

protecting people whose lives are endangered by unacceptable discrimination

v i v e r e

“The greater the goals, the bigger the achievements”

(Alfred Capus)

Annual Activity Report 2023

Since its creation in 1999 *Vivere* has been made up solely of volunteers.
With no expensive outgoings on fundraising, marketing or rent, we
have been able to keep our costs down to under 2%. This has only been
possible thanks to your support.

Dear Friends,

This document sets out a summary of our projects, finances, future plans and management team. If you would like any more information on any subject, please do not hesitate to ask.

The events of this year have led Vivere to get involved in three further areas, in addition to the countries and projects that we have been working in for several years:

1. Since February 2022 the war in Ukraine has caused terrible devastation and the loss of many thousands of lives. This has forced the exodus of nearly sixteen million civilians who have either been displaced internally or to other countries. Thanks to the spontaneous generosity of members of the public sympathetic to our movement, we have been providing medical help and food assistance to several hundred of the most vulnerable Ukrainians both in Ukraine and in four neighboring countries¹ since March. This continues to be the case at the time of going to press, although donations have plummeted which causes us concern for how we are going to be able to provide a bare minimum of aid.
2. We have identified 11 Ukrainians victims of war crimes in the East of the country and have been providing them with legal aid. This would not have been possible without the courage of our friend Gennady G, a locally based lawyer, and his willingness to follow this through, working in conjunction with local prosecutors. We have had no prior experience in this type of crime until now.²
3. Further to a decision made by the committee at the end of 2021, we have consolidated and extended our work in the legal defense of adults accused of blasphemy who are facing the death penalty.

This document presents a summary of our actions, finances, team and future. By simple request you can receive all details available on each subject.

¹Poland, Moldavia, Montenegro and Transnistria

² A War Crime, as defined in Article 8 of The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) outlines all acts deemed to violate the laws of war. These acts are considered to be of sufficient seriousness to be classed as different types of crime: assassination, mistreatment, or deportation for forced labour or any other reason, deportation of civilians into occupied territory, destruction of towns or villages for no reason, or militarily unjustifiable destruction.

Such crimes constitute a grave violation of the Geneva Convention. The United Nations, since its creation in 1945 at the end of the Second World War, has been particularly vigilant on this.

I PROJECTS

	Assistance to victims of atrocities and repression. Better justice	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 and associative life
Burundi	p.8			p.8			
Colombia					p. 17		
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	p. 10	p. 10	p. 10				
Persian Gulf						p. 29	
Moldova & Transnistria	p.23		p.23			p. 23	
Worldwide: abolition of death penalty and life imprisonment of children	p. 31						
Uzbekistan	p.28		p.28			p. 28	
Pakistan	p. 32					p. 32	
Switzerland							p. 36
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Human Trafficking	p.20		p.20			p. 20	
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General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People living in situations of internal displacement due to armed conflict: p. 4 - Relief for people accused of blasphemy facing the death penalty: p. 5 - Missions in countries of work and ways of support to partners: p. 7 						

II FINANCE p. 38

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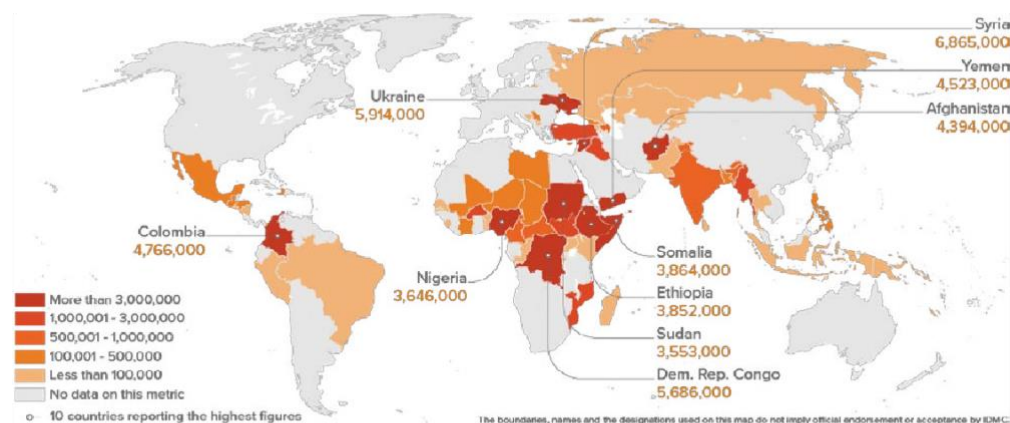
IV FUTURE p. 40

People around the world living in situations of internal displacement due to armed conflict:

The world report on the number of people internally displaced this year shows the magnitude of the problem³ which impacted more than 62 million people in 65 countries and territories by the end of 2022. More than half of these internally displaced people were children and young people.

Vivere, teaming up with local partners, is working in the countries which counted the most number of displaced people: Syria, Columbia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Unfortunately, 2022 saw Ukraine being added to this list with 8 million displaced people (more than 7.5 million as refugees in other countries⁴)

Displaced by conflict and violence



62.5 million

Internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence in 65 countries and territories as of 31 December 2022

↑ 17%

Increase in the number of people internally displaced by conflict and violence since 2021

³

https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/IDMC_GRID_2023_Global_Report_on_Internal_Displacement_HQ.pdf

⁴ Some 7.5 million Ukrainian refugees have been displaced across Europe. The World Health Organization (WHO), classes this situation as one of the eight most serious health crisis in the world

Helping people accused of blasphemy who risk the death penalty

Confronted with realities on the ground in contexts of extreme intolerance, Vivere has strengthened its support to people, minors and adults, who are accused - rightly or wrongly, it doesn't really matter - of having committed blasphemy ⁵. In some countries ⁶, the penal code and/or customary laws can lead to the gallows, stoning or other forms of the most ferocious killings.

This is unbearable.

For obvious security reasons, we will not name the country concerned here. Our friends living there have recently made us aware of a case of a 42-year-old man who is said to have claimed that he had been visited by the Prophet Mohammed and Moses in a dream who declared that he was a prophet. He was immediately imprisoned for blasphemy.

As a matter of principle, we are opposed to the death penalty ⁷, and we are all the more repulsed by this outdated indictment of someone whose discernment and ability to defend himself are impaired by a mental illness. In a difficult and dangerous context because of the hysteria of many extremists in the area, our lawyer friends courageously volunteered to defend the accused in court.

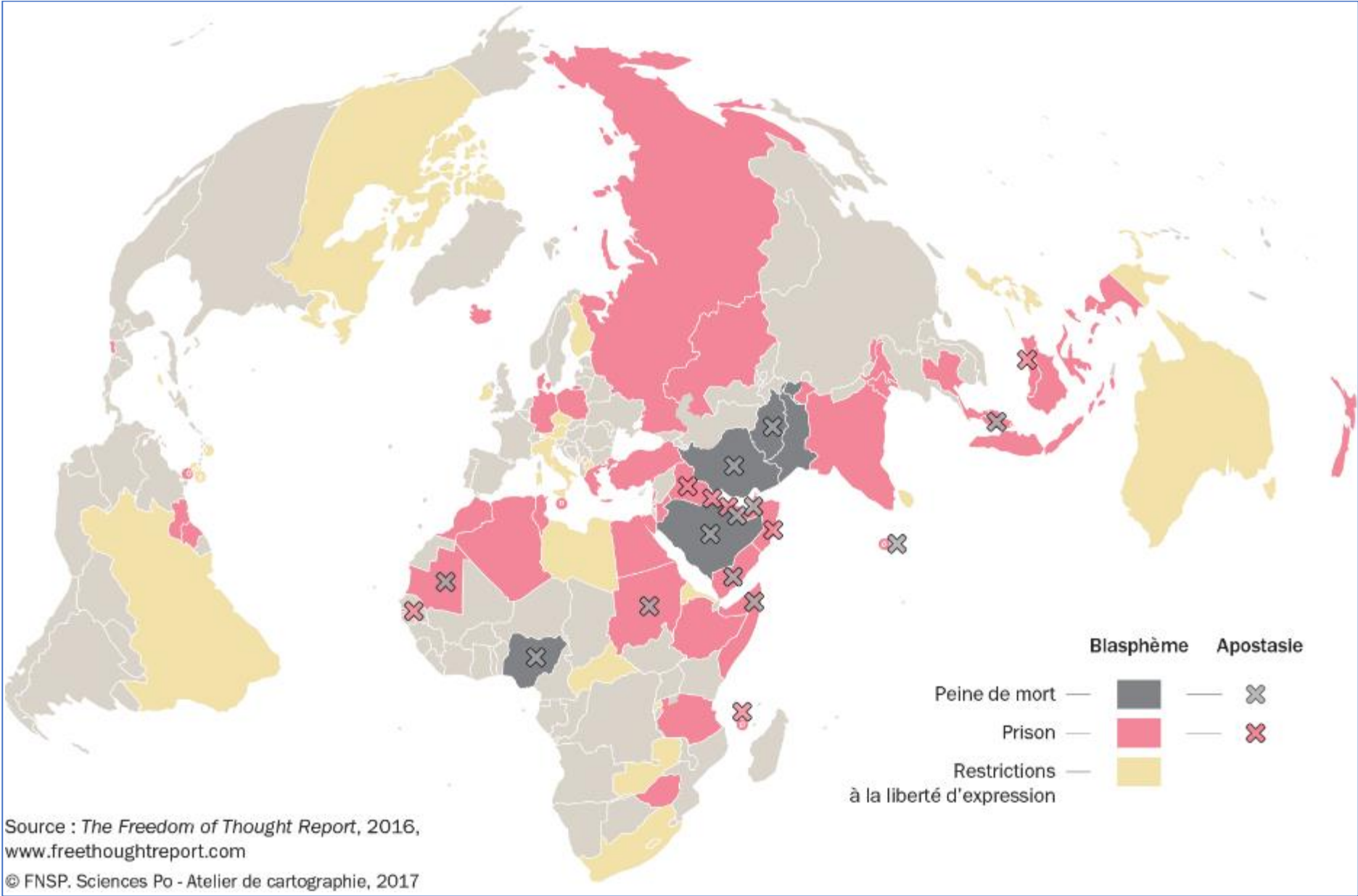
The experience we have gained in the last three years in defending people accused of blasphemy facing the death penalty may mean that we will have to strengthen this aspect of our work in the near future to save lives. Readers of this report who are able to assist us in this specific action (documentation, methodology, financial resources, other) are thanked in advance.

