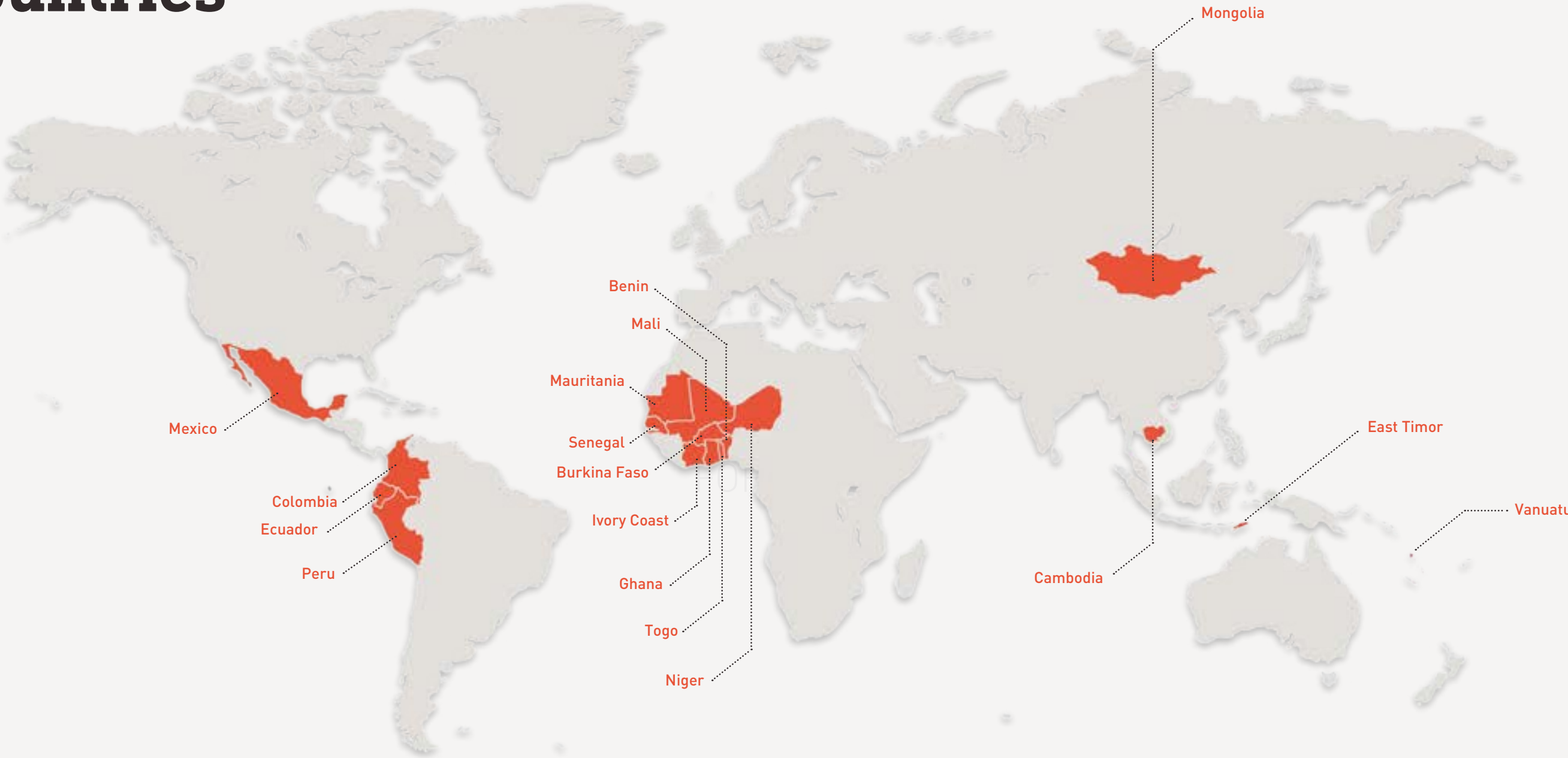


ACTING FOR LIFE

ANNUAL
REPORT 2017



28 projects in 17 different countries



1973 - 2018
45 YEARS
OF DEDICATED WORK

55
LOCAL
PARTNERS

4
AREAS OF
EXPERTISE

11
NEW
PROJECTS

26
EMPLOYEES

20
VOLUNTEER
BOARD MEMBERS

EDITORIALS



Jean-Cyril SPINETTA
President

45 YEARS of promoting international solidarity and economic development among the most vulnerable communities

«Just look at how much Acting for Life has accomplished!» That is how my predecessor, René LAPAUTRE, kicked off his editorial celebrating the 40-year anniversary of Acting for Life. Those accomplishments are thanks in large part to his vision, dedication and sense of purpose.

Acting for Life has always stuck to its principles by helping vulnerable communities become drivers of their own economic and social development. Instead of replacing local actors, Acting for Life organizes projects to help organizations in the «South» (such as NGOs, non-profits and producer groups) improve their skills and capacities. That innovative approach still guides us today. Our NGO supports 55 local partners operating in rural and suburban areas in 17 different countries.

Acting for Life's work is fully in line with the United Nations' sustainable development goals. More and more of its projects to support local economic and social development incorporate issues such as prevention of climate change, sustainable management of natural resources, gender equality, women's autonomy and professional training. In keeping with its values, Acting for Life's projects will also soon serve displaced people and refugees, who are becoming more and more numerous and who are too often ignored or persecuted.

Our long-standing partners in the airline industry - Air France, Groupe ADP, Servair, etc. - have been steadfast in supporting our work and helping us achieve our goals. The AnBer Foundation also supports our work with enthusiasm and generosity. Support from our partners is key when it comes to developing innovative pilot projects and gaining access to funding from public donors.

In addition to funding from the French Development Agency and the European Union, Acting for Life has been supported for several years by UK development aid from the UK government and, since 2017, by Norwegian development aid. Thanks to these public donors, we are able to carry out large-scale projects and more effectively promote economic and social development in communities suffering from poverty and exclusion.

We will be working closely with all of our technical and financial partners in 2018 to support over one million women and men worldwide. After forty-five years of dedicated work, that's a lot of people...but there's still room for improvement! Our work helps ensure that each and every one of them will be able to work under better conditions on their own land. If you ask me, that's quite an accomplishment!



Bertrand LEBEL
Executive Director

Placing development at the heart of everything we do

2017 was a turbulent year in many of the countries where Acting for Life carries out projects and works with local partners. The geopolitical crisis continued in Mali and spread to Burkina Faso and Niger (regions where we are very active), creating unstable conditions for development projects. Togo suffered an institutional crisis, which also had an impact on civil society. In Latin America, peace deals in Colombia inspired hope and must be maintained. Paradoxically, certain regions in Ecuador along the Colombian border serve as fallback positions for people defying the peace deals, which creates insecurity. Lastly, one of the regions in Mexico where we have several projects underway was hit by an earthquake last autumn.

Against this backdrop, Acting for Life's commitment and the quality of our network of partners helps us maintain and develop projects that offer hope and that promote development in rural areas and in communities suffering from structural vulnerabilities and various temporary vulnerabilities. 2017 was also an important year for our professional development. We are now more involved in the Coordination SUD and Coordination Humanitaire Développement networks. Those networks help develop skills internally and share common goals. Plus, in addition to our areas of expertise—access to resources and markets; technical and vocational education and training; tourism, ethics and development—more focus is being put on climate issues, biodiversity and gender equality in accordance with the United Nations' sustainable development goals, which we support. All of this has been made possible by our many sponsors, particularly the most loyal ones and the ones who have been with us the longest: Air France, the AnBer Foundation, Groupe ADP and Servair. Their support goes hand-in-hand with the generous funding we receive from public donors, such as the French Development Agency, the European Union, UK development aid from the UK government and, more recently, Norwegian development aid.

That support allows Acting for Life to fulfil its mission to help our partners in the South build their capacities and become more autonomous over the long term, which means that the development projects we carry out with them will have a greater and more lasting impact.

CONTENTS

EDITORIALS	4
OVERVIEW OF ACTING FOR LIFE	6
2017 HIGHLIGHTS	9
PROJECTS	10
FINANCIAL REPORT	40
FINANCIAL PARTNERS	44
PUBLICATIONS	46
GOVERNANCE & TEAMS	48
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT	50
REMEMBERING RENÉ LAPAUTRE	51

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Economic and social development at regional level



Since 1973, the NGO Acting for Life has been assisting over one million people suffering from poverty or exclusion to help them earn a decent living on their land. Each year, Acting for Life carries out some thirty solidarity projects with fifty local partners in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania.

Acting for Life places local economic development at the heart of its work by carrying out local projects that aim to strengthen the economy of indigenous rural communities, improve their skills and create value at the local and regional levels. To do so, Acting for Life identifies, supports and strengthens the local organizations (NGOs, professional associations, co-ops, etc.) that are best able to assist communities.

With its local partners, Acting for Life develops sustainable economic models and proposes solutions to issues such as exclusion, poverty, mobility and climate change. The association is a catalyst, bringing together all local stakeholders in support of shared goals.

In fulfilling this mission, Acting for Life wants to go beyond simply providing temporary emergency aid. By focusing on our four areas of expertise, we want to help local organizations come up with their own solutions.



Access to resources

When it comes to socioeconomic development, communities need to have access to local resources in order to produce and generate an economic activity. Necessary resources include natural resources (water, farmland, pastureland, etc.), human resources (knowledge, practical skills), material resources (machine tools, seeds, technology) and financial resources (microloans and microinsurance). A key component of this strategic focus is to provide access to resources and promote the sustainable and joint management of resources between «users» in regions that are socially, economically and environmentally coherent.



Access to markets

As more and more rural African and Latin American economies become integrated into global supply chains, it is important to globally address issues such as production and marketing, to empower producers and to make sure supply chains are running smoothly. Acting for Life supports actors and their needs by identifying the land and resources available. It also assists producer organizations and operators by bringing together many actors to work towards achieving shared development goals.



Technical & vocational education & training

Promoting local economic development involves improving education and training systems, and helping people find jobs. Acting for Life supports training structures and local NGOs to promote the emergence of new skills in sectors where needs have been identified. We also help reduce inequality by promoting professional training and innovative programs to help young people find manual jobs in the primary and secondary sectors.



Tourism, ethics & development

Too often, the most vulnerable segments of society don't benefit from tourism. Acting for Life supports local actors to ensure that proceeds from tourism go to local communities through projects that create local, eco-friendly jobs. Acting for Life provides technical assistance and training for schools, non-profits and small local businesses.

45 YEARS OF COMMITMENT

1973

With countries in the South facing major economic and social challenges, airline-industry workers teamed up with company executives to found GARD, or Groupe d'Aide aux Réfugiés et personnes Déplacés ('support group for refugees and displaced persons'). The association carried out projects to promote solidarity in Haiti, Gabon, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

1979

Creation of GARD's French branch: an international office to assist budding NGOs in the South in areas such as project support, funding and development engineering.

1981

GARD France becomes Groupe d'Aide aux Réalisations pour le Développement ('support group for development work') and sets up long-term development programs in countries in the South.

1992

GARD becomes Groupe Développement ('development group') with the motto: la vie, pas la survie ('life, not just survival').

1994

At the request of ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), which comprises 90 specialized NGOs, Groupe Développement adds a new social objective to its areas of focus: prevention of sexual abuse and violence against children.

2002

Groupe Développement is recognized in France as an association serving the public interest.

2009

To boost its visibility at international level, Groupe Développement becomes Acting for Life: la vie, pas la survie.

2011

Acting for Life transfers its child-protection projects to ECPAT France (founded in 1997) in order to focus on its projects in support of local organizations and local economic development.

2018

45 years after its founding, Acting for Life continues to work with its partners in the South in order to reduce poverty by stimulating economic and social development.

A RIGOROUS, PARTNER-BASED APPROACH

Acting for Life has developed and put in place a rigorous and innovative approach, working with partners to design projects in support of local economic and social development. There are five steps to the approach:

1 Local diagnostic report and identification of needs

Our projects are designed to address specific local needs. A pre-project diagnostic report is first drawn up to identify needs and opportunities in terms of development. The diagnostic report is drawn up with support from local organizations and both regional and international experts. It focuses on: a particular supply chain or business sector, education and professional training, or access to public services. This initial work helps define Acting for Life's role in a particular region to help improve living conditions for the local communities.

