

Chiesi  
Foundation

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**2023  
Social  
Report**



*Chiesi*  
FOUNDATION

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# Methodological Note

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This is the second Social Report for the Chiesi Foundation. The first Social Report, in 2022, was drawn up voluntarily and was called the 2022 Activity Report.

This year, several improvements have been made to the Social Report, starting with the structure of the document which follows the latest guidelines for drafting the social report for Third Sector entities (Decree of 4 July 2019, Official Journal no. 186 of 9-8-2019) and contains all the aspects that the legislator requests to be explained: general information on the entity, its structure, governance, personnel, administration, goals and activities carried out, economic and financial situation and this brief methodological note.

The Social Report responds to the desire to follow a principle of transparency and to tell who the Chiesi Foundation is, what our mission is and what is the strategy that guides our work, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

We want to report on the activities carried out within our programs and our commitment to ensuring equity in access to quality care, in light of the resources used.

The projects carried out have been reported according to the sector of intervention (Scientific Research and International Cooperation) and the geographical areas. The chapter “Our programs” is therefore divided into the sections “Research”, in which the IMPULSE project is present (Improving Quality and Use of Newborn Indicators), and “International Cooperation”, which includes the projects GASP (Global Access to Spirometry Project) and NEST (Neonatal Essential Survival Technology).

Both projects include specific sheets for each country in which they are present, where the starting background is described together with the activities carried out and the main results obtained are reported.

The economic information has been reported indicating both all the sources of origin of the funds used in the 2023 activities and the allocation of the aforementioned funds to the individual projects, in percentage values on the total available budget and absolute values.

The process of drafting the Social Report was a collective effort involving both the Chiesi Foundation operational team and the Foundation's partners, who provided first-hand data.

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During the financial year ended December 31, 2023, our activity was inspired by the provisions of law and the Rules of Conduct of the supervisory body of the Third Sector entities issued by the National Council of Chartered Accountants and Accounting Experts, published in December 2020.

The supervisory body, not having been charged with carrying out the legal audit of the accounts, due to the absence of the conditions set out in Art. 31 of the Third Sector Code, carried out the supervisory activities and controls on the financial statements as set out in Rule 3.8 of the Rules of Conduct of the Supervisory Body of

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Third Sector Entities, consisting of an overall control aimed at verifying that the financial statements have been correctly drawn up.

In line with the Declaration of Commitment of Italian Foundations and Philanthropic Entities for the Climate Crisis, we have decided not to print this document to minimize our impact on the environment.

A communication informs our stakeholders of its publication online, on our website, on our social media and the main Italian transparency and accountability portals for Third Sector Entities.

# Premise



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Chiesi Foundation is a philanthropic organization with registered office at Largo Belloli 11/A, 43122, Parma (Italy) and with Fiscal Code 92130510347.

Chiesi Foundation was established on 14/04/2005, on the initiative of Chiesi Farmaceutici SpA, a company that has been operating in the pharmaceutical production sector for decades, as an expression of the group's social responsibility.

According to Art. 2 of the Statute, the Foundation pursues, without profit, civic,

solidarity and social utility purposes, with a particular focus on the social and health sector, and its activities are in accordance with the Third Sector Code (Legislative Decree 3 July 2017, n. 117) and the Law relating to the general discipline on international cooperation for development (Law 11 August 2014 n.125).

Chiesi Foundation is a philanthropic body part of Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea), recognized by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Emilia-Romagna Region.

# A Commitment to Health, the Planet and the Future



“We are committed to improving the health and alleviating the suffering of patients affected by respiratory diseases and neonatal pathologies, improving the quality of life for them and their families.”

We are pleased to present the second Chiesi Foundation Social Report, a detailed account of the activities we carried out during 2023.

In compliance with the principles of transparency that distinguish us, we wish to share with all stakeholders and our supporters the challenges faced, the goals achieved and the new horizons that await us.

2023 was a year of significant growth for our Foundation, characterized by the consolidation of ongoing projects and the launch of new collaborations, aimed at improving the quality of life of thousands of people in the countries of the Global South.

In the neonatal field, a key event was the first NEST Partners Meeting, held in October 2023 in Burundi.

This meeting brought together all the hospitals that collaborate with the Chiesi Foundation, creating a fruitful moment of discussion and planning. Together, we finalized the review process of the NEST – Neonatal Essential Survival Technology model.

This is a milestone for the Foundation: local partners, key opinion leaders and institutions have contributed to adapting our model for improving neonatal care to new global challenges, such as climate change, growing threats to international security and the demographic emergency.

With a noble motivation: to accelerate the achievement of goal 3.2 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda: *“By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age.”*

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Another significant milestone was the International Maternal Newborn Health Conference: the first edition of an international conference, dedicated to maternal newborn health, held in May 2023 in South Africa. Chiesi Foundation actively participated, as a partner and supporter of the initiative, confirming its commitment in this crucial field.

In the respiratory field, the Foundation has worked to consolidate and recognize the GASP model – Global Access to Spirometry Project as an effective model for the treatment of chronic respiratory diseases.

We have defined new projects with strategic partners, among which the one conducted in Bhaktapur, Nepal, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University stands out.

In this geographical area, we have started a research to collect data on the respiratory health status of the population, with particular attention to brick factory workers, who are particularly exposed to air pollution. The results of this survey will be a fundamental piece in the design of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life of local communities.

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In Peru, another country where the GASP project is active, the Chiesi Foundation has formed a strategic alliance with Chiesi Spain and SEPAR, the Spanish Society of Pneumology and Thoracic Surgery. This collaboration is emblematic of the strategic value of synergies between philanthropic organizations, the private sector and scientific society for the development of cooperation projects.

These activities are just a few examples of the dedication and commitment with which the Chiesi Foundation works to ensure access to quality healthcare in the neonatal field and in the field of chronic respiratory diseases, which today are among the main causes of death in the countries of the Global South.

Furthermore, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, our Foundation pays particular attention to environmental sustainability and climate change. We are aware of the impact that these phenomena have on the life of the communities in the countries where we operate and that they could have an impact on the effectiveness of our programs.

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I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our partners and all our collaborators who, with their invaluable contribution, have made possible what we have achieved so far. Their dedication, competence and passion are the driving force that motivates us to always do more.

A thought for our founder and past president, Paolo Chiesi, who recently passed away, who with a great sense of responsibility and spirit of service wanted the establishment of our Foundation, whose progress he followed with great foresight and dedication. His values and his vision will forever be our guide.

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Looking to 2024, we firmly reaffirm our commitment to carrying forward the mission of the Chiesi Foundation: improving the health and alleviating the suffering of patients affected by respiratory diseases and neonatal pathologies, improving the quality of life for them and their families.

