OUR HISTORY IS OUR FUTURE
Mani Tese is an Italian development NGO operating at national and international level to further justice, solidarity, promotion of human rights and respect among people. 

Since its foundation in 1964, Mani Tese has pursued this aim by raising public awareness on the causes of poverty in the South, lobbying policy makers and institutions and implementing development projects which, beside responding to the needs of the poor, may initiate a process of self determination and self reliance.

Up to now Mani Tese has implemented - together with local partners – more than 2300 development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in the areas of education, agriculture, infrastructures, support to cooperatives, human rights (particularly child rights, women rights, ethnic minorities) governance, micro-credit, health, humanitarian aid, and integrated programs.

An important role in the organization is played by more than 4000 volunteers and 25 Mani Tese’s local groups spread all over the country. They raise funds by organizing different activities locally in several Italian cities.

The National Secretariat organizes a number of initiatives at national, regional and local level, often in collaboration with other NGOs, research centers, universities. In particular, Mani Tese organizes meetings, conferences and workshops on specific development issues such as debt, trade, aid, peace. Campaigns and lobbying initiatives are undertaken in order to raise awareness on development issues and to influence national and international political authorities on crucial problems.

To be more effective, Mani Tese is a permanent member of national networks (ASSEMBLEA ONG ITALIANE, FORUM TERZO SETTORE, CONCORD ITALIA) and international non governmental bodies such as EUROPEAN COALITION FOR CORPORATE JUSTICE, GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION, EXPO DEI POPOLI as well as of ad hoc campaigns.

Cres-ManiTese, a group of teachers, provides consultancy on development education in the schools, organizes training courses and publishes literature for teachers. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education.

Financial resources are mainly provided by Mani Tese’s local groups, by the public at large, by members of Mani Tese, its supporters, and by the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Italian Local Authorities. Mani Tese is a legal entity, registered as a non profit development organization, declared of public utility by a decree of the President of the Italian Republic. It is accredited to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union and it has consultative status with the UN ECOSOC.
The tendency towards justice is an expression of the aspiration to equality: the desire and the will that all human beings, regardless of their geographical location, have the same opportunities. But equality to which values?

First of all, Mani Tese refers to the fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other conventions and agreements approved by the United Nations and specified as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. More generally, equality is understood by Mani Tese as the opportunity for all people to establish their own values and to define strategies to achieve them. The tendency towards equality is not limited to the enunciation of rights, but it pragmatically aims to their effectiveness: the real possibility that all human beings are in the condition to claim, exercise and implement their fundamental freedoms. For this reason, Mani Tese’s commitment to justice cannot be separated from a daily practice of sharing and concrete solidarity with people suffering the consequences of political and economical unequal systems.

Moreover, Mani Tese does not consider the research of effectiveness in achieving rights to be sufficient: they have to be realized by activating the capacity to “make it on their own”, to follow their own development model, not necessarily accepting a universal growth model, imposed from outside local communities or from outside the state as a whole.

Finally, there is the issue of development goals. Acknowledging that different communities express different ways to pursue their own well-being, Mani Tese considers this plurality of development models a value and a basis for the effective realization of universal rights. Justice, therefore, also as the possibility of each community to freely self-determine its well-being, in a peaceful and non-violent debate between persons acting at different scales and between many facets of rights.

Here, then, our more complete definition of justice:

«The research for effective implementation of fundamental human rights for all human beings in all parts of the world. The desire that this process becomes concrete in respect of autonomous choices of local, regional and national communities in defining their own development model, in harmony among each other and with the natural environment». 
Social Justice

Mani Tese sees at the center of cooperation policies and of development processes Social Justice, understood as promoting policies of redistribution of wealth and control of means of sustaining the the life of each individual and community. Support through concrete actions and specific processes of development and self-centered research, and the test of new development models are tools for the promotion of social justice. Focusing on social justice, it is necessary to re-think development models following an era of profound changes at global level.

Economic Justice

Resources allocation, financing, production, consumption and all the other phases of the economic cycle inevitably have consequences on the lives of individuals, communities, peoples and territories occupied by them. Mani Tese sees at the center of cooperation policies and of development processes Economic Justice, understood as the application of the ethics of human rights and environmental ethic at every phase of economic activities. On these bases, for Mani Tese economic justice implies the definition of institutions and binding norms as to give everyone what is due to satisfy all the fundamental human needs respecting natural cycles, as required by the United Nations Charter and the international law. This is particularly important in the development of economic systems able to preserve and to promote common goods and public interest, according to a redistributive logic, before private profit.

