



CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024





CONTACT



FIDESCO | BP 76 - 91 bd Auguste Blanqui | 75013 Paris | France
+33 (0)1 58 10 74 80 | contact@fidesco.fr



For any questions, please consult our websites
www.fidesco.fr ou www.fidesco-international.org

Above photo: FARAFANGANA Mission [Madagascar] / Cover photo: agence OBALA - SALVADOR DE BAHIA Mission [Brazil] / Director of publication: Philippe de Boisredon / Editor-in-Chief: Hubert Laurent / Editorial Committee: Michaëlle Fèvre, Diane Commelin / Production and graphic design: Mayeule Bym / Photos: Fidesco, Agence Obala, Estelle Cabaud / Printer: Antoli / Fidesco head office: 91 bd Auguste Blanqui 75013 Paris - Tel: +33 (0)1 58 10 74 80 / Association de bienfaisance law of 1901 aggregated by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Member of the national council for solidarity for the French Church. N° SIREN: 331 420 026.

“With rapid global change, new conflicts between nations, immense and ever-growing needs, where the youth are marked by a certain fragility but search for meaning and display a generous desire to serve. It is in this context **FIDESCO strengthened its activity in 2024** with 208 onsite volunteers working towards a brighter future.

Reinforcing their activity on several different levels.

Strengthening it through the **opening of new missions**, some in countries where FIDESCO has not been present for several years, like in Tanzania, and through established contacts for future missions. This growth also applies to the volunteering with South-North, in France, with 10 volunteers in 2024, and a new mission in Limoges, with the Parvis des Clarisses, a Christian environment supported by the diocese.

Strengthened in its **toolset**: changing the system for our volunteer-partner information base constitutes a big step forward in the quality of administration offered to candidates, volunteers, and missions in general. Onsite support for volunteers is the object of continual revision, with new training and support tools.

Strengthening **the support given to Development Projects**, with numerous demands being addressed to us, plus the 22 projects we currently support (21 in 2023) as well as several old partnerships. A new dynamic can be seen with the *“facilitation”* partnerships, which provide a framework in which Fidesco can action project engineering, enabling meetings between donors and field partners.

And lastly, a strengthening of our **partners in France**, with a call to mission launched in higher education institutions (ICES, EMD Business School, student chaplaincy in Nantes), and increasing advocacy by participating in various events, through networking and collaboration with more institutional figures (CLONG, France Volontaires, Ministries...).

Other than this work spent strengthening and reinforcing, this year has also been about **preparing for the future**.

Which begins as soon as volunteers return home at the end of their mission.

So, a brand-new Return Programme has been created, rich in content and aiming to provide a more personalised and thorough frame of support, and is ready to be rolled out in 2025. Being more attentive than ever to volunteers returning home helps them have a less stressful time. Through guiding a reflection on their work, we can continue, in another sense, **the spirit and dynamic of mission**.

Volunteers now become *“alumni”*, with whom we keep up regular contact through structured networks, sending out a newsletter, the expansion of our *“Regional Correspondents”*, and **a reinforced presence in local or national missionary events** (National mission conference Congrès mission, volunteering evenings, Winter Forum, Marian chapter at Lourdes...).

The call to mission, in which previous volunteers play an essential role, was also **reinforced by tight work on Communication**: by redoing a website to help people orientate themselves towards the call to mission, through the publication of monthly articles, and a better articulation on social media/ websites.

2024 was also an occasion to **invest in the question of young people and their commitment to serving**, as you will discover in the report. This is a major question we'll be continuing to address in 2025, and will surely be part of strategy plans over the years to come: the youth are ‘the salt of the Earth’, and with them is the future to renewing Hope for the world.



Hubert Laurent
Director of Fidesco





“Opening yourself up to others is to let yourself be somewhat invaded and shaken up. Accepting the unplanned, accepting to be late so you can be there for someone, accepting to not have the time to take a well-needed shower so you can be there to talk, letting two little boys play football in the corridor when your baby is trying a nap in the room next door... It's true that sometimes it's difficult (...) However, we don't regret any of it. Opening our door means also opening our hearts. »

Albane and Xavier ♥ on mission in SALVADOR DE BAHIA [Brazil]



SUMMARY

PAGE 3 **EDITORIAL**

PAGE 6 **FIDESCO, CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NGO**

- Our convictions, our mission, our vision
- Institutional recognition
- Serving in the field
- Our missions
- The Team
- A word from this year's spiritual director and sponsor

PAGE 14 **REINFORCING THE FOUNDATIONS**

- Increased support for onsite volunteers
- Reworking the Return Programme
- Expertise for the Heads of Country
- Development support
- Reflection, better preparation for what's next

PAGE 19 **INTENSIFYING THE MISSION**

- Opening new missions
- Better training for South-North volunteers
- Serving and young people
- Raising awareness in new audiences

PAGE 23 **DEVELOPPING UNITY**

- Building partner relationships
- Boosting our presence in the student world
- Building unity between North-South and South-North volunteers
- Coordinating our activity on an international level

PAGE 27 **INCREASING OUTREACH**

- Strengthening our digital ecosystem
- Investing in social media and listening platforms
- Daring new collaborations
- Continuing our action in advocacy

PAGE 30 **FINANCES 2024**

- The accounts
- Donations



FIDESCO CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NGO

For over 40 years Fidesco has been offering a response to the demands of international solidarity. In all four corners of the world, numerous Church partners have reached out to our NGO to help them strengthen, support and make a success of locally initiated development projects.



208

volunteers
in the field at 2023



25

countries
of mission



85

Local
partners

Our mission

A serious player in development since 1980, we are deeply committed to our partners in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, through sending out volunteers for international solidarity and, more recently, through project support. Our activity is **founded on the preferential option for the poor and guided by upholding the Common Good**. Respecting the principle of subsidiarity and orientated towards the development of the human person as a whole, we take into account the totality of the human person (material needs, intellectual, cultural, emotional and spiritual growth), investing in the idea of transmission.

Our vision

Constructing bridges between populations, going out to meet the other, in all of their differences, creating solid links between people, coming to the aid of the most fragile and diminished: this is our objective. We aim to respond to the Church's call to go against the current and be builders of solidarity, to be servants and brothers and sisters to one another.

Today, we are looking to deepen our missionary presence, broaden our activity in international solidarity to reach other horizons, revolutionise the logic in the domain of development, and reconcile the desire to serve in faraway places with the constraints of age or country of origin.

After more than 40 years of mission, we continue to build a fraternal culture through investing in multidirectional missionary action, which can be adapted to each and every situation.

Our modes of activity

■ SENDING OUT VOLUNTEERS

Our partners - dioceses, parishes, congregations, catholic foundations – are in need of skill sets they can't find locally. Fidesco responds to their needs by sending volunteers on long missions (1-3 years) putting their competences in service of other people, and making no distinction between race, culture or religion. **By adopting a listening ear and an attitude of patience, volunteers experience an authentic encounter with another culture.** Working with a spirit of service and self-gift, posing an act of faith, they live their mission as an opportunity to grow, through contact with others, on both a human and spiritual level. They are inhabited by the desire to put others first and believe that, in giving, we can transform the world.