I firmly believe that, with everyone's collaboration, we can continue to make a difference by supporting those who need it most, helping to create a healthier, fairer and more sustainable future for all.



**Maria Paola Chiesi**

*Chiesi Foundation President*



A healthcare worker wearing a blue surgical cap and green scrubs is shown in profile, looking down at a patient lying in a hospital bed. The patient is covered with a red blanket featuring a colorful pattern. The background is a clinical setting with various medical equipment and supplies.

# WHO IS CHIESI FOUNDATION

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# Who is Chiesi Foundation

Born as a corporate foundation and heir to the group's know-how, the Chiesi Foundation supports and promotes scientific research and international cooperation through intervention programs in the fields of neonatal and respiratory care.

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Chiesi Foundation is a non-profit organization, founded in 2005, born from the social responsibility of Chiesi Group.

Through sustainable, replicable and context-appropriate programs, we act to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.



## Vision

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Create synergies to ensure equitable access to quality care for all newborns, their mothers, their families and all people affected by chronic respiratory diseases in the global south.

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We operate in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) to contribute to improving access to quality care and promoting the right to health, which for us is a right for everyone.

We also contribute to the development of clinical and scientific skills.



## Mission

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Enhance Chiesi's knowledge to improve the health and alleviate the suffering of patients affected by respiratory diseases and neonatal pathologies, improving their quality of life and that of their families.

# Our Strategy

During 2021, the Chiesi Foundation started a strategic review process to define new objectives and lines of action for the near future.



This process involved the Foundation team and several stakeholders who contributed to defining, based on the results achieved in previous years and the analysis of the international cooperation context, an internal working tool that would guide the Foundation's work in the near future.

It was decided to define a strategic tool for 2030, with intermediate objectives for 2025. A medium-term evaluation will be carried out to assess the achievement of the objectives and possibly rethink and adapt the planned macro-activities.

This strategic direction defines the long-term actions that will be at the heart of the work of the Chiesi Foundation in the next 10 years.

This will allow the organization to improve and adapt its organizational model within a continuously and progressively changing international context; in addition to representing a reference philanthropic model, effective and innovative, in the sector of international cooperation and scientific research.

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## First strategic axis

The first strategic axis concerns the organizational role of the Chiesi Foundation as a reference player for the implementation and dissemination of the NEST and GASP models.

The Foundation is increasingly taking on the role of a catalyst of ideas, tools and resources and facilitating dialogue and relationships between the various stakeholders and partners involved in the implementation of the two models.

Aware of the ever-increasing role that philanthropic actors play in the context of international cooperation, the Chiesi Foundation has initiated a process of institutional recognition that has led to its accreditation with the Italian Agency for International Cooperation and the International Cooperation Office of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

At the same time, coordination and collaboration activities with the World Health Organization (WHO) have been intensified, especially with regard to the implementation of the NEST Model and the definition of strategic partnerships with some internationally recognized actors.



## Second strategic axis

The second strategic axis concerns the institutional recognition of NEST and GASP as effective, sustainable and replicable models in low- and middle-income countries. Both models are designed to integrate in support of the ministerial guidelines of the countries where the Chiesi Foundation operates.

The involvement of institutional actors on multiple levels is the basis of the work that, as a Foundation, we are bringing to the various countries. This approach allows us to see our work recognized, but above all, it gives sustainability to the actions financed by the Chiesi Foundation.

## Third strategic axis

The third strategic axis concerns the Data-Driven Quality Improvement approach applied to the life cycle of our interventions and actions.

This not only allows for a better understanding of errors and gaps to set corrective and preventive actions and trigger a quality improvement process but also aims to generate evidence regarding effective methods to improve the quality and use of data in the neonatal and respiratory fields, thus contributing to improving patient health and generating effective, sustainable and reproducible models based on scientific evidence.



# Governance

In order to pursue its strategic goals, the Chiesi Foundation has structured a governance system that includes the following bodies:

## The Management Board

A. Chiesi, M.P. Chiesi, P. Chiesi, M. Thomson,  
C. Ghisoni, G. Accogli, M. Scuri

## The President e Vice President

M.P. Chiesi, P. Chiesi

## The Technical Advisors

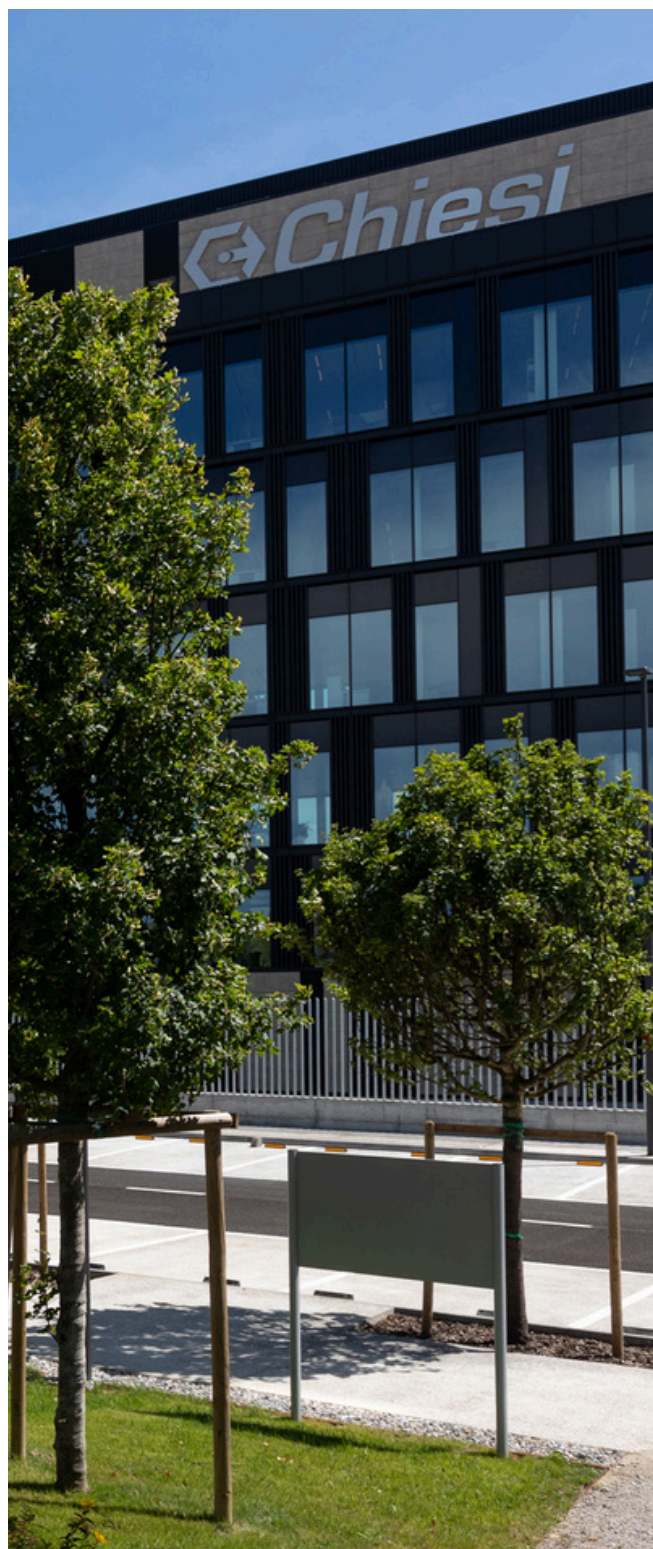
M. Thomson – NEST Technical Advisor  
M. Scuri – GASP Technical Advisor

