



We build bridges

Communication on Engagement

Dear Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that Associazione Don Bosco 2000 reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Piazza Armerina, 22/03/2019



Agostino Sella

President

About Associazione Don Bosco 2000

Don Bosco 2000 Association is an Italian no-profit organization which aims to promote **integration** and **solidarity** through the development of human beings, with particular attention to young people and women who live in social, economic and intellectual poverty. It was constituted in 1998 by a young Italian couple of **Salesian cooperators**, engaged in education and social fields. After 20 years, the association has grown over time and now has a long experience in national and international projects and in the implementation of activities that are economically sustainable and have an impact on future generations in partnership with other European associations.

The key points on which Don Bosco 2000 association's vision is based are:

- attention to local youth
- support to vulnerable people, in particular to migrants
- attention to territory's needs
- projects for international cooperation for development.

Overall, the Don Bosco 2000 association carries out activities in the following sectors:

- migrants' reception and integration;
- education for global citizenship;
- local development;
- international cooperation.

The association delivers activities for the social integration of migrants through medical care, food, clothes, legal assistance and language courses. The association uses specific psychological, social, legal and cultural interventions to support young people, women and families in vulnerable situations such as violence and discrimination.



Associazione Don Bosco 2000 - Impresa Sociale
Italia - Senegal - Gambia

All these interventions have been focused mainly on migrants over the past 7 years because of the emergency situation of war and poverty that after 2011 pushed people from Asia and Africa to move towards Europe, and Sicily (in Italy) in particular. The association has also a leading role in the creation of a stable dialogue with institutions and associations of volunteers which manage these vulnerable people. For the last three years Don Bosco 2000 has been working also in the countries of origin of migrants. In these projects in Africa, staff of the association travel to Senegal and Gambia with migrants who want to implement development project to reduce forced migration and to offer job opportunities for young people within the Circular Migration Programme.

Description of the actions and outcomes

PREVALENT ACTIVITIES

The activities delivered for the social integration of migrants are currently funded by a Ministry of Internal Affairs' project. The association provides not only material care (food, clothes, shelter, medical care, legal assistance, basic courses of Italian language) but also a range of services to improve the integration of refugees into the community and to increase awareness about the migratory phenomena. It has also been rewarded for the efforts and the results in the activity of integration of migrants in the job market, through the implementation of specific policies that support youth inclusion, especially for migrants. The workplace is particularly effective because it is the setting where migrants can improve their work knowledge and get in touch with the Italian culture.

A milestone of the association's work is the solid network made of local and international associations, institutions, NGOs, and other partners that ensure the spread of the projects and the continuous exchange of best practices among countries.

The main activities of the association are the following:

- “SPRAR, Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati”, a programme of protection for asylum seekers and refugees funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Currently we manage approximately 125 migrants in the Sicilian two municipalities of Piazza Armerina and Aidone. The SPRAR system is based on a multi-disciplinary team, which is composed of several professionals, including a psychologist, a psychotherapist, intercultural mediators, interpreters, a social/legal operator, a nurse and a socio-sanitary operator. Every 15 days, team meetings are held to define the activities of the associations, with official reports and documents that are sent to local institutions and to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to comply with law requirements. Don Bosco 2000 association has ranked in a good position in the official league of the associations that are funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs that work with migrants,

due to the high quality activities performed and the professional skills of the staff. The migrant people that are currently living in our association come from different areas of the world: Pakistan, Somalia, Gambia, Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, Syria, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Libya and Mali. We host families with children as well as single persons. In agreement with the criteria set by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, these migrants are offered a full-time support for the following services: welcoming, hosting (house, food, clothes, a pocket money for basic needs), health and social assistance (medical screening at entry and subsequent assistance for any health issues, especially for children such as vaccination and medicine delivery in the nursery of the association and also in the local hospital), support for children in school ages, Italian language courses (three days a week), cultural mediation (the most important part of our work, which focuses on the understanding of migrants' needs considering their specific origin, habits, and traditions), legal support (which is the key to start the integration in the local community as citizens with the same rights as Italian people) and job-placement support (through the collaboration with local firms and association). Furthermore, many events are routinely planned to increase the opportunities of exchange and integration between migrants and people from the local community.