⁵ Larousse : Parole ou discours qui outrage la divinité, la religion ou ce qui est considéré comme respectable ou sacré. (Le blasphème est à distinguer du sacrilège : le premier consiste en paroles, le second en actes.)

⁶ In dark grey on the following map

⁷ Vivere has been a member of the 'World Coalition against the Death Penalty' since 2016

Penalties in countries with anti-blasphemy legislation



The various forms of support that Vivere provides to its partners in the countries of work

Always with the exclusive objective of rescuing, assisting and protecting victims of violence in all its forms, here is a simple summary of what our movement implements with its partners in the field. In a way, it is 'tailor-made' according to the specific needs expressed by our colleagues acting in the field and that we verify & support by regular missions on the spot⁸.

Form of support	Examples among others
1. Financial	In almost all cases, with some exceptions, however
2. Action design/strategy	Fight against human trafficking: six countries concerned
3. Approaches to civil or military authorities	South Kivu, with partner UCPDHO
4. Monitoring and evaluation tools, guidelines, etc.	Gulf Region with partner Crises Center. Pakistan with all our local partners
5. Fundraising with other donors ⁹	D.R. Congo: several partners supported to find financing for a vehicle from MIVA
6. Availability of legal, technical or other documentation to support an action	Pakistan, for lawyers active in the legal defense of minors facing the death penalty
7. Promotion / liaison with other partners in the North or South	Syria, in favor of the local team 'Vivere-Syria'
8. Alerts to be disseminated and/or relayed at the international level	Mauritania, with our partner the IRA against slavery
9. Joint press conferences	Ukraine with partner 'Avenir'
10. Safeguarding threatened activists	DR Congo with partner ACMEJ and Protection-Solidarity

⁸ In 2023 the following missions were carried out: Pakistan in March, Moldova & Ukraine and Transnistria in June, Uzbekistan in July, Burundi and DR Congo in September, Persian Gulf in December

⁹ Some institutions do not directly subsidize field organizations but only through a Swiss entity that agrees to give a moral guarantee in support of the request coming from the field. On a few occasions in the past we have rendered a similar service to our partners (Uzbekistan, Ukraine, DRC in particular), by acting as intermediary / guarantor with funding agencies. For us it represents of course additional working hours because we only guarantee requests verified as serious and properly documented. But it is a valuable service, and appreciated by the partners.

Burundi

Situation

- 27834 km2, 11 865 821 inhabitants in 2020 (426 inhabitants/km2), 45% of whom are under 15 years old.
- 90% of the economy is agricultural.
- 75% of Burundi's population will be living below the poverty line in 2020 (World Bank estimate). Economically poor country among the poorest.
- Strong patriarchal society.
- Inter-ethnic massacres (1969, 1988), genocide (1972-1973), civil war (1993-2005)
- Hundreds of thousands of deaths and massive displacement of population within the country and to countries bordering Burundi.
- Since 2005, the war is over. But its consequences are numerous and palpable on all levels.



Population cible identifiée avec le partenaire SFBSP-Burundi "Association des droits de la femme" :

Femmes travailleuses de sexe singulièrement vulnérables.

- Victimes de violence policière pour exercice illégal de la prostitution
- Emprisonnées sans procès
- Victimes de violence de la part des clients qui ne veulent pas payer la prestation
- Victimes de violences de la part de tout citoyen qui se sent légitimé de violenter les travailleuses de sexe sous prétexte de la défense des mœurs et de la moralité

Objectifs	Outcomes 2023
Request from sex workers (SWs): financial support to develop income-generating micro-projects that can enable SWs to "change their lives".	<p>Summary of the report drawn up by our friends in the SFBSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ten women from Kamenge, Kinama and Cibitoke have all said how beneficial the fund enabling them to generate income from micro-projects has been to them. - The economic situation of ten female sex workers has improved - Ten female sex workers have left prostitution and have regained their dignity and place within their community. <p>- A third group of 10 TS has been selected to take part in the project in 2024.</p>



In Burundi, to be denounced by your husband is to bear the seal of shame. Vona found herself without a roof over her head, without money, without a field to grow crops: she was totally destitute. All she had left was her children who she had to feed. So she turned to prostitution. Prostitution is illegal in Burundi. By turning to prostitution, Vona has been exposed to: violence and being beaten to death with 'defence of morals' being used as an excuse; clients torturing her, rape, sexually transmitted diseases, imprisonment, sometimes "for life" because these cases are rarely judged and the women can languish indefinitely in prison.

At a 'general assembly' held in Bujumbura by our partner on the 22 December 2023, the sex workers evaluated the first and second years of the project and worked with us to develop criteria for refocusing the project in 2023 and select the ten new beneficiaries from their group. These ten people will receive training and equipment to enable each of them to start a professional activity, aiming at a return to a decent life.



Democratic Republic of Congo, South and North Kivu

Situation

In our opinion, the main factors of destabilization preventing a durable peace in the Kivu region are:

- Numerous discredited leaders who have escaped justice and acted with impunity despite incredible corruption and involvement in blood crimes.
- Arms sales to illegal gangs & militias
- Greed for mineral and natural resources of the region, which are regularly looted by ruthless national and foreign forces
- The separatist politics of any number of factions spurred on by the afore-mentioned factors.
- 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	Outcomes 2023
<p>1 Intensify the fight against impunity by allowing the military prosecutor's office to sit “in the bush” in order to investigate and grant judgement in cases of indictment of soldiers or militiamen suspected of crimes against citizens, (murder, rape or sexual violence, torture, physical abuse, other inhumane and degrading acts).</p> <p>- Local partners in South Kivu: Military tribunal and UCPDHO</p> <p>- In North Kivu: Association Protection and Solidarity</p>	<p>Two mobile courts were held in Lumanya in March then in Lemera in September during which nine crimes were judged. The 38 operations¹⁰ held since 2006 aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bring to trial suspects of blood crimes or other serious offences - give food for thought to criminals still at large, as well as those who would be tempted to commit future abuses - prove to the population of the territories of Fizi and Uvira that justice is finally at hand and to spread awareness of the man-made suffering that has been endured. <p>On the 24 September, in Goma, we proceeded with the third compensation of ten victims whose right to compensation had been violated. The following page explains the meaning of this innovative operation.</p> <p>In North Kivu Vivere supports two lines of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School rehabilitation of 10 underage rape victims on the one hand, and - Legal defense of 15 victims of sexual violence on the other hand
<p>2 Monitoring and alerts on blood crimes, medical assistance to victims.</p> <p>Long-term assistance to elderly people in total deprivation.</p> <p>Local Partner: ACMEJ * (see page 13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -7 civilian victims of assaults by armed men received medical attention. -3 activists threatened with death by the militia they denounced were taken to safety. -Vivere is providing communication and transportation support to the ACMEJ, which conducts surveys over vast areas of the territory. -7 abandoned and homeless elderly people are now protected in Katogota
<p>3 Support for young girls who have dropped out of school as a result of war.</p> <p>Local partner: FEDA, Kazimia</p>	<p>Payment of school fees (primary and secondary) for 22 orphan teenage girls, including several teenage mothers. Two other students are supported in a vocational school in Baraka.</p>

¹⁰ A capitalisation document was drawn up by Lea Ruiz, with a transversal analysis of all these operations. Available upon request.