■ PROJECT SUPPORT

Working in favour of international solidarity also means supporting local projects, both financially, structurally, and fraternally. Every year, we are committed to our partners who put in place activity in favour of development, but also emergency aid, in service of the poorest of the poor. **In 2024, thirty projects in education, health, social and ecology were supported across all continents.** This project support is a further way for Fidesco to respond to the issues of solidarity, through authorising, with a certain audacity, interventions in new areas of suffering.

■ ADVOCACY

Convaincus du rôle que nous avons à jouer pour faire entendre la voix des plus petits et forts de 45 années d'expérience terrain, nous déployons également des activités de plaidoyer afin de faire entendre la vision et les valeurs de Fidesco auprès des dirigeants et des réseaux d'influence.

“

The testimonies given by families are exemplary. They are the Gospel being lived out in a multitude of ways. It's extraordinary to see them up close, in the midst of this poor and somewhat difficult society. Often, I make a reference to their missionary attitude, so the young seminarians and lay people of my diocese become increasingly aware of a synodal Church and of the 'Fratelli Tutti' we're all called to be. »



Bishop Fulgence

✦ Archbishop of FIANARANTSOA [Madagascar] and Fidesco partner



INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

At the heart of institutional gatherings

Created in 1980, Fidesco is an NGO under charity status of the 1901 law. Since its creation, FIDESCO has gained wide institutional recognition and is a member of several organisations who work in the areas of international development and solidarity.

- 1991: Fidesco obtained the statute of *association de bienfaisance* in France.
- 2006: Fidesco was approved by the **Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs** as an organisation which sends out volunteers for international solidarity.
- 2012: **The Fidesco Foundation** was created, under the umbrella of the foundation **Caritas France**. This framework enables benefactors subject to tax to generously support Fidesco's work serving the poor and diminished across the world.
- 2013: German Fidesco obtains the **DZI-Siegel**, a German certification necessary for collecting public funds.
- 2020: Fidesco obtains **approval of Civil Service (Service Civique)** from the **Ministries of National Education, Youth, and Sports**.
- Fidesco is a **member of the managing committee of France Volontaires**, which is a State operator for different forms of volunteering and commitment in international solidarity..
- Fidesco is a **member of the administrative council of the liaison Committee of NGOs involved in volunteering** (CLONG Volunteering). This committee is a collective of charities who send out volunteers on cooperation missions in developing countries. Providing a place for discussion and the sharing of experience and practices, this collective enables a dialogue with public powers.
- Fidesco is a **member of Coordination SUD** (the national coordination of French NGOs for international solidarity) which develops the professionalism of French NGOs and support their advocacy work within public and private institutions in France, Europe and the world..

In the heart of the Church

- Fidesco was founded by the **Emmanuel Community**.
- Fidesco is part of the **National council for solidarity and the diaconia**, created in 1989 during the French Bishops' plenary assembly. This council is responsible for coordinating the discernment and support for the principal charity workers in the French Church.





SERVING IN THE FIELD

In 2024, there were **208 volunteers** serving the poorest of the poor, in various mission countries.

Volunteering profiles



34%
go as
a family



26%
go as
a couple



40%
go as
a singleton

45% men

55% women

Age of
oldest
volunteer
70yrs

Average
age
34yrs

Age of
youngest
volunteer
20yrs



208
volunteers
at work in 2024



171
French
volunteers



12 different
nationalities*
amongst the
volunteers

(* Germany, Belgium,
Benin, Burundi,
Cameroon, Ivory Coast,
United-States, France,
Netherlands, Philippines,
Rwanda, Togo)

“ For our part, we work without necessarily seeing the fruits of our labour. After all, whatever happens... we have signed up for a life of simplicity and frugality and we have been taught to renounce feelings of 'being useful', however good they make us feel. Being so used to the notion of productivity, meeting targets and other performance indicators, as a couple we remind each other to 'be, in order to do' instead of 'do, in order to be'. »



Paul and Blanche-Marie on mission in NGAOUNDERE [Cameroon]

“ It's magnificent to give of yourself, it brings joy. I am someone who is already quite joyful, and giving myself helps me keep my smile. They even gave me the nickname 'daughter of happiness'. I prefer giving joy than receiving it. [...] or in other words, day-to-day, I am so glad to be able to serve people and make them smile. »



Carmen on mission in TROYES [France]

“ I came on mission with Fidesco with a heart open to meeting the poor and diminished, to love and serve them. My first encounter with heavy physical handicap was a shock, even though it only lasted few seconds, and was softened by the fact this domain is not entirely foreign to me; but still! To see people's bodies twisted and tortured by malformations from Cerebral Palsy made me really question myself; feeling truly sorry for them. Questions. Why? Why so much suffering? Hands that no longer looked like hands, feet which no longer had the shape of feet, legs and arms without any muscle, just skin and bones; children, adults stuck in unimaginable positions. And then, their faces; beautiful, magnificent. Smiles welcoming me along the days spent with them, as they got to know me. Their joy in seeing a new person coming to talk to them, spend a bit of time with them. The majority of them weren't able to talk but their eyes spoke so intensely! »



Irène on mission in EDENVALE [South Africa]



► **Valentin** on mission as an English teacher in PHNOM PENH [Cambodia]



► **Maylis** on mission as a nurse in BONOUA [Ivory Coast]



► **Jean-Malo** on mission in project development and technical maintenance in BUTHA BUTHE [Lesotho]

Mission sites

Africa

52%
of volunteers

Latin

19% America
of volunteers

Asia

15%
of volunteers

Europe

10%
of volunteers

Middle

4% East
of volunteers

“

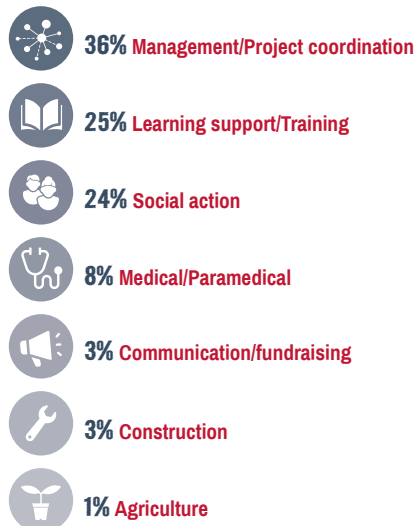
I am proud of how far I've come since the beginning of the mission, even if it has meant going through difficult periods, the words from a song often came to mind: “even the darkest cloud has a golden lining”. This phrase in particular would pop into my head all the time, like a promise. It turned out that the golden lining transformed into a true lightning strike. Little by little I felt filled with joy and energy, with the will to go to the end of my mission, giving the best of myself. Filled with this hope, I started Lent with a great peace in my heart, being sure now that I'd make it and not feeling so alone anymore. When I was at the project with the young mothers I believed that our work was really worth something. And so, I'm happy to have restarted this new year onsite, reaffirming my yes. »



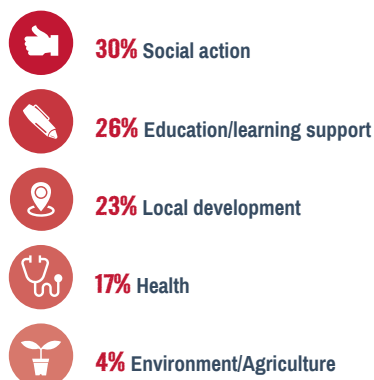
Clémence on mission in REDENÇAO [Brazil]

Projects and domains of activity

VOLUNTEERING MISSIONS



PROJECT AREAS BEING SERVED AND DEVELOPED:





NEW MISSIONS 2024



NEW MISSION 2024

📍 Mission **PARVIS DES CLARISSE** [France]

For the South-North mission, a volunteer joined the Parvis des Clarisses, a project led by the diocese of Limoges in the fight against loneliness through creating opportunities for people to meet each other. It ensures a daily presence of unconditional welcome and listening for those who are in need.