- Centre for unaccompanied migrant minors in Catania (in the east coast of Sicily), which offers house shelter for young migrants who arrive in Sicily without a family or adult support. As in the SPRAR projects, a multidisciplinary team manages a group of 60 young migrants, supporting not only basic needs (legal and sanitary issues) but also additional activity of education and integration.
- Salesian youth centre, which is located in Ostello del Borgo, in the heart of Piazza Armerina, in Sicily and gives support to disadvantaged people through the implementation of projects and interventions for youth, after-school activities and entertainment events, according to the salesian mission.

- The GIO' SOCIAL HOUSE, a multimedia centre which is used not only to show movies and events but also to promote socio-cultural activities using innovative digital equipment. Since July 2015, the GIO' SOCIAL HOUSE has hosted presentation of books, jam sessions, students' movie sessions and conferences on social issues. The objective of the GIO' project is to develop a "social cine-theatre" as a place to share culture and art events.
- DASNEWS, an internet news platform used to inform about the association activities and the local territory events concerning migration, integration, cooperation and youth welfare.

NEW ACTIVITIES

The circular migration project

Our experience on the empowerment of young people to protect them through education, employment and environment is strictly linked to the activities of hosting young migrants.

Since 2011 more than 750,000 migrants have arrived in Italy, most of them departing from sub-Saharan Africa and most of them aged between 16 and 25 years, escaping from their countries because of poverty, wars or familiar conflicts.

After hardly crossing the Sahara desert, they arrive in Lybia where stop for months in conditions of tortures and abuse until they can embark to Italy. Most of them die drowning while crossing the Mediterranean Sea by a rubber dinghy.



Once arrived in Italy, our mission, as Don Bosco did in Turin in 18th century with young Italian migrants arriving from suburbs, is to welcome them, rehabilitate them, and integrate them in the local community.



Currently we receive migrants in 5 centres in Sicily, in the towns of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia, Villarosa and Catania.

We first provide them with education through a process of literacy with the help of the Salesian schools in Sicily. Language is the first tool of integration, necessary to interact with the local community.

After this first step, the search for employment starts and requires 3 stages:

1. Preparation of the Curriculum Vitae
2. Search of a company
3. Project work in the company (3 to 5 months)

At the end of the second step, based on our experience in Italy, approximately 30% of project works are converted into job contracts.

Since 2016 we started the new project of circular migration: migrants, after completing the integration phase in Italy, may decide to return to their countries of origin to put into practice the experience they learnt in Europe, by implementing a small business (micro-enterprise) in the field of sustainable agriculture.

Our circular migration experience started in 2016 with Seny Diallo, a young Senegalese man, born in 1993 and arrived in Italy in 2013 on a rubber dinghy. After completing the integration process with Associazione Don Bosco 2000, Seny Diallo decided to return to Netteboulou in the Tambacounda region in Senegal, to support the implementation of sustainable vegetable gardens in the village where he was born.



With Seny's support, Associazione Don Bosco 2000 is currently implementing the project of circular migration, in collaboration with VIS and Missioni Don Bosco (two Italian Salesian organisations who operate in the field of international cooperation and fund raising, respectively) and also with the previous support of CNOS FAP.



In this framework, migrants “circulate” many times towards the country of origin after a period of training/job in Italy. Subsequently, they start again the mobility cycle. In our idea of circular migration, the migrant becomes a migrant cooperant, who operates both as a mediator, a bridge between cultures, and as a tool of the international cooperation.

From the perspective of the migrants, the experience of migration in Europe is important to acquire skills and expertise required to return to their country of origin and become a landmark for the local community.



The African migrants, once returned in their country of origin, remain there for 6 months, then return back in Italy to continue training and improve their knowledge, before returning again in Africa.

The interventions of micro-business in Senegal e Gambia have a strong impact on the environment. In practice, we are creating sustainable vegetable gardens, digging wells in the savannah, supplied by solar panels which produce clean energy. The drip irrigation system allows optimisation of water consumption.

