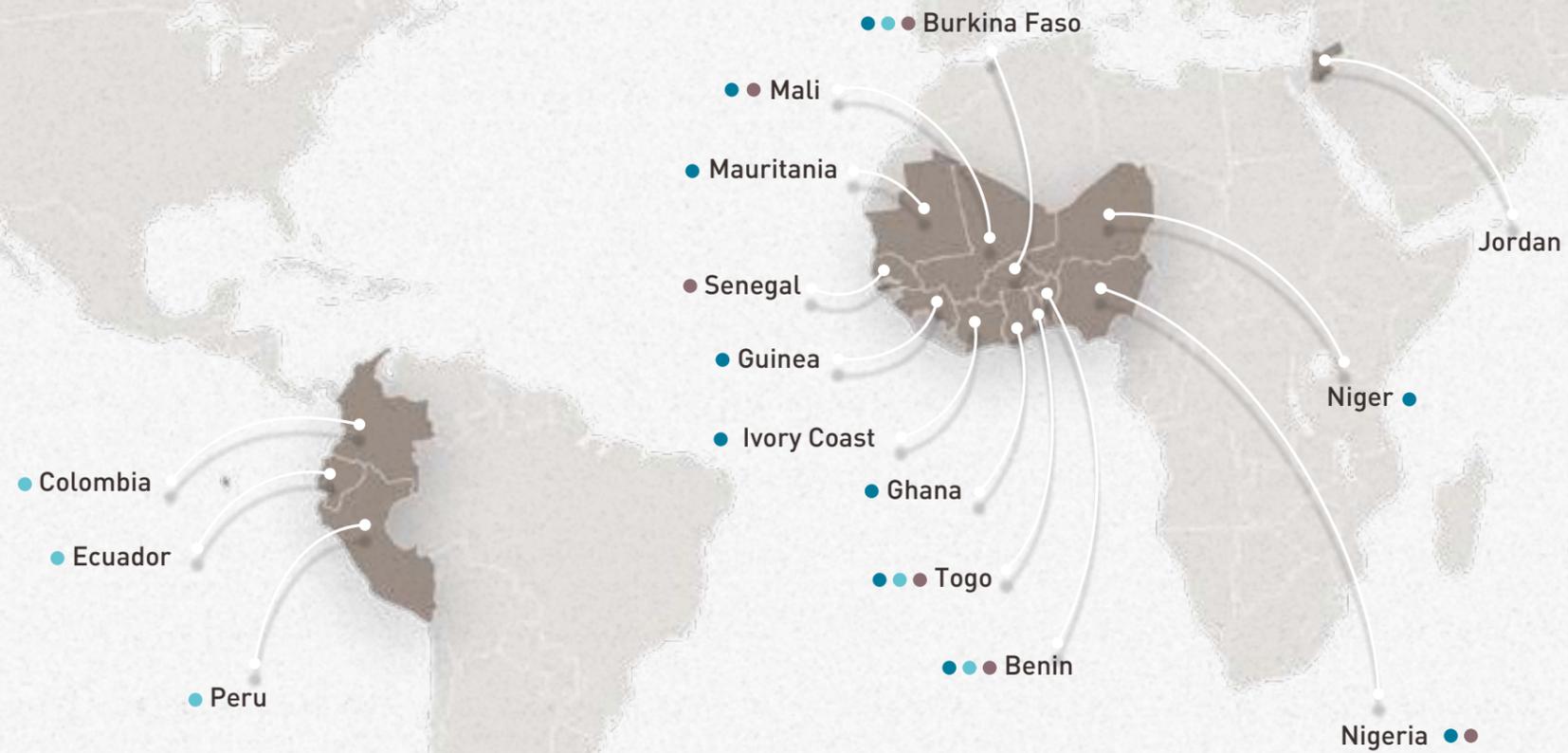




ANNUAL REPORT

ACTING
FOR **LIFE**

23 PROJECTS IN 15 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



ACTING
FOR **LIFE**

3
AREAS OF FOCUS



2
NEW PROJECTS

40
LOCAL PARTNERS

24
EMPLOYEES

20
BOARD MEMBERS

EDITORIAL

Development is at the heart of what we do.

The COVID-19 crisis pushed roughly 120 million people worldwide into extreme poverty in 2020. The continuation of the pandemic in 2021 means the situation may deteriorate further, reversing the trend which saw a sustained reduction in poverty worldwide over the past twenty years.

Despite the inherent challenges caused by the crisis – lockdowns, social distancing, restrictions on gatherings, border closures –, our partners and teams were able to continue to support vulnerable communities in West Africa and Latin America in these difficult times.

In 2020, Acting for Life defined three major areas of focus for the period 2020–2025: Agropastoralism, Technical & Vocational Education & Training, Food Systems & Ecosystems, which, each in their own way, help combat economic and social vulnerability while helping promote the transition to agroecology and gender equality. Acting for Life reaffirmed its partner-based strategy, working with civil-society organisations in the South that are committed to strengthening their capacities and their role in promoting local economic development.

Acting for Life and its partners would not be able to accomplish all that they do without the generous support and long-term commitment of our donors, corporate sponsors and foundations. Despite the impact the crisis has had on their own activities and resources, those donors have continued to put their trust in us and support our work. We would like to extend to them our sincere gratitude. In order to cement our growth, though, we will have to make a big effort in the coming years to attract new donors to support our development projects targeting vulnerable communities.



Jean-Cyril Spinetta
President



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45 years of commitment

Economic and social development at local level

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

Local economic development is central to our work. Our projects aim to strengthen the economy of indigenous rural communities and help those communities improve their skills, while creating value at local and regional levels. To do so, we identify local organisations (NGOs, professional associations, cooperatives, etc.) that are capable of assisting their communities, and work to support and strengthen those organisations.

We develop sustainable economic models with our local partners and offer solutions to issues such as exclusion, poverty, mobility and climate change. Acting for Life is a catalyst, rallying local stakeholders to work together in order to achieve shared objectives.

To achieve our goal, and to move beyond a model based on short-term emergency aid, we have defined three areas of focus to facilitate the emergence of local organisations that can offer effective solutions.

1973

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). 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 ('group in support of development work') and sets up long-term development programmes in the South.

1992

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

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

2002

Groupe Développement is recognised 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 organisations and local economic development.

2018

After 45 years, Acting for Life continues to work with its partners in the South to eradicate poverty through economic and social development that is tailored to local needs.



OUR 3 AREAS OF FOCUS

Access to resources and markets for sustainable economic development at local level



AGROPASTORALISM

Raising livestock is a source of income for 80 million people in West Africa. Most rural communities in the Sahel depend on livestock mobility for their survival. But that mobility currently faces a number of threats, such as extreme climate change, land pressure, conflicts in border regions and a deteriorating security situation. AFL is working to secure herd mobility and facilitate access to agropastoral amenities and market infrastructure through strong collaboration between civil-society organisations and local authorities. Over the past 40 years, AFL has been a key player when it comes to supporting agropastoralism. AFL's strategy involves sustainably integrating agropastoralism into the socio-economic landscape, helping local communities become more resilient and supporting socio-economic development in rural areas using tax revenue from the sector.



AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS & ECOSYSTEMS

AFL works with agrarian communities 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 in order to generate an economic activity. AFL works with smallholder families and producer organisations to encourage diversified production that is tailored to market standards in terms of quality and quantity, while supporting the transition to agroecology and organic production. Priority is given to short marketing channels. Initiatives promoting "local consumption" are carried out with local communities and institutional buyers, and through partnerships with the private sector. Efforts are also being made to protect ecosystems, natural spaces and biodiversity. AFL also works with micro-entrepreneurs to help them strengthen the economic and environmental viability of their work through access to funding that is tailored to rural communities.



TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

AFL is committed to helping people overcome the challenges they face when it comes to finding employment. We carry out several large-scale initiatives to facilitate access to decent jobs, improve the quality of available jobs and expand professional opportunities for young people while boosting their income. Our work aims to strengthen training programmes (degree and certification programmes) for young people in order to prepare them for roles as skilled workers or technicians in promising sectors. AFL helps training centres and local NGOs create innovative programmes. AFL seeks to stimulate institutional purchasing to allow trainees to gain experience (field schools), and helps structure training manuals while monitoring and evaluating trainees. AFL also offers tutoring for young people before training begins and throughout the programme (development of cross-disciplinary skills and "soft skills") in order to strengthen the capacities of young people to help them position themselves in their socio-economic environment and in their job.



MOVING TOWARDS THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

The 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the global assessment on biodiversity by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES-2019), underscore the urgent need to transform agri-food production, consumption and supply models in response to the present climate and ecological crisis.