2 Assessment of local actors and identification of local partners

When Acting for Life gets involved in a new region, all local actors are identified, met with and included in each step of the project's preparation. A work program is then set up with the implementing partner to ensure that all project-management standards required by international donors are met. Depending on each partner's skills, capacities and operating procedures, Acting for Life helps them become more autonomous by providing long-term assistance and offering monitoring, training and management tools.

3 Innovative pilot projects

Acting for Life is able to develop innovative pilot projects thanks to the loyal support of its private partners. They help assess the pertinence and viability of each project, and the ability of actors to mobilize locally to ensure each project's success. If the initial results are positive, our NGO can then work with local actors to design larger-scale programs in response to national or international calls for bids from public donors.

4 Helping local partners become more autonomous

Local partners receive technical, administrative and financial assistance throughout the project. Acting for Life's teams are based solely in France and carry out on-the-ground monitoring, strengthening and support missions on a regular basis. They call on regional and international experts to provide any additional skills needed. Acting for Life always assists local partners in order to help them become more autonomous, for example by helping them gain easier direct access to funding from national and international public donors.

5 Assessment and improvement

Acting for Life's projects are assessed by independent experts, providing a great opportunity to build on past experience and make improvements for the benefit of everyone. We are always trying to learn and progress. That's why we publish articles in internationally recognized journals - in order to share our experiences with our partners, and with all actors working to promote development.

January

Roissy Pays de France: steadfast commitment to international development

The Roissy Pays de France (RPF) agglomeration community near the Charles de Gaulle airport comprises 42 towns and 350,000 residents. In January, it decided to introduce decentralized cooperation into its bylaws, showing its openness

to working with the international community and its commitment to supporting developing countries. In early 2017, RPF initiated a four-year partnership with Acting for Life. It supports professional-training projects carried out in Mali with the NGO PDCO and the training school ETP/BA (see page 29), and economic-development projects in Mexico with the NGO Puente a la Salud Comunitaria (see page 31).



May



TRANSHUMANCE: MOBILITY AT RISK

For one month, photographer Gilles Coulon (winner of the World Press Photo award in 1997) followed the transhumant herders that Acting for Life supports as they moved their herds in Burkina Faso and Togo. Through the beauty and quality of his work, viewers discover that, despite their tenacity, herders and agro-pastoralists are an extremely fragile group. He also shows the harshness of transhumance work, which is so vital to the region's economy.

His photos (which you'll find on pages 10 to 13) have been exhibited in France, the UK, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal.

June

COLOMBIA: A HALF-CENTURY OF WAR LATER

Volunteer board members, Acting for Life employees and two long-standing partners (Air France and Groupe ADP) met with the rural communities that the NGO supports in Colombia. It was an opportunity to see that despite the devastating effects of the country's 52-year armed conflict, smallholder families have displayed unprecedented tenacity in reviving an economic activity that symbolizes both dignity and development. Acting for Life is currently assisting them with three projects (pages 22-24).

1,300 YOUNG PEOPLE IN BURKINA FASO

October

Thanks to the new partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Acting for Life and its Burkinabe partners OCADES and Tin Tua launched a large project called READY (Raising Employment Access and Development for Youth). The goal is to train 1,300 young people in strategic sectors such as electricity,

plumbing and agriculture, and help them find jobs. The four-year project focuses on young people (particularly in remote areas), girls and young people from informal education systems (pages 14 & 15).



November

Latin America and Africa discuss rural entrepreneurship

Acting for Life teamed up with CEPE-SIU (Ecuador), AMUCCS (Mexico) and Asociación Jesús Obrero (Peru) to organize a workshop as part of the multi-country project for socioeconomic integration (pages 16 & 17). The three-year project helped create and strengthen rural businesses in areas such as production and processing of agricultural products, artisanal crafts and herding in Mexico, as well as artisanal fishing and cacao production in Ecuador. Acting for Life wanted the project to include experience-sharing between actors in the South, and therefore invited some of its Latin American and African partners to attend the workshop: CEFODI (Ecuador), IMCA (Colombia), ETD (Togo), SENS and GIC (Benin).



2015-2018

LOCAL PARTNERS: ACAD, ACIDEF, ANOPER, APES, ARED, AREN, CEPF, CILSS, CIRAD, CIKOD, CISV, CRUS, ENDA PRONAT, FENAPFIBVTO, GAJEL, GEVAFAP, GDCA, GIC, GV, GNAP, ICD, LVIA, RBM, RBM-Sen, RECOPA, TASSAGHT, URFBV et VSFB

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: UK aid, European Union, French Development Agency, Air France, AnBer Foundation, Ghana Venskabsgrupperne and local resources

BUDGET: €14,124,000

Transhumance and climate change

Over one million people supported, 2,600km of livestock corridors improved



West Africa has high population growth. It is estimated that the region's population (45% of whom are under 15 years old) will reach a half-billion by 2040. But countries in the region are struggling to reduce poverty and inequality, and to sustainably manage resources. There are deep disparities in West Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal alone account for roughly 80% of regional imports and 94% of exports. Destabilizing factors include conflicts, political crises and terrorism in several West African countries. And to make matters worse, extreme climate events are occurring more often and with greater severity, which is hurting the primary sector even more.

Acting for Life has been working with local partners in the Sahel for over 40 years. The NGO has developed several programs over the last ten years to support agropastoralism in a number of West African countries. Each program is built upon the same idea: livestock mobility is vital to herders and agropastoral communities when it comes to managing seasonal and inter-annual imbalances, weathering extreme periods and recovering from crises. Transhumance provides access to water and pasture resources in wet areas depending on rainfall: mobility ensures herd survival and helps boost productivity.

Two complementary, large-scale programs

Droughts in the 1970s led to the development of mixed crop and livestock production systems. Pastoral communities began cultivating crops so that they could recover more quickly from crises and build up their herds again, while crop farmers acquired herds in order to secure the family's finances and invest the income they earned growing crops.

Pastoral and agropastoral communities are the backbone of the economy in many Sahel countries. There are an estimated 20 million people living in those communities, for 60 million cattle and 160 million small ruminants. Agropastoralism is an important economic sector for regional integration: 80 million people in West Africa earn their living through the economic benefits of this sector. Transhumance also helps preserve ecosystems. The movement of livestock does not degrade the environment; it actually helps distribute grass seed and has a number of other benefits too. Intensive and sedentary systems, on the other hand, deplete and harm the soil.

Two complementary, large-scale programs have been launched since 2015 to promote livestock mobility and access to markets. They cover nine countries

in West Africa and help ensure regional coherence within a large area, following traditional transhumance routes: from the Sahel countries in the north to the coastal countries in the south, and from east to west.

The first program, called PARSAO (program to promote the resilience of pastoral systems in West Africa), is carried out with support from the French Development Agency. It covers the southern zone of the Sahel countries and the northern zone of the coastal countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Niger and Togo.

The second program, BRACED (building resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters), is carried out in collaboration with UK aid and aims to make communities more resilient to drought by promoting livestock mobility in five countries along the border region: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Niger.

25 partners in nine Sahel and coastal countries

Adapting a local approach is key. When it comes to joint management of resources, the multi-actor local approach has proved to be very effective for implementing projects on the ground.

Acting for Life has followed the methods of ARED-Dakar (association for research in education and development) with informed debates on pastoralism in the Sahel, as well as a debate on livestock trading in West Africa organized by Acting for Life, CIRAD and NCG (Nordic Consulting Group).

Those tools have been passed on to local actors through workshops run by trained workshop leaders. Each workshop brings together producers (including illiterate ones), decentralized communities, technical services, producer organizations and representatives of civil society.

Two hundred workshop trainers have been trained since 2010, and roughly 100 informed debates have been held. New tools will be developed and shared, allowing actors to discuss issues relating to livestock mobility in West Africa as well as the economic, social and environmental impact of this sub-regional cross-border activity.

Institutional anchoring of project activities with decentralized local authorities is a key component of these projects, and is achieved by making sure local and regional authorities are committed to improving pastoral resources. Lastly, in collaboration with its local partners, Acting for Life will contribute to strategic discussions within different communities on a fair approach to tax revenue and on reinvesting that revenue in the sector to maintain infrastructure over the long term.



OUR MAIN PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

RECOPA (communication network for pastoralism) is a long-standing partner of Acting for Life in Burkina Faso. The network has a multi-actor approach and aims to create and stimulate relationships between herders, local rural communities and authorities when it comes to pastoralism.

ACAD (association for the regions of Atacora and Donga) aims to build the capacities of the 13 towns that it comprises, and facilitate dialogue between them. It supports local initiatives in both of these regions in Benin.

ANOPER (national association for professional organizations of ruminant farmers) is a smallholder organization comprising 35,000 livestock farmers in 48 towns in Benin, representing 75% of the country. It aims to improve living and working conditions for livestock farmers through the modernization and sustainable development of ruminant farming.

GNAP (national group of pastoral associations) was founded in 1990 after a meeting between pastoral associations. It comprises 45 pastoral associations, 2,885 certified cooperatives and 10 regional offices in Mauritania. GNAP works with pastoral associations to supply inputs, perform development work, build pastoral infrastructure and ensure coordination between actors.

The NGO GEVAPAF (environmental management and value creation for agropastoral and forest products) is a partner of Acting for Life in Togo that helps carry out agropastoral projects, rural-development projects and vocational-training and occupational-integration projects.

GAJEL-Sudubaba (cultural action group for young herders) is an association that was founded in Niger in 1998. It works to promote economic and cultural development for crop and livestock farmers.



Developing infrastructure and services adapted to local needs

Acting for Life and its main partners have carried out a series of projects in recent years to secure the cross-border movement of livestock between the Sahel and coastal countries for production and marketing. Thanks to coordination with local actors, a map was created to identify the routes and corridors most used by transhumant herders. In all, 2,600km of the most important sections have been mapped, marked and improved with watering points and pasture areas. Forty-six fodder banks have been set up and seven fodder banks renovated along the corridor, for a total volume of over 3,000 metric tons of fodder supplements. Thirty-one livestock markets have also been equipped, and veterinary services have been provided. Systems using new technology to provide information to herders were improved. Herders have already been using these systems to find information about markets and rainfall, but now they can use them to check corridor conditions, access to watering places, planting schedules and conflict areas

Adapting to climate change

This project aims to help communities become more resilient to climate change,

and to reduce the meat sector’s carbon footprint. Ruminants, and particularly cattle, are heavy emitters of methane because of their digestive system. This type of transhumant herding, however, promotes carbon sequestration, as the soils in the tropical savannah store carbon more easily than in any other ecosystem. If livestock corridors were converted into farmland, a large portion of that carbon would be released into the atmosphere. To mitigate climate change, it is important to promote livestock mobility over the long term and advocate for the use of natural resources in pastoral activities.

Offering fodder supplements for sale by sack provides proteins, which are highly digestible and which also reduce methane emissions. By securing cross-border mobility and providing services such as veterinary care and fodder supplements, the project supports the production and sale of livestock and strengthens the livestock component of agropastoral systems. It helps limit the clearing of land for crop farming and, in doing so, protects resources along livestock corridors and in wooded areas. It also encourages carbon sequestration in the grassy savannahs.

What’s more, this system for producing and selling meat products uses minimal fossil fuels, as deforestation for livestock

farming is reduced, livestock are transported by foot and long-distance imports are reduced.

Promoting women’s rights

Women play a key role when it comes to herd management in agropastoral systems. They fatten the animals, process the products (milk and butter) and manage pastoral resources. And yet, issues affecting women and girls in mobile systems are rarely taken into consideration—especially when it comes to reducing their exposure to conflicts, giving them a voice in public debates and providing services adapted to their needs.

Photo exhibition on mobility

This project inspired the photographer Gilles Coulon (winner of the World Press Photo award in 1997) to follow a group of herders for over a month as they moved their herds between Burkina Faso and Togo. He witnessed firsthand the fragility of this mobile system along corridors shared by herders, agropastoralists and local communities. The photo exhibition has been well received in France, the UK, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

**2017-2021****LOCAL PARTNERS:**

OCADES et Tin Tua

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

NORAD, Air France, AnBer Foundation, Ditumba Foundation and local resources

BUDGET: €3,108,000

Training young people and helping them find jobs

Providing training for 1,300 young people

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. At over 3%, the country's annual population growth is one of the highest in Africa, which presents real challenges in terms of socioeconomic development. Pressure on the job market is high, with one-third of the population between 15 and 35 years old. The food situation for households is affected by price fluctuations and low diversification, and severe chronic malnutrition still affects many children in certain regions. Acting for Life works with its partners in Burkina Faso to carry out three projects. The first is an ambitious multi-country project to promote livestock mobility, which affects the entire country (see pages 10–13). A new project has also been launched in the Cascades region, in the southwest of the country, to promote market gardening in order to boost the income and improve the nutrition of households (see page 21). Lastly, a large-scale project has been launched in four regions to train young people and help them find jobs.

