

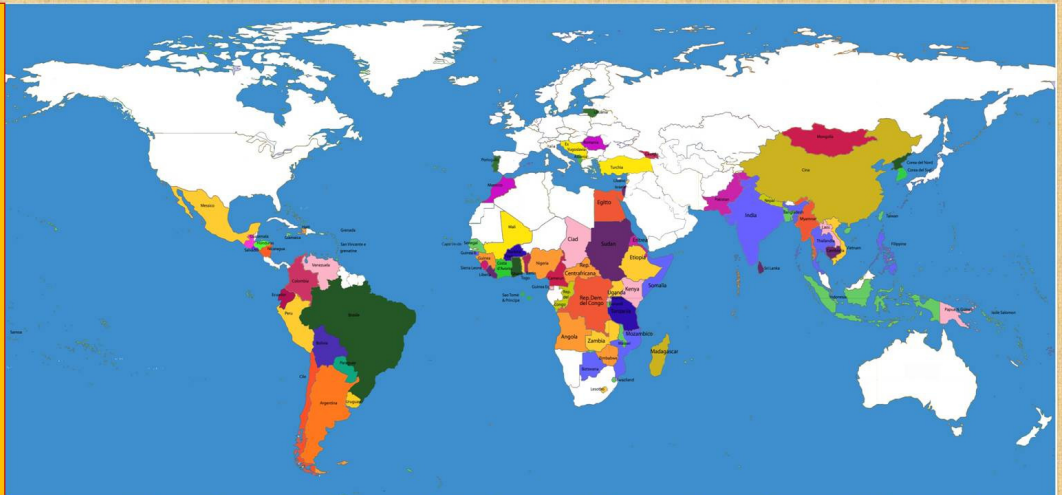
Sustaining Literacy: an analysis of 40 years of OPAM micro-projects

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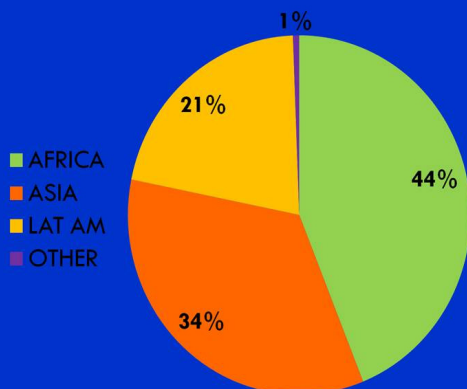
*OPAM (*Opera di Promozione dell'Alfabetizzazione nel Mondo*)

www.opam.it

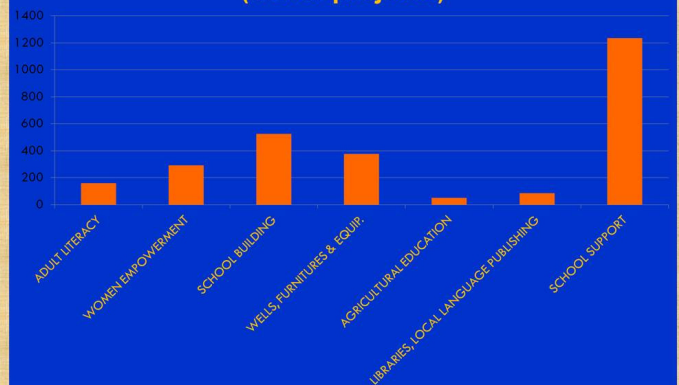
OPAM is the first Italian NGO to deal with support to **literacy**. It is based in Rome but has a network of peripheral supporting local sections. Since its foundation in 1972 up to December 2011, OPAM sustained **2702** projects aimed to literacy in **88** different Countries of the world.



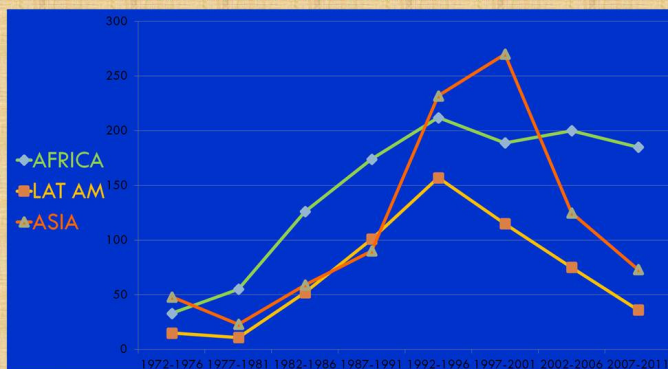
DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS (%)



TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS (No. of projects)



TEMPORAL TRENDS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY CONTINENTS



DISCUSSION

- Overall mean size of project = € 3900 (range = € 900 to 40,000)
- Projects managed only by local responsables, without cooperating personnel
- Mean size of project in 2011: ≈ € 7000
 - → trend to an increase of size (rise in costs and complexity)
- Less Countries selected but ...
 - → projects lasting up to achievement of autonomy
 - → focus on the same area with different types of actions
- Strong increase in the demand for infants' school
 - → early schooling enhances further access to education
- Most frequent topic in school support at present:
 - → teachers' salary

MOVING AHEAD

OPAM is celebrating its 40° anniversary with an international conference (From ABC to reciprocity. Rome May 18-19) :

- to **reconsider** the relationship between North and South of the world
- to **share** differences and common values
- to **build** together a new educational framework
- to **redefine** the concept of development