Whether in terms of mitigating (reducing greenhouse-gas emissions) or adapting to the effects of climate change, production models are doubly concerned and affected. The productivist model promoted by the green revolution has too often turned out to be an obstacle to the sustainability and development of family farming, particularly in the South (lack of capital, land eviction, loss of biodiversity, heightened sensitivity to climate change, etc.).

The ecological transition in agriculture, pastoralism and forestry involves mobilising the different functions of agro-systems and managing resources frugally, and it offers rural economies an opportunity to respond to the many different challenges they face.

In addition to satisfying the food needs of rural and urban communities, the ecological transition also seeks to preserve resources and ecosystems, encourage inclusive local development, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, help people adapt to climate change, and improve health by offering a wide range of high-quality products.

It is increasingly the producers themselves who are pushing for this transition to an agroecological model and away from a capital-intensive productivist model with a predominantly top-down approach based on effectiveness and technical efficiency.

The agroecological approach is based on mechanisms for the joint production of knowledge, innovations and practices of the different stakeholders, and particularly the producers themselves. The agroecological model offers a real opportunity for the rural economy to generate more value from its production and avoid direct competition with productivist crop and livestock farming systems on local and regional markets.

The ecological transition has therefore gradually gained currency in recent years among all stakeholders involved in promoting development and international solidarity.

In recent years, a growing number of **Acting for Life** projects have incorporated this approach:

- Through its agropastoral projects promoting livestock mobility, which is intrinsic to ruminant farming in West Africa, AFL 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. By moving from place to place, livestock maintain savannah routes and stabilise the herb layer, while also helping regenerate trees. Since the tropical savannah has a greater capacity for sequestering carbon in the soil than any other ecosystem, mobile livestock farming helps protect dry-land ecosystems, which are more resilient when livestock mobility is preserved. Conversely, when natural pastures are converted into agricultural land, those benefits are lost. From an ecosystemic analysis conducted recently in Senegal, Assouma et al. also highlighted that animal emissions are actually offset by sequestering carbon in the soil and vegetation. Ultimately, transhumant livestock farming ties in closely with carbon neutrality.
- To meet the challenge of providing high-quality local foods to cities in West Africa and Latin America, Acting for Life works with small producers and processors not only to facilitate sustainable production by taking environmental issues into account, but, more importantly, to set up short marketing channels. Producers and processors are therefore improving the quality of their products and can add value to their products through certification. By adopting agroecological practices, family farming is implementing new systems that are more resilient to climate change and having a positive impact on the environment (better management of land and water, reduction of air pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions, protection and preservation of biodiversity, etc.), while boosting the income families earn from selling their products.
- In the South, the transition to agroecology is creating new needs for training and opportunities for professional integration in fields such as agriculture, construction and energy. AFL's Technical & Vocational Education & Training projects are in line with the ecological transition and offer training in agroecology, traditional and environmentally friendly construction techniques, and the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic equipment.

Our ambition for the coming years is to make sure this contribution to the ecological transition becomes more structurally incorporated into all of our projects and areas of focus. Particularly by developing projects to help people adapt to climate change based on ecosystems ("AbE" approach) integrating the different components (social, economic and environmental) of economic development.

HIGHLIGHTS



More than 1,000 young people received training in a context of insecurity as part of the PROFIL project

The PROFIL project has provided training for 1,041 young people in 12 different towns, with equal access for men and women. Trainees entering the programme have little schooling, and only 4% have attended high school. When asked about their financial situation, roughly 79% said they had increased their income. One year after training, 95% of the trainees said they feel more highly skilled in their field, and 62% have increased their production area. Lastly, 45% of the female trainees feel more independent with respect to their family.



An important potential market

AMAP-Togo (association for the preservation of smallholder farming) and Servair signed a contract that will allow AMAP to sell fruits and vegetables to Servair. AMAP will provide fifteen different products (including cooking bananas, pineapple, and green beans) to Servair, a company specialising in agri-food and airline catering. The partnership is part of AFL's FAPAMI project to facilitate access to institutional markets for local agricultural products.

It aims to secure agricultural production resources and generate value from them through processing, marketing and promotional work in order to improve the living conditions and food security of smallholder families. It targets 1,500 producers, 200 processors and 450 shopkeepers in Togo and Benin, and has over FCFA 180 million (€270,000) in funding from the French Committee for International Solidarity (CFSI), Fondation de France, Servair and Acting for Life.

A large proportion of producers live in poverty, even though agriculture accounts for roughly 40% of national GDP and employs at least two-thirds of the active population. The FAPAMI project aims to help local products win greater market share by building fair and equitable partnerships between producer organisations and institutional buyers.



Young people are finding work despite the crisis

As we were carrying out the READY project, we noticed that, on average, 81% of the young people we were monitoring were working on a regular basis during the first 12 months after completing their training, despite the COVID-19 crisis. Also, the percentage of young graduates who found work steadily increased from 72% at the end of the training programme to 85% nine months later. During those first 12 months (excluding the summer period and agricultural work), all of the young graduates we were monitoring and who were working developed activities in the sectors they were trained in: electricity or plumbing. For the vast majority of activities developed by young graduates, the graduates are either fully in charge of (as foreman), or participants in (working for someone else), small projects (private electrical or plumbing installations, private photovoltaic installations).

Strategic framework:

In early 2020, Acting for Life reflected on its strategic orientations for the period 2020–2025. They were presented to, and discussed by, the Board of Directors in February 2020.

For 45 years, our organisation has been committed to the same objective: to combat poverty by encouraging the emergence of local organisations that are able to overcome the challenges posed by exclusion in Africa and Latin America. From the outset, our methods and areas of focus have been based on the conviction that civil-society organisations in the South have a key role to play when it comes to helping vulnerable communities emerge from poverty and assisting them on their path towards becoming more financially and socially independent. Central to our mission is the desire to facilitate the emergence of stakeholders promoting local economic development in the areas where we carry out our projects.

Global warming and biodiversity loss are two issues that are becoming increasingly important for less developed countries, because they make exposed communities more vulnerable, make it harder to generate value from potential sources of wealth linked to local biodiversity and expose those communities to the consequences of global warming. The new strategic framework lays out how Acting for Life will go about trying to help solve all of these issues.

Latin America badly hit by COVID-19

Covid-19 had a major economic and social impact on most of the population. A large part of the population works informally on the street. Those people found themselves without any income during lockdown. What's more, they were not covered by State social security. Production and sales were also affected by the restrictions that were put in place (logistical problems, etc.). Acting for Life and its partners put in place new institutional strategies in response to the crisis, in order to meet our project commitments.

One of the strategies adopted in this context was to raise awareness, inform and train people in the province of Quispicanchi and in the region about the international, national, regional and local contexts, and about the issues addressed by the CCAIJO project. Mini radio programmes were created in the Quechuan language, meeting specific objectives. Regarding the TADESS project, for CCAIJO, the pandemic created difficulties mainly in our face-to-face relationships with project beneficiaries and with other local stakeholders. In order to resolve those difficulties, new project-implementation strategies were developed in July 2020, as well as a plan for monitoring, preventing and controlling Covid-19, which allowed our teams to return to their project locations in September.



Training continued despite the crisis

The PAMPEC project provides training and professional integration in construction and sustainable construction in three West African countries. Despite the challenging context, the project

achieved its overall objectives for the first tranche. All of the training activities were implemented, and training centres were strengthened through the creation of new curricula. A field school was also created, allowing young people to improve their professional skills. The project was able to achieve its objective of

facilitating the integration of young people by creating an effective mechanism for monitoring integration, and the results have been satisfactory. In all, 96 young people (26% of whom were girls) were admitted to degree programmes. Room and board are provided from the start of the programme, and trainees also receive equipment so that they can begin working on small construction jobs outside of their training.

This informal work/study programme is the first step in a multifaceted integration process. In addition to these activities, which help minimise the number of drop-outs and ensure the success of the programme beneficiaries, specific actions were undertaken to support female trainees. First of all, sharing and support groups (Groupes d'Appui et de Partage, or "GAP") were organised in Mali and Benin. The purpose of those groups is to listen to and share the motivations and challenges girls face in professional training programmes, and to develop and strengthen their self-confidence in order to help them become more independent. In Togo, mixed duos were set up on technical platforms in order to ensure that everyone has equal access to practical skills. On average, 35% of female trainees have an income-generating activity after completing their training.



A faithful sponsor

Air France decided to extend its partnership during the crisis. Despite the serious crisis that has gripped the airline industry, Air France has renewed its commitment beyond the current partnership agreement and will continue to support Acting for Life and our projects in the coming years.

