## vivere

"Misfortunes and abandonment remain in good numbers, so everything is not done. As small, puny and imperfect as it may be, the work of amateurs is better than no work."

(Edmond Kaiser)

**Annual Activity Report 2018** 

## Dear friends,

Marking the 20th year of *Vivere*, which was created in October 1999, this document presents a summary of our actions, finances, team and future. By simple request you can receive all details available on each subject.

## I ACTIONS

	Assistance to victims of atrocities and repression	Assistance to abandoned elderly people	Fight against impunity	Assistance to single mothers in grave need	Nutritional Assistance	Fight against human trafficking and assistance to victims	Communication
Colombia					p. 9		
Democratic Republic	p. 4	p. 4	p. 4	p. 4			
of Congo (DRC)							
Persian Gulf						p. 18	
Morocco				p. 8			
Moldova &		p. 14				p. 14	
Transnistria							
Worldwide: abolition of death penalty and life imprisonment of children	p. 20						
Uzbekistan						p. 17	
Pakistan	p. 21						
Philippines	p. 22						
Switzerland			_	_			p. 22
Syria	p. 7				p. 7		
Human Trafficking						p. 11	
Ukraine			p. 16			p. 16	

II FINANCE p. 25

**III TEAM** p. 27

IV FUTURE p. 27

#### I ACTIONS

During this year, members of the association carried out the following missions in the field <sup>1</sup>:

- Pakistan and Persian Gulf region in January
- Morocco in June
- Ukraine, Moldova and Transnistria in July
- South and North Kivu (DRC) in September
- Philippines in September

These missions last from one to three weeks, allowing a better analysis of the moving realities in the specific context where the work is carried out, in-depth contacts with the local partners as well as with the various institutional actors concerned by the respective programs, the risk measurement incurred by both the target populations and the activists acting on the spot.

A monitoring of the work plan execution and of the good use of the resources is at the center of the specifications for such missions.

It is also an opportunity to make new contacts useful for the initialization, reinforcement, extension and / or diversification of activities supported by *Vivere*.

Our assistance also aims to support the strengthening of the friendly local organization in its own capacity for fundraising and for diversification of contributions. Any progress in this direction means a better autonomy of the local forces and therefore their better general efficiency; alternatively, and in proportion, *Vivere's* resources can then be directed to other fields of work where local actors lack the minimum necessary to fight for human rights.

Finally, it should be noted that such missions require a diligent preparation and the necessary skills to constitute a real professional added value, in terms of method and organization, for the teams that we join on-site.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We acknowledge with gratitude the facilities and best pricing conditions that Joker Voyages travel agency of Lausanne has been giving us for many years, specifying that on several occasions plane tickets and/or local costs are borne by our team members themselves. Similarly, the absence time is taken on the annual holidays of each one.

## Democratic Republic of Congo, South Kivu

#### Situation

In our opinion, the main factors of destabilization impeding a durable pacification of the Kivu region are:

- Impunity still benefiting to so many uneducated leaders who have been involved in corruption offenses and blood crimes
- Arms sales to illegal gangs & militias
- Greed for mineral and natural resources of the region, regularly looted by ruthless national and foreign forces
- Nourished by one or more of the factors above, the separatist inclinations of such or such faction
- The porous borders allowing foreign armed gangs to wreak havoc on Congolese soil
- The so-called effectiveness, often insignificant, of the presence of 17,000 MONUSCO peacekeepers, which is a result of the failure of the United Nations in this part of the country.



Objectives	Achievements 2018			
1 Assistance to women victims of rape and/or of sexual	Partnership started in October 2015. Tulizeni shelters and protects 93 unaccompanied children			
violence, orphans, and girl-mothers.	and 5 young single mothers with their babies; it also assists 75 widowed or repudiated women in			
Local partner: Tulizeni Center, Goma, North Kivu	camps of displaced persons. Vivere covered the procedural costs of legal adoption of seven orphans			
2 Intensify the fight against impunity by allowing the	A mobile court as held in Kazimia in September. The 28 operations held since 2006 aim to:			
military prosecutor's office to sit "in the bush" in order to	- bring to trial suspects detained or located in the territory of Fizi who, for various reasons, cannot			
investigate and grant judgement in cases of indictment of	be transferred to the Uvira court of the military prosecutor's office			
soldiers or militiamen suspected of crimes against	- give food for thought to criminals still at large, as well as those who would be tempted to commit			
citizens, (murder, rape or sexual violence, torture,	future abuses			
physical abuse, other inhumane and degrading acts).	- prove to the population of the territories of Fizi and Uvira that justice is finally on the march to			
Local partners in South Kivu: Military tribunal and	spread awareness on the suffering it has had to undergo by the hand of man			
UCPDHO	A new project was born this year: "Contribution to the fight against impunity for sexual violence			
In North Kivu: Association Protection and Solidarity	in North Kivu", offering free legal support to 15 victims.			
3 Protection of abandoned and homeless seniors	13 old and lonely people with no roof are accommodated in as many foster families, in a form of			
Local partner: UCPDHO	adoption.			
4 Monitoring and alerts on blood crimes, medical	13 civilian victims of assaults by armed men received medical attention. Vivere is providing			
assistance to victims	communications and transportation support to the ACMEJ, which conducts surveys over vast			
Local Partner: ACMEJ * (see next page)	areas of the territory.			
5 Support for young girls who have dropped out of school	Bearing of school fees for 26 teenage girls, including several orphans and several teenage mothers.			
as a result of war. Relief for abandoned and vulnerable	Two other students are supported in a vocational school in Baraka.			
older people.	Three elderly men deprived of everything and without a decent roof receive support and multiform			
Local partner: FEDA, Kazimia	assistance.			