## The Supervisory Body

A. Guiotto, G. Ferrari, G. Piroli

## The Coordinator

M. Salvadori





**OUR  
PROGRAMS**

# Why We Operate in the Global South

The Chiesi Foundation actively works in 11 countries in the Global South intending to improve the health and quality of life of children affected by neonatal diseases, their mothers and all people affected by respiratory diseases.

Through its programs, the Foundation implements concrete and targeted solutions to address the most pressing health challenges in these regions.

Currently, we are present in Guyana, Nepal and Peru with the GASP (Global Access to Spirometry Project) model; in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Togo with the NEST (Neonatal Essential Survival Technology); and in Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Tanzania and Uganda with the research project IMPULSE (Improving Quality and Use of Newborn Indicators).

## **GASP**

Guyana  
Nepal  
Peru

## **NEST**

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Togo

## **IMPULSE**

Ethiopia  
Central African Republic  
Tanzania  
Uganda

LATIN AMERICA



AFRICA



ASIA





## Programs/

### NEWBORN CARE

Newborns have tragically different chances of survival depending on the place where they are born.

In Africa, there is a significant gap between Anglophone and Francophone countries in terms of access to healthcare, resulting from a lack of health development assistance and isolation from the scientific community, particularly due to the language barrier and the dominance of

English in global health. We have therefore chosen to work mainly with French-speaking countries to help make health a right for all.

Neonatal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa is a significant challenge, one of the main indicators of maternal and child health, and is considered a reflection of access to health services and the socioeconomic conditions of a community.

# 80%



·80% of the 5 million under-five deaths in 2021 occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

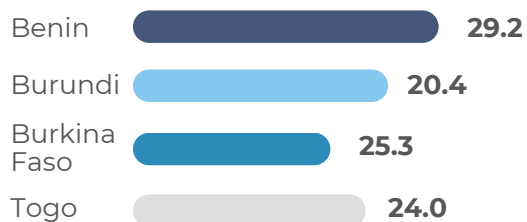
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·In 2021, sub-Saharan Africa had the highest neonatal mortality rate in the world, with an average of 27 deaths per 1,000 live births.

# 11X



·A baby born in sub-Saharan Africa is 11 times more likely to die in the first month of life than one born, for example, in Australia or New Zealand.



·Neonatal mortality rates (number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020) in the sub-Saharan African countries where the Chiesi Foundation operates.

## Programs/

### RESPIRATORY CARE

In the respiratory field, the Chiesi Foundation operates in low- and middle-income countries, such as Peru, Guyana and Nepal.

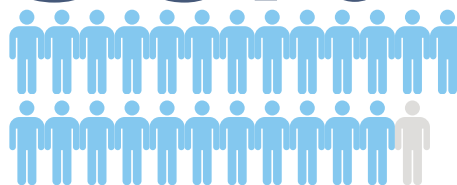
Asthma is a major non-communicable disease (NCD), that affects both children and adults.

In 2019, asthma affected an estimated 262 million people worldwide, causing 461,000 deaths, 96% of which occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

Worldwide, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death, with nearly 90% of cases occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

The management of asthma and COPD in these countries is often neglected, resulting in high rates of exacerbations and hospitalizations, with a huge impact on local health systems and societies.

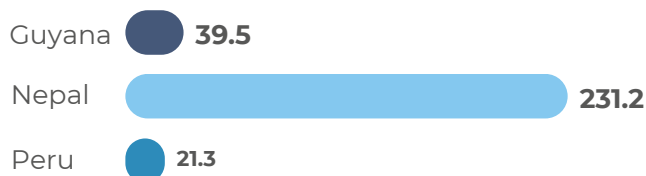
# 96%



96% of the 461,000 asthma-related deaths in 2019 occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

# 262 millions

Globally, 262 million people were affected by asthma in 2019.



Mortality rates for chronic respiratory diseases in 2019 (number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants) in the countries where the Chiesi Foundation operates.

## Research/ **IMPULSE**



During 2020, Chiesi Foundation worked on the design of a scientific research project together with other organizations involved in the field of neonatal health in contexts with limited resources.

The selected partners are the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, WHO Collaborating Center of Trieste (IRCCS Maternal Infant Burlo Garofolo), and CUAMM – Doctors with Africa. The project also sees the collaboration and technical support of UNICEF and WHO.

The project focuses on the study of data collection systems in the neonatal field and the consequent analysis of more effective data and KPIs to evaluate interventions to improve neonatal care.

The commitment of the Chiesi Foundation, as the project's funding body, for three years (first phase) and another two years (second phase), was approved in 2020, for 1 million euros (200,000 euros/year).



## Research/ IMPULSE

However, the start of the research project, initially scheduled for 2020, has been postponed to July 2021, in order to allow a more precise definition of the project phases and milestones, governance and role of each partner and for the drafting of the agreement between the parties.

For each milestone reached, the IMPULSE team sent both a technical and financial interim report to the Chiesi Foundation. Starting from the results of Phase 1 of the project, a Theory of Change model was

developed to define Phase 2 of the project. The proposal was developed through a participatory process involving the IMPULSE team, including the Project Coordinators of the 4 target countries, the Chiesi Foundation team, and the Technical Advisor of the Foundation.

This process concluded with the presentation of the proposal and its approval during the Foundation's Board of Directors in December 2023.

### **December 2021**

Selection of data collection teams in each target country (Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Uganda, and Tanzania). Drafting of budget and implementation plan.

### **June 2022**

Development of data collection tools, definition of project Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and testing of data collection tools in the field.