The PAMOBARMA Project: promoting herd mobility to improve access to resources and markets

The third year of this project turned out to be a very unusual one. Starting in late December 2019, the COVID-19 crisis spread rapidly throughout the world. This new parameter had a negative impact on all production sectors, including the agropastoral sector in West Africa. Land borders in many countries were closed to all traffic, including animal herds. In areas where mobility was still possible, market operations were disrupted or completely interrupted. Everyone in the sector was directly affected, with serious consequences in terms of food security and short-term survival.



LOCAL PARTNERS

RECOPA / URFBV / AREN / GAJEL
OPEF / AEBRB / AJELAMO / GDCA
CIKOD / GEVAPAF / FENAPFIBVTO
ANOPER / APESS / VSF-B / ACAD
ETD / GIC.

The security situation in several countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Ivory Coast, Nigeria) also worsened in 2020. Despite the challenging context, the PAMOBARMA project (third component of the PREDIP project) continued to operate in all eight countries with our 14 partners.

The first step was to strengthen the capacities of key players in the sector in border regions. Because of the health crisis, ARED proposed a mechanism for assisting/recycling trainees remotely. Nineteen informed debates were organised, each lasting five days. In all, 475 people from various backgrounds participated in the debates. The lessons from the module reached more than 5,000 people directly and indirectly. Moreover, 72 market infrastructures (livestock markets or docks) were monitored using statistical tools in all of the regions covered by the project.

Achieving Result 2 (improving access to resources and cross-border markets by building agropastoral infrastructure) requires a lot of upstream work, which is often tedious and time-consuming but critical for its success. Before building the infrastructure, the groundwork must first be laid through social engineering. For new regions, 2020 was the right time to wrap up this work and move on to the next step (construction). For older regions, infrastructure that was already built in 2019 was monitored, and infrastructure planned for 2020 was continued. Despite the slower work pace, a lot of work was completed in 2020: 235km of routes identified, 280km of routes negotiated or under negotiation, 463.4km of

now operational. By sending animals to market, livestock farming generates income year-round, not only for economic agents (producers, operators) but also for decentralised authorities, thanks in particular to livestock markets. In a context where decentralisation has too often involved a transfer of skills without a simultaneous contribution of financial resources, the livestock sector is a major source of tax revenue that can be mobilised for managing and adding amenities to the space, organising training sessions, offering jobs and, in general, promoting growth.

980,000

RURAL AGROPASTORALISTS

or 140,000 households, in particular poor and vulnerable groups struggling to generate value from their production (women, transporters recently integrated into the supply chain).

More than 100

REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

and everyone living in those regions will receive social/community reinvestment from tax revenue generated through the market amenities.

routes marked, 6 animal fodder banks built, 2 new watering places identified, and 5 watering places built. In 2020, improvements were made to three livestock markets: Gushegu and Buipe in Ghana, and Bougou in Benin.

Third, an intercommunity network was developed for the sector, and is

The PRECIT Project: strengthening harmony and cohesion among communities in the border regions

The security situation in the provinces and departments along the border between Mali and Burkina Faso has significantly degraded. Over 80% of households near the border are involved in agropastoralism. But a lack of investment in the agropastoral sector has made it more difficult to access pastoral resources. This (combined with pressure on natural resources) has led to many conflicts and their instrumentalisation. This is the issue which the PRECIT project seeks to address. First of all, by creating forums for inter-community dialogue and organising informed debates on the impact of livestock mobility on economic development, the project will facilitate dialogue between groups of strategic actors in different regions (technical services, local authorities, religious authorities, etc.) while improving joint decision-making and preventing tensions and conflicts. Those forums for dialogue will have a greater impact thanks to the addition of strategic amenities (watering places, secure routes, pasture areas, etc.), which will limit pressure on resources and diminish tensions with regard to their use.

During the project's first year, 279 people were directly impacted by the organisation of two informed debates and by the creation of 25 local monitoring relays and six forums for dialogue. The project has indirectly impacted 837 people. 175 agropastoralists were impacted by the creation of the national ID card in Burkina Faso. This project is eminently important in the current context of insecurity, where the lack of ID documents has become very dangerous.

The availability of animal-fodder reserves, training, the creation of savings and credit groups and income-generating activities will facilitate the economic development of the different regions, particularly for women and young people. Addressing the economic needs of men, women and young people, and helping them become more independent, are essential when it comes to managing crises and preventing radicalisation and extremism. To cushion the economic blow from the Covid-19 pandemic, food was purchased and distributed to households in all the areas covered by the project. In all, 351.65 tonnes of cereals and 16,260 litres of oil were distributed. A total of 4,770 vulnerable households (2,893 in Mali and 1,877 in Burkina Faso) received this support.

Our project partners purchased 149 tonnes of livestock fodder and made it available to agropastoralists in Burkina Faso and Mali. A new storehouse was built in Burkina Faso, and two storehouses in Mali were equipped for the storage of livestock fodder. Lastly, supporting communities and helping them come together will make it possible to institutionally anchor the management of the region and will therefore make it possible to move beyond the sector-based approach in favour of a regional approach. The project will have a direct positive impact on income, food security and social cohesion, and will therefore help prevent radicalisation. The project will also improve access to the main livestock markets. It will diversify the gateways for pastoralists and agropastoralists in the sector, and will optimise their chances of boosting their income.



OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

In Benin : APAPE-PH (association for pastoralism, agropastoralism, livestock farming and human advancement), APESS (association for the promotion of livestock farming in the Sahel and Savanes regions), ICD (Initiatives-Conseil-Développement), RECOPA (communication network for pastoralism), VSF-B (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Belgium).

15,000

HOUSEHOLDS

Resilience of at least 15,000 pastoral and agropastoral households by boosting the productivity of their livestock by securing pastoral areas, facilitating access to water, supplying livestock fodder and strengthening social cohesion.

60

FORUMS FOR DIALOGUE

More than 60 forums for exchange and dialogue will provide at least 2,000 people from different communities an opportunity to discuss with one another and create areas of common interest.



2020-2023 • IVORY COAST

Budget: €2,220,000 • Financial partners: European Union, Air France

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

Rural areas in northern Ivory Coast are suffering from growing human pressure. The PAPBio Comoé project aims to promote indigenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development around the Mont Tingui biodiversity zone along the periphery of the Comoé National Park in northeast Ivory Coast. The project seeks to focus its investments in agro-sylvo-pastoral amenities and basic infrastructure in the Mont Tingui zone so that it stands out as a model showing how communities can manage the area in a way that will reduce land insecurity and conflicts between crop and livestock farmers, while promoting new economic activities and reducing inequalities between local farmers. The project ultimately aims to preserve the ecosystems of the Comoé National Park by presenting credible alternatives to the different users of the areas along the park's periphery.

As far as project activities go, two informed debates were held. The pastoral diagnostic assessment was also performed in the Tchologo region. Local development plans are currently being designed. The participatory-diagnostic-survey phase was completed, and in the current phase reports are being drawn up on the participatory diagnostic surveys for the 14 centres. Those reports will then be approved by the local communities before moving on to the next phase, which involves drawing up priority action plans.

An initial version of the agrarian, agropastoral and veterinary diagnostic assessments is available. In terms of agricultural support, producers in the area covered by the project were provided with several training sessions on the shea and cashew sectors.

In terms of agropastoral support, the identification and negotiation of spaces to develop began with local communities in seven

1,500 FARMERS

received support with a view to transitioning their agricultural practices over an area of at least 3,000ha.

2 COOPERATIVES

received support with a view to certifying and promoting their organic production.

ral locations. The first consultation framework for animal health also led to the approval of the strategy for strengthening private veterinary services at local level. Moreover, support for the livestock-farming sector is organised through: the securing of routes along strategic sections of protected areas; and the addition of secure, agropastoral amenities, set up and managed jointly and inclusively by users and institutions. Support is also offered for veterinary services and livestock farmers with regard to animal health.

Late 2020, 150 people were taught about the importance of peaceful mobility with sustainable amenities, 16 villages were officially delimited, 14 local development plans were designed, and 1,500 farmers received assistance to adapt their farming practices over an area of at least 3,000ha. Regarding the construction of pastoral amenities: 170km of livestock routes were secured, 7 watering places were built, 5 night pens were built, 5 pasture areas and 3 rest areas were developed, and 3 vaccination stations were built. Lastly, 20 livestock-farming auxiliaries and animal-health professionals were trained and equipped.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Nitidæ: designs, develops and carries out projects to preserve the environment and strengthen local economies. Nitidæ is currently carrying out fifty projects, mainly in Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Ivory Coast.