Democratic Republic of Congo, South and North Kivu (suite)

Excerpts from our speech at the 3rd compensation operation for ten victims whose right to compensation had been violated (Goma on 24/09/2023):

We have been thinking of ways to develop this project for more than three years-or rather, more than sixteen years since the first Mobile Court was held in Baraka from the 22 - 25 December 2006, presided over by Lieutenant Magistrat Modeste KILANDALA.

These Courts ruled on a total of 206 complaints brought before the Tribunal. Two hundred and six defendants for blood crimes (assassination, murder or homicide), rape of adult women and minor girls, criminal violence, armed robbery, extortion and other offences punishable by law, appeared before the Tribunal. How many of them could have escaped prosecution if the courageous actors of the Tribunal and those of civil society, if the valiant lawyers, if the courageous victims called to the bar, if this group of brave citizens had not mobilised, against all odds, to ensure that justice was done?

The 38 Mobile Courts took place for the most part in the bush, with the most basic logistics, without 'per diems' or generous benefits, and without any comfort for the participants, sometimes in high-risk military zones. It took courage for each and every one of those who took part. This collective courage in the itinerancy of the Tribunal allowed the hearings to be held in the open air, in the presence of a large audience, as close as possible to the localities where the crimes had been committed, in full view of the inhabitants who were able to witness them and who had had to suffer the fear of the ill-intentioned man-at-arms. It should also be noted that in the interests of fairness, Vivere and our partners have systematically provided lawyers for both the victims/civil parties and the defendants so that the right to a defense could be properly guaranteed.

These trials have involved more than two hundred victims, including those who survived the attacks. Those who were murdered or shot were represented by their respective families.

To our knowledge, none of the victims recognised as such by the Tribunal received any compensation for the harm they suffered, not one dollar, not one franc. One thing that is certainly precious is that the judges recognise the status of victim to the person who suffered a criminal attack. This recognition can be of singular importance for his or her honour, dignity and reputation, even if it is purely moral. But something else is the absence of financial or material reparation. The victim's life has been robbed, his or her destiny has been altered, and his or her physical and mental capacities may have been severely weakened. Some victims of sexual violence have been denounced and ostracized from their community; their children have certainly suffered permanently. As for the child born of a rape, who will protect him or her, respect him or her, and ensure that he or she has a life worthy of the name? The same questions apply to the orphans of a father or mother who have fallen victim to a murderer. The person responsible for this sudden misery is sentenced to compensate his victim, but more often than not he will escape this obligation. The court decision could not be executed in full. The victim will be left behind indefinitely. This is intolerable, or at least it should be.

This process that we follow is not exemplary in any way, either in terms of those who benefit or the amount of aid they receive. It in no way exonerates the convicts, it does not lessen prejudice, it does not absolve people of their responsibilities. If the State or International Community

provided some kind of recourse to the victims of the cruel crimes committed by soldiers or uniformed representatives of law and order, then we would not need to do this.

Today's process is aimed at ten people for whom the court have ruled in their favour, but who still have received no compensation. While saluting their courage, Vivere and our partners can only offer the bare minimum to help them get through this ordeal.

Finally, today's process is a reminder that in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, tens of thousands of victims of crimes recorded by the military and civil courts are still suffering from the total absence of financial or material reparation, which they may feel is a denial of justice.

"Let everyone know and wake up! "



Victims who received compensation on 24-9-2024 (photo has been published with their consent)

Democratic Republic of Congo, South and North Kivu (continued)

* 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 \$ 500 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 projects such as the one assisting 50 orphans of the Mutarule massacre for a year. We also participate in the individual rehabilitation of seriously injured civilians who are left with a severe handicap.
- Assistance to widows & children of murdered ACMEJ activists (Toto Kaligito, Akili Bigaya and last 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.)

Although ACMEJ is definitely brave and persistent, it is also quite simple (in the sense of not being manipulative) when it comes to ingratiating themselves with humanitarian elites and donors. This is why ACMEJ remains and will probably remain a very small grassroots organization. One of the kind *Vivere* particularly appreciates, who picks up the wounded on the ground and makes sure that he/she will be treated, who, in the face of evil, will investigate crimes and denounce them publicly.

(photos *Vivere*)



ACMEJ activists investigating in a village which suffered a massacre



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



Eric Muvomo, Coordinator of ACMEJ

Democratic R. Congo, South and North Kivu



A protected elderly person in South Kivu



Orphans of Kazimia whose school réinsertion is ensured



Mobile Court in Lemera, September 2023

Syria

Situation:

‘The destruction that the Syrians have endured has been so widespread and so deadly that there are few equivalents in modern history’ so declared Antonio Guterres, the General Secretary of the UN in March 2022. ‘There can be no impunity » ¹¹ . Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs stated in November 2022: ‘We are expecting to see a rise in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance. From 14.6 million this year, to more than 15 million in 2023.’ Furthermore: ‘...I equally fear a scenario where the situation will degenerate, partly because today, there is no serious effort to find a political solution to the conflict.’ ¹²

These forecasts were confirmed in 2023 in the briefings from the OCHA which stated that: out of a total population of 23.2 million, 15.3 million need humanitarian aid... ‘‘The humanitarian situation is a complete disaster’’-stated Edem Wosornu, Director of Operations and spokesperson for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The continued fighting and displacement of tens of thousands of people have had a significant detrimental impact on their situation, resulting in even more suffering, especially with the advent of winter. Moreover, the UN has warned of a potentially explosive situation: ‘...just one error -a mis-fired shot, a poorly planned air strike- could ignite any one of a dozen hot-spots in Syria’- according to one senior UN official in his report to the Security Council. ¹³

After 12 years of war, the earthquakes of February 6 have brought the country to its knees, a country which was already suffering the effects of a serious humanitarian, economic and security crisis. As a result of the international sanctions which have been in force since 2011, Syria has been divided into zones controlled either by President Bashar al-Assad or by rebel factions. In spite of calls to increase urgent humanitarian aid, it has been nearly impossible for lorries to cross the Turkish border, even at the crossing points that have been guaranteed by the U ¹⁴

Vivere’s work has been continuing with a small group of volunteers already locally operational before the war, who we lost track of but then re-connected with in October 2014.

Since then, it has been impossible to carry out any missions in Syria (because of the internal conflicts in Lebanon and the COVID-19 pandemic). In October 2022, one of our team tried to get into Syria but he was blocked at the Lebanese border. It is still impossible to get a visa.

Our local team has been continuing to provide assistance as far as they are able.



¹¹ <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2022/03/1116162>

¹² <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2022/11/1130222> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCfnojJ5hyc>

¹³ <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1175/article/syrian-arab-republic-1> <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2023/11/1141037>

¹⁴ <https://www.france24.com/fr/moyen-orient/20230221-face-à-l-absence-d-aide-internationale-les-syriens-sont-en-colère-contre-l-occident> « 12 years of conflict ... : <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2023/04/1134647>

Objectives	Outcomes 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nutritional supplements for infants whose mother, without means, cannot breastfeed, or too little. 2. Contribution to the communication and transportation costs of the team. 	<p>Submerged in an interminable war, more or less forgotten by -or at least cut off from the rest of the world, the everyday reality of the families supported by Vivere's Syrian team is as precarious as ever. They just can't see an end in sight. Neither can we.</p> <p>The explosion in food prices, along with the near impossibility of securing any kind of shelter, weighs heavily on emigrant families who have no family or social network to draw on.</p> <p>The amount of monthly support doubled at the end of 2022, going up to 30 000 LS (Syrian pounds) per new-born. This figure will have to be adapted in 2024 because of the constant devaluation of the currency.</p> <p>209 children received milk supplements in 2023, 176 of whom were new to the program. In total we have supported children and their families in 532 ways ¹⁵.</p> <p>By 31st December 2023 we will have been able to help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 616 new-born with life-saving supplements (1653 by the end of March 2024) - 92 young mothers who had difficult births. - 13 women who had been wrongly imprisoned, have now been freed. - Facilitate logistics for our incredible and courageous team in Syria.



