

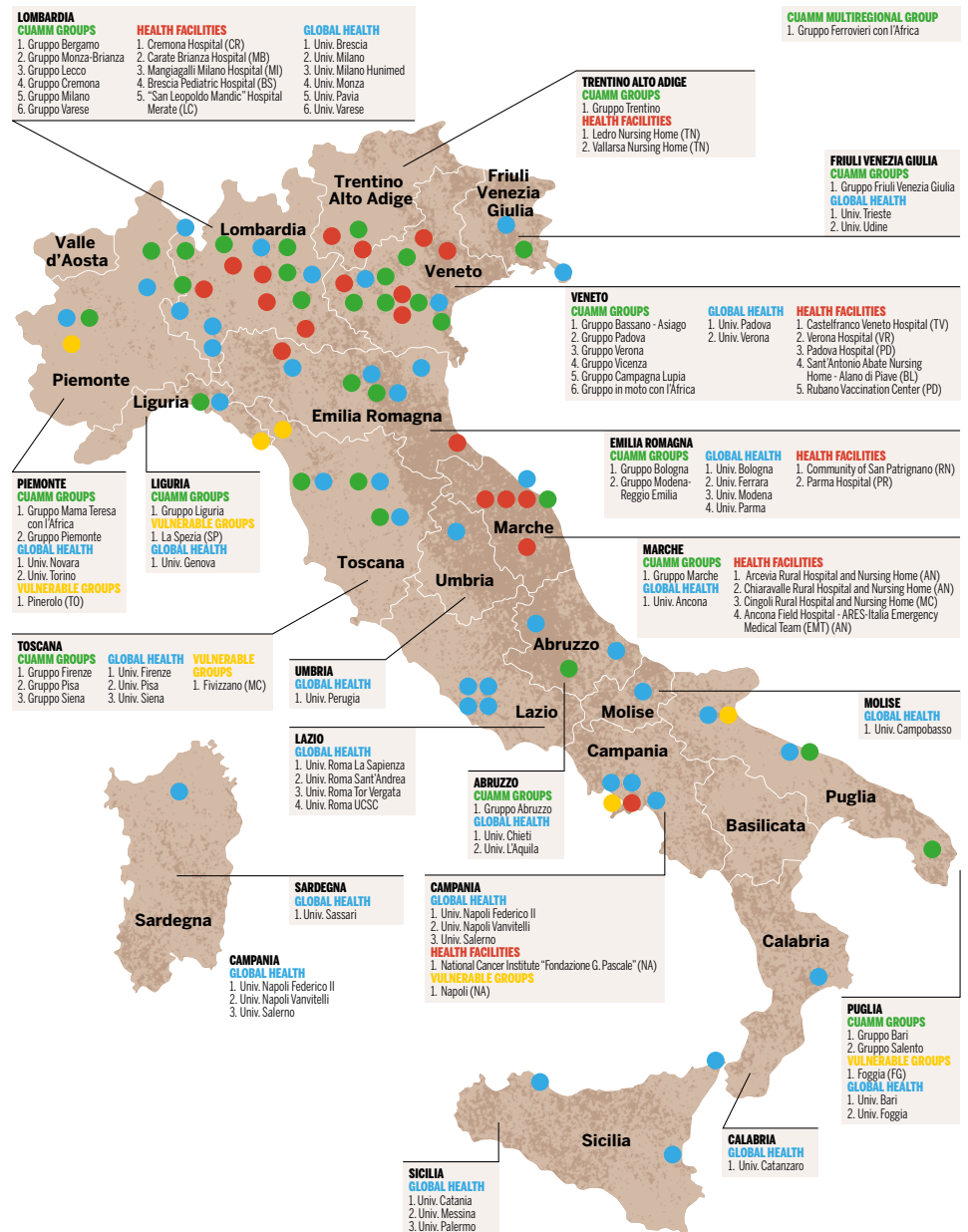
ITALIAN RESPONSE TO COVID19: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS FOR A RESILIENT SOCIETY (IRC19)

In this time of global crisis, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **Doctors with Africa CUAMM** started the **Project IRC19**, thanks to the support of **USAID**, the United States Agency for International Development.

The 19-months initiative (June 2020 - January 2022) aims to restart and support multiple activities in Italy to **prevent and mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 epidemic**.

The project wants to promote:

- The dialogue between different national entities;
- The protection of specific vulnerable groups;
- The assistance to healthcare professionals for the Covid-19 response.



Focus

- Cuamm support groups
- Vulnerable groups
- Health facilities
- Global Health

INTERVENTION AREAS



Community outreach through Cuamm support groups

Cuamm, with its territorial network of **27 support groups in 11 Italian regions** promotes several community activities. By expanding the awareness network on Covid-19, cooperation and globality topics, the **reconstruction** of a new daily life in the period of overcoming of the crisis phase is strengthened, relying on the energies and resilience capacities of local communities.



Support to vulnerable groups

Cuamm has identified two realities of vulnerability and marginalization on the Italian territory:

- in **Puglia**, enforcing the support through activities in favor of **seasonal farm labourers**, in the so-called populous area “Ghetto Pista” in Borgo Mezzanone, Casa Sankara and Arena
- in **Liguria**, starting support in the city area of **La Spezia**, with a particular focus on the **homeless group** and the **‘new poor’ group** generated during the lockdown.
- starting the intervention in **Toscana**, in the different areas of the **Fivizzano** municipality, with a project to support the community of women, who provide assistance to the communities with more difficulty in reaching the services of the municipality.
- strengthening the support in **Piemonte**, in the area of the **Pinerolo** municipality, with the aim of supporting the immigrant community in the awareness of their rights and in the use of resources in the Italian healthcare system.
- launching a support project in **Campania**, in the city of **Naples**, aimed at countering the effects of the pandemic by developing a **community culture** based on acceptance and support beyond cultural, social and ethnic differences.



Improvement of hospital, residential and territorial health facilities, and staff training

Cuamm interventions support some public hospital, residential and territorial health facilities, aiming to better the infrastructure and the hygienic practices, the patient care and the protection/efficiency of the staff.

The interventions may have different nature:

- **spaces rehabilitation**, identifying a specific design for each reality depending on the needs and in collaboration with regional technicians and managers of the facilities.
- **“Just in Time” training package for healthcare workers and support staff** on the theme of emergency management in the context of Disaster Medicine and Public Health.
- **“Fit4Care” training package as a tool to support** the physical and mental well-being of healthcare workers with a focus on nurses.



Global health education

Cuamm continues with its role as promoter of **global health** trainings for healthcare professionals and civil society in order to reinforce the abilities to deal with the pandemic. These activities will also involve the **Italian Medicine Students’ association - SISM** (about 12.000 members), the National Association of Physicians in Specialist training, **Federspecializzandi**, and the **Italian Youth Medical Secretariat - SGIM**, which are part of the Cuamm network consisting of 39 Italian Universities.



photo: Nicola Bertè

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.