OPEF: (professional organisation of livestock farmers in Ferkessedougou) is dedicated to improving the living and working conditions of sedentary and transhumant livestock farmers, improving the health of animals and herds, and teaching livestock farmers about best practices in livestock farming in compliance with current laws.

VSF-B: (veterinarians without borders) works with livestock farmers in eight different African countries to help them build a better future for themselves. That future starts with healthy animals. VSF-B helps communities improve their livestock-farming practices and everything connected with livestock farming: microloans, sales, water and fodder management, training, farming equipment, emergency aid, peace talks and political advocacy.



2020-2022 • BURKINA FASO

Budget: €1,000,000 • Financial partner: Agence Française de Développement

The PROFIL Project: supporting the socio-economic integration of young people in the Est region of Burkina Faso

This project is carried out in the Est region, which borders the Sahel region and Niger. The Est region faces a worsening security situation, rising food insecurity and many other challenges, such as rapid population growth (over 3% annually) and high rural migration. One-third of the population is between 15 and 35 years old, and half of the inhabitants are under 15 years old. Agriculture is the main economic activity. Moreover, enrolment in school is very low, and access to technical education and professional training is limited. To address the needs of young people, AFL implemented a regional training and integration programme. The programme offers short hands-on training courses to help trainees develop or launch business activities in agro-sylvo-pastoralism and rural artisanry: field schools for growing grains, market gardening, fattening livestock, poultry farming, dairy processing, masonry, carpentry, rural mechanics. More than 26 sectors were selected with local stakeholders, in line with economic opportunities in the region. The training courses focus on important local issues, such as agroecology and livestock mobility. The programme's strong local roots, the participation of highly renowned local NGOs, and AFL's expertise in training and integration were all keys to its success.

Late 2019, 682 young people between 18 and 35 years old had access to one or more training courses in the 12 towns covered by the project. Men and women had equal access to the training. Those group training courses, which were provided directly in the areas where the young people live, helped create a group dynamic connecting young people with technical services and producer organisations. Many joined agricultural organisations after completing their training, and 16 groups were created at their initiative. In 2020, 94% of the programme beneficiaries started a new business activity in connection with the training they received, and more than half of them did so with people they met during training. Roughly 80% of them said those new skills helped them boost their production and income, and made them feel more competent and independent with respect to their families. The training courses are also a strong contributing factor to building social cohesion in a region that has been weakened and where the security situation has significantly degraded since 2018, with conflicts causing a rise in the number of displaced people within the country.

The training/integration programme implemented by the project has shown that it is capable of meeting the needs of young people in the region. In the future, the project will adapt the programme to address new issues affecting the project area: expand the target audience to reach out to the most vulnerable young people; strengthen social cohesion by facilitating dialogue among young people, and between young people and the public authorities and host communities; strengthen the support provided to the programme beneficiaries to help them develop their business activities.

1,041
BENEFICIARIES



LOCAL PARTNERS

ARFA, RECOFA, Tin Tua



2017-2021 • BURKINA FASO

Budget: €3,000,000 • Financial partners: NORAD, Air France, AnBer Foundation, Ditumba Foundation

Raising Employment Access and Development for Youth (READY)

One-third of the population in Burkina Faso is between 15 and 35 years old, so pressure on the job market is high. Helping young people find jobs is a huge challenge in a country where only 4% of the active population is employed in the formal sector. As in other countries in the sub-region, professional training centres are still under-equipped, and the programmes are often poorly adapted to the innovations and needs of the market. Against that backdrop, Acting for Life is carrying out an ambitious project in Burkina Faso to train young people (16 to 25 years old) and help them find jobs. The project has three objectives: help 1,300 young people gain access to training, improve the offer of training programmes, and strengthen the link between training and employment. Some of the initiatives are threatened by the degradation of the security situation, particularly in the Est and Sahel regions.

The READY project has been set up in four regions of Burkina Faso: Sahel, Est, Cascades and Hauts-Bassins. It offers training in three areas: agriculture, plumbing and electricity. AFL and its partners offer two-year programmes for young people, as well as shorter programmes on agricultural topics lasting only a few days. The programmes are intended for young people in rural areas who have little qualification, and young people in villages who have little resources. In 2020, seven modular training programmes (each lasting between two and six days) were organised despite the pandemic. Since the start of the project in 2017, 348 people (53% women) have participated in short-term training programmes on topics such as: agroecology, beekeeping, producing and using organic pesticides, steaming rice, processing fresh tomatoes, and soapmaking.

The young people enrolled in longer training programmes received additional training (provided directly by professionals) in computer science, entrepreneurship, marketing, social media, plumbing and electricity. "Soft skills" training was also added to the programmes, as were refresher courses to boost the trainees' French and maths skills.

812

YOUNG PEOPLE

812 young people began a two-year "professional qualification certificate" training programme and were fully taken charge of.

Roughly 350 young villagers participated in a short modular training programme on agriculture.

3

TARGET SECTORS

agriculture, plumbing and electricity, which were selected because there is a need for workers in those sectors.



LOCAL PARTNERS

OCADES Bobo Dioulasso: An OCADES is a Catholic organisation that promotes development and solidarity. There are 15 OCADES in Burkina Faso. OCADES Burkina/Bobo Dioulasso is based in the Hauts-Bassins region and develops education-related projects, particularly in the fields of hydraulics and agriculture.

TIN TUA: 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 power for over 10 years, has founded an agricultural training centre and has developed its own modules to support entrepreneurship and agricultural training.

These initiatives aim to help young people gain access to training and jobs. They also seek to ensure that the training programmes are rolled out under optimal conditions, with a view to improving trainee performance, minimising the number of absences and drop-outs, and coordinating more with the professional world.

In order to ensure that the trainees are able to partake in high-quality apprenticeships, eight training centres were provided with additional material resources and staff. The project seeks to increase the number of girls in training. The trainees are monitored throughout their training in order to improve their chances of finding a job or developing their own business activity after completing their training. Between July 2019 and June 2020, OCADES and Tin Tua conducted 858 follow-up interviews with 111 young people who had completed their training. Of the young people who were monitored, 81% were working on a regular basis in their respective fields during the first 12 months after completing their training.



2019-2022 • MALI, TOGO ET BENIN

Budget: €1,050,000
Financial partners: AFD, Air France

The PAMPEC Project: supporting stonework professions and sustainable construction

Strong economic growth (5%) in West Africa offers an encouraging outlook. But each year more and more young people are entering a job market where the vast majority of jobs (90% to 95%) are in the informal sector. Options for formal professional training before employment are limited. In addition, the trainees themselves face a number of obstacles: difficulty gaining access to training for financial and geographic reasons, limited number of openings for trainees at training centres, difficulty finding professional opportunities after training.

This project aims to improve the economic and social development of artisans and young people in Mali, Togo and Benin. More specifically, the project seeks to help young people find jobs in the construction sector by developing a new offer of training programmes, creating a system for monitoring the integration of trainees, and supporting the development of sustainable construction by stimulating demand from institutions in the Mopti region of Mali, in the Kara and Savanes regions of Togo, and in the Atacora and Donga departments of Benin. There are a number of challenges, including: providing access to professional training for vulnerable young people; diversifying and improving the training offered in terms of its content (sustainable construction), format (long and short programmes, degree/certification programmes) and methods (field-schools), in connection with climate issues linked to sustainable construction; developing methods and a system for monitoring the integration of trainees to encourage the acquisition of professional skills and the involvement of private and public players. Lastly, the fact that multiple countries are involved helps facilitate the sharing of skills between actors in the South.

PAMPEC strives to help young people enter the job market in West Africa by creating training and integration systems that go hand-in-hand with local development. Young people are able to

LOCAL PARTNERS

In Benin: ACAD (association of the Atacora and Donga regions) has partnered with Acting for Life in a number of agropastoral programmes and wanted to develop a programme to support training in stonework professions. ACAD's support for local initiatives, 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 in northern Benin.

In Togo: The NGO GEVAPAF (managing the environment and promoting agropastoral and forest products) was founded in 2011 and specialises in sustainable development, agroecology and the promotion of local resources. It has a successful track record in managing projects and organising local initiatives. When it comes to issues such as technical and vocational education and training, GEVAPAF has been recognised as an intermediary for the implementation of the Programme to Support Basic Development.

In Mali: APAPE-PH (association for pastoralism, agropastoralism, livestock farming and human advancement) is dedicated to supporting professional training, local development and sustainable construction. In addition to supporting pastoralism and the management of natural resources in conjunction with AFL, APAPE-PH promotes human advancement with a particular focus on supporting young people in a region that faces security problems.

improve their professional skills through the field-schools and monitoring-integration programmes, and thanks to help from public and private actors in professional integration. Support for artisans (equipment, training, etc.) and local authorities (technical assistance, joint funding) also contributes to the development of sustainable construction. The project encourages the development of the stone/clay sector by getting local authorities to incorporate those local materials into their construction projects, and by providing them with an endowment fund. Those local dynamics benefit from the strengthening of our local partner NGOs and from dialogue between countries.