© Vivere-Syria



¹⁵ On average 45 babies each month: 1/3 new cases, 2/3 continued support from the previous month

Colombia

Situation

The peace agreement ending the armed conflict, which lasted more than half a century and left hundreds of thousands of dead, unaccounted for and millions internally displaced, was first uncovered in 2016. However, the general consensus is that this peace agreement has been very slow to be implemented and there is considerable concern about the continuing violence amongst former members of the FARC-EP, social leaders and various communities in the country (UN¹⁶).

This process has come up against considerable obstacles. Amongst these is the re-emergence of territorial violence, armed groups and others who put the peace process at risk. Gustavo Pedro, a former member of the guerrilla group M19, won the presidential elections in 2022. His co-runner, the militant ecologists, Francia Marquez, is the first black woman to hold the post of Vice President in Colombia. This is something worth pointing out.

The Security Council's last report on the UN mission in Colombia recognises the determination to consolidate peace and reduce the conflicts between armed groups and civilians; it calls for the immediate deployment of peace mechanisms.¹⁷ Human rights activists have continued to be the targets of attacks and threats due to the nature of their work. In 2023, the Colombian bureau for the Defence of Human Rights found that although the number of homicides had stabilised, it was now on the increase. According to the 'Somos Defensores' group, 199 activists were killed in 2020, 139 in 2021 and 197 in 2022. By September, INDEPAZ (the Institute for Peace Studies and Development) had already counted 127 homicides amongst its social and human rights activists since the beginning of the year. Although this is a provisional figure, it is damning all the same¹⁸

In Magangué (a region of Bolivar), Atucsara has been continuing to work with displaced people. This is an area that has been one of the most affected by the armed conflict. Having originally welcomed people who had been displaced because of the violence, it is now in a position whereby it has inherited a debt in terms of having to pay reparations to victims. Things are made even more challenging by the territorial influence armed gangs have. They are able to directly affect any decisions that are made in terms of the management of scarce public resources in local government. Poverty in this area is high, reaching 60.3% in rural areas and 44% in towns and cities.

Vivere has been supporting projects led by Atucsara since 2004. One of these projects, carried out with the support of CATLEYA, targets the sustainable development and autonomy of these communities.



¹⁶ ONU Info <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2022/04/1118202>

¹⁷ <https://news.un.org/es/story/2024/01/1527012> <https://news.un.org/es/story/2024/02/1527982>

¹⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2023/11/colombia-defenders-remain-at-risk/>

Colombia (continued)

Objectives	Outcomes 2023
<p>Food security and educational support for children in Santa Fe and Nueva Columbia in Magangué, Bolivar</p> <p>Communities in Nueva Columbia and Santa Fe (Magangué)</p> <p>Partner: Atucsara https://atucsara.org</p>	<p>Atucsara's project in Magangué encompasses an aspect of community development and a 2nd Peace School. An external evaluation carried out this year (following the Fedavaco's guidelines) shows the very clear impact that the project has had -for example in the 'fight against the sexual exploitation of children'. This has been done by making the community aware of the problem (teachers, children, and the people around them) and thus the acceptance of this 'phenomenon' being commonplace. Vivere supported this project right in the beginning in 2011, when it was first set up. Vivere's support ensures that children receive some sort of nutrition whilst they are at school, doing a cultural activity or sport. This comes in the form of a bowl of porridge and a packet of biscuits. The project is concentrated in Nueva Columbia and Santa Fe, since this is where the children's need is the greatest. The mothers normally stay at home in these localities and the fathers do any kind of job so that they can earn between 10 000 and 15 000 COP per day (CHF 2.16 - 3.25). This means that in many households, children only eat once a day. In terms of schooling, children are far behind where they should be in reading and writing as a result of the pandemic in 2020. They are therefore helped with their reading and writing skills. The group is divided into two categories: preschool, and first and second year of primary, and then the older children in the 3rd, 4th and 5th years of primary. The youngest children can't read. They start to learn the alphabet and vowels through various activities, but play has been seen to be especially effective. The older children have made progress in reading and have been taught by using short stories-a different book is brought in every day to keep them interested.</p> <p>More than 180 children have benefited from this support. This has been to such a degree that the children are now enjoying reading and have developed a real taste for it. The afternoon snack that they are given has proved to be essential in helping the children cope with the problems they face at home in terms of getting enough food.</p>



@ Atucsara



Colombie (suite)

Children planted tomato, coriander, chive and paprika seeds. They learned how to take care of a plant, right from the seed.



@ Atucsara



Field of work: Prevention of and fight against human trafficking, assistance to victims

Situation 2023

In 2019, the International Labour Organization estimates that some 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery. The billions of revenues generated by this human exploitation fuel, among other things, armed conflict and finance violent extremism.

The UN estimates that human trafficking brings in some US\$150.2 billion a year to the mafias involved¹⁹. The FIZ²⁰ states that human trafficking in Switzerland has reached a record high with 255 cases, the majority of which were exploited in the sex trade.

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 Children²¹, 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 reasons²²

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

¹⁹ Source: P. Bessler, 'Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits', ILO Working Paper (Geneva)

²⁰ Center for assistance to migrants and victims of women trafficking

²¹ This convention has 189 States parties!

²² At the request of and with the support from two institutions that co-financed this program, all related activities were evaluated by an external organization, 'Strategos', from January to May 2019. The conclusions were mostly positive, and useful recommendations are gradually being implemented.

Since its involvement in assisting victims of human trafficking *Vivere* has rescued and repatriated the following persons:

	Victims repatriated by country of origin	2004 à 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	% since 2009
1	Uzbekistan	(for this period we have no available dispatch record by nationalities; most victims came from Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan)	121	170	97	67	56	43	42	45	55	63	42	84	38	29	30	982	36,5%
2	Russian Federation		17	33	27	22	17	8	22	6	14	15	16	29	20	12	20	278	10,3%
3	Moldova		16	38	20	22	32	15	16	9	6	8	5	2	2			191	7,1%
4	Tajikistan			5	4	1		3	3	1	3	1	4	1	4	2	1	33	1,2%
5	Armenia			5	2		1	1		2	1		1					13	0,5%
6	Azerbaijan			1		1		2	2	1	1	1	4			2		15	0,6%
7	Kyrgyzstan		7	16	15	15	9		3	1	5	4	3	3	5		1	87	3,2%
8	Ukraine		8	6	8	1	3	4	5	3	7	7	4	10	3	7	6	82	3,0%
9	Georgia			1		2	3	1					1	1			1	10	0,4%
10	Mongolia									1								1	0,04%
11	Belarus			2				1	1	1		3	3		6	4	3	24	0,9%
12	Turkmenistan			2	3	1	1	2	5	1		1			1		2	19	0,7%
13	Kazakhstan		5	5	6	3	6	4	1	1	5	2	2		1	1	12	54	2,0%
	Sub-total CIS	461	174	284	182	135	128	84	100	72	97	105	85	130	80	57	76	2250	66,5%
14	Nigeria									30	33	22	29	4	28	34	16	196	7,3%
15	Uganda								1	17	9	17	17	8	14	53	48	184	6,8%
16	Kenya									10	5	3	7		10	37	57	129	4,8%
17	Ghana									3			1					4	0,1%
18	Togo									1			1					2	0,1%
19	Tanzania									1			1			2		4	0,1%
20	Ethiopia		2							6	14	11	22	2	35	33	6	131	4,9%
21	Cameroon									7	5		9	5	4	8	1	39	1,4%
22	Morocco										2		2					4	0,1%
23	Eritrea										1						2	3	0,1%
24	South Africa											1						1	0,04%
25	Sudan												1			2		3	0,1%
26	Angola												1					1	0,04%
27	D.R.Congo												3				1	4	0,1%
28	Ivory Coast													1				1	0,04%
29	Gambia												2					2	0,07%
30	Zambia														2	1		3	0,11%
32	Rep. Of Congo																1	1	0,04%
	Sub-total Africa		2	0	0	0	0	0	1	75	69	54	96	20	93	170	132	712	26,5%
33	Indonesia								2	15	12	13	11		9	4	66	2,5%	
34	Philippines								4	9	5			1			3	22	0,8%
35	Sri Lanka								1	5	3		4		7	10	11	41	1,5%
36	India								2	2								4	0,1%
37	Pakistan								1	1								2	0,1%
38	Bangladesh								1	4			1		2		12	20	0,7%
39	Thailand											2	1		1		4	8	0,3%
40	Vietnam											2						2	0,1%
41	Nepal												2	1	3			6	0,2%
42	China											1					2	3	0,11%
43	Myanmar																1	1	0,04%
	Sub-total Asia		0	0	0	0	0	0	11	36	20	18	19	2	13	19	37	175	6,5%
44	Latvia					1												1	0,04%
45	Estonia										1							1	0,04%
46	Romania										1						3	4	0,15%
47	Bulgaria											1						1	0,04%
48	Hungary															1		1	0,04%
49	France															1		1	0,04%
	Sub-total Europe			0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	9
50	Guyana												1					1	0,04%
51	USA												1					1	0,04%
52	Brazil												1	1				2	0,07%
53	Bolivia														1			1	0,04%
	Sub total Americas												3	1	1	0	0	5	0,2%
54	Stateless										1							1	0,04%
	Total	461	176	284	182	136	128	84	112	185	188	177	203	153	187	248	248	3152	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	16	64
Ukraine	Lawyer Gennady Gerasimenko	42	191
Uzbekistan	Istiqbolli Avlod	93	276
Transnistria	Women's Initiative	2	2
Belarussia	Via CC	3	3
Kyrgyzstan	Via CC	1	1
	Total	157 (including 26 in 2023)	537 (including 26 in 2023)

