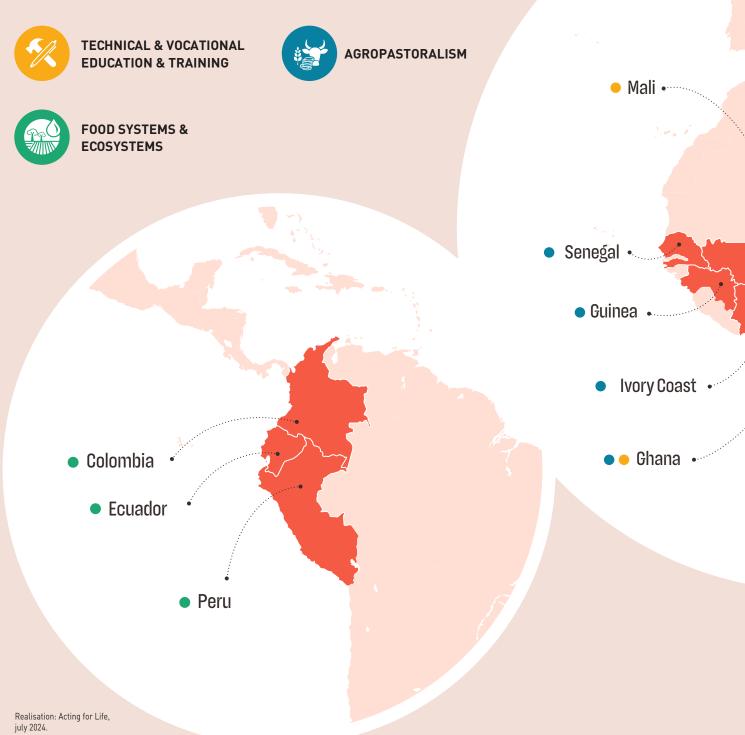


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



11 PROJECTS IN 12 COUNTRIES

3 AREAS OF FOCUS





+50 YEARS OF COMMITMENT

12 COUNTRIES ON TWO CONTINENTS
West Africa and Latin America

34 LOCAL PARTNERS IN 2023 from civil society: producer groups, cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, training centres, territorial and local authorities

11 PROJECTS IN 2023

2 NEW PROJECTS IN 2023

4 MILLIONS
BENEFICIARIES PER YEAR

28 EMPLOYEES

26 BOARD MEMBERS

7.1 MILLION €



Acting for Life incorporates the United Nations' Sustainable

Development Goals in the design of each project.



Togo



Benin •••



Burkina Faso

Niger •















REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUE

"Jean-Marie Joly was not the founder of our organisation, but for over four decades he was its driving force, its conscience, its soul. Our organisation was created by a group of airlines operating in Africa (Lufthansa, Sabena, British Airways) on the initiative of UTA and its chief executive, René Lapautre, who served as head of Groupe Développement. After witnessing

the tragic events in connection with decolonisation in Africa, these airlines came together and decided to take action to let organisations providing emergency assistance for refugees and displaced people use their means of cargo transport free of charge.

Jean-Marie Joly, who started off as a young flight attendant at Air Inter, quickly became secretary general of the organisation and felt that this assistance – though necessary – was not enough, and that long-term projects needed to be implemented to promote economic development in order to help vulnerable populations permanently escape poverty. He also believed that these projects needed to be carried out exclusively by local partners, supported financially but directly responsible for all actions contributing to the success of the projects. That approach is now relatively widespread, and even recommended. At the time, however, it was rare and expressed total confidence in the local actors, who were systematically consulted and empowered.

I met Jean-Marie Joly in 1991, when I was CEO of Air Inter. René Lapautre and Jean-Marie Joly asked me to serve as president of the organisation, and I accepted. For six years, from 1991 to 1997, I was president of the organisation that Jean-Marie Joly worked so hard to support and that was driven by his incredible tenacity, strength and ingenuity. Jean-Marie Joly was an extraordinary person: someone who could rouse your conscience, who tirelessly defended important causes and who devoted his entire life to serving the poor, no matter the cost to himself.

At his request, when I became CEO of Air France in 1997, I considerably increased Air France's support for the organisation. He then developed the organisation into what it is today. He was a faithful and loyal friend who could always be counted on. He was the one who came up with our organisation's motto: la vie, pas la survie ("not just survival, but life"). That motto perfectly summed up his goal: to work with poor communities and help them build a lasting foundation that will enable them to lead a dignified life. Staying true to that vision will help keep alive the memory of the man who was the driving force behind our organisation."

Tribute paid by Jean-Cyril Spinetta at the organisation's general meeting on 14 June 2023.



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Development is at the heart of what we do

We were saddened by the sudden death in April 2023 of our friend, Jean-Marie Joly, who worked from the outset of our organisation and throughout his entire life with extraordinary energy and dedication to structure our organisation and expand its reach. Jean-Marie would have been thrilled with our organisation's resilience in 2023, and with our continued strong partnerships, loyal to our motto: "not just survival, but life".

Acting for Life and its partners are now used to carrying out projects in different types of crisis situations (governance, security, climate, etc.), but in 2023 we faced an additional challenge: France's decision to suspend public aid to Burkina Faso in August 2023. We can understand suspending aid between governments in an unfavourable diplomatic context, but it is more difficult for us to understand suspending aid through non-governmental organisations. Our "PROFIL II" project, which supports 5,000 young people in Burkina Faso and proved to be effective in its first year¹, risked interruption as a result of the aid suspension, with a number of beneficiaries not yet having completed their training. After expressing our concern, we were ultimately given authorisation to carry out 80% of the project to completion, and permitted to use the 20% of unused loans for training initiatives in other neighbouring countries. I would like to thank the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Agence Française de Développement for this happy outcome, even though financially the suspension of activity led to a slight deficit for Acting for Life in 2023. Although diplomatic relations between France and current leaders of Sahel countries remain troubled, Acting for Life plans to continue to support local organisations by diversifying its financial resources, because we still firmly believe that local organisations must continue to be supported, especially in a context of crisis.

In 2023, the Board of Directors also welcomed two new members: Ms Florence Parly and Mr Jean-Marie Bockel, who also participated in a Bureau trip to Benin in October. The trip was a big success and was an opportunity to meet the heads of our partner organisations in Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso; to visit projects for the production and processing of agricultural products, and for the promotion and sale of local products; and to meet young people who are enrolled in specially designed training programmes and receiving individual monitoring.

As you will see in this year's Annual Report, 2023 saw the launch of several major projects, such as supporting training for young people and agropastoralism in the Gulf of Guinea, and preserving ecosystems in Colombia. These projects would not be possible without the support of our financial partners, and I would like to acknowledge and express gratitude for the new or renewed commitment of several international cooperation bodies and foundations. I would like to assure them that we are fully committed to achieving the defined objectives and to effectively reporting on their progress.



Jean-Cyril Spinetta **President**



AID LOCALISATION

As defined by the think tank URD2, "international aid localisation" involves rebalancing the system more in favour of national-level actors in order to take advantage of the strengths of its parts and improve partnership approaches within humanitarian and development initiatives. This concept is central to the strategy of Acting for Life (AFL), which could to a certain extent be summarised as follows: "to promote the development of skills at local level, instead of outsourcing those skills!".

In order to avoid overlap - a form of competition with local civil-society organisations (CSO) - Acting for Life has strategically decided not to have local offices in West Africa or Latin America. Projects are monitored by carrying out missions in the field on a regular basis. Relationships are developed with partner organisations and institutions in the countries where projects are carried out, with a view to helping those partners become technically and financially autonomous. This is achieved through much hard work to develop the necessary technical, administrative and financial skills, and by introducing these partners to public authorities and major international funding agencies.

Through its projects, Acting for Life applies the seven criteria for aid localisation defined by the advocacy programme **Shifting the power**.

Funding: a large portion transferred directly to

On average, 65% of project budgets are placed directly under the responsibility of partner organisations.

Partenerships: less subcontracting, greater equitableness

Sub-contracting of local civil-society organisations (CSO) is prohibited in projects coordinated by Acting for Life. Partnerships are effective from a technical standpoint (joint creation of programmes) and financial standpoint (budget sufficient for the role and volume of activities to be performed by each partner).

Capacities: institutional development, not underestimating or weakening partners through its actions

Organisations partnered with AFL are supported in their institutional development. This includes institutional support (support for the organisation's strategic thinking, administrative and financial support).

> **Revolutionising participation** in the affected communities

Participation of beneficiaries is ensured by local organisations during the project's diagnostic phases, and is also part of the activities carried out during the project. AFL's local approach involves working with partners to help them move towards a system where governance is shared between local actors. This is achieved by organising workshops to discuss and decide where to make structural investments, or by organising workshops to teach local authorities about the financial impact of transhumance.



Acting for Life provides sector-specific expertise and technical support. AFL oversees coordination of the technical and budgetary aspects of its programmes, and the local partners coordinate implementation of the programme activities in their respective localities. In some areas, this role may be shared with local authorities and their joint bodies, particularly through the creation of joint local authority groups.

Visibility: role, results and innovations of national

Local partners carry out project activities directly in the field on their own behalf and on behalf of the consortium. This is an important point: the activities are carried out by local CSOs and not by local people employed by an international NGO. This encourages local civil-society actors to remain in areas where land management is disputed by non-state armed groups.

