credit funds/financial incentives for green energy investments;
- The first module of the capacity building programme planned for ESCOs was implemented.

Beneficiaries reached in 2022:

- 214 companies working in the agri-food sector and 25 APIA members in Tunisia
- 56 ESCOs and 113 SMEs in Lebanon.



Libia - Improving capacities to access basic health services and specialised protection services for the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in southern Libya (AID 12031)

Country of implementation: Libya
Main funding body: AICS Tunisi
Total Project Amount: 790.475,00 € (of which ICU 60.805,00 €)
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 13.689,06 €

Project Description

The project proposes an integrated response between the Health and Protection sector to facilitate the access of the most vulnerable segments of the population to specialised basic health and protection services with a positive impact on resilience by providing support in 7 health centres, including equipment, infrastructure, personnel and expertise, as well as strengthening protection services for 6 communities in Ubari, Wadi Ashashati and Sebha Mantika. The overall objective is to help improve health conditions and protection services for the most vulnerable in southern Libya. The specific objective is to increase the quality of health services and the capacity to access specialised protection services for the most vulnerable individuals (including women, children, persons with disabilities, victims of gender-based violence, IDPs, migrants and refugees) in Ubari, Wadi Ashashati and Sebha Mantika. The lead partner is WW-GVC; ICU is a project partner with a training activity for health personnel (ToT) in prenatal/reproductive health.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached by the year 2022

From January 2022 to June 2022 (project end date) ICU finalised from an administrative and reporting point of view the training activity of Libyan health personnel (ToT) carried out in 2021 in the field of antenatal/reproductive health. In particular, this involved processing and sending the certificates of participation in the training, as well as managing the reporting activity as envisaged by the donor and as shared with partner Migrace and We-WorldGVC.

In addition, ICU supported Migrace in the management of the cascade training, carried out by the doctors trained by ICU (9 participants) in Hammamet between 29 November and 4 December 2022 on the topics of paediatric neonatal resuscitation and gynaecological emergency.



EVE : Efficacité et Valorisation des Eaux d’irrigation à travers des actions pilotes en Sicile et Tunisie”

Country of implementation: Tunisia and Italy
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 1.057.535,20 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 72.594,2 €

Project Description

The EVE project is part of the EU cross-border cooperation programme 'Italy-Tunisia 2014-2020' under the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

The project is implemented in two cities: Alcamo in Sicily (Italy) and Nabeul (Tunisia). ICU is the project leader, two partners are also involved: the municipality of Alcamo (Vda) and the Société de Gestion de la Technopole de Borj Cedria (SGTBC).

The EVE project proposes innovative non-conventional water irrigation solutions to cope with the water shortage in the cities of Alcamo and Nabeul. Indeed, the lack of irrigation leads to a loss of value, the disappearance of crops and a drop in farmers' incomes.

The main expected results of the project are:

- Irrigation of 20 agricultural plots (11.5 ha) with nano/ultrafiltration systems.
- Irrigation of 15 hectares based on information and communication technology. The ICT system consists of an agrometeorological station connected to tensiometric probes.
- Technical support for 180 farmers is planned.
- Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Technical capacity building of stakeholders: training of more than 30 technicians.

- Organisation of dissemination days.
- Installation of 06 nanofiltrations.
- Installation and operation of an agrometeorological station and tensiometric probes.
- Visit of VdA partner to take advantage of CRDA-Nabeul's experience on the reuse of treated wastewater.



PRESTo: PROMOTING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN TUNISIA

Country of implementation: Tunisia
Main funding body: Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)
Total Project Amount: 2.987.711,78 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 31.876,54 €

Project Description

The PRESTo project aims to contribute to the strengthening of the population's resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change through sustainable and conscious management of natural resources in Tunisia (OG). This 36-month process is based on strengthening the capacities and role of civil society and agricultural institutions in the Governorates of Nabeul, Bizerte, Mahdia and Jendouba in addressing global climate challenges (OG).

The strength and specificity of the PRESTo project lies in the logic with which the Initiative intends to proceed. Starting with the partnership, which sees the establishment of a solid and cohesive ATS between two NGOs with proven experience: CEFA (support to civil society, promotion of small businesses and valorisation of local heritage) and ICU (promotion of sustainable development, innovative solutions in the agronomic and water efficiency fields). These competences are complemented by the strategic institutional presence of the DGGREE (Direction Générale de Génie Rural et de l'Exploitation des Eaux) and the technical expertise

of the other partners: the Institute for BioEconomy - IBE (preservation and management of natural resources), the Agence de la vulgarisation et de la formation agricoles - AVFA (good agricultural practices), ATDE (environment, legislation and participatory processes).