According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) ²³, many countries are failing to punish human traffickers who are involved in a wide range of criminal activities from sexual exploitation to organ harvesting. Trafficking remains largely unpunished throughout the world. While it involves men, women and children, 70% of the victims are female. "Traffickers are hardly likely to be brought to justice," the document adds. It calls for increased international cooperation to prosecute criminal networks.

Compiling data up to the year 2016, the report notes that by that date there have never been so many countries in situations of armed conflict in the last 30 years. The existence of armed conflict "increases the risk of human trafficking". Conflicts are often accompanied by the failure of the authorities, forced displacement of populations, the breakdown of family structures and economic insecurity.

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is by far the most common, accounting for 59% of identified victims in 2016. Forced labour is the second most common form of trafficking, accounting for a third of the victims covered by the data. Refugee camps are prime locations for traffickers who recruit victims "with false promises of money and/or transport to safer places.

²³ Le Monde : <https://www.24heures.ch/monde/traite-humaine-reste-largement-impunie/story/11408316>

Moldova and Transnistria ²⁴

Situation 2023

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 war²⁵ 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. Around 23.5 % of GDP comes 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.

On top of this, the war which broke out in Ukraine in February 2022 has forced hundreds of thousands of refugees to flee to Moldavia and tens of thousands to Transnistria.



Objectives	Outcomes 2023
Emergency assistance, socio-professional reintegration, psychological and / or legal assistance to victims of trafficking Local partners: Women's Initiative in Transnistria,	Transnistria: our partner reports 28 victims, or potential victims, who were assisted during the year. victims are supported in the medium term.
Support for the elderly & victims of domestic violence Local partner: Compasiune in the center of the country	Project suspended in 2023 following serious health problems amongst one partner team and repercussions of the war in Ukraine.
Providing assistance to the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees. Same partner organisation as the one mentioned above.	133 refugees helped in Transnistria

²⁴ Transnistria, officially the Dniester Moldavian Republic, is a non-internationally recognized State with a slavic-speaking majority and a communist government that seceded from Moldova in 1991 during its independence from the Soviet Union (in which the Dniester Moldavian Republic wished to remain).

²⁵ War which has caused 3,500 deaths and as many wounded

Moldova and Transnistria



Victims and psychologists sessions of de-traumatization



PHOTO OF OLGA (NOT HER REAL NAME) AND HER SON SUPPORTED BY OUR TEAM IN TRANSNISTRIA

Ukraine

Situation at 31.12.2023

18 March 2014 Incorporation of Crimea to Russia
 6 April 2014 Beginning of Donbass War
 24 February 2022 Russian army invaded several regions in the north, south and east of the country

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 more than 17 million of additional people to seek to migrate, exposing themselves to the risks of being abused and exploited by the traffickers' mafias.

The regions controlled by the self-proclaimed republics of Lugansk and Donetsk are particularly vulnerable to repression and crime.

The media has been providing daily coverage of this conflict, the consequences of which are simply terrifying. See the article : The dreadful cost of one year of war in Ukraine ²⁶.



Objectives	Outcomes 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Direct assistance to trafficking victims . Fight against impunity by prosecuting recruiters & traffickers in the courts of Ukraine . Prevention of trafficking with orphans and vulnerable families. . Assistance aux réfugiés et aux déplacés par la guerre. . Défense légale de victimes de crimes de guerre. . Partners: Avenir Association in the west of the country (Jytomyr), in Montenegro and Polonia, and our independent lawyer Gennady Gerasimenko in the east (Kharkiv). 	<p>Combined with the results of previous years we achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 64 trafficking victims received legal assistance during 16 trials held in the Zhytomyr region . 191 victims received legal assistance during 42 trials held in the East <p>In almost all the trials we obtained the conviction of criminals with significant deprivation of liberty sentences.</p> <p>In 2023, 6 victims of trafficking were repatriated from the country of exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . The ass. Avenir organised dozens of trafficking prevention sessions during which several thousand citizens received information to protect them from the risk of being trafficked. <p>At the end of the year, Vivere decided to support Avenir for the fifth time in its project 'Prevention of trafficking by assisting families at risk due to lack of resources, presence of orphans, etc.' In total, 806 young people and adults have been helped by this project this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Approximately 35 displaced people have been helped in Kharkiv. The association 'Avenir' has also provided various types of assistance to several hundred refugees in the area around Krakow, Poland and in Bar, Montenegro. <p>11 victims of war crimes have also been supported through legal proceedings.</p>

²⁶ <https://www.allnews.ch/content/news/1%E2%80%99effroyable-bilan-d%E2%80%99une-ann%C3%A9e-de-guerre-en-ukraine>

Ukraine



Gennady talking to a repatriated traff



Victims of trafficking supported in their legal action



Enquêteurs de la brigade 'crimes de guerre'



Displaced people who have fled the fighting, receiving assistance

Ukraine (continued)





Refuges in Polonia



and in Transnistria.



Uzbekistan

<p>Situation</p> <p><i>"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')</i></p> <p>Facing high unemployment and a minimalist wage policy, thousands of Uzbeks seek to migrate to find a job.</p> <p>This year 12% of the victims of trafficking that we repatriate from the Persian Gulf are from Uzbekistan.</p>	
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Support the follow-up service given to victims once they have returned to their country. Legal assistance to victims who have the courage to lodge a complaint against the perpetrator of the crime.- Local partner: Istiqbolli Avlod Association	<p>Outcomes 2023</p> <p>30 Uzbek victims were repatriated during the year.</p> <p>Psychological support to victims at the stages of identification, repatriation, inquiry and trial: 13 victims have benefited from this new way of providing support. Countries where exploitation took place: Turkey, India, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Emirates.</p>
	<p><i>Victim and her baby</i></p>

Persian Gulf

Situation

Several countries in this region are experiencing economic booms. This wealth encourages the greed of human traffickers 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 has many difficulties, but also two potential dangers:

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

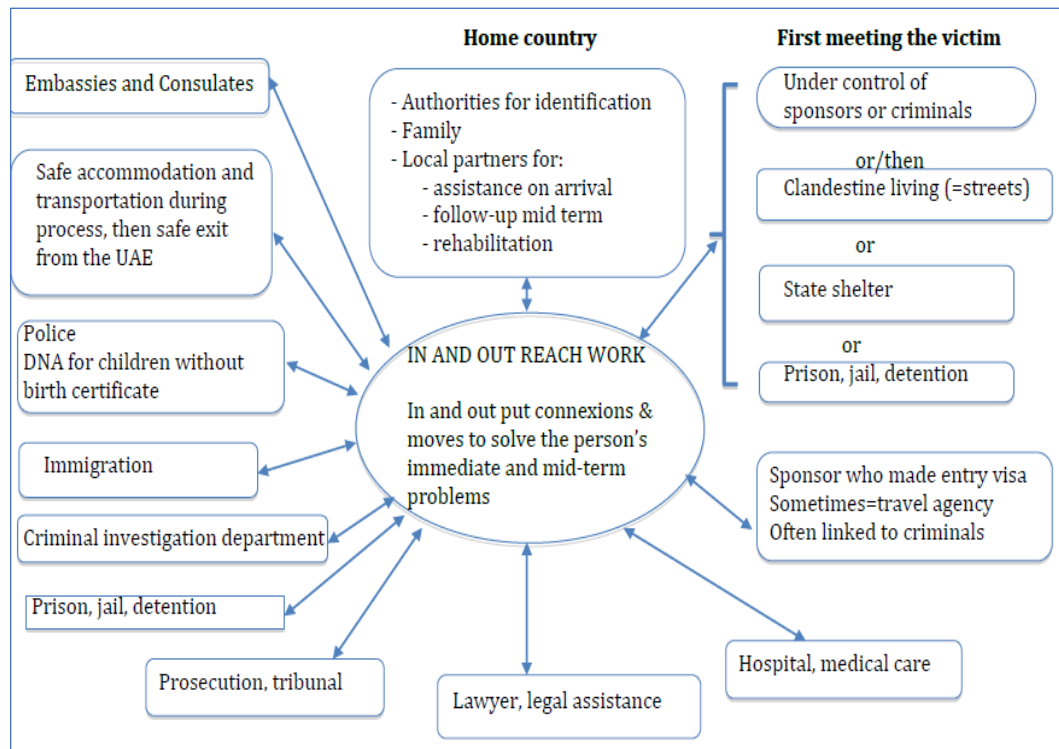
This all goes to explain why we must deal with the authorities in the countries concerned and our partners with the utmost discretion if we are to be successful in our aim of liberating victims and repatriating them safely.