4 40,000 young people in Burkina Faso will enter the job market in 2020. That presents a huge challenge in a country where only 4% of the active population is employed in the formal sector. Programs offering technical and professional training are a great way to help young people prepare for entering the job market. But existing training programs lack resources and are often poorly adapted to the innovations and needs of the market. Plus, although

the primary and secondary sectors generate plenty of business, they don't attract many job-seekers: 70% of people who seek professional training prefer to look for jobs in the tertiary sector.

Adapting programs to today's needs

Against this backdrop, Acting for Life and its partners follow three guiding principles: promoting technical professions in the primary and secondary sec-

OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

An OCADES is a type of catholic organization that promotes development and solidarity. There are 15 OCADES in Burkina Faso. This project is partnered with OCADES Bobo-Dioulasso, based in the Hauts-Bassins region. The organization develops education-related projects, particularly in the areas of hydraulics and agriculture. It has founded its own agricultural training centre.

Since 1989, the Tin Tua Association has been promoting sustainable development through literacy, educational innovation and training. With strong rural roots, it has been active in solar electrification for over 10 years, has founded an agricultural training centre and has developed its own modules to support entrepreneurship.

tors; improving professional training programs by diversifying the offer, setting up practical components and offering skills that are better adapted to the local market; developing an innovative approach to monitoring trainees and helping them find work by mobilizing local actors and coordinating with existing support structures.

The program aims to provide easier access to professional training for young

people from modest backgrounds living in rural areas, within four different regions. Acting for Life works with its local partner Tin Tua in the Est and Sahel regions in the east of the country, and with a new partner (OCADES Bobo-Dioulasso) in the Cascades and Hauts Bassins regions in the west. Both of those NGOs will work in partnership with six public and private training centres, and two agricultural training centres.

Strategic sectors

Acting for Life has identified three promising sectors for future local development, training and jobs. They are: electricity, plumbing and agriculture. Only 20% of people in Burkina Faso have regular access to electricity, less than 75% of people in urban areas have access to drinkable water, and only about 50% of farmland is currently exploited. In a country where the sun shines so often and so powerfully, the photovoltaic sector offers sound prospects for economic

development, and the country is committed to increasing the proportion of renewable energies in its energy production. The plumbing sector is for the most part an informal cottage industry: large construction companies struggle to find qualified plumbers. Water shortages are slowing the development of agriculture: the development of sanitation plumbing and plumbing networks will help reduce water waste and improve services.

Target, train, assist

Two-year degree programs and short-term certification programs are offered based on existing or updated frameworks. A total of 1,300 young people will have access to eight partner training centers. Priority is given to young people who face the greatest difficulty gaining access to training (for geographic, economic or social reasons). 30% of them are from informal education systems, and special attention is focused on recruiting girls, with a realistic objective of at least 20%

throughout the entire project. The students receive material and financial support. Six hundred instructors from informal education centres will be trained.

Better quality and monitoring

The training centres are provided with additional material and human resources. A monitoring system has been set up, bringing together stakeholders on a regular basis to discuss student progress, organise field-schools and adapt training to economic and environmental issues. 12 training sessions for 60 instructors are planned at national level. The effort to help young people find jobs will be supported by organizing 35 socially oriented professional field-schools, workshops to support entrepreneurship, networking and communication activities. A qualitative and quantitative monitoring system has been put in place to adapt job-seeking activities to each student.



**2015-2017****LOCAL PARTNERS:** AMUCCS, Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO), CEPESIU and Sierras Verdes**FINANCIAL PARTNERS:** French Development Agency, Air France, AnBer Foundation and local resources**BUDGET:** €869,000

Rural entrepreneurship

90 rural businesses created or assisted, 410 people trained

Latin America has the world's highest levels of inequality, despite economic growth and steps taken in the past 20 years to reduce poverty. Inequality has the biggest impact on women (who are more affected by unemployment and underemployment) and ethnic minority groups. Over the past ten years, Acting for Life has been supporting family farming and entrepreneurship in rural communities in Latin America that have been left behind by development. Farming is the main source of income in rural areas, with family farms accounting for 80% of production. But families are not always able to meet their food and financial needs through farming alone, and many are looking to develop and diversify their activities.



Entrepreneurship is an important means of social integration in Latin America. Most businesses are small and medium-sized companies, and they provide the lion's share of paid jobs. Business creation is high, but most businesses don't survive more than one year because they lack access to market information and to technical and entrepreneurial resources, and therefore struggle to innovate and compete.

What's more, many companies have no desire to leave the informal sector because of the cost and complexity of administrative procedures. Although a number of Latin American countries are launching programs to support entrepreneurship, those programs are not always adapted to the realities of rural business. On top of that, gaining access to funding is still difficult.

Acting for Life has been working with

the French Development Agency for the past three years to improve the situation by launching a regional pilot project to support socioeconomic integration, in partnership with CEPESIU (Ecuadorian NGO specializing in local economic development) and AMUCCS (Mexican NGO specializing in microfinance and microinsurance).

By combining their expertise, Acting for Life and its partners have developed and executed a strategy for supporting rural entrepreneurship.

An innovative project

PRISER (regional project for socioeconomic integration) is a project that aims to support entrepreneurship and help rural businesses grow by developing innovative strategies and designing functional tools that are adapted to rural areas and that are in line with national and regional

public policies.

What makes the project unique is that it combines efforts to support entrepreneurship with efforts to promote local economic development by coordinating with public and private actors at local level. The project focuses on three areas: promoting coordination between all actors in the region; developing entrepreneurial skills by providing training, technical assistance and better management tools; and helping rural businesses gain access to financing.

Two test regions in Ecuador and Mexico

In order to test and approve the strategies and tools created and adapted during the project, two rural regions were selected for the pilot. Both were identified as highly marginalized, with poverty as high as 90% in certain areas. In both regions,



poverty is putting pressure on natural resources and making rural communities more vulnerable. This, in turn, encourages rural exodus and creates insecurity - even though both regions have local sources of income which are underexploited.

In Mexico's Pahuatlán region (in the state of Puebla), the Náhuatl and Otomí indigenous groups make up two-thirds of the population. The business activity of both groups is diversified (crop and livestock farming, forestry, artisan crafts) but structurally vulnerable.

The population in Ecuador's Esmeraldas province is majority Afro-Ecuadorian, but also includes indigenous groups (Chachi, Awá, Épera) and migrants from Colombia. Business activity in Esmeraldas is also

diversified (crop and livestock farming, forestry, tourism, fishing) but fragile.

Big steps forward

In the three years since its launch, this project has helped increase and diversify sources of income and improve the local economic fabric in rural areas. It has also helped develop strategic supply chains for local jobs (artisanal fishing, cacao, coffee, milk and tourism).

To encourage discussion about the practices introduced, regional experience-sharing workshops were organized for project partners with the participation of a Peruvian partner, Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO). Those discussions showed that the added value of both pi-

OUR MAIN PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

AMUCCS (Asociación Mexicana de Uniones de Crédito del Sector Social) was founded over 20 years ago. It is active in 22 Mexican states. It develops products and services in microfinance and microinsurance for vulnerable rural communities. Its network includes 96 microfinance institutions, a local agency for economic development (Sierras Verdes) and a training institute (IMFR) offering training in microfinance and education.

CEPESIU (centre for promotion and employment in the urban informal sector) is an Ecuadorian NGO founded in 1983. It specializes in microfinance and local economic development. It is active in 10 of Ecuador's 24 provinces. CEPESIU plays an active role in developing productive sectors, creating rural businesses and helping rural communities gain access to special financial services, particularly through Sociétés Populaires d'Investissement.

lot projects depends less on the content of the training programs and more on the additional support (developed and based on a local approach and on the mobilization of local resources) for the programs.

For the project's last workshop in late 2017, Acting for Life wanted to expand the debates. It organized a big event in Ecuador to give the Latin American partners (Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru) and African partners (Benin and Togo) supported through other programs a chance to discuss practices and share experiences. It was a great opportunity to promote experience-sharing on common topics between various actors in the South.

**2014-2018**

LOCAL PARTNERS: Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, Mongolie Aventure, Övörkhongai Province, University of Dili and Vanuatu Scuba Operators

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France and local resources

COMBINED BUDGETS: €270,000

Sustainable tourism

Too often, the most vulnerable segments of society do not benefit from the development of tourism. Thanks to Air France's support, Acting for Life works with local actors to ensure that proceeds from tourism go to local communities through projects that create local, eco-friendly jobs.

In 2017, Acting for Life provided technical assistance and organized training sessions for schools, non-profits and small local businesses in Cambodia, Mongolia, East Timor and Vanuatu.

Green belts in Cambodia

Tourism has become a pillar of Cambodia's economy. It is the country's second biggest source of revenue after agriculture, and provides jobs for 500,000 people. The country is on pace to host 8 million tourists by 2020—eight times more than in 2010. But 20% of the Cambodian population still lives below the poverty line. What's more, the most popular sites—particularly the Angkor archaeological site (UNESCO World Heritage Site), southern coastal region and northeastern forests - are suffering from the negative effects of tourism.

Preventing environmental degradation is more important than ever in order to keep the tourism sector healthy and ensure that small local tourism businesses continue to grow. Acting for Life has been working closely with the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism for several years to develop sustainable tourism and to design and plan out environmental strategies for tourism and for providing jobs for local communities.

One of the projects carried out with all lo-

cal actors from Cambodia's 24 provinces aims to create green belts around cities. The goals are to preserve rural heritage as large cities grow, to create sustainable jobs, to provide the tourism sector with local agricultural products and to improve the quality of life in urban areas by preserving biodiversity.

Reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development in East Timor

East Timor is located in southeast Asia, between Australia and Indonesia. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and faces many environmental problems.

This project is the second phase of an initiative to provide SMEs and microbusinesses in the tourism sector with access to sustainable-tourism indicators. The goal is to define criteria for assessing tourism-related projects and structures. An initial phase was carried out in 2017 with the University of Dili and leaders from the tourism sector to survey businesses in the tourism sector. The survey results are meant to provide East Timor with a tool for assessing sustainable development that is directly applicable to SMEs and microbusinesses in the tourism sector.

During the second phase in 2018, these tools will be presented to actors in the lo-



OUR MAIN PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

The Cambodian Ministry of Tourism has many responsibilities. These include defining national policy regarding tourism, encouraging investment in the tourism sector and maintaining tourism infrastructure.

The Mongolie Aventure association works to improve housing for tourists visiting the Orkhon Valley in order to boost the economic, social and educational impact on the local community.

cal tourism sector. Those actors will help define standards that are adapted to the country's economy and tourism sector, particularly in terms of human resources and qualifications. The information gathered will be used to create a brochure with CNUCED on the effects of climate change for an island country.

Eco-friendly yurts in Mongolia

Mongolia has been undergoing rapid economic growth since the 2000s, thanks in large part to the country's mining resources. But 20% of Mongolians still live below the poverty line. Tourism is growing in the Orkhon Valley (designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its 6th-century archaeological remains and for the exceptional beauty of its landscapes), but it is not generating enough revenue for the local community. Local infrastructure is still lacking: waste treatment, roads, access to running water, public lighting, etc.

In order to support the sustainable development of tourism, Acting for



Life teamed up with Mongolie Aventure and the tourism authorities in Övörkhongai province to carry out environmental-protection projects linked to tourism in the Orkhon Valley. Since 2014, the program has been centered on three pillars: reducing pollution, creating a model tourism camp and offering training to teach skills in eco-tourism.

An initial project consisted of building and installing 40 stationary bins with two compartments for sorting waste. Awareness-raising and clean-up operations were carried out at different tourist sites with volunteers and members of the local community. An eco-camp was set up and opened in 2015. The project aims to create jobs and generate income for the local community, and it also aims to gain technical experience and create a model for developing other tourism infrastructure in the future.

In all, 22 eco-friendly yurts and toilet facilities were installed and equipped on a piece of land acquired by our local

partner. Part of the electricity comes from solar panels. The development of tourism offers has also allowed the eco-camp to do business directly with visitors, without having to go through travel agencies. Marketing initiatives were carried out, including the creation of a bilingual website, Facebook page, informational and promotional brochure, a book promoting eco-tourism in Mongolia and a stand at the Tourism Expo in Ulaanbaatar. The local community - particularly local suppliers, nomad traders, transporters and other actors in the region's tourism sector - benefits directly from the eco-camp.

