

Dear Ladies,

Dear Sirs,

The Ticinese Committee for the reconstruction of Kobane, born in 2015 and chaired by Dr. Franco Cavalli, wanted to contribute to the reconstruction of the city and regional education system promoted by the local authorities of Kobane, a city located in Northern Syria. Kobane was under siege from September 2014 to January 2015: Isis mercenaries tried to occupy the city but the attempts were repelled by the resistance of the militias of the "Popular Defense Units" Ypg. The project, in coordination with the city authorities, has resulted in the building of the school "the Water of the source", inaugurated in early 2019 and now attended by 400 students. The construction of the school, which cost 250 thousand francs, was made possible thanks to the fundraising promoted together with various solidarity groups in Switzerland and Germany. To complete the work with the realization of sports playing fields in the yard in front of the school, the Gioventù Biancoblu, fans of the Hockey Club Ambri-Piotta, contributed in 2020 with 15 thousand francs.

Strengthened by this very positive experience, the Ticino Committee for the reconstruction of Kobane has decided to promote a new project, this time in the field of health and always in partnership with the local authorities. Upon indication of the latter, a critical situation has been identified that needs urgent support.

The Shahba region is home to more than 120 thousand people who fled Afrin and its surroundings after the Turkish-jihadist invasion, culminating in the occupation of the capital Afrin on March 20, 2018. The Avrîn Hospital in Shahba, the health facility of reference for the local population, has been in a situation of extreme urgency for almost two years, trying to ensure the best health care that the 120 thousand refugees also need. In the health facility, 28 doctors assisted by 141 people employed in different tasks, more than 20 thousand patients are treated every month.

In order to cope with the enormous amount of healthcare needs, the doctors and healthcare personnel of Avrîn need various types of equipment. The attached project specifies which machines and their approximate cost. The machinery can be purchased directly in the region and the hospital director will send the original invoices and all the necessary documentation to guarantee the absolute transparency of the project. As in the case of the school structure, every franc donated will be entirely spent in the realization of the health project. The Ticino Committee for the reconstruction of Kobane, has a structure entirely composed of volunteers who contribute free of charge to its activities and is chaired by Dr. Franco Cavalli, a personality who has a long experience in the international humanitarian field. The Ctrk is recognized by the Swiss authorities as a non-profit organization and donations to its projects can be deducted from taxes.

Thanking you in advance for your availability, we send you our warmest regards.

Dr. Franco Cavalli Chair of CTRK

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URGENT PROJECT: "EQUIPMENTS FOR AVRÎN HOSPITAL" IN SHAHBA

The Avrîn hospital in Shahba lives an emergency situation. After the invasion and conquest of the capital Afrin on 20 March 2018, about 300 thousand people fled to the city of Tall Rifat, Shahba area and neighboring areas, where refugee camps were set up with the support of the local population and administrations of the Northern Syria Federation.

According to local government estimates updated to 30 September 2019, there are over 120,000 in the areas of Tall Rifat, Berxwedan camp, Shahba, Ehres, Kefernayê district, Sherawa district (Afrin), Nûbûl-Zehr district (Aleppo). These areas are considered to be substantially unsuitable for hosting tens of thousands of displaced persons.

Estimates speak of around 113,000 people living in extremely precarious situations. Some are housed in semi-destroyed schools, mosques and semi-destroyed shops and houses in ruins, others have lived for months in their cars and many even outdoors and on the road without enjoying basic needs (shelter, food, medicine, clothing, vaccines). All refer to the only hospital in the region, Avrîn hospital. The Covid emergency added to the already serious problems of the refugees. In the past Aleppo hospital was helping Avrîn hospital but now the Covid pandemic has made this impossible. The local health authorities, also thanks to international aid, have been able to quickly build two new hospitals specifically designed to deal with Covid patients. They can count on two intensive care units, at the moment full of patients. To cope with the emergency the doctors only have five big respiratory machines and two small ones. In Shahba there are currently 5 camps and they are in fact under embargo; for this reason the refugees have problems with both food and medicine supplies.