Objectives	Outcomes 2023
<p>. Reduce the threats and torments suffered by trafficked victims in the country of exploitation by repatriating them to their country of origin</p> <p>. 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.</p> <p>. Strengthen an effective synergy with friendly organizations in the countries of origin so that a follow-up service is ensured for each repatriated victim.</p> <p>Local partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - our team constituted in 'Crisis center' - regional delegations of the International Organization of Migration in the countries of origin. 	<p>Since 2008, a small team of 4 people has been established on-site which works continuously to detect and help victims where they are hidden or in hiding.</p> <p>In 2023, this action provided direct and decisive relief to 248 victims from 25 different countries who were repatriated within an average period of less than two months after the first identification. Sexual exploitation remains the majority among the victims</p> <p>During the pandemic, most consulates in the CIS countries concerned were very cooperative with us, even more so than usual, although communication was via teleworking.</p> <p>The diagram on the next page shows the methodology we developed with the on-site team.</p>

Persian Gulf

Intervention diagram for the identification, release, repatriation and follow-up 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
- 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.

One of us went to Pakistan in April 2019 to adjust the foundations of the collaboration begun 2 years earlier. The on-site mission has been repeated every year since then.



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.²⁷

Outcomes: *Vivere* launched an international petition²⁸ addressed to the Human Rights Council to argue that the death penalty is still applicable for minors in a dozen 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 13'719 signatures. *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. In order to initiate programs in Iran and Nigeria identical to the one we are conducting in Pakistan (see next page), contacts have been made with individuals or associations specialised in the field of human rights. On all sides, the information we receive excludes us from currently making contact with people or NGOs on the spot in Iran, or even based abroad, for reasons of personal safety, given the geopolitical and repressive situation of the authorities in place. The contacts made in Nigeria have not yet been successful, given the guarantees that we demand from our partners. This action is taking place in Pakistan thanks to the financial contribution of the Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération (Fedevaco²⁹ since 2019), within the framework of a three-year agreement, for a sum of around CHF 40'000/year (€ 36'000). We would like to thank Fedevaco for this vital support for this program.

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ <https://www.change.org/p/conseil-des-droits-de-l-homme-des-nations-unies-abolition-de-la-peine-de-mort-applicable-aux-mineurs>

²⁹ <https://www.fedevaco.ch/>

An overview of our actions in the country: interview with Bernard Boëton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_l8I-uI3IF0

Pakistan

Situation

The catastrophic floods of 2022 not only caused death and destruction, but also further deepened inequality: <https://www.unocha.org/pakistan>. Cyclone Biparjoy then provoked mass evacuations in the region of Karachi (and the Indian state of Gujarat). We are following a precautionary policy, rather than that of 'wait and see'. According to the Islamabad press 'Our priority is to save lives' <https://www.rts.ch/info/monde/14102403-evacuations-massives-en-inde-et-au-pakistan-avant-larrivee-dun-cyclone.html> The forums that had been planned to take place in the region have been postponed.

Pakistan has been undergoing political instability ever since the ex-Prime Minister, Imran Khan, was removed from power in April 2022, after a controversial vote of no confidence. As a consequence, there is a very real fear that not only will any laws relative to juvenile delinquency stagnate, but that more generally, there will be a steep upsurge in political violence. The Pakistani parliament was dissolved in August 2023, followed by 4 provincial parliaments in Pakistan and the semi-province of Gilgit Balistan.

<https://www.letemps.ch/monde/le-parlement-pakistanais-va-etre-dissous-avant-les-elections...> “ The economy is still at rock-bottom, despite a new recovery plan from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), with a crushing external debt and galloping inflation...” There are currently no functional parliaments or Members of Parliament in Pakistan.

There is an interim Prime Minister and Ministers of State, who do have various supervisory powers. However, interim governments are usually only appointed to ensure a smooth and peaceful transition of power over the electoral period.

As far as the general situation for juveniles who are in conflict with the law is concerned, our position is to ensure that the law -JJSA 2018-is adhered to. This law states, amongst other things, that minors cannot be detained in ordinary prisons.

The surveys that were carried out in the prisons in Sindh and Punjab found and counted the number of juveniles risking the DP (Death Penalty) or LI (Life Imprisonment) -evidence to show that the law was being abused. An article published in October points to the magnitude of this problem and how it affects one of regions of our work “...the Interim Minister responsible for Justice in Sindh has duly noted the findings published in the media, according to which 385 juvenile delinquents are languishing in various prisons, because they have no legal representation...he asked the Department of Justice to provide them with free legal aid and to send him daily reports.” “ [CM orders free legal aid to juvenile prisoners \(tribune.com.pk\)](#). Our partner on the ground (MRDO), whilst endorsing this statement, is of the opinion that nothing will actually happen until a newly elected government is vote in. The Minister only has limited power; the interim government is in charge of organising free and fair elections but has no constitutional authority at all.

The media has illustrated just how precarious the situation is for lawyers in this unstable political climate. Pakistan's barristers who have condemned in the press the assassination of a female lawyer in Attock ‘...wonder at the pathetic state of public order and flagrant inability of the state and forces of law and order to ensure the safety of Pakistan's citizens and the community of lawyers’. The violence has even permeated the courts; two people were shot dead whilst a court session was in progress in Lahore. <https://propakistani.pk/2023/07/13/2-killed-in-firing-incident-at-sessions-court-in-lahore/>.

2023 has seen Vivere broadly following the same objectives as in previous years in compliance with Pakistan's little-known Juvenile Justice Act of (JJSA2018) and in the spirit of international juvenile justice standards:

- monitoring individual cases,
- organisation of forums aimed at raising awareness and training legal staff.



- lobbying the public and the authorities to ensure fair legal proceedings and avoid the risk of death sentences or life imprisonment.

The work that Vivere is carrying out in Pakistan has continued to improve and develop thanks to our partners : LAW in the Punjab with Mr Sarmad Ali, MRDO directed by Ms Saira Ahmed, in Sindh province and SANJOG with Ms Hafiza Tayyba Javaid, based in Lahore in the Punjab, via our legal contact and partner, Mr Waheed Ahmad. Since 2022 we have been helped by a new lawyer in the Punjab, Mr RAMIS, who has taken on individual cases.

Individual Cases

These are mainly young suspects who have been locked up in preventative detention for murder, rape, various types of violence and more rarely , blasphemy etc. They face life imprisonment or the death penalty for these crimes if it is difficult to prove their age, or their age is questionable on the date that the crime was committed. This is despite the law stating that in the event of continued doubt as to the age of the defendant, the defendant should be given the benefit of the doubt (i.e a lighter sentence).

When our lawyers took on their cases, *practically not* one person was being legally represented. Sometimes minors under the age of 14 can be found in prisons, despite the fact that this is completely illegal.

Some minors have been held for a long time, even though by law there is a limit of 6 months detention, after which a minor should be released under caution. In several cases, minors are wrongly accused because of conflict or disputes between adults (easy to do since a minor cannot defend himself). Other cases are 'sorted out' by 'finding a compromise' between families, which normally means some kind of compensation, financial or otherwise. This kind of compromise can avoid a long and costly trial and is completely acceptable if the case is one of theft of a mobile phone, for example. However, if it is a case of rape by or of a minor, does any 'compromise' take into account the rights of the victim -who is unable to defend himself ?...

Potential cases of minors in need of legal aid from Vivere's partners are identified during prison visits and inquiries carried out in situ. This is relatively easy to do, depending on the place, prison or state in question.