Protecting seabeds in Vanuatu

Vanuatu is located near New Caledonia. The volcanic archipelago of 80 islands is home to exceptional underwater diving sites that attract many visitors. The growth of tourism over the past 20 years has greatly reduced poverty by providing jobs for one in six people. But natural disasters linked to climate

change are occurring more and more often. A tropical cyclone struck Vanuatu in 2015. The coastline and coral reefs were severely damaged, as were mooring systems. Many small, local tourism businesses were threatened.

Preserving Vanuatu's natural heritage is becoming a priority in order to ensure the sustainability of the tourism sector. In partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Acting for Life supports the local association Vanuatu Scuba Operators in its efforts to raise awareness, mitigate climate risks and protect coral reefs. A program was launched in 2017 to install fixed buoys in order to protect seabeds in the most vulnerable areas of the island of Efate.



2016-2017

LOCAL PARTNER: ACAD

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

Air France and local resources

BUDGET: €43,000

Training in stonemasonry

20 professionals trained, 5 construction sites completed

Benin's economy is largely dominated by the primary sector, and is particularly dependent on cultivating cotton for export. Of the country's 10 million inhabitants, half are younger than 15 years old. Ninety-five per cent of jobs are in the informal sector, and each year an estimated 75,000 young people enter the job market without any qualifications. Although primary education is available to all, there are still disparities by region and by gender. Despite the national authorities' interest in the sector, technical and professional training needs to be improved, diversified and adapted to each region. Acting for Life oversees two development projects in Benin. The first is part of a multi-country program to support livestock mobility (see pages 11-13). The second focuses on supporting the development of the stonemasonry sector by providing professional training in the provinces of Atacora and Donga, in the country's northwest region.

Benin, Togo and Mali's Dogon region all traditionally use stone for building. As part of its effort to support decentralization and promote access to training in rural areas by making use of local resources, Acting for Life supports the stonemasonry sector in these three countries (see pages 29 & 37).

In 2016, ACAD (Acting for Life's partner in northern Benin) took part in a trip to observe the neighboring Savanes region in northern Togo. It discovered programs

developed by Acting for Life and its Togolese partners that supported stonemasonry training.

In January 2017, Acting for Life and ACAD organized a brief initial training program in Natitingou to teach 20 stonemasons (identified by associations of local artisans) about different ways to use stone. For two weeks, four stonemasonry teachers and 16 artisan stonemasons were taught by a Togolese instructor who had received prior training in Togo from a

French expert in stone cutting.

To support the upstream portion of the supply chain, a survey was conducted of the extraction sector to identify existing groups, tools and marketing channels. Local authorities were taught the importance of using stone for public and community works. Five projects were completed (boundary walls, gutters), including one public project: the veterinary shop and depot funded by the town of Matéri.



2017-2018

LOCAL PARTNER:

Inades-Formation/Burkina

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

Air France, AnBer Foundation
and local resources

BUDGET: €61,000

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

Inades-Formation (African institute for economic and social development – African training centre) was founded in Abidjan in 1962. The Burkina Faso office opened in 1975. Inades-Formation/Burkina is now a national NGO belonging to an international network of 10 African countries.

Inades-Formation develops projects in Burkina Faso that focus on agricultural development, decentralization, management of natural resources, funding for rural areas and smallholder communication.

This new project supports five women's groups belonging to AMEs (associations for mother-educators) in order to develop and promote market gardening. The AMEs provide schooling for girls and play an active role in school life. The project is being carried out in five rural towns in the province of Léraba, in the west of the country. After having conducted a participative study to determine the causes of food insecurity in each of the villages, market-gardening sites were set up and provided with irrigation systems, seeds and light farming equipment.

The AMEs received assistance in obtaining official recognition documents and in improving their management.

In all, 156 women took part in training sessions to learn about agroecology production techniques and how to preserve and process market-gardening products. The creation of fact sheets for growing vegetables with agroecology, cooking demos and recipes needs to serve as the foundation for advocacy to raise awareness about important nutrition-related issues. The 350 AME members have special access to schools and health centers,

and will receive training to learn about the importance of having a balanced diet and eating plenty of fruit and vegetables. Lastly, the possibility of having the women supply food to schools is currently being considered, which would sustainably boost the women's income and improve the food served at school cafeterias.



Eating better thanks to market gardening

156 women trained in agroecology

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. At over 3%, the country's annual population growth is one of the highest in Africa, which presents real challenges in terms of socioeconomic development. Pressure on the job market is high, with one-third of the population between 15 and 35 years old. The food situation for households is affected by price fluctuations and low diversification: severe chronic malnutrition still affects many children in certain regions. Acting for Life works with its partners in Burkina Faso to carry out three projects. The first is an ambitious multi-country project to promote livestock mobility, which operates across the country (see pages 10-13). A large-scale project has also been launched in four regions to train young people and help them find jobs (see pages 14 & 15). Lastly, a new project has been launched in the Cascades region, in the southwest of the country, and aims to promote market gardening in order to boost the income and improve the nutrition of households.

OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

ACAD (association of the towns of Atacora and Donga) has been partnered with Acting for Life since 2012. Together, they develop agropastoral programs in northern Benin. ACAD comprises 13 towns in the Atacora and Donga departments, and aims to build the capacities of those towns, liaise with public authorities and help drive local development. The vocational school in Natitingou has also partnered with this project by providing equipment.



2017-2020

LOCAL PARTNER: Instituto Mayor Campesino

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, AnBer Foundation, Austrian development aid and local resources

BUDGET: €331,000

Promoting peace through the social economy

60 coffee producers supported

Despite buoyant economic growth which has helped improve literacy rates, reduce poverty and increase medical coverage, inequality is still high in rural Colombian communities. A half-century of armed conflict has also greatly weakened the social fabric and collective efforts to promote local development. Food insecurity is still an issue, and severe weather is becoming more and more frequent, which is hurting agricultural production. Acting for Life has been working for many years with producer organizations in Colombia. In 2017, three programs were launched to promote food security in the regions of Cauca and Cauca Valley. Those three projects promote civic engagement and support the production, sale and management of natural resources.



OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

Instituto Mayor Campesino (IMCA) was founded in 1962. It trains smallholders from Cauca Valley and encourages them to participate in public and private forums for discussion. During the 90s, as the armed conflict in the region intensified, IMCA worked to come up with alternatives to help people live peacefully. Today, IMCA continues its efforts by supporting agroecology.

This project combines agroecology, social entrepreneurship and capacity-building to help producers get involved in discussions between public and private bodies. The goal is to help producers in four rural towns in the central and southern areas of Cauca Valley.

Most of the fertile land in this region is owned by a small group of people and has been that way since before colonization—a situation aggravated by the presence of armed groups. With this new three-year project, Acting for Life has committed to rebuilding the social fabric and improving coordination between regional actors, by helping organize supply chains for agroecology and strengthening smallholder organizations. Training was

offered to help producers put together proposals for participative land management and social entrepreneurship. The training sessions brought together about 150 people, 84 of whom were women. A total of 80 people took part in six training workshops to create GAACs (self-managed savings and credit groups).

Five of the 24 planned GAACs have been created so far, and 65 people have already gained access to savings and loans. Using adapted procedures, 21 new business-creation projects were pre-identified, and five have already been launched. Lastly, a point of sale offering organic coffee from 60 different producers opened on the campus of Javeriana University in Cali.



2017-2020

LOCAL PARTNER:

Fundación Colombia Nuestra

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

Air France, AnBer Foundation and local resources

BUDGET: €418,000

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

Partnered with Acting for Life since 2008, the NGO Fundación Colombia Nuestra was founded in 1977. Its aim is to gain recognition for the rights of indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups. Based in the Cauca region in the centre-east of the country, Fundación Colombia Nuestra has sound experience supporting producer organizations. For instance, it was instrumental in the development of a supply chain for fair-trade coffee with the Fondo Páez producer organization and in the intercommunity sale of local produce (kidney beans and panela).

This project is carried out in the department of Cauca, in the southwest of the country. The area has suffered greatly as a result of the armed conflict: insecurity, illegal crop cultivation, forced displacement, recruitment of young people, etc. Three of the five towns where the project is being carried out (Caldono, Morales and Cajibío) were recognized by the United Nations and the Colombian government as priority zones for applying the peace agreement. An initial project from 2015 to early 2017 helped build the organizational, produc-



Family farming and regional cohesion

300 families and 19 organizations supported

After the peace agreement signed in 2016, Colombia now faces a major challenge: making sure the agreement is actually put into practice in order to lay the foundation for lasting peace. Through the support given in this project to family farming, Acting for Life and its local partners will contribute to the first point in the peace agreement: Comprehensive Rural Reform.

tion, sales and land-management capacities of 15 smallholder organizations. After this initial phase, the NGO Fundación Colombia Nuestra united those organizations around a common project: creating the ASOVIDAS (alliance of solidarity for decent living conditions and sustainable farming) network.

This new project aims to continue the strategy of producing and selling coffee and panela (natural, unrefined sugar that is popular in Latin America) for the 300 families belonging to the 19 organizations

partnered with ASOVIDAS. To do so, the project continues to improve the ASOVIDAS network's skills and supports the transition to agroecology and certified organic production.

The project will also continue to organize forums for discussion on environmental issues relating to land management. The discussions will be centered on the idea of managing water for human consumption and agricultural use as climate conditions change.

**2016-2018**LOCAL PARTNER: Association Kwe'sx Uma Kiwe Peykajn Mjinxisa Fondo PáezFINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France and local resourcesBUDGET: €63,000

Food production and organic coffee

More than 500 families supported, 29 production managers trained



The department of Cauca, in the Andes of southwest Colombia, was one of the areas most affected by armed conflict. It is against this backdrop that the Kwe'sx Uma Kiwe Peykajn Mjinxisa Fondo Páez association (or Fondo Páez) was founded 25 years ago. The organization brings together more than 500 smallholder families from the Nasa indigenous community. After several years of work defending their region and collecting their ancestral know-how, the association has developed a fair-trade and organic supply chain for high-quality coffee that is exported to France and Canada, which provides families with a fixed income. Despite all the work that has been done, the past achievements are now threatened by climate change.

This project was launched in 2016 to boost coffee and food production by applying agroecological practices in order to mitigate the effects of climate change. The project provides training to 29 members of Fondo Páez. Those members, in turn, provide technical assistance to smallholder families in order to ensure the best possible production, in terms of quality and quantity,

of corn, kidney beans and coffee for export. A series of training sessions, experience-sharing events and tailored resources for assistance have been organized, with a special focus on making sure women and young people are involved.

These practices also help producers better resist climate change. Assistance is provided to those families who have seen

the greatest drop in production, and aims to boost production by 10%. Fifty families will then be trained in producing, selecting and saving the seeds of original varieties. Sales opportunities will also be explored for selling surplus kidney beans and corn.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

The Kwe'sx Uma Kiwe Peykajn Mjinxisa Fondo Páez Association was founded in 1992. It specializes in the production and sale of organic coffee. Its goal is to preserve the traditional farming knowledge and culture of the indigenous Nasa (or Páez) and Misak communities, and help families become more autonomous through a holistic approach to farming. In 2017, 514 families belonged to Fondo Páez.

**2015-2017**LOCAL PARTNER: O'Rizon Ivory CoastFINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, AnBer Foundation, O'Rizon France and O'Rizon Ivory CoastBUDGET: €140,000

Improving food security



OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

The NGO O'Rizon Ivory Coast has been developing projects to support subsistence farming in Ivory Coast since 2013. With sound knowledge of the local area, it works in the west of the country to provide inputs as well as rice, corn and cassava seeds to smallholders. Its goal is to help smallholders become more autonomous and to help them band together to improve sales.

450 smallholder families working together as a co-op, training provided to 2,700 people

The Bafing region in northwest Ivory Coast, has plenty of advantages when it comes to farming: high rainfall, constant sun and rich soil that is great for market gardening and for growing rice, tubers and corn. But most producers only cultivate one hectare a year on average, with yields six to ten times lower than average. A decade of political and military crisis in the country has created a more disorganized production system, and the rise of cash crops such as rubber, coffee and cashews (which are often exported) is threatening the existence of smallholders. Extreme poverty in the Bafing region is already high and continues to grow, affecting nearly 70% of families in 2017 versus less than 50% in 2011.

