

Dialogue, training, bargaining: work as an instrument of peace

AID 11604

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The project “Dialoguing, training, bargaining: work as an instrument of peace – AID 11604”, financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (**AICS**) and implemented by Nexus Solidarietà Internazionale Emilia Romagna (**Nexus ER**), in collaboration with Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (**ISCOS**), Progetto Sud (**PROSUD**), Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (**VIS**), goes on in Eritrea.

The **pandemic** caused by **Covid-19** continues to have profound repercussions all over the world, inevitably leading to problems and delays even in the planning of our activities in the short and medium term.

In fact, in Eritrea, the progressive closure of the Country, the restrictions on movement even between towns and villages, the ban on assemblies and meetings, the closure of schools, and last but not least the closure of businesses, with the exception of those belonging to the food chain, have slowed down the realisation of events, training activities and the overall management of the project, including the possibility of carrying out missions on site.

However, thanks to the extension granted by **AICS**, which postpones the end of the first year of activity to 30 May 2021, it was possible to proceed with the **shipment of materials** – whose purchase was completed in November 2020 – for the setting up of some **workshops** at the Training Centre in **Massawa** and the Social Media Centre in **Asmara**.

In Europe and Italy, due to the continuation of the state of emergency caused by Covid-19, which also affected the productive sectors and companies that had been entrusted with the supply of materials, there was a delay in the delivery of the **equipment purchased** and, consequently, in the sending of the same for the completion of the professional Training Centres in Asmara and Massawa. This exceptional and unforeseeable state of health emergency, which is still ongoing, has had a significant impact on the timing of activities in both Eritrea and Italy.

Despite the many constraints, Nexus ER together with **ISCOS**, **PROSUD**, **VIS**, with the support of the national **CGIL**, **CISL**, **UIL**, **CSI-Africa** and,



at local level, the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (**NCEW**), carried out the actions that we had planned to implement before the outbreak of the pandemic.

Will, discussion and coordination between the partners and the project staff thus made it possible to guarantee, albeit at a distance, the continuity of the activities planned in the first year of the project.



In the pictures, clockwise from top left: loads of building materials for the structural upgrading of the Training Centres in Asmara and Massawa, of internal doors for the Social Media Centre in Asmara, of the gas tank for the start-up and operation of the professional training laboratories, and departure of the sealed container from the port of Naples, with destination Massawa (Eritrea).



The Training Centres

The procedures for the **purchase** of part of the equipment, furnishings, materials, etc. necessary for the completion of the Training Centre in Massawa and the Social Media Centre in Asmara were completed in November 2020 and, just in these days of February, we have finally witnessed the **sending** of the first **containers** planned.

Proud to have completed this first part of the activities, in the coming months we will purchase other goods that will be sent on site to help **set up** and **equip** the **workshops** necessary for the **professional training** of many **young Eritreans**.

The first shipment underway is for various **materials** and **equipment** (building and electrical materials, rain gutters, gas tanks, windows, external and internal doors, protective railings).

We are also planning to purchase other essential material for the completion of the laboratories themselves, such as **household appliances**, **computers**, etc., in the near future.

We are also planning to send materials for the structural adaptation of the Centres for the **disabled**, which we will report on in the next newsletter.

We hope to be able to start installing the supplies soon, in order to have the two centres up and running as soon as possible. The professional Training Centres will be used to promote the insertion/replacement of **women** and **young people** in the labour market, through **professional and vocational training and refresher courses**, the strengthening of the **skills** of the **staff** involved and **social dialogue** processes involving all the relevant **stakeholders**.

The Training Courses

Unfortunately, due to the emergency situation caused by the coronavirus, the **training courses** that were supposed to take place **in-person** have been postponed and we have had to reorganise them **remotely**, as it was impossible to carry out special missions on site.

The **good news** is that, in collaboration with the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW), during these first months of 2021 we are planning the **training plans** for the “training of trainers” and for the professional updating of **career counsellors** and **company tutors**, who will then be in charge of carrying out the training and accompanying **unemployed young people** from education to job placement, and training and accompanying, during the professional updating course, **already employed people**.

Therefore, the evaluation, elaboration and validation of the **training tools** and the **didactic modules** necessary for the first training of trainers, career counsellors and company tutors is under way. These activities will be carried out **remotely**, with **Italian** and **Eritrean experts**, in order to consolidate the already fruitful **cooperation** between the project partners.

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