FRANCE

👤 21 volunteers
📍 1 new mission

TUNISIA

👤 6 volunteers

CUBA

👤 3 volunteers

MEXICO

👤 3 volunteers

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

👤 10 volunteers

BENIN

👤 7 volunteers

IVORY COAST

👤 16 volunteers

PERU

👤 8 volunteers
📍 1 new mission

BRAZIL

👤 15 volunteers

CHILE

👤 6 volunteers

ARGENTINA

👤 5 volunteers



NEW MISSION 2024

📍 Mission **CALCA** [Peru]

In Calca, a small town perched at 3000m above altitude, in the region of Cuzco, the Salesian brothers keep a boarding house for 12-18yr old boys, in order to facilitate their access to the education system. Volunteers help with management of the house and accompany the youth.



NEW MISSION 2025

📍 Mission **BONOUA** [Ivory Coast]

In Bonoua, a town on the Gulf of Guinea, the charity Crescendo-Vie serves children suffering from motor and sensory handicaps, through two institutions. One offers health services and social and education support to handicapped children, the other is a boarding house for abandoned children. Volunteers work just as much for the education of the children as in the administration and management of the institutions.



NEW MISSION 2024

📍 Mission DAR ES SALAM [Tanzania]

New volunteers work alongside the Soeurs de Marie who run a boarding house for 627 girls at Makurunge. The students, who are aged between 11 and 20 years, have access to free meals, clothes, sleeping quarters and secondary education with intensive professional training (sewing, cooking, electronics and IT).

CAMEROON

👤 22 volunteers
📍 1 new mission

BURUNDI

👤 1 volunteers

ZAMBIA

👤 8 volunteers

LESOTHO

👤 6 volunteers

SOUTH AFRICA

👤 7 volunteers

TANZANIE

👤 4 volunteers
📍 1 new mission

MADAGASCAR

👤 27 volunteers

THAILAND

👤 8 volunteers

CAMBODIA

👤 9 volunteers

PHILIPPINES

👤 7 volunteers

TIMOR ORIENTAL

👤 5 volunteers





A DYNAMIC SERVICE TEAM

Permanent members and volunteers work hand in hand serving the mission, whilst also relying on professional experts.



Hubert
LAURENT
Director



Père Benoît
ROZE
Chaplain

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING



Tasnim
BOUCAUD
Director



Eloise
MANDELLI
Training



Bruno
CHAMPION
Recruitment



Laure
CRÉPIN
Network animation

Meeting candidates and helping them with their discernment, is the primary mission of the Recruitment and Training team. It also pilots **volunteer training before, during and after mission**, eleaning on the wider Fidesco team and **external professionals** (psychologists, experts in international solidarity, etc.)

16 regional correspondents work as volunteers alongside the mission pole, helping with **life after mission**, through animating alumni networks, giving testimonies and generating interest for volunteering and missionary work.

MISSION COORDINATION & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT



Pierre-Yves
FRACHON
Director
& follow-up for
Africa and Asia



Constance
GILLIER
Follow-up
for Africa
and Asia



Wandrille
COSTREL
Follow-up
for Asia, Latin
America, and
Africa



Eloise
VINCENT
Follow-up
for Asia, Latin
America, and
South-North

+ HEADS OF CONTINENT: Montse HUIX (**South America**) / Pierre-François et Christine GRAFFIN (**Africa**) / Philippe et Florence de BOISREDON (**Asia**)

The support coordinators closely follow the lives of the **volunteers onsite**. Fifty heads of country serve alongside them, as volunteers, for the mission. Thanks to their knowledge of the area, they follow the onsite mission, support the volunteers and ensure a link with the local partners. They visit each of the mission sites once a year.

COMMUNICATION & FUND RAISING



Michaëlle
FEVRE
Director



Camille
LE CAMPION
Communication



Diane
COMMELIN
Communication



Jeanne
MAURIÉS
Sponsorship

In charge of spreading Fidesco's experience, message and values through modes of communication adapted to the different parties involved (onsite volunteers, alumni, friends, donors, NGO, etc.) the team contributes to the **public awareness of Fidesco and calling new candidates to mission**. Using different communication tools, the team also works to find the necessary resources to fund Fidesco's activity, via sponsorship and developing other forms of funding.

ADVOCACY, PROJECTS & INNOVATION



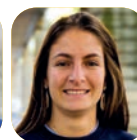
Francesco
MARTIALIS
Director



Diana
HUCHON COLUNGA
Projects and
Advocacy



Florie
LAMOINE
Projects and
Advocacy



Laure
OGIERAU
Projects and
Advocacy

This team encompasses a triple mission. To develop and guide new **formulas of mission** (Mission 'South-North', programme for retired persons, Naïm Espérance). **Supporting financially, structurally, and fraternally** projects of international solidarity and development across the world. **Advocacy in action**, to make the voice, vision and values of Fidesco heard by leaders and influential networks.

FIDESCO INTERNATIONAL

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, give life to the Fidesco mission, in the areas of communication, fundraising and recruitment of volunteers from outside of France. These latter benefit from the same training programme as the French volunteers.



Francesco
MARTIALIS
International
Coordinator

DO YOU WANT TO GO ON MISSION
OR SUPPORT A PROJECT
OR VOLUNTEER? CONTACT US!



contact@fidesco.fr



A WORD FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Extract from a homily given by **Fr. Clément Elabo**, our spiritual director and sponsor for 2024, given to volunteers during the commissioning conference. A priest from the archdiocese of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, member of the Emmanuel Community and ex-director of ESM BAFOUSSAM (Emmanuel School of Mission) in Cameroon.

“ To help you set out on the right foot, Christ tells you three essential things, taken from the Gospel we've just heard:



A disciple is not greater than his master,

Jesus does not want to deceive you. Mission will not always be a smooth path... and you are well prepared for this. You will encounter misunderstandings, combats (and perhaps it's already the case with some of your close ones, colleagues etc.). These challenges will help you to stay

humble and unified, all the while following the path in the footsteps of Christ, without getting discouraged. They will also help remind you that He is the true Master of the house and that it's in his heart, in prayer and listening interiorly, that your yes can be renewed..

Do not be afraid...

Do not let yourselves make all sorts of compromises which may give you the impression you're making friends and gaining recognition from those to whom you're sent. In all circumstances, remain witnesses to the truth and the light of the Gospel.

The hairs on your head have been counted!

Yes, God's providence will surely manifest itself. The Lord is suggesting to you (and to your families, who make it impossible to leave without a little heartache) a new experience during this mission, of a trust without holes, under his loving gaze, which tells you that you are worth more than many sparrows.

