



Annual report 2020



SECODEV
COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT



**Secodev works
with small rural
families, women, and
young people, from
developing countries
empowering them to
become tomorrow's
agents of change.**

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Letter from the President & the Secretary General



Encouraging results

International solidarity in the middle of the pandemic

In early 2020, as we were implementing the first activities of our 2020-2023 action plan and celebrating the 50th anniversary of our organisation, no-one was expecting a global pandemic. The first lockdown in March suggested the worst for the populations of our programs in the south: What impact would this health crisis, followed by an economic and social crisis, have on people already so vulnerable? What repercussions would the restrictive measures imposed by governments have on projects and development already underway or promised? Would the efforts of almost half a century come to nothing?

Working closely with our partners on the ground, we immediately undertook to address the most pressing necessities of the populations. By targeting emergency aid where it was most needed, then switching priorities, and finally reviewing the spectrum of interventions, we succeeded, despite these exceptional and difficult circumstances, in carrying out 95% of our projects.

Crisis: the ultimate test of a model's efficiency

In poor and fragile countries, the challenge lies in the ability of populations to confront crises, mobilise, and take the initiative to bring about change. Thanks to the consolidation of small farmers, notably in cooperatives, to the agroecological techniques acquired, and to everyone's participation, entire villages supported during the 2016-2019 program were able to stand up to the challenge: not just providing for themselves, but also working together and simplifying distribution channels. The pandemic has highlighted that an inclusive and robust model of community organisation and management for local populations demonstratively leads to self-reliance.

We are very proud of these excellent results. They demonstrate that Secodev has understood how best to adapt to the new social, economic and/or geopolitical challenges linked to an increasingly complex developing world, further exacerbated by the pandemic. Our intervention strategy is based on a complete understanding of the contexts and issues, such as food insecurity, migration and violence. It calls for an inclusive approach where education and training initiatives reinforce those of food sovereignty and in doing so it fuels the self-determination of rural families.

Donor mobilisation

The health crisis has also revealed that without international solidarity, the accomplishments of recent decades could have been reduced to nothing in just a few months. Development cooperation is essential and its funding crucial in order for us to continue our activities, and to extend our actions, reaching a greater number of people living in precarious circumstances.

This year, three new donors have placed their confidence in us. This has enabled us to launch new projects aimed at particularly vulnerable groups; small farmers living in deforested areas, prisoners, very young single mothers, and women and children victims of violence. We are delighted to welcome these new partners on board for 2021.

On behalf of Secodev and its partners, we would like to thank the Geneva cooperation federation (FGC), the SDC, the State, the City and the Communes of the Canton of Geneva, as well as all the foundations, businesses, and private donors who have chosen to place their trust in us and continue to support our work helping the most vulnerable populations.

Martyna Olivet
President

Anne Simon
Secretary General

Results

2020 in numbers



1'200 individuals
(including 600 women) increased their revenues



1'800 children
(including 950 girls) saw an improvement to their schooling environment



91% of young people
found work after vocational training professionnelle



16'000 individuals
(including 9,000 women) improved their living conditions



1'600 children
(including 750 girls) were made aware of issues around violence and conflict and also around the environment



3'000 individuals
(including 1,600 women) were made aware of gender issues



142 rural structures
were assisted

CHF 1,044,573 invested on the ground,
from a global budget of CHF 1,185,274.

Secodev, established over 50 years ago, is a non-governmental organisation with a mission to confront and eliminate poverty in the south.

The development aid program "reversing the process of impoverishment in rural populations" has been drawn up with local partners and is based on the needs of the most disadvantaged communities.

Specialising in countries that have endured armed conflicts or are still experiencing tense geopolitical conditions, Secodev operates in very remote regions where wars and violence have claimed many victims, first and foremost women and children.

Thanks to its expertise in food sovereignty and vocational training, Secodev enables the populations it works alongside, in particular small-scale farming families, women and children, to become highly effective agents of change, to take control, and to sustainably improve their living conditions.