This partnership makes it possible to develop a broad and composite intervention in which the objective of resilience and adaptation to climate change is declined according to clearly differentiated targets. At the same time, the project's range of action acquires territorial completeness, involving key actors from the urban reality (R1), the institutional sphere (R2) and the rural context (R3).

The intervention logic is summarised in three complementary axes.

The first (R1), for which CEFA is responsible, is dedicated to the technical and thematic strengthening of civil society for the management of association projects and the implementation of an information and awareness-raising campaign on the causes and effects of climate change. Target groups for this axis are members of local associations and young people. The objective is to transmit the tools and skills necessary for CSOs to become the vector through which they can implement direct actions on the ground and activate the population.

The strengthening of the institutions linked to the Ministry of Agriculture, aimed at water efficiency and the adoption of resilient agricultural techniques, constitutes the second axis of intervention (R2) for which ICU is responsible, and has as its target group 100 executives and technicians from the local ministry structures. Direct skills transfer to qualified personnel will take place through the development of innovative solutions (apps) and demonstration practices (installations on pilot plots). In addition, training courses will be conducted for technicians, extension workers and experts from institutions to improve knowledge on good agricultural practices (GAP), water efficiency and diversification, and the interrelation between agriculture and climate change. The impact produced will be twofold: on the one hand, the development and experimentation of technological innovations will allow the acquisition of new skills on the ground, which can be replicated in other areas of the country; on the other hand, the trained target audience will become a means of transmission and dissemination of good practices on the ground.

Dissemination that will already begin with the third axis of intervention (R3), jointly implemented by ICU and CEFA, aimed at improving farmers' knowledge and strengthening their production capacities, thanks to access to resilient and sustainable agronomic techniques and thanks to the financial support provided by the project to implement them. 560 small and medium-sized farmers will be made aware of the GAPs developed through R2 and of these 160 will access the training, coaching and creation of resilient micro-enterprises, where improved management of natural resources (soil, water) will be combined with increased land productivity. Farmers will be accompanied in the drafting of bankable business plans for direct financing of 40 SMEs and orientation towards other financial products.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

The project started in October 2022.

During the start-up phase, partnership agreements were developed to start the project activities and the steering committee was established.

As regards the activities for which ICU is responsible, a study was conducted to identify sites for the installation of four nanofiltration plants, with the aim of improving the quality of water resources in the governorate of Nabeul.

In parallel, a preliminary analysis was carried out for the introduction of irrigation systems specific to the challenges of climate change, with the aim of improving water management. Finally, three agro-meteorological stations were installed in the governorate of Nabeul to collect real-time data on the weather situation and cultivated land in the intervention area.



December 2022, Nabeul Governorate: Installation of agro-meteorological stations (PRESTo-Wisper)

PASs: Promoting Access to Health Services and Training for Iraq's Christian-Chaldean Minority Population

Country of implementation: Lebanon
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 842.229,10 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 67.695,26 €

Project Description

The initiative aims to contribute to the reduction of inequalities between the Iraqi population belonging to the Christian-Chaldean minority and the other communities living in Lebanon. The persecution of the Christian minorities in Iraq has led to the perpetuation of a humanitarian emergency that still forces hundreds of people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, where some 2,500 Iraqi Chaldean families are currently living in a marginalised situation. After entering Lebanon with regular tourist visas of limited duration, once their visas expire, Iraqis continue to live inside the country without protection and rights.

As Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention, it does not guarantee any rights to refugee individuals on its territory.

As a result of the experience gained from working on site and analysing the context and needs of the beneficiary community, ICU and its partner CCSL (Charitable Chaldean Society in Lebanon), a local NGO that has been working with the Chaldean Christian community for years, chose to focus the project on interventions that specifically address the needs identified as most relevant: health (physical and mental) and training (vocational and life skills). More than 90 per cent of the Chaldean population, in fact, has no access to health services and, following the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the level of psychological distress and stress, cases of domestic violence and alcohol consumption. Furthermore, the low level of professional and interpersonal skills puts the Chaldean Christian minority at risk of further marginalisation and social stigma.