Influencing policy: national actors have a stronger presence and influence in international-policy discus-

Local partners are systematically included in meetings with the ministries in question. They also participate in all meetings and assessments with technical and financial partners (TFPs). This emphasis on local partners may lead to direct contracts between those partners and TFPs, such as the partnership between RECOPA and Agence française de développement (AFD) for the PSAE project in Burkina Faso, and the partnership between GIC, UDOPER and AFD for the PADAC project in Benin.

> Under the new AFD directives favourable to local CSOs, Acting for Life worked with four partner CSOs - GEVAPAF and ETD in Togo, AREN in Niger, IMCA in Colombia - to help them directly propose projects to AFD. Thanks to that support, two of those organisations - GEVAPAF and ETD - have already finalised the examination process, and their projects were co-funded. Those organisations will therefore have direct contracts with AFD.

> In 2023, AFL strengthened its commitment to aid localisation in two ways. First, through its participation in workshops and seminars, Acting for Life called on institutional donors to incorporate criteria requiring aid localisation into their guiding principles. AFL proposed the creation of a measure for controlling how much of the budget goes to local partner organisations. Second, AFL proposed that consortiums should comprise a ratio of one international NGO for every three national NGOs.

² Groupe URD is an independent think tank specialising in the analysis of practices and the development of policies for humanitarian action and the management of fragility.

1981

GARD France becomes Groupe d'Aide aux Réalisations pour le Développement ('group in support of development work').





GARD becomes Groupe Développement.

2002

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



With countries in the South facing major economic and social challenges, airline-industry workers teamed up with company executives to found Groupe d'Aide aux Réfugiés et personnes Déplacés ('group in support of refugees and displaced persons', or GARD), a French non-partisan, non-religious NGO that promotes international solidarity. It focuses primarily on promoting economic development in vulnerable communities.

1991

GARD organises, in collaboration with UTA and GARD Belgium, travel and a commodation for the 150 people who participated in the Cotonou Agreement. Through this logistical support, the organisation played a role in helping strengthen NGOs.

1994

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

2011

Acting for Life refocuses on its projects in support of local economic development and transfers its child-protection projects to ECPAT France.

51 years after the association was founded, the teams of Acting for Life continue to pursue the same ambition: to build the means for a dignified life over the long term, for and with local populations.



Acting for Life's teams, September 2023

2015

Acting for Life commits to pursuing key sustainable-development objectives and undertakes strategic planning to redefine its framework for intervention, shifting focus to the ecological transition. Particularly by developing projects to help people

adapt to climate change based on ecosystems ('EbA' approach) integrating the different components (social, economic and environmental) of economic development.

Manger

Magazine Air France, Amirila SAE jameire bir sine berse

To boost its visibility at international level, Groupe Développement becomes Acting for Life: La vie, pas la survie ('not just survival, but life').



ACTING FOR LIFE A.R 2023

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LOCAL LEVEL TO PROMOTE THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

ACTING FOR LIFE'S MISSION

Founded 51 years ago, Acting for Life is a non-partisan, non-religious french NGO dedicated to promoting international solidarity. It seeks to combat poverty by encouraging the emergence of local organisations that are capable of overcoming the challenges posed by exclusion and climate change in West Africa and Latin America.

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL COMMUNITIES IN OUR TARGET COUNTRIES

Climate change and biodiversity loss are major challenges for all countries, and particularly for the least developed countries. They increase the fragility of the most exposed communities and reduce their ability to utilise and create value from local biodiversity. Acting for Life (AFL) has developed skills, savoir-faire and partnerships in three areas that each play a role in combating economic and social vulnerability while also promoting the ecological transition.

• Improving food sovereignty by supporting the sustainable management of natural resources

In response to the urgent need to address climate change and widespread malnutrition, Acting for Life implements nature-based solutions that help preserve, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems, and is working to transition food systems (agroecological model, short supply chains, local consumption) in order to improve food security.

• Promoting training and professional and social integration for young people

To address challenges relating to the employability of young people aged 16 to 25, AFL carries out 'TVET' projects (technical and vocational education and training) to facilitate access to professional training for young people in rural areas, help instructors improve their skills and promote the recognition of professional qualifications among institutional actors (ministries) in order to help young people become integrated into the job market.

• Developing the agropastoral sector

The livestock sector plays a vital economic and social role in rural areas. It is an essential source of income and jobs in West Africa. It is also instrumental in combating environmental degradation and promoting family eco-agriculture. AFL therefore supports cross-border transhumance through better access to agropastoral amenities and livestock marketing, in order to strengthen social cohesion between different communities and actors in rural areas.

In those three areas, Acting for Life is taking concrete steps to combat poverty and exclusion, and is helping address issues relating to global warming.

Since 1973, Acting for Life has sought to support the organisations based in its target countries in order to ensure that they are fully operational, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle.

CLIMATE: OUR CONCRETE ACTIONS TO HELP ADVANCE THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

No country is spared from the consequences of climate change, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that there could be 250 million climate refugees worldwide by 2050. The most vulnerable populations – mainly in Africa and Latin America – will be severely affected. Moreover, economic, social and gender inequality worldwide make the situation even more complex.

In response to the threat that climate change poses for our societies, Acting for Life remains committed to supporting the ecological transition to help the climate by identifying areas where it can lessen its impact (reducing its carbon footprint by optimising transport, reducing energy consumption at the head office, etc.), and by improving the positive impact of its projects, which are its main focus.

FOOD SYSTEMS AND ECOSYSTEMS

By re-establishing ecosystem services and protecting biodiversity, sustainable food systems become more resilient against the effects of climate change and have many positive impacts on the environment, while boosting income from product sales.

TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

In the countries where Acting for Life carries out its projects, the challenges of the ecological transition are generating new demand for training and creating opportunities for professional integration in many business sectors. The development of innovative training programmes in "green" construction sectors (renewable energies, sustainable construction, plumbing, electricity) and in agroecology helps encourage young people in rural areas towards a sustainable economic activity.

AGROPASTORALISM

By promoting livestock mobility, which is intrinsic to ruminant farming in West Africa, Acting for Life supports a beef-production system that is resilient to climate change and well adapted to fodder production in the Sahel, and that also helps preserve biodiversity. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), "pastoralism is one of the most sustainable food systems on the planet.³" It plays a major role in the preservation of ecosystems and in the management of natural resources. Livestock farming helps mitigate the effects of climate change thanks in particular to the carbon sequestered by pastureland.

GENDER INEQUALITY: INCLUDING WOMEN IN OUR PROJECTS

Acting for Life strives to reduce gender inequality and strengthen the economic impact of its projects by ensuring that women are included more and have greater decision-making power as both contributors to and beneficiaries of those projects. Addressing gender inequality has become an integral part of our projects in the following three ways:

- In accordance with its model, Acting for Life ensures that this issue is supported by its partners. Cultural and social aspects are vitally important, and these changes can only be driven by actors promoting development at local level. AFL works with its partners to help them gradually increase the proportion of women in their governance bodies and among their salaried staff.
- Acting for Life and its partners identify effective ways to reduce gender inequality. The projects valorise "feminised" trades and help young women gain access to professional training programmes where women are underrepresented. AFL supports them throughout their training and job search.
- Acting for Life measures the progress achieved in terms of female participation and its economic and social impacts. AFL then assesses women's interest in getting involved and asserting their rights, as well as acceptance among men within partner organisations and among the people supported in our projects to promote gender equality. These analyses aim to provide input for discussion on new projects, define partners' priorities in terms of gender equality, and facilitate the sharing of best practices.



³ Panorama McGahey, D., Davies, J., Hagelberg, N., et Ouedraogo, R., 2017. « Pastoralisme et économie verte – un lien naturel ? » UICN and PNUE

FOOD SYSTEMS & ECOSYSTEMS

WEST AFRICA

€5,411,555

TOTAL BUDGET for ongoing projects

PROJECTS IN 2023

LATIN AMERICA

PROJECTS IN 2023

TARGET

COUNTRIES

LOCAL **PARTNERS**

TARGET COUNTRIES

LOCAL **PARTNERS**

BACKGROUND

Global food insecurity is on the rise (40.9% in South America and 66.4% in West Africa4), aggravated by the effects of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Transitioning to more resilient and sustainable food systems and protecting ecosystems and biodiversity are key issues at the moment. Throughout the world, industrial agrifood models are showing signs of weakness. Their harmful effects on people and ecosystems are exacerbating climate change, devaluing trades, depleting soil fertility and reducing the quality and nutritional value of food.

Moreover, the lockdowns resulting from the health crisis and the inflationary context have served as a reminder to governments and local communities of the importance of strengthening food sovereignty and supporting local agriculture. Family farming, which produces 80% of the world's food⁵, and the development of local food systems, are solutions towards a better future for people and the planet.

AFL supports family farming and promotes nature-based solutions through its Food Systems and Ecosystems unit.

PROJECTS

The Food Systems and Ecosystems unit is working to address these challenges in Latin America and West Africa, with a focus on the following priorities:

- To protect ecosystems and biodiversity, and develop sustainable practices by applying measures for adapting to climate change that are based on ecosystems (protecting, restoring and sustainably managing ecosystems); by promoting agroecology, and by improving practices and ecological infrastructure across all segments of agricultural value chains.
- To improve the downstream segments of agricultural value chains and promote market access for peasant-farmer production by strengthening short supply chains, access to institutional markets and contractual farming; by promoting product certification and local labels; by pooling downstream value-chain functions; and by developing entrepreneurship in the social and solidarity-based economy.
- To facilitate cooperation between multiple actors at local level and the creation of local public policies that encourage the transition of agricultural and food systems as well as greater consideration of climate and environmental issues.