180 120

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 16 AND 25 YEARS OLD at least 20% women

YOUNG ARTISANS

3

LOCAL NGOS

and six training centres have improved their practices and tools, and are now better able to mobilise communities through local authorities with regard to technical and vocational education and training



2018-2021 • BENIN, TOGO

Budget : 253 087 € • Partenaires financiers : Air France, CFSI, Fondation de France

The PARMi Project: promoting local products through catering in mass and institutional markets

The objectives of the project include: - Promoting local products and dishes through catering and making sure urban and rural consumers have access to those products and dishes through concrete innovative initiatives; - Encouraging public authorities at local and national level to focus more on food policies; - Sharing knowledge between actors about public procurement of local products through concrete initiatives.

In Benin's Collines department, a hub of activity with an abundance of cafes and restaurants, street food vendors are provided with support in the form of training and equipment. During the pandemic in 2020, the project focused on improving the quality of local products and making them more visible in Benin and Togo, through cooking classes, hygiene and customer-service training, restaurant labelling, communication tools, etc. GIC was actively involved in reaching out to various audiences: It helped raise awareness among students, and launched an advocacy campaign to garner political support at national level for local consumption.

In Togo, the project facilitates distribution and the establishment of contracts by helping processing facilities control costs and improve the quality of the agricultural products sold to the campus restaurant at the University of Lomé. With support from the Togolese NGO OADEL, the initiative also aims to strengthen the capacities of consumer associations and teach buyers about the importance of sourcing local products.



LOCAL PARTNERS

OADEL (organisation for local foods and development) was founded in Togo in 2003. Partnered with Acting for Life since 2015, it promotes the right to food through the consumption of local processed and packaged agricultural products.

GIC (intercommunity group of the Collines department) is an intercommunity association that has been working for over 20 years with the six towns of the Collines department in central Benin. GIC has been partnered with AFL since 2015. Its objective is to promote the economic and social development of the member towns through intercommunity initiatives. It also assists with project management for town initiatives, provides institutional support and helps mobilise resources.

80

STREET FOOD VENDORS

20 cafes and 50 chefs at the University of Lomé restaurant.

15

PROCESSING FACILITIES

2 promoters of local products.

350

STUDENTS

9,300 consumers.

13

COMMUNITIES IN LOME

6 towns in the Collines department, 2 Togolese consumer associations.

In Togo and Benin, many actors – NGOs, ministries, international organisations – are discussing more sustainable food systems.

In 2020, six restaurants received the Délices des Collines label. The percentage of local ingredients used in their dishes is 62%. With the health crisis, the revenue of restaurant owners did not increase, but the towns in the Collines department are using 100% local products for ceremonies. Initiatives in support of "local consumption" are relayed by Togolese consumer associations. Measures were taken by decision-makers at national and local level in Benin and Togo to promote local products (signing of municipal decrees, national sourcing strategy for cafeterias, national framework of incentives to promote local products, etc.).



2019-2021 • BURKINA FASO

Budget: €870,300 • Financial partners: AFD, Fondation Anber, Air France

The AMIAGRI Project: supporting actors on institutional markets for agricultural products

The overall objective of the AMIAGRI project is to promote sustainable and fair partnerships between producer organisations and local authorities in the Cascades region of Burkina Faso, in order to ensure that public cafeterias are supplied with high-quality local agricultural products. To do so, the project aims to: encourage partnerships between actors on the supply side (producers-processors) and those on the demand side (public /private institutions) for local agricultural products in a given area; improve the quality, availability and accessibility of food (rice, black-eyed peas, market-garden produce) in cafeterias for young people and children; raise awareness about the importance of responsible consumption; and encourage public bodies to purchase more of their agricultural products locally.

Workshops on the application of institutional purchasing have helped spark dialogue between nearly fifty actors in the region. Thanks to those workshops, the actors on both sides now have a better understanding of: the new food policies; the volumes of agricultural products available in the region; the needs expressed by the towns; and the requirements and administrative procedures involved in institutional purchasing. The creation of the NAFA SIRA network of producer organisations was also an important step for improving collaboration between producer organisations and processor organisations in the region. The strengthening of material and technical capacities with regard to the quality standards of the products and the establishment/negotiation of contracts enabled the producers and processors to: i) improve work organisation (particularly hygiene at processing facilities) and product quality (greater control over humidity, sorting, packaging); and ii) gain access to new, fairer commercial outlets. Also, by working with institutional buyers on the demand side (teaching towns about purchasing locally and providing training in preferential procedures), we are helping local producers gain greater access to markets and incentivising towns to make commitments. Teaching young people and children about the right to food and the importance of "consuming locally" is an effective and sustainable strategy (impact on what families eat, and on education), especially since the scaling up of the training module through the AME network (associations for mother-educators) is an invaluable asset in terms of anchoring the project in the region over the long term. The creation of interactive radio programmes and the participation of producer organisations at fairs also help us reach out to a large number of consumers. Advocacy in favour of local purchasing vis-à-vis public institutions was made possible thanks to several initiatives: targeting of the institutions (in need of large amounts of food or decision-making power), creation of various communication tools (brochure, directory, video), mobilisation of actors (NAFA SIRA network and CPF), and different types of exchanges (small group meetings, phone conversations, participation in fairs and conferences).

Lastly, the project achieved the following in 2020: 10 partnerships were established between producer organisations in the Cascades region; the Nafa Sira network of producer organisations was created; 7 contracts were signed directly by public institutions and producer organisations for a total of 952 tonnes of agricultural products; and local producer organisations sold 1,211 tonnes to private operators. 40,585 people were informed about food-related issues, including 5,398 students, 35,150 consumers, 4 VIPs, and 33 elected representatives at local and national level; and 6 commitments were made by public institutions in favour of local food-related projects.



LOCAL PARTNERS

Confédération Paysanne du Faso: La Confédération Paysanne du Faso (smallholder confederation of Burkina Faso) comprises 14 smallholder organisations in Burkina Faso and supports sustainable, productive and competitive family farming that guarantees access to land and ensures food security and sovereignty.

Inades Formation Burkina: Inades Formation Burkina (African institute for economic and social development) was founded in Abidjan in 1962. The Burkina Faso office opened in 1975 and is now involved in initiatives in the fields of agricultural development, decentralisation, management of natural resources, rural funding and smallholder communication.

1,000

PRODUCERS
(members of producer organisations such as FEPAB, UNERIZ, etc.)

50

PROCESSORS
(members of producer organisations such as UNERIZ Karfiguéla, SCOPP SiraNyuma, etc.)

350 women belonging to associations for mother-educators,

17 towns in 2 provinces (Comoé and Léraba),

5,000 students and **13 schools**,

50 trainees from the Sindou training centre

35 shopkeepers in 17 towns,

1,000,000 consumers living in the Cascades region.



2017-2021 • ECUADOR

Budget: €870,300 • Financial partners: AFD, Fondation Anber, Air France

The REACTIV Project: reviving the local economy after an earthquake

This project was initiated to help revive the local economy in the wake of the April 2016 earthquake, by improving producer organisations' access to markets. It focuses on the sectors of the economy that were major sources of jobs before the earthquake, such as tourism, cacao and artisanal fishing. Support was provided to 760 families in the Esmeraldas province (northwest Ecuador) to help them develop and diversify their respective business activities and become more resilient to shocks.

In 2020, CEFODI provided support to three artisanal-fishing associations, four community-tourism associations and three businesses (a cacao business, a sachá inchi business, and a business that produces ice for fishing) whose shareholders are producers, in order to help them improve their organisational and commercial procedures through workshops on entrepreneurial management (115 people received training), personalised technical assistance to improve production and processing procedures, and the implementation of commercial management tools. Late 2020, CEFODI also launched an initiative to review organisations' business plans in order to take into account the pandemic's consequences on economic activity (diversification of supply and access to new markets). Lastly, several meetings were organised between fishermen's organisations that wanted to team up to form a network so that they could sell collectively. A study was initiated to collectively define a management model, identify complementarities between the different organisations and draw up a marketing plan tailored to local and national demand.