The proposal therefore focuses on the areas of basic health, mental health and professional and interpersonal skills and aims to achieve the following results

- 1) Facilitating access to basic health services for the most vulnerable Christian-Chaldean population, through health information and awareness-raising, the start-up of a health-pharmaceutical dispensary with a doctor in charge and, for cases requiring a higher level of care, the activation of a referral system to the medical centre, with 75% of the cost of health services being covered;
- 2) Activating a mental health service to reduce the distress of the Christian-Chaldean population, through: awareness-raising on mental health, domestic violence and alcohol consumption, the opening of a psychological desk and training courses for the local partner's staff
- 3) To improve the professional and interpersonal skills of the Christian Chaldean population, through: English and computer courses, training on life skills, also in view of the insertion in the countries of final destination.

The action focuses on the north-eastern outskirts of Beirut, areas of Baouchriye, Sabtieh and Dekwaneh, in the Metn District, where 90 per cent of Iraqi families belonging to the Christian-Chaldean minority currently live in Lebanon. By recognising health (physical and mental) as a right and, at the same time, as a condition and opportunity for human development and economic growth of the communities, in the long term the project will have the impact of reducing the vulnerability of the Christian-Chaldean refugee population in Lebanon and creating space for development. In addition, the improvement of basic and interpersonal skills, necessary in themselves and also for a less traumatic transition in the country of final destination, will increase the number of Christian-Chaldeans present in Lebanon who will be able to positively resettle elsewhere. Through the work carried out during the project, the CCSL staff will acquire the skills and capacities to continue the actions initiated, ensuring a better lasting service to the beneficiary population.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Started a pharmaceutical dispensary with medical staff for consultations and distribution of medicines for chronic and non-chronic illnesses, activation of a referral mechanism to the reference hospital for the implementation of specialist visits;

Activated a mental health service with the presence of a psychologist and a social worker;

Improved the skills of the Christian-Chaldean population and neighbouring communities on health issues through the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns;

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2022: 288
 Indirect beneficiaries reached in 2022: 1200

SIR: Promoting Access to Health Services and Training for Iraq's Christian-Chaldean Minority Population

Country of implementation: Lebanon
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 842.229,10 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 15.678,47 €

Project Description

The project started on 2 September 2022 and has a duration of 12 months (closing date: 1 September 2023).

The planned activities will be implemented in Baalbek/Hermel Governorate, specifically in the Municipalities of Hermel and Al Ain.

The objective of the intervention is to improve not only access to an income for 402 individuals (50% Lebanese, 50% other nationalities/refugees) residing in the targeted Municipalities, but also access to public services and infrastructures for the resident communities, through the provision of temporary employment and support to the Municipalities in delivering public services to the population.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached (for the year 2022)

From the beginning of the project (2 September 2022) to the end of 2022, several meetings were organised with the various stakeholders involved in the intervention, in particular, the donor, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the target municipalities and local partners. The purpose of these meetings was to officially present the project to all stakeholders and start laying the foundations for the proper implementation of the activities.

In November and December 2022, all projects involved in Cash for Work AID 12249 were suspended. One of the main partners of the intervention (the Ministry of Social Affairs), in charge of the registration of candidate beneficiaries and the finalisation of the list of actual beneficiaries, underwent a period of internal reorganisation: the mandate of the Director General ended on 31 October 2022 and the Ministry had to find a replacement. This entailed a review of the team dedicated to the initiative and the various projects active under it.

INCREASING ACCESS AND PLANNING FOR EFFICIENT COOLING SOLUTIONS IN JORDAN

Country of implementation: Jordan
Main funding body: Clean Cooling Collaborative – Climate Work Foundation
Total Project Amount: 619 151,00 USD – 526 959,42 EUR
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 252489,59 EUR

Project Description

The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to the Government of Jordan (GoJ) to upgrade its NDC to include efficient and climate-friendly cooling, and to define a strategic and financial action plan to achieve the set target. Pilot interventions will also be implemented in selected public schools based on their location in the country's different climate zones and their needs, and technical guidelines for intervention in public buildings will be published to demonstrate how the upgraded NDC can be achieved in practice.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Beneficiaries reached by result in 2022:

Milestone 2.1: Thermal and energy audit conducted in 10 schools to select 4 schools for pilot installations

A thermal and energy audit was conducted to collect data from 10 schools across the country. This data was fed into a model aimed at optimising the impact of the intervention through a thorough analysis of applicable solutions taking into account various parameters and the available budget.

