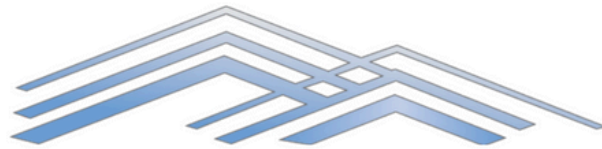




13 Houses

# Campaign Handbook



HOUSES | MAISONS | CASAS

*April 2024*

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## Introduction

Your project is part of the 13 Houses Campaign of the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA), what does that mean? We hope this handbook answers your questions. If you need any further information, please write to [fha.campaign@famvin.org](mailto: fha.campaign@famvin.org).

### 1. What is the 13 Houses Campaign?

An FHA initiative to promote collaboration among the Vincentian Family branches on projects focusing on one objective: ending homelessness. Thanks to the joint effort of many Vincentians across the world, the 13 Houses Campaign has achieved a significant milestone by transforming the lives of 10,256 homeless people through the implementation of 106 projects in 68 countries. This landmark stands as a testament to the commitment and dedication of the Vincentian Family to this important cause. Looking ahead, we aim to see 13 Houses projects in each of the 156 countries where the Vincentian Family works, aiming to support an additional 13,000 individuals in need.

### 2. What is the Famvin Homeless Alliance?

An initiative born out of the will of Vincentian Family leadership to celebrate the 400 years of the Vincentian charism in 2017, and to carry it forward: take care spiritually and corporally of the poorest of the poor, the most marginalized in societies worldwide.

The 2017 celebrations invited all Vincentians “to welcome the stranger”. To carry forward that message in a concrete way, the Vincentian Family Executive Committee entrusted Depaul

International – a Vincentian Family branch with 30 years of experience in addressing homelessness – with the mobilization of Vincentians worldwide on this issue.

The 13 Houses Campaign is part of the FHA strategy to end homelessness which comprises: supporting established and emerging homelessness initiatives across the globe, doing advocacy at the United Nations, and mobilizing Vincentians in particular, but also key stakeholders in the Catholic Church.

**FHA understands homelessness as those living on the street, refugees and those displaced from their homes, and slum dwellers in inadequate housing**, as defined by the [Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness \(IGH\) Framework](#), the definition of homelessness adopted at the UN in February 2020, thanks precisely to Vincentian advocacy.

To learn more about the work we do you can consult our website section: : [About the Alliance](#) or the [Famvin Homeless Alliance strategic plan 2022-2024](#).

### 3. What does it mean to be part of the “13 Houses” Campaign?

It means:

- You are running a **project to address the needs of homeless populations in your community**, and you put an emphasis on systemic change: your objective is **to transform the lives of homeless people by providing care, safety, community, warmth, hope, a future**; in the spirit of what **St Vincent provided** to the **foundlings 400 years ago**, through his 13 houses.
- Your project can be mainly about providing a sheltering structure (house, apartment, shelter), but **your systemic change approach** drives you to also act on other needs that will address the difficulties faced by people living in some form of homelessness, like training, livelihood opportunities, or health issues.
- You and your community/team of collaborators commit to respect the 13 Houses Campaign’s “do no harm” principles (see the Annex). Adhering to this approach involves recognizing and mitigating risks to beneficiaries' welfare, dignity, and inclusion, including the potential for abuse.
- You are part of a Vincentian organization, and you most probably have a community of fellow Vincentians around you on whom to count. But **you might be looking for more specialized information on homelessness**; for answers to some questions, you may have on what must be done differently so that the marginalized population you work with gets back on its feet; for the experiences of other Vincentians who have tried before you to solve similar issues.
- You are **in contact with other Vincentian branches** and are seeking to work together on homelessness. You may think what you do is very local, and specific. But through the FHA 13 Houses Campaign, **your project is part of a worldwide effort to end homelessness, the Vincentian way**. The centre of the 13 Houses projects is the homeless population and their spiritual and material needs. Your **13 Houses project must seek collaboration amongst Vincentian Family branches** present locally or nationally, as a way to strengthen the effects of your project. Furthermore, collaboration beyond the VF, with local strategic partners and stakeholders, is also an important feature of 13 Houses projects.
- **Your project is part of the Campaign milestones** mentioned below. You can claim to be part of that worldwide effort to end homelessness through the Vincentian Family network, composed of 4 million people worldwide. We hope this may strengthen your arguments when seeking support, and funding, within your local or national community.

