



INTERNATIONAL

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2024

ANNUAL

REPORT

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Sewing workshop at the Graines de Bitume centre –
Antananarivo, Madagascar

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COVER/**WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY – REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** ©REIPER

GRAPHIC DESIGN/LA SUPÉRETTE



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Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil
International (FAAI)



@apprentisauteuil_international

On 20 November 2024, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, many children around the world are still denied their most fundamental rights. In a complex and particularly troubled international environment, children are the first to suffer poverty, exclusion and violence.

For the past ten years, the Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil International (FAAI) has been working with local actors to protect and support highly vulnerable young people, focusing on their education and professional integration. In 2024, our partners in 12 resource-limited countries showed exemplary courage and commitment in ensuring the protection, training and future of these young people, sharing know-how and best practices among themselves.

This year saw strong participation from children in advocating for their rights. They made their voices heard both at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva and at the local level. At our conference to mark the International Day for Street Children and at the UN Human Rights Council's Annual Day on the Rights of the Child, two children from Madagascar delivered their messages. A young Peruvian also addressed the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Young people were also at the heart of our international campaign to mark World Children's Day on 20 November.

We would like to express our deep gratitude and pay tribute to Bernard Firmenich, Vice-Chairman of the FAAI, who passed away at the end of the year. In particular, he was instrumental in the creation of our

training restaurant, The Birdhouse, in Vernier, and was passionate about offering young people the chance of a better future through training and professional integration. His courage, generosity and dedication to helping the most disadvantaged young people will remain etched in our memories.

We also salute the commitment and determination of Mario Fetz, who handed over the reins after seven years at the helm of the General Secretariat. Under his leadership, the Foundation has spread its wings both internationally and in Switzerland. In particular, Mario played a leading role in setting up and supporting The Birdhouse, which, five years on, is a recognised and successful model of accredited training and apprenticeship in Geneva.

In 2025, we will pursue our international mission with two new projects: the professional integration of young people in Madagascar and support to young mothers in Burkina Faso. We will also intensify our advocacy with the United Nations and our partners.

Every child has the potential to thrive. Thanks to your support, we are giving them the means to build a better future. We are sincerely grateful to all our donors and public and private partners for their precious and continuing trust.

Enjoy the report!



Jean-Paul Faugère

Chairman



Bénédicte Pansier

Secretary-General

FOUNDATION

THE

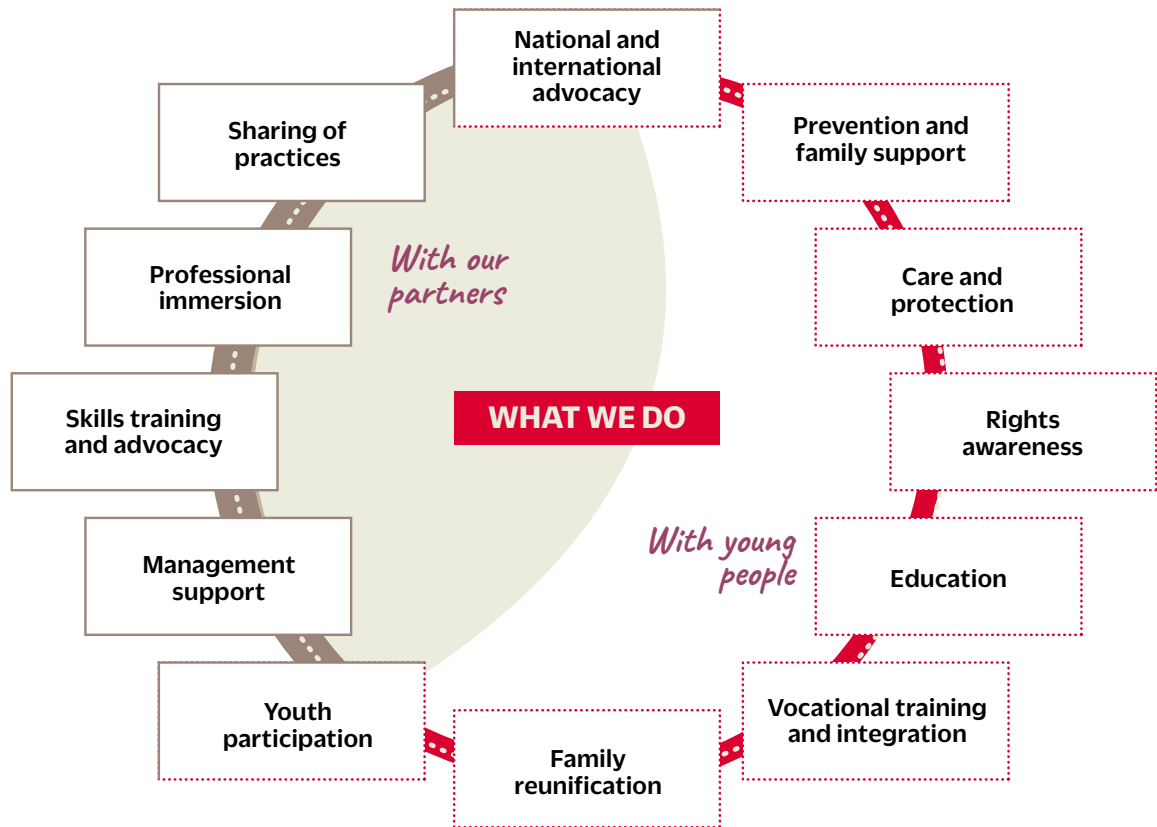
Established in Geneva in 2013, the **Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil International (FAAI)** is dedicated to helping vulnerable young people in Switzerland and abroad. It focuses its activities on **four themes**: child protection, the professional integration of young people, family and parenting support and the promotion of children's rights.

Working with its local partners, the Foundation supports the **international cooperation projects** of the Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil* in 12 resource-limited countries. Furthermore, it **advocates for children's rights**, particularly those of children in street situations, among United Nations institutions. In Switzerland, it also supports **early school leavers** through its training restaurant, The Birdhouse.

How we work

Our **approach is holistic**. We take charge of each child, from the street to their full (family, social and professional) reintegration. The common thread in all our activities is to raise awareness of children's fundamental rights, be it among families, communities or the children themselves. We work exclusively with local partner organisations in the countries concerned and encourage them to share their experiences and know-how to enrich practices and support systems.

The holistic approach of our international action



**The Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil was founded in 1866 in France.*

KEY FIGURES IN 2024

CHILD PROTECTION



Support children in street situations and other situations of extreme vulnerability, to ensure their safety, education and social integration.

