

2020

# ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**The year that has just ended has undoubtedly challenged many of us.**

With the exception of a few moments of "normality", in 2020 we had to give up the social dimension that has always distinguished our work: dozens of meals packing events already planned had to be postponed, some even canceled, as a consequence of the containment measures adopted by various countries in the fight against the Coronavirus.

In relation to the upheaval brought by the cases of contagion from Covid-19 and in the interest of volunteers, employees, partners and suppliers, Rise Against Hunger Italy has adopted a series of extraordinary measures to **ensure the health and safety** of all its employees, donors, partners and suppliers and therefore endeavored to comply with Italian measures regarding containment and management of the epidemiological emergency.



*Watch the interview with  
Alberto Albieri,  
President at Rise Against  
Hunger Italy*

Also, the countries we regularly serve have been affected by emergency measures adopted to contain the Covid-19, including school closures and lockdowns.

A painful but **necessary** decision that temporarily limited the association's activities, **compromising the ability** to regularly support the communities that benefit from our meals.

Nonetheless, Rise Against Hunger Italy certainly did not give up, but instead tried to respond to this climate of uncertainty with the spirit that has always characterized our work: **leaving no one behind**.

It is now clear to everyone that the economic emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting more and more people day after day, in Italy as well as worldwide. The pandemic has broadened an already severe **social divide**: the most vulnerable are bearing the worst consequences of this situation, and risk being relegated even more on the sidelines.

The scenario emerging from the Covid-19 outbreak have pushed us to find new ways of responding to emergencies: we have been reorganizing our activities in order to be able to produce not only highly nutritious meals but also special kits with basic necessities intended for distribution within our country.

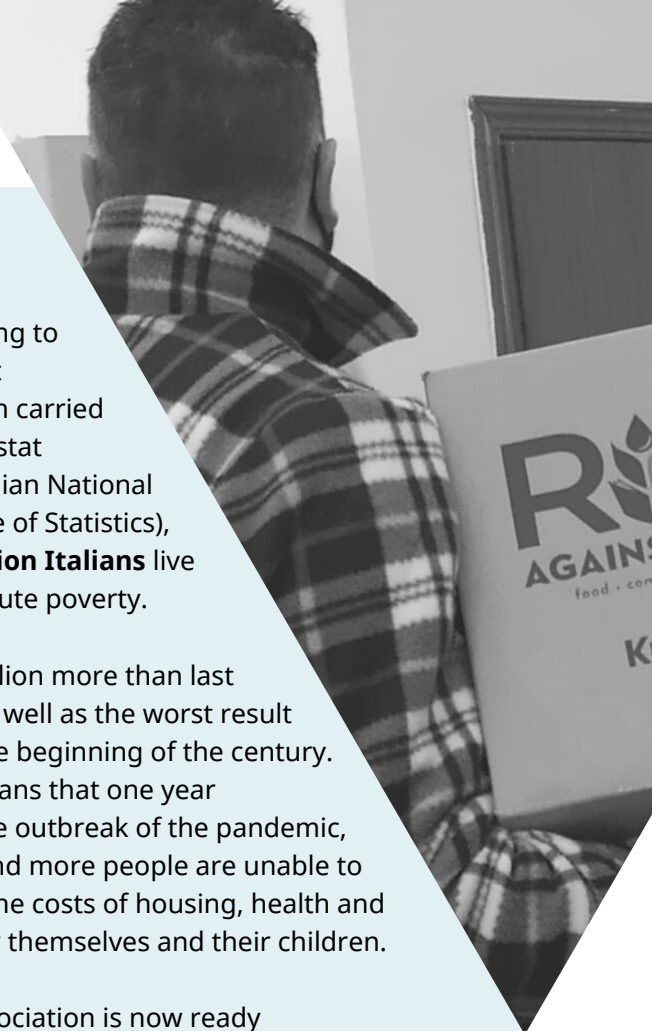
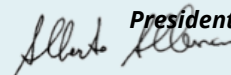
According to a recent research carried out by Istat (The Italian National Institute of Statistics), **5.6 million Italians** live in absolute poverty.

