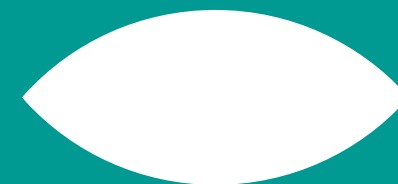




ANNUAL REPORT  
2022/2023





# A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

True to the spirit of Comgest's long-term partnership, the year 2022/2023 was marked by the continued commitment of both current and former employees who play an active role in the governance of The Comgest Foundation (TCF).

Four new members joined the Board of Directors and three former partners remained fully committed. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Arnaud Cosserrat and Frédérique Darré for their ongoing involvement. Special thanks also go to Monique Erbeia who now acts as TCF's volunteer General Delegate providing precious support. The whole Board thanks Arnaud and our fellow colleagues for the work they have accomplished over the past six years and looks forward to continuing TCF's action with their invaluable guidance.

Three new Ambassadors, from two different Comgest entities, have joined the current group of 18 Ambassadors.

Generous donations were once again received in 2022/2023 from Comgest S.A. and individual Comgest donors. These

donations, together with the growth of TCF's permanent reserves and the revenues they now generate, are helping the Foundation move towards financial autonomy.

Close to 25% of Comgest Group employees has now been involved in one way or another in the activities of TCF. This is a great achievement and clearly shows how relevant the Foundation remains today.

11 new projects were selected during the year by the Board of Directors, nine directly financed by TCF and two by another Comgest Group entity. We remain committed to concentrating on a limited number of projects while maintaining a broad range of meaningful initiatives hosted on four different continents.

Nearly 20 000 people have benefited from the positive impacts of the active projects in just this one year. Thank you for your commitment and generosity and please don't hesitate to visit our website [www.thecomgestfoundation.com](http://www.thecomgestfoundation.com) for a closer look at our various projects.

Philippe Lebeau  
*Chairman of The Comgest Foundation*

# 1 | OUR FOUNDATION

# MISSION AND VALUES

The Comgest Foundation is committed to improving the living conditions of vulnerable people around the world.

Our mission is to support projects focused on **key areas** that we believe can have the most tangible and significant impact on people's lives:

- Education
- Economic empowerment
- Health and Disabilities
- Environmental protection

A grant-making organisation, The Comgest Foundation's endowment fund was established in 2017 to organise the philanthropic initiatives of the Comgest Group<sup>1</sup>, an independent, international asset manager focused on long-term quality growth and responsible investment.

Guided by the Comgest Group's core values of **partnership, quality, integrity, courage and care**, the Foundation sponsors projects that align with its key areas of focus and the values of the firm. Each project is presented and monitored by a current or former Comgest employee called the Ambassador, who will support the project in all its stages and report on its progress and results to the Foundation.



<sup>1</sup> The Comgest Group includes: Comgest Asset Management International Limited; Comgest Asset Management International Limited - UK Representative Office; Comgest Asset Management Japan Limited; Comgest Australia Pty Ltd; Comgest Austria; Comgest Belgium; Comgest Benelux B.V.; Comgest Deutschland GmbH; Comgest Far East Limited; Comgest Italia; Comgest S.A.; Comgest Singapore Pte Ltd and Comgest US LLC.

# ORGANISATION

## Comgest Ambassadors: Heart of the Foundation

The proposals, involvement and monitoring of the Ambassadors of the projects, current or former employees of Comgest Group, are at the heart of the endowment fund's activity. Each project to be considered by the Comgest Foundation must have a sponsor who acts as an Ambassador.

An Ambassador must be a current or former employee of the Comgest Group. Priority will be given to Ambassadors who are current employees of the Comgest Group or who actively contribute to the work of the endowment fund.

As an Ambassador, a person accepts a responsibility to present, monitor and report on an individual project of his/her choice.

Before presenting a project, an Ambassador should :

- Visit or otherwise meet the organisation behind the project
- Help the organisation - where appropriate - prepare the required project documentation for The Comgest Foundation
- Help the Comgest Foundation with any additional information requirements
- Provide a key contact(s) and stay closely in touch with them
- Upon a successful project application, the Ambassador becomes responsible for updating the Foundation at least once a year.

