Right to development at grass-roots level
The experience of APG23

By Maria Mercedes Rossi
Main representative of APG23 to UNOG

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Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

- International spiritual family of Faithful of Pontifical Right founded in Italy by Fr. Oreste Benzi (1968).
- Present in 42 Countries (5 Continents).
- Committed to sharing directly life with the least in society.
- Committed to removing the causes of poverty, injustice and marginalisation in a nonviolent way.
- Accredited to ECOSOC with Special Consultative Status since 2006 with a permanent office in Geneva.
- Non violent presence in both fronts in war zones through Operazione Colomba (OC), the APG23 Nonviolent Peace Corps.



Sharing life with vulnerable youth, persons with disabilities, drug users, prisoners, Roma and Sinti, homeless, migrants and refugees, elderly, people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, mothers in difficulty and women forced into prostitution, among others.

Promoting the implementation of the Right to Development, with a wide range of social activities and development initiatives at grass-roots level in both developing and developed countries.

Following guiding principles on development inspired by the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter and the Declaration on the Right to Development.

RAINBOW PROJECT

Since 1998 in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia (Copperbelt province)

Aims

- to extend coverage of assistance to OVCs
- to support the traditional extended family model
- to make nations aware of the AIDS emergency

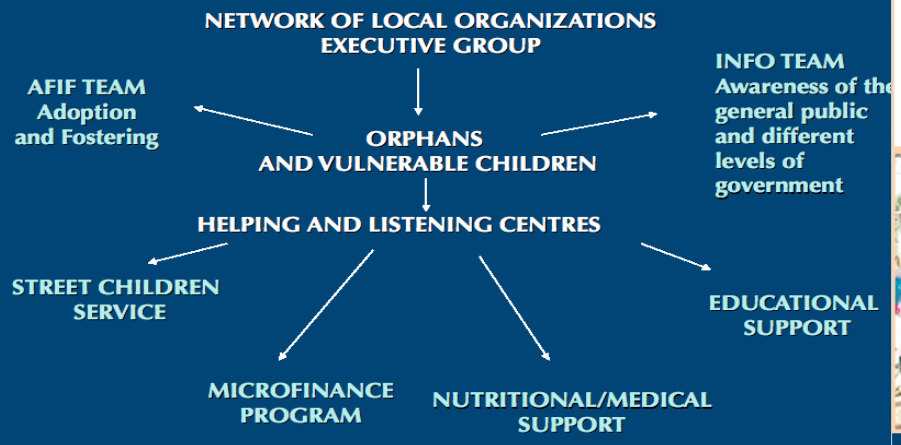
Strategies

- Operational networking with more than 34 community based organizations
- Community-based approach
- Participatory development at all levels
- Twin-track approach
- Capacity building
- Advocacy





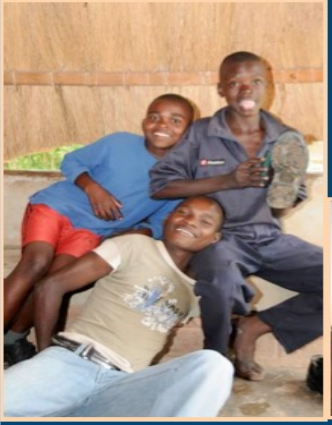
RAINBOW INTERVENTION PLAN







- MULTI-SECTORAL MODEL OF CARE ON A LARGE SCALE FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN
- A STRATEGIC PLAN TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED RESPONSES TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
- EMPOWERING WHAT IS ALREADY WORKING AND ADDING WHAT IS LACKING



youth from the dumping areas and streets restored in their dignity and provided with an opportunity for total transformation in their lives





vulnerable youth prevented roaming the streets and being more exposed to high risk behaviors

youth being able to guarantee to themselves and their families sustainable household food security and basic needs





Through

Education
Skills training
Recreational activities
Job opportunities
Spiritual formation









Chicetekelo Youth Project in Zambia

Co-operatives

- Network of social cooperatives gathered in the "Condividere" (Sharing) Consortium, aiming at integrating the most disadvantaged and persons with disabilities into society and employment.
- Based on a people-centred approach and on the primacy of cooperation, solidarity and equity principles both in the social and economic sphere.
- 82 centres located in 10 Italian regions, provide welfare services to the disadvantaged and persons with disabilities (gardening, mechanical assembly, public spaces maintenance, handicraft, agriculture).

Operazione Colomba (OC)

- In **Chile,** our APG23 members and volunteers of Operazione Colomba live with and accompany the **Mapuche people** subjected to multiple forms of discrimination and restrictions of their fundamental rights to land, work and access to justice as well as the right to development.
- Since 2004, OC has been present in **At-Tuwani, a Palestinian village** located in a rural area in the South Hebron Hills, **in the West Bank**, accompanying on their lands farmers and shepherds who are exposed to settlers attacks and army harassment,. OC's volunteers monitor the Israeli military escort that should protect Palestinian children on their way to school, documenting human rights violations and abuses.

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó











The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

- Located in a mountainous and rural area in Antioquia-Cordoba departments, in the Urabà region of Colombia.
- Established in 1997 as an humanitarian and neutral zone to respond by nonviolence to the armed conflict and threats from armed groups.
- Approximately 300 campesinos living in small villages, some of which are particularly isolated. More than 300 people have been murdered since 1997.
- The volunteers of Operazione Colomba have been required by this Community to guarantee a nonviolent protection for its members. They permanently live in the community's villages, sharing daily risks with the local population, contributing to reduce violence and accompanying and protecting them in their daily activities.
- The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó is a shining example of implementation of the right to development and the right to self-determination.

Key message

- Persons and peoples at grass root level, especially the most vulnerable, often don't have a clue about the great potential of the right to development, its link with other human rights and its justiciability.
- They are not prepared yet to claim their RTD.
- However, local communities know very well what is good for their own development. it is a matter of offering opportunities to express themselves and be empowered.
- Member States and civil society, including our organization, should engage more on education on human rights and on right to development with the local communities!

Conclusion

It is time to leave behind the divisive political and cultural arguments surmounting the debate on the right to development.

The draft International Covenant on the right to development must be promptly adopted at the General Assembly.

Do not give for charity what is due for justice!