1,348

children in Madagascar hosted in day centres

6

awareness-raising activities on the rights of the child carried out in schools in Mali

84

young people in the Republic of the Congo provided with psychosocial support

INTEGRATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Vocational training and support for young people, with socio-educational support to help them integrate sustainably into society.

942

young people with limited employment prospects in Morocco hosted and supported

90

young girls in Burkina Faso trained in sewing

929

young people, including **581** girls, undergoing vocational training in the DRC

FAMILY AND PARENTING SUPPORT



Support parents in their educational role and empower them as the main actors in their children's protection.

9,600

annual visits to Houses of Families
(Burkina Faso, Cambodia, DRC, Philippines)

424

families provided with parenting support in Madagascar

33

children in Mali reunited with their families

ADVOCACY



Advocating for children's rights alongside our local partners.

705

children consulted in the drafting of the alternative report prepared by the PFSCE's Children's Committee for the UPR* of Madagascar

32

recommendations made on our themes during the UPR* of the Republic of the Congo

110

participants at our conference, held in Geneva to mark the International Day for Street Children, and around **1,000** watched it online

WHERE WE WORK

4

programmes

13

countries

27

partners



- ▶ Burkina Faso
- ▶ Cambodia
- ▶ Cameroon
- ▶ Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ▶ Lebanon
- ▶ Madagascar
- ▶ Mali

- ▶ Morocco
- ▶ Peru
- ▶ Philippines

- ▶ Republic of the Congo
- ▶ Senegal
- ▶ Switzerland

*PFSCE - Plateforme de la Société Civile pour l'Enfance; UPR - Universal Periodic Review

PROTECTION

CHILD



Thirty-five years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a **landmark international treaty** that entitles every child to **specific protection and care** until the age of 18, many children in street situations continue to be denied their basic rights. Some of these children have no birth certificate, which renders them invisible in the eyes of the State. Without proof of birth, they cannot enrol in public schools, access hospital care or receive social welfare. Their “status” as children in street situations thus deprives them of many of the rights on which they rely to live in safety and dignity. In cooperation with our local partners, we strive to ensure that these fundamental rights are respected and applied.

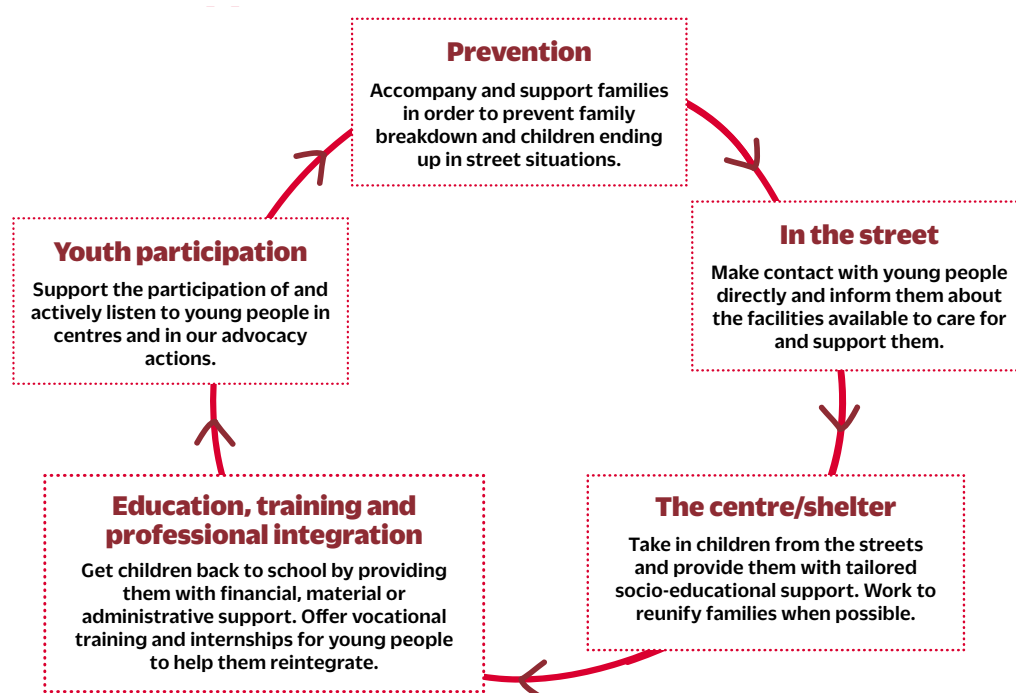
A REGIONAL PROGRAMME TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM ENDING UP IN STREET SITUATIONS AND TO HELP THEM REINTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY

Country: Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Partners*: CFSN (Cameroon), REIPER (Republic of the Congo) AED, JOS, CCN, ORPER, OSEPER, VTA (DRC)

Our partners in Central Africa face many of the same difficulties in terms of poverty and cultural beliefs, sometimes accompanied by violence inflicted on children in street situations. This regional action programme, launched in 2023, aims to strengthen our commitment to children in street situations by providing each child with **holistic support** tailored to their needs, **from care in the street to their social, professional and, where possible, family reintegration.**

Support to children in street situations



*CFSN – Chaîne des Foyers Saint Nicodème; REIPER – Réseau des Intervenants sur le Phénomène des Enfants en Rupture; AED – Aide à l’Enfance Défavorisée; JOS – Jeunes au Soleil; CCN – Communauté du Chemin Neuf; ORPER – Œuvre de Reclassement et de Protection des Enfants de la Rue; OSEPER – Œuvre de Suivi, Education et Protection des Enfants de la Rue; VTA – Vivre et Travailler Autrement

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The **day centres and night shelters** run by our partners are places where children in street situations can enjoy **care, socio-cultural activities**, psychosocial support, literacy classes, **schooling** and **vocational training**. In 2024, we launched a new initiative with our

partners to promote the **active participation of young people** through a **parent-child awareness-raising session**. Children and parents were able to express their needs and thus improve their role within the family.

1,153

children, including **428** girls, hosted in day centres or night shelters

Graduation ceremony – DRC

©OSEPER



All children have rights. I learned all about them during the holiday camp. Thank you, REIPER, for organising this camp.