Environmental Justice

Mani Tese interprets environmental justice as a redefinition of sovereignty on common goods and access, management and control, in order to promote a different development model based on the values of equality and simplicity. In this sense, Mani Tese works to favor the exit from a consumption society and to increase the realization of a substantial democracy, in which local communities can effectively participate in the negotiations in relation to the territory in which they live. The support through concrete actions and specific movements that everywhere, in the South as in the North, resist to intensive exploitation of the territory promoting self-centered and sustainable development models, is the main instrument for the promotion of environmental justice.
FROM FOOD SECURITY TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Citizens and Local Authorities towards a new paradigm in Europe to reduce world hunger

A project funded by the European Union with the aim of raising awareness about food sovereignty in citizens of Italy, Spain and Bulgaria, also spurring them to get active towards the European and International institutions involved in the relevant decisions about agricultural and alimentary policies. The overall objective is to reduce world hunger, according to MDG 1. According to the most recent figures provided by FAO, the number of hungry people is currently rising. In accordance with the position of the peasants’ networks in the South of the world and with the studies of The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)– IAASTD, we believe that the most effective precondition for obtaining the reduction of world hunger is the transition from the paradigm of “food security” to the “food sovereignty” one, from the centrality of “how much to produce” to the centrality of “how, where and who to produce for”.

Europe plays a fundamental role in this issue. Europe is meant both as a group of consumers who are buying relevant quantities of alimentary goods coming from the South of the world (which could on the contrary be destined to local markets), and as an Institutional reality that is strongly capable of making a difference on the global alimentation issue through its decisions on the Common Agricultural Policy (that are particularly affecting Africa). Europe is, moreover, also to be considered as a group of Local Authorities involved in the agricultural decision making process in their territories and in building awareness among their citizens. So the specific objective is to raise awareness on food sovereignty in consumers and Local Authorities in the 3 European countries involved, also spurring them to act towards the European and International Institutions that are involved in the relevant decisions about agricultural and alimentary policies.
GRABBING DEVELOPMENT
Towards new models of North/South relations for a fair exploitation of natural resources

The overall objective of the action is to contribute to the MDG1 (eradication of poverty) and MDG7 (environmental loss halting) by re-orienting the European approach to the exploitation of natural resources towards a new equitable and right-based approach. Specific Objectives are: create public debate on the North/South inequality access to natural resources leading public opinion to the need of new rights-based models; engage civil society organisations (CSO) and grass-root activists in advocating and campaigning for a new equitable approach to natural resources access and management both at institutional and public level, awakening to the need of reducing unsustainable consumption patterns; build a programme of change for decision-makers and EU companies able to provide a new policy framework based on promoting local communities participation in development strategies and preventing negative impacts of foreign investments.
GRABBING DEVELOPMENT

An opportunity to raise the voices of civil society and farmers movements on food sovereignty and environmental justice during the Universal Exposition

The assignment to Milan and to Italy of the Universal Exposition 2015 “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” represents a unique opportunity to share ideas and proposals on an issue so critical for the future of humanity. Open from May 1 to October 31, 2015, the Universal Exposition will host 144 States and 3 international organisations as official participants, and is expected to welcome between 10 and 20 million visitors, with the objective “to be remembered not only for its exhibition profile but also for its contribution towards education on food and the planet’s precious resources”. Since 2011 a number of Italian organizations operating in very diverse sectors (development, environment, human rights, producers and consumers rights, etc.) have been collaborating with the aim of taking up the challenge and trying to influence the public debate with another concept of Feeding the Planet, based on the principles of food sovereignty and environmental justice. This process has been called People’s Expo (in IT: Expo dei Popoli) and the various organizations promoting it have agreed on a Manifesto with a shared vision of the problems, and indications of a clear set of solution strategies that should guide the recognition and the guarantee of the right to adequate food and a fair and sustainable utilization of natural resources. The final goal of the Manifesto’s promoters is to hold an international forum in Milan on the occasion of the Universal Exposition 2015, allowing also the voices of the people to be heard, besides those of governments and transnational corporations. The international forum will take place in Milan, Italy, the first week of June 2015. It will last 5 days, and will be animated by 20 international multi-country delegations of networks already active on the issues of food sovereignty, environmental justice and human rights, for a total of 200 delegates. The final output of the People’s Expo will be the “People’s Expo Chart of Milano”.

MANITESE 006

ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING
HUNGRY FOR RIGHTS

The Hungry for Rights project aims at raising public awareness of development issues with a focus on the topic of Alternative Food Systems (AFS) as local and bottom-up solutions to fight hunger and promote social cohesion.