Geoffroy, Sophie, Jean, Fanny, Yann, Jeanne, Tanguy, Alix, Albane, Frédéric, Brune, Enguerrand, Tanguy, Cyrille, Clotilde, Marc, Blandine, Sybille, Elliott, Alban, Lucille, Martin, Capucine, Clotilde, Sophie-Marie, Maylis, Victor, Mathieu, Julie, Hélène, Hugo, Elisabeth, François, Marine, Bérénice, Alexis, Agathe, Thaïs, Bérénice, Kathleen, Foucauld, Inès, Laurent, Sophie, Maëlle, Julien, Sybille, Pierre-Marie, Julie, Arthur, Marine, Augustin, Anaïs, Marie, Gweltaz, Marie-Anne, Coralie, Tanguy, Mathilde, Sylvie, Olga, Jean Marc, Michel, Gertrude, Sandra, Estelle, Aubin, Élias, Languide, Hermine, the hairs on your heads have been counted because he knows you personally and he calls each of us by name and he will look after you, your families, your present and your future. Open wide the doors to the joy of giving. Because you know full well that if you make others happy, it makes you joyful. Brothers and sisters, for us all, for those who are leaving on mission, and for the volunteers who are continuing their mission, let us invoke the Holy Spirit, that he may renew us in listening to his call and with the grace of a heart which is available and generous. We ask the intercession of Mary, mother of the Church...



► Fr. Elabo, during the commissioning conference for the volunteers of 2024



REINFORCING THE FOUNDATIONS





IMPROVING ONSITE SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS

To enable volunteers' true fulfilment during their mission, **Fidesco continues to improve the onsite support offered to them** relying on new follow-up strategies and improved training.

Thanks to SAM, our new CRM, volunteer administration is now becoming more efficient. SAM enables more fluidity when treating files; and so, its use constitutes a gain in time and productivity for the volunteer support and mission coordination team.



► Bérénice and Hélène ♥ on mission in Ivory Coast

On the training side of things, new tools have been thought out to be onsite resources. Among them, a "communication box", will soon be available, destined to help single people who are sent out in pairs, during their time spent serving side by side. It contains a card game allowing them to bring up questions about missionary life, as well as a guide booklet for good practise. Conceived with the help of previous volunteers, these resources will be made available to current volunteers, to help them to communicate better and build the life of their team with true joy!



► Field visit of Country Managers ♥ in Cameroon



► Anne-Claire ♥ on mission in Guinée

Another guidebook has also been created to enrich the spiritual life of volunteers, and to support their prayer life throughout their mission. It offers fourteen steps of reflection and prayer spread out across the year. The objective being to anchor the mission in faith, through exploring key themes such as fraternity or frugality.

And because a good follow-up also passes through a visit from the head of country (RP for Représentant Pays) to the mission sites, site visits were held one after the other from January to April. Serge and Marie Claire, RP Cameroon: "After a beginning punctuated by exchanges over web video, what a joy it was to go and meet the volunteers onsite! The onsite visit is a great way of spending a few days with them, sharing in their daily life. It's also a way of concretely visiting their mission project and having discussions with the partners. During our onsite visit in January, we had a Fidesco weekend with volunteers arriving from the four corners of Cameroon: it was an opportunity for us all (adults and children) to get to know each other better and spend a bit of spiritual and fraternal time together."



RECREATING THE RETURN PROGRAMME

Returning home from mission is as crucial a step as departing for mission. To help volunteers experience it in the best way possible, a new Return Programme is currently being deployed. It is the fruit of a thought process initiated in 2023 with the help of **Quitterie CLAIR, a professional life coach**. After having made an analysis of the current situation, Quitterie held numerous meetings with a wide panel of individuals (previous volunteers, support team members, heads of country, but also the parents of previous volunteers, psychologists, coaches, etc.) and offered concrete action points to strengthen the support given to volunteers. This work for the Return Programme reached its conclusion with a core curriculum enriched with complimentary modules which respond to the issues identified by Quitterie.

The programme now starts even before returning home. A few months before leaving their mission country, volunteers will soon be able to participate in two new training modules: *"Leaving your mission and coming back to your country"* and *"Keys to preparing your children for the return home"*. Once back in their home country, the Return Weekend, in October, is an opportunity for volunteers to gather together and benefit from keys to rereading their mission, as well as personalised support according to each person's individual needs. Also, psychologists, marriage counsellors and professional life coaches are available for individual or couple sessions. The objective is to help each person reflect on their mission and/or to mourn it, get over a difficult onsite experience, or focus on a new professional path. This support, if necessary, can continue being accessed during the months that follow.

Taking this work further, October 2024 saw the first Fidesco Fraternities launched. Joining a Fraternity is a choice offered to all previous volunteers who would like it (International Solidarity Volunteer, programme for the retired...) during their first year back from mission. The objective is to offer a helpful and caring structure, so that any volunteer can reflect on their experience and find their place in what comes next, whilst encouraged to pray for one another. This proposition was put into place following a questionnaire given to previous participants, who highlighted the need for a structure of listening and sharing once back home.

Finally, in December, the team spent a day with the psychologists. This meeting reinforced their professional collaboration and enabled them to take a closer look at concrete examples of situations encountered by volunteers on mission and so develop and adjust the support offered accordingly, both for onsite and post-mission. The psychologists brought their expertise to the table when looking at case studies and envisaged a form of extra support for volunteers who had faced difficulties post-mission.



► **The Return Weekend** is also an opportunity for the Regional Correspondents to get together and share good practices with each other concerning the animation of the alumni network.



Interview Quitterie Clair

Can you tell us in a few words about your journey with Fidesco?

– I have been Head of Country (RP) for Madagascar for fifteen years now, and I am married to the previous director of Fidesco, Emeric. I have also

produced teaching content for Fidesco, notably for the Commissioning Conference and continual onsite formation for volunteers. These past few years, I have been contributing to the training and recruitment and an evolution of the support provided. I see it as a deeply human adventure and deeply rooted.

What missions were entrusted to you by Fidesco when considering the Return Programme?

– I worked a lot on the support offered to volunteers at different steps of their mission: before, during, and after. But I felt most personally implicated in the return phase. With my onsite experience, my perspective as a trainee coach at that time, and also my own personal journey – because twenty years ago I was myself someone who didn't have a very easy time retuning home – I felt there was really something to develop for this particular phase. This didn't just come from my own personal story; but also by observing returning volunteers during reintegration weekends I could see this period was often a bit fragile, sometimes even painful. It's true Fidesco has always offered support for returning volunteers, but it seemed pertinent to ask the question: *"Can we do even better?"*. I felt strongly about this, so I proposed a method to the team, to look at this question. They were enthusiastic about the idea, especially as it aligned to something already written into Fidesco's annual objectives: to better the support given to returning missionaries, guaranteeing coherency and attentiveness, matching the quality and depth of volunteers' experiences. So, the idea came from both a private initiative and institutional recognition. The meeting of two ways, at the right time. The objective wasn't to reinvent everything, but to question, reflect, and try to draw out points for improvement.

What made you start thinking about this?