Child supported in the Republic of the Congo

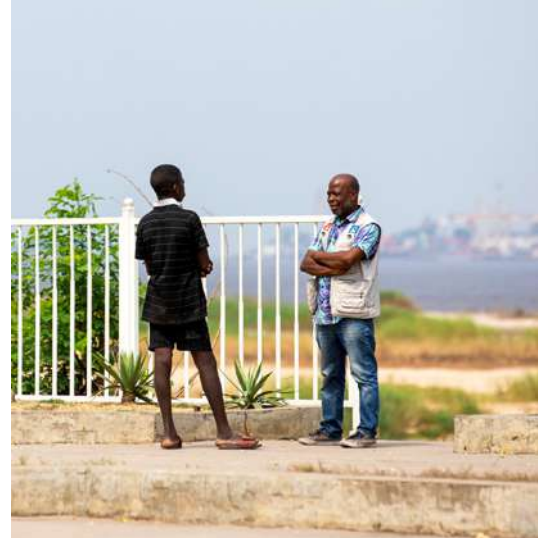
Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, Republic of the Congo

Our partner REIPER is an umbrella group of 22 member associations working to **protect vulnerable children** through the accommodation and care of at-risk children. It monitors them in an open environment, provides schooling support and promotes their socio-economic integration. In July, REIPER organised a holiday camp where

the children **learned about their fundamental rights**, while exercising their right to play and have fun. Through taking part in games and activities, the children were able to express themselves freely and enjoy simply being children, unburdened by the constraints and pressures of daily survival.

A REIPER social worker speaking to a child on the streets – Brazzaville

©Besnard/Apprentis d'Auteuil



Douala, Cameroon

The PK24 centre provides **educational, family and socio-professional reintegration** for **children leaving the street or prison**. These children receive accommodation, schooling and agropastoral training, participate in socio-cultural and sporting activities and benefit from professional reintegration. In 2024, the young people at the centre took part in several **awareness-raising sessions**

on health and received psychological support. Staff at the centre also underwent **training in advocacy and youth participation**. In November, social workers from the Chaîne des Foyers Saint Nicodème took part in a **training course on violence prevention** to equip them with the tools to manage conflict and violence in the reception centres.

35

young people hosted at the PK24 centre

*REIPER - Réseau des Intervenants sur le Phénomène des Enfants en Rupture

Without the help of Action Enfants de Tous, I would have ended up on the streets and would never have had the chance to learn a trade. Thanks to the training, I obtained a certificate in photovoltaic electricity, and I am now ready to face the world of work.

Young training beneficiary, Mali

Country: Mali, Ségou

Partner: Caritas Ségou



Objective

Integrate children and young people in street situations sustainably into society by promoting their rights, providing them with accommodation and care and supporting youth vocational training.

198

children and young people attended the listening centre

PROMOTION, RESPECT AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

The Action Enfants de Tous listening centre takes in children and young people from the streets in the context of the complex emergency that has affected the country for several years. The support the children receive aims to help them, where possible, **reintegrate into society, the family and the workplace**. The year 2024, however, saw a significant rise in the needs of children in street situations, compounded in particular by a decline in the activities of civil society organisations. Despite these difficulties, we and our partners continued to **listen to, meet with and raise awareness** of children in street situations and to provide them with **services during the day** and emergency accommodation at night. The young people housed by the Foyer can follow courses in cutting and sewing, electricity and solar power, carpentry and upholstery. In addition, local children receive **schooling support**.



Children playing at the day centre – Ségou, Mali
©Action Enfants de Tous, Caritas Ségou

HELPING TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

To meet the needs of children in street situations, our partner provides shelter, food, health care, formal and non-formal education and psychosocial support. The **recognition of Qosqo Maki by the authorities** and the training it provides enable the young participants to enter the labour market once they have obtained their certification. **Youth participation** is at the heart of our partner's activities. In particular, the children took part in a national summit with young people in street situations from a number of associations and their partners from the collective "Hagamos visible lo invisible"

(Let's make the invisible visible). The summit culminated in a **draft law** that would enable children and adolescents to continue their schooling for an indefinite period, even if they have left school.



Young boy doing carpentry training – Peru
©Qosqo Maki

Country: Peru, Cuzco

Partner:
Association Qosqo Maki



Objective

Accommodate and support children and adolescents in street situations to ensure their social and professional integration by promoting the development of social workers' skills.

20

young people benefited from vocational training leading to certification

I'm now halfway through my studies, and I'm thinking of starting a small business to earn an income. ... I'd also like to come back to Qosqo Maki as a social worker.

Mickael, who completed his bakery training two years ago, Peru

PROVIDING HOLISTIC CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN STREET SITUATIONS – "SANDRATRA" (LIVING IN DIGNITY)

Country: Madagascar, Antananarivo

Partners*: Centre NRJ, Graines de Bitume, ONG Manda, PFSCE



Objective

Support children and their families in enjoying their fundamental rights by providing them with shelter, health care, recreational activities and schooling programmes in five-day centres and one night centre.

476

children referred to centres during street patrols

In Madagascar, where **many children live on the streets with their families**, teams of social workers are constantly striving to improve and **strengthen support for families**. In 2024, volunteer families were enrolled in a mutual insurance scheme that provided health-care coverage, including hospitalisation. The **International Day of Families** was celebrated this year with a cooking competition to raise awareness of good nutritional practices. These initiatives were complementary to our partners' regular activities, such as **home visits, parenting school** and **parent-child bonding activities**.

*Centre NRJ – Centre Nouveau Relais des Jeunes, PFSCE – Plateforme de la Société Civile pour l'Enfance

Multi-country

Multi-partner



Objective

Contribute to improving the practices of professionals working with children in street situations by developing an online training programme.

522

people currently following the Digital Notebooks programme

ONLINE TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS: THE DIGITAL NOTEBOOKS

In most of our partner countries, **scant training** is available for professionals working with children in street situations. To fill this gap, we and our partners have co-created a training programme **for social workers** that will equip them with additional tools to support the personal and social development of children in street situations. Users of the Digital Notebooks are invited to join the **Agora interactive platform**, where they can discuss the themes addressed in the programme and share inspiring practices and know-how.

Over the course of 2024, six new Digital Notebooks were added to the Children in Street Situations programme on the following topics: street work, daily life, the social worker's principles of action, helping each young person achieve their life goals, working with families, and facilitation".

EMPOWERMENT, PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF YOUNG GIRLS

At the day centre, the hostel and the secondary school, young girls can take part in **life skills classes** and **personal development workshops** and receive support from a psychologist to **strengthen their social and emotional skills**. They also benefit from tutoring and speech therapy to ensure continuity with school. In addition, **parenting workshops** are organised to help reduce domestic violence and foster a safer environment for the girls.