#### Democratic Republic of Congo, South Kivu

\* Small presentation note of our partner "Association Against Evil and for the Supervision of Youth and Human Rights" (ACMEJ):

Most people of ACMEJ are very brave, it is in the genes of this small organization. This is one of the reasons why *Vivere's* support has been continuously ensured since December 2005. In summary:

- Renewal with \$ 1,000 of a permanent fund for the emergency care of poor civilians who have been victims of violence by armed men.
- Assistance for the fuel of two motorcycles (one of which was purchased from our funds) carrying the investigators.
- Occasionally: financing special actions such as the one assisting 50 orphans of the Mutarule massacre for a year. We also participate in individual rehabilitations of civilians seriously injured and left with a heavy handicap
- Assistance to widows & children of murdered ACMEJ activists (Toto Kaligito, Akili Bigaya and this year Aimable Masumbuko Birindwa).
- Phones and laptops, cameras: every year Mike brings them some second-hand ones among those given free to Vivere.
- Once a year: a small sum to participate towards the running costs of the ACMEJ, or as incentive bonus to activists who are all volunteers.
- Methodological support for management (accounting, drafting projects, setting measurable indicators, etc.)

Certainly brave and enduring, but also quite rustic (in the sense devoid of cunning) when it comes to 'frogging' among humanitarian elites and donors, this is why ACMEJ remains and will probably remain a very small grassroots organization. Those of the kind *Vivere* particularly appreciates, who pick up the wounded on the ground and make sure that he/she will be treated, who, in the face of the wicked, will investigate crimes committed to denounce them then openly.



ACMEJ activists investigating in a village which suffered a massacre



Mother & daughter, injured during an assault, treated by ACMEJ



Eric Muyomo, coordinator of ACMEJ

## Democratic Republic of Congo, South Kivu



An elderly person protected in South Kivu (photos Vivere)



Orphans of Kazimia whose school reintegration is ensured



Mobile court in Kazimia, sept 2018



 $Teenage\ single\ mother\ with\ her\ baby\ protected\ in\ Tulizeni,\ Goma$ 

## Syria

#### Situation:

Media around the world have provided enough information on the chaos that has been hitting this country for the last 8 years, there is little need to add more here. Written press, photos, films, all the media combine to describe the martyrdom of the Syrian people, the dislocation of social relations, the massive destruction of both housing and infrastructure, the monstrosity of the repression used by all parties to the conflict, the culture of hatred and intolerance that has taken hold of the spirits, the madness of new forms of terrorism aimed at becoming a caliphate with a vocation to govern entire populations. Humanitarian consequences: almost 410,000 killed, countless seriously injured, four million Syrian refugees (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Europe mainly) and eight million displaced.

Fearing they were dead or dispersed in exile we remained for a long time without news of a small team of volunteers, known on site during the pre-war years, to whom a deep friendship bound us. In October 2014, miraculously, the contact was re-established with those who were able to remain active despite the great danger prevailing in this central region of Syria; (for obvious reasons of safety we must limit the details on the persons and places where the work is done). To assess what is feasible and to support the local team, one of us went on-site in December 2014, August 2016 and November 2017



#### Objectives

- 1. Payment of medical delivery costs for mothers without means and without any other recourse
- 2. Infant milk formula for infants whose mother, without means, cannot breastfeed, or too little.
- 3. Legal assistance (lawyer) for women victims of arbitrary arrest by the authorities. Often cases of false testimony, homonymy, honour killings, etc. Serious risk of torture.
- 4. Contribution to the communication and transportation costs of the team.

#### Achievements 2018

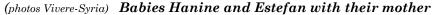
- At the time of writing this report (April 19) and since the beginning of our commitment, this work has made it possible to:
- assist 718 new-borns<sup>1</sup> for their vital needs, and 92 young mothers for difficult deliveries.
- release 13 women prisoners, one of whom was with her child for 5 years
- facilitate the logistics of the team on-site.

Due to lack of resources, we unfortunately had to suspend during the year the assistance for childbirth



Latifa and her son, freed after 5 years spent in prison





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 60 babies on average per month: 1/3 of new cases and 2/3 children continuing from the previous month

## Morocco

#### Situation

Despite the real evolution undergone in this country, some repressive customs still retain all their aggressiveness, including social condemnation and banishment of young single mothers who can, in desperation, resort to infanticide or the abandonment of their new-born.

Following *Vivere*'s involvement, the Hayati association was born 18 years ago in Agadir (in Arabic: "my life"), thanks to the voluntary commitment of responsible persons on-site whose main goal is to provide support to single mothers in great difficulty and their young children, as well as assistance to abandoned babies and the prevention of future abandonments.

Prostitution is still a means of survival for some single mothers, and new children may be the result of these relationships. Many children who will not be legally recognized. Among the mothers who are or have been married there are also intolerable sufferings: domestic violence resulting in abandonment, flight, and in any case the disempowerment of fathers.



Objectives	Achievements 2018
	. 81 children are permanently hosted on the two sites of Agadir and Aït Melloul. Their mothers receive assistance adapted
Assistance to single mothers in	to their social needs.
very great difficulty and their	. Thanks to the efforts of its local members, Hayati's fundraising efforts are on an upward trend, and the association is thus
children.	able to finance itself up to 96%, which all the more eases the financial contribution of our movement. During this year, local
	volunteering continued to grow significantly, enriching both the activities offered to children and Hayati's ability to
Local partner: Hayati	communicate and to collect money and in kind. The team thus strengthened has been able to find and open at Aït Melloul
	new spacious premises in order to accommodate more children and to get closer to the factories where a majority of the
	mothers' work.