– The starting point was mutual trust: Fidesco sends out volunteers who have accepted to go without choosing their mission, or their country, and sometimes they do this as a family. They have a profoundly transformative experience, often marked by the radical gift of self, in a totally new context, culturally and professionally speaking. Upon their return, volunteers are

confronted not just by another change, but a real transition. And this transition touches on their very identity; it is dynamic and forceful. It can be complex to talk about, and requires being listened to, understood and supported in order to formulate the next step in life after an experience like this one. Even more so as they're experiencing a double letting go: that of the mission... and that of Fidesco, who has become like a family to them. The profile of volunteers has also changed over time: now-a-days they need a strong sense of meaning, feedback, recognition and construction. Support in this context is seen as a leg-up, not as an expression of weakness. So, we needed to adapt the manner in which we were offering support.

What fruits are expected to come from the new Return Programme ?

– There are so many! First off, strengthening the relationship between Fidesco and its volunteers, all the while guaranteeing a deeper, more human and better structured experience, right up to the end of the mission. When volunteers feel they are being looked after and listened to it can relieve tension and valorise their commitment. Next, strengthening the volunteer's position as an adult and person of responsibility: by encouraging them to go right to the end of their journey, even in cases where the mission is difficult, and finishing up with a rich reflection time. Finally, better targeting sensitive situations: some return journeys are more painful than others (notably after very positive missions). The programme enables us to identify these cases and adapt the support we give. The new programme also allows us to keep up a good and solid reputation for Fidesco: when a high quality of support is offered it has a positive influence on the loved ones, friends and families of volunteers and on the general image of the NGO. Few organisations offer such a structured level of post-mission support. This is becoming a strong asset for Fidesco, and also helps us with recruitment.



DEVELOPING THE EXPERTISE OF THE HEADS OF COUNTRY

In 2024, Fidesco continued the training and support of its Heads of Country (RP) in order to better respond to onsite challenges.

INITIAL FORMATION | A training programme dedicated to forming new Heads of Country, composed of online modules, enabled us to broach subjects like volunteer support, partner relationships, crisis management, etc. The objective of this thorough programme is to equip them for their first few months of mission and the volunteers they are in charge of. These meetings were led by Quitterie Clair.

FORMATION CONTINUES | Complimentary to this, 4 online evenings are dispersed across the year to deepen our understanding of certain subjects linked to volunteer support. These training sessions are led by the permanent team or our psychologists, and enable us to broach various subjects such as the vulnerability of volunteers onsite, or the best way in which to organise reunions between volunteers during onsite visits, creating real resources. Finally, each year, the Preparation for Departure Weekend enables Heads of Country to get to know the volunteers they'll be in charge of, but also to participate in training workshops on operational themes directly concerning their support work.



► Field visit of Country Managers / **Violaine and Xavier** on mission at BONOUA (Ivory Coast)

Constructing the volunteering team

Every year, to be together as a family, and to increase the collective competences, an annual reunion between the Heads of Country (RP), the Heads of the North-South Mission (RM for Responsable de Mission), the Regional Correspondents (CR), and the permanent team is held on the subject of funding. In 2004, Fr. Thomas Guist'hau, member of the Emmanuel Community and ex-partner at Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), enabled us to deepen the theme: *"Love the Church in her richness and her poorness"*.



SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

At the heart of our commitment is support for development projects, which enable us to reach out and better respond to the cries of the poorest of the poor. In 2024, Fidesco supported 22 new projects financially and strategically through the use of partners close to us. This support aims to reinforce our impact in the field, providing solutions to the needs of vulnerable populations, whilst working towards putting in place a structured and durable response. Whether it's with a professional training programme in Haiti, climate disaster response in Madagascar or being close to the homeless in the Ivory Coast, Fidesco comes to the aid of local people, their reconstruction and autonomy.



So the World May Hope

The 4th edition of the fundraising evening **So the World May Hope** was held on **Thursday 23rd of May 2024 in the Crypt of Saint Honoré d'Eylau in Paris**. It was an opportunity for Fidesco to raise money for the Valentine and Pierre Ratsimba welcome centres, in Madagascar. Founded in October 2021, by an ex-volunteer, the welcome centres provide a roof, education and training to young prison convicts or those who have been abandoned by their family. The 57 900€ raised arrived in time for the opening of the two new welcome centres: the first hosts 16 young men who've just left prison, the second, young child delinquents. The money collected will enable us to buy equipment for these two welcome centres, finance the education staff, and the scholarship or professional training of the young people there. It will also enable us to support the social reinsertion programme put in place in the minors' quarters of the central prison.



REFLECT ON THE PAST, TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR THE NEXT STEP

We have given a central place to reflection and the rereading of experiences, to help us learn lessons on how to better accompany future volunteers on their journey. The final semester of the year 2024 allowed Laure, alternating between her roles of advocacy, projects, and innovation, to work on better understanding and analysing the challenges and successes of the Programme for the Retired, and the South-North Mission. Putting into place a report on these two experiences opened up new areas for discussion and improved our understanding of volunteers' expectations as well as those of the partners out in the field. Five years after its launch, we have the distance necessary to file a report and adjust the existing framework of the missions accordingly.



► Bernard on mission à RAYONG [Thailand] from January to May 2024

INTENSIFYING MISSION





OPENING NEW MISSIONS

The work of Fidesco continues its outreach into the four corners of the world with the opening of new missions in the Ivory Coast, Peru, Tanzania, and France.

📍 **In BONOUA (Ivory Coast)**, the charity *Crescendo-Vie* works with children suffering from sensory and motor handicaps, in two different institutions. One offers health services and social and education support to handicapped children, the other is a boarding house for abandoned children. Volunteers work just as much for the education of the children as in the administration and management of the institutions.

📍 **IN CALCA (Peru)**, they work alongside the Salesian brothers in a welcome centre for boys aged between 12 and 18 yrs old which facilitates their access to education.

📍 **IN DAR ES SALAM (Tanzania)**, there are two volunteering retired couples, who work closely with the Sisters of Mary, in the heart of a boarding house for 627 girls. The students, aged between 11 and 20 yrs old, are given free access to food, clothes, and secondary school education plus intensive professional training (sewing, cooking, electronics and IT).

📍 **In France**, finally, with the South-North Mission, one volunteer was placed in the Parvis des Clarisses in September, a project created by the diocese of Limoges in the fight against solitude; promoting and encouraging occasions for people to meet each other. Here, there is a daily presence which aims to welcome anyone unconditionally, listening to anyone in need.



Tunis has a new archbishop

Mgr Nicolas Lhernould, a longstanding friend of Fidesco and spiritual director to us in 2022, was made archbishop of Tunis on Sunday 9th June 2024. As a French priest incardinated in Tunis in 2004, he first made contact with Fidesco in 2019 asking for our help in supporting local initiatives. Since then, there has been a string of volunteers succeeding each other in Tunisia. Witnessing the fruitful nature of their presence in a Muslim country, Monseigneur also initiated the opening of a Fidesco mission in Constantine (Algeria), in the diocese where he had been bishop since February 2020 until his nomination as archbishop by Pope Francis. In September, Cyrille, Clotilde and their children were sent to Tunis to take over from Edgar and Blandine, who were coming back from three years of mission as a couple. Tanguy was also sent to work alongside them in the capital with a new mission of social animation for the youth.



► Sandra 📍 on mission in LIMOGES at the Parvis des Clarisses



► Eloïse and Wandrille Team Follow-up and South-North focal points, with Michel and Sandra during their training



BOOSTING TRAINING GIVEN TO SOUTH-NORTH VOLUNTEERS

Training for South-North volunteers continues to be reinforced so as to accompany them in the best way possible during their mission, but also offer support after their return home.

The programme, followed by volunteers at the Catholic University of the West (UCO), has been boosted and now constitutes a certified training which should enable them to value their onsite experiences once back in their home country. This programme, enriched with modules on project management, and personal reflection, henceforth allows their study to be officially recognised for future professional projects.

Two new training modules on personal development (autonomy, initiative...) and interculturality are now also offered to volunteers. The keys to mission success!

Lastly, two coaching sessions have been put into place to help the return to professional life post-mission. The first was held in June, a few weeks before volunteers are expected to return to their home countries. It was led by Delphine Renard, career coach and previous Fidesco volunteer, with a specialisation in transition and expatriation. The second, led by Michel Tagmé, was held in September. Michel directs a charity based in Douala, focussed on the professional reinsertion of young people across several African countries. The objective was to give volunteers the keys allowing them to adapt to the environment and get to grips with the issues of job searching within local contexts.

Session on discernment in Togo, Lomé

Togo! In Lomé, the discernment retreat for South-North was held, an intense moment for ten young people wanting support in their ideas about coming on mission to France, in service of the vulnerable. Over the course of several days, they looked at and questioned their call with the help of teachings, sharing time and prayer. The retreat resulted in the commissioning of 10 young people in July 2024, to serve with charity partners such as *Simon de Cyrène*, *le Rocher*, or *Aux Captifs la Libération*.



“Bloom where God has planted you”

Interview with **Laetitia Boli**, Reciprocal Volunteer in 2021



What have you kept from your mission?

– I have a lot of joy, a heart which opens up and a changed view of the world. The most beautiful memories are those of going out onto the streets, when we'd go and meet people who seemed improbable to approach. And then, in meeting them, we'd see into their hearts. I remember one day,

when one of them said: **“Sit down, you're welcome in my home.”** It made us laugh but more than that it really touched me. He welcomed us with what he had, and that's exactly the sense behind the charity Captifs: even the poorest of the poor have something to give. Homeless people are often sceptical about the idea of letting someone enter into their space, into their little bubble. For them, it's precious, like going into someone's house. It might seem weird to say, but these moments of meeting made me realise how precious their lives are.

When you were in France, what role did other volunteers have in your mission experience?

– We had times where we'd get together with other volunteers to share about our missions, with anecdotes or how we were homesick. These moments were precious times during the mission. We'd meet mostly at the UCO during training days, and they were always really great days. We'd leave again full of new things after having seen our missionary brothers and sisters. I had the luck of seeing another volunteer from the Ivory Coast, and it was really nice to see them again. I even went to visit them in Nantes!

Can you describe your project to us and how 'Debout Resplendis' was born?

– *Debout resplendis*, is a new charity born from my mission with Fidesco. The intuition came whilst I was serving people on mission. I spoke to the director of Captifs, who supported me and thought it was a fantastic project. Upon my return to Abidjan, I

thought there was no time to lose. Initially, the idea was to open an antenna of Captifs, but then we thought: why not create instead a charity which answers the specific needs of the Ivory Coast? With Fidesco's help, I put into place a small team and we worked on the concept of the charity.

For the name, it's from a word which really touched me, from Isaiah 60: *“Rise and shine!”* Since then, we've made progress in structuring and launching our activity. We have two hubs. The education hub, which looks after awareness, listening and training in schools. The prostitution hub, with a presence on the streets, meeting people involved in prostitution, listening to them and accompanying them to more healthy environments. Our objective is also preventative in nature: creating awareness in young girls before they find themselves in situations of precarity and prostitution. In school there are some who are already involved in prostitution, others risk getting pregnant and being excluded. We want to offer support to young pregnant girls so they can return to studying. All too often they abandon their education, when a pregnancy shouldn't prevent them from having a future. Some are rejected by their family and find themselves in vulnerable situations. We want to be present for them, at school, on the street, to give them the vision of a bright future.

What would you say it means to be missionary?

– Being missionary is above all giving of your time, making yourself available, giving of yourself, giving of who we are, of what we have. For me, the word mission is this: to give myself for others. There is nothing more beautiful than giving something positive to someone. I think it's the only religion we can have, that of love, and mission is also love. To love is to give everything, to give yourself. If we love others, we give ourselves to help them get out of their situation of injustice or precarity. As a Christian, we are called to be missionary, to witness to the light and to the love we have received from Christ, to those who have perhaps not yet received it or who are in need of it.



INVESTING IN THE QUESTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND SERVICE

In October, the administration council attended a director's seminar which was an opportunity to take a bit of distance and reflect on strategies and the best ways for Fidesco to be in dialogue with the world.

The question of the commitment of young people was a subject at the heart of discussions. Understanding the source of their motivation, addressing their fears and getting them started on their way through content matter or propositions that resonate with their aspirations constitutes a major challenge for Fidesco. This time was fed by talks from John GLAISNER, general director of IRCOM, and Fr. Jean-Baptiste Siboulet, youth chaplain at Nantes. The work achieved here will directly impact on the next perennial plan, always adapting our mission the best we can to answer the expectations of young and upcoming generations.



EXPANDING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Boosting our presence in targeted events is indispensable for addressing potential candidates and expanding the call to mission.

The 1st edition of the national festival, Santos, run by the French Bishops' Conference (CEF), was a fantastic opportunity to meet young professionals looking to serve. The Jesus Festival, a large music festival with more than 5,000 attendees was also a high point this year, underlining the necessity and beauty of missionary service. The Franciscan Chapter at Lourdes allowed us to raise awareness among young adults, families and faith groups wanting to deepen their commitment to Christian life, in service of the most vulnerable.



“

Getting to know the life stories of our students also came with a feeling of helplessness... What could we possibly do to help? I was sent to volunteer as a French teacher... but it's out of this feeling of powerlessness that volunteering can bear fruit, it's here that my ideas of service took on any meaning: by loving my students. Faced with the violence they were experiencing, faced with their wounds, faced with their complicated lives, I couldn't do anything else except love them. »



Flore on mission in PATTAYA (Thailand)



DEVELOPING COMMUNION



BUILDING UP RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PARTNERS

Keeping up solid fraternal relationships with our partners is essential to our mission, whether that be in Timor, Zambia, Brazil or in France! In June 2024, the charities our South-North volunteers worked in were invited to get together to share the challenges and successes of current partnerships, over the course of a day. The presentation of an overview of the past four years of reciprocal volunteering opened the day, enriched by the testimony given by a previous volunteer. Workshops in small groups also allowed us to take a look at the issues faced when returning home. New partners were able to gain insight from old partners, and the exchanges brought to the forefront the return to work of young people as an important subject. Site visits and regular discussions also enable us to strengthen these relationship.

Testimonies of our partners

Interview with Mgr Dassi, Bishop of Bafia (Cameroon) and Fidesco partner



Monseigneur, can you introduce yourself and tell us about your diocese?

– I am Emmanuel Dassi Youfang, fourth bishop of the diocese of Bafia, elected in 2020. Bafia is a vast diocese of 34,600 km² containing 500,000 inhabitants, and for the most part rural. This territory has vast landlocked areas and

in this context evangelisation and development must absolutely go together.

What does the testimony of Fidesco volunteers, who are sent out to be by your side each year, bring?