In 2020, CEFODI continued its efforts to strengthen local financial systems, and supported the creation of ten new systems. Despite a strong drop in their activity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic (lending down 60%), savings and credit groups helped support economic activity at community level: More than half of the loans granted in 2020 were for production or commercial purposes. Moreover, 70 people from those groups were supported through training programmes in financial education. In order to cope with the reduction in economic activity owing to the pandemic, a new activity was incorporated by supporting the development of vegetable growing and poultry breeding in order to ensure food sovereignty during this difficult period and diversify economic activity by selling any surplus at the municipal peasant-farmer markets. Some organisations added value to their production, for instance by selling smoked chicken. One fishing organisation incorporated vegetables into the production of fish hamburgers.



LOCAL PARTNER

CEFODI (Esmeraldas corporation for training and integral development) was founded in 1993 with strong local roots in the Esmeraldas province. Its work focuses mainly on: promoting rural development by strengthening local associations and by improving production systems and access to markets; promoting the sustainable management of natural resources (access to water and sewage systems, management of mangroves); and defending local communities' right to basic services.

180

PEOPLE INVOLVED in creating and strengthening savings and credit groups.

580

FAMILIES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS fishermen, and tourism promoters are supported in the development or strengthening of economic activities.

1 LOCAL NGO

was supported through the integration of new methods.



2019-2021 • PERU

Budget: €281,333 • Financial partner: Air France

Transitioning to sustainable agriculture and a social and solidarity-based economy

1,130 PROJECT BENEFICIARIES.

This project aims to help structure districts of agroecological production in the municipalities of Ocongate, Ccatca and Andahuaylillas, in order to promote economic development in the region based on high-quality, environmentally friendly production sold at local and national level.

The project has four pillars: production, marketing, local coordination, and access to credit. Technical support is provided to family businesses in strategic productive sectors (dairy products, guinea pigs) to help them improve the quality and profitability of their production. Producers receive training in entrepreneurial management to learn how to better manage their economic activity. A pilot innovation fund was created to provide funding for family businesses in order to help them improve their technology for production. New strategic sectors (such as mushrooms) are also being developed and structured, and diversified agricultural production (potatoes) is being encouraged in order to ensure local food sovereignty and provide food for families.



2017-2020 • COLOMBIA

Budget: €331,875 • Financial partners: Roissy Pays de France agglomeration community, Air France

This project aims to strengthen the capacities of producers in order to launch initiatives for economic development in their region. Training programmes are organised for participating in public and private discussion forums, as well as for agroecology and the social economy. To facilitate access to small loans and encourage people to save, the project promotes and helps structure self-managed savings and credit groups. Since the start of the project, 29 groups have received training, and 414 people (55.8% women) have joined them.

130

YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS are strengthening their capacities for the development of socio-economic initiatives.

60

COFFEE PRODUCERS have access to a new market thanks to Tienda Garittea.

LOCAL PARTNER

Asociación Jesús Obrero (CCAIJO) was founded in 1971 to improve the living conditions of the people living in the rural province of Quispicanchi (near Cuzco), an area that has a long history of poverty and marginalisation. Thanks to its local roots and close ties with smallholder communities, CCAIJO enjoys recognition among local communities and local authorities.

The project offers marketing assistance for family businesses in order to help them gain greater access to local markets and markets in Cuzco. CCAIJO also buys some of the production above market price, matures cheeses, and sells them under the "D'Ausangate" brand, in accordance with the principles of the social and solidarity-based economy, which involve redistributing the proceeds throughout the region. Despite the strong impact of Covid-19 (travel restrictions, etc.) and the fact that certain activities had to be delayed, new forms of marketing emerged. Those new forms of marketing make use of new technologies and open the door to attracting new customers.

Lastly, producer organisations are strengthened and participate in local discussion forums with CCAIJO to promote policies for the development of agroecology and a local label.



LOCAL PARTNER

L'Instituto Mayor Campesino (IMCA) was founded in 1962. Its objective is to train and encourage rural communities in the Cauca Valley to participate in public and private discussion forums.

During the 90s, as armed conflict in the region intensified, IMCA helped create alternatives so that communities could live through the conflict while serving as a force of peaceful resistance. Today, IMCA is strengthening those dynamics by supporting agroecology, developing economic initiatives in support of the social and solidarity-based economy, and bringing together different actors.

LIST OF PROJECTS



COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT	LOCAL PARTNERS	PAGE
 Multi-Country Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Togo	2018-2022	PAMOBARMA - Supporting herd mobility to improve access to resources and markets in West Africa	ACAD, AEBRB, AJELAMO, ANOPER, APES, AREN, CIKOD, ETD, FENAPFIBVTO, FREFBV, GAJEL, GEVAPAF, GDCA, GIC, OPEF, RECOFA, URFBV, VSFB	12
 Multi-Country Benin, Togo	2017-2022	FIPEC - Technical and vocational education and training through sustainable construction	ACAD, GEVAPAF	
 Multi-Country Benin, Togo	2018-2021	PARMI - Promoting local products through catering in mass and institutional markets	GIC, OADEL	18
 Multi-Country Benin, Togo	2019-2022	FAPAMI - Facilitating access to institutional markets for local agricultural products	Hortitechs Développement, AMAP Bénin, AMAP Togo, OADEL	
 Multi-Country Benin, Mali, Togo	2019-2022	PAMPEC - Supporting stonework professions and sustainable construction	ACAD, APAPE-PH, GEVAPAF	17
 Multi-Country Burkina Faso, Mali	2020-2022	PRECIT - Strengthening harmony and cohesion among communities in the border regions	APAPE-PH, APES, ICD, RECOFA, VSF-B	13
 Burkina Faso	2019-2021	AMIAGRI - Supporting institutional markets for local agricultural products	INADES, CPF	19
	2017-2021	READY - Raising employment access and development for youth	OCADES, TinTua	16
	2019-2021	PASRAP - Supporting stabilisation in the Sahel, Nord and Est regions of Burkina Faso	APES, RECOFA	
	2018-2021	PSAE - Profil Jeunes Supporting the socio-economic integration of young people in the Est region of Burkina Faso	TinTua, RECOFA Est, ARFA	15
	2018-2020	RUFSTA - Help livestock farmers become more resilient	RECOFA	
 Colombia	2017-2020	Solidarity-based economy for promoting peace in the Cauca Valley	Instituto Mayor Campesino	21
	2019-2021	Preserving and sustainably managing the ecosystem of the marsh of Zapatos	Fundación ALMA	
 Ivory Coast	2019-2023	POCOMO - Promoting sustainable, participatory and integrated management to preserve biodiversity in the periphery of the Comoé National Park	Nitidae, OPEF, VSFB, Chigata	14

COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT	LOCAL PARTNERS	PAGE
 Ecuador	2017-2021	REACTIV - Reviving the local economy in the Manabi and Esmeraldas provinces of Ecuador	CEFODI, CEPESIU	20
	2017-2021	SOS FAIM, REACTIV	SOS FAIM, REACTIV	
Jordan	2018-2021	Improving the resilience, integration and education of refugees	Jesuit Refugee Center	
 Mali	2019-2020	PRECAREP - Improving the resilience of pastoral communities in western Mali	ICD	
 Mauritania	2019-2022	GITE - Intercommunity management of the environment to adapt agriculture, forest and pasture to climate change	GNAP, GRDR	
 Peru	2016-2020	Strengthening the dairy and guinea-pig sectors in the municipalities of Ocongate and Ccatca	CCAIJO	
	2019-2021	TADESS - TADESS - Transitioning to sustainable agriculture and a social and solidarity-based economy	CCAIJO	21
 Senegal	2019-2021	SL FEDI - Supporting training, employment, development and integration in the Saint Louis department	Diapalante	
 Togo	2018-2020	PROMECCO - Promoting agricultural products for local economic development	CONGAT, OADEL	
TRANSVERSAL	2019-2021	PAMOC 3 - Supporting the mobilisation of French NGOs on climate	AFD, GERES	
TRANSVERSAL	2019-2021	Focus on gender in TVET projects	TVET partners	

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

Acting for Life's financial statements are audited each year by a statutory auditor. Since 2018, the auditing firm Deloitte has been auditing Acting for Life's financial statements. The certified financial statements are then published in the Journal Officiel (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 organisations, and in order to better reflect the activities of Acting for Life, which manages projects that are carried out over several-year periods, 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.

Reminder : In 2020, the application of ANC regulation no. 2018-06 brought about changes to the accounting methods. The new regulation affects how Acting for Life's balance sheet and income statement are presented, and a few changes de tables in the appendix. Moreover, flows of dedicated funds were reallocated to operating earnings, which offers greater clarity for operating earnings. The last significant change involved splitting financial contributions from public assistance and other grants and subsidies.

