



Annual Report 2022



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 Director



Encouraging results

Development cooperation: a delicate navigation

Without your help, the link between destitution and vulnerability will never be broken. A health crisis coupled with a war on Europe's doorstep has created an avalanche of global consequences, including soaring prices, rising unilateralism and worsening social tensions.

Driven by both anger and sorrow, seeing already fragile populations brutally thrown back into severe poverty, we have intensified our efforts to deliver results, with our teams working relentlessly to support the most marginalised rural families.

Improved farming practices equates to improved nutrition: affiliated in associations or cooperatives, rural families can now join forces to market their produce. Lessening dependence on imported wheat is a vital step towards achieving food sovereignty. Improving yields and selling produce at a fair price means parents sending children to school and families living viably off the land.

In 2022 we put young adults at the heart of our work. Access to employment represents hope for a better life and by welcoming disadvantaged young people to our agroecological vocational training centre in Rwanda, we enabled them to realise their ambitions to earn a meaningful living.

Hundreds of other young people across the countries where we operate, particularly in Laos, have also been taking up vocational training. The gradual reopening of the country to trade and tourism has led to more jobs, particularly in hospitality and mechanics. Accordingly, young unemployed people have been seizing these training opportunities in increasing numbers to gain access to work.

This year Secodev was also able to bring together several of its African partners in Switzerland for group discussions to share expertise and capitalise on experiences. The conference on local ownership of rural development highlighted the unique expertise of our organisation and partners. Mobilising everyone to empower the most disadvantaged people in society to be agents of change remains the catalyst for our projects. And for good reason - it works!

"Bespoke" remains the preferred model applied by Secodev and its partners. The number of people supported - and most importantly, empowered - is rising. On their behalf, many thanks! These results could not have been achieved without you.

Martyna Olivet
President

Anne Simon
Director

Results

2022 in numbers



2,400 people

(including 1,250 women) lifted their incomes



30,000 people

(including 15,200 women) enhanced their living conditions



3,700 children

(including 1,800 girls) saw an improvement in their school environment



13,000 people

(including 6,600 women) improved their gender-awareness understanding



70% of young people

found employment after receiving vocational training



210 small farming structures

were formed

CHF 1,308,153 invested in the field from an overall budget of CHF 1,483,852.

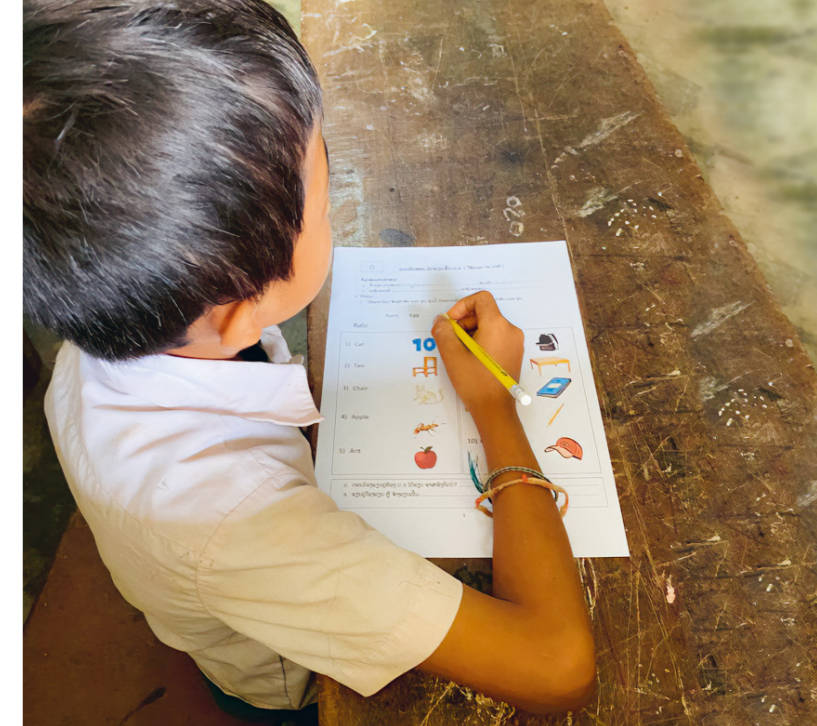
Secodev, established over 50 years ago, is a non-governmental organisation with a mission to confront and eliminate poverty in the south.

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
12,600 people including 6,400

women were able to ensure their food security thanks to effective implementation of agroecological practices.



Burundi

Food sovereignty
607 people, including 256

women, received agroecological training enabling them to improve their household incomes.



India

Two projects on **vocational training and food sovereignty** are currently being formalised.



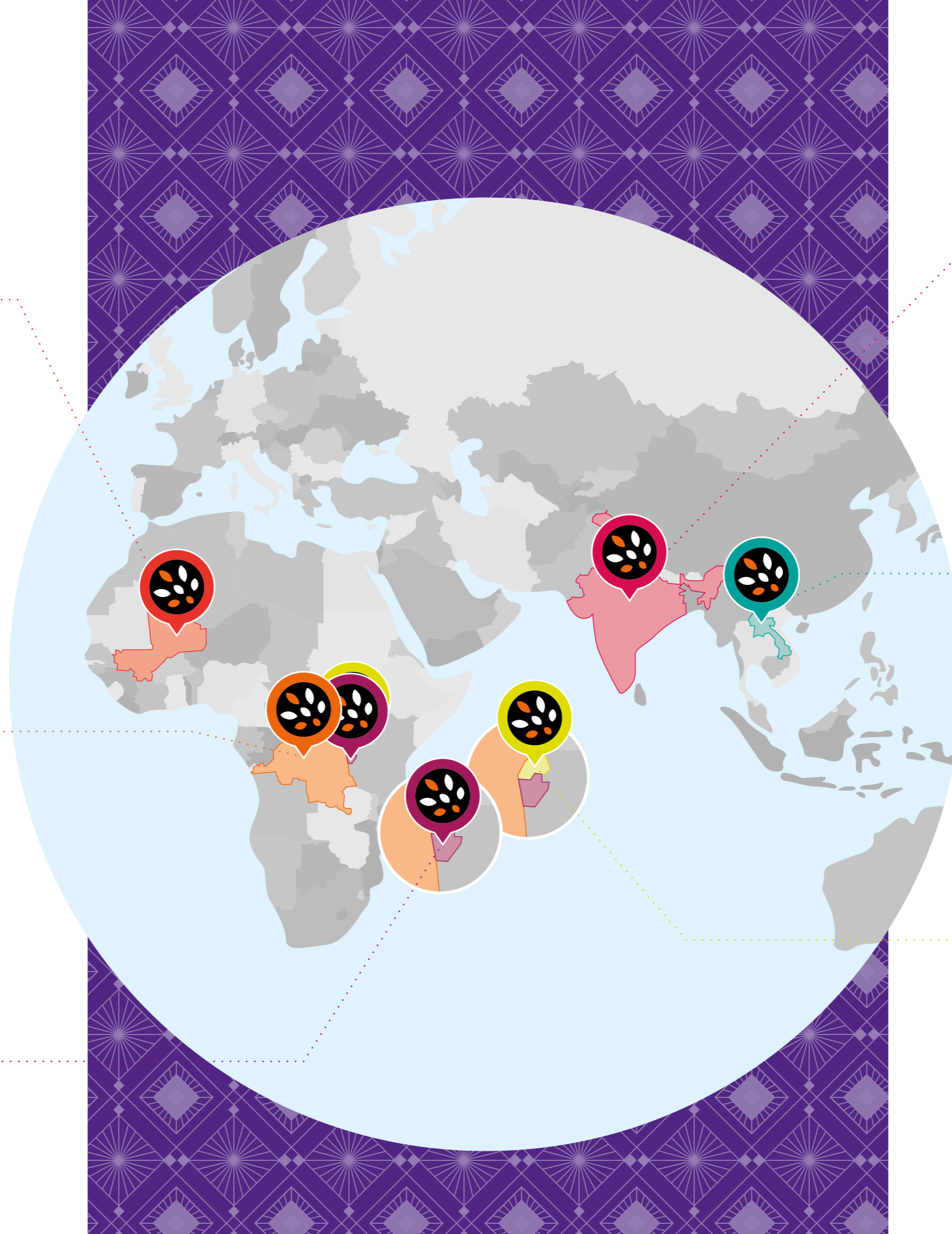
Laos

Education & Training
2,500 children including 1,200 girls accessed improved school conditions following the introduction of new learning methodologies.



Rwanda

Food Sovereignty and Education & Training
947 young adults, including 459 girls, received professional training across two active vocational training programmes.



Exchange visit with Secodev's African partners in Geneva, November 2022

Secodev consolidated its partners' mobilisation work through collective discussions aimed at achieving the 2020-2023 action plan objectives. Secodev's intervention strategy looks to strengthen the capitalisation and knowledge-sharing between stakeholders in Switzerland and the countries where we have a presence. In this context, Secodev organised a seminar in November 2022, and the easing of Covid-19 measures meant it was also possible to arrange an exchange visit to Switzerland by Secodev's African partners.

For a week, donors' meetings and working group sessions alternated around different themes such as financial education, community mobilisation and land rights. This dynamic programme culminated with a conference in Geneva on 19 November 2022. The theme "Development in rural areas: civil society and citizens, essential change agents" brought together teachers and development professionals to debate and exchange experiences on a subject core to Secodev's philosophy, and also shared by many Swiss civil society organisations.

The partner organisations were also introduced to Swiss farmers committed to defending and promoting local quality organic farming. They saw firsthand how, as in their own countries, organic farming remains marginal in Switzerland. Visits to farms around Geneva revealed common issues facing the agricultural sector in both Africa and Switzerland: lack of public policy commitment, lobbying by large agrochemical groups and/or agrifood monopolies who, in the name of economic crises, climate change and environmental tragedies, apply prohibitive prices on inputs and seeds for example.



Sharing knowledge

The partner organisations were also able to meet Swiss farmers committed to defending and promoting local quality organic farming and discuss shared challenges.

Continued presence in times of crisis

Focus on Laos

Laos, a landlocked country in Southeast Asia with a predominantly agricultural economy, has 20% of its population still living below the poverty line. Its economic development is heavily reliant on tourism and regional trade. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic strongly impacted the country, with all its borders closed for many months. 2022 was then marked by a continuous depreciation of the Kip - the national currency - resulting in high inflation putting ever-increasing pressure on poor populations.

The collateral effects have also been felt by local civil society organisations, with a significant amount of financial support withdrawn from Laos. However, Secodev, like many Swiss organisations, chose to maintain its presence in the country by carefully adapting its intervention methods. This flexibility, encouraged and facilitated by our private and institutional donors, reflects our determination not to abandon the very people who need us most.

Secodev's main activity in Laos is centred on vocational training and education. For example, training programmes for young people in the hospitality sector were maintained by temporarily redirecting activities towards supporting families unable to feed themselves. During the crisis, the trainees cooked every day in a community kitchen, improving their vocational skills whilst providing for people in need.

Despite school closures, Secodev and its partners, in close collaboration with local and national authorities, continued their in-depth work developing new educational practices combining curriculum teaching and emotional intelligence learning. Teachers trained during the health crisis were able to put their learning directly into practice, limiting the impact of class closures on children. A year which saw strong and effective commitment from everyone along the chain.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo



Gender-based violence: deconstructing social norms

South Kivu province is in a state of perpetual insecurity marked by numerous armed militia attacks against the civilian population. Invariably, women and children are the first to fall victim of its abuses.

In the Bibokoboko area where the programme operates, Secodev and its partner support rural families to earn a dignified living. This programme is based on two intrinsically linked issues: the first focuses on food sovereignty and the fight against poverty, while the second focuses on violence towards women and girls.

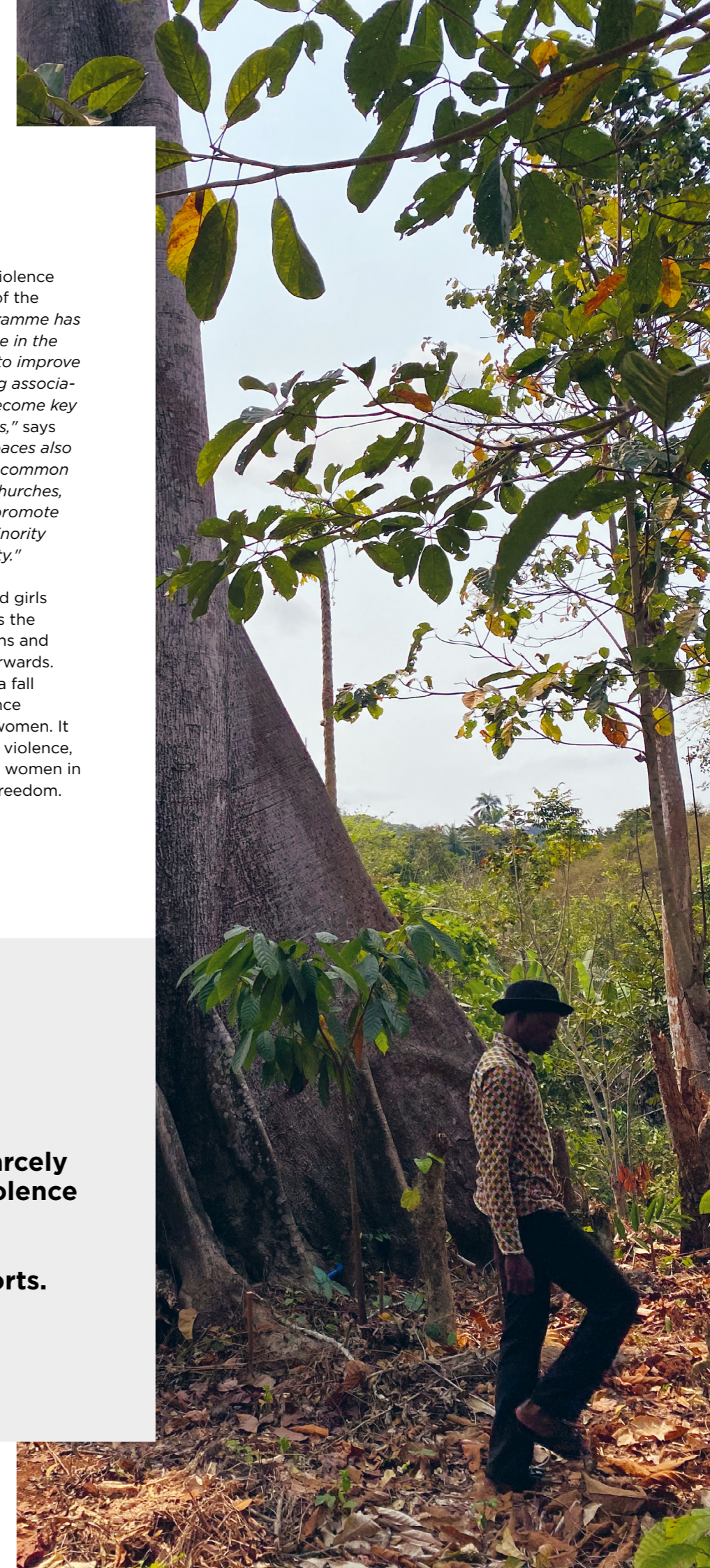
Naum Butoto, director of the Congolese partner organisation, explains the link between the two issues: *"With Secodev, we analysed the food sovereignty programme's achievements and challenges. Quickly, we came to realise that yes, we can see improvements in terms of food security and production, but despite all the hard work, some people's circumstances had scarcely changed; domestic violence as well as violence in the wider community undermining their efforts. So, we decided to strengthen our approach around violence towards women and girls."*

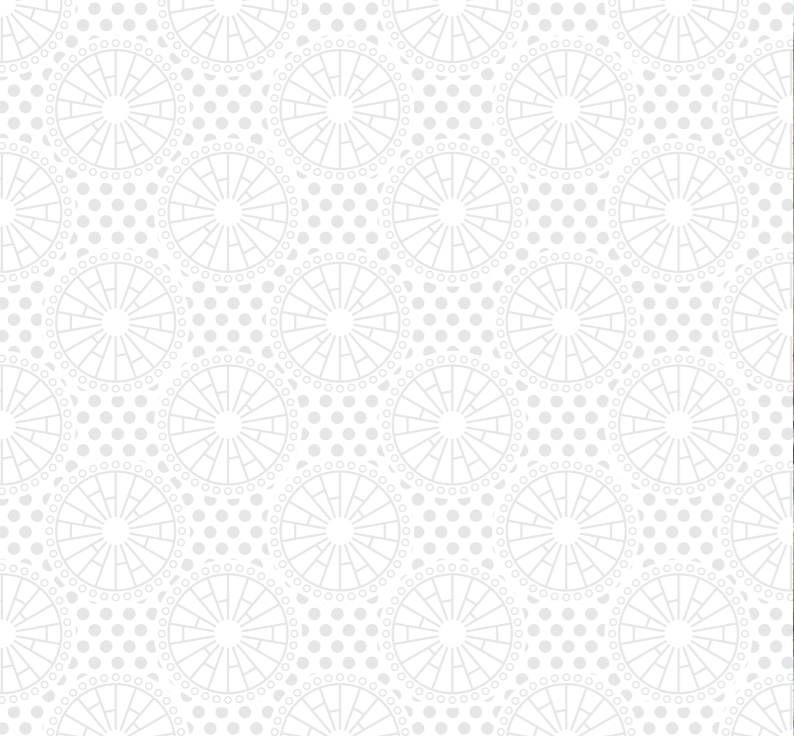
The programme offers medical and psychological care to women who request it. Whether victims of violence or marginalised within their home, they find a safe space to be heard and supported. *"These women are the bedrock of the family, and also of the community,"* explains Anne Simon, Secodev Director. *"And it's essential their role is acknowledged and valued. This requires protection, recognition of their status, and also support towards gaining financial independence."* Women who so wish are supported in the creation of income-generating activities and also in setting up savings and credit groups. This is a proven, highly successful, sustainable approach, including in terms of reintegration into the community.

Awareness-raising activities around violence against women are also at the heart of the strategy: *"The food sovereignty programme has helped to build community confidence in the quality of the initiative and its ability to improve people's living conditions. The farming associations we helped build up have now become key networks helping to spread awareness,"* says Anne Simon. *"Community meeting spaces also help diffuse the message around this common cause. Whether schools, markets or churches, the facilitators encourage debate to promote better understanding. Women and minority groups must not be shut out of society."*

Domestic violence against women and girls is a burden on all societies. It destroys the social fabric and affects social relations and the economy, both now and going forwards. An increasing number of studies link a fall in economic activity to a rise in violence (physical, sexual and moral) against women. It is therefore essential to "de-escalate" violence, promote girls' education and support women in their bid to attain greater economic freedom.

Despite all the hard work, some people's circumstances had scarcely changed; domestic violence as well as violence in the wider community undermining their efforts.





Fighting hunger

Burundi

Poverty has been worsening for decades in Burundi, not least because of climate change. In this small landlocked country in East Africa, nearly 15% of the population suffers from food poverty. The Burundian economy is rural, based on the work of millions of small farmers, but many families - the vast majority of whom work the land tirelessly - struggle to produce enough food to feed themselves.

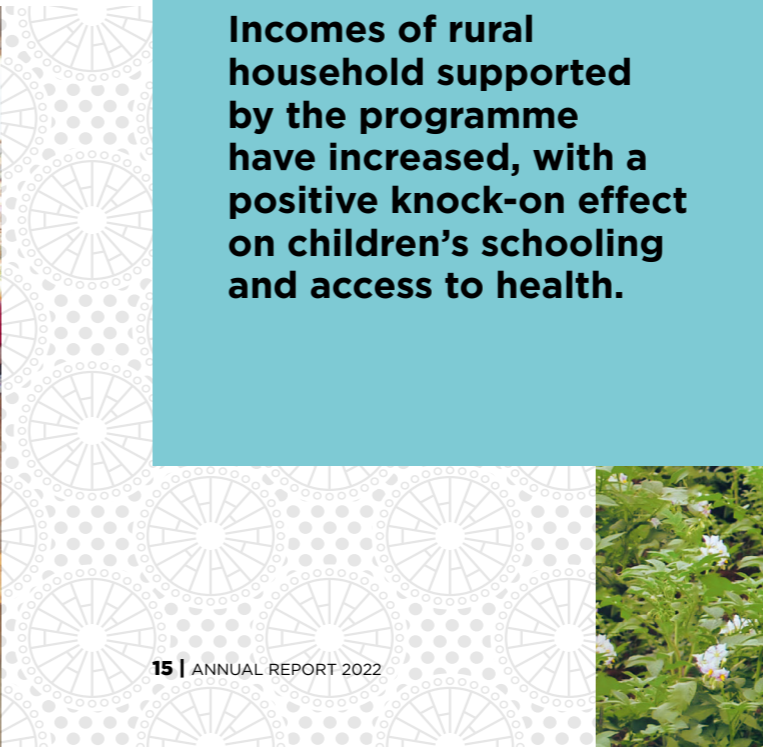
Secodev and its Burundian partner are working on an initiative to improve food security with the ultimate goal of helping people achieve food sovereignty. Ernest Nyonzima, executive secretary of the Burundian partner organisation, says: *"We are convinced that agroecology provides one of the solutions to combat global warming and to allow our rural brothers and sisters to grow enough to feed themselves and live off the land with dignity."* Burundi's weather is extreme: repeated droughts followed by heavy rains destroying everything in their path. Adapting agricultural practices to move towards better resilience in the face of these events is a necessity. *"Our agronomists help families gradually remove chemical fertilisers and other pesticides from their fields, turning to agroecology and proven ancestral practices. The results are really encouraging with an increase in yield and quality. Farmers are also seeing their production costs fall, as they no longer need to buy expensive chemicals,"* adds Ernest Nyonzima.

The programme supports farmers in structuring their businesses, introducing agroecological practices and diversifying income. *"When we work with small farming families," he continues, "we accompany them in the development of a strategic plan or a business plan. We support them in the acquisition of livestock and other income-generating activities to lift them out of poverty."* Incomes of rural household incomes supported by the programme have increased, with a positive knock-on effect on children's schooling and access to health.

To successfully combat poverty, these rural villages need to grow their economies. Families need access to savings and credit as Ernest Nyonzima explains: *"We help families create savings and credit groups. These groups bring together individuals from the "same hillside". Everyone knows and trusts one another. Each family contributes to the group's fund and subsequently members can borrow money to expand their income-generating activities. Small farmers don't have access to banking, but the savings and credit group offers a sustainable, viable alternative."*

Farming solidarity is one of the keys to the success of Ernest Nyonzima's approach: *"Our country has long suffered from various ethnic conflicts. Social cohesion is a necessity to enable us to move forward. Thanks to the work of cooperatives and local associations, we manage to bring everyone, together - regardless of ethnicity and religion - around a common goal: to develop our village economically and socially."*

Incomes of rural household supported by the programme have increased, with a positive knock-on effect on children's schooling and access to health.



Accounts

Maintaining trust

Maintaining the trust of its financial partners is essential for Secodev. The 2022 accounts once again reflect the rigour deployed in the management of funds dedicated to the implementation of development projects.

This year Secodev invested CHF 1,483,852 to execute its actions across five countries. The organisation's growth is reflected in a 21% increase in total operating expenses since 2020. This increase is particularly visible in field investments of CHF 1,308,153, an increase of 3% on 2021. Organisational expenses amounted to CHF 175,700, a slight increase on 2021. This increase reflects the institution's growth strategy.

2022 revenue was CHF 1,445,995, up 7% on 2021. This increase demonstrates the confidence of new financial partners, including a bequest assigned to projects in India. All financial movements are visible in the table of changes in the funds accounts.

66% of the 2022 funds come from public contributions, 33% from foundations, partner organisations and companies, and 1% from private individuals.

The financial result for the year is CHF 2,934.

The auditors of Fiduciaire de Rive, have verified and approved the accounting records and annual financial statements on April 20, 2023.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

ASSETS	2022	2021
Current assets		
Cash	862'847	893'082
Debtors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	188	30
Total current assets	863'035	893'112
Fixed assets		
Tangible capital assets	-	-
Total fixed assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	863'035	893'112
LIABILITIES	2022	2021
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	155	53
Social and tax creditors	8'815	15'816
Other current liabilities	-	-
Accruals and deferred liabilities	61'241	46'562
Total current liabilities	70'210	62'430
Allocated funds (restricted)		
Allocated funds, Laos program	84'792	26'742
Allocated funds, Rwanda edu	2'176	40'000
Allocated funds, Rwanda ex-prisoners	13'672	59'970
Allocated funds, RDCE gender	1'936	6'315
Allocated funds, DRC forestry	2'937	4'636
Allocated funds, FGC	56'694	65'335
Total allocated funds	162'207	202'998
Organisation capital		
Capital	10'000	10'000
Reserve for unrestricted financing	546'000	546'000
Deferred profit or loss	71'683	69'337
Year end result	2'934	2'346
Total equity	630'617	627'683
TOTAL LIABILITIES	863'035	893'112



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 2022

OPERATING INCOME	2022	2021
Allocated financing (restricted)		
FGC funding	950'000	950'000
Foundations	434'800	299'680
Private donors	-	40'000
Total allocated financing	1'384'800	1'289'680
Non-allocated financing (unrestricted)		
ECR funding	21'062	24'785
Non-allocated donation	35'000	36'000
Donations	1'200	1'300
Contributions	350	600
Other income	3'583	447
Total non-allocated financing	61'195	63'131
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1'445'995	1'352'811
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
Direct expenses for projects and activities		
Mali	55'065	53'524
Democratic Republic of the Congo	558'615	587'124
Rwanda	289'960	282'193
Burundi	66'850	45'527
Laos	195'750	183'659
Sharing / Knowledge capitalization Switzerland	10'945	-
Sub-total of program expenditure	1'177'185	1'152'025
Personnel costs - field support	109'594	102'445
Follow-up project costs, mission field support costs	21'373	16'892
Project expenses outside of the action plan	-	-1'936
Total direct costs related to projects and activities	1'308'153	1'269'427
Other operating expenses		
Administrative and technology costs		
Personnel costs	65'757	61'467
Administrative expenses	52'941	44'772
Total administrative and technology costs	118'698	106'239
Promotion and fundraising expenses		
Personnel costs	43'838	40'978
Promotion and fundraising expenses	12'230	18'138
Total promotion and fundraising expenses	56'068	59'116
Finance costs	956	1'441
Depreciation	-22	-
Total other operating costs	175'700	166'796
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	1'483'852	1'436'223
NET RESULTS BEFORE ALLOCATED FUND ADJUSTMENTS	-37'857	-83'412
Apportionment to allocated funds	-1'384'800	-1'289'680
Use of allocated funds	1'425'591	1'375'438
Dissolution of allocated funds	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN ALLOCATED FUNDS	40'791	85'758
NET RESULT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2'934	2'346

Secodev in 2022

Secretariat (as of 31 December)

Anne Simon	Director
Leny Mora-Monteros	Head of Programme
Adriano Ribeiro	Project and Partnership Assistant

Committee (as of 31 December)

Martyna Olivet	President
Théogène Gakuba	Vice-president
Philippe Frésard	Treasurer
Sylvie Manzini	Member
Michel Warynski	Member

Secodev warmly thanks for their support and generosity:

- Fondation Smartpeace
- Fondation Temperatio
- 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
- As well as our many private donors

Team, donors & acknowledgments





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SECODEV

Rue de Carouge 53, 1205 Genève

Tél: +41 (0) 22 708 04 32

secodev.ch



ACCOUNT/PAYABLE TO

CH08 0078 8000 0509 0977 2

SeCoDév, SERVICE COOPERATION

AU DEVELOPPEMENT

Rue de Carouge 53

1205 Genève

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Don Secodev

Thank you for your confidence
and support!