Acting for Life oversees two projects in the Ivory Coast. The first is carried out in the north of the country to support livestock mobility in nine West African countries (see pages 10–13). The second aims to improve food security for smallholder families and reduce extreme poverty in rural Bafing.

The project's initial phase, from 2015 to 2016, helped the young association O'rizon improve its project-management skills and launch regional initiatives in conjunction with local authorities and technical services. Yields for rice, corn and cassava have increased.

Smallholders in Bafing (in the west of the country) have been trained in agroecology techniques, and have received equipment and seeds. A new shop was built, which has improved storage conditions and helped secure and sell more of the harvest. A co-op was founded with 450 smallholder families from 10 villages around Founbesso and 70% of its members are women!

A second phase has allowed the project to consolidate results and strengthen the cassava value chain, with a special focus on promoting the processing and sale of cassava. A cassava processing and drying unit was built and is managed by a group of 20 women. These women received training in techniques for processing two traditional dishes from the Ivory Coast: attiéké and placali. These activities were

carried out in conjunction with the producer co-op that was set up during the first phase of the project. In all, 2,700 people directly involved in the project have benefited from the proceeds of the project. Debates were also held in this new project phase on issues relating to the sale and mobility of livestock in West Africa.



2017

TECHNICAL PARTNERS: CEPESIU and SOS FAIM

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, DGD Belgium and local resources

BUDGET: €280,000



Rural financial services

Though weakened by the drop in global oil prices, Ecuador enjoys a great diversity of natural resources offering high potential for economic development. Poverty affects a quarter of the population, particularly in rural areas. The informal sector accounts for 43% of the economy and weakens the country's most vulnerable communities. The 2016 earthquake severely affected Ecuador's coastal regions, which are still suffering the financial consequences. Acting for Life oversees three projects in Ecuador that aim to boost the local economy by supporting entrepreneurship. The first project is part of a multi-country effort (Ecuador and Mexico) to promote the growth of rural businesses (see pages 16 & 17). The second project, launched after the 2016 earthquake, aims to revive the local economy in strategic sectors that are a source of income and food resources. Acting for Life also supports the initiatives of smallholder organizations in three different provinces to improve financial and business services.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

CEPESIU is an Ecuadorian NGO that was founded in 1983 and that specializes in microfinance. Since 2011, it has been expanding its work into rural areas. By promoting SPIs, it plays an active role in developing productive sectors, creating rural businesses and helping rural communities gain access to financial services that are tailored to their needs.

CEPESIU is an Ecuadorian NGO and a partner of Acting for Life. In rural areas where banks and microfinance institutions are nonexistent, CEPESIU develops self-managed savings and credit systems called sociétés populaires d'investissement, or SPIs. These SPIs provide microloans to their members and to anyone else in the local area.

The NGO works to promote productive sectors and boost people's income by supporting the development of rural businesses by and for groups of producers, livestock farmers and fishermen.

This work is done in accordance with the local economic development strategies put in place by the local authorities at canton level and at provincial level in the provinces of Chimborazo, Napo and Esmeraldas.

CEPESIU supports this initiative by training local technicians and creating platforms where public and private actors can coordinate the launch of local action plans.



2017-2020

LOCAL PARTNERS:

CEPESIU and CEFODI

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

French Development Agency, Air France and local resources

BUDGET: €1,052,000



Reviving the local economy after an earthquake

OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

Comité Esmeraldas Flandes Orientales para el Desarrollo Integral (CEFODI), founded in 1993, is a new Acting for Life partner with strong local roots in the province of Esmeraldas. Its work is mainly focused on supporting rural development through family farming, access to water and sewage systems and the development of tourism that benefits everyone in the community.

CEPESIU is an Ecuadorian NGO that was founded in 1983 and that specializes in microfinance. Since 2011, it has been expanding its work into rural areas. By promoting SPIs, it plays an active role in developing productive sectors, creating rural businesses and helping rural communities gain access to financial services that are tailored to their needs.

500 families supported, 1,200 people trained

On 16 April 2016, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the coast of Ecuador. In all, 673 people were killed, over 6,200 were injured and some 29,000 people were left without shelter. The earthquake also caused a lot of material damage: half of the country's tourism infrastructure was affected. In some towns, the marketing of local products were severely affected. The earthquake occurred at a time when the economy was already weakened by the drop in the price of oil, and in an area affected by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

After the crisis and emergency situation, businesses are struggling to bounce back. The goal of this project is to revive the economy in strategic sectors that provide income and food resources for 500 target families, particularly tourism, agricultural production (especially cacao) and artisanal fishing in the cantons of Muisne, Pedernales, Jama and San Vicente. The first step was to renovate and make improvements to infrastructure and tools for production. Commercial networks were weakened, so producer organizations also need support to regain and improve their access to markets. In all, 120 people will be involved in the

creation of six new businesses to provide innovative development for those sectors, and six organizations of fishermen or tourism service providers will be strengthened.

The project also gives special attention to young people and women. A competition for young people will be organized in each canton to help them create small companies. A total of 1,200 people (60% women) will receive financial schooling and will be encouraged to set up savings and investment groups.



2017

LOCAL PARTNER:
CPMCT-Nègè BlonFINANCIAL PARTNER:
Air France

BUDGET: €24,000



Professional certification in sheet metalwork

Creation of new professional standards

Economic growth in Mali has stabilized at around 5% a year. This growth is mainly linked to mining and the export of mining resources—a sector that doesn't provide enough stable, income-generating jobs. With population growth at over 3% and 434,000 people set to enter the job market by 2030, Mali's economy is dominated by the informal sector. Over 95% of the active population works in the informal sector. Training at the moment is mainly oriented towards services, to the detriment of the secondary sector (manufacturing and construction). Acting for Life oversees three development projects in Mali, one of which is part of a multi-country program (see pages 10–13). The two other projects focus on improving training and helping young people find jobs in sectors such as sheet metalwork and stonemasonry, which are adapted to local resources and market needs.

Nègè Blon (centre for the promotion of sheet metalwork professions) was created with support from Acting for Life over 10 years ago. Although it is not listed in the national training register, the training offered by Nègè Blon has gained credibility from companies and their umbrella organizations: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Industrial Employers' Organization.

This new project aims to create the right

conditions for better institutional and financial sustainability of professional training in the sheet-metalwork sector. It also aims to draw up and approve national professional certification standards and to offer companies a legal and operational canvas for corporate social responsibility. After analyzing the needs of companies, new welding standards were drawn up for three different welding techniques. The standards were created in conjunction with experts, government services and the companies in question.

They were approved by Mali's National Department for Professional Training.

A tax expert was also called upon to help come up with incentives for funding professional training through corporate social responsibility. Subsequent meetings organized with partner companies provided an opportunity to define and share strategies for applying the standards for the benefit of young people in Mali.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

CPMCT-Nègè Blon (centre for the promotion of sheet metalwork professions) is an association in Mali that has been recognized by the authorities since 2008. It aims to promote work-study programs in metalworking professions in Mali. Since 2009, various programs have provided training for 319 people, over 60% of whom found jobs after becoming certified. Other partners also work with CPMCT-Nègè Blon, such as Mali's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Industrial Employers' Organization.



2015-2018

LOCAL PARTNERS: PDCO and ETP/BA

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

AFD, Air France, AnBer Foundation, Caritas France Foundation, Roissy Pays de France agglomeration community, Motul Corazón Foundation and local resources

BUDGET: €634,000

Support for stoneworkers

47 young people with a certificate of professional competence, 20 young people with a technician's diploma



OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

PDCO (promoting community development) is an NGO in Mali that has been supporting producer organizations in rural areas for over 20 years.

ETP/BA (technical and vocational school of Bandiagara) is a private training centre that opened five years ago. It is approved by the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Training to award certificates of professional competence in stonemasonry and technician's diplomas in building.

Mali has enjoyed sound economic growth over the last ten years. But there is a shortage of jobs—particularly jobs in the formal sector, jobs requiring certification and even simply jobs offering decent pay. It's a real challenge for a country where half of the population is under 25 years old.

Its against this backdrop that the project was organized after several identification studies in the Dogon region. In addition to offering professional training for young people, the project makes use of local skills and natural resources in a region that has been economically devastated by declining tourism, though it is known for its cliffs and its traditional stone buildings.

In all, 47 young people from modest backgrounds earned a certificate of professional competence in stonemasonry and received vocational training in stonecutting and paving.

Twenty other students earned a technician's diploma in building (equivalent to a vocational certificate in France) and received additional vocational training in stonework.

Thanks to the field-school in Bandiagara, which consisted of paving a road in the city centre and installing gutters for draining wastewater, twenty families now enjoy healthier living conditions and are seeing small businesses develop along the side of the road. Local artisan extractors have also benefitted from orders for cobblestones, rubble stones and flagstones for the field-school and hands-on training

projects. They have also received equipment allowing them to better respond to local orders, which are growing even beyond the scope of the project. They have tripled their weekly production and greatly improved their productivity.

Lastly, the advocacy work to encourage local authorities to support stonework construction projects and boost public orders aims to boost the revenue of extractor groups as well as the economic integration of young people with training in this sector.

**2017-2018**LOCAL PARTNERS: AMUCSS and Redsol AgrícolaFINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France and local resourcesBUDGET: €108,000

Microinsurance for smallholders

2,500 producers insured

Though it is the 11th biggest economy in the world, Mexico has struggled to reduce its poverty rate. Indigenous and rural communities are the most affected: 75% live in poverty. Half of the country's GDP is generated by very small companies, but roughly 80% of them do not survive their first few years in business. Farming is the main source of income in rural areas, but represents only 4% of the country's GDP. Acting for Life oversees three projects in support of rural development in Mexico. The first project supports entrepreneurship and is part of a multi-country effort with Ecuador. Another project to develop microinsurance for smallholders is supported in five of the country's poorest states: Guerrero, Puebla, Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas. The third project supports the amaranth sector in the Oaxaca region.

Climate has a big influence on agricultural production, and a poor harvest can have disastrous consequences for smallholders. In Mexico, the larger farms can afford to buy insurance and can therefore endure any damage they suffer during bad years. But smallholders—who make up the majority of producers in Mexico—cannot afford insurance.

In 1998, Mexico introduced an innovative mechanism to cover climate risks: the «agricultural insurance fund», designed mainly for large and medium-sized producers. The Redsol Agrícola mutualist insurance fund is a similar concept, but tailored to small producers.

Redsol Agrícola is a mutual insurance company. It covers its operating costs by taking a percentage of the insurance pre-

mium. So in order to be self-sufficient and ensure its sustainability by achieving its equilibrium point, it needs to cover a big enough number of smallholders. Plus, the fund is managed by the producers themselves at general meetings, it serves its members and provides technical services for producers to help them improve their practices.

This new project is the second phase of an initiative launched in 2013 and aims to co-finance the structure during its development phase. That way, it will be able to carry out promotional work and review claims, provide services to support production, develop new insurance products and organize discussion and decision-making forums for producer organizations. Sixteen producer organizations have become members, and 2,500 producers have been insured.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

The Redsol Agrícola insurance fund, founded in 2011 on the initiative of AMUCCS, began its operations in early 2012. It is a mutual fund to which producer organizations belong. Those organizations also participate in decision-making at annual general meetings. It operates in five states in Mexico: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Puebla, Veracruz and Guerrero.



In all, 4,000 hectares of farmland are now covered against climate risks.

**2016-2018**LOCAL PARTNER: Puente a la Salud ComunitariaFINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, AnBer Foundation, Roissy Pays de France agglomeration community and local resourcesBUDGET: €426,000

Support for small amaranth producers

600 families supported



OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

The NGO Puente a la Salud Comunitaria was founded in 2003 by two North American volunteers who wanted to improve the diet of the people living in Oaxaca. The goal is to reintroduce amaranth into the local economy and diet by promoting agroecology and nutritional education, and supporting the emergence of microbusinesses and producer organizations. So far, 800 families have reintegrated amaranth into their diet.

In the state of Oaxaca, in southeast Mexico, 70% of the population is considered poor. But the region still enjoys the greatest biodiversity in the entire country. In 2016, Acting for Life teamed up with a new partner, Puente a la Salud Comunitaria, to support the production of amaranth. The plant is endemic to the region, has many nutritional properties and is a potential source of higher income for smallholders. Historically cultivated in Mexico, amaranth has gradually been disappearing from families' diets.