Primarily focusing on a methodology of reinforced social inclusion, Secodev ensures that its programs include the most fragile social strata, notably widows, widowers, the youth, young single mothers and ex-prisoners - all who are so often left behind.



A vision...



Countries where we operate

Mali

Food sovereignty
1,700 people, including 800 women participated in the regeneration of their environment. Faced with the encroaching desert and security tensions in the region, local communities are mobilising to protect their way of life as well as to ensure food security.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Food sovereignty
7,000 people, including 3,800 women were able to improve their food security thanks to in-depth studies of agroecological practices. Now they can sell their output, thereby increasing their income.



Laos

Education & Training
1,600 children, including 760 girls accessed improved school conditions following the introduction of new learning methodologies.



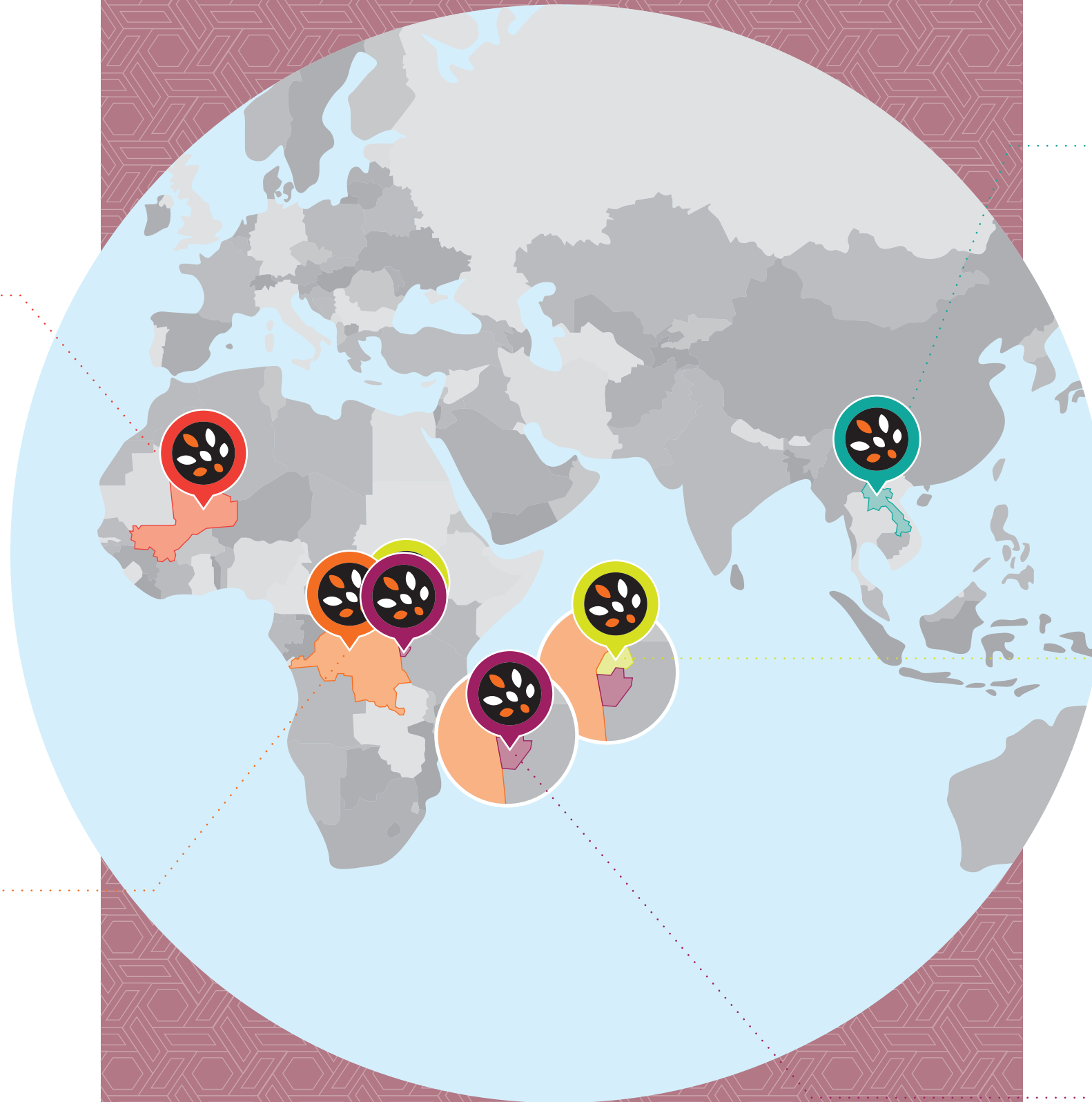
Rwanda

Food Sovereignty and Education & Training
A centre for vocational training in agroecology and livestock breeding has recently opened its doors. It provides inactive youths with skills, enabling them to gain access to employment.



Burundi

Food sovereignty
The new program benefitting 1,000 people aims to improve food sovereignty in the populations. It began in the second half of 2020.





Our actions in the midst of the pandemic



Since the implementation of global measures to combat the spread of coronavirus, Secodev has had to adapt its strategy and working practices, both at its Geneva headquarters and in the field.

While many collaborative institutions and large NGOs have mobilised their efforts, unfortunately inadequate financial resources have been allocated to medium-sized organisations such as Secodev for emergency aid in isolated and fragile intervention regions. Secodev observed populations no longer able to support or adequately feed themselves, as well as students deprived of teaching due to school closures. In 2020, as entire villages were forgotten by the international community, Secodev took the decision to continue its developmental work, whilst also focusing some of its actions on providing emergency assistance.

Proximity and reactivity