One million more than last year, as well as the worst result from the beginning of the century. This means that one year after the outbreak of the pandemic, more and more people are unable to afford the costs of housing, health and food for themselves and their children.

The Association is now ready to restart and face 2021 with a breath of optimism and some fresh ideas: a new way of living the **Rise Against Hunger Experience** celebrating a moment of joy by dedicating a small amount of your time to an unconventional packing event.

We are confident that we can also count on the **participation** of all of our friends and ambassadors to guarantee maximum support to the most fragile communities **in Italy, in Europe and in the world**.

Alberto Albieri  
President





# WHO WE ARE

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable since 1998 with the incredible vision to **end world hunger** by **empowering communities**, **nourishing lives** and **responding to emergencies**.

The Association operates through precise and concrete actions in compliance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda, which recognizes **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, the starting point of a collective path to be achieved by 2030.

The Association's priorities are mainly focused on two areas of intervention: supporting of school-feeding through meals distribution, with particular attention towards the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and responding to serious humanitarian crises, which in the more recent past have seen us provide significant support to the population of South Sudan, Greece, Syria and Albania, as well as in Italy and Europe, where we developed a new packing initiative designed to fight hunger and poverty by distributing food kits to those in need.

**So...*It starts with a meal.***

This is the motto that relaunches the mission of Rise Against Hunger Italy. The Association wishes to **(re)start from food**, not only to ensure everyone this basic human right, but also to transform a single meal into a tool of empowerment, one that can reach the most fragile components of society by ensuring them **education, safety, gender equality** and fighting **poverty and social isolation**.



# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The national lockdown and the related social distancing measures have not allowed us to meet the requests for events from our Donors.

Dozens of meal packing events already scheduled have been postponed, some even cancelled, and this happened in times where they would have been most necessary. We have indeed been obliged to temporarily halt the Rise Against Hunger Experience.

*“As a consequence of the national lockdown and the governmental measures we have not been able to meet the packaging requests from our Donors.”*

The Association responded to these limitations firstly by **modifying the layout** of the MPE process and secondly preparing a **manual** for the implementation of the activities, in accordance with the the protocol of measures issued by the Ministry of Health to prevent and contain the spread of the virus.

Furthermore, our partners in Africa have **redirected the distribution** to a household level, in order to support the most fragile families, who lack of adequate means to survive. With this new method, each packaged box made it possible to guarantee access to food for a period of one month for a family of 4 members.

On the other hand, the new priorities that emerged with the progress of the Covid emergency led to the decision to expand the Association's range of action, in order to offer a tangible contribution also to the needs of our territory. For the reasons above mentioned, Rise Against Hunger has taken action to support the most vulnerable people, who during this long and tough year have found themselves lonelier than ever and are struggling to meet basic food needs.

In compliance with the formula and mood of the Meal Packing Program we have introduced the **packing of solidarity kits** containing basic supplies, but we have also increased the requests for **Gift-in-Kind donations**, namely products that for various reasons can no longer be put on the market.

As in the case of meals distribution of meals, our intent is not to replace the experience and expertise of the actors already operating in this area, but to support them via the establishment of a virtuous **collaboration network**.

# MEALS PACKING



As already mentioned, the emergency has forced us to **reconsider strategies and operations**, especially for what concerned our core activity: the Meal Packaging Program. During the *lockdown*, given the impossibility of responding to requests for meal packing raised by companies and private citizens, our staff personally took care of meals packing activities for the communities that count on our support.

With the loosening of the restrictions, the meal packing activity has been managed in "**Covid compliant**" mode inside our warehouse. Besides, the process has been revisited in order to reduce the number of volunteers needed to guarantee the same level of productivity, in full compliance with safety protocols.

We tried to answer to these needs in the most accurate way. Inspired from "*the art of deconstructed dishes*" of Michelin-starred chefs, we applied the same technique to the events by packing each ingredient in separated bags. This allowed for an increase in production by **270%**.

In addition, our partners have redirected the distribution towards those families have no means to survive so that the beneficiaries could be able to appreciate the advantages coming from this solution; first and foremost, the availability of a small pantry of raw materials, which they can dose and combine according to needs. With this new method, each relief box will granted a food supply satisfying the need of **a family of four** for a **month**.