Children of Hayati (photos Vivere)

## Colombia

#### Situation

On 7th August 2018, Iván Duque Márquez was elected new President of Colombia for a four-year term. On the very day of his inauguration, a peaceful march was held at the national level to denounce the crimes committed since the beginning of the year against social leaders. This mobilization was also aimed at demanding that the government take concrete action to put an end to these crimes. Since the beginning of the year, 230 defenders of human rights and the environment have been murdered, according to the Institute of Studies for Development and Peace (Indepaz)<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the National Migration Service has revealed figures on the arrival of Venezuelan migrants. In the first half of the year these figures invoke more than 106,000 families arrived on Colombian soil. According to a survey of the World Food Program (PMA), 80% of Venezuelan refugees suffer currently from food insecurity<sup>4</sup>.

In Magangué (Bolivar region), the Atucsara organization continues its work with populations displaced by the armed conflict<sup>5</sup>, on 3 axes: food security, community development and school for peace. Its purpose: to enable these communities to recreate an organized social network, to claim their rights, to meet their basic needs. Poverty and social inequalities, but especially violence and lack of public infrastructure remain the main issues identified. Young people are a favourite prey for the recruitment by micro-trafficking gangs into illegal activities.

For 15 years Vivere has been supporting the nutritional component of the global community project that Atucsara is carrying out with the support of the friendly association CATLEYA. Young people implement integration and citizen participation strategies to prevent the influence of gangs, delinquency and micro-trafficking in their community. The children who benefited from canteens since the beginning of the project are now young leaders and are actively working at the School for Peace.



Objectives	Achievements 2018
Nutritional assistance to	School canteens run by women's associations in community centers or housed in the home of a local woman, enabled
particularly vulnerable children in	170 children (63 children already present in 2017 and 107 new ones) between 5 and 14 years old ( <b>Nueva Colombia</b> :
neighbourhoods of Nueva Colombia,	55 children <b>Yati</b> : 55 children <b>La Peña</b> : 30 children and <b>Barranca Yuca</b> : 30 children) to receive one meal a day. In
Yati, La Peña, Santa Fe and	Santa Fe, 69 children participating in the dance and music awareness sessions benefited from enhanced snacks.
Barranca Yuca	Children participated in activities including school reinforcement, dance, sports, values education. A total of 239
170 children at-risk have one meal	children benefited from the program that helped improve their nutritional status and school level: 80 of them have a
a day in the canteen, and 70	normal or good academic level, 85 were able to improve it, and 68 were struggling to achieve goals.
children have an enhanced snack.	
Local partner: Atucsara ass.	

<sup>3</sup> https://www.amnesty.ch/fr/pays/ameriques/colombie/docs/2018/defenseurs-des-droits-humains-tues-avec-silence-complice-etat https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2018/12/05/en-colombie-les-assassinats-cibles-de-leaders-sociaux-augmentent 5392870 3210.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.voanoticias.com/a/venezuela-colombia-frontera-exodo-inseguridad-alimentaria-pma-encuesta-/4571755.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Colombia 2017/2018 | Amnesty International

# Colombia





(photo Atucsara)

## Field of work:

## Prevention of and fight against human trafficking, assistance to victims

#### Situation 2018

Millions of people around the world endure slavery today, whether for inhuman labour, for forced begging, or for the sexual exploitation.

Since the collapse of the former USSR, serious sources estimate that hundreds of thousands of women and men from Eastern Europe have been subjected to sexual slavery in a foreign country. The United Nations estimates that the smuggling of human beings brings some US\$ 28 billion a year to the mafias involved<sup>6</sup>. We also help many victims from Asia and Africa.

## **Objectives**

Legal instruments are not lacking however to block the road to human trafficking:

- 1. United Nations Conventions and Declarations, including Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 2. Articles 4 and 5 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 3. Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949
- 4. Articles 34 and 35 of the 1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 5. The Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Palermo Protocol of 15 November 2000
- 6. Strategic Objective D.3 of the Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration of 1995
- 7. The Council of Europe recommendations in this field, in particular Recommendation No. R (2000) 11 7 on combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, Recommendation No. R (2002) 5 8 on the protection of women against violence and Recommendation 1545 (2002) 9 on a Campaign against Trafficking in Women,
- 8. The IOM Brussels Declaration on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings, especially its points 7 and 8,10
- 9. OSCE Ministers' Decision No. 1, meeting in Vienna in 2000, to strengthen the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings
- 10. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union 12, and in particular Articles 5, 4, 21 and 23
- 11. European Council Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings

As explained in the following pages *Vivere* is at work in three countries-source of traffic: Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Moldova -including Transnistria, and two destination countries in the Persian Gulf region- we do not designate them here for security reasons

As detailed in the following pages we act with the goals of:

- > Strengthening the legal prohibition of trafficking in human beings
- > Reinforcing the sanctions against all the backers and accomplices of the traffic
- > Protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, both in the country where they were deported and in the country of origin where they are repatriated
- > Strengthening preventive activities, especially through education and awareness-raising of young people and orphans potentially targeted by trafficking

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Source: P. Bessler, 'Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits', ILO Working Paper (Geneva)

# Since its involvement in assisting victims of human trafficking $\it Vivere$ has rescued and repatriated the following people:

Victims repatriated by country of origin	2004 à 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	% since 2009
Uzbekistan		121	170	97	67	56	43	42	45	55	63	759	45,8%
Russian Federation		17	33	27	22	17	8	22	6	14	15	181	10,9%
Moldova		16	38	20	22	32	15	16	9	6	8	182	11,0%
Tajikistan			5	4	1		3	3	1	3	1	21	1,3%
Armenia			5	2		1	1		2	1		12	0,7%
Azerbaijan			1		1		2	2	1	1	1	9	0,5%
Kyrgyzstan		7	16	15	15	9	7	3	1	5	4	82	4,9%
Ukraine		8	6	8	1	3	4	5	3	7	7	52	3,1%
Georgia			1		2	3	1					7	0,4%
Mongolia									1			1	0,1%
Belarus			2				1	1	1		3	8	0,5%
Turkmenistan			2	3	1	1	2	5	1		1	16	1,0%
Kazakhstan		5	5	6	3	6	4	1	1	5	2	38	2,3%
Sub-total CIS	461	174	284	182	135	128	91	100	72	97	105	1829	82,5%
Nigeria									30	33	22	85	5,1%
Uganda								1	17	9	17	44	2,7%
Kenya									10	5	3	18	1,1%
Ghana									3			3	0,2%
Togo									1			1	0,1%
Tanzania									1			1	0,1%
Ethiopia		2							6	14	11	33	2,0%
Cameroon									7	5		12	0,7%
Morocco										2		2	0,1%
Eritrea										1		1	0,1%
South Africa											1	1	0,1%
Sub-total Africa		2	0	0	0	0	0	1	75	69	54	201	12,1%
Indonesia								2	15	12	13	42	2,5%
Philippines								4	9	5		18	1,1%
Sri Lanka								1	5	3		9	0,5%
India								2	2			4	0,2%
Pakistan								1	1			2	0,1%
Bangladesh								1	4			5	0,3%
Thailand											2	2	0,1%
Vietnam											2	2	0,1%
China											1	1	0,1%
Sub-total Asia		0	0	0	0	0	0	11	36	20	18	85	5,1%
Latvia					1							1	0,1%
Estonia									1			1	0,1%
Romania									1			1	0,1%
Bulgaria										1		1	0,1%
Stateless										1		1	0,0%
Total	461	176	284	182	136	128	91	112	185	187	177	2120	100,0%

## Fight against impunity

# Summary of cases heard in the respective courts for the incrimination of traffickers of human beings and their accomplices

	Partner Organisation	Number of trials	Number of victims involved
Ukraine	Avenir	13	43
Ukraine	Avocat Gennady Gerasimenko	27	116
Uzbekistan	Istiqbolli Avlod	45	210
Transnistria	Women's Initiative	1	1
	Total	86	370

## Moldova and Transnistria 7

#### Situation 2018

The socio-economical context of Moldova is one of the most depressed in Europe. The war in the east of neighbouring Ukraine has worsened insecurity and instability, aggravating attempts at expatriation at any cost. At the same time, the fragmentation of the country after the 1992 war<sup>8</sup> leaves both Moldova and Transnistria with constant tensions at their borders, deep fractures within the population and antagonisms that hinder human development on both sides.

Poverty has driven the economically active population to seek employment opportunities abroad. Every year thousands of people leave Moldova for a few years or for temporary work. In 2009, 23% of GDP came from money transfers from migrants abroad. As a result of this migration, thousands of children find themselves deprived of parental affection and adequate supervision. One of the dangers for young people leaving the country in search of a job, especially for illegal emigrants, is to be caught by human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, or for forced begging.

Alcoholism and domestic violence wreak havoc. Abuse suffered by women and children contributes to pushing the most vulnerable into the nets of traffickers.



Objectives	Achievements 2017
Emergency assistance, socio-professional reintegration, psychological and / or	- Transnistria: our partner reports that 63 victims, or potential victims, were
legal assistance to victims of trafficking	assisted during the year.
Local partners: Women's Initiative in Transnistria, and Compasiune in	- Moldova: 3 victims are supported in the medium term.
central Moldova	
Multiform assistance to repatriated victims.	From their place of exploitation Vivere repatriated 8 trafficked victims to
Local partner: Delegation of the International Organization for Migration,	Moldova, with IOM's often decisive support to ensure that each person's
Chisinau	arrival is secure, with a range of qualified medical / social services.
Support for the elderly & victims of domestic violence	17 people have received material and food assistance to prevent their
Local partner: Compasiune in the center of the country	increased precariousness, and for the youngest of them the risk of being
	snatched up by traffickers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Transnistria, officially the Dniester Moldavian Republic, is a non-internationally recognized State with a slavic-speaking majority and a communist government that seceded from Moldavian in 1991 during its independence from the Soviet Union (in which the Dniester Moldavian Republic wished to remain).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> War which has caused 3,500 deaths and as many wounded

## **Moldova and Transnistria**



Victims and psychologists in sessions of de-traumatization



Presence and assistance to vulnerable elderly people



Prevent young people, privileged targets of traffickers

## Ukraine

#### Situation

21 November 2013 Beginning of Euromaïdan

22 February 2014 Overthrow of President Ianoukovytch

28 February 2014 Beginning of the crisis in Crimea 18 March 2014 Incorporation of Crimea to Russia

6 April 2014 Donbass War which is still raging

According to the UN the conflict has already made 10'300 dead.

Adding to the general precariousness and unemployment already prevailing before the beginning of the events, this war - which jeopardizes the social economy of the whole country - forces every year thousands of additional people to seek to migrate, exposing themselves to the risks of being abused and exploited by the traffickers' mafias.



Objectives	Achievements 2018		
. Direct assistance to trafficking victims	Combined with the results of previous years we achieved the following:		
. Fight against impunity by prosecuting recruiters & traffickers in the courts	. 43 trafficking victims received legal assistance during 12 trials held in the		
of Ukraine	Zhytomyr region		
. Prevention of trafficking with orphans and vulnerable families.	. 116 victims received legal assistance during 27 trials held in the East		
Partners: Avenir Association in the west of the country, and Road to Life	In almost all the trials we obtained the conviction of criminals with significant		
Association in the east (Kharkiv)	deprivation of liberty sentences.		



Gennady Gerasimenko, our lawyer, Tribunal of Kharkiv



Awareness-raising campaign & traffic prevention

БУДЬТЕ ОБЕРЕЖНИ ЖЕРТВОЮ ТОРГОВЦІВ ЛЮДЬМИ МОЖЕ СТАТИ КОЖЕН!