This project was launched in 2016 and has two parts: building amaranth-production capacities and strengthening organizations in the regions of Mixteca Alta and Valles Centrales, in the state of Oaxaca. Acting for Life is helping structure the amaranth supply chain on the basis of principles such as eco-friendly production, creating added value and boosting the local economy.

During the project's first year, 322 families received training on the agroecological production of amaranth. Because of harsh climate conditions in 2017, only 120 of those families had a satisfactory harvest.

So far, 35 people from 30 processing groups have received training on the social economy. Most of the production of those groups is sold at regional centers, whose sales increased by one-third.

The project also works with organizations in the regions of Mixteca Alta and Valle Centrales to help them make improvements in both technical and organizational aspects.

Lastly, 10 local promoters and 24 members of various groups took part in activities to strengthen the management structures in the two regions and thus improved their management capacities.



2016-2019

LOCAL PARTNER: Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO)

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, AnBer Foundation and local resources

BUDGET: €408,000

Strengthening dairy and guinea-pig sectors

240 producers supported

As the 49th biggest economy in the world, Peru is heavily dependent on its mining resources and struggles to maintain its level of growth, which had been high until the start of the 2010s. The country suffers from poverty and major social, ethnic and geographic disparities between cities and rural areas. Plus, 70% of the active population works in the informal sector. Since 2013, Acting for Life has worked with over 400 dairy-producing and processing families in the towns of Ocongate and Ccatca in the region of Cuzco, in the southeast of the country, to help them improve the quality and quantity of their production. Acting for Life expanded the project in 2016 and now also supports the production and sale of cuyes (guinea pigs used in many delicious traditional Peruvian dishes), a sector with lots of potential to help integrate more women into the economy.

The program provides assistance to 240 producers, seven guinea-pig processing units, 450 dairy producers and 15 family units for producing dairy products to help improve their positioning on the market. The project also involves collectively defining milk prices, improving and diversifying derived products and organizing forums for discussion. Producers have been taught about quality-control systems through workshops, work meetings and a radio program. Several restaurants specializing in the preparation of dishes made from guinea pig have opened and have received assistance in defining a strategy for building up a loyal customer base. They are now the main customers of 350 families that raise guinea pigs.

In 2017, 220 workshops were organized to offer technical assistance to producers and restaurant owners in terms of monitoring production and sales. A certification procedure for organically produced foods was also launched for a cheese production unit and its 55 milk suppliers, most of whom are women. A study was carried out on the environmental impact of various methods for making dairy products, leading to the creation of an environmental-management plan for reducing waste. It has already been applied by five family units. Producers also took part in regional events to promote their products and open up to other markets.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO) was founded in 1971 to help improve the living conditions of rural communities in the Quispicanchi department, in the region of Cuzco. Asociación Jesús Obrero specializes in economic development, nutrition, housing, education, environmental preservation and local governance.



2016-2018

LOCAL PARTNERS: GEVAPAF, FENAFIBVTO

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, European Union, AnBer Foundation and local resources

BUDGET: €339,000

Infrastructure for livestock

50,000 crop and livestock farmers within the project zone

At roughly 3% a year, Togo's population growth has raised a number of questions about food security, natural-resource management and health. While over 70% of the active population works in farming, three-quarters of households undergo at least one period of food shortage each year. The agri-food industry is also underdeveloped, and local products must compete with imported products. Acting for Life applies its skills in institutional engineering to support coordinated local economic development through six projects. The first is a multi-country program to support livestock mobility in West Africa (see pages 10–13). The second project focuses specifically on setting up agropastoral market infrastructure in the north of the country. Three programs support family farming by promoting local products and assisting producers and processors. The last project trains young people in stonemasonry and helps them find jobs.

Acting for Life has been working in the Savanes and Kara regions in northern Togo since 2012 to carry out its programs in support of agropastoralism. With mobility at its core, the sector necessitates an inter-dependence between the Sahel and the coastal countries, requiring a comprehensive, trans-border, and multi-country approach. Togo has become a host nation to mobile and commercial herders. The new program, launched in 2017, introduced participative mapping tools and gathered statistical data on five market infrastructures in order to build an advocacy campaign to show the economic benefits of livestock trading.

Investments were made in order to create a strong network of livestock markets. The cattle market in Cinkassé,

a town near the border with Ghana and Burkina Faso, was provided with additional resources: fences, three warehouses, stalls, toilets and showers, and improved loading ramps.

Acting for Life and its local partners also supported the creation of the first joint local authority organization dedicated to strategic planning for the management of agropastoral infrastructure and tax revenue. The local authorities improved their financial-services skills for better organization and analysis of financial data and presentation of accounts. Ten people from Acting for Life's administrative and finance department went to Dapaong for an initial workshop, which brought together 19 people.



OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

The Togolese NGO GEVAPAF (managing the environment and promoting agropastoral and forest products) was founded in 2011 and specializes in sustainable development, agroecology and the promotion of local resources. It has sound experience in project management and in organizing local initiatives.

FENAFIBVTO (Togolese national federation of professionals in the livestock and meat sector) boosted the capacities of its members, particularly by developing offices throughout the country.

Local fruit juice

600 fruit producers, 15,000 bottles of natural fruit juice



2017-2018

LOCAL PARTNER:

GRADSE

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

Air France and local resources

BUDGET:

€168,000

Togo enjoys great conditions for growing tropical fruits. In the Centrale and Kara regions, fruit production (mainly mango) is abundant for three months of the year. But due to a lack of equipment for preserving the fruit, a lot of it is lost. Fruit consumption is a public-health issue for preventing malnutrition, but the sector is suffering heavily due to competition from imported products, particularly in urban areas.



This project aims to encourage fruit consumption by adapting fruit products to the local market. It also aims to sustainably promote milky orchards and support the creation of a co-op for women processors. In all, 47 fruit-producer groups (over 600 producers) and 20 women processors in Sokodé were directly involved.

In order to provide sustainable and high-quality fruits, the producers are assisted in the renovation of their orchards and in the collection of their fruit.

The facility for processing the fruit into juice was renovated and equipped with a press, extractor and sterilizer. The processors attended several training sessions in entrepreneurial management and techniques: organization of the processing procedure, cleanliness and quality.

In 2017, over 15,000 bottles of natural fruit juice were produced. Partnerships were also formed to sell the juice to hotel/restaurants and shops in Sokodé.



2015-2018

LOCAL PARTNER: Organisation pour l'Alimentation et le Développement Local (OADEL)

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, Pain Pour Le Monde, Élevages sans Frontières and local resources

BUDGET: €287,000

Local agricultural products for the city

80 production facilities supported

The aim of this project is to sell processed and packaged local products by promoting their consumption in urban areas. The project has several goals: to promote sustainable small-holder farming, to help small-holders and processors boost their income and to reduce food insecurity. The project is being carried out in the south of the country to the benefit of consumers in Lomé, processor groups and crop farmers in the Maritimes and Plateaux regions.

Since 2015, 80 processing facilities have increased their production volume. Processors are assisted in applying best practices for cleanliness and quality and in marketing their products. They also receive training in business management and sales. In all, 36 of their processed products have already been analyzed and certified, and they meet the health and packaging standards.

OADEL has launched various communication campaigns to promote local products: raising awareness by organizing the Alimenterre film festival (3,000 spectators) and the Alimenterre market (4,500 participants), creating 12 Alimen-



OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

OADEL (organization for local foods and development) was founded in 2003. A member of the Togolese Federation of NGOs and the Togolese Collective of Associations against Impunity, OADEL promotes the right to food through the consumption of processed local agricultural products. It operates mainly in the Lomé and Maritime regions.

terre clubs in schools, and producing and distributing communication tools (recipe books, prospectuses, radios shows, social-media activity).

An advocacy document encouraging the use of local products for events and for training programs at hotel schools was

created and submitted to one hundred public and private institutions.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

GRADSE (action for socioeconomic development research group) is a Togolese association that was founded in 1998. It operates in the Centrale and Kara regions in the following areas: agroecology, food and nutritional security, sustainable farming, community health, microfinance, human rights and helping producers band together.



2016-2018

LOCAL PARTNER:

Organisation pour l'Alimentation et le Développement Local (OADEL)

FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

Air France, Fondation de France, CFSI and local resources

BUDGET: €86,000

Promoting family farming

2,000 people in attendance at Alimenterre festival

After the launch of the project to promote processed local agricultural products (see page 35) in the Maritime and Plateaux regions, some initiatives have been expanded to three other regions: the Centrale region, and the Kara and Savanes regions in the north. Five processing facilities received assistance with quality and cleanliness, business management and sales. Revenue has increased 15% since 2016, and 20 processed products are currently being improved (labelling, packaging and certification).

The Alimenterre festival (which has been duplicated in the Kara region) brought together 300 people in 2016, and then 2,000 people in 2017. Six partner radio stations broadcast shows and announcements about OADEL's work and the importance of consuming locally. A cooking workshop was organized to teach restaurant owners how to prepare local foods. The six-day event brought together over 20 participants.

A qualitative study on food behavior in Lomé was conducted in coordination with CIRAD (French agricultural research centre for international development) among a representative sample of 30

households and authorities, including restaurant owners, grocers, gardeners and experts. The goal was to identify ways to boost consumption of local products.

The study was publicized on several networks and helped initiate discussions with some fifty actors, creating an opportunity for experience-sharing and the roll-out of advocacy initiatives to influence political decision-makers.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

OADEL (organization for local foods and development) was founded in 2003. A member of the Togolese Federation of NGOs and the Togolese Collective of Associations against Impunity, OADEL promotes the right to food through the consumption of processed local agricultural products. It operates mainly in the Lomé and Maritime regions.



2016-2018

LOCAL PARTNER: GEVAPAF

FINANCIAL PARTNERS: Air France, fondation AnBer et ressources locales

BUDGET: €167,000

Offering professional training to help young people find jobs

66 young people supported, 3 field-schools

In the Savanes and Kara regions in northern Togo, formal professional training is not as developed as in the country's southern regions. It is therefore vital to develop training programs adapted to each community in order to curb the exodus of young people and diversify income. This project aims to develop a training program for stonemasonry, gain recognition for the profession and promote the sector locally.



This project provides training for 63 young people. As part of this project, Acting for Life has partnered with the local NGO GEVAPAF and two public training centers: Collège d'Enseignement Technique in Pya (where 33 young masons have received training) and Centre Régional d'Enseignement Technique et de Formation Professionnelle in Dapaong (where 30 students have received training).

Field-schools have been planned and will provide hands-on training under real-life conditions. They will also help mobilize actors in the region to place orders for

public and private works using stone. For example, the extension of the wall surrounding the mayor's office in Dapaong was done by artisan masons and apprentices.

During the first phase of the project, the students are monitored on a regular basis. On the whole, the students are happy with the initiative and are proud to learn the skills of a trade that makes them better able to offer a service and that sets them apart from other masons.

With an overall regional approach, part of the project lends upstream support to the

sector by providing equipment for stone extractors. That makes the work easier in the mines around the training centers and therefore facilitates the possibility of local stone constructions.

Special effort has been made to promote the sector. A radio show and communication documents highlighting the advantages of stone constructions have been produced. A visit from the Minister of Technical and Professional Training also helped boost the institutional visibility of the quality of this training and the stonework sector.

OUR PARTNER ON THE GROUND

The Togolese NGO GEVAPAF (managing the environment and promoting agropastoral and forest products) was founded in 2011 and specializes in sustainable development, agroecology and the promotion of local resources. It has partnered with Acting for Life on rural-development projects and has sound experience in project management and in organizing local initiatives.