This setup is to be considered temporary and only valid for the entire duration of the emergency, in compliance with the current safety standards and local regulations.



The packing activity itself represents a constructive opportunity for **socialization and solidarity** among the participants.

“ *The fact that the boxes are all colored and decorated with drawings is very special gesture for children who receive them. It means that the meal they are getting at school is not a mass-produced one, but that someone has thought of them by embellishing the boxes and designing something beautiful as a gift. A universal language that speaks from the heart.* ”

All along 2020 we saw the contribution of very special groups of volunteers, who are often excluded from the most common educational experiential offers. To name just a few, we worked with associations such as **ANGSA** who supports children and young people with disabilities, or the guests welcomed in the mother-child communities by the **La Venenta Cooperative**.

We offered them a social activity that represents an ambitious **paradigm shift**: from recipients of aid and support to instigators of real change.

Thanks to this activity we have been honoured to witness what **diversity & inclusion** really mean.







# BENEFICIARIES

Rise Against Hunger has committed to stay true to its mission by ensuring continuity in the distribution of meals even in the most difficult moments.

Even though we have been limited in logistics and in the movement of goods, 5 containers of meals reached Zimbabwe, accompanied by the opening of new routes to Ghana and Syria.



## ZIMBABWE

**1.432.080 meals**

About 84% of the meals distributed in 2020 were destined to support school-feeding programs in Zimbabwe, in collaboration with **ADRA International** and **Feed The Hungry**.

These programs have already been active for quite some time, as in the case of **The Joseph Foundation**: a distribution platform that assists 13 schools which welcome over 15,000 students between 2 and 17 years on an yearly basis.

With ADRA International we completed the **Relief and Recovery School Feeding Initiative** (RRSFI): a three-years long project which saw the joint participation of various international partners, as a response to the climate emergency caused in 2017 by El Niño in southern African countries. Rise Against Hunger was able to offer school assistance and support to over 5,000 students in the Gokwe North and Zvishavane areas.

## GHANA

**249.264 meals**

The **Future Child of Africa** foundation reaches 26 schools located in 10 different villages in the surrounding areas.

The logistical difficulties encountered by the students in reaching the institutes prompted the 35-year-old Prophet Gilbert Akari, head of the facility, to build a centralized canteen to allow anyone to receive their meals regularly, while ensuring the safety and security of children.



## SYRIA

**15.120 meals**

The collaboration with **ONSUR Italy** has made it possible to reach some refugee camps in the Province of Idlib, as a first response to the growing needs generated by the civil war that has been tearing this country apart for years.

Each box of meals was sorted to support at least 3 families living in the camps.