In response to the crisis and its economic and social consequences, Secodev drew heavily on its intervention expertise: its proximity to the field and its reactivity. This meant it was in a position to propose rapid, adapted solutions to its partners. The organisation's agility, combined with a clear vision, well communicated and understood on the ground, resulted in the implementation of intervention strategies closely allied to needs. Indeed, it is the privileged relationship Secodev has been able to establish with its partners over the years that has made possible responses adapted to the specific requirements of the beneficiary populations. Consequently, the organisation was able to maintain and carry out 95% of its projects.

Agility and advocacy

Depending on the countries and the protective measures taken by governments, the impact of lockdowns on already very poor people has been largely brutal. Two countries where the organisation operates, Laos and Rwanda, were particularly badly affected by the closure of markets, other trading and social spaces, schools and training centres. In Laos, teams on the ground have been closely liaising with vulnerable communities by making emergency kits available. In Rwanda, thanks to the consent of the government conscious of the growing famine, non-governmental organisations workers were able to continue to move around, supporting people in precarious situations. The local partner was able to reach out to these individuals, mainly widows or single-parent families, to ensure their basic needs were met.

Awareness-raising, protection and prevention

Secodev also organised awareness-raising activities among the beneficiary populations around how to keep each other safe so that they, too, possess the tools to limit the spread of the epidemic. Posters, mask-making "tutorials", videos and radio broadcasts on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19 were all produced. Meanwhile, children and young people were affected by the closure of schools and student accommodation, curtailing their education and vocational training. Teams in place provided food aid to isolated families, together with remote follow-up for young people forced to suddenly stop attending vocational training centres.





Souk: from the street to the opening of her own restaurant

Souk was just 20 years old when family poverty forced her to leave the isolated village of Ban Ladkhuai, situated in a remote rural area in central Laos. She left for the capital, Vientiane hoping to find a job, but having spent much of her time helping the family with their crops and household chores, she had received very little schooling. Once in town, Souk found herself wandering the streets, a dangerous place to be, where, with no money to buy food, she ran a high risk of falling into prostitution and drugs. Fortunately, before it came to that, some local workers from Secodev's partner, "Peuan Mit", crossed paths with her. She was taken to a safe shelter, where she was cared for, fed and housed.