(photos Vivere)

## Uzbekistan

#### Situation

"The human rights situation remains a concern in Uzbekistan. Progress has been made since 2008 in some areas, including the abolition of the death penalty, the introduction of habeas corpus in legislation, and 2013 marked a significant improvement in child labour during the cotton harvest. In 2013, Uzbekistan committed to implement 145 of the 183 recommendations made to the country by the universal periodic review done within the framework of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva: the EU continues to voice its concerns and expectations, including the release of all human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience held in detention, the free activities of NGOs, the guarantee of freedom of expression and religion and freedom of the media." (excerpt from 'France Diplomatie')

Facing high unemployment and a minimalist wage policy, thousands of Uzbeks seek to migrate to find a job.

A third of the victims of trafficking that we repatriate from the Persian Gulf are from Uzbekistan.

#### **Objectives**

- . Facilitate twice a year a mission of our partner in the Persian Gulf to accelerate the identification and assistance to the Uzbek victims who are exploited there
- . Support victim follow-up service once they have returned to their country
- . Legal assistance to victims who have the courage to lodge a complaint against their executioner

Local partner: Istiqbolli Avlod Association



#### **Achievements 2018**

By lack of resources only one mission in the Gulf could be carried out in May. However, 63 Uzbek victims were repatriated during the year.

The follow-up service is provided to any victim in the Tashkent region who expresses the need.

7 victims received legal assistance before the courts to incriminate the criminals responsible for their enslavement.



Team Istiqbolli Avlod, Tashkent

## **Persian Gulf**

#### Situation

Several countries in this region are experiencing a singular economic boom. This wealth excites the greed of traffickers of human beings who make these countries a favourite destination; moreover, they are a 'game of smoke and mirrors' for many of the candidates for migration.

Providing assistance to victims of human trafficking induces thousands of difficulties, but also two potential dangers:

- To be directly confronted with the mafias who make exorbitant profits from this modern slavery. These people are ruthless killers.
- To arouse vexation and wrath of the national authorities where exploitation is practiced, while they strive to present themselves to the world as irreproachable in this respect. Only one dignitary would need to be upset by the demonstration of the harsh realities we are dealing with, and in a few moments we would be worried, expelled, and a brutal end would be brought to the work on-site.

These elements explain the discretion that we must observe both towards the countries concerned and on the forms of on-site collaboration allowing us to free victims and repatriate them safely.



#### **Objectives**

- . Reduce the threats and torments suffered by trafficked victims in the country of exploitation by repatriating them to their country of origin
- . Provide victims with assistance tailored to their problems: medical, legal, social. Both in the country of operation and once returned to their country of origin.
- . Strengthen an effective synergy with friendly organizations in the countries of origin so that a follow-up service is ensured for each repatriated victim.

#### Local partners:

- our team constituted in 'Crisis center'
- regional delegations of the International Organization of Migration in the countries of origin.

#### Achievements 2018

Since 2008, a small team of 5 people has been established on-site who works continuously to detect and help victims where they are hidden or in hiding.

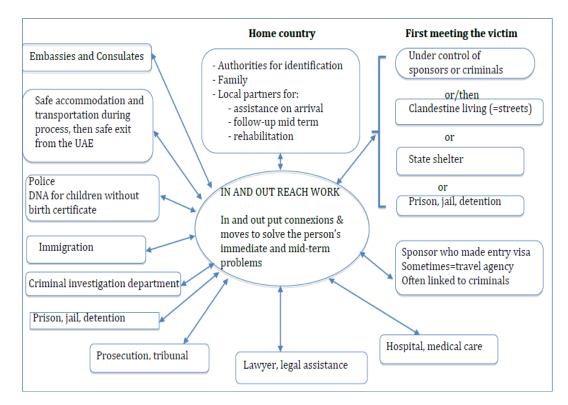
In 2018, this action provided direct and decisive relief to 177 victims from 19 different countries who were repatriated within an average period of less than two months after the first identification.

Our assistance has recently been extended to victims from Asia and Africa. In addition, we started work in a 2nd country of exploitation in the Gulf region.

The diagram on the next page shows the methodology we developed with the on-site team.

## **Persian Gulf**

Intervention diagram for the identification, release, repatriation and followup service provided to victims of human beings trafficking





Victims of human trafficking awaiting repatriation
(photo Istiqbolli Avlod)

## Campaign for the abolition of the death penalty and life imprisonment applicable to minors

#### Situation

Initiated in May 2016, the campaign first established its goals and limitations:

- 1 Obtain the abolition of the death penalty and life imprisonment for minors (at the time of the facts). The 13 states concerned by the death penalty (in their laws or practices) and the 68 states concerned by life imprisonment, have received a letter from *Vivere* asking them to validate or not, the information in our possession on their legislation. We received three answers. But the most important was to notify them of the existence of our movement and of its objective.
- 2 Establish an international network of skills and references to support a relevant argument, specific for minors prosecuted or convicted, to develop the dissemination of these arguments in the international agenda. In addition, *Vivere* became a member of:
- the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, organizer of the 6th World Congress at which Vivere participated in June 2016 in Oslo, Norway
- the 'Child Justice Advocacy Group' network which brings together international NGOs specializing in juvenile justice which, by integrating Vivere, have placed the abolition of the death penalty as a primary objective.
- 3 Take into account individual situations likely to be supported on the legal level, but also by an international mobilization, in agreement with our partners on-site. A first collaboration has been established with a small Pakistani NGO, "Redemption" (organization dedicated to the prisoners and their families). One of us went on-site in February 2018 to adjust the foundations of the collaboration begun a year earlier.