Promoting sustainable food by supporting the development of agroecological production and local consumption

2021 - 2024 • BENIN, BURKINA FASO, TOGO, COLOMBIA, PERU • Budget: €3,666,400 (€2,100,000 from AFD) • Financial partners: Agence française de développement (AFD), Air France, Servair, Communauté d'agglomération Roissy-Pays de France, Fondation AnBer, Fondation Bel, Fondation Ditumba, Fondation Girafe Formations under the aegis of the Fondation Caritas France, Fondation de France and the Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale

Key figures

7,495 PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS in family-farming settings (55% women)

YOUNG PEOPLE TARGETED for training and integration

1,820 ha OF PASTURE AND CULTIVATED LAND IN THE PROCESS OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION



n late 2021, Acting for Life launched the TERSAA programme in five countries to provide access to high-quality locally produced foods through better coordination between family farmers and local markets by gaining access to new diversified, fair and sustainable sales outlets and by helping professionalise value chains through better management of the downstream segments of those value chains. In the project's first 18 months, 21 business plans were developed, five storage and sale units were built and five individual trademarks were registered. Support was also provided for the agroecological transition (covering roughly 2,000

hectares) and quality improvement to help value chains better adapt to climate change and eating habits. Moreover, a wide range of local actors from the public and private sectors (including 5,000 children) have been informed about and mobilised on food-related issues in order to facilitate commercial partnerships and encourage the creation of public policies that support the transition of food systems. Three digital applications were developed for better coordination of supply and demand, and the mobilisation of actors led to nine commitments from public actors in support of local consumption and agroecology. Lastly, a joint experience assessment analysing marketing strategies is being conducted on both continents in collaboration with IRD (French national research institute for sustainable development).

PRODUCT CATEGORIES meet quality standards

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

BURKINA FASO: Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF – "Burkina Faso farmers' confederation") and OCADES Bobo-Dioulasso

BENIN: Groupement Intercommunal des Collines (GIC - "Intermunicipal group of the Collines department")

TOGO: Entreprises Territoires et Développement (ETD) and Organisation pour l'Alimentation et le Développement Local (OADEL - "Organisation for local foods and development")

PERU: Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO)

COLOMBIA: Instituto Mayor Campesino (IMCA) and Asociación de Productores Ecológicos de Planadas (ASOPEP -"Association of Organic Producers of Planadas")

DISTRI'SOLIDIAIRE: Solidarity-based distribution networks for the sale of local agricultural products

Supporting the development of local production and distribution systems

2022 - 2025 • BENIN • Budget: €234,998 • Financial partners: Air France, Fondation de France with the CFSI. Fondation Luciole

Key figures

SPECIALISED **SHOPS**

PRODUCTS WITH PGS ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

PROCESSORS (80% WOMEN)



n Benin, despite the country's large agricultural sector (27% of national GDP, 55% of the working population⁶), local production is struggling to meet demand (2.7% population growth⁶). Food security is a major issue. Small producers have little control in distribution channels, and local products are not sufficiently promoted compared with imported products. To address these

challenges, it is necessary to support the professionalisation of agrifood supply chains. The actions carried out as part of the Distri'Solidaire project aim to develop short, innovative and fair marketing channels in line with the principles of the social and solidarity-based economy by helping three shops specialising in the distribution of local products (development and implementation of business plans) professionalise the agrifood supply chain. By doing so, this project - which launched in 2021 - has enabled 34 food processors to receive training in quality and certification, and has helped secure four marketing authorisations by supporting ten facilities that process agricultural products. The project mobilises local actors for the sustainable development of food systems (participation in eight promotional events, website for ordering online, visit and tasting at a processing facility).

OUR LOCAL PARTNER

Hortitechs Développement, a Beninese NGO dedicated to promoting the adoption of agricultural technologies adapted to climate extremes, helping people adopt new alternatives for organic production, and supporting the emergence of competitive enterprises.

⁶ World Bank: Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) - Benin | Data (worldbank.org)

Improving environmental resilience and food sovereignty to mitigate the effects of climate change

2022 - 2024 • COLOMBIA • Budget: €215,909 • Financial partners: Air France, Acting for Life

he Zapatosa marsh is protected under the RAMSAR⁷ Convention because of the ecological benefits it provides: source of freshwater, reservoir of food and means of subsistence, capture and storage of greenhouse gases, biodiversity. The area is affected by climate change, and the local communities of fishermen, peasant farmers and Afro-descendants are vulnerable and impacted by extreme weather phenomena, such as floods and droughts. The ABA project, which ended in December 2023, implemented measures for adapting to climate change in order to protect and restore ecosystems. There were several achievements throughout the year: 250 people benefited from the reconfiguration of sylvopastoral systems to ensure respectful use of the land. The project also helped strengthen local capacities to improve food security and worked to restore degraded soils; 50 people participated in sessions to raise awareness about environmental education, targeting women and young people in particular. The continuation of the ABA project is scheduled to launch in January 2024 and will be called the SATER project - Participatory strategies for adapting to climate change to promote resilient ecosystems and communities. This three-year project will be co-funded by Agence française de développement (AFD).



330 BENEFICIARIES

50 HECTARES
RESTORED AND PROTECTED

50 AGROECOLOGICAL FAMILY VEGETABLE GARDENS

1 community arts centre SUPPORTED

1 community seed bank CREATED



OUR LOCAL PARTNER

For over 30 years, Fundación ALMA has been working to protect and preserve natural resources, particularly in the Magdalen River basin in northern Colombia. In 2023, it received the "Alejandro Ángel Escobar" National Award for solidarity for its work.

Key figures

1,800 USER FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS

126 BENEFICIARIES IN 11 ASSOCIATIVE ENTERPRISES LED BY WOMEN

DECENTRALISED AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENTS
FROM 4 PROVINCES IN THE NORTH OF ECUADOR

BIDA: Biodiversity, Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Water in the Chocó Darién region

Managing natural resources through the protection and conservation of ecosystems to ensure food security and access to water

2022 - 2025 • ECUADOR • Budget: €1,294,248 • **Financial partners:** the Delegation of the European Union in Ecuador, Air France

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Fundación ALTROPICO

Mancomunidad de Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados Provinciales de la Región Norte del Ecuador (MNE – Community of Autonomous Decentralised Provincial Governments of the Northern Region of Ecuador)

Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional

(NCI - "Nature and Culture International")

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica (MAATE – "Ministry for the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition")

Universidad Técnica del Norte

(UTN - "Technical University of the North")

hocó Darién, in northern Ecuador, is an area of global importance because of its biodiversity and watersheds. But its biodiversity is seriously threatened by deforestation, illegal logging, the construction of roads and the establishment of industrial monocultures. Weak institutional governance and limited participation of the people in the management of resources is also affecting the area. Poverty-stricken Afro-descendant and indigenous communities depend on these ecosystems for their livelihood. The BIDA project is carried out with partners from civil society and institutions, and it aims to improve the management of natural resources by strengthening actors – users and institutions – and by developing and applying environmental regulations. The project also strengthens economic initiatives to produce more foods and generate additional income for the local communities. In 2023, the project provided training for over 65 technicians on a methodology for watershed conservation, and created an inventory of conservation areas managed by local authorities in order to improve management and planning in those areas.

⁷ "The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, more commonly referred to as the Ramsar Convention, is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.", Ramsar Convention, fact sheet 6, 2015.



Supporting a transition to more resilient food systems

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Acting for Life works with rural communities and their organisations in West Africa and Latin America to help them gain access to and sustainably manage the natural, human, material and financial resources available in their area, thus promoting inclusive economic development.



Spreading our work through the success of our local partner

Fundación ALMA awarded for its commitment to preserving ecosystems in Colombia

On 11 October 2023, the Alejandro Ángel Escobar National Prize for solidarity was awarded to Fundación ALMA, our partner in Colombia. The organisation was recognised for having "generated processes for development and autonomy among the local populations and in the communities where the programmes are carried out." This award is great recognition for all the work that has been done by the NGO, who has been working with Acting for Life on the ABA and SATER projects, which aim to restore Colombia's Zapatosa marsh ecosystem.

Congratulations to our partner!

Improving environmental resilience and food sovereignty to mitigate the impact of climate change

Acting for Life continues its work in Colombia

Since 2019, Acting for Life and Fundación ALMA have been working together in Colombia on initiatives to restore the Zapatosa marsh ecosystem, by protecting and restoring dozens of hectares of tropical dry forests and riparian forests. The three-year SATER (French abbreviation for "participatory strategies for adapting to climate change to promote resilient ecosystems and communities") project is a continuation of the ABA project, which was carried out in Colombia until 2023. The project will directly support around 800 people (at least 55% women), including artisanal fishermen, peasant farmers and Afro-Colombian descendants. More broadly, the project will have an impact on 13,792 people in the municipalities of Chimichagua and La Gloria in northern Colombia.