# KIT PACKING

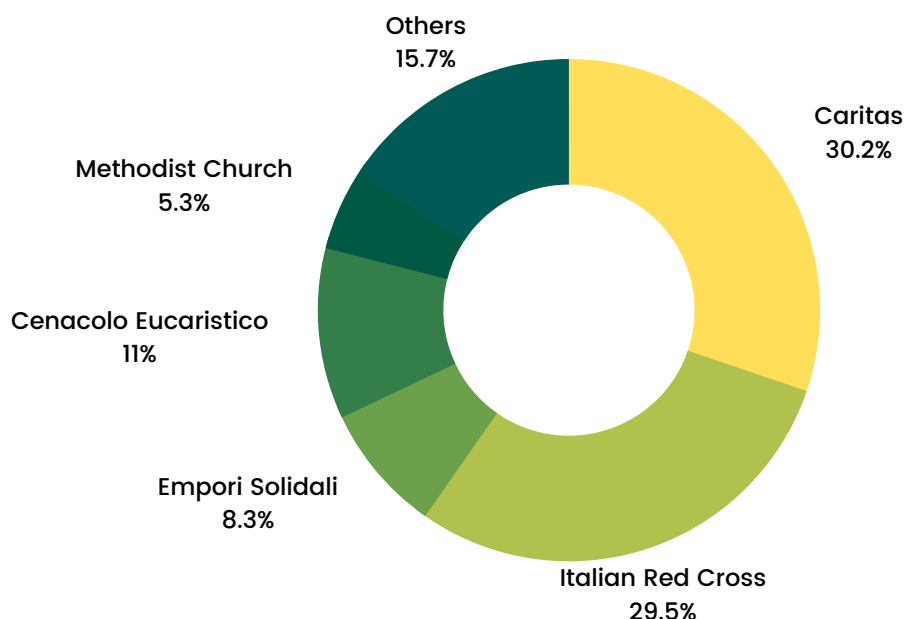


We have been reorganizing our activities in order to be able to produce not only highly nutritious meals but also solidarity kits to cover basic food necessities, intended for distribution within Italy and the EU. With this project, the association aims to offer a support tool that allows beneficiaries to allocate their financial resources even outside the food sector.

The kits contain **long-life foodstuffs** (such as pasta, rice, legumes, tomatoes, fruit juices, jam, etc ...) and are designed to guarantee a percentage of a person's food intake for a period of **2-3 weeks**.

Being able to count on a **large participation** of different actors, determined to ensure widespread distribution of the products in a particularly delicate period, the kits distributed have made it possible to strengthen the support provided to the final users.

An intense activity of logistic coordination to meet the demand, has allowed Rise Against Hunger and its partners to arrange for the collection at our warehouse or the delivery on site of the donated products and the immediate redistribution of about **25 tons** of foodstuff.





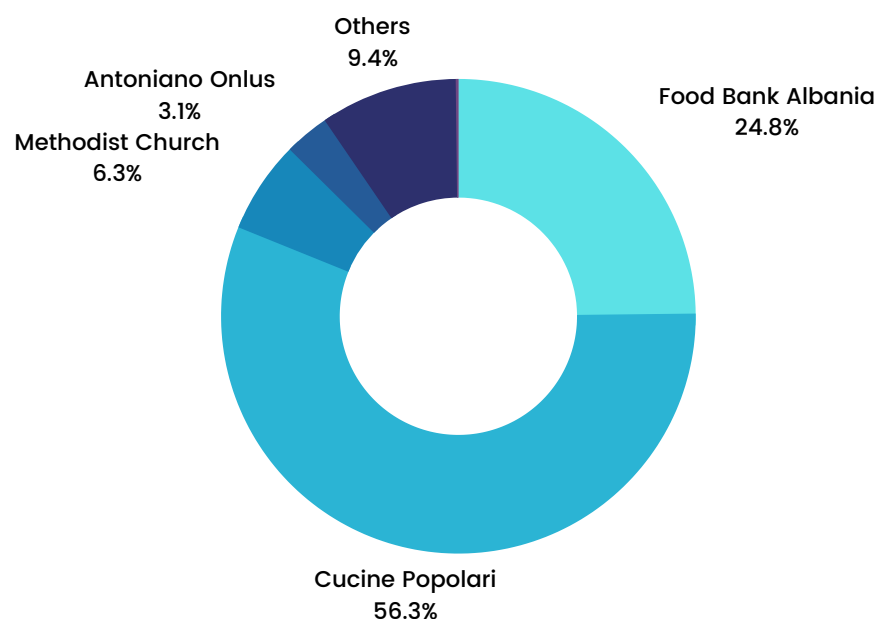
# GIFT-IN-KIND



In 2020 many companies demonstrated their support to the cause by donating to our Association **products or services** related to their business activity. These donations are particularly powerful in times of crisis, since they can help to decrease the economic burdens on both the nonprofit and the community affected by the disaster.

Especially in the period following the national lockdown, some companies of the food & beverage sector have allocated part of their corporate surpluses to the association, which valued them within its ethical distribution chain. Many donated goods are either second hand or otherwise surplus. This provides a means, particularly for corporations, of doing social good with things that would otherwise be a liability.

The Gift-in-Kind project has allowed the distribution of goods in favor of over **30 local and national associations**, active in the widespread distribution of these products to people in difficulty. Overall, **88,003 kg** of products have been delivered, equal to a market value of **€ 37,807.22**.



