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, vocational training, job creation, micro-entrepreneurship, agriculture, food security, energy, environmental protection, humanitarian emergencies, migration, democracy and human rights.
AVSI coordinates its humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis in collaboration with other non-profit organizations and local authorities.

At the end of 2016, under the direction of the Apostolic Nunciature in Damascus, AVSI launched the “Open Hospitals” project. The main objective is to ensure free access to medical treatments for Syrians in poor conditions through the strengthening of three non-profit hospitals: French and Italian Hospitals in Damascus and Saint Louis Hospital in Aleppo. This project aims to reach 50,000 free treatments by 2020.

With the support of the Italian Cooperation (AICS), AVSI Syria has implemented multiple projects. In the cities of Sahnaya and Ashrafyet Sahnaya to guarantee water and hygienic services to locals; in the neighborhoods of Damascus to increase the food security of 250 families; in the region of East Ghouta to support 400 families through livelihood activities based on poultry production and urban horticulture.

AVSI Syria also carried out 2 projects funded by the Polish Embassy to rehabilitate the Cultural Centre in Safita city and carry out IT training courses to promote social cohesion.

AVSI has been present in Syria since 2015 providing support to children, women and sick people in Damascus, Aleppo, Safita and the region of East Ghouta. Its interventions range on multiple sectors: from health to food security.