### **December 2022**

Study approval by the ethics committees of Uganda, Central African Republic, and Ethiopia (approval by the Tanzanian ethics committee occurred in mid-2023).

### **June 2023**

Completion of data collection in all four target countries. Start of preliminary analysis of collected data and first discussions with different stakeholders.

### **December 2023**

Data analysis is almost complete; there have been delays due to the approval process by the ethics committees of the four countries. Data collection and analysis will be completed during 2024.

## International Cooperation/

### NEST



Neonatal Essential Survival Technology

In 2014, the Chiesi Foundation launched a new and ambitious intervention program in the neonatal field: the NEST – Neonatal Essential Survival Technology.

The program is designed and developed with a long-term perspective and aims to improve the quality of neonatal care and

the lives of patients, as well as reduce neonatal mortality rates by collaborating with local hospitals.

In 2023, a process of reviewing the model was launched, which currently focuses on four pillars:



### Training

Training programs on essential and special care of newborns for local health workers and the development of an education and awareness program for families.



### Spaces

Creation and organization of neonatal care units with medical equipment adapted to the local context, promoting family-centered care and “Zero Separation” between mother and child.



### Data

Improving the quality and use of neonatal data and indicators through a Quality Improvement process, generating evidence for lessons learned and best practices.



### Advocacy and Networking

Building strategic partnerships with local and international stakeholders.

## Kangaroo Mother Care

Among the interventions promoted within the NEST program, the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is supported within all the health facilities with which the Chiesi Foundation collaborates.

KMC is a method of care introduced in 1978 by Edgar Rey, at the Instituto Materno Infantil de Santa Fe in Bogota (Colombia). KMC is based mainly on continuous and prolonged skin-to-skin contact between the mother and the baby and on exclusive breast milk feeding.

The name of this practice comes from the similarities with the way marsupials take care of their young.

Scientific evidence demonstrates numerous benefits compared to KMC, benefits not only in terms of survival but also in the quality of the newborn's development. KMC reduces the risk of hypothermia, hypoglycemia, infections and also helps reduce the incidence of apnea and lower respiratory tract diseases.

KMC also improves the relationship quality between mother and child, promoting brain development, the parenting process and the safety of mothers, but not only.



## Kangaroo Mother Care

The Kangaroo Mother Care is strongly recommended by the World Health Organization for all babies born prematurely or with low birth weight.

The latest WHO recommendations, published in 2022, call for KMC to be immediate, performed at birth; intermittent, performed within the neonatology department; and continuous, performed in the hospital and then at home.

KMC is an effective method that does not require the use of technology, but a trained family and healthcare professionals who can support and accompany the mother and newborn in a moment of great vulnerability.

In case the mother is not able to perform the KMC, a family member can replace her.

Given the need to continue KMC even after discharge from the hospital, KMC not only needs a family and caregivers but also a broader community ready to welcome and support the mother and the child.



## BENIN



**19**

Healthcare staff members trained



**1,098**

Newborns admitted to neonatology with their families



**182**

Newborns admitted to the KMC Unit with their families



**€22,500**

Invested budget

### Background

Since 2011, the Chiesi Foundation has been collaborating with the Saint Jean de Dieu Hospital in Tanguiéta (HSJD), an area in northern Benin indicated by the local government as the most in need of assistance.

The collaboration aims to reduce neonatal mortality in the area by strengthening the hospital's capacity to care for newborns and their families.

A new neonatology department equipped with medical equipment appropriate to the context has been inaugurated, with 28 beds and another 6 in the KMC Unit.



### Featured Activities

1. Support for the prevention and control program of nosocomial infections and hospital hygiene (accompaniment of the Cabinet H2CP) and purchase of materials for maintaining hygiene and cleanliness
2. Hiring a patient assistant (*aide-soignante*)
3. Donation of 100 Kangaroo Kits for the mothers hospitalized in the KMC Unit
4. Donation of 3 daily meals to 182 mothers admitted to the KMC Unit
5. Strengthening the capacity of the neonatology service in the care of premature, low birth weight or pathological newborns through the acquisition of equipment
6. Organization of home follow-up visits for newborns and their families discharged from the KMC Unit
7. Participation in NEST Partners Meeting (Hospital Director, 1 doctor, 1 nurse)



## BENIN

### What we did in 2023

Thanks to the financial support of the Chiesi Foundation, in 2022 the Committee for the Fight against Nosocomial Infections (CLIN) of the Tanguiéta Hospital laid the foundations of a program for the prevention and control of nosocomial infections and hospital hygiene.

Initially, an audit was carried out to map the actual situation of the hospital in terms of compliance with the normative and regulatory measures for the prevention of infections within it.

The various observations were followed by recommendations put into practice during 2023, again thanks to the support of the Chiesi Foundation: these include the training of maintenance agents on the right cleaning techniques, the development of some care protocols and a CLIN work plan for 2023.

In the same dynamic of implementing the recommendations of the local states, in order to equip sensitive services, such as the maternity ward, neonatology and KMC, with means to ensure regular cleaning, multifunctional cleaning trolleys were purchased, to make the cleaning work less tiring and encourage health workers to respect the protocols.

Furthermore, the Chiesi Foundation has continued to support the Neonatology Department of the Hospital through the provision of technologies (such as phototherapy, multi-parameter monitors and oxygen outlets, and the Kangaroo Mother Care Unit of the Hospital) and covering the costs of a health assistant who can monitor the newborns and their mothers admitted into the unit, for the mothers' meals and the provision of Kangaroo Kits.

In 2022, it was found that most mothers of newborns discharged from the KMC Unit do not respond to the newborns' follow-up appointments after hospital admission. This situation does not allow us to know the fate of these newborns after hospital admission.

Thanks to the support of the Chiesi Foundation, in 2023, the hospital has therefore started a series of home visits to monitor the health status of newborns and raise awareness among their parents regarding the importance of outpatient follow-up.

The visits are carried out by the hospital's social services staff accompanied by a patient assistant trained in taking care of premature babies. During 2023, 27 newborns were followed at home by hospital staff.

## BURKINA FASO



**20**

Healthcare staff trained in neonatal resuscitation



**35**

Mothers and newborns in "Zero Separation"



**557**

Newborns admitted to neonatology with their families



**39**

Newborns admitted to the KMC Unit with their families



**€30,000**

Invested budget

### Background

Since 2010, the Chiesi Foundation has been collaborating with the Saint Camille Hospital in Ouagadougou (HOSCO), managed by the Camillian Fathers.