OUR PROJECTS

ACTING FOR LIFE

COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT	LOCAL PARTNERS	PAGE
Multi-country Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Niger and Togo	2015-2018	PARSAO - Program to promote the resilience of agropastoral systems in West Africa	ACAD, ANOPER, AREN, CIKOD, FENAPFIBVTO, GDCA, GEVAPAF, GIC, GV, RECOPA, UDOPER and UDOPER ZC	10
Multi-country Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal	2015-2018	BRACED - Building resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters	ACIDEF, ARED, AREN, CIRAD, CISV, CRUS, GAJEL, GNAP, ICD, LVIA, RBM, RBM-Sen, RECOPA, TASSAGHT, VSFB and URFBV	12
Multi-country Ecuador and Mexico	2015-2017	PRISER - Regional project for rural socioeconomic integration	AMUCCS, Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO), CEPESIU and Sierras Verdes	16
Benin	2016-2017	Project for training and raising awareness about stoneworking professions	ACAD	20
Burkina Faso	2017-2021	READY - Raising employment access and development for youth	OCADES Bobo-Dioulasso and Tin Tua	14
	2017-2018	PROCUMA - Project to promote market gardening for better food and nutritional security in the Cascades region	INADES Burkina Faso	21
Cambodia	2014-2018	Plastic Bag environmental-protection program for tourism	Cambodian Ministry of Tourism	18
	2014-2018	Clean Up environmental-protection program for tourism	Cambodian Ministry of Tourism	18
Colombia	2017-2020	Social economy for building regional peace in the Cauca Valley department	IMCA	22
	2017-2020	Strengthening family farming and multicultural cohesion in the Cauca department	FCN	23
	2016-2018	Technical support for food security and organic coffee production in the Cauca department	Fondo Páez	24
	2015-2017	PASAF - Project to improve food security in the Founbesso region	O'Rizon Ivory Coast	25
Ecuador	2017	Programme pour la promotion du développement économique local et productif	CEPESIU	26
	2017-2020	REACTIV - Reviving the local economy in the Manabi and Esmeraldas provinces	CEFODI and CEPESIU	27



COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT	LOCAL PARTNERS	PAGE
Mali	2017	Professional certification project in sheet metalwork and promotion of corporate social responsibility	CPMCT Nègè Blon	28
	2015-2018	PAMP - Project to support stoneworking professions: training, production, social protection	ETP/BA and PDCO	29
Mauritania	2014-2017	PRREF - Project to improve the resilience of household economy through livestock farming productivity	ARED, CIRAD and GNAP	12
Mexico	2017-2018	Project to develop farming insurance	AMUCSS et Redsol Agrícola	30
	2016-2018	Improving organization and boosting the incomes of smallholders in the amaranth supply chain in the state of Oaxaca	Puente a la Salud Comunitaria	31
Mongolia	2014-2018	Project for ecotourism villages with yurts	Mongolie Aventure and Övörkhangaï Province	18
Peru	2016-2019	Strengthening the dairy and guinea-pig supply chains in the towns of Ocongate and Ccatca	Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO)	32
East Timor	2016-2018	Project to reduce poverty through tourism and to prevent climate risks	University of Dili	19
Togo	2016-2018	PRIMACIPA - Project for setting up market infrastructure and livestock corridors for transporting animals to and from the market in Cinkassé	FENAPFIBVTO and GEVAPAF	33
	2017-2018	PAJUTO - Promotion of and access to local fruit juice in Sokodé	GRADSE	34
	2015-2018	PAVPALT - Project to promote processed local agricultural products	OADEL	35
	2016-2018	PAFAO - Promotion of and access to family-farming products	OADEL	36
	2016-2018	FIPIJ - Project to support training and the stoneworking sector to encourage the integration of young people	GEVAPAF	37
	2016-2018	Project to protect seabeds, support the tourism sector and prevent climate risks	Vanuatu Scuba Operators	19
Vanuatu	2016-2018	Project to protect seabeds, support the tourism sector and prevent climate risks	Vanuatu Scuba Operators	19

FINANCIAL REPORT

2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

Acting for Life’s financial statements are audited each year by FAREC, a statutory auditor. The certified financial statements are then published in the government gazette of the French Republic. The following is a summary of those statements. Projects co-funded by institutional donors are also audited on a regular basis to verify spending. In accordance with the accounting rules for non-profit organizations, and in order to better reflect the activities of Acting for Life, which manages projects over several years, a system was set up to monitor commitments given and received on a project-by-project basis. The financial statements reflect the activity for the financial year and the position of commitments at the end of the year.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

In thousands of euros	2017	2016	Change
FUNDS			
Operating income			
Sales (of goods and services)	9		+9
Operating grants	6 622	5 092	+ 1530
Write back of provisions, transfer of expenses	75	72	+ 3
Financial income	1	8	- 7
Total (I)	6 707	5 172	+ 1535
Extraordinary income (II)	0	0	
Carry forward of funds not used in previous years (III)	8 634	7 761	+ 873
Total income (I+II+III)	15 341	12 933	+ 2 408
USES			
Operating expenses			
Other external expenses	1 421	1 218	+ 203
Taxes and duty	72	59	+ 13
Staff costs	914	788	+ 126
Social-security costs	375	328	+ 47
Depreciation	9	9	0
Provisions		5	- 5
Grants awarded by the association	3 811	4 498	- 687
Financial expenses		- 1	+ 1
Total (I)	6 602	6 904	- 302
Extraordinary expenses (II)	9	0	+ 9
Commitments to be discharged against allocated resources (III)	8 709	6 006	+ 2 703
Total expenditure (I+II+III)	15 320	12 910	2 410
PROFIT/LOSS	21	23	- 2

The profit and loss account presents the year’s activities, highlighting the main income and expenditure items.

FUNDS

At 31/12/2017, funds amounted to €15,341,000 (+ €2,408,000 vs 2016) and can be broken down into two items: operating income of €6,707,000 and carry forward of funds not used in previous years of €8,634,000. The increase was thanks to a rise in operating grants (+ €1,530,000) and to an increase in dedicated funds carried forward from previous financial years (+ €873,000). Public grants for projects totaled €3,606,000 at 31/12/2017 (+ 1,683,000 versus 2016). They included mainly a grant of €2,774,000 from NORAD (Norwegian development aid) for a project to support vocational training and occupational integration in Togo and Burkina Faso, a grant from AFD for a post-earthquake project in Ecuador (€503,000) and a new emergency project in Niger (€273,000) co-funded by DFID (UK development aid). There was a slight decrease, however, in private grants for projects (- 8%) and administrative costs (- 13%), which reduced the impact of that new co-funding. The carry forward of funds not used in previous years includes dedicated funds recognized during the financial year. This corresponds to funds set aside to cover (current and future) project costs that have not yet been disbursed at the start of the financial year. The increase in carry forward of funds not used in previous years is directly connected to the launch of the three new projects (see previous page) in 2017.

USE OF FUNDS

Grants awarded by the association account for 57% of operating expenses. These are essentially transfers of funds made to local partners to carry out projects. Just like in 2016, this item totaled roughly €1.4 million for the BRACED project. Operating expenses for projects accounted for 85% of all expenses, just like in 2016. Commitments to be discharged against allocated funds are funds already received and that have to be allocated in subsequent years for ongoing projects or future projects that have not yet been definitively set up. The increase in this item is due to the start of three new projects in 2017, particularly the READY project co-funded by Norwegian development aid.

BALANCE SHEET

In thousands of euros	2017 gross	Depr./Prov.	2017 net	2016 net	Change
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	6	5	0	0	- 1
Tangible assets	57	49	8	17	- 8
Financial assets	0		0	0	0
Current assets					
Accounts receivable	1	0	1	4	- 3
Other receivables	4 773	5	4 768	5 808	- 1 040
Short-term investments	18		18	18	0
Liquid assets	7 641		7 641	5 829	+ 1812
Cash	0		0	0	0
Prepaid expenses	6		6	11	- 5
TOTAL ASSETS	12 501	59	12 442	11 686	- 1 221
LIABILITIES					
Equity					
Association funds			1 965	1 943	+ 22
Operating profit/loss			21	23	- 2
Provision for risks and charges				5	- 5
Dedicated funds			8 605	8 739	- 134
Payables					
Loans and similar debts			1 490	20	+ 1 470
Accounts payable			106	213	- 107
Tax and social security			245	222	+ 23
Other payables			9	13	- 4
PCA					
TOTAL LIABILITIES			12 441	11 686	+ 755

The balance sheet shows the position of Acting for Life at 31 December 2017.

ASSETS

The association’s assets are essentially made up of grants receivable («other receivables» item) and cash. Receivables from NORAD (€2,157,000), AFD (€1,112,000), DFID (€352,000) and the European Union (€29,000) comprise 72% of other receivables. The 15% decrease linked to the end of the agreements for the PARSAO program and the BRACED project was offset in large part by the start of new projects, particularly the READY project co-funded by NORAD.

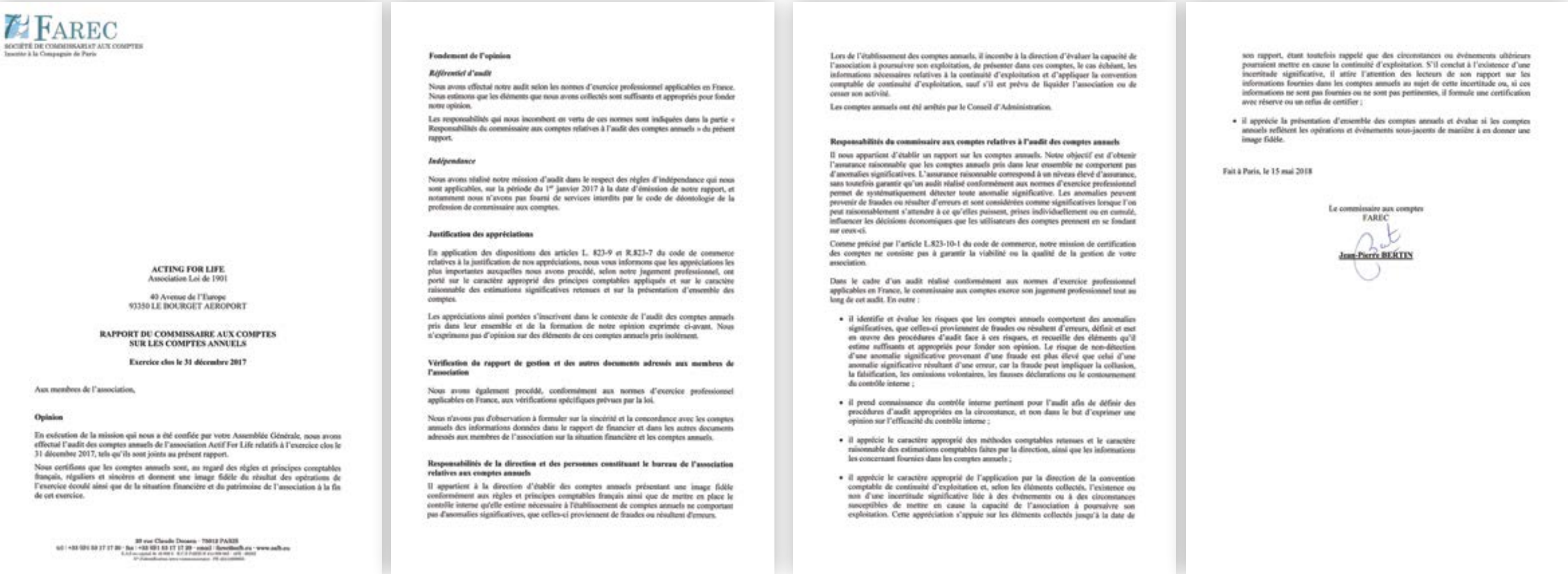
LIABILITIES

Dedicated funds are funds allocated to future projects. The start of the READY project in 2017 led to a slight decrease in dedicated funds. The item for loans and similar debts corresponds to two bank accounts showing a negative balance at 31/12/2017. But this did not have an impact on the global cash position, because once integrated into the merger of accounts, the consolidated cash position is positive at €6,151,000.

GENERAL REPORT

STATUTORY AUDITOR

This official report produced by the auditorship company Farec, proves that the accounts of the NGO Acting for Life for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, are in order.



OUR LOYAL FINANCIAL PARTNERS



A public institution at the heart of France's development-aid system, the French Development Agency (AFD) has been working since 1941 to reduce poverty and promote development. AFD is a long-standing financial partner of Acting for Life in Africa and Latin America. Thanks to its support, AFD helps bring to life large-scale regional and national programs in strategic areas for Acting for Life. These include creating training programs and focus on issues relating to local economic development in line with the agropastoral sector in the Sahel region.



The European Union's Europecassa program develops policies to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, democracy, peace and security. The European Union has been a partner of Acting for Life for several years, supporting projects in Africa and Latin America covering all of our areas of expertise.



The Department for International Development (DFID) is a UK mechanism for administering humanitarian and development aid (UK aid). It is committed to supporting sustainable development and reducing poverty around the world. Well-known for its expertise in the Sahel region, Acting for Life has been receiving support from DFID since 2013 for its livestock-mobility projects in West Africa.