During the security crisis that affected the country, our partner continued to support highly vulnerable girls and families, whose numbers have increased significantly owing to the population displacements. Despite occasional closures, the centres remained places of refuge and comfort, enabling young girls in particular to escape the stresses of daily life and be nurtured and supported.

Country: Lebanon, Beirut and Mount Lebanon

Partner: Les Sœurs du Bon pasteur



Objective

Reduce the vulnerability of young girls through a multifaceted approach based on prevention, protection and career guidance.

197

young girls supported



Homework help at the Dora day centre
– Sœurs du Bon Pasteur, Lebanon
©Ségolène Ragu/Apprentis d'Auteuil

EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS

Women make up 50% of the world's population, yet they suffer serious inequalities. They are **all too often left by the wayside** and are particularly vulnerable to violence. Some are denied education for the simple reason that they were born girls. Cultural traditions, early or forced marriage and, indeed, teenage pregnancy are major obstacles to girls' access to education. With our local partners, we prioritise the **professional integration of girls and young women** through projects directly supporting **vulnerable and isolated families and mothers**.

My aunt sent me to do the beautician's course. ... I plan to finish my training, find a job to earn money and be independent so that I don't have to ask my parents for money. I'd like to tell other children not to lose heart and to keep sight of their goals

Young girl supported by the Nyalla centre, Cameroon

Together with our partners, we are helping **young girls strengthen their capacities** and build their future.

For example, our partner, 100% Mamans in Morocco, caters to single mothers, **helping them to integrate into the workforce** and take care of their children. Our partners in Mali and Cameroon **provide shelter for young mothers and their children** so that they can follow training courses in good conditions. The Dora centre in Beirut also takes in young girls so that they can **pursue their studies in a favourable environment**.

It is vital to show young girls that, with the right support, **it is possible to overcome difficulties and pursue their dreams**.



Mary, Beirut, Lebanon
©Ségolène Ragu/Apprentis d'Auteuil

I thought sport was reserved for men, but thanks to this centre, I've learned that men and women are equal. We can take part in activities together.

Mary, young girl at the Dora centre, Beirut, Lebanon

AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



INTEGRATION

Economic instability in many countries is particularly worrying and is jeopardising the development prospects of the populations we support alongside our partners. Children and young people are often the collateral victims of this instability and suffer lasting effects in various areas of their development. They are often denied access to education or training, compromising their chances of integrating into society and finding employment. Together with our partners, we are **focusing on the integration of young people** living on the streets or in vulnerable situations by **providing them with the skills** to develop an income-generating activity.

HOUSE OF HOPE: INTEGRATION AND PROTECTION OF YOUNG WOMEN

Country: Mali, Bamako



Objective

Protect and integrate young women and their children and promote the role of the family in the development and protection of children.

Partner*: AJDM

70%

of girls who graduated in 2023 are still in work after six months

The Djiguya So (House of Hope) centre offers **courses leading to certification** in sewing, henna tattooing/beauty and restoration. The courses are complemented by classes in literacy, financial management and entrepreneurship, as well as educational talks on such topics as health, women's rights and child education. Since last year, the number of young girls taken on as part of the support scheme for young mothers has increased, with a 100% success rate in the final sewing exam. Together with our partner, we also provide parenting guidance for vulnerable families within a space where they can meet, socialise and build friendships.



Young women in tattooing class – Bamako, Mali
©AJDM

After receiving the start-up kit and funds, I went straight to look for premises because ... the integration officer advised us to find a place where we could conduct our business.

Former trainee in tattooing and make-up, Mali

*AJDM - Association Jeunesse et Développement du Mali

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN

Country: Cameroon, Nyalla
(Douala district)

Partner*: CFSN



Objective

Socio-professional empowerment of young girls aged 14 to 23 in highly vulnerable situations in Douala.

61

young girls received training

The New Bell day centre **welcomes and listens to** young girls, offering academic support, a canteen service and leisure activities. The girls can go on to join the Nyalla **"Art and Style" training centre**, which provides **training** in sewing, styling or hairdressing/beauty. At the end of the two- to three-year course, parti-

cipants receive help in finding an **internship** with a master artisan or in setting up their own business. They also receive a **health check-up** and **hygiene kits**. In addition, the centre runs **parenting workshops** to raise families' awareness of their role in their children's education.

Sewing course at the Nyalla centre – Douala, Cameroon
©CFSN



Each young person has a unique personality and character, which we must take into account in the support we give. ... In every journey, there are inevitably slips and stumbles, but the most important thing is to have the courage to get up again and carry on.

Social worker at the JCLTIS centre in charge of mediation, hygiene, health and citizenship, Senegal

REHABILITATING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION – "SUXALI" (GIVING BACK HOPE)

Country: Senegal, Dakar

Partner*: JCLTIS



Objective

Improve vocational training to better integrate marginalised young people through an innovative and modern training centre.

135

young people received training in electricity

The centre hosts and supports young people in complex situations through **prevention, training, specialised education** and **integration**. It offers **six training courses** in the fields of electricity, carpentry, welding, metalwork, sewing and dyeing. After completing their training, the young people are monitored by members of the team, who

support them during the first years of activity, facilitate their access to JCLTIS rooms and equipment and, where needed, call on them to do certain jobs or activities at the centre. In 2024, our partner focused on revising the training curriculum, in particular through immersion in two Apprentis d'Auteuil partner establishments.

A young person training in electricity – JCLTIS, Dakar, Senegal
©Apprentis Auteuil



*CFSN - Chaîne des Foyers St Nicodème, JCLTIS - Jeunesse, Culture, Loisirs, Technique, Interventions Sociales

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, "NAJAH" (SUCCESS)

Alongside our local partners, we offer a three-month **pre-training programme**, during which young people take classes in French, IT and life skills to **boost their employability**. They are then guided towards vocational courses that will enable them to **acquire the technical skills** to enter the labour market. Increasingly viewed as a viable alternative to traditional employment, entrepreneurship has taken off in Morocco. Accordingly, our partners also offer young people the chance to pursue **the path of self-employment** by providing specific training and even **financial support** for those who plan to **start their own business**.

Country: Morocco, Casablanca, Marrakesh, Safi and Tangier

Partners: 100% Mamans (Tangier), Al Karam (Marrakesh and Safi), l'Heure Joyeuse (Casablanca)



Objective

Contribute to the socio-economic integration of young people aged 15 to 35 with limited employment prospects.