The Foundation supports the hospital's neonatology department, developing projects aimed at transferring scientific resources and knowledge, to adapt the treatment standards of premature and pathological newborns to the most modern care protocols.

In 2020, the Perinatology Network of the Center Region (Réseau de Périnatalogie de la Région du Centre) was formalized.

Led by HOSCO's medical director, Dr Father Paul Ouedraogo, with the support of the Chiesi Foundation, the Network aims to structure a referral system for the transfer of critical cases from birth centers to the hospitals equipped with neonatology in the capital, as well as to develop protocols and training programs to improve the system for taking care of newborns.

A fundamental step to promote dialogue and relationships between the different actors involved in the care of newborns in the Ouagadougou region. The Network includes the main hospitals and birth centers of the city, along with some international and national health institutions.

### Featured Activities

1. Training of HOSCO neonatology healthcare personnel in neonatal resuscitation and the "Zero Separation" strategy between mother and newborn
2. Donation of equipment for HOSCO's neonatology department: 40 chairs for Kangaroo Mother Care
3. Infrastructure repair
4. Training visit to 3 hospitals to learn how to manage free services
5. Support for the Perinatology Network of the Central Region
6. Participation in the NEST Partners Meeting (Medical Director, 1 doctor and 1 nurse)

## BURKINA FASO

### What we did in 2023

During 2023, the Chiesi Foundation continued to support HOSCO through the training of neonatology healthcare workers for the resuscitation of newborns with the collaboration of the Italian Society of Neonatology, in particular with the collaboration of Dr Paolo Villani and Prof Daniele Trevisanuto.

The operators have also been trained in the “Zero Separation” strategy between mother and newborn so that the hospital’s doctors and nurses are able to support mothers and

families to actively care for their hospitalized babies.

To implement the “Zero Separation” strategy, the neonatology department has been equipped with 40 armchairs, so that mothers can stay next to the cot of newborns hospitalised in the department and put the continuous Kangaroo Mother Care into practice.

Furthermore, during 2023, the Chiesi Foundation continued to support the Perinatology Network of the Central Region, facilitating meetings of its members.



## BURUNDI



**234**

Healthcare staff trained in neonatal resuscitation



**1,661**

Newborns admitted to neonatology with their families



**141**

Newborns admitted to the KMC Unit with their families



**€60,350**

Invested budget

### Background

In 2014, the Chiesi Foundation began a collaboration with the Cardinal Tonini Pro Africa Foundation, now called Amahoro pro Africa Onlus, on a training and assistance project for the neonatology department set up inside the new Maternal and Child Center of the Ngozi Hospital, built in 2013.

In 2019, the inauguration of the KMC (Kangaroo Mother Care) area took place, the construction of which was financed by the Chiesi Foundation.

During 2022, the Chiesi Foundation team carried out three important missions in the country.

In the first half of the year, together with the partner Amahoro pro Africa, the results of the analysis carried out on the health facilities of the Ngozi Province were presented and validated by the local health institutions.

The analysis conducted highlighted the care challenges in the neonatal field and the lack of the KMC method within the health facilities.

The data collected and some site visits carried out in the hospitals of the province contributed to the development of the pilot project for the diffusion of KMC at the provincial level, a project that was officially launched in the second half of the year.

### Featured Activities

1. Recognition of the Ngozi Hospital as a KMC National Reference and Training Center
2. National validation process of KMC training materials led by the Ministry of Health begins: National Plan for Reproductive Health (PNSR)
3. National Day of Awareness and Promotion of the KMC project
4. Training of KMC referents of Ngozi Province Hospitals

## BURUNDI

### What we did in 2023

In 2023, the pilot project for the diffusion of KMC in the province of Ngozi saw the implementation of activities and the achievement of important goals, starting with the recognition of the Ngozi Hospital as a national training center for Kangaroo Mother Care.

This recognition is the result of the important work carried out together with the partner Amahoro pro Africa and the neonatology staff to integrate KMC within neonatal care and promote the method outside the hospital, through the development of a training program and the implementation of awareness-raising activities regarding preterm birth.

The national validation process of the KMC training materials developed within the project started in the second half of 2023.

Together with a commission appointed by the Ministry of Health Program for Reproductive Health (PNSR), a workshop was held to review the teaching materials. The validation of the materials will be one of the objectives to be achieved at the beginning of the new year.

The activities and relations with the Ministry of Health in Bujumbura are intertwined with the fieldwork and the constant dialogue with the Provincial Doctor of Ngozi for the diffusion of KMC in the hospitals of the province.



## BURUNDI

During 2023, KMC referents, a doctor and a nurse, were identified and trained for the 5 provincial hospitals of Buye, Kiremba, Mivo, Musenyi, and Santa Terezina. The theoretical training was accompanied by a five-day internship at the neonatology department of Ngozi.

The training then concluded with a workshop to verify the skills acquired, share the experience and plan the next activities, which include training within the provincial hospitals led by KMC referents with the

support of the trainers of the Ngozi Hospital.

In addition to the training, on the occasion of World Prematurity Day, awareness-raising activities were carried out involving all the hospitals in the province of Ngozi.

Assessment visits were also carried out to evaluate and define possible structural interventions for the construction of KMC units, which will be evaluated and discussed with local institutions in 2024.



## TOGO



**14**

Healthcare staff members trained



**795**

Newborns admitted to neonatology with their families



**103**

Newborns admitted to the KMC Unit with their families



**€15,000**

Invested budget

### Background

Since 2018, the Chiesi Foundation collaborates with the Hôpital d'Enfants Yendube in Dapaong, a town in the north of Togo, capital of the Savannah Region.

In 2017, the hospital completed the construction of the new neonatology department and KMC Unit and requested the Foundation to support the start of the activities of the new area and the training of the staff dedicated to neonatal care.

### Featured Activities

1. Online training
2. Donation of equipment for KMC Unit
3. Equipment maintenance and repair
4. Participation in the NEST Partners Meeting (Hospital Director, 1 physician and 1 patient assistant)



## TOGO



### What we did in 2023

During 2023, thanks to the support of the Chiesi Foundation, the Hospital equipped the new Kangaroo Mother Care Unit with 10 beds and reclining chairs for kangaroo mothers and has agreed with a technician to repair malfunctioning neonatology machinery (warming tables, pulse oximeters and phototherapy).

Additionally, a distance learning program has started in the second half of 2023.

Healthcare professionals in the Neonatology Department and Kangaroo Mother Care Unit were trained by Dr Lucia Tubaldi, a neonatologist and member of the Italian Society of Neonatology, on the causes of prematurity and its consequences, the classification of the newborn based on weight, and family-centered care ("Zero Separation" approach between mother and newborn).



