

FIDESCO

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



ACTIVITY REPORT 2022





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Picture above ♥ Mission Chikowa [ZAMBIE] / Cover picture ♥ Mission Tamatave [MADAGASCAR]
Graphic design : Ostiane Arminjon based on a graphic design by Mayeule Bym

EDITO

Choosing hope while seeing the reality of the world; a difficult choice but incredibly fruitful! And it's the one we wanted to make for 2022.

A year marked by numerous events which have shaken the world, upset populations, questioned peace in certain regions of the globe. The conflict in Ukraine had economic, political and human repercussions on a world level; the crisis in Mali, Burkina-Faso, the protests in Iran and South America, also contributed to unbalancing our world and jeopardising the aspiration of people to a better world.

The Church was not spared either, and the scandals which exploded also shook Catholics, challenging their hope and sometimes even their faith.

Even so, in the heart of this dark landscape, we have witnessed so many signs of hope! We have been able to contemplate one thousand and one acts, in daily life, which fill us with hope for the world. We marvel at our partners' thirst to help the most destitute, the force of solidarity and the spirit of service in our volunteers, the joy which radiates from those who have nothing.

Without being naïve, or voluntarist or blind to the poverty and difficulties of our world, we have the profound conviction that the Lord is at work in all these little and discrete things, but so transformative. That's why, in 2022, we wanted to make the resolute decision to hope, by keeping our eyes fixed on what is good, beautiful and great. We choose to hope rather than to be discouraged, to serve rather than to be closed-in on ourselves.

In 2022, we have been witnesses, admiring the multiple signs of hope, and humble actors for their realisation.

A touching availability for mission in the young and the less young, from 20 to 70 years old: in 2022, 94 volunteers went out to their country of mission, singles, couples, families, who all chose mission and service, giving of themselves in priority to those who are most in need.

A missionary presence which is spreading: three new missions were opened in Thailand serving AIDs victims, in Argentina serving those living with a handicap and in the DR Congo supporting schools in the Diocese of Lisala.

Partnerships being strengthened through the unswerving commitment to serving those who suffer.

A web of volunteers in missionary service, which is spreading, and strengthening the support and companionship offered! The network of Regional Correspondents was renewed in order to pass on the call to mission ever more closely, new Country Correspondants were called for Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines and Brazil, as well as the 'Uncles-Aunts' there to welcome and accompany the Sud-Nord volunteers throughout their year of service in France.

New local initiatives and new projects serving the most fragile parts of society were also supported by Fidesco. Among these are the reinsertion houses for young offenders leaving prison, and aid for the cyclone victims in Madagascar; in DR Congo, a new office giving legal aid to destitute prisoners; in Poland and in Ukraine, emergency aid in support of inhabitants affected by the war.

Thank you for having been at our side, ambassadors for hope, participating in building this world which is constantly evolving, enabling encounters and fraternal exchange to be experienced all around the world, giving the flavor of something new. More than ever our contemporaries have the need to find this hope which gives us peace, which comforts, which creates trust and which reveals the presence of God in the heart of our world. **Thank you for being witnesses of hope in the world around you.**

Emeric CLAIR
Director of Fidesco



“

I find the immensity of the poverty in the slums discouraging sometimes, there is so much to do, so many sick children, so many children going hungry, so many mothers to help, advise, accompany. I feel like we have to be everywhere all at once but even then it's never enough. It's a reality which is hard to accept. However, some good advice from Fr. Matthieu helped me to see things differently: we must stop constantly looking at all there is to do in the slums of Manilla, instead we should look after this child right here, who is in front of me and who has been given to me to look after today. Seen in the context of Manilla with its 20 million inhabitants, it's nothing, but for this child and their family, it's precious. This helped me to change the way I see this harsh reality, to move forward without being tempted to give up and to always keep hope alive!

Gaëtane

♥ Sent with her husband in 2021 to Manilla, [Philippines]

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FIDESCO, CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NGO

Present with the poor in Africa, Asia and Latin America for more than forty years now, Fidesco is committed to development projects in the southern countries. In particular, the NGO sends volunteers on long missions (1-3 years), into the field, to put their professional skills and qualifications in at the service of these projects, and in partnership with the local Church.

OUR BELIEFS

Getting involved with Fidesco means sharing three essential values :

■ SERVING THE DEVELOPMENT

Based on the preferential option for the poor, our action is guided by concern for the common good – respecting the principle of subsidiarity – and oriented towards the integral development of the person, which considers the totality of being human (material needs, intellectual, cultural, affective and spiritual growth).

■ THE STEP OF FAITH

To commit oneself with Fidesco is to put oneself at the service of other people without distinction of race, culture or religion. It is living the humanitarian mission as an opportunity to grow humanly and spiritually, in contact with others

■ VOLUNTEERING AS A SCHOOL OF LIFE

Committing to Fidesco means giving priority to the mission and organizing one's life in the direction of the greatest possible availability at the service of the poorest. By entering into an attitude of listening and patience, the volunteers experience an authentic encounter with another culture. For the sake of transmission, they act in a spirit of service and gratuity.

OUR MISSION

In Africa, Asia or Latin America, many partners call on Fidesco to strengthen and sustain local projects. Our partners – dioceses, parishes, congregations, Catholic foundations – need skills that they cannot find locally. Fidesco works alongside them by developing missions to serve the poorest and the development of the countries to which the volunteers are sent. Nearly 2,000 volunteers have already experienced service, a founding experience from a human, spiritual and professional point of view.

OUR VISION

Building bridges between people, going to meet the other in all their difference, weaving solid links between people, helping the smallest and the most fragile... this is what we have been pursuing for 40 years. We want to respond to the Church's call to go against the tide, to be revolutionaries of our time, builders of solidarity, servants and brothers. The new challenges of Fidesco are to deepen our missionary presence, to extend our action of international solidarity to other horizons, to revolutionize the logics in the field of development, to reconcile the desire to serve far away and constraints depending of the ages of life... On the strength of our 40 years of mission, we continue to build a culture of fraternity by adopting a multidirectional missionary approach adapted to each situation.



RECOGNITION OF FIDESCO

AT THE HEART OF INSTITUTIONAL

FIDESCO is an NGO recognized as an association under the French law of 1901. Since its creation in 1980, Fidesco has been recognized by institutional authorities and is a member of several organizations that act in the field of development and international solidarity.

- 1991: FIDESCO gets in France the statute of a **charitable organization**.
- FIDESCO is approved by the French **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to send **International Solidarity Volunteers**.
- 2012: The **Fidesco Foundation** was created, under the auspices of the **Caritas France** Foundation. This structure allows the donators, subject to the tax on property, high incomes or fortunes, (IFI) to generously support the work of Fidesco serving the poorest in the world.
- 2013, FIDESCO's German Office gets the "DZI-Siegel": a German certification necessary to obtain public funds.
- 2020: FIDESCO obtained the "Civic Service approval" from the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports. FIDESCO is on the steering committee of France Volontaires (French Volunteers), contributing in France to the development of various forms of voluntary commitment at an international level.
- FIDESCO is a member of the Liaison Committee of NGO Volunteers (CLONG Volunteering). The committee brings together associations that send volunteers on cooperation missions in developing countries. As a place to share experiences and good practices, this group enables a dialogue and consultation with the public authorities.
- FIDESCO is also a member of Coordination SUD (National Coordination of French International Solidarity NGOs) Coordination Sud facilitates the professionalization of French NGOs and ensures their advocacy with public and private institutions in France, Europe and worldwide.



AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

- FIDESCO was founded by the Emmanuel Community.
- FIDESCO is part of the **National Council for Solidarity and Diaconia**, created in 1989 at the General Assembly of the Bishops of France. The Council coordinates reflection and oversees the work of the main charitable bodies of the Church of France.

STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS

SERVING IN THE FIELD



In 2022, 97 volunteers set out on mission! After the Covid years, this was a great victory for Fidesco and for our partners in the field. It is a testament to the solidity of the NGO, serving the poorest of the poor in the four corners of the world. All throughout these two more difficult years, the aid brought to local partners never dried up, and today our procedures and companionship are even better thanks to the reviews and everything else that was put in place during this period. Volunteers joined missions covering the fields of health, education, engineering and animation in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This year, the **program for retired persons** also found new impetus with the arrival of new candidates. The formation and follow-up of volunteers in the situation of retirement was transferred little by little to the standard hubs, providing evidence that this form of volunteer work is being integrated into the general function of Fidesco mission. This reinforced the internal process of mission prospection, enabling a real expansion of the format. Consequently, two new missions were opened!



"Saint Camille? A firework of simple LIFE!"



"They had warned us: the sick who gather here are true treasures! I tried to prepare myself for who I was going to meet, but... they aren't the simple treasure I come across daily in Avrankou but real SPARKS OF LIFE! Despite the disarray and loneliness, great scourges on their day, these people each have a heart destined for rediscovering life! Also, I find this word SPARK fits perfectly with the profusion of emotions we feel in their company! Whether it's sadness, hysterical joy, anger, pity, exaltation, these feelings boil over in the heart of the centre and this thirst to rediscover life is palpable!"