55

young people supported,
44% of them young women,
found employment

To begin with, when we come here to l'Heure Joyeuse, we're lost. We've no idea what we are supposed to do or what we want to do with our lives. But, through the capacity-building training we received these past few months, we now have a clear idea of what steps to take in general.

Young woman supported by l'Heure Joyeuse, Morocco



Boot camp on the business model, run by the trainers at l'Heure Joyeuse – Casablanca, Morocco
©Besnard/Apprentis d'Auteuil

Country: Burkina Faso,
Koudougou

Partner*: AKT



Objective

Protect and integrate vulnerable girls and women and promote the role of the family in the development and protection of their children.

650

monthly visits to the House
of Families

90

young girls trained in sewing

SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE YOUNG GIRLS, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN – “TINBO” (HOPE) New!

The **Tinbo training centre** offers courses in sewing, dyeing, embroidery, soap-making and weaving for young girls in Koudougou. It works closely with the House of Families, where girls in training or leaving training receive **parenting support** in a space where they can talk about their experiences and bond with their peers. The girls thus gain **social and economic independence** within their families.



Sewing class – Burkina Faso
©Association Kogl Taaba

SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE – “SAMBO BE” New!

The project aims to enhance access to **formal employment opportunities** for vulnerable young people in Madagascar by **diversifying training** and consolidating existing mechanisms, such as the Bureau pour l'Emploi (Employment Office). In 2024, efforts focused on improving young people's psychosocial skills, opening up new training opportunities and finding new partner businesses. The **broadening of the scope of the Bureau pour l'Emploi** to include young people outside partner structures is a significant step forward.

Country: Madagascar,
Antananarivo

Partner: Graines de Bitume



Objective

Facilitate the social and professional integration of young people, while strengthening the impact of existing schemes and addressing economic, social and environmental challenges..

600

young people supported in
developing a career plan



Young people attend a lecture on
renewable energies – Madagascar
©Graines de Bitume

*AKT - Association Kogl Taaba

INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL, THE BIRDHOUSE

The Birdhouse, the training restaurant for early school leavers, celebrated its **fifth anniversary** in 2024. This **educational and social programme** aims to take in and train **15 young people a year** through a **dual apprenticeship leading to a diploma in catering (cooking or service)**. Given that a young person without qualifications is four times more likely to be unemployed, the apprenticeship represents an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and isolation in which a young person who has dropped out of school can find themselves. All the Birdhouse graduates are now employed.

The **keys to this success** are individualised support tailored to the needs of each young person, thanks in particular to a social coach, who is an integral part of the project. The coach works with the young person to help them overcome the obstacles posed by personal issues (family, social, financial, etc.) that can get in the way of their training.

The **value of this model** lies in the daily contact the apprentices have with the customers. This immersive experience enables them to grasp the realities and challenges of the professional world while still in training. Years of experience also allow our teams to **adapt their methods according to the apprentices' needs**. We now have a trainer entirely dedicated to training. He devotes his time to a particular young person and reviews with them any concepts they have not assimilated or mastered, with a view to their exams. He is fully aware of the training requirements and can thus facilitate the young person's progress.

Country: Switzerland, Geneva

Partners: Ecole Hôtelière de Genève, Gourmet Brothers, Hospice Général (Service d'insertion professionnelle)



Objective

Promote the professional integration of early school leavers by providing them with training leading to a qualification.

18

young graduates have found jobs since the creation of The Birdhouse in 2019

Watch the news report by a local Geneva television station.



An apprentice with trainer, The Birdhouse, Geneva
©Loïc Henin

If I were to sum up my experience at The Birdhouse in three words, I'd say 'desire, confidence, future'. Since my training, I have the desire to do something, I've gained self-confidence, and I now have the ability to plan for the future.

Young person who graduated with a CFC (Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training) in 2023, Geneva Switzerland

THE EXPERIENCE OF A

BIRDHOUSE GRADUATE

"My name is Marius, I'm 29 years old, and I'm from Romania. I did my training at The Birdhouse, starting with a two-year AFP (Federal Certificate of Vocational Education and Training) and then a CFC (Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training), **specialising as a head waiter.** I chose this training because I had started at the bottom of the ladder in the restaurant business ... and I felt that it was time to get a diploma and be done with casual work.

I signed up at the OFPC*. ... I planned to leave the restaurant business entirely because I'd had bad experiences with other restaurants. The adviser [at the OFPC], who I'm very grateful to, changed my mind. I had an interview at The Birdhouse. I'll never forget that moment.

The director talked to me about my background and CV. ... He asked me if I'd like to spend a week at the hotel school. I said to myself, "Hotel school?" I was delighted. I told myself it was my last chance, and I had to seize it. And I promised him at the interview: "If you take me on, I'll do the AFP, and I'll finish the CFC too." Even now, the memory makes me feel good. And I kept my promise.

I was one of the first to graduate, and that, too, made me very proud.

I'd say there are less pleasant moments. It was mainly the fear of not succeeding. There was also Covid-19. I passed the AFP during that period when we all had to wear masks.

At The Birdhouse, **Steeve, the social coach, is more than just a crutch.** He's our physiotherapist; **he teaches us to walk again, to go the extra mile.** I also learned a lot from my trainer, Julie – cutting techniques, organisation, the vocabulary. In a way, **it's thanks to her that I got the two diplomas.**

What I'd say to an apprentice starting out at The Birdhouse is, most importantly, be punctual. Be patient; give it your all. It's a wonderful opportunity that not everybody gets. And here you have lots of support. You must keep going all the way to the end, no matter what, despite the ups and downs. In fact, you need to have goals and keep them in your sights at all costs. ...

I'm currently employed as a hospitality agent in a hospital. It's going very well. Yesterday, a lady said to me: "I don't know what I'd do, sir, if you weren't here. Because with you, time goes so much faster. I know we can have a laugh, and I forget the pain." That's what gives me the strength to carry on. That's what I like the most. That's why, right now, I have no desire to leave."



Marius with a trainee at the Birdhouse
©Apprentis d'Auteuil

*OFPC - Office pour l'Orientation, la Formation Professionnelle et Continue

PARENTING SUPPORT



FAMILY AND

Economic difficulties have a significant impact on the functioning and well-being of families. In such contexts, it becomes all the more difficult for parents to provide the necessary support for their children's education and meet their needs. For the FAAl and its partners, it is therefore vital to help vulnerable children and their families upstream in order to prevent family breakdown. Where families do break down, we work with our partners to reunite and support them, combined with parenting support and/or assistance to the children. Our Houses of Families programme addresses both situations and the socio-economic challenges facing parents and their children.

