AVSI, created in 1972, is a non-profit organization which carries out development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects throughout the world.

**Vision**
AVSI works for a world where the person, aware of his/her value and dignity, is the protagonist of his/her own integral development and that of his/her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

**Mission**
AVSI implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. Each project is conceived as an instrument to promote this awareness in everyone involved, has in itself a need for communicating and sharing, and creates an impact capable of generating a positive change.

**Method**
In project implementation, AVSI uses the following approach:
- to start from the value of the person, who is never defined by the circumstances in which s/he lives
- to consider the person always in his/her family and community context
- to do with: accompany and let ourselves be accompanied, recognizing that we all share the same human experience
- to involve all stakeholders: encourage the participation of beneficiaries, providers, partners, donors, and the private sector
- to learn from experience and capitalize on the lessons learned.

**Commitment**
AVSI operates in various areas: education and social development, urban development, healthcare, migration, vocational training and job creation, humanitarian emergencies, agriculture, food security and water, democracy and human rights, energy and environmental protection.

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![Children in Kenya](image)

Kenya © Aldo Gianfrate
AVSI operates in Sierra Leone since the late 90's integrating and assisting children victims of war thanks to Xaverian father Giuseppe Berton. The main goal AVSI wants to achieve is to get children and their families out of vulnerability by improving their standard of living.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world with high constraints on the education sector. In AVSI experience, education do represent the key pillar for the development of individual and communities since, it is intended as the transmission and reception of experiences as well as the development of thought making people improve their realities. With this in mind, AVSI works to ensure to children and households a psychosocial support, as well as educational, medical, nutritional and material assistance.

From 2018 AVSI also focus on the development of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in partnership with Lattanzio KIBS and Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini to enhance knowledge and skills for employment under the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program (YEEP).

Key project: “IMAGES: Improving MANaGement of CSOs in Education Sector in Sierra Leone”

IMAGES is the 3 years project funded by the European Union that involves AVSI and its local partners Family Homes Movement (FHM) and St. Mary’s Home of Charity (SMHC) in enhancing the contribution of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in the education sector to trigger the development process in Sierra Leone. School staff, social workers and CSOs receive specific training packages aim to improve teaching and learning techniques as well as CSOs’ constituency and accountability. In addition, the action involves young people at risk of marginalization, especially young mothers, to increase their access to education as well as job readiness.

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AVSI Sierra Leone

Projects

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