The Vientiane and Luang Prabang reception centres take in children, adolescents and young adults who find themselves on the streets in extremely precarious situations. Secodev then enables these young people to return to school or to undertake vocational training, giving them the opportunity to find employment or start a small business afterwards. Secodev funds training in the restaurant and hotel sectors, as well as in mechanics. "If I hadn't joined the program, I don't know what would have happened to me, and my family would have starved to death."

Souk decided to study catering. A career that appealed to her, with good job prospects and the possibility to earn enough to support her family financially. In January 2020, immediately after completing her course, she was hired to work in a restaurant in Vientiane. Two months later, the global Covid-19 pandemic struck, and the very strict containment measures led not only to the closure of the restaurant, but also to the closure of her accommodation. Souk had no choice but to return home where she was confronted with a catastrophic situation in her village.

Everything, including food, was in critically short supply. Souk had remained in touch with the facilitators working in the centre, and she contacted them to ask for assistance. In April 2020, an emergency fund was set up to address critical situations, with essential supplies being made available: **"I had no idea where to turn. My parents, sisters and brothers were all going hungry. And now, with my return, they had one more mouth to feed. The staff had already saved my life once and now they've saved all my family too. I cannot thank them enough."**

When the government reopened the schools a few months later, Secodev and its partner made the case to the authorities to also authorise the centre to reopen. The negotiations succeeded and Souk, alongside other young people, was able to return. With restaurants still shut, Souk was invited to take another vocational course, this time in market gardening. She seized the opportunity, completing it in November 2020. "I loved learning how to grow fruit and vegetables."

"Peuan Mit", which means "good friends" in Lao, was set up in 2004. Through its partner, Secodev provides daily help to street children and young people, offering emergency shelter, access to education and vocational training and psychological support.

Now back in my village, I grow crops around the house. **As soon as I can, at the end of the health crisis, I'm going to open a small restaurant in my village where I'll serve up my own fruits and vegetables.** The centre has given me back my confidence in the future and taught me two very interesting professions."



In 2020, despite their closure from March to August, the centres were able to welcome 1,263 children and young people (including 574 girls). 188 young people (including 102 girls) underwent vocational training, with 92% going on to find a job in 2020. Secodev and its partner managed to keep the centre's activities running by adopting a flexible approach in line with the particular context of the pandemic. The program's post-training follow-up made it possible to identify those families in greatest difficulty, and provide essential supplies and food to help them navigate the crisis.

Achieving food sovereignty is possible



The Batoraki family in Rwanda explain how they have seen an improvement in their living conditions.

"With my husband, Pontien, and my seven children, life was very hard. We grew potatoes which we sometimes sold on the market and that allowed us to feed ourselves. But it didn't provide enough income to send all our children to school. When the harvest was poor, we went hungry" says Ancilla Batoraki, 47, her voice filled with emotion. Then a big smile lights up her face.

The Batoraki family live in a small village house on a remote hillside in Rwanda's Gicumbi district where Ancilla and Pontien were raising their seven children in precarious living conditions, mainly surviving on income derived from growing potatoes. One day they were visited by a representative of Secodev's partner in the local area, inviting them to join an association of small-scale farmers. They were given seeds and told how this association would provide the opportunity for them to learn new agroecological techniques and how to diversify and transform their crops, enabling them to get a better price for their produce. After some hesitation, the couple decided to give it a go. **"At first, we were quite apprehensive. We only knew about growing potatoes and I wondered what we would do if these techniques don't work? If these other crops fail? How would I feed my family?"** she explains. "At first, Pontien was against the idea. So, I went ahead alone, and began planting the seeds they had given us. And it worked. Pontien was very happy!"

The Batoraki family became part of the Coderyna cooperative which brings together 68 smallholders in the district (21 men and 37 women). Alongside seed distribution, the association offers training in agroecological techniques and livestock rotation. So Ancilla and Pontien were given a cow. Ancilla quickly learned how to make a profit from the cow and care for it. The cow's milk served two purposes; it improved the children's nutrition, and it was also sold to provide additional income for the family.