 $\label{lem:https://acting-for-life.org/en/projets/sater-strengthening-the-environmental-resilience-and-food-sovereignty-of-territories-in-the-face-of-the-impacts-of-climate-change/$





Exchanges, experience assessment and reflection on future prospects between partners

TERSAA mid-project workshop: assessment of activities in Africa midway through the project

As part of the TERSAA programme, Acting for Life organised a mid-project workshop in Dassa (Benin) in April 2023, which brought together about fifty participants, partners involved in carrying out the programme and programme stakeholders. The goal of the workshop was to assess the programme's activities so far. The workshop gave partners and members of local communities an opportunity to exchange ideas, share their experiences and reflect on future prospects, and provided a framework to facilitate teamwork and knowledge-sharing. Several experts from IRD (French national research institute for sustainable development) were also in attendance and presented an analysis of the data collected by the programme. To make the programme more tangible, the producers and processors present at the workshop organised a tasting of local products for the participants. The workshop was a big success!

https://acting-for-life.org/en/tersaa-programme-interim-event-mid-term-review/

TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

€8,029,000

5 PROJECTS IN 2023 5 TARGET COUNTRIES

B LOCAL PARTNERS

TOTAL BUDGET for ongoing projects

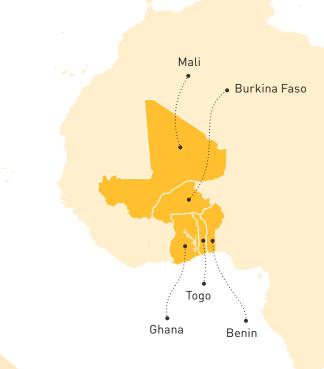
BACKGROUND

Africa's population is growing fast. By 2050, it could reach 2.4 billion, half of whom would be under 25 years old8. Although young people are a source of hope for each country, they still face major problems in terms of access to financial, social and political resources. This young population could be a real boon for the development of the continent, so long as it is supported by strong measures to bolster education, vocational training and job creation, and to underpin the social, political and citizenship aspects of youth development. Acting for Life believes in this vision and proposes projects that empower young people to become the drivers of their own change, and that help them integrate into environmentally friendly professions.

PROJECTS

To address the challenge of training young men and women and helping them integrate professionally, Acting for Life's projects seek to optimise access to high-quality training while offering more higher-paying professional opportunities for project beneficiaries by:

- Improving access to vocational training for young people who are isolated from training or schooling, or who are vulnerable or at risk of becoming vulnerable, by working with local actors (associations, training centres, local authorities) and by covering trainees' school fees throughout their training, providing trainees with the equipment they need to start working, tutoring trainees, and helping them develop cross-disciplinary skills in areas such as entrepreneurship, IT, the environment, gender equality, marketing, etc.
- Strengthening promising sectors that are labour-intensive (masonry, electricity, plumbing, agriculture, livestock farming), or supporting the ecological transition (sustainable construction, photovoltaics, agroecology).
- Helping young people integrate into the job market through innovative measures that ensure equal access to decent, stable jobs for both men and women, and that mobilise partnerships between public, private and social actors.
- Systematically taking steps to empower young women by helping them gain access to training, jobs and entrepreneurship.



Supporting the integration of young people through training, stronger social cohesion and reduction of gender inequality

2022 - 2025 • BURKINA FASO • Budget: €5,000,000 Financial partner: Agence française de développement (AFD)

he PROFIL II project aims to strengthen the development of vocational training in rural areas as an effective way to invigorate the economy and help communities become more resilient. The project is carried out in 17 communes in the Est region of Burkina Faso, where the security and food situation has degraded considerably

since 2018. In 2023, 1,555 young people between 18 and 35 years old, over 30% of whom were internally displaced persons, were given short-term practical training (5 to 20 days) in crop and livestock farming. The topics covered in the training were sesame production, sweet-potato production, grain production, poultry farming and livestock fattening. In addition to these trade-specific training programmes, the young people received training in areas to help with the development of their activity, such as production of feed for animals, agroecological practices, entrepreneurship advice, etc. Two years into the project, roughly 3,700 young people have received support in terms of training and professional integration. Nearly 16,000 applications (11,000 from women) were received and processed, which shows that young people are looking for support in the development of their professional activity.

Key figures

YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING TRAINING

50% men and women 30% internally displaced persons

PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM EXCLUSION

were supported in the strengthening and/ or creation of an economic activity

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Association de Recherche et de Formation Agroécologique (ARFA

- "Association for agroecological research and training") aims to promote agroecological practices and protect the environment. It was instrumental in helping create the national organic farming council (CNABio), which is an umbrella entity grouping together actors in organic/environmentally friendly farming.

Réseau de communication sur le pastoralisme (RECOPA -"Communication network for pastoralism") operates in Burkina Faso to help pastoralists, rural communities and local authorities discuss issues relating to pastoralism.

Association Tin Tua (TIN TUA)



Supporting training and professional integration to ensure the socio-economic development of local areas

2022 – 2025 • BENIN, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, TOGO • Budget: €1,473,289 (TVET) Financial partners: Agence française de développement, Air France, Nexans

n the northern regions of the coastal countries, investment enabling the creation of opportunities for young people through professional

Togo, 15 young people received training in agricultural practices, and 15

Key figures

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES SUPPORTED

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURE

training and integration is either low or not adapted to the job market. This, in combination with the current context of insecurity, means that young people are not able to plan for the future. Professional training also faces a number of hurdles: training centres located in urban areas, limited capacity, obsolescence of training manuals, lack of equipment and qualification for instructors, etc. As part of the PARCS project, Acting For Life and its partners are working to set up a comprehensive mechanism that includes everything from selecting young people for six-month training programmes in promising trades in construction and agriculture, to helping those young people integrate professionally. The young people, who are marginalised from the professional world with little schooling or no job, are supported throughout their training and during the professional-integration process. They are provided with technical training and cross-disciplinary courses – life skills, entrepreneurship – and are monitored monthly during training and post-training. In 2023, 30 young people in Ghana received training in beekeeping, and 30 in electricity. 60 other young people began training in plumbing and market gardening. In

others in photovoltaic electricity.

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

BENIN: the Association des Communes de l'Atacora et de la Donga (ACAD - "Association of Atacora and Donga regions"), through its role in capacity-building and facilitating dialogue between the 13 towns that it comprises, helps mobilise communities and promote the development of the stonework sector

TOGO: the NGO Gestion de l'Environnement et Valorisation des Produits Agropastoraux et Forestiers (GEVAPAF - "Managing the environment and promoting agropastoral and forest products"), specialises in sustainable development, agroecology and the promotion of

GHANA: the NGO Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA) provides citizens from disadvantaged communities and marginalised people in northern Ghana with the means to work towards social, political and economic development. It is committed to sound environmental practices for sustainable living.

training and integration in sustainable construction

New challenge: to build on the current momentum of sustainable construction

Key figures

153 YOUNG ARTISANS from the previous class of students

YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVED TRAINING (20 to 30% women)

4 VOCATIONAL TRAINING centres supported

he MADE project aims to give vulnerable young people in northern Togo and northern Benin access to training in masonry and sustainable construction, to help them integrate professionally and to advocate for the use of local materials in construction projects. In 2023, 40 young people pursued training in masonry as part of a CAP (professional competence certificate) or brevet technique (technical diploma) programme, and 15 young people received training in sustainable construction as part of a six-month programme. Three training centres were strengthened with masonry equipment. Professional-integration support was provided through several mechanisms: job-search training, purchases of equipment, field-school projects and additional training, with specific support for young women. The young people who received training through the MADE project and previous projects were supported by ACAD and GEVAPAF. Some chose to pursue further studies, and others are involved in masonry projects on a regular basis (paving roads, constructing buildings, etc.). One strong focus of the MADE project was its support for institutional procurement, with the creation of a fund to be used to provide joint funding for the construction of public works using local materials. The fund was used to help build an improved apatam (covered patio) at a health centre in Togo.

2022 – 2025 • BENIN, TOGO • Budget: €933,657 Financial partners: Agence française de développement (AFD), Fondation Girafe formations, Fondation AnBer, Air France

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

BENIN: the Association des Communes de l'Atacora et de la Donga (ACAD – "Association of Atacora and Donga regions"), through its role in capacity-building and facilitating dialogue between the 13 towns that it comprises, helps mobilise communities and promote the development of the stonework sector.

TOGO: the NGO Gestion de l'Environnement et Valorisation des Produits Agropastoraux et Forestiers (GEVAPAF – "Managing the environment and promoting agropastoral and forest products"), specialises in sustainable development, agroecology and the promotion of local resources.





MADE-M: Masons of tomorrow: training and integration in sustainable construction in Mali

Reinforcing the professional integration of young people in the construction industry

2022 – 2025 • MALI • Budget: €240,000 • **Financial partners:** Acting for Life funds, Agence française de développement (AFD) from september to november 2022

Key figures

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 25 TRAINED

20 people benefiting from training leading to a diploma and 24 people benefiting from short training leading to a qualification

30 VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

trained in recycling in sustainable-construction after having been trained in construction

OUR LOCAL PARTNER

The mission of the Association pour la Promotion de l'Agropastoralisme, du Pastoralisme et de l'Elevage / Promotion Humaine (APAPE/PH – "Association for the promotion of agropastoralism, pastoralism, livestock farming and human advancement") is to support pastoralism and facilitate the management of natural resources. It is particularly concerned with supporting young people in a region beset by security problems that compromise their economic and social prospects.

cting for Life has been working in Mali with APAPE-PH since 2015 on agropastoralism and professional-training projects. Despite France's discontinuation of public development aid for Mali in 2022, AFL decided to continue this project using its own funds. The training activities for masonry and sustainable construction therefore continued in 2023 for 74 young men and women. To facilitate and ensure the professional integration of project beneficiaries, APAPE-PH's teams monitor over 100 young people each month, including those who received training during previous phases since 2015. Additional training, assistance with structuring, provisions of equipment, training in business creation and procurement procedures, etc. are all mechanisms that help us ensure the socioeconomic integration of young people. For example, an economic interest group won a large contract for the construction of production facilities for infant flour, funded by the World Food Programme (WFP). A field-school project to tile the Bandiagara regional museum was also completed, mobilising 12 young people over a 14-day period. The MADE-M project will come to an end in 2025, and a major effort is underway to ensure the longevity of its achievements. This materialised in 2023 with the validation of sustainableconstruction modules after years of advocacy and discussions with all involved parties.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Through the implementation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) projects, Acting for Life and its partners have been examining ways to help young people become drivers of their own lives and get involved in their community by working on aspects such as citizenship and social cohesion.