Countries likely to apply the death penalty to children under 18



**Objective:** by 31 December 2022, the 13 countries whose legislation still provides for the death penalty and the 68 countries providing for life imprisonment for children in conflict with the law (under 18 at the time of the crime), have abolished related articles in their respective criminal laws, and have taken measures and provisions to verify their application throughout their jurisdiction. <sup>9</sup>

Achievements: With the help of students from the International School of Lausanne, Vivere launched an international petition addressed to the Human Rights Council to argue that the death penalty is still applicable for minors in a dozen of countries. The latter, however, have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child which stipulates (Article 37) its absolute prohibition. By 31 December, the petition had acquired 11,145 signatures. https://www.change.org/p/conseil-des-droits-de-l-homme-des-nations-unies-abolition-de-la-peine-de-mort-applicable-aux-mineurs

In terms of advocacy, Vivere continued to challenge the UN authorities on the case of a Pakistani detainee who had been imprisoned for 19 years for a crime committed while he was a minor. A trial on appeal, then in the Supreme Court, followed by two requests for presidential pardon failed. Its execution can therefore occur at any time. We have asked the chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to intervene by name with the Pakistani president, which has been done, but to no avail so far.

In addition, Vivere's argument (available on this site) has been sent to numerous interlocutors and disseminated to several specialized institutions in the field of juvenile justice at the international level. Vivere held an information booth at the International Conference of French-speaking Bar in Lausanne in December 2018. It was an opportunity to promote this campaign, thanks to numerous exchanges with lawyers from several countries.

Our search for partners in several other countries concerned by this situation is continuing. It is difficult to find partners in countries where civil society is either very weak, or insecure about its action and sometimes about its own existence on such a sensitive subject. We are hopeful, however, to succeed in 2019.

The size and the modest resources of Vivere are obviously not enough to carry out, alone, an action of this scale. We call on the expertise and militant forces of as many organizations and qualified people as possible to share this fight.

## **Pakistan**

#### Situation

According to the Pakistani legislation, the death penalty can be pronounced against children under 18, and executed, with reference to the Anti-Terrorist Decree, to the Anti-Drug Decree, or for a crime under the Hadd (religious precept). It can be estimated around 800 the number of convicts awaiting execution who were minors at the time of the charges against them.

Excerpts from Amnesty International's 2017 report on the general context: "The law passed in 2016 was used to intimidate, harass and arbitrarily arrest human rights defenders because of comments posted online: enforced disappearances were commonplace, and impunity was widespread. Blasphemy-related violence cost a student his life, and, rare event, the government condemned these actions. Large-scale protests were held to support anti-blasphemy laws that were used to condemn people who expressed their views. Journalists were attacked without knowing who their attackers were. Members of minorities continued to be discriminated against when trying to access economic and social rights. Women continued to be killed 'in the name of honour' despite the adoption, in 2016, of a law punishing this practice under criminal law."



Objectives	Achievements 2018
During this	In 2018, a dozen individual cases of juveniles prosecuted or sentenced for crimes committed before the age of 18 years were treated by our
second year:	partner lawyers in Lahore (Pakistan). Vivere's action is not to deal with their innocence or guilt, but about the risk - illegal - of a death sentence
establish the	or life imprisonment, in contradiction with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 37) ratified by the country, but also in
legal defence	contradiction with the new national law on juvenile justice enacted in May 2018, which prohibits the death penalty for minors (Article 16). The
of at least ten	testimonies of our partners confirm that the law is largely ignored and is not currently the subject of any training in the region of Punjab.
young people	In some individual cases, the procedure goes on for several months because of doubt (real or supposed) on the age of minors. Sometimes, minors
on death row.	have been removed, thanks to the lawyers, from the death penalty when the procedure had been started by an "anti-terrorist" court, to be
	treated by a "regular" court where they still risk the prison for life. Our lawyers were also seized with a particularly unacceptable situation
Partners:	where a minor arrested died at the police station Another case of minor, Christian, persecuted for blasphemy against Islam, could be released
Redemption	and join his family abroad.
association	Beyond the strictly legal aspect of this action, the human dimension is very important: almost all minors concerned come from very
and several	underprivileged backgrounds, sometimes from rural areas very far from the city: their psychological state is particularly affected when they are
independant	incarcerated for long months, without any information about the procedure, without any visit from their family, and sometimes subjected to
lawyers	violence inside the prison.

## **Philippines**

#### Situation

Northern region of Cebu Island, especially the municipality of San Remigio and Medellin. The Philippines, with 103 million inhabitants  $^{10}$ , rank 113th in the world in the Human Development Index.  $^{11}$ 

The country has been led since July 2016 by Rodrigo Duterte, who is pursuing controversial policies such as the restoration of the death penalty and extrajudicial executions.

Currently, the country's economic situation is further aggravating malnutrition problems as about 28 million Filipinos are unable to afford the food needed to meet their nutritional and basic needs.

In such a context, thousands of mentally ill people in the country are still subjected to serious abuses. Stigmatized and without medical resources, they are often hindered, held in chains, kept in a cage or subjected to other methods of brutal detention. The individual is deprived of his freedom, tortured and traumatized beyond the impact of his initial illness. The resulting lesions greatly aggravate the condition of the patients, making their rehabilitation very difficult or impossible.



Objectives	Achievements 2018			
Free a small group of people from abuse (confinement, chaining, deprivation of care) and stigma through medico-social work and rehabilitation strategy.	- Evaluation of cases and mental health services on site by a psychiatrist and a representative of Vivere during an exploratory mission carried out in August/September 2018.			
Inform the relatives of patients and the local population about alternatives to practices that violate these human rights.  Disseminate this modest action in the media and the specialized press, aiming to inspire similar actions on a larger scale.	<ul> <li>Writing a report on the situation of victims to define an action strategy.</li> <li>Start a discussion with the local authorities so that a local team starts to follow the cases of the most severe mental patients whose treatment is inhuman.</li> </ul>			

<sup>10</sup> https://www.who.int/countries/phl/en/

<sup>11</sup> http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018 human development statistical update fr.pdf

# Philippines





#### **COMMUNICATION:**

18 articles mentioned the work of *Vivere*, a figure slightly up compared to last year. Our capacity remains insufficient in terms of alerting public opinion on the causes that need to be better known and better understood. Furthermore, the appeal is permanent to people gifted in communication to come to support this work with their talents.