HOUSES OF FAMILIES

The Houses of Families project runs individual and collective activities with a view to **empowering families**. By putting families at the **heart of the process** and by valuing their experiences, knowledge and skills, the Houses of Families offer a **nurturing environment** for the most vulnerable families, where they can combat isolation, make friends and enrich their parenting and educational experiences. Emphasis is placed on supporting and **building the capacities** of professionals and social workers so that they can better assist families through improved practices and customised tools to **empower parents and enhance their skills** to educate and provide for their children.

Some examples

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the House of Families provides schooling support for children and classes in cutting/sewing, cooking, weaving, English, IT, beauty and hairdressing for parents. Members of the supported families make their own knowledge and skills available for the benefit of other families.

The House of Families in **Burkina Faso** organises social events such as tea parties, film debates, discussion groups, aerobics classes and pétanque games, as well as cookery and soap-making workshops.

Country: Burkina Faso (Koudougou), Cambodia (Siem Reap), Philippines (Iloilo), DRC (Kinshasa)

Partners*: AKT (Burkina Faso), WRC (Cambodia), Cameleon (Philippines), Solidarité Batoto Congo (DRC)



Objective

Help promote the family as the main actor in the development and protection of children.

370

new families supported



Learning to weave at the House of Families – Burkina Faso

©AKT

* AKT - Association Kogl Taaba, WRC - Women's Ressource Center

In **Cambodia**, the House of Families broadened the range of fun activities on offer, including games, arts and crafts, dancing, singing and outdoor recreational outings.

The House of Families in the **Philippines** organises education and life skills workshops on a variety of topics for parents, children and young people, as well as discussion groups on parenting



Parents at the House of Families in Iloilo share moments with their kids – Philippines
©Cameleon

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AND KNOWLEDGE - COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE AT THE SERVICE OF FAMILIES

Every year for the past eight years, we have organised a meeting of our international partners called the “Community of Practice and Knowledge”, which aims to **develop our skills** and the tools of our partners who face common issues. Ultimately, we hope to develop this work as a **network of civil society actors**.

In 2024, the theme of the various workshops was “**What can we do differently to support families?**” This question is also fundamental to our support for children in street situations as it enables us, on the one hand, to **pre-empt family breakdown** and, on the other hand, to **reconnect** and, when possible, **reunite children with their families**.

Over a week, representatives of 19 partner associations from 10 countries shared their experiences of working with families, reviewed their practices, pooled their resources and brainstormed new ones. The goal as a group was to **foster innovative practices**, constantly **adapt to the realities of families** and **provide them with the best possible support**.

Multi-country

Multi-partner



Objective

Develop the sharing of experiences and know-how between and with our partners to enrich practices and support systems.



Meeting on the theme of families – Tangier, Morocco
©Apprentis d'Auteuil

For me, it was an opportunity to learn so much, whether in terms of knowledge, know-how or interpersonal skills. I was really impressed by the positive attitude of the group. I will try to pass on all this knowledge on the ground and within my organisation.

A participant at the meeting in Morocco



Children have their say

In 2024, we carried out a range of advocacy activities in collaboration with our local partners, both in the countries where they work and in Geneva, notably at the United Nations. We aimed to bring about tangible changes and ensure the implementation of children's rights.

Our advocacy activities focus on **four main areas**:

- ▶ Bringing **the issue of the rights of children in street situations** to international attention and making their voices heard;
- ▶ Promoting the **participation of children**, including children in street situations, in all processes that affect them;
- ▶ **Supporting our local partners** in their efforts to promote children's rights;
- ▶ **Strengthening the capacities and skills** of our local partners in the area of advocacy and developing joint international advocacy activities.

PARTICIPATION OF RONALDO AND ELIA, TWO CHILDREN FROM MADAGASCAR, AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

For the first time, in March 2024, two children from the streets of Madagascar were given the floor at the United Nations to share their stories. Ronaldo and Elia, who are supported by our Sandratra project, came to Geneva, where they attended a session of the **UN Human Rights Council** for its Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (14 March). The discussions centred on **inclusive social protection**, an important issue for children in street situations since they do not have access to basic services. You can find the speech Ronaldo gave at the session on **page 25**.

At the end of this discussion, States unanimously **adopted a resolution** committing to put in place inclusive social protection for all children, including those in street situations. Thanks to our advocacy work, children in street situations were specifically mentioned in this resolution.

This text represents **a major step forward** in the recognition of the rights of children in street situations. It is now up to governments to **translate this commitment into concrete action**.



Ronaldo gives his speech at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland
©United Nations

Over the day, a journalist filmed Ronaldo and Elia for **a report for the evening news on local television in Geneva**.



The participation of children like Ronaldo and Elia at the United Nations is vital to **raising the international community's awareness** of the reality of children in street situations and to help them better understand the rights violations they face so that they may **come up with appropriate responses**.

More than
1.4 billion
children around the world do
not receive government aid*

*ILO, 2023

ENSURING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

International conference in Geneva

In 2024, the FAI organized the second edition of its event to mark the **International Day for Street Children (12 April)**. The conference, held at our training restaurant The Birdhouse on 12 March, provided the launchpad for our **online campaign on access to education**.

244 millions
children around the world do
not go to school*

Access to education for children in street situations is **a priority for our partners and for the children they support**. Today, the number of out-of-school children is a reasonable approximation of the number of children in street situations.

The meeting, which was also live-streamed, was enlivened by contributions from our local partner in Madagascar, the children Ronaldo and Elia, and international experts, including Luis Pedernera, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Participants highlighted the challenges and solutions related to access to education for children in street situations.



Panel of speakers at the international conference in Geneva, Switzerland
©Apprentis d'Auteuil

We were also honoured to have Thierry Apothéoz, Geneva State Councillor for Social Cohesion, and H.E. Mata Prates, Ambassador of Uru-

guay, give the opening speeches. In all, **110 people** attended in person, and the meeting was viewed live or replayed online nearly **1,000 times**.

I dream of being a school principal and of helping disadvantaged children.

Elia, during her talk in Geneva

Online advocacy campaign – 12 March to 12 April 2024

Following the conference, we launched an online campaign to disseminate key messages developed in close collaboration with **ten of our partners**. In support of the campaign, the FAI produced numerous communication materials, including a web page dedicated exclusively to the campaign, three video clips, several visuals and various postings on social media. These materials enabled us to **spread our common messages to a wider audience**. Our online advocacy campaign was a resounding success and was **widely shared** on social media, notably on LinkedIn. Traffic to our website also almost doubled (+100%).