Now all the children in the family attend school. **Furthermore, since joining the cooperative, the family has been able to significantly diversify its production. Moving away from a mono-crop potato cultivation, they now have a larger piece of land where they grow wheat, runner beans and maize.** The cooperative's processing and storage facilities allows producers to sell out of season, and the links with local traders facilitate access of products to markets in the region.

The living conditions of farmers who have joined the cooperative have significantly improved. In 2020, Ancilla was delighted to be amongst one of the households equipped to run on biogas. She was provided with a stove which she can fuel with the dung of their cow, Inshongore, "The Elegant", in Kinyarwanda, to which the family has become very attached. "This appliance is great because I no longer have to go out searching for wood. I can just turn the knob and start cooking. I have more time to help the children after school, and also to get involved in the cooperative. All thanks to the project."

Joining a farmers' organisation, empowers small scale farmers to broaden their expertise and become self-reliant. It is an indispensable step towards food sovereignty and towards effecting significant and sustainable change in remote regions.



In 2020, Secodev's strategy on food sovereignty has enabled over 13,900 rural families across its countries of intervention to improve their living conditions:

2,220 rural families have been taught how to improve yields and better manage their smallholdings and 2,040 rural families (including 1,180 women) are now applying new agroecological practices. 142 farmer's associations were created.

In 2020, the Secodev program in Rwanda led to the creation of 12 farmers' associations. 2,370 people (including 1,998 women and girls) saw an improvement in their incomes and living conditions. 300 women joined farmers associations.



Financial Statements

2020 was marked by obtaining the Zewo label, granted to rigorous organisations that demonstrate effective use of their donations, in line with their stated aims.

In 2020, Secodev spent CHF 1,185,274 carrying out actions across 5 countries. Secodev furthered its financial stabilisation, in line with its strategy of qualitative strengthening of the organisation. Spending related to field activities amounted to CHF 1,044,573 and other operating expenditure to CHF 140,701. This demonstrates Secodev has maintained its policy of disciplined investment and applied strict controls over its expenditures. The organisation's intention to commit as many funds as possible to the field is apparent with just 9% of funds allocated to administrative management.

Revenues for 2020 reflected the desire for a managed increase of activity in the field, whilst maintaining the company's stability. Revenues for 2020 are CHF 1,511,728 marking an increase of 33% on the previous year. 63% of 2020 funds are derived from public contributions, 36% from foundations, partner organisations and business, with 1% derived from private individuals.

The result for the year 2020 is CHF 370,549. This exceptional positive amount is due to the dissolution of the "Laos program management" fund in accordance with the decision of the organisation's committee taken on 30 June 2020. In line with the donor's wishes, the amount will be used to increase capital and thereby also comply with the ratio required by ZEWO.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

| ASSETS | 2020 | 2019 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Current assets | | |
| Cash | 961,448 | 768,256 |
| Debtors | - | - |
| Accruals and deferred income | - | 100,000 |
| Total current assets | 961,448 | 868,256 |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible capital assets | - | - |
| Total fixed assets | - | - |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 961,448 | 868,256 |
| LIABILITIES | 2020 | 2019 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | 3,229 | 2,938 |
| Social and tax creditors | 5,344 | 16,517 |
| Other current liabilities | - | 100'000 |
| Accruals and deferred liabilities | 38,782 | 161,163 |
| Total current liabilities | 47,355 | 280,618 |
| Allocated funds (restricted) | | |
| Allocated funds, Laos program | 26,320 | - |
| Allocated funds, Laos management | - | 332,850 |
| Allocated funds, Rwanda ex-prisoners | 100,000 | - |
| Allocated funds, RDCE gender | 95,000 | - |
| Allocated funds, Burundi Orphanage | - | - |
| Allocated funds, FGC | 67,436 | - |
| Total allocated funds | 288,756 | 332,850 |
| Organisation capital | | |
| Capital | 614 | 614 |
| Reserve for unrestricted financing | 253,000 | 253,000 |
| Deferred profit or loss | 1,174 | -99,311 |
| Year end result | 370,549 | 100,485 |
| Total equity | 625,337 | 254,788 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 961,448 | 868,256 |



The financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the Swiss Gaap RPC 21 standard. The distribution of charges uses the Zewo accounting practice.