# RESULTS



**Meals 1.696.464**



**Kit 2.816**



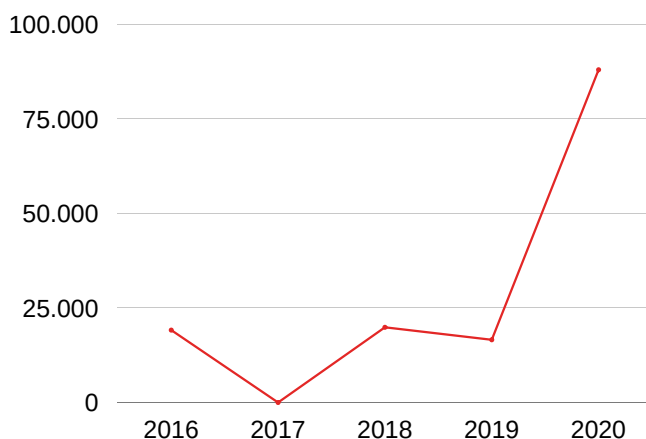
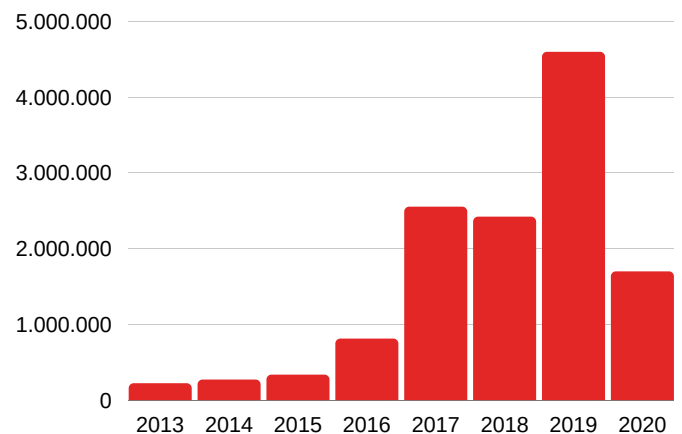
**GIK 88 TON**



**TOTAL RESULTS FOR 2020**

**226.629 KG**

**12.892.588**  
**MEALS**  
**DELIVERED**



**143.620 KG**  
**GIK**  
**DISTRIBUTED**

# PUBLIC EVENTS

In 2020 Rise Against Hunger Italy has also been a guest to some national and international initiatives and public events. Our participation to these events has generated interest and awareness around the issues of hunger, poverty by promoting actions that can be adopted by society as a whole to identify transversal and multidisciplinary solutions for these issues.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFEX

Rise Against Hunger Italy participated to the International Confex, the UK's leading trade fair for event organizers: an opportunity to promote meals packing as an unconventional CSR initiative for companies across Europe.



## SALONE della CSR e dell'INNOVAZIONE SOCIALE

The Association, represented by our Country Manager Roberta Baldazzi, spoke at the round table *"The fight against waste: the collaboration of businesses and local authorities"*, while the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste was being celebrated all over the world.



## SOLIDARIA

Rise Against Hunger attended the Volunteer and Solidarity Festival with its own stand, as part of the Solidaria event, an initiative promoted by the Voluntary Service Center and the Municipality of Padua.



# 2020 HUNGER CHAMPIONS

Apple	Knauf
Cesar Fondazione - " <i>Mons. Cesare Mazzolari</i> " Onlus	Kraft Heinz
CNS	La Venenta Soc. Coop.
Credem	Lidl
Edenred Italia srl	Lincotek
Eli Lilly SpA	Merck
Fondazione Aldini Valeriani	NetApp
Fortitudo per il Sociale APS	PWC
Forever Living	Rotary
Geico Taikisha	Scaligera Basket
Gnutti Carlo SpA	Sodalitas
Haier Europe	SOS Automotive srl
Hi-Performance	Subaseed SpA
IC Marostica	STUDIO TRE SpA
International Paper	TAS SpA
J.F. Hillebrand Italia SpA	Virtus
	Zio Mike Foundation



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