The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is part of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its main areas of expertise are education, the environment, adapting to climate change, promoting democracy, access to health and renewable energies. NORAD has been supporting Acting for Life since 2017 for its projects to promote vocational training and occupational integration in three key sectors of the local market in Burkina Faso.



Air France has been a partner of Acting for Life for over 40 years. Its long-term partnership in Africa, Latin America and Asia has been focused on setting up programs to support economic and local development, small crop and livestock farmers, and vocational training and occupational integration in the communities that need it most. Through its generous support, Air France has made it possible to conduct studies and launch local projects with innovative approaches allowing for bigger programs to be launched subsequently, with public institutional partners



Groupe ADP is a world leader in the design, construction and operation of airports. A long-standing partner of Acting for Life, Groupe ADP supports the team and its projects by providing office space at the Bourget airport. This partnership is very important for the stability and longevity of our work.

Acting for Life could not carry out all of its projects without the help of its loyal financial partners. With 45 years of experience in local economic and social development in the South, we have built strong, long-lasting relationships with our partners. They help us considerably boost the impact of our work on the ground. So here is a big thank you to all of our loyal partners-past, present and future!



As the French leader in catering and airline logistics, SERVAIR has been supporting Acting for Life for several years. This company of 10,000 employees is committed to supporting Acting for Life's work to promote development, particularly in Africa.



AnBer is a loyal, long-standing partner of Acting for Life. This private foundation, recognized as an organization serving the public interest, is dedicated to reducing poverty by supporting projects in health, education, work and reducing destitution. Its founders are always open to supporting innovative approaches to job creation and local entrepreneurship for marginalized communities, and have supported many projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia covering our four areas of expertise.



The Caritas France Foundation has been dedicated to reducing poverty and exclusion since 2009. It has supported a number of Acting for Life's projects, particularly in Africa, on issues such as vocational training and occupational integration. It has a particular interest in this area, and works with Acting for Life in its efforts to improve training programs in West Africa.



The Ditumba Foundation provides funding for the professional training of disadvantaged young people, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso). Since 2017, it has been supporting Acting for Life's project to improve vocational training and occupational integration for young people in Burkina Faso, in three key sectors of the local market: solar power, plumbing and farming.



Fondation de France is a long-standing partner of Acting for Life and has supported our work in various regions of the world since our founding. Acting for Life receives support through the «Support Program for Family Farming in West Africa» for its work in Togo. Fondation de France, in partnership with the French Committee for International Solidarity (CFSI), promotes the initiatives of African and international organizations aiming to develop sustainable and dynamic family farming to feed the fast-growing cities in West Africa.



In 2017, the Roissy Pays de France agglomeration community (CARPF) and Acting for Life decided to team up for a multi-year partnership. The geographic proximity of the two entities and their shared vision of the issues of international solidarity contributed to the birth of this partnership. CARPF is committed to supporting the economic and local development of the most vulnerable communities in Latin America and West Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

A WINDOW TO THE WORLD

For several years, Air France has given Acting for Life the opportunity to publish an article in Air France Magazine each month about one of our projects, partner organizations or an important issue relating to sustainable economic and social development.

More than 400,000 copies are distributed each month to roughly one million readers, giving our partners and the communities we support a window to the world.

All of the articles are available on the Acting for Life website and on the Air France Magazine website.



THEORY AND PRACTICE

Drawing on its vast experience in international solidarity, Acting for Life takes part in discussions with its partners on current and future issues relating to development: sustainable development goals, climate change, food security and sovereignty, local economic and social development, etc. In an effort to develop solutions that address real issues, Acting for Life conducts studies that are directly linked to the regions and communities it supports.

All of our publications are available on our website.



« Informal work-study »

Case study of a professional-training project in Mali (Mopti region, Bandiagara).

Cédric TOUQUET - Acting for Life
(Inter réseaux, May 2017)



« Pastoral and agropastoral resilience in the Sahel »

Portraits of transhumance: 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 (Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger).

Brigitte THEBAUD, Nordic Consulting Group in collaboration with ISRA-BAM and CIRAD Dakar (June 2017)



« Study on food behavior in Lomé to identify ways to boost consumption of local products »

Summary report

CIRAD (June 2017)



« COP23: two years after the Paris Agreement, it's up to all of us to take action! »

Les notes de Sud N°7

Coordination SUD (November 2017)

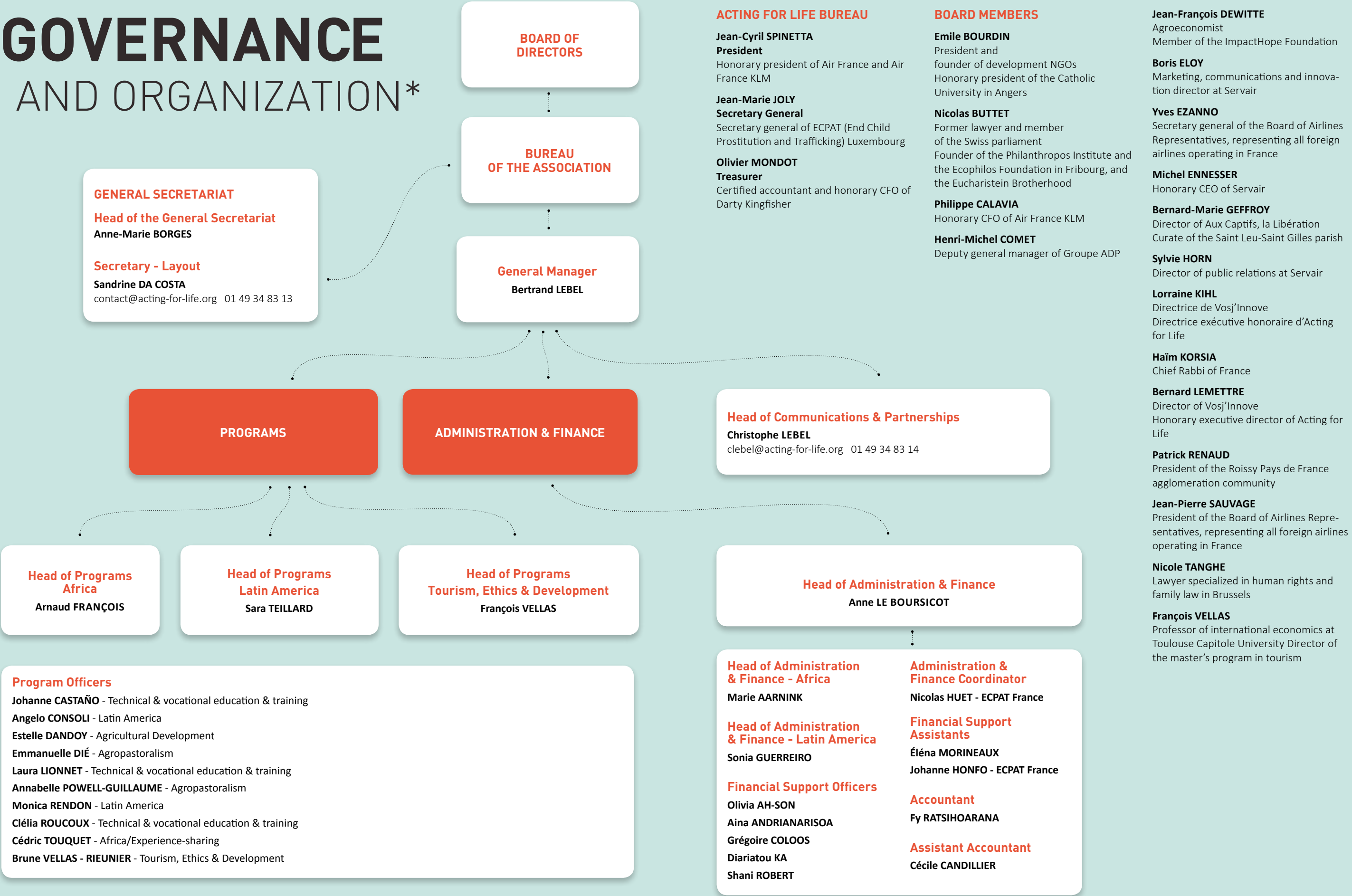


« Profiles and needs of young people who set up business independently »

A discussion of the situation in Africa

Entreprenreausud.org
Information portal of GRED in partnership with AFD
(November 2017)

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION*



* Organizational chart & governance at 26 June 2018

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

To ensure that its international solidarity and development programs run smoothly, Acting for Life has been working in partnership with GARD for over 30 years to provide human, financial and logistical support to its permanent partners.

ACCIR SAHEL	CALAO	INDE ESPOIR
ACTION SOLIDARITÉ DES PAYS OUBLIÉS	CLAIRE AMITIÉ – AMICLA	INTER AIDE
ADIE France	CODEGAZ	INTER – PI
ADRP Bénin	COMMUNAUTÉ DE L'AGNEAU	LACIM INDE
AFDI	CONGRÉGATION DES SOEURS DU CHRIST	LATITUDE FILM 16/35
AFRIQUE VERTE	CPAL	LES TROIS QUARTS DU MONDE
AGIR ABCD	DÉLÉGATION CATHOLIQUE POUR LA COOPÉRATION	LOUVAIN DÉVELOPPEMENT
AGRO ACTION ALLEMANDE - DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE	DOCTORS FOR DISABLED	O I P R
AGRONOMES ET VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES	EAU VIVE	PAFFA
AIDE MÉDICALE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT	EMMAÛS INTERNATIONAL	PALAVRA VIVA
AIDER	ENFANTS DU MEKONG	PLANÈTE URGENCE
À LA CROISÉE DES CHEMINS	ÉLECTRICIENS SANS FRONTIÈRES	PRISONNIERS SANS FRONTIÈRES
ALAD MALI	ESSOR	PS EAU
ALDEFI	FERT	PUITS DE JACOB
ALTER SANTÉ	FIDESCO	RAFOD
ALTERNATIVES SUD	FONDACIO	SANTÉ ET DÉVELOPPEMENT
ASAPAC	FONDATION DE L'ARCHE	S C D
ASHALAYAM	GRDR AFRIQUE	SCI AFRIQUE
ASS FORAGE MALI	IMPACT HOPE	SOLIDARITÉ LABORATOIRES
ATD QUART MONDE	INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT	SOLTHIS
BEN'ENFANCE		SOS SAHEL
		TECHNAP AFRIQUE
		TOLÉRANCE

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RENÉ LAPAUTRE 1930-2017

Noticing the fragility of the local non-profits in Haiti and Africa that we had been supporting since 1973, René Lapautre co-founded our organization in 1979. Back then, we were called Groupe d'Aide aux Réfugiés et personnes Déplacées (GARD), then Groupe Développement. René served several terms as president until 2017.

René Lapautre, then managing director of Air Inter, co-founded Acting for Life with the company's secretary-general Jacques Jourdet. Throughout his professional career, he played an active role in our NGO alongside many talented employees, helpers, personalities, company executives, sponsors and renowned experts. He had a strong character and was lively, full of humor and well-liked by other NGOs and Coopération Française Internationale. One of his biggest objectives was to help Acting for Life grow by supporting the poorest communities in the world's least-developed countries. Above all else, he believed in using the economy to serve fragile and vulnerable communities - especially refugees and displaced groups.



Overcome all obstacles in order to give to others, purely and simply out of love, without expecting anything in return - that was the vision of Raoul Follereau that his family knew so well. Focus on the essentials with actors in international cooperation and from the private sector—and in conjunction with the airline UTA, which he ran as CEO. The idea was to promote organizations in the South by recognizing them as drivers of development and not simply as beneficiaries with no future.

He helped create a unique approach, discussing ideas and working with actors from the North, sponsors, partners, etc. His charisma and his desire could move mountains. It was upon his initiative that a group was created for friends of our NGO, led by the president Léopold Sedar Senghor and comprising high-ranking individuals from the political and economic

spheres. He was always a powerful force within our NGO, making possible the

continued institutional support from Air Inter, Air Afrique, UTA and Air France. Jean-Cyril Spinetta, former CEO of Air-France, agreed to support our NGO over the long term. He has now taken over as-president, following in the footsteps of René Lapautre.

René's open speech, his sense of humor and his friendliness were a joy to all. Sometimes he spoke of Pascal, his philosophy and his faith. And if Pascal's Wager really does exist, we can be sure that he is now a part of that infinite love and peace. We'll meet again someday.

Thanks for everything!

OUR 4 AREAS OF EXPERTISE



Access to resources



Access to markets



Technical & vocational
education & training



Tourism, ethics &
development

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