Four schools were selected, based on the results of the energy and thermal audit and applying different optimisation criteria. The schools are: Qali'at High School for Girls, Shaikh Hussain High School for Girls, Wadi Mousa High School for Boys and Bait Yafa School for Girls.

Each of the schools is located in one of the 4 identified microclimate areas of the country, which will increase the significance, representativeness and scalability of the pilot projects.

The thermal and energy audits were completed and the final report was reviewed. The final version was delivered on 17 August.

Milestone 2.2: 4 pilot projects installed in selected schools

Given the nature of the interventions and their economic value, following internal procedures, it was decided to issue a tender for the installation of equipment and infrastructure. The first tender was unsuccessful, as the tender prices were high.

The tender was re-published in local newspapers and online on 7 August 2022, with a deadline for purchasing tender documents set for 10 August 2022. Bidder site visits were conducted on 15 and 21 August 2022. The deadline for submission of bids was 25 August 2022. Five companies submitted blind bids, which were publicly opened in the presence of the bidders'

representatives, the representative of the auditor's office and the university's main works procurement committee.

The bids were evaluated and the tender was awarded to 'Jordan Sadeen Contracting & Construction Co. Ltd. The work order was issued on 23 November 2022 and is to be completed within four months.

Below is the work progress for each school:

- Qali'at Girls' High School
 - The plans for the photovoltaic systems have been submitted to the local electricity distribution company, awaiting approval to start work.
 - Roof insulation is in progress
- Shaikh Hussain Girls' School
 - The plans for the photovoltaic plants have been submitted to the local electricity distribution company, awaiting approval to start work.
- Wadi Mousa Boys' High School
 - The plans for the photovoltaic systems have been submitted to the local electricity distribution company, awaiting approval to start work.
- Bait Yafa Girls' School
 - The plans for the photovoltaic systems have been submitted to the local electricity distribution company, awaiting approval to start work.
 - Installation of the new electricity grid to power the air conditioning units is underway

AFRICA

A market driven approach for value chain improvements and the expansion of the Rwandan coffee market

Country of implementation: Rwanda
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 2.502.214 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 609.030,1 €

Project Description

The four-year Coffee Value Chain Development project aims to improve the quality and quantity of coffee produced by smallholder farmers, strengthen coffee processors and cooperatives to build more sustainable enterprises, facilitate access to finance and increase visibility on the international market. The project is working with more than 12,000 smallholder farmers and 20 coffee washing stations in 12 districts of Rwanda.

At the farm level, we provide extension services and training, coffee seedlings, and facilitate access to finance through Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA). At the Coffee Washing Station (CWS) level, we support CWSs to improve their capacity through the provision of equipment, improving wastewater management and providing efforts in quality, financial and operational management. At the market level, we facilitate connections with international buyers and financial service providers (FSPs).

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

At farm level, we were able to distribute a total of 460,000 coffee seedlings to farmers at 20 coffee washing stations as part of the project. This is in addition to the 450,000 that were distributed in December 2021.

At the CWS level, eight (8) coffee washing stations were supported to obtain Rain Forest Alliance certification. These 8 CWS represent 48% of the total production of all 20 CWS supported by the ICU (2022 season).

In addition, two buyers (Italian and American) visited the CWSs SAKE, Mubuga, NOVA, Fugi/Nyampinga, Nyakizu and COOCAMU in July 2022. These visits resulted in the signing of four export contracts by the CWSs for a total of \$393,152.40 (50,880 kg), which translates into an average price of \$7.72/kg. With regard to marketing, in cooperation with NAEB and the Rwandan Embassy in the Netherlands, a one-day event was organised in The Hague in September. In October, 14 quality managers were trained on coffee quality management. The training was conducted by the Bloom School of Coffee, a school certified by the Specialty Coffee Association. The project also supported NAEB in conducting a national coffee campaign focusing on the rejuvenation of coffee.



Rwanda - Business development of the coffee and fruit and vegetable agri-food chains in Rwanda for lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic and employment growth and to overcome the consequences of the pandemic

Country of implementation: Rwanda
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 1.902.128,30 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 76879,74 €

Project Description

The three-year coffee and horticulture value chain development project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented in collaboration with the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), KAHAWATU, ANIMA and College Fondation SINA Gerard (CFSG). The project aims to support over 4,000 small

vegetable farmers and 20 export companies. Project interventions aim to improve quality and quantity at farm level, improve operations and financial management, access to finance and markets.