**We encourage you to actively brand your project as part of the 13 Houses Campaign**, marking it with the plaque and using the logo on material and information you produce and when you present or speak about it publicly, especially if you are talking with the media. We only ask you to please check with us first before publications are made using it.

**FHA hopes to support you in various ways** so that you are successful in preventing and ending homelessness in your community. FHA will seek to connect you with other Vincentian experiences, to support your initiatives and provide different ways of addressing the different issues at stake. **But FHA needs to be in touch with you.** You and your team register in FHA's mailing list, and you inform us on relevant developments of your project.

**The FHA team will seek to make your project succeed** in addressing those needs in a sustained and sustainable manner. Fundraising, communication opportunities, and connection with partners are part of the services FHA seeks to provide you with.

#### 4. 13 Houses Campaign Milestones (as of April 2024)

- In October 2018, a Conference held in Rome brought together more than 100 Vincentians from various parts of the world to engage in reflection on the issue of street homelessness. During this Conference, the Campaign was launched with the aim of addressing this pressing concern.
- Two successive Conferences convened Vincentians from around the world to address the challenges faced by people who are refugees (Seville, June 2022) and to discuss strategies for empowering individuals and communities living in slums (Manila, January 2024).
- Over 10,000 homeless people helped so far. Target groups reached: street children, slum dwellers, refugees, internally displaced, survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and natural catastrophes.
- Presence in 68 countries with 106 projects worldwide
- Approximately 2500 houses were built or repaired.
- A timely response to the 2020 Covid 19 pandemic with [18 initiatives](#) in 16 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.
- The blessing of the statue '[Sheltering](#)' in Rome in November 2022, as part of the Sixth World Day of the Poor, with Pope Francis inviting the broader international Vincentian Family to continue serving homeless people.

Please check the latest numbers before using them; they are regularly updated on our [website](#).

## 5. FHA Key Messages

### Key Figures <sup>1</sup>

There are no hard numbers on global homelessness. Currently, countries and cities all define homelessness differently. Getting global definition and measurement are the goals of our United Nations advocacy. However, we do have some estimates:

- In 2021, the World Economic Forum reported that **150 million** people are homeless worldwide.
- The UN Habitat reported that **1.6 billion** are "inadequately housed"; the UN also estimates that this will grow as a result of conflict, natural disaster and urbanization.
- By the end of September 2023, more than **114 million people**, were considered to be **forcibly displaced by conflict, persecution or human rights violations**

During 2022, **32.6** million internal displacements due to natural disasters were reported

### FHA Motto

"That everyone may have a place to call home and a stake in their community". This represents the vision of the FHA.

### 13 Houses Motto

"Help us end homelessness – One house at a time". This phrase points to the fact that it is possible to act locally and have a global impact. It aims at linking your local efforts with those of a larger worldwide community of people who want to see an end to homelessness.

### Meaning of the FHA Logo

The various layers of the roof, refer to the different types and layers of homeless populations: refugees, slum dwellers, people living in the streets, people left homeless after natural catastrophes. The word "famvin" refers to the **Vincentian Family**. The word alliance in three different languages show the global nature of our initiative, which seeks to involve the wider Vincentian Family.



### Meaning of the 13 Houses Logo

The logo echoes the FHA logo, and the number 13 refers to St Vincent's experience 400 years ago, when he established 13 houses to take care of abandoned children.



### 13 Houses Plaque

It is an image of St Vincent's face. It symbolizes our common tradition and values as Vincentians, and also the charism we want to carry forward.

It was designed to make it easy to print locally, in whatever form is more convenient for you. It was also designed to be discreet and respectful of the different cultures you may be working in, in order to avoid any security threats to the beneficiaries of the project.