In the camps there are medical centers, a sort of practices, but they offer first aid services and eventually even the more than 7,000 refugees hosted in the camps have to refer to Avrîn hospital.

Over 20 thousand patients a month are treated at Avrîn hospital which is making incredible efforts to ensure that everyone receives the appropriate treatment.

There are 28 doctors and a total of 141 people working in the hospital, but lacking equipment and important medicines such as those intended for patients with chronic diseases.

Currently Avrîn hospital has 69 rooms and is divided into 10 sections: acceptance, administration, radiology, services (canteen and laundry), mortuary, pavilion for receiving children, pavilion for adult shelter, pharmacy and wards: internal diseases, pediatrics, gynecology, laryngology, surgery, orthopedics, nephrology.

There are 4 operating rooms dedicated to gynecological operations, surgical operations, ophthalmic operations, orthopedic operations.

At present there is an urgent need for this equipment in order to guarantee the best assistance to the tens of thousands of refugees already in the camps and to those who continue to arrive.

Name	Cost USD
OMS-90 Operation Microscope	18'500
Horiba Medical	2'500
Algon Surgical	7'400
Oxygen Generator	15'000
Ambulance	21'000
TOTALE	64'400

REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE SHEHBA AREA

Refugees forced to leave their homes in the region and city of Afrin found precarious shelter in the Shahba region occupied and destroyed by Islamic mercenaries before being liberated by Kurdish-led forces.

To the destruction of the infrastructures, housing and service buildings is to be added the danger of unexploded mines still present in the area set by ISIS.

27 cases of victims of anti-personnel mines have been documented; of which 11 women (two of whom were amputated at the feet) and 10 children (multiple injuries to the leg and face).

The death of 17 displaced people, including 7 women and 6 children, was also documented.

The following are the data for each field updated to 10 December 2020

Camp	Tents Families	Number of persons	Info
Berxwedan (Resistance)	777	2856	More than 1'100 women. There are 210 children under the age of two. Children between the ages of 2 and 18 are 1800.
Serdem (Era)	812	3445	More than 658 women. There are 120 children under 2 years old. The number of children aged 2 to 18 is 737.
Afrin	109	443	More than 110 women. Children under 2 are 5. Children between the ages of 2 and 18 are 208.
Shahba	105	462	More than 105 women
Veger (Retour)	109	492	More than 110 women

BACKGROUND

The canton of Afrin was, until 20 January 2018, the area least affected by the Syrian civil war. The isolation, consequence of the hostility of both the Turkish government led by the AKP of President Erdoğan and the Syrian regime of Assad, has not prevented the construction of a pluralist, gender and democratic social, political and cultural model.

The canton of Afrin together with the cantons of Cizre and Kobane form part of the Northern Syria Federation, a de facto institution formally constituted with the approval of the Social Charter in 2014 and ratified in 2016.

The Turkish government of RecepTayyipErdoğan had threatened the invasion of the canton and after the Astana agreement (December 2017) between Turkey, Russia and Iran has in fact been given the green light for the invasion with timid protests by NATO countries of which Turkey is part.

Protagonists of the invasion, which began on 20 January 2018, alongside the Turkish army were jihadist militias such as Hamza Brigade, Sultan Murad, Arhar Al-Sharqiya and others in whose ranks former ISIS members were also identified. The conquest of the villages and the main cities, Jindres and the capital Afrin, has meant summary executions, looting, and ethnic cleansing actions as confirmed by various international humanitarian organizations.

The statements issued by Erdoğan and other ministers of the Turkish government and the leaders of the jihadist militias confirm the intention to implement an ethnic cleansing in the Afrin region by imposing repressive measures on the native citizens, and providing for the de facto annexation of Afrin to Turkey and precisely to the Turkish province of Antakya.