Involve actors in the coffee and horticulture value chain. Increase turnover, profitability and employment. Focus on inclusive economic growth and high social and environmental impact. Include young people and women and counteract the negative effects of the pandemic.

The project works to achieve these objectives by providing business development services, technical assistance and market linkages to SMEs in the agri-food value chain. In addition, the project focuses on capacity building of SMEs and promoting gender equality by actively involving women and youth in project activities.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Project activities started with the inclusion of partners and now the project has signed memoranda of understanding with five horticultural farms. All farms have external farmers who benefit from GAP training courses on regenerative agriculture and organic production methods. Each farm provided 5 farmer groups of about 20 members each for the first season only.

Provision of inputs: ICU granted EUR 5000 to all participating farms for seedlings or irrigation kit for the selected farmer group. ICU provides additional support for transplanting the seedlings and monitoring the farms. ICU agronomists follow these farmers closely and respond to some of their challenges.

With regard to marketing, ICU has assisted coffee and horticultural companies in participating in regional and international events, such as the Amsterdam coffee festival, the World Coffee Producers Forum, AFCA in February 2023 and Fruit Logistica.

UMUCO W'ITERAMBERE - RENOUE Burundi - Energies Renouvelables pour le Burundi

Country of implementation: Burundi
Main funding body: European Union
Total Project Amount: 4.237.399,42 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 644.271,09 €

Project Description

The intervention, which started in December 2019, aims to strengthen the resilience of the population, promote access to electricity for landlocked and disadvantaged rural households, for existing agricultural and productive activities, making them more robust, and for health centres and primary and secondary schools, which are located in particularly isolated regions, through the provision and installation of renewable energy systems.

The project is part of a large 'Resilience Programme for Burundi' financed by the European Union and articulated around 3 components: Health, Food Security and Energy.

The 'Energy' programme is implemented by three consortia led respectively by the NGO AVSI, the UNDP and the NGO LVIA.

ICU operates as part of a consortium of 3 Italian NGOs (LVIA, GVC and ICU) in which the NGO LVIA takes the lead role.

Institutional and technical support is provided by the General Directorate of Energy of the Burundian Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines through a Technical Monitoring Committee.

The project interventions are multi-sectoral and are based on 5 axes of intervention/expected results

1. Access to solar energy for households;
2. Access to solar energy for essential social services;
3. Access to solar energy for economic activities;
4. The strengthening of vocational training for young people and the creation of jobs in the solar energy sector;
5. The protection of the rural environment through the promotion of sustainable and effective wood/energy technologies and management systems.

ICU operates axes 2,3,4 and 5 and its activities are located in the provinces of Kirundo in the north of Burundi and Ruyigi and Rutana in the east. ICU has a local partner (GLICE) for the implementation of vocational training activities for young people (point 4).

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

Axis 2: Electrification of basic social services

Feasibility study and preparation of the tender dossier for "the supply, installation, commissioning, training/technical assistance for 26 photovoltaic systems of 1 kWp, 1.8 kWp, 2.8 kWp in 30 schools in the Provinces of Kirundo and Ruyigi" closed and submitted to the DGE (Directorate-General for Energy) for final validation in view of the start of the international open tender procedure.

Axis 3: Purchase and installation of solar-powered food processing plants (mills and decorticators) for production activities.

- Feasibility study and drafting of the specifications for the supply, installation, commissioning, training/technical assistance of 7 photovoltaic semi-mills for rice processing and 6 photovoltaic mills for maize processing at 13 Agricultural Producer Organisations concluded and approved by the DGE (Directorate General for Energy). National open tender procedure concluded.

- Feasibility study and drafting of the specifications for the supply, installation, commissioning, training/technical assistance of 13 photovoltaic systems for recharging telephones at 13 Producer Organisations closed and submitted to the DGE (Directorate General for Energy) for final validation in view of the launching of the restricted procedure for the award of the contract.

Axis 4: Certified vocational training in photovoltaic energy for young people

75 young people (29 girls and 46 boys) between the ages of 18 and 30 followed the specific certified vocational training cycle on solar energy and the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems.