Each migrant manages half hectare of garden, growing products that can supply people in the villages, especially during the dry season.

Currently, we have 5 gardens: 2 operative gardens and 3 more gardens that will start production on March 1st, less than 15 days from now.



We have involved 5 circular



migrants, returned in Senegal and Gambia, but our plan is to involve 10 more migrants in 2019.

Currently, because of the hate climate related to the political context in Italy, more and more migrants are willing to return to their country of origin through the circular migration project but we cannot afford the implementation of gardens for all these people.

The project that we are implementing is involving not only the circular migrants but also 33 young Senegalese people (both men and women) who have participated in a training course within the network of Salesian schools in the region of Tambacounda. This specific action has been developed through the project “Stop Tratta”, an awareness raising campaign which aims to stop human trafficking in Africa. Five of these 33 Senegalese people have already been involved in the implementation of vegetable gardens and we aim to make them “circulate” legally between Africa and Europe to train them in agricultural companies in Italy in order improve their skills and transfer them into the African setting.

Meanwhile in Italy, 15 cooperants of the Associazione Don Bosco 2000 have been travelling from Italy to Gambia and Senegal to spread their skills to the African people participating into the training sessions.

The participation to the UN meeting of the “Commission for Social Development”

In February 19th 2019, our association participated in the United Nation meeting by the Commission for Social Development in New York. Our president, Agostino Sella, was invited to explain our project of “circular migration” for the empowerment of young people in Africa (Senegal and Gambia), with a special attention to women. The session was “Youth Empowered! Enabling Youth Through Social protection: education, employment, & environment”.



#YOUTHLED

YOUTH EMPOWERED!

ENABLING YOUTH THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, & ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 19, 2019 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
UNITED NATIONS HEAD QUARTERS
CONFERENCE ROOM 12

Moderators: Genevieve Pinnington & Greta Hunt

Morgan Thobe
Youth Engagement Fellow, UNICEF USA

Apefa Adjivon
Founder & Executive Director, The Pearl Project

Agostino Sella
President & Founder, Associazione Don Bosco 2000, TVET/CNOS

Saphira Rameshfar
Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International

Devopriya Dutta
Coordinator, Tarumitra

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

[www.un.org/sd](#)
[www.un.org/sd](#)
[www.un.org/sd](#)



The UNHCR “Welcome” logo

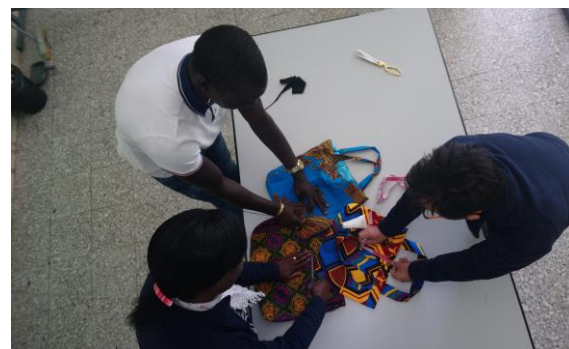
The Associazione Don Bosco 2000 has received in February 2019 the authorization for using the “WELCOME. Working for Refugee Integration” logo. The logo is given to recognize the potential of the private sector’s active involvement in the realization of an effective inclusion of refugees in the Italian society. UNHCR awards a recognition to companies that most distinguish themselves in promoting the labour placement of refugees and in supporting their integration process in Italy.

In particular, it is pointed out that “with regard to awarding the logo, a preferential attention will be given to those companies that, besides the above-mentioned activities, are committed to supporting refugees even out of the national boundaries. Furthermore, special consideration will be given to the companies that foster labour integration of women beneficiaries of international protection, demonstrating greater sensitivity toward gender dimension and the issue of equal opportunities. “.

Such award is consistent with our work with refugees in Italy and also in Africa, where we are trying to improve the conditions for the socio-economic integration of young people (especially young women) in the labour market, using an approach to decent work in a sustainable framework.