The FAI supports its local partners in engaging with various UN mechanisms to strengthen their national advocacy by promoting the participation of the children concerned.



In Madagascar, only **56%** of children complete primary school**

*UNESCO, 2023 - **UNICEF, 2022

The FAAI supports its local partners in engaging with various UN mechanisms to strengthen their national advocacy by promoting the participation of the children concerned.

REVIEW OF PERU BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In September 2024, **Erick, a Peruvian teenager living on the streets** and supported by our partner Qosqo Maki, spoke at the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** during the pre-session dedicated to Peru. Alongside a representative of Qosqo Maki, he contributed to discussions on the joint alternative report we submitted in July. He highlighted the specific needs of children in street situations and the violations of their rights. During its session with the Peruvian government, the Committee raised the troubling situation of children in street situations, with particular emphasis on the violence perpetrated against them. It also stressed the difficulties marginalized children face in accessing education.



Roldan Del Solar, social worker at Qosqo Maki, and Erick, a young person supported by Qosqo Maki, in front of the Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland

©Apprentis d'Auteuil

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF MADAGASCAR

In November 2024, two representatives of our partner in Madagascar, the PFSCE,* came to Geneva and addressed diplomats to share the reality of children in street situations and present two reports, including one drafted by the PFSCE's Children's Committee with input from more than 700 children. **Two children from the committee**, 16-year-old Sarobidy and 17-year-old Olivier, were due to **speak at the pre-sessions**, but visa problems prevented them from attending. They nonetheless participated in the meeting with the permanent missions via video link. It is now up to the government to implement the proposed measures by the next review in five years.

Dear diplomats, today we are the voices of Madagascar's children. We know that you have the power to change things. We believe that if we work together, we can build a future where every child can go to school, have enough to eat, receive the care they need and be protected from violence.

Excerpt from Sarobidy's speech

*PFSCE – Plateforme de la Société Civile pour l'Enfance

FIELD VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO BY AN EXPERT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

From 9 to 13 December 2024, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child travelled to the Republic of the Congo at the invitation of our partner REIPER*.

The visit was the outcome of our joint advocacy work, carried out in collaboration with UNICEF, as well as of discussions with experts, who observed that despite the reviews of the Congolese State by international and regional mechanisms, implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee remains limited. The visit provided an opportunity to further encourage national authorities to speed up progress in this respect and to strengthen public policies in favour of children's rights.

Meeting between REIPER and Benoît Van Keirsbilck, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and UNICEF's deputy representative and protection officer – Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo
©REIPER



ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR OUR PARTNERS IN BRAZZAVILLE

In January 2024, a **training course in advocacy techniques** took place for our partners in Brazzaville, bringing together **19 participants from nine different countries**. During the session, they worked together in particular to draft a position paper on **access to education for children in street situations**.

The occasion also provided an opportunity to set up a working group to develop joint campaigns on the issue of children in street situations. The partners chose **four priority themes: stigmatisation, the right to education, the right to identity, and protection against violence**. These campaigns were initiated in 2024 and are due to continue until the end of 2025 and beyond.

20 NOVEMBER CAMPAIGN: COMBATING THE STIGMATISATION OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

On **World Children's Day (20 November)**, we launched a joint campaign with our local partners to combat the stigmatisation of children in street situations.

The **"NO to the stigmatisation of children in street situations"** campaign aimed to dispel **preconceptions** about such children and the **serious discrimination that results**. The campaign was deployed by our partners in numerous countries, including Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali and the Republic of the Congo. To support the campaign, we produced a **communication kit** and **advocacy materials**

for our partners, which included visuals for social media, posters, a prototype t-shirt for children participating in the celebrations and a template letter addressed to the authorities.

In parallel with the online campaign, our partners organised a **range of local in-person events and activities** on the same theme, in which **hundreds of children took part**. These included shows, marches, community dialogues, roundtables and creative workshops to raise awareness of the issue among the public and the authorities.

In 2024, we stepped up support for children's participation in advocacy activities at the United Nations as well as within the projects we support. Children's participation is crucial: all children have the right to participate and to be heard.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: CALL FOR YOUTH PROJECTS IN KINSHASA

In Kinshasa, **our six partners** organised workshops to raise awareness of children's rights, during which the children they support were given a space to discuss and reflect on their rights. Afterwards, they launched **calls for projects**, enabling the children to design and implement their own civic initiatives financed by the project.

In each case, the children learned about their rights and were taught how to set up a project. A selection committee made up of adults was created to review the proposals presented by the children and to help them implement the ones that were ultimately selected.

The rules were simple: the project had to be carried out by at least three people; it had to **benefit everyone in the community and/or the centre**; and it had to **represent one or more of children's fundamental rights**, such as the right to participation, the right to education, the right to a healthy diet and the right to health. The children showed remarkable enthusiasm in developing their various projects.

We, children in street situations, are often prey to violence, which causes conflicts between ourselves, leaves huge scars, etc. ... In addition to violence, we live in an unhealthy environment amid piles of rubbish, stagnant water, etc. ... Through this small project, we are seeking to improve our image in the community so that we can be the agents of our own change.

Child supported by ORPER, DRC

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY CLÉLIA BRINGOLF AT A UNITED NATIONS SIDE EVENT

In September 2024, Clélia Bringolf, FAAI Advocacy Manager, gave a speech at a side event at the United Nations during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council. The Special Rapporteur on the right to development organised the event to mark the publication of his report highlighting **the right of children to development**. The speech was an opportunity for the FAAI to bring the plight of children in street situations to the attention of the international community. The right to development is a cross-cutting right, and all their other rights, in particular those of children in street situations, depend upon it. It is essential to shine a light on the situation, which is a reflection of the failure of policies intended to protect them.

Tackling the issue of children in highly vulnerable situations today is to invest in ensuring the rights of future generations. We need to act now.

Excerpt from the speech of Clélia Bringolf, FAAI Advocacy Manager

*ORPER - Œuvre de Reclassement et de Protection des Enfants de la Rue

MY SPEECH TO THE

UNITED NATIONS

RONALDO, 13, SUPPORTED BY THE CENTRE NRJ* IN MADAGASCAR

"On 14 March, I gave a speech to the **Human Rights Council**: I addressed a room full of diplomats and representatives of UN agencies such as UNICEF. I was a little scared, but after taking some calming breaths, I felt better. I asked the States to support children like us, the centres [that support us] and families:

Today, I represent the children who live on the streets of Antananarivo in Madagascar. We work there, we sleep there, often alone, sometimes with friends, sometimes with family.