Assets

The assets side of the balance sheet shows the association's resources, which mainly include grants receivable ("other receivables") and cash. Grants receivable were down 49% versus 2019, which means that grants received in 2020 were less than grants consumed, which is logical in our projects cycle. But this phenomenon increased as a result of the COVID crisis, which delayed decisions for certain projects that are currently being developed. Cash and cash equivalents rose 21% to €11,024,000: a portion of the grants receivable for 2021 was already included in our organisation's cash.

Liabilities

Dedicated funds and deferred income decreased in 2020: -10% for dedicated funds, and -31% for deferred income. Two projects were launched in 2020:

- the PRECIT project (strengthening harmony and cohesion among communities in the border regions) in Mali and Burkina Faso, co-funded by the European Union for €1,500,000.
- the RUFSTA project (responding to emergencies and helping stabilise agropastoral communities in the Sahel and Est regions of Burkina Faso), co-funded by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs for €480,000.

Balance sheet

The balance sheet presents Acting for Life's situation at 31 December 2020.

In thousands of euros	2020 gross	Amt & Prov	2020 net	2019 net	Change	Change %
ASSETS						
Fixed assets						
Intangible assets	14	8	6	2	4	243%
Tangible assets	55	47	8	14	(6)	-43%
Current assets						
Other receivables	5 701	0	5 701	11 095	(5 394)	-49%
Treasury investments	18	0	18	18	0	
Cash and cash equivalents	11 024	0	11 024	9 142	1 882	21%
Prepaid expenses	9	0	9	12	(3)	-26%
TOTAL ASSETS	16 820	55	16 766	22 546	(5 781)	-26%

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Own funds						
Funds without right of recovery	2 038	0	2 038	2 037	2	0%
Other reserves	110		110	110		
Net income	29	0	29	2	27	1777%
Provisions for liabilities and charges	0	0	0	0	0	
Dedicated funds	4 318	0	4 318	4 792	(474)	-10%
Liabilities						
Loans and similar debts payable	1 452	0	1 452	532	921	-173%
Accounts payable	190	0	190	87	103	118%
Tax and social debts	58	0	58	267	(208)	-78%
Other liabilities	31	0	31	7	24	324%
Deferred income	8 539	0	8 539	12 450	(3 911)	-31%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	16 766		16 766	20 283	(3 517)	-17%

Income statement

The income statement presents the year's activities, highlighting the main income and cost items.

In thousands of euros	2020 ANC 2018-06	2019 ANC 2018-06	2019 CRC 99-01	Change	Change %
OPERATING INCOME					
Grants and subsidies	1 133	1 796	6 124	-664	-37%
Financial contributions	4 889	4 328			
Write-backs on provisions	173	179	179	-6	-3%
Use of dedicated funds	1 456	5 600			
Other income	41	52	52	-11	-21%
TOTAL INCOME (I)	7 692	11 956	6 355	-4 263	-36%
OPERATING COSTS					
Other external costs	578	1 145	1 145	-567	-50%
Taxes and duties	88	97	97	-9	-9%
Wages and salaries	974	1 082	1 082	-108	-10%
Social-security costs	368	427	427	-59	-14%
Amortisation expense	6	7	7	-1	-20%
Provisions					
Carry forward of dedicated funds	982	4 792			
Other costs	4 669	4 273	4 273	396	9%
TOTAL COSTS (II)	7 665	11 932	7 030		
1- Operating earnings (I-II)	28	-11 932			
Financial revenue	1	3	3	-2	-64%
Interest expense					
2- Net financial income (V-VI)	1	3	3	-2	-64%
3- Pre-tax income (I-II+III-IV+V-VI)	29	-11 929	-782	11 958	-100%
Extraordinary income					
Extraordinary costs		25	25	-25	-100%
4- Exceptional items (VII-VIII)		-25	-25	25	-100%
TOTAL INCOME (I+III+V+VII)	7 694	11 959	6 359	-4 265	-36%
TOTAL COSTS (II+IV+VI+VIII+IX)	7 665	11 957	7 165	-4 292	-36%
5- Provisional balance	29	2	-806	27	1777%
+ Carry forward of funds not used in previous years			5 600		
- Commitments to be discharged against allocated resources			4 792		
6- Surplus or deficit	29	2	2	27	1777%



Funds

At 31/12/2020, funds amounted to €7,693,000, down 36% versus 2019. This was due in particular to the reduction in the use of dedicated funds (formerly referred to as "carry forward of funds not used in previous years").

Public grants recorded for our projects totalled €4,531,000 at 31/12/20. That figure was in line with public grants consumed in 2020: €1,133,000 for French public funding, and €3,398,000 for EU public funding and Norwegian development cooperation.

Use of funds

Grants awarded by the association accounted for 60% of operating costs, which is the same as in 2019. Those were mainly transfers of funds to local partners working on our projects. In 2020, grants transferred to our local partners were mainly for the PAMOBAR-MA project (€2,294k), the PRECIT project (€607k) and the READY project (€455k).

Funds allocated to projects accounted for 90% of operating costs.

Events after closing :

The continuation of the COVID-19 crisis in 2021 and its escalation in certain countries was not fully anticipated when drawing up the budget for 2021. Actions and milestones may therefore be delayed for some projects, which may create a squeeze effect that could result in higher fixed costs (human resources not attributed to the projects) and lower funds (administrative costs). But that has not happened yet (as of May 2021). The situation continues to be monitored on a regular basis in order to take corrective budgetary measures, if necessary.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

At Acting for Life, we could not carry out all of our projects without the help of our loyal financial partners. They help us considerably boost the impact of our work in the field. So here's a big thank you to all of our loyal partners for their past, present and future support!



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. AFD's support helps bring to life large-scale regional and national programmes in strategic areas for Acting for Life. These include creating training programmes and focus on issues relating to local economic development in line with the agropastoral sector in the Sahel region.



The European Union's EuropeAid programme 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. It 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 DFID since 2013 for its livestock-mobility projects in West Africa.



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 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. Through its generous support, Air France has made it possible to conduct studies and launch local projects with innovative approaches allowing for bigger programmes to be launched subsequently with public institutional partners.



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 in its projects to promote technical and vocational education and training in Africa.



As the French leader in catering and airline logistics, SERVAIR has been supporting Acting for Life for several years. In 2019, this company of 10,000 employees strengthened its commitment to supporting Acting for Life's work to promote development, particularly sustainable agricultural development in Africa.



Groupe ADP is a global leader in designing, building and operating airports. A long-standing partner of Acting for Life, ADP supports us and our projects by providing office space at the Le Bourget airport. This partnership is vital to the stability and longevity of our work.



AnBer is a loyal, long-standing partner of Acting for Life. This private foundation, recognised as an organisation 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 marginalised communities, and have supported many projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia covering all of our strategic areas of focus.



Acting for Life receives financial support from Fondation de France for projects in Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso through the «Programme to Support Family Farming in West Africa». Fondation de France, in partnership with the French Committee for International Solidarity (CFSI), promotes the initiatives of African and international organisations aiming to develop sustainable and dynamic family farming to feed West Africa's fast-growing cities.



The Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs coordinates France's response to crises in other countries affecting French nationals, and emergency humanitarian operations. It has been supporting Acting for Life since 2019 to help vulnerable families through the PURE-BF project, which provides emergency aid to agropastoral communities in the Est region of Burkina Faso.



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 importance of international solidarity led to their decision to launch the partnership. CARPF is committed to supporting the economic and local development of vulnerable communities in Latin America and West Africa.



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 technical and vocational education and training. It has a particular interest in this area, and works with Acting for Life in its efforts to improve training programmes in West Africa.