The **presentation brochure** of the movement is still as effective for a rapid awareness of attentive audiences but with little reading time at disposal. The stock, which used to be printed for free by friends who can no longer repeat this gesture, could be renewed thanks to a specific donation. We are looking for another free print solution for a few hundred copies in our two working languages (FRA and ENG), and we appeal to all readers of this report to lend a hand in this quest.

The *Vivere* **website** on <u>www.vivere.ch</u> fulfills its purpose for a simple and explicit presentation of the movement; it is also a convenient and economical tool to get in touch with actors in the field who come to inquire about the possibilities of collaboration. In 2018, with the volunteer help of Quy Lam, Ken and Scott Typaldos, the website was entirely upgraded.

The **Facebook** page <u>www.facebook.com/vivereCH</u> has been more active thanks to the volunteer efforts of Vincent Sugnaux supported by Scott.

New on **Linkedin** <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-vivere/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-vivere/</a>

**Dissemination of work news**: we sent 14 'Newsletters' during the year to all people close to the movement, consisting of short summaries on this and that part of the actions and sometimes calling for a targeted assistance to resolve such or such need. We are very grateful to Fiona Blum for taking over from Sian Harding for the English translations of this newsletter. Finally, having the e-mail address of everyone allows a substantial saving of shipping costs<sup>12</sup>.

Militant sales at the South Pole Solidarity Christmas Market, 13 to 15 December: thanks to the efforts of Valentina, Sian, Colin, Lea, Julie, Josiane, Yves, Mike, Elena, Kelly, Bernard and Emma, *Vivere* was able to present to the public not only some articles in sale but also explanations about our activities. A significant profit of CHF 4'555 (€ 4'058) was made, half for the orphans of Kazimia (DRC) and half for the Syrian infants.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> These Newsletters are always sent in "Bcc" so that spammers are not able to catch your address. We have adopted the Mailchimp application so that messages are displayed in a more user-friendly way on mobile phones.

## **COMMUNICATION** (continuation)

- On June 22nd at the International School of Lausanne, a contradictory debate was held on the death penalty applicable to minors (at the time of the charges against them), as part of a pedagogical week on human rights. Responsible for this action in *Vivere*, Bernard was present. Teachers and students shared roles to confront the arguments. The "actors" (teachers and students) made a real effort to search for documentation and arguments to express much more credible analysis than at the "Café du Commerce". The students were not the less virulent to promote the idea that the notion of sovereignty of a country does not in any way contradict, in criminal practice, the international norms and standards of human rights, that these same states have negotiated, adopted, signed and ratified.
- On July 6th in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, a joint press conference was held by the local authorities (Police, Immigration, Municipality), our local partner the Avenir association, and Mike for Vivere. Subject: prevention of human trafficking in the Western part of the country, assistance to victims, necessary repression of trafficking networks.



## COMMUNICATION (suite)

• In August we had the visit in Lausanne of Georgette Tshibang, founder and head of the Tulizeni Center (North Kivu, RdC), whose partnership is summarized on page 4 above. It was an opportunity for Georgette to finally meet the other members of our team, to be interviewed by the press, and to host an evening with Vivere's friends. Her filmed testimony is on <a href="http://vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias-2/#videos">http://vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias-2/#videos</a>





Meeting of 6th August with Georgette

• From December 2nd to 12th, our partner and friend Samy Mukombozi, president of the UCPDHO in South Kivu, was among us. His story of our partnership is also on <a href="http://vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias-2/#videos">http://vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias-2/#videos</a>



## COMMUNICATION (suite)

From December 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, Vivere was invited to hold a stand at the heart of **the Congress of the International Commission of the French Bar**, which gathered in Lausanne nearly 1'000 lawyers from thirty countries. This presence has allowed us to make numerous militant contacts, many of which are promising in terms of possible synergies. We were also offered the opportunity to present our movement at the plenary session of the Congress.







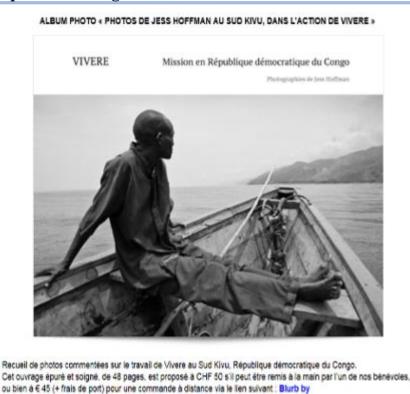
## **COMMUNICATION** (continuation)

Cards in postal format still available: a series of cards illustrating our actions in the field. The photos are testimonies, they are of course exclusive property of Vivere,  $\mathbb{C}$ . These cards are presented here below; each one is captioned on the back. The series of 10 cards is offered at CHF 20 ( $\mathfrak{E}$  15).

We invite you to combine useful and pleasant by ordering one or several series



This book of photos on our work in the Democratic Republic of Congo is still available



The track record of the communication tools and events is worth emphasizing due to the fact that it was constituted with almost zero net costs for the movement. To receive so many free items and services is obviously not without cost for some friends, therefore *Vivere* expresses its deepest gratitude to those who have had the courage to solicit them as well as to those who have granted them, often at their own expense and/or by paying with their person at a high price. It's quite simple: we owe them everything, absolutely everything!