For multi-annual projects, the Ambassador should carry out an in-depth annual review, consistent with the size and characteristics of the project, to ensure that it is progressing properly.

Upon completion of a project, the Ambassador should assist the organisation in preparing and present on its behalf the success analysis of the project.

The idea behind the Comgest Foundation Ambassador is to guarantee the seriousness and reputation of the project, to encourage active commitment and involvement of employees on behalf of and alongside The Comgest Foundation.

## Call for projects

Each year, in March, calls for projects are sent out to all Comgest Group employees. On average, a dozen projects are received and examined by the Board of Directors. Selected projects may be supported directly by The Comgest Foundation, or by a Comgest entity when projects are carried out by a charity based out of France.

# 55

*PROJECTS SELECTED  
SINCE  
SEPTEMBER 2017*

# 11

*PROJECTS SELECTED  
IN 2023*

## Selection process

In analyzing the projects, the Board members base their choices with a reference to the following criteria (non-exhaustive list):

- Alignment with The Comgest Foundation's missions and values,
- Commitment level of the Ambassador in the project monitoring,
- Impact on final beneficiaries,
- Quality of the presentation document (information, detailed budget, timetable),
- Reasonable guarantee on the honorability/reputation of the applicant and the responsible people involved,
- Project's budget compatible with the Foundation's budget in order for the Foundation to make a significant impact. The Board may decide to finance only a part of the project,
- Diversity of the selected projects,
- Number of current projects with respect to the Foundation's budget.

If a member of the board is Ambassador of a project, this member of the board will be excluded from deliberations regarding this project.

The process ends in September with the selection of the projects to be financed. If the projects are not presented by French non-profit organisation, they can be financed directly by a Comgest entity.

## Governance

The Board of Directors is composed of current and former Comgest's employees.

- Chairman: Philippe Lebeau, C.E.O. of Comgest S.A.
- Abla Bellakhdar, Fund Manager, Comgest S.A.
- Frédéric Bustin, Investor Relations, Comgest S.A.
- Frédérique Darré, retired Comgest employee
- Arnaud Cosserat, former Chairman and C.E.O. of Comgest Group
- Marie Gauthier, Environmental, Social and Governance Specialist, Comgest S.A.
- Alistair Wittet, Fund Manager, Comgest S.A.

The members of the Board are responsible for the overall management of the endowment fund as well as for the selection of the projects to be financed.

- General Delegate : Monique Erbeia, former Comgest employee

AT LEAST

19 791

BENEFICIARIES  
IN THE ACTIVE  
PROJECTS

**FROM 2017 TO 2023**  
PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE  
COMGEST FOUNDATION OR  
OTHER COMGEST ENTITIES:

FOR MORE  
THAN ONE YEAR

25

FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

19

29  
PROJETS  
IN EUROPE

16  
PROJETS  
IN ASIA

5  
PROJETS IN  
CENTRAL  
AMERICA/  
CARABEAN




























16  
PROJETS IN  
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST





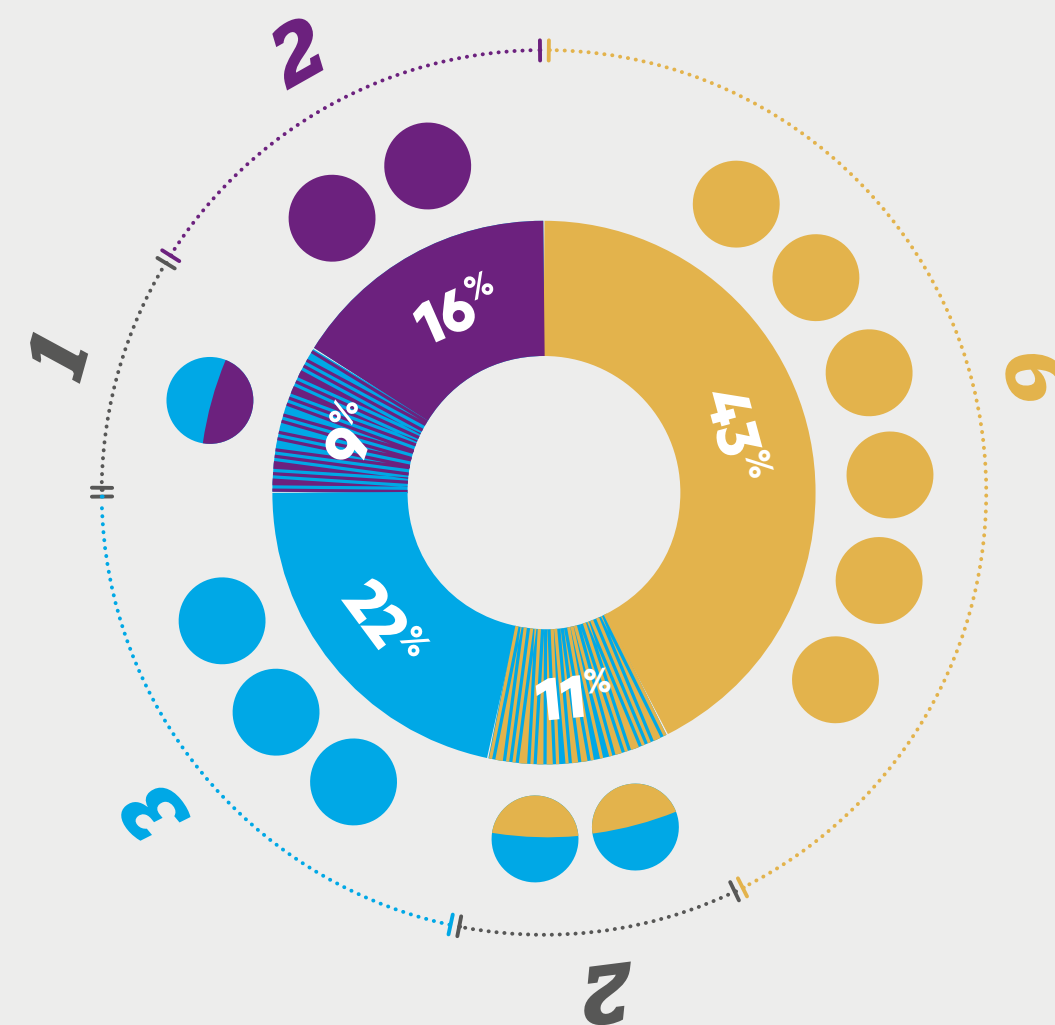
# OUR PROGRAMS

## Active projects selected by The Comgest Foundation in 2022/2023

				
<b>AOAH</b> - <i>Haïti</i>				
<b>Atelier Bosco</b> - <i>France</i>				
<b>Clubhouse</b> - <i>France</i>				
<b>Eau et Vie</b> - <i>The Philippines</i>				
<b>Ecoles du Monde</b> - <i>Madagascar</i>				
<b>Munafa</b> - <i>Sierra Leone</i>				
<b>Fazasoma</b> - <i>Madagascar</i>				
<b>Habitat &amp; Humanisme</b> - <i>France</i>				
<b>Howrah South Point</b> - <i>India</i>				
<b>Her Turn</b> - <i>Vietnam</i>				
<b>Le Rire Médecin</b> - <i>France</i>				
<b>Maisons St Joseph</b> - <i>France</i>				
<b>Moanoghar</b> - <i>Bangladesh</i>				
<b>Passerelles Numériques</b> - <i>Cambodia</i>				
<b>Power for Small Heroes</b> - <i>Germany</i>				
<b>Support for Brickyard Workers and their Families</b> - <i>Cambodia</i>				
<b>Ukuwela</b> - <i>South Africa</i>				
<b>YAKA</b> - <i>France, Sénégal, Tunisia</i>				

AS OF 30/09/2023  
NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS  
FINANCED BY THE COMGEST FOUNDATION  
BY DOMAIN

PERCENTAGE OF  
THE 2022/2023 DONATION BUDGET





# 2 | OUR PROJECTS



# Atelier Bosco

## Description

L'Atelier Bosco is a project developed by "Aux Captifs, la Libération", an association set up in 1981 by Father Patrick Giros to help excluded people living on or off the streets of Paris: the homeless, prostitutes, migrants, young vagrants, victims of substance abuse.