AFSs are community based networks characterized by geographical proximity and a social organization oriented to mutual exchange and they are an evidence of new dynamics of social-economical development. Within the global agenda on Food Security, these models constitute reliable alternatives to constrains arisen from the trade globalization. Starting from this topic, relevant both in developing countries and in the North, the project pursues the design of a mutual learning education process that considers in each stage South and North perspectives. The project foresees the participative design and development of a non-formal peer education process, the first step of which will be the identification of global and local issues related to alternative food systems (AFSs) at transnational level and the definition of a common base of knowledge and competences on development issues related to AFSs at local level. This would allow to design together with selected target groups the training programme and the working agenda that will constitute the bases for the next sets of activities.
Considering the key role that Italy played when holding the presidency of G8 and EFA-FTI in 2009, the following group of organizations, which are members of the international campaign and work in Italy, decided to establish the Italian Coalition: Action Aid, Mani Tese, Oxfam Italia, FLC Cgil and Save the Children. After the launch, other Italian organizations joined the coalition, bringing their strong expertise in education: ACRA, ARCS, Children in Crisis, CISL Scuola, CISV, Intervita, Magis, PRO.DO.C.S., Sightsavers International Italia, Terre des Hommes, VIS.

The main goal of the Italian Coalition of the Global Campaign for Education is to sensitize and mobilize Italian public opinion to push the Government to increase its commitment to finance education worldwide. Every year, the Global Campaign for Education holds a Global Action Week (GAW), during which thousands of organizations, associations, representatives of institutions and civil society, students and teachers are engaged in events to raise awareness and mobilize the public with the aim of achieving the Education For All goals.
In the world initiatives to discuss the future of international cooperation and development aids, concepts that seem to be more and more under discussion, are multiplying. To rediscover today the sense of cooperation and solidarity we need to take into account this new scenario. The news is that we are no longer at the centre of the world and that we can no longer take our wealth for granted. **That is how institutions and the public opinion start to realize that the time of the one-way solidarity and international aid is over.** The uninterrupted flow from the eternal rich ones to the eternally poor ones makes no sense more if it doesn’t turn in the concrete possibility of an equal exchange of relationships, values, experiences, capitals. It is time to definitively drop the classic image of poverty, the one that for many years cooperation itself has contributed to consolidate, precisely because today two thirds of the poor people in the world live in middle income countries.

In this new scenario, though, cooperation and solidarity among peoples won’t become any less important. In a world where the management of common goods and of natural resources is becoming the key to sustainable development and where inequality and social injustice are increasingly becoming a threat to social stability, civil society organizations, precisely through international cooperation, are and will continue to be the moving spirits in the fight against poverty and marginalization. That is the course that Mani Tese has been undertaking for several years with local partners and communities in 11 countries.

**Our achievements**

**Professional training and income-generating activities for the empowerment of marginalized youngsters and women in Cambodia.**

In Sihanoukville, seaside location and well-known tourist destination in the south of Cambodia, women and youngsters’ empowerment is also achieved through vocational training. Getting skills and competencies that can be used in the labour market means helping the young recipients of the project to break the vicious circle of poverty, abuse and danger of trafficking. The vocational training centre offers courses of sewing, cooking, hospitality for hotel staff and people working in silk-screen printing. At the end of said courses, students find an easier way to enter the labour market and their professional path is monitored. Furthermore, young women and mothers of children at risk, after attending the sewing course, enter a production programme carried out in their houses. Provided that their children regularly attend school, products manufactured by women are sold in the store of the partner M’lop Tapang, thus ensuring regular income to families.

**Integrated community development programme to fight against child labour and to promote education and training for youngsters in India.**

In collaboration with the local partner ASSIST, we have continued our over-a-decade-long fight against child labour in the companies operating in lime extraction and processing in the Piduguralla area, in Andhra Pradesh. The constant migratory flow brings increasingly poor families to this area and the project is focused on children and youngsters (aged between 5 and 14), involving education, training and vocational training. Furthermore, some events have been organized to raise awareness and give information on issues related to child labour and personal and public hygiene, using tools, including street theatre, allowing to reach also the most remote areas and the least-educated population groups, over 1,800 individuals. These actions are part of a global development process of villages, managed directly by the local population via specific village committees and mutual help women’s committees.
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For over five years Mani Tese has been committed, through partnerships with local NGOs, in projects of protection, of support to primary education of the children who live and work on the streets, of reception of children victims of trafficking repatriated in their native countries, of projects to sustain the mothers of the street living and working children and to raise awareness on the issue.