Our parents want to do the best for us, educate us and send us to school like other children. But how can they do that if they can't afford a roof over their heads? Or feed us? Or care for us when we are sick?

How can we dream of the future when we have no choice but to live and sleep surrounded by the city's rubbish bins?

It seems to us that we don't have the same rights as other children. Some have the right to everything, and we to nothing.

Explain to us how the State protects us when we are afraid of what may happen to us in the street or in the markets where we sleep.

How can the State guarantee our rights: to an identity, clothes, a house, to go to school for free and to live with dignity and in good health?

Can it help us? Can it help our parents and the centres that support us?

Ephrem, Ronaldo and Elia in front of the UN building, Geneva, Switzerland
©Apprentis d'Auteuil



When I am back to Madagascar, I'll tell the children what we have seen, the highly placed people, higher placed than us, but who came together to talk about us – children from the streets."

*Centre NRJ - Centre Nouveau Relais des Jeunes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our **donors and “Friends of the FAAI”**, including all those who wish to remain anonymous, for their support and loyalty. **Thank you for being by our side!**

FOUNDATIONS AND PHILANTHROPY

Fondation d'Aide à l'Enfance et au Tiers-Monde
Ceres Foundation
Stiftung Corymbo
Fondation Denibam
Fondation Dora
Fondation Pierre-Henri Ducret
Fondation FreiAide
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Fondation Valeria Rossi di Montelera (VRM)

CITIES AND COMMUNES

République et Canton de Genève
Commune de Plan-les-Ouates
Ville de Lancy
Ville d'Onex

SECTEUR PRIVÉ

Geogas Trading SA

The soloists from the Orchestre International de Genève, Theatre Les Salons
©Apprentis d'Auteuil



We would also like to thank all our supporters who attended the concert held in December in Geneva in partnership with **the Orchestre International de Genève and the Fondation les Salons** as a thank you to our partners.

FOUNDATION BOARD

Composed of nine volunteer members (no fees or expenses paid), the Foundation Board is elected for a three-year term and meets three times a year. Composition as of 31 December 2024.

Jean-Paul Faugère, Chairman

Senior civil servant

Bernard Firmenich, Vice-Chairman (until December 2024)

Former Supply-Chair and e-Business Director, Firmenich SA

Eric Bertier, Treasurer (from March 2024)

Expert volunteer at the Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil and former audit partner of PwC France

André Altmeyer, Board Member

Deputy Managing Director, Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil

Laure Burrus, Board Member

Lawyer

MANAGEMENT

Mario Fetz (until 30 June 2024)

Bénédicte Pansier (from 1 July 2024)

Valentine Denjoy, Board Member

Former Development Officer, Private Funding, Musée du Louvre

Louis Fauchier-Magnan, Board Member

Equity Partner, Banque Mirabaud & Cie SA, Geneva

Marc Mandosse, Board Member

Banker at Goldman Sachs, Geneva

Anna Panka André, Board Member

Lawyer specializing in intellectual property

Bernard Firmenich passed away on 29 December 2024. He joined the Foundation Board in 2017 as Vice-Chairman and worked tirelessly to advance the Foundation's development and expand its reach in Switzerland and abroad. We would like to pay a final tribute to him and to express our deepest gratitude for his dedication, kindness and boundless support over the years.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER.

Our auditors, A. Gautier, Société Fiduciaire SA, have audited the annual accounts and found nothing that would lead them to conclude that the accounts do not comply with the law and the Foundation's statutes.

The audit report and the full financial report are available on the website <https://faai.ch/en/publications>

Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2024 (in Swiss francs)

ASSETS	2024	2023
Circulating assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	639'856.40	1'090'205.81
Short-term holdings	650'000.00	–
Withholding tax recoverable	433.40	621.89
Accrued assets	10'262.97	68'471.88
Total circulating assets	1'300'552.77	1'159'299.58
Fixed assets		
Furniture and IT equipment	8'876.07	7'838.42
Intangible assets	10'255.20	13'673.59
Total fixed assets	19'131.27	21'512.01
Total assets	1'319'684.04	1'180'811.59
LIABILITIES	2024	2023
Short-term liabilities		
Other short-term liabilities relating to payroll costs (without interest)	31'668.00	33'923.75
Accrued expenses and deferred income	21'629.37	8'476.36
Total short-term liabilities	53'297.37	42'400.11
Earmarked funds		
Earmarked funds	163'175.06	311'488.00
Total earmarked funds	163'175.06	311'488.00
Total borrowed capital	216'472.43	353'888.11
Foundation equity		
Foundation equity	100'000.00	100'000.00
Profit or loss carried over	726'923.48	803'934.73
Year-end income	276'288.13	-77'011.25
Total Foundation equity	1'103'211.61	826'923.48
Total liabilities	1'319'684.04	1'180'811.59

Operating statement

for the year ended 31 December 2024 (in Swiss francs)

	2024	2023
Earmarked donations	2'003'408.60	2'216'267.30
Advocacy project	239'160.00	–
Contribution, Etat de Genève	184'447.00	60'000.00
Restricted income	2'427'015.60	2'276'267.30
Donations	714'808.86	626'409.47
Other income	2'800.00	–
Rebilled costs	183'758.29	164'654.00
Sub-letting income	48'996.00	48'996.00
Non-earmarked income	950'363.15	840'059.47
Total operating income	3'377'378.75	3'116'326.77
Direct project costs	-2'086'168.60	-2'316'137.40
Gross income after project contributions	1'291'210.15	800'189.37
Salaries	-905'989.78	-784'162.47
Other operating costs	-262'347.54	-193'409.90
Operating income before depreciation and interest	122'872.83	-177'383.00
Depreciation, amortization and value adjustments on fixed assets	-8'851.74	-7'557.54
Operating income before interest	114'021.09	-184'940.54
Financial expenses	-892.02	-21'145.59
Financial income	14'450.02	1'776.53
Operating income	127'579.09	-204'309.60
Non-operating income	396.10	1'198.35
Income before changes in fund capital	127'975.19	-203'111.25
Variation in fund capital	148'312.94	126'100.00
Profit or loss for the year	276'288.13	-77'011.25

“ Education must be tailored to the needs of children in street situations. We need to recognise their specific characteristics: the hidden costs, fatigue, gaps in education. ”

Luis Pedernera, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