Axis 5: Construction of improved masonry community kitchens in schools

Feasibility study and drafting of the specifications for the construction of 14 improved masonry community kitchens with kitchen shelters at 14 school canteens enclosed and approved by the DGE (Directorate-General for Energy).



Access to renewable energy in off-grid areas of Burundi as a driver of socio-economic development (Aid: 011876)

Country of implementation: Burundi
Main funding body: AICS
Total Project Amount: 2.022.853,50 €
Amount spent for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the planned targets of the year 2022: 423.326,56€

Project Description

The intervention, launched last November 2019, aims to contribute to Burundi's resilience and socio-economic development through a secure, affordable and sustainable supply of solar energy to strengthen the agricultural production chain, the commercial supply chain, basic services (health centres and schools) and the living conditions of households in the off-grid rural areas of Bujumbura Rural, Rumonge, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces. A heterogeneous partnership with specific and complementary competencies underpins the initiative:

- ICU, head of the consortium, has strong technical expertise in Renewable Energy in Sub-Saharan African countries. In Burundi, over the past few years, the organisation has become one of the main NGOs active and leading (under the tutelage of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines) in the coordination and implementation of major interventions dedicated to increasing access to electricity from renewable sources to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.
- LVIA, the consortium's lead partner, offers consolidated experience in agricultural and rural development in Burundi;
- GLICE, a local partner strongly rooted in the territory, offers certified professional training specifically on complementary solar with ICU for knowledge transfer and its awareness-raising campaigns have a strong hold on the population;

- ABER, the local authority responsible for rural electrification, provides institutional and technical support in the implementation of the project infrastructure.

Results achieved and beneficiaries reached

- Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a photovoltaic mini-grid with an electrical production capacity of 54 kWp and a storage capacity of 90 kWh at the municipal market of Gitaza with 122 productive and commercial activities connected with individual meters to the system
- 5 training sessions carried out in PV mini-grid O&M and the PAYGO billing system for 11 technicians from ABER and the Gitaza municipal market users' committee to ensure the smooth operation of the system and continuity of electricity supply
- Supply and installation of 5 solar pumping systems for 1,422 agricultural producers and 5 drip irrigation systems of 5,000 m² each
- Supply and installation of 1 solar thermal fruit and vegetable dryer, 1 maize mill and 1 rice husker/grating machine at 1 target CSA
- 182 farmers trained (110 men and 72 women) on the proper use and routine maintenance of the photovoltaic equipment provided by the project
- 20 popular events held to inform about the potential of Solar Home Systems (SHS) to meet household energy needs and generate income for women micro-entrepreneurs
- 339 women trained and ready to start dissemination (door-to-door sales) of SHS in their localities
- 395 SHS marketed through women seller networks with appropriate installment purchase schemes.
- Creation and start-up of 10 community small businesses with solar phone charging kiosks and 14 women-led rural electrification community small businesses
- Development and publication of specific training manual on solar energy, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems in order to strengthen the training offer of certified vocational training
- 5 Training-of-Trainers sessions carried out for 15 specialists in the Renewable Energy sector to assimilate the contents of the training manual and the teaching methodology of the specific certified vocational course in solar energy, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems
- 88 young people aged between 18 and 30 (54 men and 34 women) from the provinces of Bujumbura, Ruyigi and Rutana completed the specific certified vocational training in solar energy, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems
- 7,040 total hours of vocational training carried out in companies active in the solar energy sector in Burundi by the students participating in the certified vocational training
- 22 IEC (Information, Education, Communication) events carried out with a total of 23,854 people sensitised and more aware of the economic and social benefits of using energy from renewable sources.
- Elaboration of a comparative analysis of the energy sector regulations adopted by Burundi, the East African Community countries, and best practice Italy.



6) Economic and financial situation

Sources of economic resources with separate indication of public and private contributions:

Contributions received during the year 2022 are shown, while for the income for the year we refer to the annual financial statements.

PUBLIC FINANCIERS	Contributions received in the year 2022
AICS	€ 6.753.719,4
EU	€ 3.836.722,59
PRIVATE FINANCIERS	
Private individuals for cooperation activities	€ 140.036,49
Private individuals for institutional activities	€ 19.862,65
Other Funders	€ 182.630,97
Total	€ 10.932.972,10

Specific information on fundraising activities, general and specific purposes of fundraising during the reporting period, tools used to provide information to the public on the resources raised and their destination:

The ICU does not carry out or organise fundraising activities; private contributions received in 2022 refer to spontaneous donations.