<sup>1</sup> You may find the sources for these figures in the papers published on our website <https://vfhomelessalliance.org/documents/>

If appropriate in your context, you may want to combine it with the FHA logo, to relate it to the worldwide Vincentian Family initiative.

The articles published by the FHA show the adaptation of the plaque to different contexts. If you have questions about how to do this, please contact us.

## Digital Resources

Videos published with 13 Houses messages or the Famvin Homeless Alliance

[The 13 Houses Campaign \(6'24"\)](#) - Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

[The Vincentian Family \(27'50"\)](#) - Produced by EWTN in English. Description of the 13 Houses Campaign within the larger context of today's Vincentian Family.

[Vincentian Family's fight against poverty continues despite COVID-19 \(3'09"\)](#) - Produced by Rome Reports, in English.

[Striving to be "social poets": the FHA response to Covid 19 \(3'07\)](#) – Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

10,000 homeless [people people \(1'29\)](#)- Produced by FHA, subtitled in 3 languages

[World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis blesses the 'Sheltering' statue \(2'06\)](#)- Produced by FHA, translated into 4 languages

[FHA International Conference on Slum Dwellers \(5'00\)](#)- Produced by FHA

[Embracing the Homeless in a Network of Charity \(2'58\)](#) – Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

You may find more literature on homelessness on our website: <https://vfhomelessalliance.org/documents/>

## 6. We welcome your collaboration

Besides what you already do for the homeless, you can be of great help to the FHA.

Your reports, photos, testimonies are part of the hands-on experience of Vincentians in the world. We need to know about it, so that we can draw similarities in the challenges and in the responses given, and in this way, create an enabling and supportive environment for projects like yours to grow in other parts of the world.

You are doing precious work by addressing homelessness in your community. Do not be afraid to talk about it. Be an ambassador of the FHA within your Vincentian branch: report to superiors on your project, request their support, write a short article on your experience. Your testimony is precious to show we as Vincentians can work together on this common cause.

You can also talk about it to the local media: call the attention of the public on the causes of homelessness and the possible solutions, and request the help of authorities, religious groups, the community at large. Our communications office can help you to draft or retweet your message, article, video.

Mentioning you are part of a worldwide effort to end homelessness in the Vincentian way, can strengthen your message. You may use any of the numbers and data mentioned in this handbook or on our website.

If you are interviewed, or if you write an article, let us know; the FHA will be happy to retweet it. This is an important part of campaigning for our common cause of ending homelessness.

## Annex 1 - The Principle of “Do No Harm”

### Brief Guide

The 13 Houses Campaign prioritizes the well-being of homeless individuals, recognizing the importance of safeguarding their welfare, dignity, and integration within their communities. This commitment is upheld through the adoption of the "Do No Harm" approach, a fundamental principle widely embraced in international development and humanitarian efforts. This guide's Annex explores this principle, which emphasizes the importance of avoiding unintended negative impacts on project beneficiaries and their communities. Whether starting new projects or changing existing ones, there's always a risk of causing harm, which is why adopting a "Do No Harm" approach is so vital.

In taking a “Do No Harm” approach, we consider the potential risks to the welfare, dignity and inclusion of beneficiaries from the project, including the risk of directly experiencing abuse as a result of being involved. at your project. The measures put in place to address risks of harm to beneficiaries and communities should be proportionate and relevant to the specific context you are working in.

- Assessing the risks of the project to beneficiaries – this could be reviewed on a regular basis
- Ensuring that the voices of beneficiaries are heard during the project development process
- Considering the location of the project and the impact on beneficiaries’ needs – for example, access to safe water, education, medical services etc.
- If contractors are used in the project (for example, to build houses), ensuring that a reputable company is used
- Considering how to avoid beneficiaries becoming financially dependent on the project – for example, including plans for developing an independent source of income
- Ensuring that beneficiaries are informed about how they can raise any concerns or complaints, and the conduct they can expect from staff/volunteers
- Assessing the suitability of staff/volunteers for working with beneficiaries – for example, by doing interviews with candidates
- Having a safeguarding policy in place, which outlines the procedures to be followed if there are concerns a beneficiary is experiencing abuse.