## International Cooperation/



The Chiesi Foundation works in the respiratory field to improve the quality of life of patients - and their families - affected by chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in low- and middle-income countries. From the pilot experience of the Partners in Care project “Optimizing Asthma & COPD Diagnosis and Chronic Disease Management in Guyana”, a medical training project in pulmonology, coordinated by Prof Robert Levy of the

University of British Columbia in collaboration with the British Columbia Lung Association, the GASP model – Global Access to Spirometry Project was born.

Because optimal management of asthma and COPD relies on accurate diagnosis with spirometry, effective therapy, patient education, and ongoing monitoring to assess the severity of the condition and control, the model focuses on four key pillars.



### Training

High-quality training for healthcare professionals on the diagnosis and management of asthma and COPD, and awareness and self-management programs for patients with these conditions.



### Spaces

Establishment of spirometry laboratories for the accurate diagnosis of chronic respiratory diseases.



### Protocols

Support local hospitals in adopting national and international guidelines and protocols.



### Data

Improving the quality and use of data and indicators through a Quality Improvement process, generating evidence for lessons learned and best practices.

## GUYANA



19

Healthcare workers trained to support patients with asthma and COPD



2

Nurses trained to perform spirometry tests



7,673

Patients visited



15,761 €

Invested budget

### Background

The country's first spirometry laboratory was established by GASP at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The hospital now provides screening and diagnosis of chronic respiratory diseases.

The spirometry test is performed by nursing staff in collaboration with the patient, who is guided and supported by the staff at each stage of the test.

Patients are visited by medical staff, who prescribe the treatment and the dosage and educate the patient on the management of the chronicity of the pathology.

Thanks to the important developments brought by GASP, the hospital's Spirometry Department has so far carried out approximately 26,000 visits.



### Featured Activities

1. Support to the GPHC Pulmonology Department with staff training
2. Patient and family education for chronic respiratory disease management

## GUYANA

### What we did in 2023

In order to respond to the need to offer effective management of the disease that is closer to the patient during the follow-up phase, since 2022 the GPHC has undertaken a collaboration within the GASP with four health centers in the capital (Campbellville Health Centre, Enmore

Policlinic, Kitty Health Centre and Industry Health Centre).

The path undertaken aims to promote the care of asthma and COPD patients at the essential healthcare level, in order to decongest the hospital and facilitate access to care even for patients living in remote areas.



# NEPAL



**10**

Healthcare personnel trained for spirometry tests



**6**

Spirometers donated to the program



**1**

Association of kiln owners sensitized



**€56,291**

Invested budget

## Background

Brick production in South Asia, unlike more modernized countries, is not mechanized and relies heavily on manual labor.

These productions involve working the mine soil, mixing clay, drying the wet clay in the sun, and firing bricks in a kiln. These activities involve worker exposure to respirable silica.

Inhaling respirable silica increases the risk of silicosis, an incurable and debilitating lung disease also associated with lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other respiratory diseases.

Brick production in Nepal employs around

200,000 seasonal workers and is poorly regulated, so much so that the use of protective masks is not mandatory.

Not only are these workers exposed to high levels of respirable silica and average PM2.5 concentrations of two hundred micrograms per cubic meter (200 µg /m<sup>3</sup>) per day, but, as temporary workers, they are affected by multiple constraints on their health and well-being.

These include a lack of education about their health, a lack of financial resources for health needs, and a general lack of access to healthcare.

It is therefore essential to provide access to free screening and awareness programs regarding chronic respiratory diseases.

## Featured Activities

1. Donation of spirometers for accurate diagnosis
2. Training of healthcare staff to perform spirometry tests
3. Involvement of the Brick Kiln Owner Association

## NEPAL

### What we did in 2023

The partnership with Johns Hopkins University began in July 2023 and includes a spirometry screening program to diagnose chronic respiratory diseases, such as silicosis, asthma, and COPD, for 300 workers at 10 brick kilns in Bhaktapur.

The goal of the project is to analyze the effects of exposure to silica and air pollution to propose effective and sustainable solutions.

Thanks to the contribution of the Chiesi Foundation, Johns Hopkins University purchased 6 spirometers and trained 10 members of the local team to correctly perform the spirometry test on patients.

The first spirometric tests will begin when the kilns open in January 2024, because brick production takes place in the year's first half. To ensure sustainability, the intervention includes the commitment of the Brick Kiln Owner Association.

Thanks to the financial support of the Chiesi Foundation, Johns Hopkins University organized two meetings with the Association, which signed a letter in support of the program, declaring its commitment to invest time and effort to improve the health of workers.



## PERU



**42**

Healthcare staff members trained



**482**

Spirometry tests performed



**89**

Patients followed by the pneumology service of the Policlinico Santa Rita



**€40,000**

Invested budget

### Background

The GASP program has been active since 2019 in the province of Cusco, under the leadership of the Policlinico Santa Rita.

The program aims to strengthen the province's health system in the diagnosis and management of patients with chronic respiratory diseases, asthma and COPD.

The training of healthcare personnel and the strengthening of diagnostic equipment are accompanied by activities to raise awareness among the population and educate patients and their families.

Thanks to the outreach activities carried out by the Policlinico, access to diagnosis is facilitated for many patients living in remote communities in the Andes.

### What we did in 2023

In 2023, the GASP project in Peru welcomed two new strategic partners: the Spanish Society of Pneumology (SEPAR) and the Spanish subsidiary of Chiesi Group.

Specifically, the body dedicated to SEPAR's international cooperation programs – SEPAR Solidaria – responded positively to the collaboration proposal with the aim of strengthening the training component led by the local partner, the Policlinico Santa Rita.

Despite the moments of socio-political instability that affected the country in the first half of the year, in November 2023, the joint visit of the members of SEPAR Solidaria, Chiesi Spain and Chiesi Foundation to Cusco took place.

### Featured Activities

1. Partnership with SEPAR – Spanish Society of Pneumology
2. First visit and training in Peru by the SEPAR Solidaria team

## PERU

The mission was essential to connect the different partners, understand and deepen the local context and co-develop training activities and strategic interventions.

During the visit, a new project phase was launched in which work will be done to structure an effective management system for patients with chronic respiratory diseases in the province of Cusco.

A hub-and-spoke network that can work together effectively to ensure access to quality diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care.

The November visit will be followed by a training period with a Peruvian team in Spain, involving a pulmonologist and a nurse.





**ACCELERATE  
CHANGE**



# Accelerate change

The Sustainable Development Goals 2023 Summit took place in September and marked the halfway point towards the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda. As noted by the Secretary General of the United Nations, only 15% of the goals are in line with the targets set.

