Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 82nd Edition of VIVAT Newsletter and Happy Easter.

This edition is pretty “flat” this time because we received very few stories from the ground. We begin with the United Nations 58th Commission on Social Development taking place in New York in February 2020. VIVAT organized side-event in which Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS, President of VIVAT International, was one of the panelists/speakers.

Three other stories come from Rome about anti-trafficking activity of VIVAT members and others; from Hungary about Helping the Gipsy community affected by Covid-19; and from Indonesia about VIVAT members’ celebrating Christmas and New Year with HIV/AIDS survivors in Flores.

This edition ends with Education Program on SDG 14: Preserving Life Under Water.

Thank you for your contribution and always look forward to your next stories.

In this Issue:
The 58th of UN Commission on Social Development……. p. 2
Praying Vigil and Mass………………………………………. P. 4
Food Distribution in Covid-19 Time …………………………… P. 5
Celebrating Christmas and New Year …………………….. P. 7
Introducing SDGs (Part 15) ……………………………………. p. 9
The 58th Session on the Commission for Social Development (CSocD58)

CSocD58 took place from 10 to 19 February 2020, at the UN Headquarters in New York and deliberated on the priority theme, “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”. As we all know, the Commission for social Development (CSocD) is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations that of elected 46 members. Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, CSocD has been the important UN body, responsible for the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action. Read: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd58.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd58.html)

This year being the 75th Anniversary of UN and 25th Anniversary of Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development the Commission’s focus on homelessness is a welcome step. The UN considered homelessness as a mainstream policy issue for the first time. Civil society, specially faith-based organizations played a very important role getting this theme across at the UN. Our strength is at the grassroots experiences. Our advocacy is rooted in the ground level realities and long years of working with the people. Homelessness is a global phenomenon and hence
needs multilateral approach. The two advocacy points put forward by civil society were, globally agreed comprehensive definition, and measurement of homelessness. Many African States specially Madagascar played a crucial role in the deliberation of this issue prior to and during the Commission. The side events held during the commission also analyzed the gamut of manifestations and issues related to street homelessness, family homelessness, women, children, climate change, youth, conflicts, disasters, and migration.

Civil Society Forum was held on 14 February 2020. It consisted of panels and interactive sessions. It further delved on the issues in relation to the priority theme. Like every year, the Declaration was submitted to the Commission. (Link: https://ngosocialdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/csocd58_civilsocietydeclaration.pdf).

VIVAT worked along with NGO Colleagues through NGO committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) and Working Group on ending homelessness (WGEH). On 19 February 2020, the UN adopted the Resolution defining homelessness and asking countries to measure it, the key advocacy points that civil society worked for. (https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2020/L.5). The resolution defines homelessness as not merely a lack of physical housing but as an interrelatedness to poverty, lack of productive employment, lack of infrastructure, and other social issues. However, the task now is to engage at the national and local levels. The adopted resolutions will be taken up for adoption by the General Assembly in September 2020.


VIVAT also submitted an oral statement delivered by Sr. Rose Therese Nolta SSpS on 17 February 2020 with recommendations for a comprehensive definition and data gathering. VIVAT had organized a special side event on migration and homelessness held on 18th February 2020. Besides this, VIVAT cosponsored two side events. One was organized by the Salesian Missions that focused on youth homelessness held
on 19th February, and the other was on linking inequality and homelessness held on 11 February 2020.

Webtv URL:
1. CSocD 58: be viewed on webtv:
   

2. Civil Society Forum 2020:
   

   32710885001/?term=CSocD58&sort=date and
   

   32742560001/?term=CSocD58&sort=date

   Helen Saldanha, SSpS
   
   VIVAT International, New York

Prayer-Vigil and March: “Together against Human Trafficking”

Every year on February 8, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. The Unions of Superiors and Superiors General of Religious Institutes have set this day as the Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Since 2015 this day is celebrated in many parts of the world for awareness raising against human trafficking and to pray for the victims.
A Prayer-Vigil for World Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Trafficking of Persons was held at Sant’Antonio Basilica, Rome, on February 8, 2020. The church was packed with mostly women religious living in Rome. Around 40 VIVAT members took part in the prayer-vigil.

On February 9, about 35 VIVAT members took part in the March: “Together against Human Trafficking” in Rome. We believe such awareness raising action is essential to change the society, and more people come forward in fighting this modern day slavery.

VIVAT International is committed to tackle the human trafficking issue both in local and international levels. Please visit the VIVAT website to learn the concrete actions.

http://vivatinternational.org/blog/2019/08/12/strengthening-connections-to-end-human-trafficking/


Food Distribution in Covid-19 Time

**JPIC/VIVAT Hungary Gypsies Ministry**

All world is suffering now with the covid 19. In Hungary since 16th of march, the governement has decided to stop every activities: kindergardens, schools and universities; In the same way the measures according to the prohibitions took by the autorities for example having the holy masses bishop conference also decided to take some without the people. The priest can celebrate but in privat etc.

With these measures most of the people follow the mass through the social media. tv or internet.

We can find here how much important is the social media to spread the goodnews, the Gospel. This also was same feeling of our last workshop of the communication course of JPIC Promoters too..
The information for the covid 19 situation in the country as per 31st of March was presented as follows: 492 persons have been infected by the virus and they are in hospitals, 37 persons recovered and 16 of them passed away.

The Pope Francis on March 28th asked us the pray for those who are hungry in this covid 19 pandemic time. Two weeks ago the governement announced lockdown and restricted the movements.

In our parish here in Köröm we have more than 80% of gypsies. In this pandemic situation, many of them came back from Austria and Germany. They are in quarantaine. One of our parish house is given for there disposition for two weeks for this purpose. Many gypsies find difficult to cope up in this situation even to the extrem to find themselves for a help from others.