Forums and Training

53 forums aimed at heightening awareness of the issues around justice for minors, and all those involved- judges, lawyers, prosecutors, social workers etc- have been organised since the start of the program (see previous annual reports). These forums are organised in the 'Districts' which are the administrative and judicial bodies at the most local level to the civil population.

The case for advocacy:

At a provincial level:

- In Sindh and Punjab Provinces, press conferences have just been held to alert the public to the fact that the juvenile legal system is failing and to highlight the work being done by our local partners to try to bring about essential reforms to guarantee the physical and moral well-being of children who are deemed to be in conflict with the law.
- The 'Charter of Demands' has been sent to all those involved with and responsible for justice for minors in the two provinces of Punjab and Sindh.
- Lobbying the government on the transparency of any decisions made, especially where no decision has been reached. Letter to the government (Sindh Human Rights Commission) sent by MRDO requesting the release of minors.

At a national level:

- Our partners contact parliamentary commissions or members of parliament directly, whenever possible.
- However, since Pakistan is a federation, the effective application of all federal laws depends ultimately on the goodwill of each individual state. Our ability to advocate is further complicated by the authorities passing ultimate responsibility onto others.
- Through audiovisual material, videos, TV spots.

Penjab and Sindh provinces have signaled that they will set up a 'Juvenile Justice Committee' which will be in charge of evaluating the Juvenile Justice system and making recommendations to the legislators, but they are still to meet.

The Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) -LAW, publishes a newsletter every month that is set to a variety of people, forums, training workshops, authorities, media and other NGOs.

At an international level:

LAW sends out a newsletter to about 20 international organisations who are involved in Juvenile Justice (including the World Coalition, the Consortium for Street Children in the UK, the CURE International network, based in the USA, the Asia Network against the Death Penalty, the German Coalition against the Death Penalty, the office of the UN Secretary General and Penal REFORM UK. There are between 20 and 180 members in each institution. The newsletter is currently published in 2 languages. The written responses to the newsletter, all of which are recorded provide a lot of food for thought.

UN Council on Human Rights: Our partners helped formulate the texts sent by the civil society to the Council on Human Rights (Geneva) as part of The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which is concerned with 'examining each member state of the UN with regards to Human Rights but respecting a fixed and predictable time line' Report examined in February 2023

Aims	Outcomes 2023
<p>To extend the scope of the program to at least 10 young people who risk the bleak prospect of the Death Penalty (DP) or Life Imprisonment (LI)</p> <p>Intensive training for legal professionals</p> <p>(In order to guarantee the frequency of fair trials and to avoid the risk of the DP or LP)</p> <p>Partners: Association L.A.W. (Pendjab), MRDO (Sindh), SANJOG (Balûchistân and KPK) and several</p>	<p>The program has been developed in 4 provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the main principles are to monitor individual cases, organise awareness campaigns for legal staff and to advocate for change amongst the public and to the authorities. SANJOG has continued to hold forums in Balûchistan and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</p> <p>Our partners, the Pakistani NGOs LAW (Legal Awareness Watch) in Punjab State and M.R.D.O. (Marvi Rural Development Organization) in Sindh, have strengthened their collaboration in organising awareness-raising forums for police, social and legal staff.. The partnership established with the association SANJOG has continued to hold forums in Balûchistan and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.</p> <p>This year there have been 14 forums - 5 training sessions over 2 days (4 in Punjab, 3 in the Sindh, 2 in Baluchistan, 1 in Islamabad and 4 in KPK)- for a total number of 485 participants (police officers, judges, lawyers, social assistants, media, etc.). Many discover tools or little known ways of working during these sessions which enable them to comply with the legal norms and sometimes to improve their work, or at least make it easier. The meeting in Islamabad (Session on identified gaps in implantation of Juvenile Justice) was organised by SANJOG in collaboration with the Minister for Human Rights, with amongst others, the participation of 11 of his representatives.</p> <p>MRDO and LAW have fine-tuned their advocacy work over 4 press conferences in the Sindh and 2 in the Pendjab. One of these was a special session with journalists on the policy and overriding principles of UNICEF where identifying cases with regards to minors is concerned. A round table on Juvenile Justice brought together 35 participants in Karachi from the backgrounds of child protection, representatives from civil society involved in human rights, probation workers, the police department, the Karachi Bar Association protection, former politicians, and the media. There was a spot on regional TV and two short videos on prevention were produced and put out on several channels in Penjab : (https://youtu.be/YrZkuyFSuuE) https://www.vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias/#uael-video-gallery-8e8c913-4 and in Sind, (https://www.vivere.ch/actualites-et-medias/#uael-video-gallery-8e8c913-2).</p> <p>LAW, in Pendjab, and MRDO, in Sindh have, with considerable help from Vivere in producing the texts, produced and distributed posters to be displayed at courts, police stations, probation offices and barristers offices. LAW continues to publish and widely distribute the Newsletter on a monthly basis. In August 2023, the KPK, as a result of the 'Rules of Working', put out a decree underlining the necessity of applying the JJSA Law.</p>

independant lawyers	<p>As far as individual cases are concerned, SANJOG has compiled a dossier of minors who are being detained in these two provinces, have been charged and are being kept under conditions where their rights are not being respected.</p> <p>-The three lawyers we work in partnership with have also fine-tuned how they monitor individual cases (all of whom are minors, under 18 yrs old). They have all been accused and imprisoned supposedly for serious crimes (generally murder or violent crimes, with some rare cases of 'blasphemy ' or 'terrorism')</p> <p>-In 2023:</p> <p>Mr Sarmad Ali monitored 16 cases of minors in Pendjab, 6 of whom were identified in 2023 (two 14 yr old girls). 4 of these cases have been resolved (2 minors have been acquitted, and 1 case has reached a compromise) 4 have been released under caution, but their trials are still on-going.</p> <p>In Sindh, two cases are being monitored by our partner organisation MRDO.</p> <p>-Mr Waheed Ahmed has been monitoring 7 cases, one of whom was acquitted last October having spent 3 years in detention.</p> <p>-Mr Ramis Sohiall has taken on a case in Pendjab. Despite the length of time that these cases take (2yrs already in this instance), the child, who was 12 yrs old when he was accused of the crime has now been released under caution and can continue his education. This is entirely due to the efforts of his lawyer</p>
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©L.A.W

Minors incarcerated in Penjab



Juvenile Justice Awareness & Training Forum, Islamabad, June 2023



Communication :

Vivere's work was only mentioned in two articles. We really aren't getting through to the public and making them aware of the important issues that need to be better known and better understood. We appeal to anyone who has a talent for communication to help us in this.

The brochure we give out that gives a brief overview of our work is still effective for those who are interested but have little time to read about issues in depth. The stock of brochures which was initially printed by friends for free has now been able to be reprinted, thanks to a specific donation. We are however now looking for another solution so that a few hundred copies can be printed free of charge in our two working languages (FRA and ENG). If any of our readers can help in this, please do let us know.

The Vivere website - www.vivere.ch explains our work simply and in detail; it is also extremely useful in terms of providing information for any activists who are interested in getting involved. In 2023 Julie Liberman and Pierre Dessen volunteered their services to ensure that the site was efficiently managed and maintained -something which requires considerable time and energy!

Facebook's page <https://www.facebook.com/vivere.association>: - thanks to the initiative of Elise Berthelier has been regularly visited. We ask all FB users to share and promote this page as widely as possible.

Dissemination of work news: we sent 11 'Updates' during the year to all people close to the movement, consisting of short summaries on various aspects of our projects, sometimes calling for targeted assistance to resolve a particular need. Having the e-mail address of everyone allows a substantial saving of shipping costs ³⁰.

Sales at the Solidarity Christmas Market 14 to 16 December 2023: thanks to the efforts of Sian, Quy, Cornelia, Béatrice, Annick, Yves, Fanny, Julie, Valentina, Agnès, Bernard, Claude, Michèle, Corine, Eléna and the usual team, Vivere was able to display and sell handicrafts to the public during this market managed by Fedevaco and Pôle Sud. A considerable profit of frs.3'792 (€ 3'991) was made and directed to the new projects in Burundi and Colombia.



³⁰ 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)

Cards in postal format still available: a series of cards illustrating our actions in the field. The photos are people's testimonies and the exclusive property of *Vivere*, ©. These cards are shown below; each one is captioned on the back. The series of 10 cards is sold at CHF 20 (€ 15). By buying these beautiful and moving cards, you can really help our projects; thank you in advance for your participation.