However, this data should not be discouraging but rather should serve as a call to action.

Under SDG 3, some progress is being made, but acceleration is needed, especially in countries in the Global South.

## How does the Chiesi Foundation accelerate change?



Monitoring and Learning



Partnership



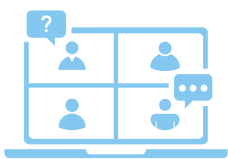
Breaking down language barriers



Awareness



## Monitoring, evaluation and learning as tools to maximize impact



### Quarterly online meetings

Training programs on essential and special care of newborns for local health workers and development of an education and awareness program for families.



### Bimonthly Reports

Creation and organization of neonatal care units with medical equipment adapted to the local context, promoting family-centered care and “Zero Separation” between mother and child.



### Site Visits

Improving the quality and use of routine newborn data with a data-driven quality improvement process.



### NEST Partners Meeting

Building strategic partnerships with local and international stakeholders.



### Accounting Audit

Periodic accounting audit activity entrusted to a Chiesi Foundation collaborator within the Chiesi Group.

## NEST Partners Meeting

The first NEST Partners Meeting took place in Ngozi, Burundi, from 14 to 22 October 2023: a week of workshops, lectures, exchange and networking between the various partners of the Chiesi Foundation.

In particular, representatives of HOSCO (Burkina Faso), HSJD (Benin), HEY (Togo) and Ngozi Hospital (Burundi), the volunteer neonatologists who collaborate with the Foundation (NEST Trainers), Prof Ousmane Ndiaye, Senegalese Key Opinion Leader, Merran Thomson, NEST Technical Advisor, the operational team of the Foundation and the President Maria Paola Chiesi participated in the NEST Partners Meeting.

The NEST Partners Meeting proved to be a key event, especially for building trust and improving collaboration with and between partners.

Not only did the NEST Partners Meeting help consolidate the Foundation's Global South approach, helping the team understand the partners' perspectives, and vice versa, to work coherently towards the same goals, but it was also an important moment for the exchange of south-to-south experiences, also stimulated by the presence of a French-speaking African key opinion leader, Professor Ousmane Ndiaye.



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# Our Partners

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As a foundation, we are convinced that accelerating change requires a strong commitment to partnership because responding to today's complex challenges requires joint and strategic actions. For this reason, all Chiesi Foundation interventions are based on a collaborative model, involving actors on multiple levels.

The Chiesi Foundation does not directly implement interventions, but plays an active role: in addition to being a grant-making organization, it accompanies its partners on their journey towards change and acts as a catalyst for different actors at different levels to facilitate connections and create opportunities.



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## Hospital Level

Collaboration with healthcare providers and hospital directors.



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## Institutional Level

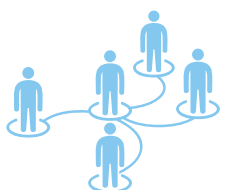
Involvement of local and national institutions, including departments of the Ministry of Health responsible for maternal and newborn health.



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## WHO and UN Agencies

Building diverse relationships at central, regional and local levels.



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## Networks

Engagement of diverse stakeholders, including key opinion leaders, professional associations and civil society organizations to create perinatal networks.

# Partner Selection

Partnerships develop through an intricate web of knowledge, selection criteria and affinity of purpose.

Partners can submit proposals that are then discussed internally and together, so that each agreement is renewed annually, through contact and verification paths.

At the heart of this philanthropic strategy is a deep reflection on building meaningful

partnerships.

Trust is a process that depends on the ability to align goals and values with chosen partners, creating a space where synergies become concrete actions, functional to the established objectives.

However, while trust prevails in the initial process, the Foundation recognizes the need to carefully evaluate ongoing projects.



# Our Partners



Neonatal Essential Survival Technology



Amahoro Pro Africa  
Burundi



Hôpital Saint Camille de Ouagadougou  
Burkina Faso



Hôpital Saint Jean de Dieu  
Benin



Hôpital d'Enfants Yendube  
Togo



Burundi  
Government



CUAMM – Doctors with Africa



London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



WHO Collaborating Center for Maternal and Child Health Burlo Garofolo

EST 2021.



African Neonatal Association



Council of International Neonatal Nurses



NEST360 Small & Sick Newborn Toolkit



Philea – Philanthropy European Association



World Health Organization



Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

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# Beyond Language Barriers

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The Chiesi Foundation is firmly committed to overcoming the language barriers that hinder progress and cooperation in the territories of Francophone Africa.

The Foundation has established a strong presence in the area, creating a network of contacts and collaborations with key players in the health sector, and actively supports the exchange of knowledge and expertise between the countries of the region and the rest of the world.

This is done through the financing of research projects, the organization of conferences and seminars, and the facilitation of staff exchanges between different institutions.

The Chiesi Foundation has promoted the translation of scientific documents, educational materials and awareness-raising initiatives into French, making information accessible to a wider audience.

The Foundation collaborates with a wide range of partners, including governments, research centers, universities, and non-governmental organizations. These partnerships allow the Foundation to broaden its scope of activities and to benefit from different expertise.

Through its focused work and network of collaborations, the Chiesi Foundation helps create a future where language barriers do not hinder progress and cooperation in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa.