Directors' reporting of any critical management issues and highlighting of actions taken to mitigate the negative effects: there are no reports that have emerged from the administrators concerning any critical issues.

7) Other information

Information on ongoing litigation/disputes that are relevant for social reporting purposes:

There are no ongoing litigations and/or disputes relevant to social reporting.

Environmental information, if relevant to the entity's activities:

The types of environmental impacts related to the activities carried out, the policies and methods for managing these impacts, the environmental impact indicators and the variations in their values are indicated in section 5 "Objectives and Activities", since each project (by country, by activity, by policies and by management methods) generates an activity-related environmental impact that differs according to the individual project carried out.

Other non-financial information:

The politics of 'We': The 'We' policy, understood as a team of people working in constant teamwork, is fundamental, both within and outside the work environment. Respect for colleagues, embracing the power of diversity, treating everyone with respect and dignity, encouraging teamwork and cooperation, fostering an atmosphere of openness, and always avoiding all forms of discrimination and political manoeuvring, are, for us, fundamental elements that characterise our work ethic and our personal ethics.

The strength of diversity: The diversity of the world's peoples is for us an element of rare beauty that must be safeguarded and protected. We at ICU carefully avoid discrimination on the basis of race, religion, origin, pregnancy status, gender, age, marital status, mental or physical disability and any other characteristic protected by law.

Combating harassment, discrimination and bullying: Our commitment to combating discrimination, harassment and bullying in any form (verbal, physical or visual) is constant, both inside and outside the workplace.

Human Rights: No violations were reported.

The power of dialogue: This is the tool we use and encourage to avoid clashes, particularly between different communities.

Accountability and transparency: Carrying out operations under our own responsibility with attention to the use of resources and managing donor funding according to the highest standards of accountability and transparency are the founding principles of activity management. We, as a group, involve local communities and populations in the planning and execution of our field programmes and respect their cultural and economic needs. We, as a group, always seek to minimise the environmental impact of our activities and ensure that they always comply with all environmental protection legislation.

8) Monitoring carried out by the control body

As a Non-Governmental Organisation, ICU classifies as a Third Sector Entity other than a social enterprise. Accordingly, the Board of Auditors carried out the monitoring of compliance with the social aims, with particular regard to the provisions of Legislative Decree No. 117/2017, Articles 5, 6, 7, 8.

The Board of Auditors, following its audits, can state that:

- ICU exclusively carries out development cooperation activities, as referred to in Article 5(1)(n) of Legislative Decree No. 117/2017, for solidaristic and socially useful civic purposes;
- ICU does not carry out fund-raising activities; contributions come from participation in international calls for proposals on cooperation and development projects. In addition to the contributions received following the awarding of the above-mentioned tenders, ICU receives donations from private individuals, aimed at the development of its statutory activities;
- ICU pursues the non-profit purpose, through the allocation of its assets, inclusive of all its components (revenues, income, proceeds, income however denominated) for the performance of the statutory activity and pursues 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 set forth in Article 8, paragraph 3, letters a) to e), which are listed below:

"(a) the payment to directors, auditors and anyone holding corporate offices of individual remuneration that is not proportionate to the activity carried out, the responsibilities assumed and the specific skills or in any case higher than those provided for in entities operating in the same or similar sectors and conditions;

(b) the payment to employees or self-employed persons of salaries or remuneration that is forty per cent higher than those provided for, for the same qualifications, by the collective agreements referred to in Article 51 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of 15 June 2015, except for proven needs relating to the need to acquire specific skills for the purpose of carrying out the activities of general interest referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, letters b), g) or h)

(c) the purchase of goods or services for consideration which, without good economic reasons, exceeds their normal value;

d) the supply of goods and services, at conditions more favourable than market conditions, to members, associates or participants, to founders, to members of the administrative and control bodies, to those who in capacity work for the organisation or are part of it, to individuals who make donations to the organisation, their relatives up to the third degree and their relatives-in-law up to the second degree, as well as the companies directly or indirectly controlled or affiliated by them, exclusively by reason of their capacity, unless such donations or services do not constitute the object of the activity of general interest referred to in Article 5;

(e) the payment to entities other than banks and authorised financial intermediaries of interest charges, in respect of loans of any kind, which are four points above the annual reference rate. The aforementioned limit may be updated by decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, in agreement with the Minister of Economy and Finance."