Louise

On mission in Avrankou [BENIN]

232
volunteers
at work in 2022

208
French
volunteers

11 different
volunteer
nationalities

* (Germany, Belgium,
Benin, Burundi, Cameroon,
Ivory Coast, USA, France,
Philippines, Rwanda, Togo)

PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEERS



39%
Families



23%
Couples



38%
Single

55% Women

45% Men

Oldest
69 years

Average age
33 years

Youngest
21 years

PROJECTS AND FIELDS OF ACTIVITY



Gabrielle is on mission as a
project manager in Tamatave
[MADAGASCAR]



Marie is an educational specialist in a
welcome centre for young people in Talim
[PHILIPPINES]



Fouliques is on mission with his
wife Maylis and their son in Baucau
[EAST TIMOR]

Places of mission

Africa
64%
of volunteers

Latin America
17%
of volunteers

Asia
10%
of volunteers

Middle-East
2%
of volunteers

Europe
7%
of volunteers

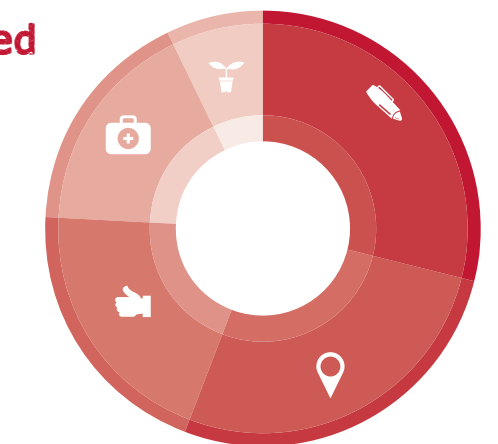
Volunteer missions

- 35%** Management/Co-ordination of projects
- 23%** Teaching support/Training
- 16%** Social Work
- 14%** Medical/Paramedical
- 5%** Communication/Fundraising
- 4%** Construction
- 3%** Agriculture



Projects served and developed

- 27 %** Education/Teaching support
- 26 %** Local development
- 22 %** Social action
- 20 %** Health
- 5 %** Environment/Agriculture

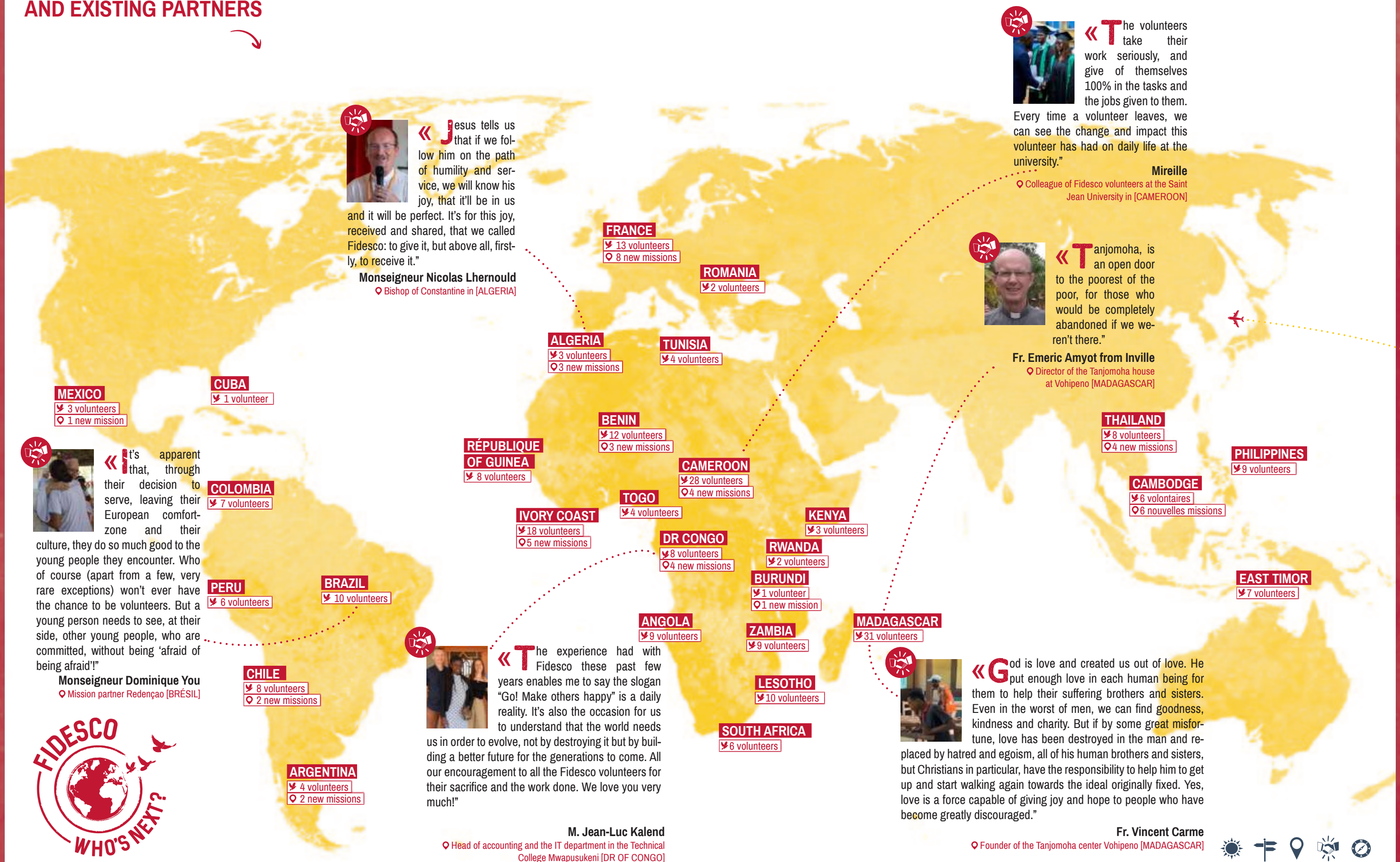


"I am, however, happy with the evolution of the maternity. At the start of the mission the nurses acted alone, they were making decisions without really consulting with the team. As of now, they turn to each other much more easily to seek advice and come to discuss the handling [of patients]. They don't hesitate to come and see me for confirmation on a certain point or evaluation of a patient. They are learning to deliberate and take a position on cases. This is very agreeable; the follow-ups are carried out to a higher standard and are more professional. From their side of things, the nurses feel more valued and intellectually stimulated. The idea is to maintain this dynamic."

Jeanne

On mission at the clinic in Ithanga [KENYA]

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEW AND EXISTING PARTNERS



Reinforced by a bumper year of volunteers in 2022, Fidesco was able to respond largely to the needs of our partners in the field. This was the opportunity to reopen missions closed by Covid, or, because the primary objective had been reached, to open new ones.

In **Argentina**, two volunteers, Ludivine and Madeleine, joined the Casa de Dios where they helped the social workers there looking after thirty people living with handicaps.

In **Thailand**, the centre run by the Camillian Fathers in Rayong took in four volunteers: two single people, Arnaud and Louis, and a couple coming from the

program for the retired volunteers, Bernard and Katinka. Their mission? To accompany, on a daily basis, those suffering from HIV who are looked after in the centre, but also to provide lessons for thirty HIV orphans.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the town of Lisala, on the right hand bank of the Congo River, welcomed Loïc and Isabelle for an administrative mission of financial management, supporting the education team. 3000 kilometres from Kinshasa, the capital, the retired couple had, as their mission, to establish a diagnosis and the follow-up tools for the diocesan schools.



Louis et Guyonne

On mission at Farafangana [MADAGASCAR]



A DYNAMIC TEAM, IN SERVICE

THE FULL TIME STAFF

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

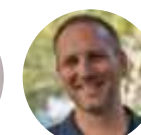
To meet the candidates and accompany them through their thought processes, such is the primary mission of the Recruitment and Training team. It pilots the training of volunteers before, during and after mission, leaning on the wider Fidesco team and on external professionals (psychologists, experts in international solidarity, etc.) 16 regional correspondents charitably invest themselves at their hub to animate the alumni network, to give testimonies and raise awareness for volunteering missions.



Tasnim
BOUCAUD
Director



Marie
LAFITTE
Training



Bruno
Champion
Recruitment



Damien
FRANÇOIS
General
recruitment /
Former volunteers
network



Emeric CLAIR
Director



Père Benoît ROZE
Chaplain

PROJECTS AND ADVOCACY



Francesco
MARTIALIS
Director



Diana
HUCHON COLUNGA
Projects and
advocacy

This team encompasses a triple mission. To develop and accompany new concepts of mission : Program for retirees, the Mission Sud-Nord, (South-North) the Mission Naim Espérance (Naim Hope). Deploying advocacy activities in order to make the voice, vision and values of Fidesco heard by leaders and on influential networks. Supporting international solidarity projects and the direct development of Fidesco across the world.

MISSION COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP



Pierre-Yves
FRACHON
Director



Angélica RAOBELINA
Assistant manager and
follow-up Africa and Latin
America



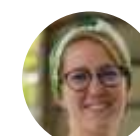
Constance GILLIER
Follow-up Africa



Wandrille COSTREL
Follow-up Asia
and Latin America

They closely accompany volunteers in the field. Side-by-side, with those in charge of follow-up, 50 Country Correspondants give of themselves charitably in service of the mission. Thanks to their profound knowledge of the field, they follow jointly the missions on the ground, supporting volunteers and providing the link between local partners. Once a year, they visit the place of mission.

COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING



Anne-Claire
DOUSSON
Director



Naditza
PAVLOVITCH
Sponsorship



Camille
LE CAMPION
Communication



Ines
RENOUL
Communication

Responsible for spreading the experience, the message and the values of Fidesco, this team participates in developing the prominence of Fidesco and calling new candidates to mission. It sets up communication adapted to the different parties involved (volunteers in the field, alumni, friends, donors, NGOs, etc.). Relying on communication tools, the team also works to find the resources necessary for Fidesco's activity, via sponsorship and other forms of funding.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



Karel DEKEMPE
International
coordinator

At the heart of 6 international offices (Belgium, Germany, Holland, Poland, Portugal and United States), a network of unpaid volunteers as well as 5 salaried employees gives life to the Fidesco mission, is involved in communication, fundraising and recruitment of international volunteers. These international volunteers benefit from the same training program as the French volunteers.

THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS



Recruited from previous Fidesco volunteers, the **Regional Correspondents (R.C.)** are responsible for relaying the call to mission in their region. Going on mission also means coming back with memories fresh in mind and a willingness to get involved in everyday life in France. Respond both to the volunteers' need for commitment once back France and helpful in reintegrating into mainland life after their return, the alumni network is created for volunteers after their return from mission.

The R.C.s animate the local network of past volunteers to better radiate the call to mission. Their vocation is multi-faceted: they organise, by region, mission 'Happy Hours' to strengthen the network of previous volunteers and provide information to those who are considering going on mission and meetings to present volunteering with Fidesco, its riches and its demands. They also watch over volunteers as they return to France in order to help them look back on their years as a volunteer on the other side of the world, and so better experience their return from mission. Their form of activity is primarily based on encounters, working in close proximity with future volunteers. They work in teams, responding to requests from chaplaincies and parishes by mobilising the alumni network and enabling a familial spirit to reign in the alumni network by creating free events and reunions.

In 2022, the Regional Correspondents team was revamped, to transmit the missionary spirit even better. Some regions are still waiting for a correspondent, but as of today you can take a look at the new team of CRs for 2022!



COUNTRY CORRESPONDANT NETWORK

Serving the mission on the ground, the fifty Country Correspondants have a valuable responsibility. In stride with the follow-up team, they charitably give of themselves in service of the mission to provide follow-up in a particular country, and to its partners and volunteers who are there on mission. Their profound knowledge of the terrain is a real asset to the team.

This year, new Country Correspondants have taken up the torch for Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, as well as Brazil, where a whole team has been constituted around the point person: a new formula which best adapts to the needs of the terrain.



“The visits each semester, or annually, from the FIDESCO support workers (Country Correspondants) proved themselves to be precious. We were and still are, conscious that through our physical proximity, but also, by being saturated with work, we do not have the possibility to listen as competently as the service which is provided by the support workers. There have been difficult moments. But, in the immense majority of cases, the visit, and in the last few years a web conference follow-up, has enabled us to resolve certain questions concerning adaptation to work, culture, the mission's objective, etc.”

Monseigneur Dominique You
 partner of the mission Redenção [BRAZIL]



“One of the resources of this mission is our Country Correspondant, Cécile. As a volunteer with Fidesco, she accompanies us, gives us counsel, and has followed our work since we arrived for our mission. Precious at the end of a phoneline, her physical presence during her site visit at the end of April helped a lot and concretely changed life in the field in the long-term. She stayed for ten days in Timor visiting our respective missions. Her outside perspective and her extensive experience of mission in Indonesia really helped me to analyse situations from a new and more adequate angle. We parted, knowing each other more, and our discussions have more resonance now that she has been able to understand the situation of our mission. Her visit has also greatly helped the residents of Timor to grasp the role of Fidesco on mission in their country, and of the valuable link there is between the local partner and the NGO.”

Eloise
 On mission in Dili [East Timor]

THE UNCLE-AUNT NETWORK FOR VOLUNTEER SOUTH-NORTH WORK

The function of the Uncles-Aunts, commissioned to accompany the volunteers Sud-Nord (South-North) on a cultural level during their year of service in France, benefited from review sessions which drove its optimisation. Close to Fidesco and coming from foreign countries, the Uncles-Aunts are a key resource in understanding, explaining and accompanying the volunteers of Sud-Nord in their discovery of the cultural and human reality of France.

Their mission, alongside the reciprocal volunteers on mission in France, is founded on **the listening ear and fraternal welcome of volunteers**. They do not choose the volunteer they are asked to accompany, who is introduced to them by Fidesco. The partnerships are formed according to their cultural similarities (linked to their country of origin) but also according to geography. The Uncle-Aunt makes a commitment to be **a fraternal presence, available to listen, to accompany, in permanent relationship with the Fidesco team**. So, they are a key element of the Fidesco team, enabling the reciprocal volunteering to function well.



WHAT DOES YOUR PRESENCE AT THEIR SIDE, DURING THEIR TIME OF VOLUNTEERING, CHANGE FOR THEM?

My role as an uncle is an extra, rather than a radical change. If I weren't there, the mission would carry on anyway. But knowing that an 'uncle' is present at your side has a reassuring effect for the volunteer. In this way, they don't feel alone in a foreign country. On some level, with mission, we leave one family to join another family.

The volunteer's relationship with their 'uncle' or their 'aunt' is a more natural connection, because it's familial, compared to the structure of Fidesco. In this manner, I have a particular place in the Fidesco family, as an uncle. The volunteer may find it easier to address themselves to me. Talking to one individual person enables an intimacy that the framework of an established structure doesn't allow for.

This is my brother, who is coming to a country that I know, I can give him helpful little hints on how to see things, how to behave in France. My presence at his side throughout his mission gives him **an experience of the terrain which will guide his life in France**.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEERS SOUTH-NORTH BY FIDESCO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THEIR YEAR IN FRANCE?

You have to be prepared for the mission. Going on mission, is entering into a reality other than work, it's a missionary attitude. For those who are not in the mission, it's difficult for their close ones to understand, notably on the question of money. Our role is to prepare the young person for this. The problems that come with departing on mission, family expectations, friends.

Afterwards, the return from mission is complicated for the young person. If their mission wasn't valued, if it's just a parenthesis we close, it becomes a problem. Because they've acquired skills, knowledge, an opening. Fidesco accompanies the valorisation of the mission experience.



Interview with
Jean-Marie Twambazemungu,
 Fidesco Uncle

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP LIKE WITH THE VOLUNTEER THAT YOU'RE FOLLOWING? BOTH DURING THEIR YEAR IN FRANCE AND WHEN THEY GO BACK?

It's a fraternal relationship, that of a big-brother. The term 'uncle' enables us to assume a certain responsibility, which guides us to watch over a youth. For me, it's above all a brother the Fidesco family gives to me. After their departure from France their return to their country, the relationship which was created isn't broken, but it's not the same. It's no longer a relationship in the context of a mission. For example, I keep up a connection with Aimé. **Fraternity doesn't delete itself**.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN RELATION TO THEM? HOW DOES THAT MANIFEST ITSELF CONCRETELY?

My role manifests itself above all through prayer, their life inhabits my prayers. It also appears through telephone calls, when we need to catch up on news. Generally, we do this once a month. Add to this family dinners at home.

ENRICHED TRAINING

FIDESCO TRAINING BEFORE GOING ON MISSION



Throughout the year, reviews and evaluations were held to try and enrich and renew the volunteer training, especially the period before their departure. To better understand and respond to the needs and the challenges of leaving as a volunteer, different working groups were created and attached to the training center. As a result of their activity, they brought up four avenues of exploration. Firstly, the desire to anchor our thinking in **an anthropological approach**. The young generation preparing to go on mission is composed of new profiles, where the **question of the length of time** spent volunteering has more and more importance. Our team is there to help them in discerning their commitment.

The use of media and social networks today occupies a dominant place in the lives of most of the mission candidates. The place of this in their life as a volunteer in the field needs to be questioned in order to come to a just use of it. 'Disconnecting' has become a vital question, good discernment for just as much in daily life, as when on mission. The volunteers who go on mission make the decision of being available to those they've come to serve.



“What fulfils man is his relationship with the world, as a body, in sensitivity, in connection with the cosmos, nature, in a relationship with others or with God, through prayer, all this is incarnate.

But, if we lose this incarnation, what happens during communication is virtual; it's not real in the sense that it doesn't nourish humankind. It doesn't nourish that which I feel I want to live most fully.”

Fr. Antoine VIDALIN

Philosopher and Doctor of Theology, specialist in disconnecting, during a training session for the Fidesco team

A review process is underway concerning the concrete questions about life on mission. For example, team life while on mission does not follow the same obligations or practices as one in the context of professional team life in France. At the moment of departure, those volunteering are often more aware of the challenges that could be faced in their relationship with the partner, or in adaptation to a new culture, or life with other volunteers, themes which are addressed during the training before departure. Team life with the other volunteers, whether we're single or married, remains a less obvious challenge. So, Fidesco put in place a think tank, to come up with concrete and effective keys to help volunteers starting out. This includes a lecture, accompanied by role-play situations, to better prepare those for a simple and beautiful life of mission!



“Another important piece of my mission puzzle is the little community life the four of us have as housemates. A part more important than I had imagined. It's a beautiful place of learning, where day after day, my missionary heart is formed, peacefully, with a few more energetic shocks to make the conversion radical.

By the way, I think the term housemate is really weak when it comes to describing what we experienced. Sometimes we tend more toward the term 'community'. And it then transforms into a little laboratory where we live, on a smaller scale, and with a completely different intensity, what we are then called to live in every moment of our lives. Being attentive to others, listening, trusting, and accepting our need for brothers and sisters, their service, their support, their differences.”

This life lived together, where we learn to no longer just live with others, but for them, is in fact, for me, a true training place for mission.”

Antoine

On mission in Chikowa [ZAMBIA]

IN THE FIELD, TRAINING CONTINUES



Volunteer training doesn't just stop with the preparation for departure on mission; ongoing training has been incorporated in the field. Different modules were developed during the year 2022. In relation to the arc of tendency (a series of key steps in the life of mission, from enthusiasm at the beginning, to peace at the end of the mission, passing through a moment of desert and doubt), this training addresses various themes. **Disconnection**, to anchor yourself fully in your mission and not to try and give witness about every new thing at the beginning of a mission, at any cost. **Simplification**, to enter into the mission more deeply and find the right attitude so as to listen to those to whom we've

been sent. **Renew your yes**, a guide to revitalising your trust in a slump, when discouragement comes knocking at the door, as we realise all the limits of our mission and its partners. **Love the Church**, to renew our trust in the diversity of the Church, in the field. This module invites volunteers towards a spirit of gratitude and hope. **Justice and charity**, to adopt a just vision of your mission and your legitimacy within it. **Missionary of joy**, both a sending out and help in returning to one's home country. A module formulated to give root to all the joy received in serving others and to let yourself be built up by all the riches harvested while on mission.



“Promises, marriage, vows... our commitments have often been undertaken in a rush of enthusiasm. Then came the experience of reality, which threw a raw, sometimes brutal light on the mission we had dreamed of. Sometimes to the point of bringing up again the questions we were asking ourselves before leaving: isn't there something more, better, more interesting for us to do elsewhere? Why does our desire to be radical find so little realisation in our eyes here, in this mission to which we've given two years of our life (even just that?) Sometimes we congratulate ourselves for being able to pick ourselves up again (we hold onto 'the joy of mission'), but it's then that something comes along and abruptly causes a new downfall! [...]”

Thibault and Pauline

On mission as a family in Fianarantsoa [MADAGASCAR]

A SUPPORT BOOKLET FOR COUPLES

After the creation of a booklet for singles on mission, and then for families, 2022 was the year to elaborate on a booklet guiding couples during their time of discernment. Convinced that couples are, by nature, called to turn towards others and to give of themselves, this booklet is a resource for couples who are currently reflecting on their desire for mission. Composed of testimonies from volunteers and volunteer alumni, collected during and after their missions, it is peppered with concrete answers to the sense and the challenges of mission faced as a couple. It addresses both the departure on mission, the life of the couple in the field and on their return. The booklet for couples is a tool conceived to provide concrete elements for the discernment of couples who do not have children.



“We realise that experiencing mission as a couple is also a testimony, even more so to the street children. The children like to pull our two left hands together to see our wedding rings next to each other. The older girls often ask us, enthusiastically, why do we love each other, why did we

choose each other and get married? These questions are so moving coming from these children who more often than not haven't been given examples of a happy marriage and it's a joy for us to be able to witness to our joy of being married!”

Extract from the booklet for couples, a pearl from
Gaëtan and Gaétane



“Our testimony as a Catholic couple comes in to play [...] when we give ourselves to each other, through our words, our looks, the way we behave towards each other in front of these young people, and the way we behave with them.”

Extract from the booklet for couples, a pearl from
Edgar-Alixan and Blandine

INTENSIFY THE MISSION

THROUGH A STRONGER CALL TO MISSION



A CAMPAIGN CARRIED BY THE MISSIONARY TOUCH OF MOTHER TERESA

Inspired by the words of Mother Teresa, the campaign for the call to mission in 2022 used her famous **anaphora**: “Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is life, fight for it!”

Words which invite us to recognise the true value of the challenge but also the joy life gives us. Words which move us to act, to commit to finding meaning in our lives, following the example of the person who pronounced them, who gave almost fifty years of her life to the poor, living on the streets of Calcutta and across world.

In order to bring the mission more deeply into people’s hearts, these visuals were spread through the printed and digital press, as well as on networks. These words express the vision of Fidesco, its commitment to serving, its values of audacity, of goodwill and to the truth which guides us. A communication campaign which is like an invitation to go further, to set out on the great adventure of a life of service!

A CALL TO MISSION TAKEN EVERYWHERE IN FRANCE



This year has been rich in events voicing the call to mission. The Mission Congress, volunteering evenings, events using the network of province alumni, a presence at the Emmanuel Community forums and parishes, past volunteers became ambassadors for Fidesco across France and beyond. Through the medium of stands, festive events or testimonies, it’s as much an opportunity for previous volunteers to understand what they’ve experienced during their time as volunteers.



Testimony of Anaëlle, during the volunteering night in Paris

PERU MINI-SERIES: DIVING INTO MISSION



A mission anchored in local issues which gradually reveal themselves over five episodes of a mini-series on Tareq and Claire Abdelrazek’s mission, as volunteers on the Manchay Verde project in Peru. The mission is marked by the ecological problems threatening the country, the desertification of its farmland and the social consequences of a displacing population. The mission’s objective is to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of Manchay through environmental protection and rehabilitation. Education and awareness are at the heart of the program, so as to act on it in the long-term.

Each episode of the mini-series takes the viewer deeper into a new element of the mission, helping them to grasp the challenges but also the beauty of an international solidarity volunteering mission. Living in the heart of a poor neighbourhood of the town of Manchay, Claire and Tareq share out their time between their eco-agriculture and integral development mission, and their family life with their two daughters Luna and Maryam.



THROUGH PROMOTING RECIPROCAL VOLUNTEERING



The year of reciprocal volunteers 2021-2022, composed of four young Africans, gave way to thirteen new volunteers. Laetitia, Céline, Luce and Didier-Marie obtained certification at the Catholic University of the West and after one year of mission in France went back to their families. Coming from six different African countries (Benin, Togo, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Rwanda), the volunteers from the 2022-2023 group of gathered in their place of mission in France. In Paris, but also in Troyes, Toulon and Saint-Gildas-des-Bois, the areas of their mission are varied. Some of them were sent to those living with a disability, students struggling with school, prisoners at the end of their sentence, persons of no fixed abode, and into the heart of cities.

During a preparation for mission session in Abidjan, in the Ivory Coast in March 2022, the future volunteers received training to help them better understand their mission country but also the specifics of volunteering with Fidesco.

The staff members present gave them keys to fully discerning if the mission was adapted to them and them to the mission. In parallel, training was held for local leaders brought in to collaborate with the team for the recruitment of reciprocal volunteers.

They come with all the riches of their hearts to bind up the wounds of their brothers, intimately sensitive to the great poverty of French society: loneliness. A reality which touches them in a particular way. Emmanuel (on mission at Source d'envol) gives testimony about it, coming back from a discernment session in the Ivory Coast: **"The training we had in Abidjan enabled me to better grasp and understand the sense of poverty in France and as a missionary, I am called to come to the aid of these people who are needy in a diverse number of ways. The teaching about the solitude these people are facing touched me a lot and enables me to already have an idea about what I am called to live during my year of mission."** Today he is working on the reinsertion of prisoners at the end of their sentence.



"As soon as I landed at the airport, I realised very quickly I wasn't in my country anymore, because everything had changed, everything was going so fast too. [...] The first week, it was very hard to see people living in such insecurity, because in African countries, as you might imagine, there exists a great solidarity between people, and here it's more about individualism. There were a lot of people who were in great poverty, suffering greatly at the Gare du Nord [Parisian train station], on the path of my first day of mission with Captifs, it was a big shock. Especially meeting people who were so broken that they refused to shower, they refused everything we offered them, because they were in a situation of letting themselves die, in fact. That was very difficult for me to accept during the first two weeks. Today my vision has changed, my vision is no longer stuck on the insecurity of people, but on the encounters that I will have each day!"

Grace

On mission at Aux Captifs la Libération

All along the year, evaluations were made to strengthen the program, helping volunteers put into place a project on returning from mission. These reviews are lead in partnership with the Catholic University of the West, in the context of monthly training. The aim is to help these young people land on their feet in their country of origin, after a year of international volunteering, just like with the other Fidesco volunteers after a mission in Africa, Asia or in Latin America.



"I thought I was going to be able to help these people grow and I realise that it's they who are making me grow, through the way they accept their disabilities, through their everyday joys, their fraternity with each other and the courage they show in leading their lives. [...] Whether we have a disability or not, every person can help another to grow. This is what we call reciprocity!"

Yvette

On mission at Simon de Cyrène



In their latest mission report, Didier-Marie gives testimony:

"To be a Fidesco missionary is to be called to live and to witness to your mission through human and cultural values, both professionally and spiritually."

Didier-Marie

Former volunteer at Simon of Cyrene

FRUITS OF RECIPROCAL VOLUNTEERING



"On the 13th September 2021 I arrived in France without knowing what to expect, I arrived with my bag of prejudices, worries and fears, I arrived alone in this adventure, in this flat-sharing. Since then, more than nine months have flown by and I no longer have the same feelings because, in time, I got to know, I learned to share, I learned to experience friendship, I learned to be true, I learned to love the differences of others. Living with housemates throughout the mission constituted a true balance in life for me. Today I am happy with all these extraordinary people who share my daily life, by all these beautiful times spent together, by all these very enriching moments of cultural and spiritual exchange. I arrived alone but I leave with friends, brothers and sisters and that has no price. [...] The most beautiful fruit that I harvested, tasted and ate from this mission was JOY. And so, it is with a lot of joy that I thank you for having been there for me in one way or another, all throughout this missionary year."

Laetitia

Former volunteer at Aux Captifs la libération

BY SUPERVISING FIELD INTERNSHIPS



Conscious of the fact we are regularly asked for field internships, in the context of student courses, in 2022 we lead a time considering how we could better support them. The process should be based on the site needs, to better anticipate its demands. In this context, partners can express any eventual needs they may have for these one-off missions, over the months. Volunteers sent under the form of an internship are given the mission of helping to reinforce the principal mission of the volunteer who is already committed for one or two years. As a result, the interns are always sent to a mission where a standard volunteer is present.

Candidates can now reply to job offers posted on our website. And so, the process of being sent on mission is slightly modified for this type of candidate. We wanted to enable students to be trained in international solidarity, but also to make Fidesco known through intensifying its mission under a new form. Going on a shorter mission is also the leaven for a desire for mission more long-term.

THROUGH AID FOR MULTIFACETED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

EMERGENCY AID FOR UKRAINE

Helping in the development of southern countries also means supporting local projects, both financially and administratively. This year, Fidesco was committed to numerous local projects but also to emergency aid.

In relation to the ongoing geopolitics of this year, Fidesco invested in the support of inhabitants suffering from the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. We are heading two emergency projects which respond to local needs. The first, in partnership with Le Cèdre, set up in Poland, enabled the support of forty-five Church bodies to come to the aid of refugees on Polish territory. The second, in Ukraine, thanks to our local correspondent, Fr. Andrzej Lalik, we were able to distribute food aid and emergency sanitary products. The aim of this operation was to come to the help of the poorest, in zones humanitarian aid is not reaching.



“Following an initial aid package for the welcome and first aid of Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Fidesco added to its support by launching a project directly in Ukraine. The objective was to bring emergency food and sanitary aid to the victims of war in the most abandoned or difficult to access areas (Zaporija, Odessa, Kharkiv, Poltava, Kupiansk, etc.). Thanks to the self-sacrifice of our co-ordinators on the ground, we were able to come to the help of 10,000 people by distributing 24 tons of food. Above and beyond the material aspect, the project also took honour in bringing a testimony of hope by bringing a human presence to those stricken by disaster.”

Francesco Martialis

Director of Advocacy and Projects Department

NEW PROJECTS IN MADAGASCAR AND THE CONGO IN BURUNDI

In **Madagascar**, two centers received aid from us. The Tanjomoha center, a historical mission to which we have been sending volunteers for more than twenty years, was able to install a sawing workshop. The center's mission expresses itself through three main lines of focus: education, medical care and development. Two cyclones (Batsirai and Emnati) crossed the island one after the other in February 2022, ravaging houses, agriculture and forests, and made emergency aid necessary, distributed by the Tanjomoha center and supported by Fidesco (donations amounting to 20,000 euros). The aid brought there was used for the most part in distributing food to the inhabitants but also in installing anticyclone techniques in the rebuilding of houses (577 houses rebuilt and 120 repaired) and destroyed infrastructure (bridge, diocesan buildings). These efforts, enabled by the donations received and the efforts of the Tanjomoha center, helped a return to normal life for the regional population and to be more prepared for any future cyclones.



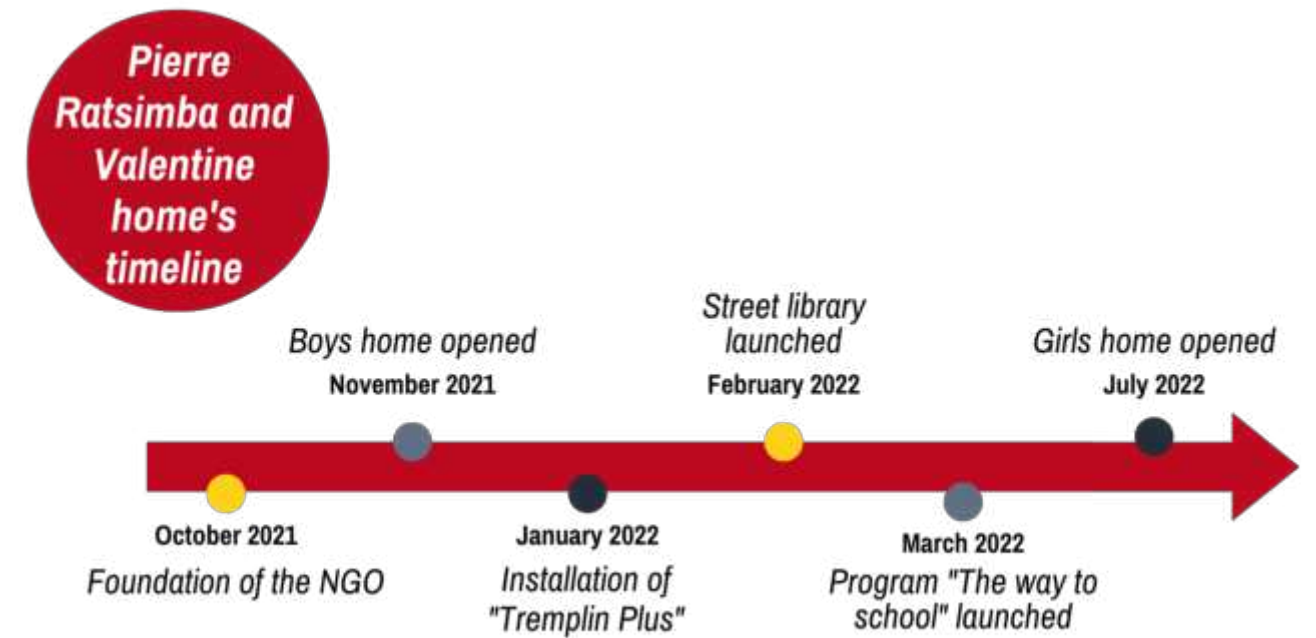
“By serving the Tanjomoha center, we joined an ancient Fidesco mission, a co-operation which has existed for more than 30 years. We felt the pressure to begin with, but this little statistic above all made us realise one very important point: we are just the link in a long chain of volunteers who pass on the succession every year, in service of the most disadvantaged. We are here just in passing. This reality, which is palpable here, works on our humility. We must not let ourselves be dominated by the desire to leave our mark on the center, to realise a project upon which we can stamp our names. On the contrary, it invites us to accomplish our service of daily management just as those who came before us have done and those who will come after us. We transmit and pass on the baton.”

Inès and Cyprien

On mission in Vohipeno [MADAGASCAR]

A few kilometres from there, on the island, Fidesco also supports the Pierre Ratsimba and Valentine centers. Their fixed objectives are to offer a roof over their heads, training, but also affection to young people in reinsertion after prison time or who have been abandoned by their family.

Extract from the activity report from the Pierre Ratsimba and Valentine centers



In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, a new legal aid office for destitute prisoners (BAJPD) opened its doors in Lubumbashi. The aid it offers is the same at the office in Kinshasa, established in 2003 at the call of Congolese judges, coming to the concrete help of prisoners, without judging them, who are incapable of paying the costs. Both of the BAJPDs offer a service of listening to those who ask for their help, but also a service of lawyers to offer advice, including to their families.

In **Burundi**, the school Notre Dame de l'Espérance also benefitted from the support of Fidesco in 2022. Our action is based on helping the running of it, providing pedagogical material and the salary of professors.



Blandine

Sent on mission to Burundi by Emmanuel Education via Fidesco

DEVELOPING COMMUNION

STRENGTHENING THE ALUMNI NETWORK IN SERVICE OF THE MISSION



TOOLS FOR THE ALUMNI NETWORK

The idea of gathering together the family of previous Fidesco volunteers, through an alumni website first emerged in 2016. It started taking form concretely at the end of 2020, gaining momentum from the 40th anniversary of our NGO.

The website was officially launched in July 2021. Its aim? To unify and mobilise a network of 2000 past volunteers! It is conceived as a convivial platform, facilitating reunions within the extended family of Fidesco, but also to respond to the needs of volunteers returning from their mission. 2022 was the year of its expansion. After training Regional Correspondents to use it, they are starting to make use of its full potential to unify.

The website La Mission Continue [The Mission Continues] is conceived as a tool to give life to the alumni network, in all its magnitude after forty years of missions. News about the call to mission, Fidesco events, employment offers, announcements and prayer intentions... the alumni website acts as a distributor of news for the extended Fidesco family! People can subscribe to groups according

to the region they live in, their country of mission or their professional skills, to receive content which interests them. It is also a formidable tool in picking up with life back in France after one or two years on mission, and it promotes communion. Being unified in this manner means the alumni community can live "continuous mission" more easily and participate more fully in spreading the fire of mission.

In line with the website, a newsletter is released every trimester, specially conceived for past volunteers, which reminisces about powerful times experienced by the community. Named Post-Missio, « La gazette des anciens » ["The Alumni Gazette"], it acts as a link between all previous volunteers, all the years mixed together! Its ambition is to keep up the fire of mission through sharing the diverse ways in which to taste and let others taste the fruits we have received during a mission.



"The Mission Continues is a real Swiss Army knife for past volunteers. We can find old members from our year of volunteering whom we don't see anymore, job offers or propositions of meet-ups with people who have shared a common experience and are therefore better able to understand us. There are also articles for post-mission, a dedicated newsletter and areas to catch up on each other's news.

It's a tool which shows the importance Fidesco gives to the family mission spirit. The objective being that what is shared virtually can inspire real-life encounters which bring out the fruits of post-mission and encourage others to experience this human adventure."

Diana Huchon-Colunga
Former network animation manager



FIRST FRUITS OF RECIPROCAL VOLUNTEERS AFTER RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRY

Laetitia, volunteer from the year 2021, returned to her country at the end of the summer 2022. She had only just got back when she threw herself into a beautiful project, inspired by her experience as a volunteer in France.

Originally from the Ivory Coast, she came to serve in France with the charity Aux captifs la Libération, based next to the Parisian train station, la Gare du Nord, and with l'APA (Association pour l'Amitié), in Paris. As a citizen of the Ivory Coast, serving the poorest of the poor in France, she gives testimony about how a relationship was rapidly formed between herself and those depending on the charity. She revealed herself to be truly precious for our partner who saw in her a bridge to encountering and helping the poor. Overcome by meeting these people, who sometimes turned up with an impressive academic background from their country of origin but confronted by poverty in France, she was deeply moved by this beautiful mission. From Abidjan, where she lives today, Laetitia talks to us about her life on returning from her volunteering experience in France:

"Straight away I fell back into the ins and outs of the life I'd left behind, with my activities which I resumed with a renewed vigour. [...] The most beautiful fruit I could harvest from the tree of this mission, is joy. The joy of a smile given and the joy of a smile received. And concretely, I've come back with two projects, notably a project to found Aux Captifs la Libération, for people living as prostitutes in Abidjan, and the second project is a personal project to go to school, to become a social worker."

"It's certain we come back from mission changed, the change can be seen straight away. I continue to be a missionary in the little activities of my everyday life.

[...] What I want to keep from my mission are the street tours, which were a time of deeper encounter with the people for whom we were doing this work. These were moments where we really saw the poverty, the instability of people living on the street. Moments where we truly experienced an encounter with them, with someone, person to person, heart to heart. It's these moments I really want to keep, the moments where we would truly go out to meet the people on the streets who are the most excluded, and they really were truly magical times."

Laetitia

Former volunteer at Aux captifs, la libération

"It's certain we come back from mission changed, the change can be seen straight away. I continue to be a missionary in the little activities of my everyday life."



Le réseau des anciens Fidesco



FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL PLAYERS...

Our Sponsor for the volunteers in 2022, Monseigneur Lhernould, has been bishop of Constantine and Hippone, Algeria, since 2020. Before his appointment, he was Vicar General for the Diocese of Tunisia. Today, bishop of a diocese which counts 1,500 Catholics for 12 million Muslims, he has an experience of multiculturalism every day and his

diocese shines particularly as a small Christian community in the heart of this world. He reminded volunteers during their commissioning session of something he holds particularly close to his heart: the Fidesco mission leans on a community of brothers. He urged them to “shine through the fraternal life as a community”.

Monseigneur Nicolas Lhernould insisted on the importance of being open to others and their culture while on mission, necessary conditions for forming a local community. He quoted a paragraph from the Declaration of Mexico on the cultural politics of UNESCO (1982):

“It is culture that gives man the ability to reflect upon himself. It is culture that makes us specifically human, rational beings, endowed with a critical judgement and a sense of moral commitment. It is through culture that we discern values and make choices. It is through culture that man expresses himself, becomes aware of himself, recognises his incompleteness, questions his own achievements, seeks untiringly for new meanings and creates works through which he transcends his limitations.”

For him, entering into relationship with another, through founding it on our respective cultures, leads to a true exchange. This is like all the solid relationships which are made and continue for many years, in the image of that of Fidesco with its local partners. A real communion which enables continuous work with local players.



FOCUS PARTNERS

Interview with Monseigneur Dominique You, Bishop of Santíssima Conceição do Araguaia [BRAZIL] since 2006



• How long have you been working with Fidesco for?

Since 1994, at Salvador de Bahia, in the parish of Our Lady of Alagados, in the heart of projects focused on the youth living in great poverty and unstable situations.

• What made you continue working with Fidesco?

The experience we had, convinced us more than ever that the teenagers in unstable situations, especially that of prostitution, didn't just need a job, because under it all, prostitution brought them a lot more than any other job. They needed to realise their dignity as daughters of God, and that is more precious than all the gold in the world.



• How would you describe your relationship with Fidesco?

Right from the beginning, it was a relationship based on communion [...] We presented our projects and Fidesco helped us to choose the volunteers who were the best prepared for this type of work.

• What does receiving Fidesco volunteers bring you?

Firstly, the experience of communion with the Church in France, but also between the volunteers and ourselves, in the name of the Church! Because, even if there's sometimes (between the volunteers and us) differences in the way we evaluate our work, being conscious that we're here to realise not our work but the Lord's Work is bigger than everything. We know beforehand they'll come across all the various limits of our work, of our organisation, of our achievements. But we also know that, sooner or later, they'll see the faith and love which keeps them going. And in the end, it's really because of these limits that we ask to have missionaries. If they disappear one day, we won't need missionaries anymore...



Because, it's striking to see how the volunteers mature, during the time spent on mission with us. We witness true “rebirths”. It's encouraging and gratifying to be able to send these young people back to France who have met, with such sincerity, the poorest of the poor, the destitute, those excluded from society and who have found how to overcome the barriers of today's world...

• How do you see your future cooperation with Fidesco?

We are very interested by the perspective of welcoming retired couples, older, in a different format to that of the two-year volunteers. It would also be an advantage for the volunteers, not losing their way in the face of challenges. The further we are from everything that helped us to grow, the more we can feel the need for a grandparent close to us, who delights in the young people, who listens to them without judging them, who can offer advice without imposing it...!



“The way I see these young women evolves fast as I get to know them. Each one of them shares the reality of what she is living with me, each one in her own way expresses as many difficulties and pain, as hope and joy. And me, by their side, I experience admiration for them. I love their courage; a true life-lesson. In my third mission report, I shared with you something Aparecida, a volunteer at Sapucaia said: “When I am with them, they give me so much strength”. 6 months ago, I just found it was a nice saying. Today I understand it, and more than that, I live it.”

Anne

On mission in Sonho de Mae in Redenção [BRAZIL]

Interview with Father Jojo, head of the community of Camilians in Rayong [THAILAND]



• How long have you been working with Fidesco for?

I have been working with Fidesco since 2022, when I was sent to work in the social center run by the Camilians in Rayong. I would like to thank the previous director, Brother Joey, who initiated the demand for Fidesco volunteers, and a special thank you to Sister Piyachat who introduced Fidesco to the Camilian communities.

• What lead you to ask for our help?

We saw the commitment and the potential of Fidesco volunteers while working at the Fountain of Life Center in Pattaya. And we knew that our community could develop thanks to the support of Fidesco volunteers.



• How would you describe your relationship with Fidesco?

Fidesco always takes care to have a good relationship between the team, the volunteers and the partners. They never abandon us and are ready to give their opinion or help when we need it. They always contact us and visit us, every year. It's much more than a partnership, it's something akin to family.

• What does welcoming Fidesco volunteers bring to you?

Firstly, the Fidesco volunteers are devoted people, faithful to the responsibilities we've entrusted to them. Secondly, they are innovative and are continuously proposing new ways for understanding and working. Finally, the Fidesco volunteers bring us joy and inspire all the members of the community; their devotion, their harmony and their joy motivate us.

• How do you see your future cooperation with Fidesco?

It's something certain, which we really need! We would like to have Fidesco volunteers every year. And we would also like the other communities in Thailand to welcome Fidesco as we continue to, in the future.

• Can you tell us about the relationship between Fidesco volunteers and their colleagues? How do they integrate into the local community?

Even if they're different, they show us trust. They always work together and visit us when they have free time. They are also part of the team in local community.



“Life is bustling at the orphanage! The children are full of energy! Every evening when they get back from school, there's a real playground atmosphere in the area of the center reserved for them. Laughter, tears, joy, tantrums, shouting, arguments... They look like any other children. Sometimes, I almost forget that half of them live with HIV and that the others are orphans. Every day, we do an activity with them from 17:30 to 18:30. We continued the music lessons and also put into place badminton lessons. Some evenings, I teach them to fish too and they like that a lot!”

Louis

On mission in Rayong [THAILAND]



THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF THE COUNTRY CORRESPONDANTS



Working in communion with local players, also means keeping up a real relationship with them. **At the heart of the Fidesco team, the Country Correspondants play a particular role.** They give freely of their time, recruited for their detailed knowledge of a region or a particular country, and their closeness to Fidesco's values. They are also the primary channel in relation to local partners. Working with volunteers and their partners all throughout their mission, they ensure long-term fraternal support. Every year they visit in person. This site visit is an opportunity to organise discussions or training for volunteers, which only strengthens the connections within the Fidesco family. For

the Country Correspondants, it's also an opportunity to become aware of any eventual problems met by the volunteers or the partners and ensure better support, working with the permanent team. Visiting in person, year after year, also enables us to continue to strengthen the relationship between Fidesco and the local partners, as well as local French institutions. On a site visit, the Country Correspondants also have the responsibility of visiting potential places for mission, at the demand of partners. Depending on the context of the proposed mission, they decide whether to open a new mission or not.

This year, at their demand, the support team put into place **a training program to support their mission.** It was held once a month, online and addressed various subjects, linked to the mission, such as the problem of 'disconnecting' or ways in which to interact with Gen Z. For the Country Correspondants, these training days are also a way to better know themselves and get to know the team at Fidesco headquarters. **They help strengthen the community of Country Correspondants.**



...FOR LONG TERM CONNECTIONS

For Fidesco, it has been more than forty years of supporting development through commissioning volunteers, helping local projects but also through a real connection made with each of our partners in the field. They welcome our volunteers in the place of mission and often share their daily life, they are the primary point of contact, but also real friends, full members of the Fidesco family. In 2022, a project we have been supporting for many years celebrated its anniversary, sounding as a victory for the people of Guinea.



At Matoto, a poor suburb of Conakry, the Saint Gabriel Clinic was developed in 1987 by Fidesco at the request of Monseigneur Sarah, Archbishop of Conakry. Since then, its development has been faithfully managed by Fidesco, offering, as best it can, the best healthcare to the poorest of Guinea. For 30 years, Fidesco participants have been relating with each other in order to support this activity, working with Guinean staff members. The objective of the clinic? To offer treatment to the poorest, prioritising women and children. Each day, around 500 people make use of the services provided. Most of the patients live in neighbouring quarters, within a radius of six kilometres. However, the clinic's growing reputation means sick people are coming from further and further away.

An initial treatment plan was put into place, including consultation and prevention. Six years later, a service for the prevention of malnutrition opened its doors. In 2002, the clinic was enlarged to include a maternity and new services were developed: HIV screening for pregnant women, nutrition programs, ... working with other charities. Today, pediatrics represents almost two thirds of these consultations.

The clinic was founded in a wider context of the Guinean state asking the Catholic Church to invest in areas of healthcare and education in the country. And so, it is integrated into the health system of the country, functioning under the authority of the Guinean Health Minister, following his directives and giving account of its statistics to the Communal Direction of Health.



“I also notice that the arrival of a new family of participants doesn't really disturb the life of the clinic. New missionaries come and go each year. As such, a new team of participants is created. The staff are used to it. I don't feel any weariness either, simply an acceptance of this structural obligation, as an integral part of their work. Of course, some of them have testified to the fact that it's difficult to leave the participants they've appreciated working with or just simply because they've become friends. [...] Replacing the team brings a new dynamic, essential to the development of the clinic, each participant coming with their own special talents. One person will improve the health protocols, another person will be a good manager, another person will know how to use IT tools, renovation projects, fundraising... In this way, everyone puts a stone in the wall, and it's beautiful to see where we've got to after 35 years!”

Jean and Ludivine

On mission at the Saint Gabriel clinic in Matoto [GUINEA CONAKRY]

20 YEARS OF THE SAINT GABRIEL DISPENSARY MATERNITY UNIT



February 24th, 2022 was a day of celebration for the Saint Gabriel Clinic! We celebrated the 20 years of the maternity unit. Since 2002, there have been more than 25,000 deliveries there. Fidesco was present, to rejoice and celebrate the sustainability of this beautiful project, the fruit of a communal effort. The Archbishop of Conakry,

as well as the Ambassador of France in Guinea and other local representatives also joined in the festivities. It's communal action, but also the capacity to celebrate our successes together, which really glues together a true family!



“After a thanksgiving mass, a celebratory meal was organised bringing together the guests of honour including the Archbishop Mgr. Vincent Coulibaly, the representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Mayor of Conakry and the customary leaders, the French Ambassador and other representatives of other institutions supporting the maternity.

This anniversary was an opportunity to tighten the connections created with the partners, but also to honor the beneficiaries who put their trust in the mission as well as the staff who dedicate their time and talents to treating those who are suffering.

With our 6 volunteers currently in the field, Éléonore, Anne, Laure and Paul-Edouard, Ludivine and Jean, we rejoice in all that has been accomplished, with the clinic staff, to ensure quality treatment for the most destitute, at a price they can afford.”

Francesco Martialis

Director of the Advocacy and Projects Department

MISSION NAIM ESPÉRANCE



This year, Fidesco was once more able to invest itself alongside members of a charity called Mission Naim Espérance. On the program for 2022: structuring the association.

The Mission Naim Espérance is: “to offer fraternal support and compassion in refugee camps”, in their own words. Chili, Argentina, Ivory Coast, South Sudan, Indochina, Greece, Iraq, Lebanon, Mission Naim Espérance comes in service of the poorest on all continents. Compassion, animation, material aid and training, the vocation of the association is multiple.

To encourage and sustain its development, Mission Naim Espérance reached out to Fidesco. The aim was for them to benefit from our expertise on certain themes (communication, sponsorship, the functioning of the charity, projects management) to support the development of the association on our level. The fruit of the interaction for this year was the official employment of the first salaried position in the association: Carine Salomé Neveu. A metaphorical building site was instigated, structuring the roles in the heart of the association and enabling a professionalisation of the volunteering staff.

In 2022, Mission Naim Espérance was able to manage a large mission in Lebanon, in the Bekaa plain. Limited in the west by a the Liban mountain range and in the east by that of Anti-Lebanon, the Bekaa plain also neighbours Syria. It takes in numerous Syrian refugees. Thanks to the Maronite diocese of Deir El Ahmar, the five volunteers along with Carine Neveu work in serving the local inhabitants. Visiting the sick, prisoners from the town of Baalbek, chaplaincies and visits to the Syrian camps, has enabled them to create strong connections. Also, an opportunity for beautiful encounters, like one with a couple who even invited them to their wedding!



Testimony from Carine Neveu

“

Drinking a nice cup of sugary tea, we can hear the shouts, the injustice, the tents collapsing under the weight of the snow, where the children, not in school, walk past barefoot in front of us... then, honored by our compassionate visits, they make us stay, for a real feast, that we share together with great friendship!”



INCREASING INFLUENCE

THE LAUNCH OF ADVOCACY PROJECTS

2022 meant the official birth of the Advocacy and Projects Department! It strengthens the scope of Fidesco and responds in a more efficient manner to the needs of our partners and local inhabitants. The Advocacy Division has as its mission to **make the voice of local inhabitants better heard by those who are making the decisions and working for development**. With the recruitment of a project manager, strategy definition, and launching its corresponding activities, the Advocacy Division has laid the foundations for dynamic action.

Its mission is to spread the voice of Fidesco and make it heard, on two key subjects: **integral ecology** and **integral feminism**. These are strong themes, which spark debate and on which we have had a clear vision for forty years, one which has been only strengthened over

years in the field and which deserves to be heard. In forty-two years of international field mission, Fidesco has been able to develop expert knowledge which today, this division enables to be shared.

Filing a brief of consultation status with the ECOSOC* is the first step in the Department's activity. Activity further developed by taking part in several events in society, with the authorities (notably concerning the creation of a VSI for the reciprocal volunteers) as well as with the Church, in France and abroad.

*WHAT IS ECOSOC?

Beneath the acronym hides the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations, meaning it is one of six principal organs of the United Nations. Its mission is to promote international cooperation for economic, social and cultural development, respecting human and fundamental rights. In addition to the 54 elected members of ECOSOC are consultants from civil society, the private sector and international organisations, the aim being to support the elected members in their work. As well as being responsible for observing the ODDs (objects of durable development introduced in 2015) by member states, ECOSOC also coordinates the activities of the United Nations organisms specialising such areas as health (OMS) and work (OIT).

RAISING MONEY FOR ADVOCACY DURING AN EVENING EVENT : POUR QUE LE MONDE ESPÈRE (SO THE WORLD CAN HOPE)



“Bringing a Christian vision to decision-makers and public bodies, on the crucial issues of development and international solidarity.”



On March 29, 2022, in Paris, the evening event *Pour que le monde espère* [So the World Can Hope] was held for a second time running. Nine Emmanuel Community projects were present. Among them was Fidesco, presenting its advocacy project to national and international

institutions. Its objective being to bring a Christian vision to major problems in development and international solidarity. During the evening 54,500 euros were raised.



THESE DONATIONS HAVE ALREADY ENABLED, OR WILL ENABLE IN THE FUTURE:

- Employment of a salaried role in the Advocacy Division, starting in October 2022.
- Organisation of conferences and meetings... to boost Fidesco's activity. Based on Christian anthropology, they address notably integral development and integral feminism (taking into account women's condition in all its dimensions: woman, mother, complementarity to man, etc.)
- Financing travel costs of the Advocacy team within France, in the European Union, to mission countries and sites of international agencies, in the interests of Fidesco's advocacy mission.



Pour que le monde espère gave an opportunity to Fidesco to recognise all the work achieved up until now, as well as a unique occasion to meet our donors and benefactors. Their generosity highlights the work carried out together on site by volunteers and locals. It also reveals a concrete commitment to encouraging Fidesco's dialogue between people living in unstable situations and the deciding bodies in France, as well as internationally.

DIVERSIFICATION AND REINFORCEMENT OF DIGITAL

UPDATING THE WEBSITE

Fidesco in 2022; 240 volunteers serving the poorest of the poor around the world. Work carried out on the website enabled us to develop new mission pages, to better communicate the activity of our charity in the field, and new volunteering pages for introducing those who have

responded to the call to mission. It's a real world tour of the Fidesco missions, serving development and beneficiaries.

WHERE IS FIDESCO

Where is Fidesco 2023 is a series of videos, filmed in the field by volunteers, which relay this service to the four corners of the Earth. Through dance and through their smiles, they transmit the joy of mission in a video found on our YouTube account and social networks. Volunteers, partners and benefactors all participated in its creation.

This year, volunteers danced to a song from a mission. The volunteers Elisabeth, Margot, Louis and Anne-Sophie, on mission in Chili, recorded a song with the group Andréss Musica. Entitled "Ven y Levantate", it was initially composed at the request of their partner, a call to experience joy and fraternity. But it resounded more widely than that: the words inviting us to rise up and experience joy resonated around the world, from mission to mission and stirred volunteers and benefactors to get up and dance!

The chorus from Where is Fidesco 2023:

“Come rise up!
Let yourselves be filled with joy
Come, walk together towards the Truth and the Life
Come, rise up!
Setting fire to our hearts!”



THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION IN A WEEKLY PROGRAM



Spreading Fidesco's mission is also the fruit of an active community. The application *Prier Aujourd'hui* (Pray Today) a year-long program offered by Fidesco, was launched in October 2022 during international mission week. Each week, one mission is chosen to be the focus. A pearl found in a mission report is used as the basis for a meditation for those following the program, who are then guided by a presentation on the wider context of the mission to better understand the reality of the volunteers, accompanied by a meditation written by Fidesco's chaplain, Fr. Benoît Roze.

From week to week, followers discover meditations based on the daily life of each of the volunteers in the field. In this way, they can pray for them and learn to put mission in the heart of their own daily life.

FIDESCO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

During Advent, a Fidesco newsletter and program was put in place and proposed on social networks. During the four weeks preceding Christmas, little surprises from the field were prepared by those volunteering on mission, making the mission shine. Local traditions,

recipes, site videos and other beautiful photographs enabled the different communities who follow us to prepare for the joy of Christmas while learning about the reality of missions around the world.

FIDESCO IN THE PRESS

The themes which are addressed are numerous: from discernment before leaving, to returning from mission, as well as testimonies in the field, the press acts as a relay on the missionary thrust of volunteers. Aletea and Famille Chrétienne have published many articles based on the testimonies of past volunteers. The return from mission is a theme

particularly developed, with all the professional dimension which comes with it. Single volunteers, couples or families, all give witness in the press to how mission has changed their lives, and what reflections it brought them to have as well as the resolutions they came back with.

Framed:
the call to mission:
“Serving as a couple united us
even more to each other”
Famille Chrétienne
(French Christian magazine)

“When we got engaged, we made a promise to each other to do a humanitarian project together... We thought: “If we don’t consider it now, we might not do it later...” Fidesco then helped us discern, before sending us to Lesotho for two years”, begin Baptiste and Laëtitia du Reau, medical professionals, who went on mission from 2019 to 2021 with their four children aged 3 to 11 years. [...] An opportunity to grow in listening and in forgiveness in our relationship, Laëtitia realises with emotion: “I know deep down that Baptiste was my walking staff during these two years. I rediscovered how much my husband is my best friend and an unconditional support.”

De retour de mission, leur zèle missionnaire continue à grandir



*On their return from mission, their missionary zeal continues to grow

Couples : comment éveiller chez l'autre le désir de partir en mission ?



*Couples: how to awaken in each other the desire to go on a mission?



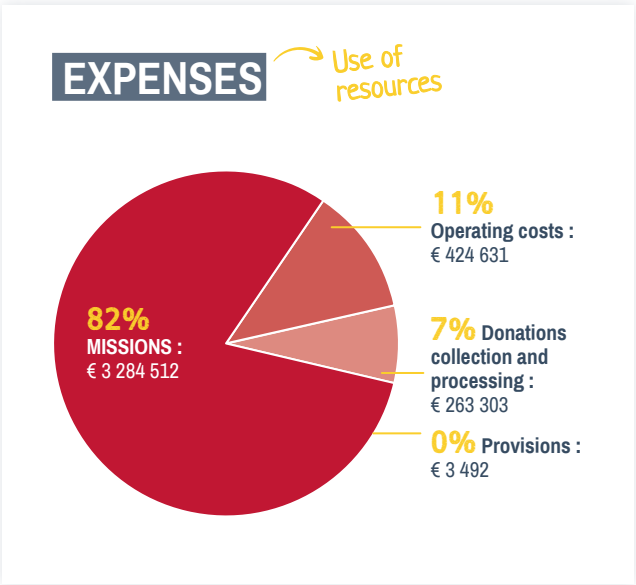
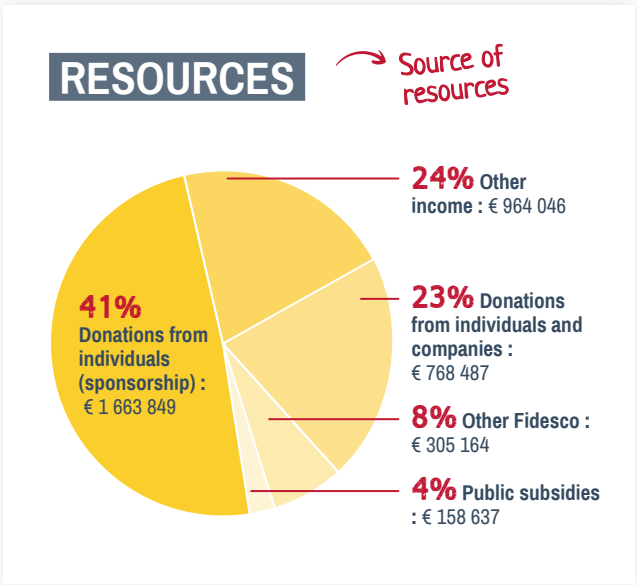
FINANCES : ACTIVITIES 2021

ACCOUNTS

RESSOURCES (Euros)	2021	Distribution	2022	Distribution
Income related to public donations	2 432 535	70%	2 890 308	72%
Donations from individuals	2 356 101	68%	2 367 564	59%
Donations from companies	34 941	1%	64 772	2%
Grants from other associations (expense transfers to non-French FIDESCO)	41 494	1%	305 164	8%
Bequests	0	0%	152 808	4%
Public subsidies	751 644	22%	158 637	4%
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs	739 437	21%	144 654*	4%
Others	12 207	0%	13 983	0%
Other income	286 722	8%	964 046	24%
Financial income	2 673	0%	8 868	0%
Miscellaneous income	96 727	3%	113 384	3%
Reversal of provisions	2 055	0%	2 163	0%
Recovery of funds related to deferred liabilities	185 267	5%	839 631*	21%
TOTAL RESSOURCES	3 470 901		4 012 991	

EXPENSES	2021	Distribution	2022	Distribution
International and Solidarity and Development Mission	2 567 859	74%	3 284 512	83%
Africa	1 537 382	44%	2 120 580	53%
Latin America	567 738	16%	581 074	15%
Asia	224 987	6%	194 046	5%
Europe	109 744	3%	176 598	4%
Middle East	17	0%	353	0%
Communication to applicants and volunteers	127 991	4%	158 555	4%
Donation collection and processing costs	260 444	7%	263 303	7%
Headquarters operating costs	405 497	12%	424 631	10%
Provisions	2 163	0%	3 492	0%
Futur commitments	225 762	7%	0	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	3 461 724		3 975 938	

*While all of Fidesco's public grants for 2021 were received in 2021, some of the public grants for 2022 were not paid until 2023, and have therefore been treated in the accounts as a Reversal of funds related to deferred commitments.

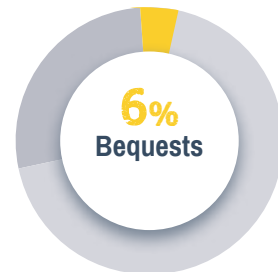




DONATIONS

Thank you for your valuable support throughout 2022 ! During the year, we received **2 890 k€**.

DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS



Your donations allow Fidesco to **send volunteers to live and serve daily** in a simple way in the heart of the populations.

By responding to **needs identified** by local partners, volunteers **work for development projects** serving the poorest and **participate in the construction of peace** based on encounter.

Thanks to you, Fidesco continues its mission to be a **major player in the field of development and international solidarity**. Your donation has concrete repercussions on the populations that the volunteers serve in the countries of the South.


17 000 €
Cost of a volunteer by year


375 €
Minimum amount to sponsor a volunteer for 2 years of mission (€ 200 for a 1 year mission)


15 €
Minimum monthly amount to sponsor a volunteer for the duration of his/her mission



“

For the Brazilians we know, the most important thing in any situation is rarely to try and be efficient but rather to preserve the quality of their relationships. An example: our IT teacher João-Paulo couldn't do his lessons from Monday to Thursday as he had been doing up until now. But he was dedicated to the project and wanted to come on Fridays and Saturdays (which really didn't work well for us). My first reflex: immediately go and find a new teacher. My colleague, Evani reaction: do everything to respect João-Paulo's wish, as a sign of recognition for his investment in the project all these years. This attitude, considering the other as a priority, was a precious lesson for me. Is that less efficient? I'm not convinced!"

Raphaël and Hélène

On mission in Salvador de Bahia [BRAZIL]

RENDS LES AUTRES
VA, HEUREUX,
ET TU CONNAITRAS LA **JOIE!**
FIDESCO

Go, make others happy and you will know joy !