Improving the employability of young people through training, and promoting local development New opportunities for young people in Ghana

On 11 November 2023, 30 young people trained in electricity and 30 young people trained in beekeeping received their diplomas at a ceremony organised by our local partner, Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA). Over the course of the year, the 60 trainees followed a work/study programme with a classroom component at a training centre, and a hands-on component supervised by apprenticeship supervisors. Thanks to the committed efforts of our partners, 240 young men and women will receive training by 2025 in market gardening, poultry farming, processing of agricultural products, plumbing and other construction-related trades.

https://acting-for-life.org/en/employability-of-young-people-inghana-ensuring-regional-development/

GROUPE FIP

Analysing the environmental impact of the sectors supported

The Groupe FIP ("TVET Group") was founded in 2014 and comprises various NGOs such as Apprentis d'Auteuil, Acting for Life, Essor, GRET and IECD. The group makes it possible for organisations to discuss with one another on a regular basis in order to improve their practices and come up with concrete solutions to strengthen the quality of their work. In 2023, the TVET Group worked on the environmental impact of the supply chains supported in TVET projects. A diagnostic tool was developed and tested in Benin with young processors and livestock farmers who received training and assistance in setting up their business through the TERSAA project. It enabled them to identify the potential impacts of their activity on the environment and assess the impacts that climate change will have on their trade. Taking a "solution-focused approach", the young people identified measures to apply to their activity: use of organic fertilisers, recyclable packaging, use of organic





Suspension of development aid to Burkina Faso

PROFIL II project temporarily suspended due to the security context

On 6 August 2023, the French government decided to suspend development aid to Burkina Faso. That decision had a big impact on the PROFIL II project and significantly slowed activity. The project had aimed to train 2,426 young people in 2023, but only 1,555 were able to receive training. The activities to financially revitalise 300 internally displaced female heads of household were suspended, as were the activities seeking to reduce gender inequalities and strengthen social cohesion. The announcement of the project's resumption in early 2024 allowed our partners to remobilise to revive some of the suspended activities. Despite the impact of this suspension, the project is continuing and will be completed in January 2025.

AGROPASTORALISM

€5,238,168

6 PROJECTS IN 2023 6 TARGET COUNTRIES

12 LOCAL PARTNERS

TOTAL BUDGET for ongoing projects

BACKGROUND

In a context where West Africa is feeling the effects of climate change and facing a complex security crisis, pastoralism and agropastoralism – a production technique that combines both crop and livestock farming – represent a strong link between Sahel and coastal countries. This system of livestock farming is a strategic economic sector for West Africa. It accounts for 69% of income in rural parts of the Sahel⁹.

PROJECTS

Acting for Life has played a major role in supporting agropastoralism over the past 50 years and has been officially recognised for its expertise for nearly 20 years. Our organisation promotes the development of mobile livestock farming by facilitating access to agropastoral amenities and market infrastructure. AFL works with civil-society organisations (CSO), local authorities and joint local authority groups to coordinate projects in West Africa to help communities become more resilient and support local development through better redistribution of profits from the sale of livestock. More specifically, Acting for Life helps:

- Ease tensions linked to mobile livestock farming by working to raise awareness and advocate for peaceful mobility: informed debates involving multiple actors on issues relating to the sector, introduction of tools to help with decision-making, such as mapping, statistical data on market infrastructure, etc.
- Supporting refugee livestock farmers in the north of coastal countries: food distribution, distribution of fodder for animals, construction of water points in areas of animal concentration, etc.
- Secure herd mobility by creating agropastoral amenities: marking off corridors for animal transport, securing rest and grazing areas, building watering places and providing services for agropastoralists (animal health and feed).
- **Develop the marketing of livestock** by building market infrastructure, such as livestock markets and loading platforms.
- Support the socio-economic development of rural areas by boosting the economic benefits offered by the sector, especially local tax revenues.
- Facilitate joint local governance by strengthening collaboration between civil-society organisations, local authorities and State representatives.

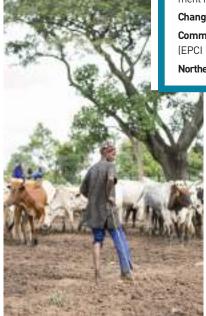


Improving social cohesion and strengthening the resilience of livestock farmers by facilitating dialogue between communities

2022 – 2025 • BENIN, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, TOGO • Budget: €1,026,711 (agropastoralism) **Financial partners:** Agence française de développement (AFD), Air France

he overall objective of the PARCS project is to strengthen social cohesion in strategic cross-border areas. In these cross-border areas, certain marginalised communities do not benefit from local economic development, and are rarely included in discussion and decision-making forums. Within those communities,

young people and livestock farmers deserve particular attention. The offer of training for young people is relatively limited, which effectively excludes them from becoming integrated professionally. More importantly, recent policy decisions by coastal countries to limit (Togo and Ghana), and in some cases ban, livestock mobility have increased conflicts between crop and livestock farmers and stoked tensions between communities. Through three main results, the PARCS project aims to help young people and livestock farmers become more resilient and participate more in decision-making forums. In carrying out the project, Acting for Life has two areas of focus: training and professional integration, and agropastoralism, in order to better address the needs of and challenges facing local communities in the four countries covered by the project. In 2023, eight informed debates were organised, and 13 dialogue forums were created. In addition, four operational monitoring and alert systems are active in four areas covered by the project.



OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles des Éleveurs de Ruminants (ANOPER – National Association of Professional Organisations of Ruminant Breeders)

Réseau de communication sur le pastoralisme (RECOPA – "Communication network for pastoralism")

Convention Intercommunale pour le Développement Local des Savanes (CIDeLS – "Inter-municipal Agreement for the Local Development of the Savannah")

Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP)

Communauté de Communes de la Pendjari

(EPCI - Pendjari Community of Communes)

Northern Ghana Inter-Municipality Cooperation (NorGIC)

Key figures

17 INFORMED DEBATES ORGANISED discussion sessions on livestock trade issues

56 FORUMS FOR DIALOGUE

28 LOCAL MONITORING RELAYS

DATABASES
on the integration and dynamism of the livestock sector



REPOT: Resilience of rural populations in the cross-border region covering northeastern Guinea, western Burkina Faso and northern Ivory Coast

Strengthening social cohesion and helping rural communities in cross-border areas become more resilient

2022 – 2024 • BURKINA FASO, IVORY COAST, GUINEA • Budget: €1,516,500 • **Financial partner:** Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the french Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

3 JOINTLY MANAGED EMERGENCY FUNDS

30,000

HEAD OF LIVESTOCK OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND LOCALS VACCINATED

1,100 FIRST-AID KITS DISTRIBUTED

TONNES OF PROVISION DISTRIBUTED

he local economy of the cross-border area covering Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Guinea is driven mainly by the agricultural sector (agriculture, livestock farming, fishing) and cross-border trade, with the livestock-meat sector playing a dominant role. Since 2020, the security situation along the border between Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast has degraded, which is having a significant impact on the livelihoods of people in rural communities. The REPOT project is strengthening social cohesion between communities by helping rural cross-border communities become more resilient, particularly crop farmers and agropastoralists living in vulnerable situations. In 2023, community and territorial management and decision-making schemes focusing on livestock mobility were strengthened through nine capacity-building sessions for local actors, the creation of 575 identity cards, the creation of 61 monitoring and alert systems, and 11 dialogue forums. The project also supported the livelihoods of communities made even more vulnerable by the effects of insecurity by creating seven agropastoral amenities through labour-intensive works mobilising 710 local workers, and supporting 22 village savings and loan associations and income-generating activities. That support was also provided through the distribution of 335 small-ruminant kits, health coverage and the creation of ten agropastoral watering points.

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme (RECOPA)

Association des Éleveurs de bovins de la Région de Boukani (AEBRB – "Association of cattle breeders in the Boukani region")

Organisation Professionnelle des Éleveurs de Ferkessédougou (OPEF – "Professional Organisation of livestock farmers in Ferkessedougou")

Fédération Régionale des Éleveurs de la Filière Bétail-Viande de Kankan (FREFBV-K – "Kankan Regional Federation of Livestock and Meat Breeders")



OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships (CLIP) is a rural development programme that aims to strengthen the self-help capacities and improve the living conditions of people in rural communities in the northern region of Ghana.

Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme (RECOPA)

Key figures

2 WATERING POINTS BUILT

2 LOCAL INTERVENTION FUNDS USED

19 INFORMED DEBATES ORGANISED



SAPSOC3: Supporting agropastoralism to reinforce social cohesion in the cross-border territories Ghana - Burkina Faso

Supporting agropastoralism to strengthen social cohesion in cross-border areas

2023 – 2024 • BURKINA FASO, GHANA • Budget: €474,957
Financial partners: Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, Air France

he SAPSOC 3 project aims to work with state actors and targeted communities within the cross-border agropastoral territory between Burkina Faso and Ghana in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to threats of a multidimensional crisis: economic and social. More specifically, the project has made local communities in the cross-border territory better prepared and provided them with tools to help them anticipate, manage and respond to crises at local level. Thanks to the SAPSOC 3 project, the false and prolific perceptions concerning livestock farmers and the Fulani community have been deconstructed, in order to strengthen social cohesion and prepare communities in the north for the arrival of communities of refugee livestock farmers. Moreover, the collection of information and data is formalised to feed into an early alert system specifically targeting the pastoral sector. The project also supports the analysis and dissemination of that information to the main stakeholders. Funds for local initiatives will enable them to respond to alerts received through the early alert system. Moreover, a system for closely monitoring the pastoral sector should allow for the creation of 50 community monitoring relays and 14 dialogue forums. Lastly, competition for resources is reduced. Thanks to better access to water, communities vulnerable to the effects of insecurity are able to enjoy a better standard of living.

PAP-Bio Comoé: Project promoting sustainable, participatory and integrated management in order to preserve biodiversity in the regions along the periphery of the Comoé National Park

Preserving the biodiversity of the Comoé National Park in Côte d'Ivoire

2019 – 2023 • IVORY COAST • Budget: €2,220,000 • **Financial partners:** European Union, Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial (FFEM "French Facility for Global Environnement"). Air France

Key figures

170 KM OF CATTLE TRACKS SECURED & DEVELOPED

VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS trained and equipped

5 PASTORAL DAMS CONSTRUCTED



ural areas in the north of the country are experiencing growing pressure, which has been exacerbated by the arrival of a large number of refugees and their herds, who are fleeing armed insecurity in the Sahel countries. Forest reserves and protected areas around the Comoé National Park are seeing a rise in tensions. Acting for Life is working in collaboration with OPEF and VSF-B to ensure sustainable management of pastoral grazinglands, with the aim of encouraging inclusive economic development. The planned outputs

OUR LOCAL PARTNER

The Organisation Professionnelle des Éleveurs de Ferkessédougou (OPEF – "Professional Organisation of livestock farmers in Ferkessedougou") helps improve living and working conditions for livestock farmers, transhumant livestock farmers and other actors in the livestockmeat sector by raising awareness about best practices in livestock farming.

OUR CROSS DISCIPLINARY PARTNERS

Nitidæ designs and carries out projects that seek to promote environmental preservation and strengthen local economics in Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Ivory Coast.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B) helps people improve their live stockfarming through political advocacy, emergency aid, water-management assistance and improvements in animal health.

were finalised during the last six months of the project. A total of 170 km of cattle tracks were fully marked to guide mobile livestock farmers outside the Comoé National Park and nearby protected areas. All the pastoral amenities adjacent to the different sections of the marked cattle tracks were also completed in order to facilitate the feeding, watering and security of herds when they are being moved: 5 pastoral dams, 8 grazing and rest areas, 2 vaccination stations and 4 night pens. The 13 veterinary paraprofessionals who have been trained and equipped since 2022 are also continuing to provide veterinary care for livestock.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

AFL works with its partner organisations and local authorities to coordinate regional-level projects in order to help communities become more resilient and support local development through better redistribution of profits from the sale of livestock. This strategy makes it possible to sustainably integrate the livestock sector into the socio-economic landscape in rural areas.



Pastoral dams have a positive impact on the life of local and transhumant populations in northern Ivory Coast

Our partners are building large-scale pastoral infrastructure that provides many services

Six new pastoral dams were completed in 2023. Thanks to various sources of funding (PAMOBARMA and PAP-Bio Comoé projects funded by the European Union, and REPOT project funded by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs), Acting for Life and its partners in Ivory Coast, OPEF and AEBRB, renovated and/or built 14 large-scale pastoral dams. These works facilitate the watering of local and transhumant livestock, especially during the dry season, as the water is permanently available. They also offer multiple advantages, such as the creation of secure market gardens, the production of mudbricks and the accomplishment of domestic tasks. To amplify the local economic benefits and ensure the upkeep, management and longevity of the infrastructure while respecting its original purpose, there are plans to introduce fish larvae to repopulate the fish stock once or twice a year.

Support for displaced Burkinabe people in Ivory Coast

Mobilising our partners through the distribution of food and first-aid kits

The REPOT – Resilience of rural populations in the cross-border region covering northeastern Guinea, western Burkina Faso and northern Ivory Coast— project addresses more than ever the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable displaced populations in Ivory Coast and the households that accommodate them. Throughout 2023, our partners were working actively in these efforts. In October, OPEF (Professional Organisation of Livestock Farmers in Ferkessedougou) distributed food (rice and corn) and other supplies (kettles, containers, soaps, buckets, basins, mats) to 216 asylum–seeking households and host populations in Tépogovogo, in the sub–prefecture of Ferkessédougou, through the jointly managed funds mechanism that was put in place as part of the REPOT project.

AEBRB (Association of Cattle Farmers in the Bounkani Region) also worked in collaboration with technical services to provide veterinary care to 850 head of cattle in the town of Téhini following alerts from community monitoring relays of an animal-disease outbreak that claimed several victims.





INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Acting for Life is partnered with several public institutions that contribute to development aid and humanitarian aid. This long-term partnership, involving significant amounts of funding, is vital when it comes to addressing major issues such as climate change, poverty, exclusion and conflicts in West Africa and Latin America.



A public institution at the heart of France's developmentaid system, the Agence française de développement (AFD) has been working since 1941 to reduce poverty and promote development. AFD is a long-standing financial partner of Acting for Life in West Africa and Latin America. Through its support, AFD plays a role in the emergence of large-scale regional and national programmes addressing issues such as sustainable and local economic development in all of Acting for Life's areas of focus.



In 2017, the Roissy Pays de France Agglomeration Community 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 importance of international solidarity led to their decision to launch the partnership. Roissy Pays de France committed to supporting the economic and local development of vulnerable communities in Latin America and West Africa.



DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES (Aben) (April) (Aben) (Aben)

The Crisis and Support Centre (Centre de Crise et de Soutien, or "CDCS") of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs monitors, anticipates, issues alerts for and manages crises that arise in foreign countries and that require either reaction to events posing a threat to the security of French nationals abroad, or an emergency humanitarian response. It is also in charge of supporting the post-crisis stabilisation process. The CDCS works with Acting for Life in West Africa.



The Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is committed to supporting sustainable development and reducing poverty around the world. Renowned for its expertise in the Sahel region, Acting for Life has been receiving support from FCDO since 2013 for its projects addressing livestock-mobility issues and promoting development of the livestock sector in West Africa.



The European Union develops policies to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, democracy, peace and security throughout the world. 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.

For years, Acting for Life has partnered with experts and research centres in Europe, and is a member of French and international "trades" networks.

- Coordination Humanitaire et Développement, Coordination SUD, Pastoralist Knowledge Hub of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Inter-réseaux.
- IRD (Institut de recherche pour le développement), CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement), ARED (Associates in Research and Education for Development), NCG (Nordic Consulting Group), Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme, ESSEC, Toulouse Capitole University, Catholic University of Louvain (Belgique).

We would like to thank all our partners for their past, present and future support to help combat poverty and exclusion of vulnerable people in Africa and Latin America.

PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Over the past several years, Acting for Life has developed strong relationships with its private financial partners, which include companies, corporate foundations, family foundations and large donors. The support from our sponsors is instrumental in allowing us to launch pilot projects and trial new approaches that can be subsequently scaled up and co-funded by public funding agencies.



Air France has been a key 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 programmes to support economic and local development, small crop and livestock farmers, and technical and vocational education and training in the communities that need it most. Air France's support has provided real economic leverage and has made it possible to carry out innovative projects and introduce large-scale programmes with partner public institutions. Air France supports our work both financially and logistically.





Fondation de France and CFSI support Acting for Life through the PAFAO ("promotion of family farming in West Africa") programme. By supporting initiatives that focus on processing, marketing and advocacy, this programme aims to strengthen and/or maintain the availability of quality local products from sustainable family-farming systems in rural and urban markets.



The AnBer Foundation is a loyal and long-standing partner of Acting for Life, and is dedicated to combating poverty by supporting projects that focus on health, education, work and reducing destitution in Africa and Latin America. The foundation supports innovative approaches that promote job creation and local entrepreneurship in marginalised communities.



In 2009, the Caritas France Foundation became the first umbrella foundation dedicated to reducing poverty and exclusion. It supports a number of Acting for Life's projects, particularly in Africa, on issues such as technical and vocational education and training. The foundation works with Acting for Life to improve training programmes in West Africa.



Servair has been working with airlines in France and Africa for over 50 years. Servair uses its expertise to serve the needs of airlines, but is also growing in the food-service industry. Since 2007, Servair has been supporting Acting for Life to ensure sustainable and responsible economic development in vulnerable regions around the world.