We distributate the food and masks to the poorest families with the help of our benefactors and friends from Austria in big part, and with the local help. In this way we are making alive the gospel among the families through gypsy ministry. We are close to them, and praying to the Lord to assists them during this difficult time.

Fr. Albert Ngamba, SVD
JPIC Vice-coordinator/VIVAT Hungary
On Saturday, January 4, 2020, more than 40 HIV / AIDS survivors on the islands of Flores and Lembata, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, gathered together to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. They are members of the Peer Support Group (KDS), which is an association of HIV / AIDS survivors. Most present were women and children; there were only five adult men. They came from all over Sikka Regency using public transportation or private transportation, namely motorbikes.

The event which took place at the Candraditya Research Center for Religion and Culture in Maumere on the Island of Flores, began at around 10:00 am by singing Christmas carols; followed by game events hosted by 4 sisters from the Franciscan monastery at Nita District. Along with them were Fr. John Prior, SVD, permanent advisor to the passers and Fr. Robert Mirsel, SVD, Executive Co-Director of VIVAT International. This was a moment of encounter that brings together
a sense of kinship and suffering to support and strengthen one another. On that occasion, Wigis, the KDS coordinator, welcomed several members who had just joined and encouraged them to always be present at the KDS monthly meeting. She also reminded the survivors not to engage in deviant sexual behavior, which caused HIV / AIDS to spread to more people. Wigis stressed the importance of protecting one's own life and the lives of others by continuing to prevent the spread of HIV / AIDS and by routinely taking available medication. Until now they are taking drugs recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), which is a combination of antiretroviral drugs for people who start HIV treatment. The three drugs are TDF (tenofovir), 3TC (lamivudine) or FTC (emtricitabine) and EFV (efavirenz).

This joint Christmas event was accompanied by lunch and dancing together which, once again, were guided by Franciscan Sisters. Food and drinks were provided by the survivors themselves, collected and enjoyed together. The event took place lively and closed with photos together at 14.00 noon. The group will hold a second meeting earlier this year on February 21, 2020. Previously, on December 19, 2019, this group had held Advent recollection and confessions. This recollection was led by Fr. John Prior, SVD with the theme: "Between God of John the Baptist and Jesus's God: A God who punishes versus a God who loves" based on the Advent readings. Recollection also included sharing of participants' experiences of God and confession.

Peer group itself was formed in the early 2000s when HIV / AIDS began to spread in the NTT region, especially in Sikka Regency. In reaction, a number of stakeholders including the local government of Sikka Regency, a number of doctors and the SVD members of Ende Province which are also VIVAT International members, took the initiative to help the survivors by gathering them every month. The aim is to prevent the spread of the disease, help the survivors get treatment, and to conduct social awareness so that the survivors are not discriminated against and stigmatized in society.

Now the peer support group receives drug and financial assistance from the local government, the SVD Ende Province and the Global Fund. This fund is mainly aimed at mobilizing the survivors to attend joint meetings every month. Of course, there is a need for greater funding to empower them economically.

By Robert Mirsel, SVD
VIVAT International, Maumere
INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PART 15)

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

TARGETS AND INDICATORS

14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.1.1. Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density
14.2. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.2.1. Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
14.3. Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
14.3.1. Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations
14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.4.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.5. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.5.1. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.6.1. Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

14.7. By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.7.1. Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

14.A. Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.A.1. Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology

14.B. Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.B.1. Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

14.C. Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

14.C.1. Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

**PROGRESS OF GOAL 14 IN 2019**

- Ocean acidification is caused by the uptake of atmospheric CO2 by the ocean, which changes the chemical composition of the seawater. Long-term observations of ocean acidification over the past 30 years have shown an average increase of acidity of 26 per cent since pre-industrial
times, and at this rate, an increase of 100 to 150 per cent is predicted by the end of the century, with serious consequences for marine life.

- To achieve sustainable development of fisheries, fish stocks must be maintained at a biologically sustainable level. Analyses reveal that the fraction of world marine fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90 per cent in 1974 to 66.9 per cent in 2015.

- As of December 2018, over 24 million km² (17.2 per cent) of waters under national jurisdiction (0–200 nautical miles from a national border) were covered by protected areas, a significant increase from 12 per cent in 2015 and more than double the extent covered in 2010. The global mean percentage of each marine key biodiversity area covered by protected areas increased from 31.2 per cent in 2000 to 44.7 per cent in 2015 and to 45.7 per cent in 2018.

- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains one of the greatest threats to sustainable fisheries, the livelihoods of those who depend upon them and marine ecosystems. A framework of international instruments has been developed that addresses different aspects of fisheries management. Most countries have taken measures to combat such fishing and have adopted an increasing number of fisheries management instruments in the past decade. For example, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the first international binding agreement to combat such fishing, entered into force in June 2016. The number of parties to the Agreement has rapidly increased and stood at 58 as of February 2019.

- Small-scale fisheries are present in almost all countries, accounting for more than half of total production on average, in terms of both quantity and value. To promote small-scale fishers’ access to productive resources, services and markets, most countries have developed targeted regulatory and institutional frameworks. However, more than 20 per cent of countries have a low to medium level of implementation of such frameworks, particularly in Oceania and Central and South Asia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 13-24 April 2020

• 10-12 June 2020
  13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

UN CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

April:
7: Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide; World Health Day
22: International Mother Earth Day
24 - 30: World Immunization Week
25: World Malaria Day

May:
3: World Press Freedom Day
8 - 9: Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War
15: International Day of Families
17: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
25 - 31: Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing

June:
1: Global Day of Parents
4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5: World Environment Day
8: World Oceans Day
12: World Day Against Child Labour
17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
19: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20: World Refugee Day
26: United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture