



Annual Report 2021



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



Strong solidarity during troubling times

After two years of uncertainty including a global shutdown caused by an unprecedented pandemic, 2022 has brought renewed suffering to millions of Ukrainian people. Secodev, whose mission is to improve the living conditions of marginalized populations around the world, strongly condemns all forms of violence and will not remain on the sidelines confronted by so much human anguish.

Neither will we forget the millions of men, women and children who silently crisscross the migratory routes of Africa, America and the East in search of a better life, swelling the refugee camps along the way before reaching the end of the road, seemingly abandoned by everyone.

How did we get here? To the point where each new drama eclipses the previous one? Where each new political decision unilaterally decides the fate of entire populations who are swept aside with indifference? Does humanity hold so little importance that lives can be simply erased from history?

Let's act together!

Supporting the most vulnerable

Women and children have borne the brunt of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a marked rise in hunger and violence caused by two years of crisis. Millions of children, mostly girls, have not returned to the classroom, as reduced incomes led families to prioritize schooling for sons over daughters. Secodev, like so many other humanitarian organizations, has also noted an increase in the number of early marriages. With fewer mouths to feed this offers a very sad solution to containing household spend.

Yet there is still cause for hope as families and communities pledge their commitment to push back against discrimination and violence. In 2021, Secodev and its partners launched three new programs in the DRC and Rwanda, working closely alongside vulnerable populations. The backing of new financial partners also demonstrates a common will to fight against the causes of these injustices.

Driving change together

2021 marks the second year's implementation of Secodev's four-year plan. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic the half-term results attest to the program's effectiveness and the success of the model adopted. There is no doubt that when populations are supported in their desire to become agents of change, their motivation is boosted, and resilience improves. Triggering the mechanisms to bring about effective change has made it possible to face the crisis. The first results are now being felt across a growing number of households, as people start to get back onto their feet. In this report, we invite you to discover this particular methodology.

This year Secodev has received a new bequest from a private donor to develop our work in India. Honored to be entrusted with this mission, Secodev will implement the donor's wishes by delivering projects with a strong social impact.

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

2021 in numbers



2,200 people
(including 1,200 women) lifted their incomes



26,000 people
(including 13,200 women) enhanced their living conditions



2,500 children
(including 1,200 girls) saw an improvement in their school environment



10,200 people
(including 5,300 women) improved their gender-awareness understanding



85% of young people
found employment after receiving vocational training



195 small farming structures
were formed

CHF 1,269,427 was invested in the field from an overall budget of CHF 1,436,223

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

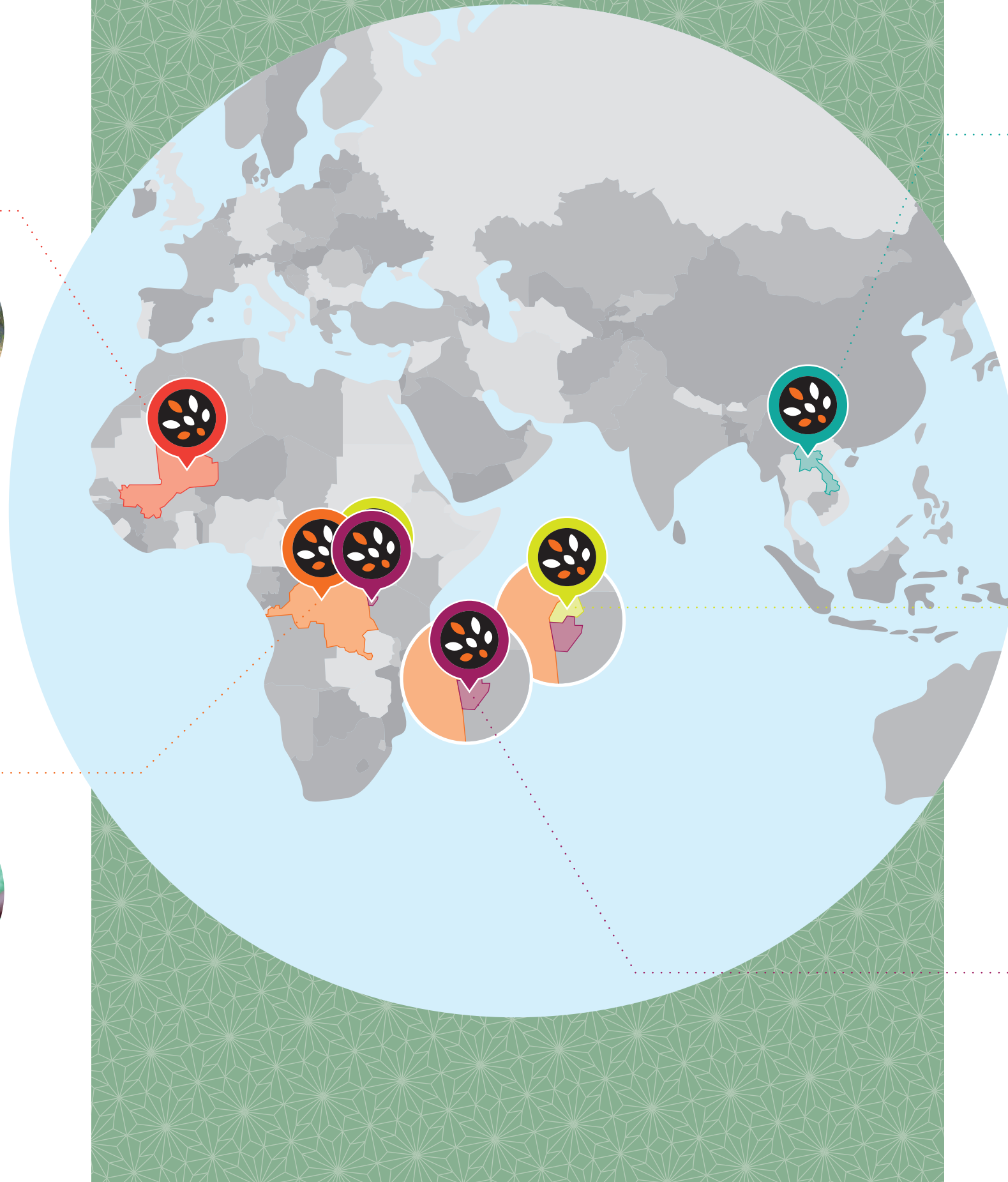
Mali

Food sovereignty
1,800 people including 900 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
11,700 people including 6,000 women were able to ensure their food security thanks to effective implementation of agroecological practices.



Laos

Education & Training
2,000 children including 950 girls accessed improved school conditions following the introduction of new learning methodologies.



Rwanda

Food Sovereignty and Education & Training
511 young adults, including 269 girls, received professional training across two active vocational training programs in Rwanda.



Burundi

Food sovereignty
460 people, including 200 women, received training in agroecological practices enabling them to improve their household incomes.





Expertise...



A key component of Secodev's outreach work involves developing trusted partnerships with local actors who share common objectives to empower and up-skill communities. This necessitates an enduring long term commitment to the partners, notably in strategy, implementation, follow-through and capitalization of experiences.

Programs are designed with sustainability in mind. They rely on an overall approach by proposing social innovations whilst respecting the realities on the ground. In volatile contexts we implement strategies to help avoid and quell conflict.

Over time Secodev's participatory and dynamic approach instills lasting positive change within communities. Initiatives to address poverty can only prevail if they are led by and have the full participation of the communities concerned. For this reason, Secodev prioritizes populations who are keen to acquire autonomy and take control over their futures. We equip them with the necessary knowledge and resources to enable them to devise and implement a practical plan tailored to their circumstances.

Empowering women economically and socially

Women are at the heart of Secodev's intervention strategy. Ensuring their voices are heard and recognized as full members of the community and society is a work-in-progress that cannot be allowed to fail. No country or community can prosper if it excludes or stifles half its population.

This is why every Secodev program is designed from the outset with women at the centre. Initiatives valorize their significant responsibilities and commitment to their children's development, their households, and also to their communities. To help women defend their rights, Secodev supports empowerment programs focusing on areas such as women's entrepreneurship, girls' education, and women's leadership. Activities such as awareness-raising campaigns through theatre are also being developed to combat gender-based violence.

Educating future citizens

Education is a right that is all too often violated. Contributing factors include poverty, distance from school infrastructure, linguistic and cultural barriers, as well as crisis situations.

Yet it is a powerful lever to lift populations out of poverty. Good education helps younger generations to mature into responsible and engaged citizens.

For this reason, Secodev has been working tirelessly for many years to ensure every child has access to school and benefits from a decent education. On a practical level this means building and renovating schools in remote areas, developing adapted and participatory educational methods in partnership with governments, and raising awareness among families about the importance of receiving a good education.

The fight against poverty can only prevail if it is led by and has the participation of the communities concerned. For this reason, Secodev prioritizes populations who are keen to acquire autonomy by taking control over their futures.





... and strategic approach



Equipping young people for work

Quality training is essential to equip young people with effective tools and skills to enable them to fulfil their professional and personal objectives.

Secodev and its partners implement adapted vocational training projects to meet the needs and expectations of young adults. Projects supported by Secodev in this field offer training which is both adapted to the requirements of the local labour market, and consistent with the economic and social realities of the area. In Laos for example, passed the lock down Covid periods, the tourism sector is expected to continue to expand, so young people are being trained to work in the hospitality sector. Local employment with fair remuneration is then accessible and some may go on to create their own businesses.

Access to a healthy diet

Building resilient models of small food-producing farms providing fair access to resources is a necessity for the future survival of rural populations.

For many years Secodev has been investing in the promotion of food sovereignty and supporting the introduction of agroecological practices. Food production systems must turn to approaches such as agroecology if they are to provide a healthy diet sufficient for everyone's needs, whilst also ensuring a decent income. With this in mind, Secodev and its partners help thousands of small farmers every year to evolve their production methods, leading to higher yields and profit.

Caring for ecosystems

The acceleration of climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations. They are invariably the first victims of extreme weather events such as desertification, floods, drought, and other climatic imbalances effects. This injustice particularly affects women who bear the burden of responsibility for the arduous tasks of fetching water and wood.

Addressing this issue, Secodev works on ecosystem restoration through reforestation campaigns and sustainable forest management. This is also the driver of our commitment to agroecology. Not only does agroecology help alleviate poverty and hunger, but it also has a significant impact on the preservation of biotopes.

Mental health action

The providing of psychosocial services to families and communities impacts positively on their emotional well-being. Offering new perspectives, it paves the way for both personal and collective reconstruction.

In Secodev's intervention contexts, where the causes of distress can be multiple, including poverty, violence and isolation, psychosocial care for people is often essential and a significant factor in social and economic development. Currently limited to a few programs targeting particularly vulnerable groups, such as widows, young single mothers, or prisoners, Secodev is looking to expand the service more broadly across its other activities. Mental health is an often-forgotten component of health. If ignored, among other things it can be a source of depression, crime, and self-neglect.

Building resilient models of small food-producing farms providing fair access to resources is a necessity for the future survival of rural populations.





Agroecology training for young people



Rwanda

In February 2021, the Agroecology vocational training centre opened in Kabgayi, Rwanda.

Offering a bright future for marginalized young adults is at the heart of Secodev's strategy. In response to the multiple challenges of high unemployment, a rural exodus of young people, and rising poverty in the region, Secodev focuses on providing vocational training, particularly in the agroecology and livestock farming sectors. The centre combines the needs of the market with the aspirations of young adults, offering disillusioned youths a chance to rebuild their esteem and turn their lives around through rewarding work.

Beyond the practical side of agriculture and livestock farming, the centre develops additional key skills in young people to help them succeed. Applied accounting and management courses, for example, teach students how to manage and make a success of their own small farm.

Cohesion and social inclusion

Education plays a key role in social cohesion, particularly in a country such as Rwanda. Trainees stay in student accommodation for the duration of their studies, learning to live together amicably, respecting any differences. Young single mothers are also encouraged to attend, with a reception centre and adapted accommodation provided to help them combine their studies with childcare. Marginalized in the community for having children outside of marriage, here young mothers are given the chance to regain control over their futures. The drive to foster inclusion and social cohesion is a key characteristic of the centre.



Educating a new generation of informed farmers who can achieve viable yields from small parcels of land whilst respecting the environment and deriving satisfaction from their work.

Equal opportunities

Progressive societies understand the value of nurturing a talented and dynamic younger generation. Whereas in rural Rwanda it is a huge challenge for young people to access decent education, especially for girls. All too often the most vulnerable amongst them do not even finish primary school, and young single mothers receive a double punishment: rejected by society, they do not have the means to offer their children a decent upbringing. Yet these young people lack neither courage nor will. They simply lack opportunities. The centre seeks to address this by offering tailored quality training to everyone regardless of ethnicity, gender or religion. Family and mentors are encouraged to take an active interest in their chosen career and help them achieve their potential.

Vocational training feeds development

The agricultural sector in Rwanda accounts for 30% of GDP, providing 2 out of every 3 jobs. Farmers have a key role to play in their country's future.

Yet these are the populations most likely to find themselves in extreme poverty.

In line with the 2030 Agenda principles, Secodev focuses on providing quality teaching while proposing innovative solutions to make further education more inclusive. We are educating a new generation of informed farmers who can achieve viable yields from small parcels of land whilst respecting the environment and deriving satisfaction from their work. This aim is at the heart of the training centre's philosophy.



Laos

Secodev and its partners make every effort to provide quality, accessible education to which every child is entitled.

Since 2016 Secodev has built and redeveloped eight schools in Laos. In 2021, the association opened a new school in a mountainous and remote area of Luang Prabang province. Previously children were having to trek up to 15 km on steep hillside paths to school. Unsurprisingly, attendance was very sporadic.

Schools for children in remote areas

"So many children in the village weren't attending school. It was much too far away and in the rainy season it's sometimes impossible to cross the river below the village. The program offered to build us a school for our children with parents contributing 20% towards the construction budget. The whole village got involved and now around fifty children can study there in a good learning environment. We are very grateful to the project!", said exited a parent of a student attending the "Na Vaen" community school.

Opening a school in an isolated area or within an ethnic minority community makes it possible to address absenteeism and non-schooling of the youngest. Children can continue to live at home so their parents can help them with their lessons. In the past they were often exhausted out after miles of walking, whereas now they are more attentive in class.



Building schools and opening minds

Without formal education, children do not acquire all the requisite skills and knowledge needed in the workplace. However in Laos, as in many other countries, education has traditionally been very riddled with rhetoric, leaving very little room for the development of cross-disciplinary skills and concern for the child's well-being.

For this reason, in addition to creating the infrastructure, Secodev in collaboration with the Lao govern-

ment is also involved in developing two educational programs.

A teaching model has been created around the Social Emotional Learning "SEL" method. This method promotes exchange and dialogue, with school becomes a place of fulfillment for the child. With a memorandum of understanding signed with the government, Secodev and its partner train primary school teachers in this method across partner schools.

Enjoying school

Testimony of a teacher working in a school built by the program in 2018. "In Laos, teachers change schools every three years, working in different schools across the country. When I was sent here in the north, they trained me up in this new method, SEL, very different to how children were being educated where I'd previously taught. But with the SEL model, I soon realized children were achieving better results and there was less absenteeism. What's more they really enjoy coming to school!"

Teaching Lao to ethnic minorities

Only 50% of Laotians speak Lao, the official language, and less than a third of children complete the five-year cycle of primary education. Children from the poorest regions and from ethnic groups who don't have a good grasp of Lao, do not regularly attend school or they drop out because the language barrier means they are unable to access the lessons. To address this, Secodev has designed a curriculum that allows teachers to adapt their teaching for students whose first language is not Lao, whilst helping them to quickly assimilate the national language. This curriculum also pays particular attention to respect and uphold ethnic specificities and the richness of the indigenous peoples' culture.



Legs

Thanks to a private donor's generosity, Secodev has been implementing programs in favour of children and young adults in Laos for nearly 6 years. In line with the donor's wishes, the organization supports education and vocational training designed to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged populations.

When considering your will, you too could choose to support a cause that is close to your heart. A Zewo certified, public-interest company, Secodev can be trusted to manage and enact your wishes. We would be happy to put you in touch with our network of lawyers, notaries and asset managers to help you decide what works best for you, for example bequeathing a defined amount or asset. The organization is at your disposal to discuss your options and can offer you tailor-made accompaniment in line with your needs.

Come and join this tremendous force for good. Help change lives with Secodev!



Supporting young female farmers



SUCCESS STORY

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Brigitte is a young Congolese woman from Kongo Central province. She tells us her story and the circumstances which drove her to become a successful young farmer.

"I'm 18 years old, living with my mother, father and six younger brothers and sisters in Mazinga, a village in the Mayombe forest. My parents grow cocoa, and also cassava, groundnuts and beans.

Unfortunately I had to interrupt my studies just before taking my baccalaureate in my last year." A look of disappointment comes across her face.

Brigitte grew up in this small village. Every day motivated by her desire to learn, she walked 14 kilometres to get herself to school and back. Sadly, despite excellent academic results, the family's financial situation meant she had to quit school. Their meagre income, mainly from the sale of cassava and groundnuts, was no longer sufficient to cover the school fees.

Secodev began working in this part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2015 with the creation of several small-scale farming structures. Since then, almost 800 member families have raised their living standards. Alongside help with food crops, Secodev shows cocoa farmers how to adopt agroforestry practices and to replant indigenous tree species. A crucial consideration given their plantations are situated right in the heart of primary forest. In 2018, Secodev decided to broaden its reach, connecting with young people in the remote villages. With no work or future prospects many were migrating to the capital.

Word of Secodev's initiative encouraging local young people from the forest to train for work in agriculture reached Brigitte's village. Brigitte didn't hesitate. She immediately applied for training, advisory support and a small agroecology starter kit.

"I was hopeful the program would give me the expertise to set up my enterprise because my parents are members of one of the farming structures supported by the program. They've received a lot of training and now their business is doing really well. We started selling our cocoa and thanks to the money it brings in we now have proper beds and sheet metal on the roof.

So I signed up for the training, choosing to study market gardening, cultivating tomatoes, peppers and onions. My father gave me a plot of land for me to grow my first crops. I used biopesticides to control diseases and the harvests were excellent. My first tomato sales brought in US\$20. Today, I earn an average of \$150 a month, more than a teacher's salary (\$110)! I was really pleased when my father told me the money meant I could finish my studies."

Despite the pandemic Brigitte was able to complete her final year of study and obtained her high school's diploma. She is now the pride of her family, not least of her father, Léon, 40, who has always been very supportive of her. *"I'm extremely proud of my daughter. She sets an example not only to her sisters, but also to her brothers. We are poor in an environment where there's no work except on the land. We are farmers who just about support ourselves, but with difficulty. Seeing my daughter earn money and go to school is a reason for hope."*

Brigitte's business continues to grow. She now employs young boys from the village to work in the fields while she studies.

"At first the boys made fun of me, but now they come to ask me for work! It's me who trains them so they don't damage my plantations. I would like to continue my studies to become a crop scientist and in turn train up other rural women."



Accounts

A healthy financial picture and steady growth

Pursuing its policy of strict expenditure management and respecting the wishes of sponsors and donors, Secodev has achieved the financial objectives set for 2021. The figures attest to a healthy financial situation and are in line with the objective to post steady growth.

In 2021, Secodev spent CHF 1,436,223 in implementing all its actions across five countries. The organization's growth is reflected in a 21% rise in total operating expenditure compared to 2020. This increase is particularly visible in field investments totaling CHF 1,269,427, a 21% year-on-year rise. Organizational expenses total CHF 166,796, a number which will increase in 2022 to satisfy upcoming requirements.

2021 revenue is CHF 1,352,811, a year-on-year fall of 10%. This decrease is explained by the receipt of funds at the end of 2020 for 2021 programs. These financial movements are shown in the table of changes in the fund's accounts.

65% of 2021 revenue is derived from public contributions, 34% from foundations, partner organizations and companies, and 1% from private individuals.

The financial result for the year is CHF 2,346.

To note, in 2021 Secodev obtained the backing of three new donors to implement two programs in 2022 in the DRC and Rwanda.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current assets		
Cash	893'082	961'448
Debtors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	30	-
Total current assets	893'112	961'448
Fixed assets		
Tangible capital assets	-	-
Total fixed assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	893'112	961'448
LIABILITIES	2021	2020
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	53	3'229
Social and tax creditors	15'816	5'344
Other current liabilities	-	-
Accruals and deferred liabilities	46'562	38'782
Total current liabilities	62'430	47'355
Allocated funds (restricted)		
Allocated funds, Laos program	26'742	26'320
Allocated funds, Laos management	40'000	-
Allocated funds, Rwanda ex-prisoners	59'970	100'000
Allocated funds, RDCE gender	6'315	95'000
Allocated funds, Burundi	4'636	-
Orphanage		67'436
Allocated funds, FGC	65'335	
Total allocated funds	202'998	288'756
Organisation capital		
Capital	10'000	614
Reserve for unrestricted financing	546'000	253'000
Deferred profit or loss	69'337	1'174
Year end result	2'346	370'549
Total equity	627'683	625'337
TOTAL LIABILITIES	893'112	961'448



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 2021

OPERATING INCOME	2021	2020
Allocated financing (restricted)		
FGC funding	950'000	950'000
Caritas Genève, Rwanda project	-	100'000
Foundations	299'680	385'000
Private donors	40'000	14'000
Total allocated financing	1'289'680	1'449'000
Non-allocated financing (unrestricted)		
ECR funding	24'785	25'592
Caritas Genève	36'000	35'000
Donations	1'300	1'400
Contributions	600	450
Other income	447	286
Total non-allocated financing	63'131	62'728
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1'352'811	1'511'728

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2021	2020
Direct expenses for projects and activities		
Mali	53'524	47'129
Democratic Republic of the Congo	587'124	359'766
Rwanda	282'193	240'364
Burundi	45'527	43'410
Cameroon	-	766
Laos	183'659	206'282
Peru	-	1'129
Sub-total of program expenditure	1'152'025	898'846
Personnel costs – field support	102'445	79'152
Follow-up project costs, mission field support costs	16'892	7'178
Project expenses outside of the action plan	-1'936	59'397
Total direct costs related to projects and activities	1'269'427	1'044'573
Other operating expenses		
Administrative and technology costs		
Personnel costs	61'467	56'206
Administrative expenses	44'772	49'765
Total administrative and technology costs	106'239	105'971
Promotion and fundraising expenses		
Personnel costs	40'978	26'973
Promotion and fundraising expenses	18'138	7'550
Total promotion and fundraising expenses	59'116	34'523
Finance costs	1'441	207
Depreciation	-	-
Total other operating costs	166'796	140'701
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	1'436'223	1'185'274

NET RESULTS BEFORE ALLOCATED FUND ADJUSTMENTS	-83'412	326'454
Apportionment to allocated funds	1'289'680	-1'449'000
Use of allocated funds	1'375'438	1'200'244
Dissolution of allocated funds	-	292'851
NET MOVEMENT IN ALLOCATED FUNDS	85'758	44'095

NET RESULT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2'346	370'549
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Secodev in 2021

Secretariat (as at 31 December)

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Vice-president
Treasurer
Member
Member

Secodev warmly thanks 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
- Fondation Smartpeace
- Fondation Temperatio
- Numerous other private donors

Team, donors & acknowledgments





SECODEV
COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT

LEGAL NOTICE

Content: Secodev

Editing: histoire de mots, Laure Bonnevie

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Thank you for your confidence and support!