In 2015, the association obtained approval from the authorities to run social and professional integration workshops for people in precarious situations undocumented or not. This is how Atelier Bosco was set up in 2022, with the aim of welcoming, training in interior painting and opening up professional horizons for people living on the margins of society. The people welcomed into the workshop work and receive vocational training. At the same time, they are supported by social workers in the Captifs offices. Thanks to their work, they receive a stipend as the Atelier sets up worksites for both professional and private customers.

The "crewmates" also take part in French as a Foreign Language courses, job search preparation workshops (CV writing, online procedures etc.) and cultural activities.

The Comgest Foundation supports the work of Atelier Bosco and its crewmates.

## Impact / Main indicators

- 9 beneficiaries in 2024 / 10 beneficiaries in 2025
- 100 working days per beneficiaries per year



**Paris, France**

*Project sponsors* **Aux Captifs, la Libération**

**www.captifs.fr**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Duration:* **1 year**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Daniel Marroquin**

The Atelier Bosco is constantly expanding its activities and strives to grow the self-financing capacity of the workshop, the number of worksites completed and the number of "crewmates" attending the workshop.

In 2023, Atelier Bosco posted annual sales of €47 000 and paid €35 000 in the form of stipends to the workshop's seven crewmates. There were four arrivals and five crew member departures, of whom two were escaping prostitution and another two were applying for migration status. A first woman was welcomed into the workshop.

Other activities run alongside the workshop: classes of French as a foreign language and a shared meal on Fridays. Occupational integration activities such as training and CV-writing workshops are also organized.

Atelier Bosco remains focused on its objective to integrate those on the margins of society through work and vocational training.

# Spreading the Clubhouse Methodology



## Description

The Comgest Foundation supported the opening of a new Clubhouse location for mental health support in Lille.

Clubhouse France Association accompanies people made vulnerable by serious and chronic mental disorders (bipolar, schizophrenia, severe depression) to improve their quality of life, autonomy and consequently, the life of their families and others who assist them. Clubhouse's purpose is to provide a personalised individual support to their members thanks to mutual aid and cooperation between the different actors (medical staff, beneficiaries, Clubhouse) with a goal to of professional and social reintegration

## Impact / Main indicators

- The Clubhouse Lille opened on January 25th, 2022. At the end of 2023 Clubhouse Lille has 195 members and 110 active members (members who were there last month).
- 93% of members have a "RQTH" (French administrative term for recognition as a person with a disability at work)
- 35 new members entered a professional trajectory in 2023 of whom 23 are now in a long-term professional activity (over 6 months). 81 members had a professional experience during the year (internship, work experience period, fixed-term contract, permanent contract).

Lille, France

Project sponsors **Clubhouse France**

[www.clubhousefrance.org](http://www.clubhousefrance.org)

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2021**

Multi-year project: **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Astrid Delanoë**

Testimony from a member " My name is Mathieu Cosson. I've been treated for severe bipolarity with numerous crises for about ten years. I also have complicated memory lapses. Ups and downs.

I used to live near Paris and moved to the North of France 5 years ago.

Here, I've been well looked after by a CMP (medical center). My psychiatrist has given me effective medication to manage the illness. I'm also under the care of a psychologist, and it was through him that I learned about Clubhouse France and started the process of becoming a member.

I've been a member of Clubhouse Lille for 1 year. What I appreciate about Clubhouse is that it has broken my isolation. That's one of its missions. Of course I have friends, but friends who work, who have families and who don't have time to devote to a single, struggling friend.

The Clubhouse also gives me the opportunity to meet new people, people

who are suffering like me. It's true that it took me a while to get used to the Clubhouse's rules and procedures, and to get to know the other members, but I eventually integrated successfully and now contribute to the smooth running of Clubhouse Lille.