**HOW  
WE MANAGE  
OUR RESOURCES**

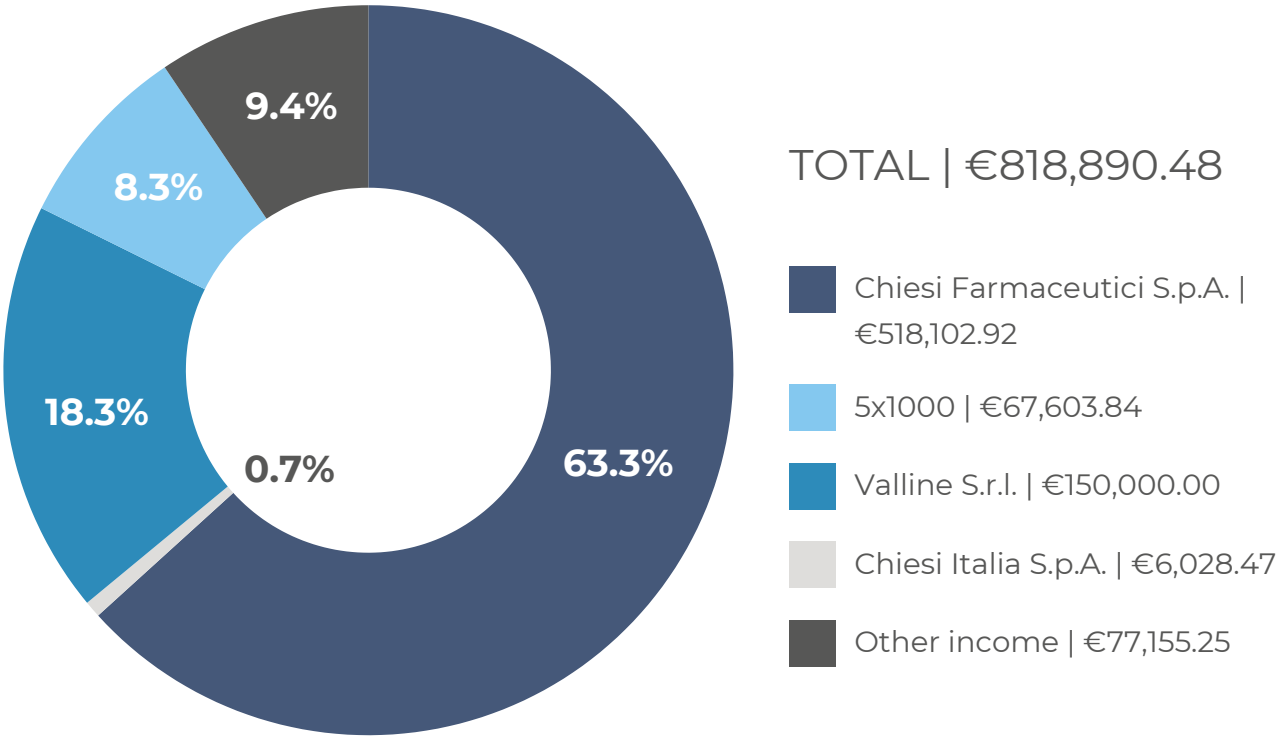


# Financial Resources

To finance the activities related to 2023, Chiesi Foundation has received donations for a total amount of €674,131.39; of which €518,102.92 received from the founder, Chiesi Farmaceutici SpA, €150,000 from Valline Srl and €6,028.47 received from Chiesi Italia SpA.

Furthermore, the collections for the 5x1000 – equal to €67,603.84 – relating to the income tax returns of the year 2022, were recorded and collected in December 2023.

Finally, €77,155.25 corresponding to other income must be added to these.



# Use of Funds

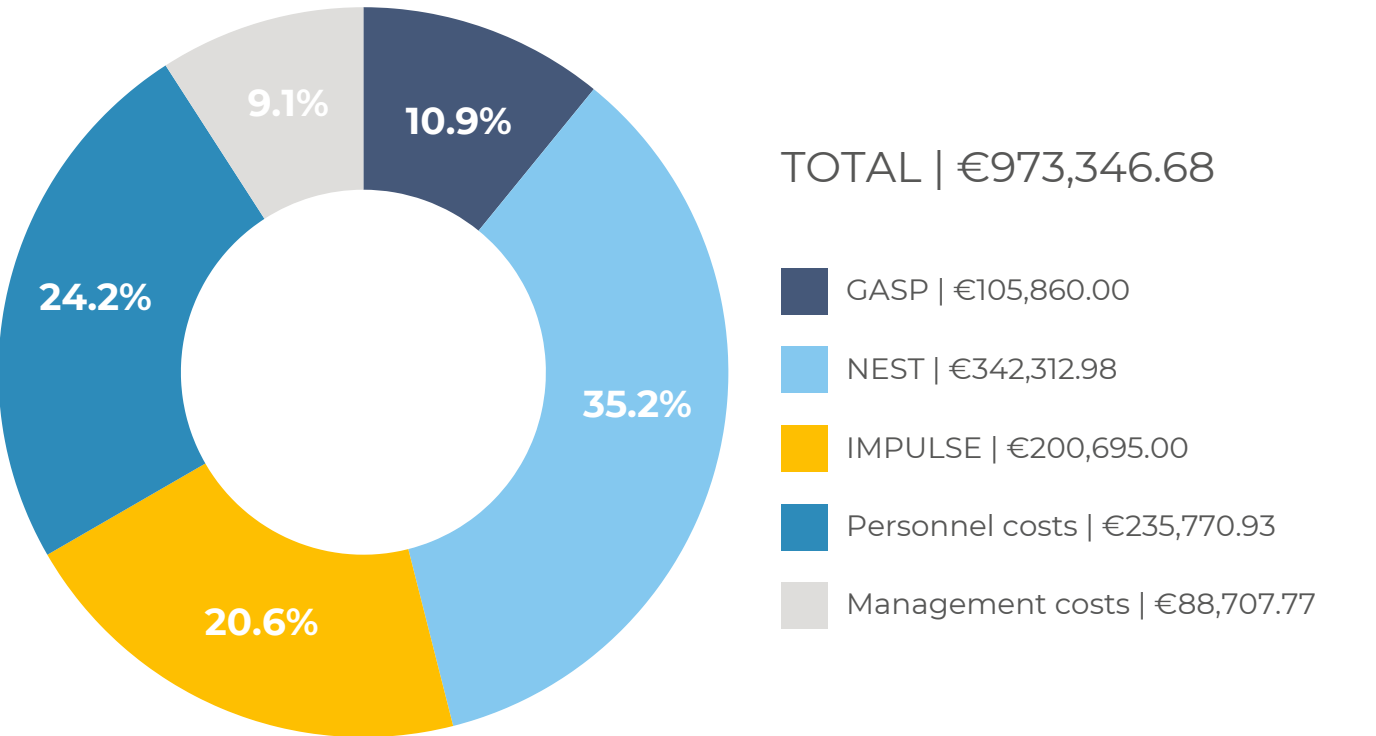
The funds available for 2023 have been divided, as shown in the figure, between the various funded programs and the coverage of the Foundation management costs.

In the context of international cooperation, €105,860.00 were allocated to the GASP (Global Access to Spirometry Project), active in Guyana, Nepal, and Peru; €342,312.98 were allocated to the NEST project (Neonatal Essential Survival Technology), active in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, and Togo.

Quality and Use of Newborn Indicators), active in Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Tanzania, and Uganda.

In addition, €324,478.70 were used to cover management costs; €235,770.93 of which related to personnel costs.

The 2023 financial statement shows an operating deficit of €154,456.20, which was covered by the Foundation's assets.



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# *Chiesi*

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## FOUNDATION

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Largo Belloli 11a 43122 – Parma (Italy)  
Fiscal code 92130510347  
[info@chiesifoundation.org](mailto:info@chiesifoundation.org)  
[www.chiesifoundation.org](http://www.chiesifoundation.org)