Income statement as at 31 December 2020

| OPERATING INCOME | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Allocated financing (restricted) | | |
| FGC funding | 950,000 | 950,000 |
| Caritas Genève, Rwanda project | 100,000 | |
| Foundations | 385,000 | |
| Private donors | 14,000 | |
| Total allocated financing | 1,449,000 | 950,000 |
| Non-allocated financing (unrestricted) | | |
| ECR funding | 25,592 | 25,396 |
| Caritas Genève | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| Donations | 1,400 | 126,120 |
| Contributions | 450 | 450 |
| Other income | 286 | 476 |
| Total non-allocated financing | 62,728 | 187,442 |
| TOTAL OPERATING INCOME | 1,511,728 | 1,137,442 |

| OPERATING EXPENDITURE | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Direct expenses for projects and activities | | |
| Field Programs | 836,489 | 604,270 |
| Micro/Meso projects, pilot projects | -263 | 48,501 |
| Field costs | 21,175 | 55,205 |
| Evaluation, field audit | 25,230 | 40,070 |
| Local project coordination | 946 | 15,063 |
| Knowledge sharing / capitalisation of experiences | 15,269 | 18,174 |
| Sub-total of program expenditure | 898,846 | 781,283 |
| Personnel costs – field support | 79,152 | 123,094 |
| Follow-up project costs, mission field support costs | 7,178 | 18,240 |
| Project expenses outside of the action plan | 59,397 | 20,402 |
| Total direct costs related to projects and activities | 1,044,573 | 943,019 |
| Other operating expenses | | |
| Administrative and technology costs | | |
| Personnel costs | 56,206 | 46,140 |
| Administrative expenses | 49,765 | 60,468 |
| Total administrative and technology costs | 105,971 | 106,608 |
| Promotion and fundraising expenses | | |
| Personnel costs | 26,973 | 41,031 |
| Promotion and fundraising expenses | 7,550 | 2,882 |
| Total promotion and fundraising expenses | 34,523 | 43,913 |
| Finance costs | 207 | 2,768 |
| Depreciation | - | 5,068 |
| Total other operating costs | 140,701 | 158,357 |
| TOTAL OPERATING COSTS | 1,185,274 | 1,101,376 |

| NET RESULTS BEFORE ALLOCATED FUND ADJUSTMENTS | 326,454 | 36,066 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Apportionment to allocated funds | -1,449,000 | - |
| Use of allocated funds | 1,200,244 | 64,419 |
| Dissolution of allocated funds | 292,851 | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN ALLOCATED FUNDS | 44,095 | 64,419 |

| NET RESULT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR | 370,549 | 100,485 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|

Secodev in 2020

Secretariat (as at 31 December)

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Anne Simon | Secretary general |
| Leny Mora-Monteros | Program officer |
| Olivia Gerig | Head of communication and fundraising |

Committee (as at 31 December)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Martyna Olivet | President |
| Théogène Gakuba | Vice-president |
| Philippe Frésard | Treasurer |
| François-Xavier Kajyabwami | Member |
| Sylvie Manzini | Member, Caritas Geneva committee |
| Roland Pasquier | Member, Caritas Geneva committee |

Secodev sincerely thanks the following for their support and generosity:

- Geneva cooperation federation (FGC)
- Department of Development Cooperation (DDC)
- State of Geneva
- City de Geneva
- Town of Carouge
- Geneva communes
- Caritas Geneva
- Caritas Geneva foundation
- Roman Catholic Church (RCC)
- Audemars Piguet foundation
- Migros development funds
- Gertrude Hirzel foundation
- Geneva industrial services (SIG)
- Miva Suisse
- Numerous other private donors

Team, donors & acknowledgments





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LEGAL NOTICE

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Thank you for your confidence and support!