– It is often difficult to express in a missionary report, or through the partners we are, what is transmitted through the life led amongst this population and the peoples to which they are sent. But I would say, that clearly, they bring **expertise in their skillset** and especially **in an evangelic spirit of the gift of self, through service**. They also bring their testimony of faith, of Christian life, notably in the sensitive areas of family life and the sacraments. **Above all else they bring their love without borders**, their love for the poorest with whom they share daily life.

And from a professional point of view?

– I would say, they mostly bring ideas, new and original thinking. They are precious collaborators in rethinking things, discerning the reality of our circumstances, and the putting into place of missionary projects and initiatives, in order to change challenging situations for the better. They're not just all about performance and execution, and it's really important for the partners to have people with whom they can think about our current reality and who do so freely. But they also bring their operational expertise and the innovation which projects require. The union of these two aspects

25 yrs of mission with ANAK-TNK

In 1998, a Fidesco volunteer was sent to the Salesians in the suburbs of Manila. The following year, through a fortuitous encounter with a



French couple she discovered Fr. Jean-François Thomas and his work with the street children. Touched by his mission, she decided to help him for three months. Following this experience, Fidesco offered volunteers to Fr. Thomas, to help him in his work. And so, a partnership was born, which 25 years later continues to bear fruit.

“The street children of Manila are not only signs of hope; they are heralds of it! Hope is not wanting a better future; it's the proclamation of love's victory. These children are a constant reminder that: God has created us to love and to be loved. Nothing, not trials, nor poverty, nor sin can erase this universal vocation of humankind.”

Fr. Matthieu Dauchez

Director of the charity ANAK-Tnk, Fidesco partner for 25 years

means that each of these volunteers are precious collaborator.

Why do you opt for longer mission times? How does the cultural integration of volunteers participate in the success of their mission work?

– There is a well-known beer in Cameroon whose slogan is “*time was needed*”. Yes, **time is needed** to settle, to get to know the place, to outline the work, to program, realise, evaluate etc. Time is especially needed to integrate, to really get to know people, collaborators, but above all the people we've come to serve. Obviously, missionaries shouldn't wait to know everything about the culture before starting. Truly, love is universal. **The more they love, the more trust is created and barriers are taken down**. In the end, cultural difference or cultural integration are not obstacles but a mutual richness for both the volunteers and those they serve. All this demands time.

Why did you choose to trust Fidesco?

– Fidesco wears its name well, ‘Fides’ for ‘faith’ and ‘co’ for cooperation. We primarily appreciate the lively Christian faith of these missionaries, their family lives, their ecclesial integration, their simplicity of life, their prayer lives, their participation in Mass with other Christians. I believe this speaks enormously to our people and to our Christian communities. But they also shine through their availability to the Church whom they've joyously accepted to serve. I see them as always there for us, and it seems important to highlight this great availability: it really is a common denominator to all the volunteers. So, all in all, bravo to Fidesco!



BOOSTING OUR PRESENCE IN THE STUDENT WORLD

The student world, and especially Catholic schools and universities, offer opportunities to meet and share with young people in their search for meaning and commitment to serving. And so, they are essential places for Fidesco to invest in. In 2024, a partnership with the university society HumanICES (ICES) enabled us to participate in a round table discussion with several other associations, on the theme of volunteering and humanitarian mission. At the Catholic University of Angers (UCO), we were able to concretely witness to committing to mission work. In the student chaplaincy in Nantes, a round table bringing together different associations on the theme of 'planning your gap-year' enabled students to envisage this time as an opportunity to serve. These initiatives were made possible thanks to the mobilisation of ex-volunteers back from mission, whose testimonies transmitted the missionary flame! Increasing partnerships and offering variety in the different forms of communication and events (round tables, testimony evenings, film showing of "À nos enfants"...), constituted a major help in presenting our mission work through different perspectives and in encouraging young people to dare to go on an adventure.



DEVELOPING UNITY BETWEEN NORTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-NORTH VOLUNTEERS

For the second time in 2024, the Preparation for Departure Weekend for North-South volunteers and the Preparation for Departure Weekend for the South-North volunteers, held at the beginning of June, was made into one event. An evening gathering together the entirety of the volunteers was held. It was conceived in an original format of 'speed-dating', during which the South-North volunteers could share with their brothers and sisters from the North-South mission a little of how they had been enriched by the mission. It was a time of fraternity, enhanced by the richness of different cultures.



“

Forget preconceived ideas; trust, take a bit of distance, learn before doing.”

Yann ♡ on mission at UDV in Toulon

“

I advise you to give of yourselves completely and to be yourselves.”

Carmen ♡ on mission at DIDECE in Troyes

“

You're going on mission, this means it should be about you giving yourself, but you'll receive more than you give. This is the joy of mission.”

Claude-Samuel
♡ on mission
with Captifs la
libération in Paris





COORDINATING OUR ACTIVITY ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

In Belgium, Holland, Germany, Poland, Portugal and the United-States, our international offices are in charge of spreading the call to mission and fund-raising for the projects that come under our official project support work. In November 2024, the Projects team went to Brussels for a fraternal time of

strategy sharing with the Belgium Fidesco team. Our time there was also an opportunity to meet financial partners like Averbode Abbey, whose beer sales enabled us to finance a project in Brazil, or other partnered associations like ACTEC, Belgium NGO which co-supports a school in Haiti with Fidesco (EPSJA).



“

It must be said, the relationship between the Belgium office and France is greatly facilitated by the language and geographic proximity. Never a month goes by without us writing to each other, or calling. It's always nice to be able to collaborate with the team in France, which has often been of great help to me: questions, information, organisation of an event, they're always there for us. »



Isaline ♡ In charge of administration, animation and recruitment for Fidesco Belgium

“

Many moments of joy brighten our days. A profound joy that surpasses and fills our hearts. The joy of witnessing small miracles every day. The joy, too, of living a beautiful fraternity within the parish, with our friends, with the priest and nuns, but also with many people who have opened their hearts to us and their doors. As Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say: 'Joy is very contagious. So be always full of joy!' »



François-Xavier and Cécile

♡ Belgian volunteers on mission at CURANILAHUE [Chili]

INCREASING OUR OUTREACH





WORKING ON OUR DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

At the heart of our digital ecosystem this year was work on re-doing the website **fidesco.fr**, one of the key projects of 2024. Rfirmly orientated towards recruitment, the new site offers a more immersive experience adapted to computers as well as smart-phones. Revealing the beauty of mission, inspiring stories honouring our volunteers allow us to imagine ourselves out in the field (stories, videos, podcasts...). Visitor navigation has also been simplified encouraging individuals to make that first step towards mission and sign up for a meeting with Fidesco.

Mission guides have also been drawn up and made downloadable online, for single people, couples and for families... In practise, you can find three parts dedicated to; discernment (when to and why go on mission), life on mission (the joys, difficulties, and integration), and the return from mission (returning to your home country, restarting professional life). In addition, readers can boost their reflection with the anecdotes and practical advice given by previous volunteers.

In other news, the platform **partir.fidesco.fr** was recognised for offering quality content, based on the expertise of Fidesco on the subject of mission. Rich articles, practical advice and testimonies were put forward to help future volunteers on their discernment journey. Going further than just offering support to candidates, this editorial strategy also aims to boost Fidesco's presence in key word searches on search engines, in order to attract the public who are looking for reliable information on volunteering abroad.

