



Volunteers
International for
Development,
Education and
Service of Young People and Women

A non-profit organization promoted by the **Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco**

A Non-Government Organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations

GOAL: Since 1877 the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters) have been a missionary Institute and since 1987 they are providing service opportunities through VIDES to young adults inviting them to be part of its world-wide missions.

VIDES volunteer Missioners serve together with members of the Salesian family (Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Cooperators...) joining efforts to be transformational leaders in society by living a simple Christ-centered life while serving the poor, promoting social justice, solidarity, and generosity in sharing and giving of themselves. Through VIDES thousands of young adults are opting to make a difference in the world.

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

With the Salesian Sisters or FMA (Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice – legal name – Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) 89 countries:

- 23 countries in [America](#)
- 22 countries in [Africa](#)
- 18 countries in [Asia-Middle East](#)
- 3 countries in [Oceania](#)
- 23 countries in [Europe](#)

Other placement opportunities are with the Salesian Priests and Brothers or SDB (Salesiani di Don Bosco – Salesians of Don Bosco) in 139 countries.

FUNDING SOURCES: VIDES relies entirely on donations for its administration and missionary activities.

[Please note that the list below represents only the FMA Placement Opportunities. They are the most frequently used by VIDES young adults. In most countries we find both FMA and SDB Missions.]

FMA in AMERICA 23 nations

We are 4778 FMA working in 593 communities

In **1877** the Institute crossed the ocean to America with **its first missionary expedition** to Montevideo in Uruguay. It was indeed an extraordinary achievement at such a short time since **the foundation (1872)**

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|------------|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| Argentina, | Costa Rica, | Haiti, | Peru, |
| Bolivia, | Cuba, | Honduras, | Puerto Rico, |
| Brazil, | Dominican Republic, | Mexico, | United States, |
| Canada, | Ecuador, | Nicaragua, | Uruguay, |
| Chile, | El Salvador, | Panama, | Venezuela |
| Colombia, | Guatemala, | Paraguay, | [continue below] |



TYPES of SERVICE in America:

Teaching in schools at various levels
After school activities involving study and recreation
Evening school for the poor
Oratories and youth centres
Promotional and professional centres
Mission centres in the villages among the indigenous people
Basic communities
Communities inserted in slums and on the outskirts of big cities
Shelter homes for the street children
Our presence in the social administrative structure for the defending of rights of youth and women
Teaching in private parish and public schools at every level

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FMA in AFRICA 22 nations

We are 434 FMA working in 81 communities In 22 countries in AFRICA



The first Salesian Sisters set foot on African soil at Oran in Algeria on **December 16, 1893.**

Two years previously the Salesians had established a community there. The Sisters faced great poverty when they opened the oratory-youth centre which immediately welcomed all the girls and young women of the place. They set up sewing classes and became involved in catechism lessons and other tasks in the parish.

Angola,	Democratic Republic of	Gabon,	Mali,	Tanzania,
Benin,	Congo,	Equatorial Guinea,	Mozambique,	Togo,
Cameroon,	Ivory Coast,	Kenya,	Rwanda	Tunisia,
Congo-Brazzaville,	Egypt,	Lesotho,	South Africa,	Zambia
	Ethiopia,	Madagascar,	Sudan,	

TYPES of SERVICE

Centers for the advancement of women
Vocational and literacy schools
Visits to the villages

Health clinics and dispensaries
Rural artisan centers
Houses for girls in difficulty or at risk
Oratory-youth centers

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ASIA – MIDDLE EAST 18 nations

We are 2,035 FMA working in 253 communities in 18 countries in Asia and the Middle East.

The FMA first arrived in the Middle East, in **Jerusalem, in 1905**, in response to a request of Fr. Michael Rua, Don Bosco's 1st successor, to Mother Caterina Daghero, and under the direction of Fr. John Cagliero. The Sisters began their work with dressmaking and embroidery classes for girls regardless of nationality or religion; they were immediately attended by Moslem and Greek girls. The beginning of a work destined for great development was difficult. The wide extent of its charitable educational activity was truly ecumenical in outlook.

Cambodia,	Japan	Israel,	Nepal,	East Timor,
China,	Jordan	Korea,	Syria,	Vietnam
Philippines,	India	Lebanon,	Taiwan,	
Georgia,	Indonesia	Myanmar-Burma	Thailand,	

TYPES of SERVICE in Asia and the Middle East

Teaching in the schools at various levels
Pastoral work in villages in remote areas
Centers for nutrition and health care
Centers for the promotion of women
Remedial schools
Homes for girls and young women at risk
Homes for rehabilitation of young drug addicts



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OCEANIA 3 countries

We are 39 FMA working in 11 communities.

[We have been in [Australia s the 1950s.](#)]

There presently exists 1 religious province established on November 20 1999 as the South Pacific Region.

Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa

TYPES of SERVICE

Integrated activities for the rehabilitation of young people
Teaching in private parish and public schools at various levels
Promotional and cultural free time activities
Religious formation and spiritual encounters for young and adults



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EUROPE 23 nations

We are 7,573 FMA working in 590 communities

The first foundation of the Institute, still in Italy, was at Borgo San Martino (Alessandria) on **October 8th 1874**. It was the first link of a long chain. Apart from its expansion in Italy, the Institute crossed the borders into the **rest of Europe in 1877**, beginning with a community at Nice in France. Since then we have gone to 23 countries:

Albania	Croatia	Italy	Portugal	Switzerland
Austria	France	Lithuania	Russia	Ukraine
Belgium	Germany	Malta	Slovenia	Hungary
Byelorussia	Great Britain	Holland	Slovakia	
Scheck Republic	Ireland	Poland	Spain	

TYPES of SERVICE

Teaching in schools at various levels
Homes for girls and young women at risk
Oratories and youth centers
Professional training centers



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The above statistics on the FMA missions, history, places, and service was downloaded from: www.cgfmanet.org.