Human trafficking is mainly based on deceit and betrayal. People become victims because they believe in the false promises made by those who lead them towards a future of exploitation and slavery, making them believe that they can reach the dream of a better life. Sometimes they are aware of the risks they are taking, but they have no other choice to escape from poverty but to risk. However, too often, they have no idea what their future beholds and they would never accept being exploited to slavery.

Mani Tese is aware that trafficking is a very complex issue and that it is impossible to find a single solution to the very numerous causes and forms it has. This is why in 2010, with the crucial and relentless help given by local partner organizations, it decided to launch the inTRATTAbili (un-TRAFFICKable) campaign, involving different actions. Prevention – Protection – Partnership: these are the main areas of action. Protection of victims and potential victims, via welcoming and reintegration services, wherever and whenever possible, in the families of origin, by proactively contributing to eliminate causes leading people to become victims of trafficking: extreme poverty, lack of basic services, education, medical care, vocational training, job opportunities, etc. All this can be extremely successful only in cooperation with civil society, the commercial network and local authorities.

The future aim of this campaign is to support partners and actions carried out so far, by extending their scope in geographical terms and in the number of issues involved. By definition, trafficking is indeed widespread, branching out and diversifying successfully. The actions carried out within this campaign will aim at informing and raising awareness of potential victims, by decreasing vulnerability and by protecting those, especially children, who already are victims and by involving more and more actors, ranging from local partners to volunteers in Italy, so that they can play an increasingly proactive role.
Cambodia

Poipet

The Partner
Damnok Toek is a local NGO, which has operated in Cambodia since 1997 to rescue exploited, abused and trafficked children via several reception and rehabilitation centres, vocational training and day-care education centres.

Aim
The project aims at welcoming children who have been victims of minor abuse and trafficking, in the reception centre located in the Poipet area, for their rehabilitation and possible reintegration in their families of origin. Furthermore, the centre provides informal education, fosters reintegration in schools and offers vocational training to older youngsters. Some training is also envisaged for the relevant mothers, in their houses, involving handmade products manufacturing and marketing.

Recipients
- 910 children and youngsters aged from 5 to 15, victims of trafficking, who have been welcomed, rehabilitated, reintegrated and, if possible, have gone back to their families of origin. They have attended primary education courses and older youngsters have been provided vocational training.
- 30 mothers, who have attended vocational training courses and who have been helped in selling their handmade products.
- 130 children and youngsters aged from 5 to 15, who have attended primary school thanks to their mothers’ work.

Bangladesh

Dacope

The Partner
DALIT is an independent organization operating in development of marginalized groups, by identifying job opportunities for them and by providing healthcare and education.

Aim
This project aims at offering kindergarten, primary school, afterschool services, medical assistance to children, but also at achieving literacy and raising awareness on adult trafficking.

Recipients
- 120 children under 6 years of age, attending pre-school.
- 640 children and youngsters aged from 6 to 15, attending primary school.
- 100 adults attending literacy courses.
- 581 people of different ages, receiving healthcare assistance and preventive medicine (vaccines).
- 625 adults, taking part in meetings to raise awareness on trafficking of minors.
- 22,800 people, whose awareness have been raised in different ways on trafficking of minors.
Global Citizenship Education for Mani Tese is a **pro-active learning process based on the principles of solidarity, equality, inclusion and cooperation**, which offers individuals the opportunity to follow a path towards awareness of links existing between poverty and lifestyles.

This is an increasingly sensitive task to be carried out in schools, which we have tried to interpret creatively this year, working with teachers and students starting from their dreams and their most consistent needs. Two innovative projects have been launched, laying the new foundations of our way to deal with the issue of rights in school. We have experimented the research-action method, a form of self-reflective analysis allowing subjects being educated to be the “actors” of the educational process, to work with primary school children not to waste bread left in the canteen.

And we have invented a **course for teachers**, which we have called “Resilient Teachers”, to find new and sustainable paths with those who support the need to educate children and youngsters to claim their rights and to be aware of their duties on a global scale.

We have also a **permanent interactive teaching installation**, at Mani Tese’s recently-refurbished premises, on North-South inequalities and unfair exploitation of natural resources. A trip to the roots of the elements: water, earth, air and energy, without neglecting human beings work. Enchanted forests, huge planispheres, solar ovens and two well-known characters leading this project: Gaia, Mother Nature and Lustro, the lord of time.

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**Our figures for the 2013-14 school year:**

- 178 hours of teaching projects
- Approximately 1,600 students involved
- 85 hours of education and co-planning with teachers and educators