



v i v e r e

*protecting people whose lives are endangered
by unacceptable discrimination*

2014 / 2015



Photo Vivere

***Vivere* was founded in Lausanne in 1999. The organisation's aim is to bring tangible help to people whose lives are threatened to such an extent that their condition is made intolerable, so that they can be given the chance to live a decent existence.** In order to do this, *Vivere* supports both individual and collective initiatives, which bring help to the people who have been overlooked by the media and large humanitarian organisations. This work was recognised in 2007 when *Vivere* received a special mention in the human rights reward given by the French Republic.

Refusing to turn a blind eye

The volunteers who created *Vivere* -which is a non-profit making, secular and politically independent organisation- all share the same vocation: they refuse to turn a blind eye to distress and the crisis situations which are played out all over the world. We have to have the ability to know when to stop and help individuals -to try to sort out their situation, even with the smallest amount of means.

Hanging on to life by the merest thread

It is unacceptable that even in this day and age people are dying for the tiniest, most absurd of reasons: no-one to turn to for help just when it's needed, no access to medicine, not enough food, no transport to get to hospital, no heating... Sometimes it is only a question of a few coins a month which will make the difference in escaping a life of modern day slavery or a life plagued by the constant fear of death.

The more banal the cause of death, the more unforgivable is the fact that it could have happened in the first place. *Vivere* believes that we have to do something and that we have to try to convince others to do so too!

Vivere offers a bridge between those who have an essential, vital need and those who have the means to provide for this need in material terms.



Photo Barmaverin

How does *Vivere* work and who do we work with?

The work is made up of a series of relatively simple, ordinary activities: caring for people, consoling people, giving hope, providing shelter, feeding, protecting and defending victims. The work is often carried out in circumstances which are desperate- where repression, ignorance, armed violence, racial hostility, destitution, criminality, distrust, indifference can be rife.

Vivere usually does not direct or manage the projects in the field. We do, however, provide support to the professionals and small local organisations who are already working -or who will quickly be able to work- with people who are in danger. This support depends on the needs expressed by our partners: it is often financial, but can also encompass methodological and organisational support, promotion of awareness campaigns etc. The yearly contribution to each project is limited to CHF 15 000 (€ 12 000) maximum and must represent a significant amount of the total budget. This clearly demonstrates both the modest scale of our involvement and the type of work we enhance with small organisations. It enables us to ensure direct action with as little bureaucracy as possible. Representatives from *Vivere* visit the projects to establish contact, carry out surveys, identify problems, and to verify the conditions of work and results of the projects.

Vivere already has links with potential project partners in a dozen different countries: doctors, lawyers, social workers, grass-roots activists, small civilian organisations etc. As *Vivere* grows, so will our network of contacts and people who work with us.

Vivere is a member of the Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération.

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Mangangué (Bolívar), Colombia



Photo Atucsara

Partner organisation: **Atucsara**

Nutritional program

Poverty, forced displacement, fragile family structure, exclusion from school; the community of Magangué has been relentlessly hit by one thing after another. More than 20 000 people have been displaced as a result of armed conflict. More than half of these people are children and teenagers. Atucsara, our partner organisation, identifies the most vulnerable children- children who are in this situation because their parents for the most part are unemployed. These children show signs of malnutrition, have problems with their health and mostly have to start working at an early age- selling fish, selling wood, cleaning shoes etc. The program is in two parts: the first- run by women's organisations and youth groups, helps 160 children in two areas. In the nine years it has been working, it has improved both the health and the school results of the children. The second project helps 200 children in two new areas where more than two out of three residents live below the poverty line. In Santa Fé, one of the new sites, nutritional problems affect 95% of children between the ages of 3 and 12 years.

The program aims to provide 160 children with one meal a day in the canteen, and 200 children with improved, healthy snacks.

By using the multi-faceted approach of providing extra food, improving people's understanding of what constitutes a healthy diet, and involving the mothers of these children, the project's goal is to ensure that each child benefits in the long-term and is brought up to normal, healthy levels of nutrition. This will also have a positive effect on the children's performance at school.

**Kivu and Kinshasa,
Democratic Republic of Congo**



Partner organisations: **FFD (Women's Federation for Development), ACMEJ-DH, UCPDHO, Arche d'Alliance, Défenseurs en danger**

Support and care for the victims of atrocities, sexual violence in particular. Denunciation of blood crimes. Drive to bring the perpetrators of these atrocities to justice. Assistance to abandoned elderly homeless people with no means of financial or social support.