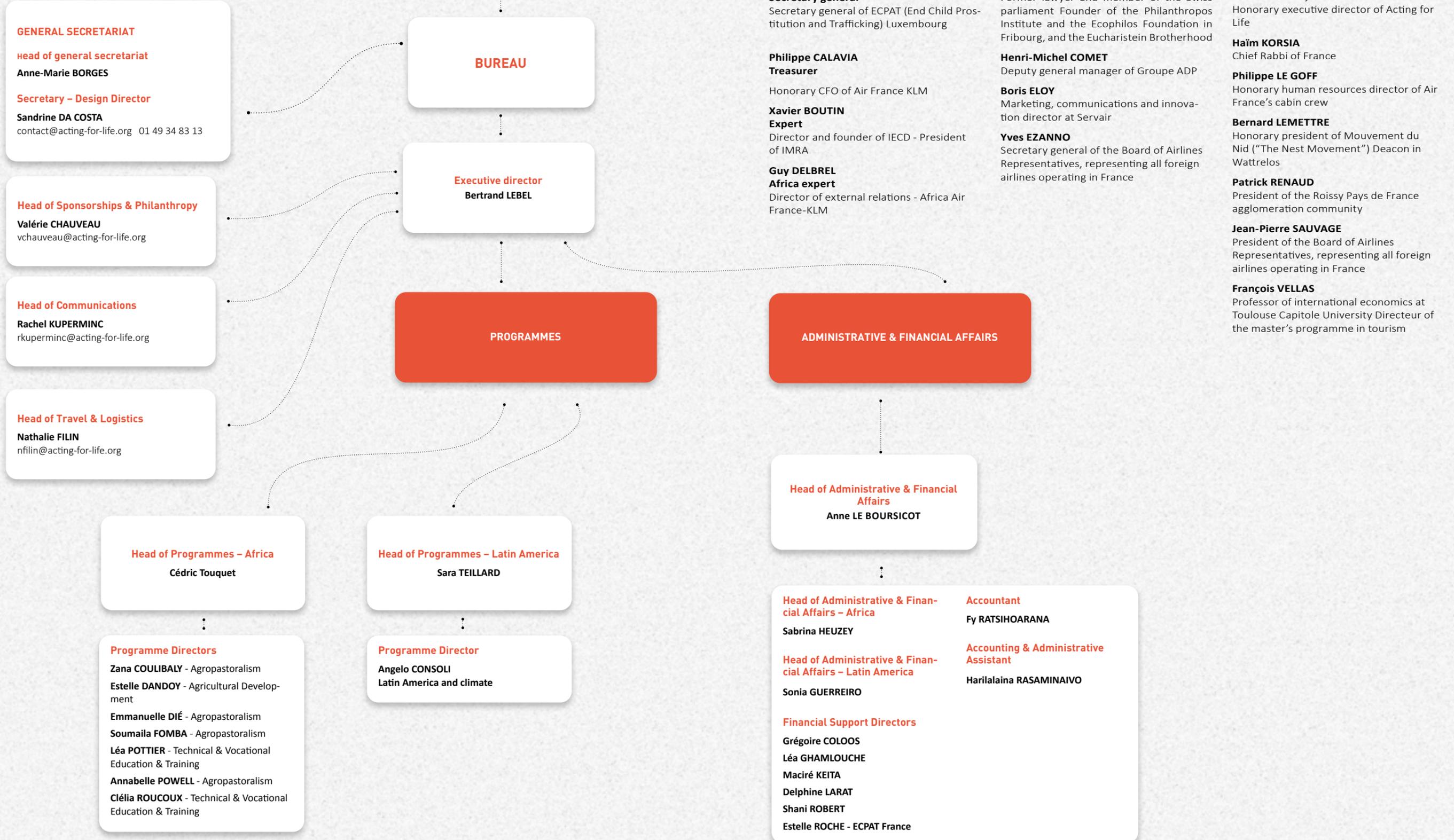


The Ditumba Foundation provides funding for the professional training of disadvantaged young people, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso). Since 2017, it has been supporting Acting for Life's project to improve professional training and integration for young people in Burkina Faso, in three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



The Motul Corazón Foundation was founded in 2011, under the aegis of Fondation de France, to help young people who are disadvantaged or who are in difficult situations. Since 2016, the Motul Corazón Foundation has been supporting a project in Mali that offers training in stonemasonry and helps the trainees find jobs.

GOVERNANCE & ORGANISATION*



*Organisational chart and governance at 23 June 2021

ARTICLES IN AIR FRANCE MAGAZINE

For several years, Air France has given Acting for Life the opportunity to publish articles in Air France Magazine about our projects, partner organisations and important issues relating to our work. More than 400,000 copies of the magazine are distributed to air travellers each month.

Récolter l'avenir

Au Burkina Faso, grâce à la contribution d'Air France, Acting for Life et l'ONG Arfa accompagnent de jeunes ruraux pour valoriser et développer la culture de produits biologiques.

Dans l'est du Burkina Faso, Acting for Life et l'Association pour la recherche et la formation en agroécologie (Arfa) agissent de concert dans le cadre du Projet de formation et d'insertion locale des jeunes (Profil) financé par l'Agence française de développement depuis 2018. Une centaine de jeunes, femmes et hommes, ont ainsi suivi des formations agroécologiques, prolongées par des expérimentations sur le terrain auprès de producteurs pour un développement commercial collectif, un échange de pratiques sur davantage de sécurité alimentaire ou la fertilisation des sols. Une unité de transformation du sésame a été créée avec comme objectif premier la certification biologique pour améliorer les revenus locaux. Des premiers pas vers une agriculture plus vertueuse, adaptée à la fois aux besoins des hommes, des femmes et de la nature.



Vers la souveraineté alimentaire

Grâce au soutien d'Air France, Acting for Life et la Fundación Alma accompagnent les populations nord-colombiennes pour valoriser et développer une agroécologie.

Le marais de Zapatos est une zone humide, riche en biodiversité, mais fortement dégradée par la pollution, la déforestation et l'élevage intensif. Acting for Life et son partenaire la Fundación Alma mènent un projet de préservation et de restauration de cet écosystème au bénéfice des populations locales. Leur but ? Accompagner les familles pour développer leur cour ou leur jardin et valoriser leurs productions, renforçant ainsi leur souveraineté alimentaire. Ces parcelles agroécologiques permettent de cultiver plus de 30 espèces indigènes, profitables à la régénération des sols et augmentant leurs qualités nutritives. L'autre volet du projet permet d'échanger des connaissances et de sauvegarder des valeurs culturelles ancestrales.



Se former pour s'insérer

Au Sénégal, grâce à la contribution d'Air France, Acting for Life et Diapalante accompagnent des jeunes vulnérables vers l'accès à un travail dans des secteurs très porteurs localement.

Dans la région de Saint-Louis, les jeunes représentent près de la moitié de la population et 30% d'entre eux sont au chômage. Face à cette situation, Acting for Life mène un projet liant formation et insertion professionnelle, mis en œuvre par l'ONG Diapalante. Un groupe de 70 jeunes, dont 40% de femmes, suivront des formations sur des filières porteuses : énergies renouvelables et écoconstruction, mais aussi sur des thématiques transversales telles que le droit du travail, l'entrepreneuriat ainsi que des actions de sensibilisation sur les inégalités de genre. Ces 70 jeunes bénéficiaires sont suivis pour leur permettre d'intégrer des emplois durables.

Promoting inclusion In the region of Saint-Louis, young people represent nearly half the population, and 30% of them are unemployed. To help remedy this situation, Acting for Life is supporting a work-study project, run by the NGO Diapalante. A group of 70 young people, 40% of whom are women, will receive training in growth sectors: renewable energies and eco-construction, but also in interdisciplinary fields like labor law, entrepreneurship and awareness-raising initiatives on gender inequality. Mentoring these 70 young recipients will help them obtain long-term employment.



Alimenter les recettes locales

Avec l'appui d'Air France, Acting for Life soutient l'agriculture familiale au Togo et au Bénin. L'objectif ? Mieux consommer et améliorer la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans ces deux pays, une agriculture à fort potentiel ne trouve pas suffisamment de débouchés, en raison de la concurrence des denrées alimentaires importées et des nouveaux modes de consommation. Grâce au soutien d'Air France, Acting for Life accompagne 1 200 producteurs et 600 transformateurs. Au Togo, elle aide les unités de transformation dans la maîtrise des coûts et l'amélioration de la qualité des produits vendus au restaurant universitaire de Lomé. Au Bénin, elle valorise boissons et mets locaux de 20 maquis et 100 restauratrices de rue. Forts de cet appui, les hommes et les femmes, cultivant et transformant ces denrées à petite échelle, pourront trouver des débouchés commerciaux équitables et stables.



2020 PUBLICATIONS

- The READY Project: initial results for post-training monitoring of programme graduates – Acting for Life (2020)
- Booklet to raise awareness and advocate for sustainable food production and responsible consumption in West Africa – E. Dandoy, Acting for Life (September 2020)
- Smallholder organisations and institutional markets in Burkina Faso, Estelle Dandoy, 2020, CFSI, <https://www.alimenterre.org/organisations-paysannes-et-marches-institutionnels-au-burkina-faso>
- In West Africa: Business models and promoting local consumption, Estelle Dandoy, 2020, CFSI, <https://www.alimenterre.org/en-afrique-de-l-ouest-modeles-d-entreprises-et-promotion-du-consommer-local>

Improving the food served at cafeterias in Burkina Faso - Rasca Production

All publications, news and videos are available on our website www.acting-for-life.org, and on social media:



OUR 3 AREAS OF FOCUS



Technical & vocational
education & training



Agropastoralism



Agricultural systems & ecosystems

Acting for Life is a proud member of :



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