They've joined us in 2023



The EDF Foundation is committed to promoting the ecological and social transition, and supports projects in education, training and eco-citizen initiatives. In a world where too many people are struggling to find their place in society, the foundation promotes equal opportunity and works in the public interest to create a world that is fairer and more sustainable. The foundation supports the SATER project in Colombia.



The Luciole Foundation is active in the fields of education and environmental protection both in France and abroad, and emphasises the importance of respecting nature and protecting the living world in all aid programmes. The foundation works with Acting for Life in Benin to encourage women to launch their own social and solidarity-based enterprises.



Since its creation in 2008, the BEL Corporate Foundation has been supporting projects that support children in France and throughout the world. Its work focuses particularly on access to a healthy and balanced diet for all children. The foundation supports Acting for Life in Burkina Faso via the TERSAA programme to improve their food security through a specific initiative at school cafeterias.



Under the aegis of the Caritas France Foundation, Fondation Girafe Formations became a private financial partner of AFL in 2022, providing support for projects in Benin and Togo. Through its financial support, the foundation helps promote the empowerment and professional integration of young people through practical and theoretical training in sectors that offer promising work opportunities in Africa.



The Ditumba Foundation, under the aegis of the Caritas France Foundation, has been supporting Acting for Life since 2017 through a project to strengthen technical and professional training, and help disadvantaged young people in Burkina Faso integrate professionally. The project focuses on the key sectors of the local market: electricity, plumbing, agricultural activities.



Groupe ADP is a global leader in designing, building and operating airports. The company has been supporting Acting for Life for 30 years by providing office space at the Paris - Le Bourget airport, and then at the Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport. This long-standing partnership is vital to the stability and longevity of our work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2023

Acting for Life's financial statements are certified and audited each year by our statutory auditor, Deloitte. They are then published in the Journal Officiel (government gazette). 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 organisations, and in order to better reflect the activities of Acting for Life, which manages projects that are carried out over periods lasting 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 year and the position of commitments at the end of the year.

Assets

The assets side of the balance sheet shows our organisation's resources.

These are mainly receivables (grants receivable) and cash.

The balance-sheet total is around €11 million, down 30% compared with 2022.

Grants receivable from public institutions were 36% lower than in 2022, dropping from €8.9 million to €5.7 million (-€3.2m).

Four projects were launched in 2022, giving rise to €8.7 million in receivables from Agence française de développement (€7.2m) and the Crisis and Support Centre (€1.5m). A portion of those receivables was paid in 2023 (€1.9m). The European Union also disbursed several grants for a total of €1.3 million.

Cash and cash equivalents include bank accounts and short-term investments. Between 2022 and 2023, cash and cash equivalents decreased by €1.5 million (-23%).

This item, however, remains at a proper level of security, representing 73% of operating costs.

Liabilities

Dedicated funds are funds received in the form of grants to fund projects beyond 2023. They decreased by 34% (-€1.1m) to €2.2 million.

Debts as a whole remained relatively stable at €378,000 in 2023 (vs €363,000 in 2022).

Deferred income decreased 36% (-€3.5m) because of the full implementation of projects launched in 2022.

Balance sheet The balance sheet presents Acting for Life's situation at 31 December 2023.

In thousands of euros	2023 brut	Amt & Prov	2023 net	2022 net	Change	Change %
ACTIF						
Fixed assets						
Intangible assets	14	11	4	4	-1	-18%
Tangible assets	60	55	5	2	3	183%
Current assets						
Other receivables	5,703		5,703	8,900	-3,197	-36%
Treasury investments	18		18	18		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,152		5,152	6,663	-1,510	-23%
Prepaid expenses	10		10	12	-2	-19%
TOTAL ASSETS	10,956	66	10,890	15,598	- 4,708	-30%

LIABILITIES AN	D EQUI	ΙΤΥ					
Own funds							
Funds without right of recovery	15		15		15		0%
Funds with right of recovery	2,054		2,054	2,	054		0%
Other funds	28		28		28		0%
Net income	-46		-46		28	-73	-267%
Dedicated funds	2,253		2,253	3	,412	-1,159	-34%
Liabilities							
Loans and similar debts payable	0		0		0	0	0%
Accounts payable	74		74		80	-6	-7%
Tax and social debts	259		259		213	46	22%
Other liabilities	45		45		70	-25	-35%
Deferred income	6,209		6,209	9	,727	-3,518	-36%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,890		10,890	15,	626	- 4,735	6%

ACTING FOR LIFE A.R 2023

Income statement

In thousands of euros	2023	2022	Change	Change %
OPERATING INCOME				
Grants and subsidies	4,100	6,569	-2,469	-38%
Financial contributions	958	1,117	-159	-14%
Donations and subscriptions	29	0	29	100%
Write-backs of depreciation, impairment, provisions and expense transfers	62	279	-217	-78%
Use of dedicated funds	1,841	735	1,106	151%
Other income	1	10	-9	-91%
Total income (I)	6,991	8,710	-1,719	-20%
OPERATING COSTS				
Other purchases and external costs	596	1,079	-483	-45%
Financial assistance	4,117	5,518	-1,401	-25%
Taxes and duties	105	92	13	14%
Wages and salaries	1,046	1,054	-7	-1%
Social-security costs	540	535	5	1%
Amortisation expense	3	3	-1	-17%
Carry forward of dedicated funds	682	403	279	69%
Other costs	5	0	5	100%
Total costs (II)	7,094	8,683	-1,539	-18%
1 - OPERATING EARNINGS (I-II)	-103	27	-130	-483%
FINANCIAL REVENUE (III)				
Other interest and similar income	69	1	68	9,641%
INTEREST EXPENSE (IV)				
2 - NET FINANCIAL INCOME (III-IV)	69	1	68	9,641%
3 - PRE-TAX INCOME (I-II+III-IV)	-34	28	-61	-222%
EXTRAORDINARY INCOME (V)				
EXTRAORDINARY COSTS (VI)				
4 - EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS (V-VI)	0	0	0	0%
Income tax	12	0	12	100%
Total income (I+III+V)	7,060	8,711	-1,651	-19%
Total costs (II+IV+VI)	7,106	8,683	-1,577	-18%
5 - SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	-46	28	-73	-267%

Funds

Note: In 2022, grants from foreign public institutions were recorded as private financial contributions in the amount of \in 4,189,557. They were reclassified in the financial statements that were presented in order to make it easier to see the variation between 2023 and 2022.

Total income was €7,060,227, down \in 1,650,672 (-19%).

The main decrease was linked to public grants, which amounted to €4,099,952 and were down 38% on the previous year. This variation was mainly due to the completion of the PAMOBARMA project.

Private financial contributions decreased to a lesser extent, totalling 958,178 in 2023 versus 1,116,839 in 2022 (-14%).

It should be noted, however, that sponsors are increasingly making multiyear commitments. That was the case for eight of our partners in 2023.

Use of dedicated funds increased from €734,000 in 2022 to €1,841,000 in 2023.

Reversals (€1,242,000) concerned three projects in particular: PAMOBARMA (€363,000), TERSAA (€255,000) and PARCS (€233,000). New funds were allocated in 2023 in the amount of €599,000.

Financial revenue increased sharply (€69,000 in 2023) thanks to investments in livrets associatifs and in a term deposit, and to a favourable interest-rate environment.

Costs

Total costs decreased by $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{e}}$ 1,577,186 (-18%), in line with income. The main decrease was linked to financial assistance.

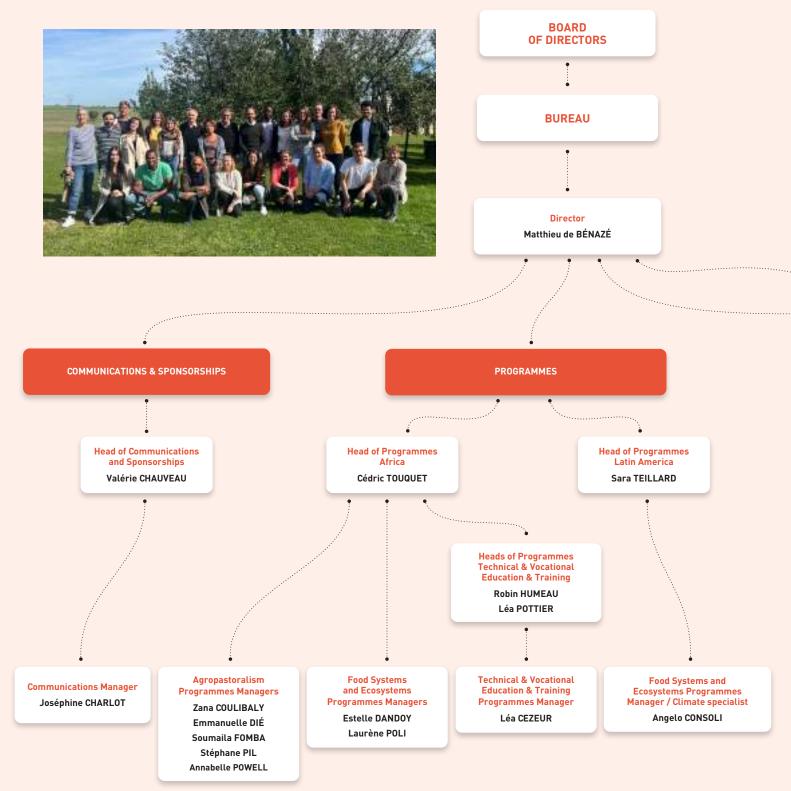
That assistance was in the form of payments made to local partners for carrying out projects, and represented 58% of operating costs. This line decreased because of the completion of large projects in 2022.