Lastly, online visibility has been increased thanks to Google Ads Grants campaign. This programme, which enables associations to benefit from a publicity budget financed by Google was used to touch a wider audience and generate traffic on the new website.



INVESTING IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND LISTENING PLATFORMS

Boosting our presence on social media and content platforms has been a central issue to spreading the mission online.

A new partnership has been made with Amen Media: through reels and stories on Instagram and Facebook, the testimonies of volunteers punctuated the final trimester offering young Catholics an authentic glimpse into what volunteering looks like onsite. This promising collaboration opens up new perspectives to touching an ever-larger audience. In this optic, we continued our partnership

with Aleteia, boosting our visibility to a public already sensitive to missionary activity.

Lastly, publicity campaigns were launched on Meta (Facebook and Instagram) to reach out to potential candidates. Two further objectives were explored: offering downloads of the new guides available on fidesco.fr, and encouraging people to sign up to on-line meetings.



Cœur de mission: The adventure continues

The adventure continues with **Cœur de mission** (Heart for Mission). These monthly episodes are real tools for raising awareness; to which the significantly growing audience can testify to: 2316 views since the podcast launched. Eléonore, Damien, Alix and Clément, 17 testimonies are now available on all listening platforms. Give it a go!

In addition, a new brand scout allowed us to invest in the universe of Christian podcasts. Diffused before or after partners' podcasts, its objective is to question and encourage listeners to make a step towards mission work by signing up for a meeting.





DARING NEW FORMS OF COLLABORATION

To round off the year and inaugurate 2025 by celebrating the 45th anniversary of Fidesco, a special edition of the now unmissable 'Where Is Fidesco' brought together our volunteers from across the four corners of the world, to blow out the 45 candles for our NGO. For this occasion, the praise music group HOPEN made a remix of their well-known song "Unis comme des frères" ("united like brothers and sisters"), a hymn to fraternity. The collaboration with HOPEN will continue into 2025, for the jubilee year of music!

"Through commitment and gift of self, experience compassion, discover brothers and sisters, change the world by changing hearts, take care of each other and construct peace"



CONTINUING OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Fidesco continues its advocacy work through widening its networks at the heart of three essential circles: the institutions of public authorities, civil societies (NGO, platforms), and the Church. This work, carried out by the Advocacy, Projects and Innovation Department enables our NGO to have influence on the discussions and debates around volunteering and international solidarity, through meetings between institutions and work groups. This year was marked by our participation at the IVCO conference in Newcastle, an event with an international wingspan uniting those involved with volunteering (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France Volontaires, French and international NGOs...). It was an opportunity for Fidesco to make its voice heard, and a real sign of encouragement to continue our work!



FINANCES: THE ACTIVITIES 2024

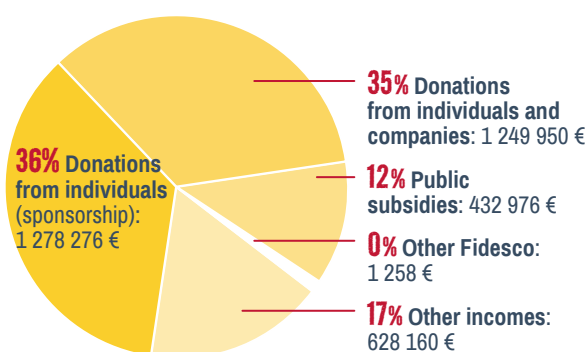


ACCOUNTS

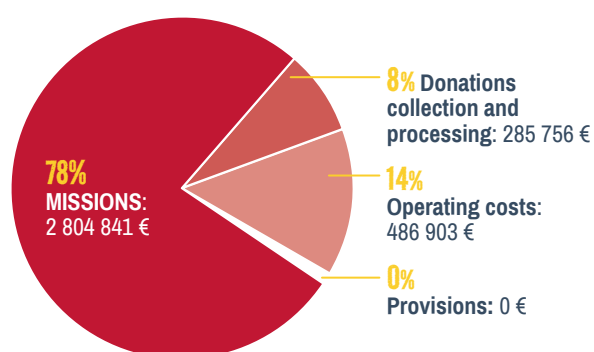
RESOURCES (chiffres en euros)	2023	Distribution	2024	Distribution
Income related to public donations	2 913 557	78%	2 937 184	82%
Donations from individuals	2 183 112	58%	1 885 748	53%
Corporate donations, foundations, endowment funds	138 024	4%	180 155	5%
Financial contributions received from other associations	590 962	16%	408 958	11%
Legacy, Life insurance	1 461	0%	462 323	13%
Public subsidies	573 773	15%	432 976	12%
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs	561 048	15%	432 276	12%
Others	12 724	0%	700	0%
Other income	255 029	7%	220 460	6%
Financial income	58 972	2%	60 566	2%
Miscellaneous income	196 058	5%	155 967	4%
Reversal of provisions	0	0%	3 927	0%
Recovery of funds related to deferred liabilities	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL RESOURCES	3 742 359		3 590 620	

EXPENSES	2023	Distribution	2024	Distribution
International and Solidarity and Development Mission	2 931 358	78%	2 804 841	78%
Africa	1 308 311	35%	1 252 375	35%
Latin America	781 083	21%	639 606	18%
Asia	273 422	7%	231 551	6%
Middle East	5 000	0%	0	0%
Europe	33 000	1%	21 582	1%
France	328 570	9%	424 251	12%
Plaidoyer			61 708	2%
Communication to applicants and volunteers	201 972	5%	173 767	5%
Donation collection and processing costs	249 303	7%	285 756	8%
Headquarters operating costs*	560 615	15%	486 903	14%
Provisions	434	0%	0	0%
Futur commitments	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	3 741 711		3 577 501	

Resources Origin of resources



Expenses Use of resources



* In 2023, the headquarter running costs included the costs related to our Advocacy activity.



DONATIONS

Thank you for your valuable support throughout 2023! During the year, we received **2 065 903 €**.

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.



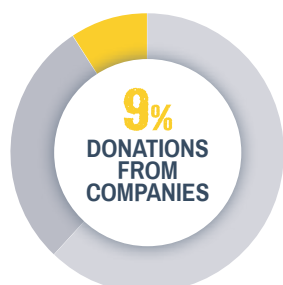
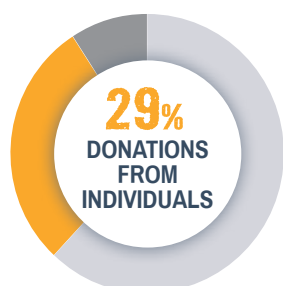
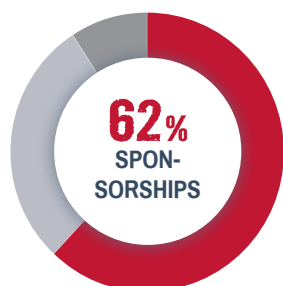
17 000 €
cost of a volunteer
by year



450 €
minimum amount
to sponsor a volunteer for 2 years of mission
(230 € for a 1 year mission)



18 €
Minimum monthly
amount to sponsor a volunteer
for the duration of his/her mission



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

* Go, make others happy and you will experience joy!

Photo  Mission Manila (Philippines)

www.fidesco.fr