SUD - ARTE & DESIGN

In 2017, the Don Bosco 2000 Association won the Fondazione con il Sud’s “Legality” call by presenting the “Sud - Arte & Design” project that is financed. The project idea started from the intention to give new destination to the first floor of the premises of Villarosa, confiscated from organized crime and entrusted to the Don Bosco 2000 Association as part of the SPRAR because, as required by the Italian anti-mafia legislation, they must be returned to the community. Sud - Arte & Design aims to create a



brand of home furnishing products with an Afro-European design through a process of economic mini-chain that goes from products' production to sale on a national scale.

Approximately 30 products, easy to make and are widely used and characterized by elements of solidarity economy, will be produced in ceramics, fabric, glass and wood. The production and storage for wholesaling and e-commerce will be located in the premises of the reception center run by the association at the Municipality of Villarosa. These premises will become a laboratory of production and decoration, a Fab Lab, equipped with digital tools able to realize, in a flexible and semi-automatic way, a wide range of products.

Another element characterizing the South - Art & Design project is the attention to the needs of the territory: the strategy aims to involve migrants and young unemployed people from Villarosa to create an opportunity for territory's sustainable development.

With this in mind, Sud - Arte & Design wants to enhance the resources of the territory, characterized by socio-economic crises, and to increase the social value of the asset in the name of integration and legality.

The project is a redemption instrument for the Villarosa's territory, from a legal, economic, social, and socio-cultural point of view.

In particular, Sud - Arte & Design wants to create a bridge between the human capital of different ethnic groups that can work together to create a product that is the synthesis of cultural diversity. The project foresees the final step of the sale, on a national scale, of a brand of innovative textile products with an Afro-European design.

Retail sales will be located in strategic points located in southern Italy's metropolitan areas, exploiting a strong sales network that promotes the brand both in multi-brand and multi-product areas, through franchising and licensing contracts.

The project includes a first phase of training for young Sicilians and migrant people under the age of 29 followed by the contracting of a part of them for the start-up.

This approach can be considered a new form of integration that goes beyond assistance and hospitality and moves in a strategic direction going towards socio-cultural integration and passing through the union of forces in the workplace.



The project Sud - Arte & Design is the result of the synergy between different subjects operating in the Villarosa's area.

Don Bosco 2000 Association is the responsible subject of the project with the role of coordination and management of the activities. Other subjects are involved in the partnership to establish a solid and diversified network. Among the partners, the D.A.S. Cooperative Society,

which works for the promotion, enhancement and development of the territory, will take care of communication and dissemination of the best practices and results of the project, through the newspaper D.A.S. News. Overall, the D.A.S. will coordinate all the production phases, taking care to pursue the objectives and to maintain the vision of the project South - Art & Design.

Another partner of the project is the Villarosa's Municipality which holds the perpetual assignment of the two assets confiscated from the mafia and will therefore supervise the activities that take place there.

Another project partner is Confcooperative Sicilia which will take care of the activities related to training, work experience and artistic craftsmanship.

In the end, the Bellarosa Cultural Association, interested in the aggregation and integration of the various subjects of the territory through the organization of activities and events of collective interest, will have a specific role related to the management of events and initiatives aimed at promoting the activities.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are young people who participate in the business idea. In particular, it was decided to involve in the entrepreneurial idea both migrants and unemployed young people of the Municipality of Villarosa.

The beneficiaries are migrants who need to integrate into the socio-economic system and young people from Villarosa that come from difficult economic situations.

20 young people (10 unemployed from Villarosa and 10 migrants) will be involved in the training phase to learn the techniques of objects' production and decoration.

Of these, 8 will be selected for the next phase of the work experience in Sicilian companies and for participation in the production and sale activities.

An indirect beneficiary of the project proposal is the territorial community of reference, ie the Municipality of Villarosa, which will see the benefit of a new business activity located in two buildings with a significant symbolic value of fight against all forms of illegality both for organized crime and illegal migration. The community will receive a model of good practices because of the reuse of a confiscated asset, the entrepreneurial initiative, the migrants' integration and the impact on the territory in terms of employment.



We are promoting and supporting:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1. No poverty: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5. Gender equality: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8. Decent work: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9. Industry innovation: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”