Wages and social-security costs remained stable, representing 22% of operating costs.

Carry forward of dedicated funds increased from €402,000 in 2022 to €681,000 in 2023 (1600%)

Income tax is relative to the financial revenue generated in 2023.

ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE





ACTING FOR LIFE A.R 2023

BUREAU

Jean-Cyril SPINETTA

President

Honorary president of Air France-KLM Senior French official

Philippe CALAVIA

Treasurer

Honorary CFO of Air France-KLM Former executive vice-president of Air France-KLM

Xavier BOUTIN

Secretary

Co-founder of *Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement* (IECD) President of *Coordination Humanitaire et Développement*

Guy DELBREL

Consultant in external relations – Africa of Air France-KLM Honorary deputy secretary-general of CCFD-Terre Solidaire

Florence PARLY

Former French minister and senior official Business executive



BOARD MEMBERS

Komi ABITOR

Managing director of *Entreprises, Territoires et Développement* (ETD)

Mathieu BARDON

Director of Corporate Citizenship, *Aéroport de Paris Group* (ADP)

Jean-Marie BOCKEL

Former French minister Former deputy of the National Assembly and senator for the Haut-Rhin department

Philippe BRIEU

Secretary-general of the Board Airlines Representatives France

Pascal DOLL

President of the *Communauté d'agglomération -* Roissy Pays de France

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Chief Rabbi of France

Philippe LE GOFF

Honorary human resources director of Air France's cabin crew and honorary human resources director of *La Chaîne de l'Espoir*

Bernard LEMETTRE

Honorary president of *Mouvement du Nid* Deacon in Wattrelos

Jean-Pierre SAUVAGE

President of the Board of Airlines Representatives France

Georges SERRE

Former french ambassador

François VELLAS

International economics professor and head of international relations at the University of Toulouse Capitole

Pascal ZADIKIAN

Head of suply and logistics at Servair Group International Centres (Africa & French Overseas Departments and Territories)

ACTING FOR LIFE'S PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES





Mobile livestock farming in the northern regions of coastal countries: the case of Benin

Document prepared by Cédric TOUQUET, head of Africa programmes.
October 2023.

https://acting-for-life.org/la-situation-de-l-elevage-mobile-dans-le-nord-des-pays-cotiers-le-cas-specifique-du-benin/





Results of the integration of young masons monitored by the PAMPEC project

Document prepared by Clélia ROUCOUX, head of TVET programmes.
January 2023.

https://acting-for-life.org/bilan-delinsertion-des-jeunes-macons-encadrespar-le-pampec/





Agroecology: expertise and strategies implemented as part of the TERSAA programme

Summary report produced by the programme TERSAA's technical teams.

https://acting-for-life.org/agroecologie-expertises-et-strategies-mises-en-oeuvre-dans-le-cadre-du-programme-tersaa/

VIDEOS & REPORTS





Pottier, Technical & Vocational Education & Training programmes manager at Acting for Life, discusses the work planned under the project.

https://acting-for-life.org/reportage-sur-le-lancement-duparcs/

NEWS ABOUT ACTING FOR LIFE'S PROJECTS



Employability of young people: promoting development in rural in Ghana

In November 2023, 30 young people trained in electricity and 30 young people trained in beekeeping received their diplomas at a ceremony organised by our local partner, Ghana Developing Communities Association (GDCA).

https://acting-for-life.org/en/employability-of-young-people-in-ghana-ensuring-regional-development/



Portrait: the inspiring story of Fatimata, project manager for RECOPA in Burkina Faso

Fatimata is project manager at RECOPA, a key partner of Acting for Life in Burkina Faso. To mark the occasion of International Women's Day 2023, she tells us about her inspiring journey.

https://acting-for-life.org/cheffe-deprojet-au-recopa-le-parcours-inspirantde-fatimata/



Acting for Life joins Inter-réseaux Développement rural

Since 2005, the organisation Interréseaux Développement Rural has comprised institutional members and individual members based in Europe or Africa. Their objective is to work together to facilitate the emergence, implementation and dissemination of innovative and effective actions for rural development based on farming systems that are sustainable and that preserve family farms.

After several successful collaborations, Acting for Life joined Inter-réseaux Développement Rural in 2023!

https://www.inter-reseaux.org/en/membre/acting-for-life/



On the ground: members of the Bureau and Board of Directors visit in Benin

From 11 to 16 October 2023, a delegation comprising several members of Acting for Life's Bureau and Board of Directors travelled to Benin to monitor the organisation's projects in the country. The trip included several field visits that were organised with local partners and project beneficiaries.

https://acting-for-life.org/en/field-visit-to-benin-by-members-of-the-acting-for-life-executive-committee-and-board-of-directors/



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LIST OF PROJECTS







COUNTRY		YEAR	PROJECT	PARTNERS IN THE FIELD	PAGE
Benin		2022-2025	DISTRI'SOLIDAIRE - Solidarity-based distribution networks for the sale of local agricultural products	Hortitechs Développement	12
Burkina Faso		2022-2025	PROFIL II - Project supporting the socio-economic integration of young people in the Est region of Burkina Faso	TinTua, RECOPA Est, ARFA	15
Colombia		2022-2023	ABA - Adaptive biocultural "aquatic" areas in the wetlands of the southern part of Colombia's Cesar department and the lower section of the Magdalena River	Fundación ALMA	12
Ivory Coast		2019-2023	PAP-Bio Comoé - Project promoting sustainable, participatory and integrated management in order to preserve biodiversity in the regions along the periphery of the Comoé National Park	Nitidae, OPEF, VSF-B	20
Ecuador		2022-2025	BIDA - Biodiversity, Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Water in the Chocó Darién region	Fundación ALTROPICO, MNE, NCI, MAATE, UTN	11
Mali	%	2022-2025	MADE-M - Masons of tomorrow: training and integration in sustainable construction in Mali	APAPE-PH	16
Multi-country Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, Colombia, Peru		2021-2024	TERSAA - Transition of local agricultural and food systems	CCAIJO, ASOPEP, CPF, ETD, GIC, IMCA, OADEL, OCADES Caritas Burkina / Bobo- Dioulasso	11
Multi-country Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Togo		2022-2025	PARCS - Project for Strengthening Social Cohesion in Strategic Cross- Border Territories	ACAD, ANOPER, GDCA, GEVAPAF, RECOPA, CIDeLS, CLIP, EPCI, NorGIC	15-19
Multi-country Benin, Togo	%	2022-2025	MADE - Masons of tomorrow: training and integration in sustainable construction	ACAD, GEVAPAF	16
Multi-country Burkina Faso, Ghana		2023-2024	SAPSOC 3 - Supporting agropastoralism to reinforce social cohesion in the cross-border territories Ghana - Burkina Faso	GDCA, RECOPA	20
Multi-country Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast		2022-2024	REPOT - Resilience of rural populations in the cross-border region covering northeastern Guinea, western Burkina Faso and northern Ivory Coast	RECOPA, AEBRB, OPEF, FREFBV-K	19

GLOSSARY OUR PARTNERS IN THE FIELD

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

- ACAD Association des Communes de l'Atakora et de Donga
- ANOPER Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles des Éleveurs de Ruminants
- EPCI Etablissement Public de Coopération Intercommunale de la Pendjari
- GIC Groupement Intercommunal des Collines
- Hortitechs Développement

BURKINA FASO

- **ARFA** Association de Recherche et de Formation Agroécologique
- Association TIN TUA
- CPF Confédération Paysanne du Faso
- OCADES Caritas Burkina / Bobo-Dioulasso Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité
- RECOPA Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- AEBRB Association des Éleveurs de Bovins de la Région de Boukani
- Nitidæ
- **OPEF –** Organisation Professionnelle des Éleveurs de Ferkessedougou
- VSF-B Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Belgique

MALI

• **APAPE-PH –** Association pour le Pastoralisme, l'Agro-Pastoralisme, l'Élevage et la Promotion Humaine

TOGO

- **CIDeLS** Convention Intercommunale pour le Développement Local des Savanes
- ETD Entreprises, Territoires et Développement
- **GEVAPAF** Gestion de l'Environnement et Valorisation des Produits Agropastoraux et Forestiers
- **OADEL –** Organisation pour l'Alimentation et le Développement Local

GHANA

- CLIP Changing Lives in Innovative Partnerships
- GDCA Ghana Developing Communities Association
- NorGIC Northern Ghana Inter-Municipality Cooperation

GUINEA

• **FREFBV-K** – Fédération Régionale des Éleveurs de la Filière Bétail-Viande de Kankan

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA

- ASOPEP Asociación de Productores Ecológicos de Planadas
- IMCA Instituto Mayor Campesino
- Fundación ALMA

ECUADOR

- Fundación ALTROPICO
- MAATE Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica
- MNE Mancomunidad de Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados Provinciales de la Región Norte del Ecuador
- NCI Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional
- UTN Universidad Técnica del Norte

PERU

• CCAIJO - Asociación Jesús Obrero





FOOD SYSTEMS & ECOSYSTEMS

Supporting sustainable access to a sufficient supply of food and an ecological transition at local level



AGROPASTORALISM

Supporting the mobility and marketing of livestock and the preservation of natural resources in West Africa



TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Improving employability in promising and sustainable sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship among young people













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