The fate of these territories has for years, been that of a stamping ground where various rival armed factions incessantly fight over control of the region: militia, regular or disbanded troops, the genocidal groups of the Interhamwé, and separatists. It makes no difference to the native population which particular war-lord holds sway - they are still subjected to wave after interminable outbreak of pillage and suffer countless atrocities.

Our partners work both to give first aid help to the victims of violence (which in general have been committed by armed men in uniform) and to help in re-integrating these victims back into society. This help can also take the form of social or professional assistance so that the victims can endeavour to live a normal life-albeit one of poverty, which is indeed the case for 99.9% of the local population.

The other main focus of activity is to provide torture victims with legal representation, since the perpetrators of atrocities must realise that they cannot act with impunity. Since 2006, we have been key in helping to set up 18 mobile military courts in the territories of Fizi and Uvira so that criminals who have threatened the lives of defenceless civilians can be brought to justice.

**CIS countries, especially Ukraine,
Uzbekistan and Moldavia**

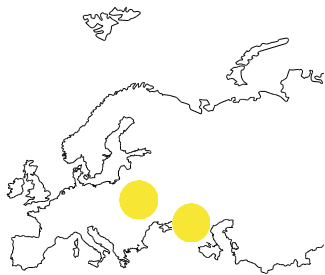


Photo Barmaverin

Partner organisations: ‘Avenir’, ‘Compasiune’, ‘Istiqbolli Avlod’, Wome’s Initiative (Transnistrie), Stimul, Road to Life, and the International Organization for Migration.

The fight against the forced trafficking of women, sexual slavery and forced labour.

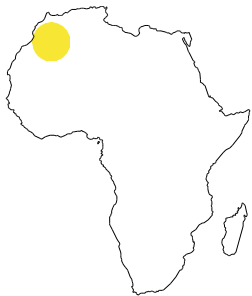
The mafia who run the international trafficking rings prey on the hopes and aspirations of the women who are desperate to escape the misery of their lives in order to try to find work in the developed world. These criminals exploit the negligence of some of those in authority to abuse their victims. They transport them to a foreign country, confine them against their will, confiscate their identity, so that they can hold them to ransom for it later, and finally exploit them by forcing them into prostitution or other forms of abuse. Some of these women pay with their lives. Those who do survive, bear psychological and sometimes physical scars for a very long time afterwards. Nearly all will be infected with a sexually transmitted disease.

Having carried out several fact-finding missions to these countries since 2004, our projects aim to:

- Increase the sanctions which can be used against those in charge of running the trafficking rings and their associates.
- Protect and help the victims both in the countries where they have been taken and once they have been returned to their homeland.
- Improve preventative measures by means of education and making young people, who may be targeted by the traffickers, aware of the potential dangers.

We have also been working for ten years in one of the destination countries for trafficking in the Persian Gulf. We cannot give any more details here for reasons of security.

Agadir, Marrocco



Partner Association: **Hayati**

Help for single mothers in grave need

Despite the real progress that this country has made, some ruthless traditions remain. Single mothers are condemned and ostracised in this society. This can lead them to take desperate measures such as infanticide or abandoning their new-born baby.

The organisation ‘Hayati’ (Arabic for ‘My Life’) was created in 2001 with the aims of supporting single mothers in critical need and their young children, providing assistance for abandoned babies and preventing babies from being abandoned in the future. To help protect children, a crèche was set up in 2002. As well as providing financial aid, we work very much in partnership with ‘Hayati’ in a multi-faceted approach giving technical, methodological and human support.

‘Hayati’ is situated on the outskirts of Agadir, and runs a crèche for 30 children from single-parent families. These children’s mothers may be single, divorced, widowed or simply abandoned by their husband or partner. The aim of the crèche is to make it easier for mothers on a very low income to work by providing care and a secure, stable environment in which the children can develop. The unit is open 24 hours a day to fit in with factories’ shifts and has five female helpers. A second crèche with similar aims was opened in Aït Melloul in 2011

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Want to learn more :

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You can help:

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Banque cantonale vaudoise

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www.vivere.ch



Non-profit organization governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code

Recognized charity

Human Rights reward with special mention, Republic of France, 2007

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*sauvegarde de personnes risquant la mort
par une discrimination inacceptable*