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



It is well worth noting that communication has cost Vivere next to nothing. To receive so many free items and services is obviously not without cost for some friends. Vivere therefore would like to express its deepest gratitude to all those who have solicited free services as well as those who have donated their services. This has often been at considerable expense. It's quite simple: we owe them everything, absolutely everything!

II FINANCES

Auron Cecaj will submit the properly documented 2023 accounts at the general meeting. We are very grateful to MAZARS who compiled these accounts at a reduced rate since they are sympathetic to *Vivere's* aims, thus enabling us to save on resources.

Jinit Shah, carried out all aspects of accounting voluntarily, and thus free of charge. The importance of this is two-fold; not only does it guarantee work of the highest calibre and professionalism, but it also inspires confidence amongst our donors in what can be a very sensitive area of management

At the end of the year, *Vivere* had 4 individual members who form the committee, 62 paying subscribers, and 547 donors, about 1/5th of whom have made one or more payments this year. These people are mainly in Switzerland, France, and Spain. We are extremely grateful to all donors and members and 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 deeply held belief.

We hold in the utmost respect the donors who pay CHF 10 or 25, several times during the year, and this affects us deeply.

As long as we continue to operate on a voluntary basis, all of our resources 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.

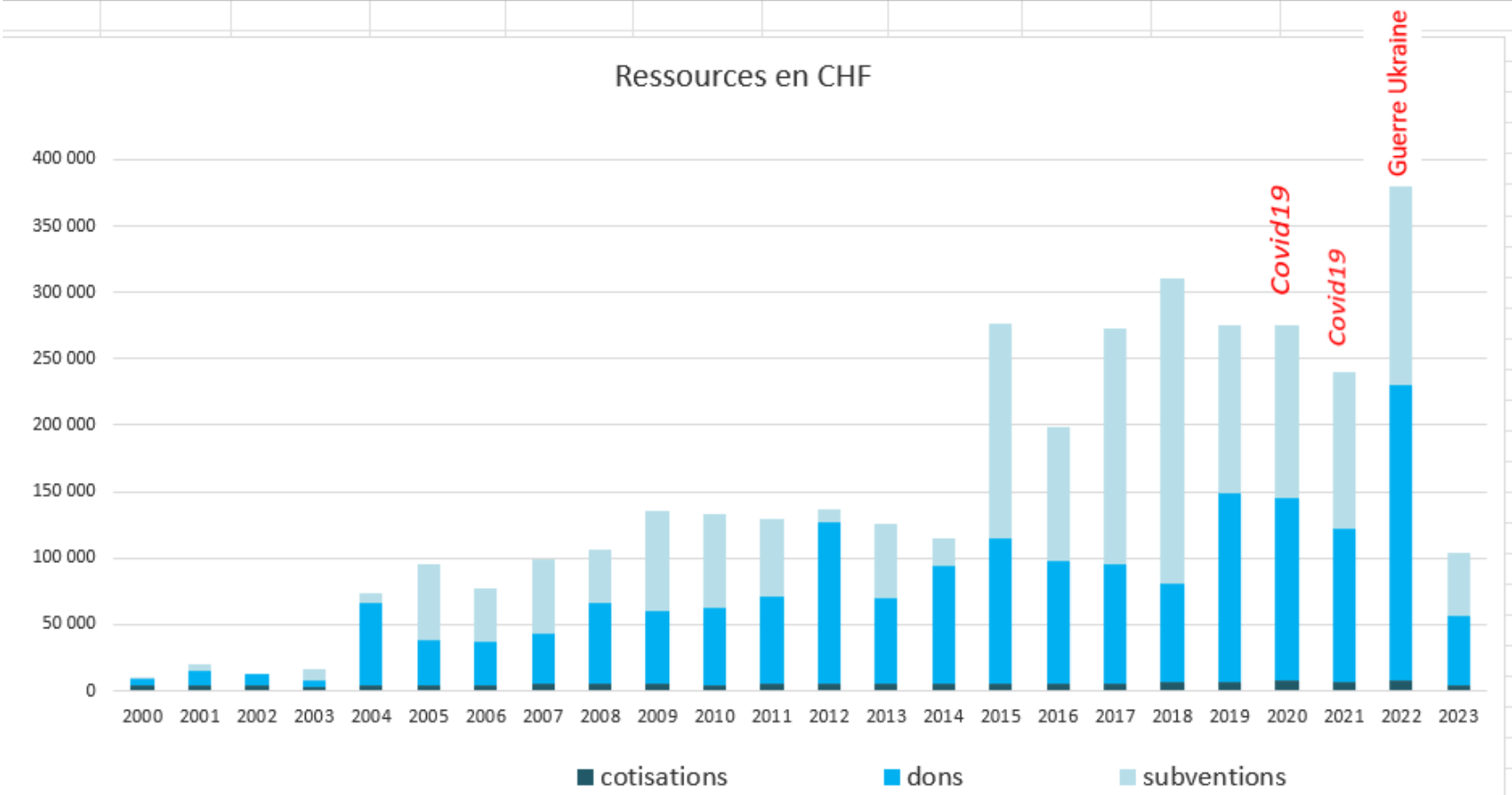
What stands out from the pages above is the exceptional solidarity given to actions in the field by the following friendly organizations: the Sentinelles Foundation, the E. Du Pasquier Foundation, the Maison des Amis, the Anne Frank Foundation, the Pro Victimis Foundation, the Isocrates Foundation, the Fedevaco, SSI-Geneva, the Coromandel Foundation, and the Foundation E and M.T.Glutz of Reding. Such confidence increases the impact of our work tenfold. It is also evidence that the human causes that we support overlap with the beliefs of justice of these organizations. They have a lot more experience than us and we benefit greatly from their wisdom

Ten 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 regular encouragement.

Chart as an indication:

Resources

(Situation on 31st December 2023, in Swiss francs)



Contributions, donations, subsidies *

Between March and May 2022, we received a huge amount of donations for the victims of the war in Ukraine, to the amount of CHF 42 310. These donations were completely unexpected, and came not only from our sponsor base, but also from very many people whom we had not had contact with before. This spontaneous generosity meant that we could start giving aid to displaced refugees in 4 countries, working with our local partner organisations (see further up in this report). These projects were obviously not foreseen in our budget projections made at the start of the year and would not have been possible without the exceptional support and solidarity of the public.

We are concerned that donations, since June 2022 have largely dried up, almost as suddenly as they started, whilst our projects remain vital. As of April 2024 (the date of this report), we call on all our readers: please continue to support the victims of the war in Ukraine who have been displaced and are now refugees.

III TEAM

In 2023, the Vivere committee met four times ³¹ formally with frequent consultations in-between. The members of the committee are: Emma Garcia, secretary, Auron Cecaj, treasurer, Lea Ruiz and Mike Hoffman. Bernard Boëton, in charge of the project 'Abolition of the death penalty applied to minors', and Jinit Shah, chartered accountant, also take part in the meetings of the committee as well as members or relatives who are invited to attend. Annick Kosel manages the program in Burundi.

It should also be noted that we receive many applications from people looking for an inspiring job or an internship. Whilst we very much appreciate their trust, we are unfortunately not in a position to be able to proceed with these. It would be impossible to provide any kind of logistical support or supervision since we do not have a permanent office or member of staff. ³²

As documented in this report, 2023 has seen a crucial amount of voluntary donations, making it impossible to thank each and every

person who has contributed so much in helping to drive our organisation forward. However, we do still need our members to get involved with fundraising and sourcing free goods and 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 at our launch, around CHF 500,000/year (€ 464,000). This would make it possible to set up about thirty micro-projects throughout the year by having the equivalent of 1 full-time person in the permanent workforce. This person would coordinate the project under the guidance of the committee.
3. Irrespective of the financial situation: increase communication on the causes & struggles for which *Vivere* was created, support the activists fighting on the front line for justice, get involved with their networks and help them circulate vital information.

*

We hope to read or hear your criticisms, comments and contributions. You have already helped us in our small efforts to restore the right to a dignified life -but we still need you!

18 April 2024

Lea Ruiz

Emma Garcia

Auron Cecaj

Mike Hoffman

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Prix des droits de l'homme de la République française, mention spéciale, 2007
membre de la Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort et de la Fedevaco
association à but non lucratif régie par les articles 60 et suivants du code civil suisse, politiquement et confessionnellement indépendante
reconnue de pure utilité publique

³¹ 6 April, 21 June, 19 October, 7 December

³² We were however able to have Nancy Lopez from the Human Rights Institute in Lyon work remotely as an intern for 2 months (May to June). Nancy worked on documenting our fight against human smuggling.