#### II FINANCES

Josiane will submit the 2018 accounts in due form to the general meeting. These accounts were graciously compiled by the company MAZARS, whose officials were sensitive to the causes defended by *Vivere* and to our concern to save resources by the allocation of free services.

Let us remind that the billing of this work is offset by a compromise ensuring, ultimately, no charge for the movement. Such a gesture is exceptional because it not only guarantees the best factors of seriousness and professionalism for the keeping of our accounts, but also inspires confidence to donors on such a sensitive aspect of management.

At the end of the year, *Vivere* has 5 individual members who form the committee, 54 solidarity members contributing, and 443 donors since the beginning, among which about 1/5th have made one or more payments this year. These people are mainly in Switzerland, France, Spain and a few in the United States. We assure all donors and members of our deep gratitude for the trust they place in this movement. Thanks to you, someone somewhere in the world has stopped suffering, and someone else elsewhere will suffer less.

There are no 'small' donations to *Vivere*, especially since the smallest payments often correspond to a fervent intention.

The motivation of donors who pay CHF 10 or 25, several times during the year, goes straight to our heart and deserves our deepest respect.

As long as we will function on a base of full volunteering, the entire resources go and will go to the projects in the field. This principle remains constant. We have received specific donations to cover almost entirely all mission- and administration expenses.

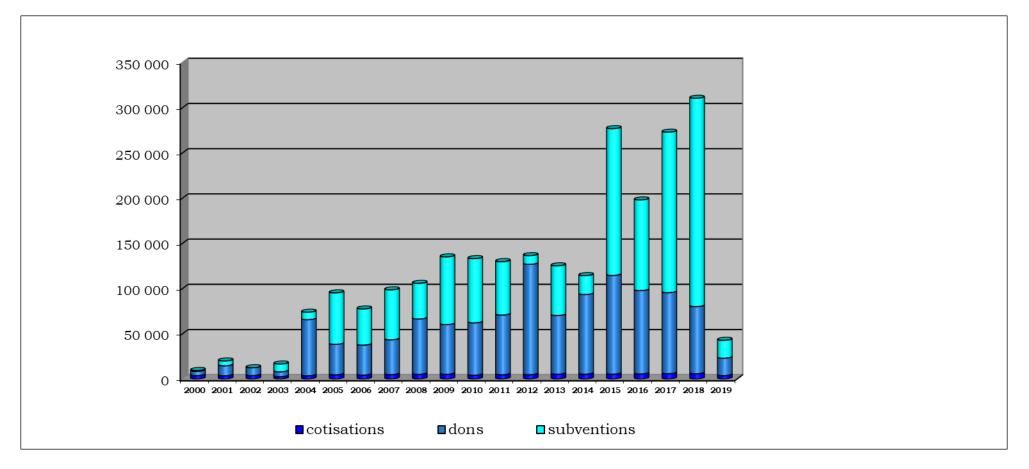
What stands out from the pages above is the exceptional solidarity given to actions in the field by the friendly organizations: Prapioz Foundation, the International Organization for Migration, Pro Victimis Foundation, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Sentinelles Foundation. Such confidence increases tenfold the impact of our work. It is also evidence that the human causes that we support overlap with the beliefs of justice of these organizations whose chronicle is much longer than ours, and whose wisdom very often enlightens us.

Eleven members or donors have spontaneously decided to make or renew a monthly or quarterly standing order payment in favour of the movement, which makes a valuable contribution both due of course to the amounts concerned but also as a sign of encouragement that renews itself regularly

#### Chart as an indication:

#### Resources

(Situation on 6th April 2019, in Swiss francs)



## Contributions, donations, subsidies \*

Since its creation in 1999 *Vivere* is driven only by volunteers. Without expensive devices for fundraising or marketing, and without rents to bear, our operating costs are less than 2%. This spartan management of the movement is only possible thanks to your solidarity.

#### III TEAM

Emma Garcia as secretary, Josiane Grimbühler treasurer, Scott Typaldos and Sian Harding form with Mike Hoffman the *Vivere* committee which, having formally met 4 times <sup>13</sup> since the previous general meeting, regularly consult each other in-between. Bernard Boëton, in charge of the project 'Abolition of the death penalty applied to minors', also takes part in the meetings of the committee.

Let us note that the mail often brings us spontaneous applications of people seeking an internship or a job, their trust honours us. Vivere can certainly be an interesting internship field for an aspiring student wishing to be seriously involved, in principle we would welcome him/her willingly; but in the absence of an office facility and of a person permanently present the association meets only with difficulty the minimum logistic conditions to validly supervise a trainee.

The previous pages show that 2018 has brought us many crucial volunteer contributions. Without the risk of omitting some it would be hazardous to try to summarize all the names that have not already been mentioned in this report, but we are grateful for each and every one of those people who alone have allowed, and still allow, to pull upwards the action of the movement

It remains however desirable that more members get involved in the search for funds and for free goods or services.

#### IV FUTURE:

This small movement must strive to:

- 1. Attract more people to become members and engage more of its members to take on concrete responsibilities.
- 2. Increase its fundraising capacity to quickly reach the amounts included in our draft budget designed for launch, that is around CHF 500,000/year (€ 417,000). Such financial strength would make it possible to address some thirty micro-projects in the year by having 1 full-time equivalent in permanent work force to serve and coordinate the whole under the auspices of the committee.
- 3. Whatever the financial evolution: intensify the communication on the causes & struggles for which *Vivere* was created, support the actors of justice who are fighting on the front line, get more involved in the activist networks and help to circulate vital information.



We hope to read or hear your criticisms, comments, contributions. This little machine to restore the right to live owes you so much ... and yet it requires you again!

17th April 2019

Sian Harding Emma Garcia

Josiane Grimbühler

Scott Typaldos

Mike Hoffman

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> On 12th April, 28th June, 4th October and 4th December