Clubhouse Lille helps me a lot on the professional side: writing a CV and a cover letter, I'm helped by a mentor (Jade). I've regained my self-confidence and sent out around a hundred cover letters, for which I've received 15 replies and a few interviews. I feel helped.

For me, Clubhouse Lille is a place of well-being and work. I feel protected. At the same time, the Club helps me to project myself into the future and to face up to reality. For example, when I go out to meet our donors or partner companies, I'm confronted with external realities. It gives me importance and status within Clubhouse Lille. "





# Eau & Vie

## Description

Eau & Vie is a French NGO founded in 2008 by Philippe de Roux with the objective of providing access to clean water in the shanty towns of the Philippines.

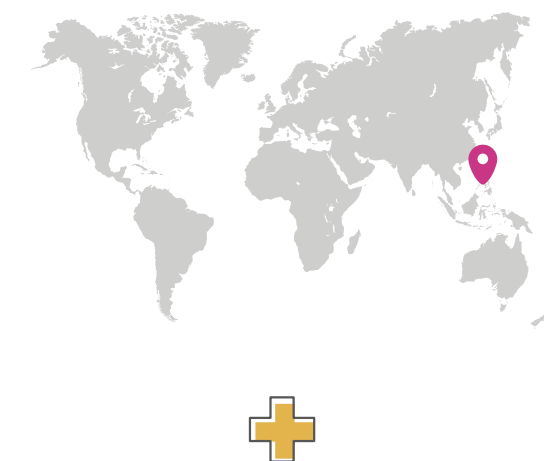
By nature, shanty towns are not connected to the water supply network which means that the inhabitants do not have access to clean water or, when they do, it is through expensive deliveries. Eau & Vie, in agreement with the local utility, connects the dwellings of the shanty town directly to the water supply network and collects and transfers the payments to the utility. Eau & Vie is also involved in a number of local projects, such as fire-fighting training, improved menstrual hygiene and solid waste management.

The impacts of the project on the inhabitants are multiple: 20% reduction of water expenses which currently represent about 33% of the inhabitants' monthly income, improved economic inclusion as invoices received from Eau & Vie can be used to gain access to basic resources or bank loans, reduction in time spent fetching water (by women and children), reduction of the risk of expropriation, 80% reduction of the fire risk.

The Comgest Foundation has decided to support access to clean water access for the community of Cavite..

## Impact / Main indicators

- 1,250 individuals = 250 households in urban poor communities in Cavite have access to running water at home
- 90 women/girls have increased awareness on menstrual hygiene practices and access to sustainable menstrual kit
- 180 inhabitants have increased awareness and general hygiene practices as well as hygiene kits
- 300 inhabitants have better understanding of solid waste management practices. 3,000 kilos of waste collected and properly managed by the community
- 3 500 inhabitants have improved protection against fire and emergencies



**Cavite, The Philippines**

*Project sponsors* **Eau & Vie**

**www.eauetvie.fr**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Duration* **1 year**



eau et vie



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Alistair Wittet**

The latest project began in September 2023 and is expected to end in August 2024. So far, this particular project resulted in 215 water connections being established, providing potable drinking water to the homes of 1,001 individuals. The NGO led several sessions in the community which resulted in the following:

126 individuals received menstrual health awareness sessions

278 kids received hygiene awareness sessions

161 kids received personal hygiene sessions

434 people mobilized and around 7,274 kgs of waste collected through 5 clean-up drives

143 individuals received environmental awareness sessions

1 new volunteer firefighting brigade established and equipped with firefighting skills and equipment

155 individuals received emergency management prevention training.

Finally, BWW was also able to distribute 573 kits (menstrual kits, handwashing kits, hygiene kits).

The project is still ongoing, so we can expect further impacts to be measured in the future.



# Ecole de Paillant “the Paillant School”

## Description

This project in Haiti at The Paillant School is twofold: construction of two additional school classrooms to better meet children’s needs (regularity of courses, accommodation of all children, etc.) and sanitation facilities. Many of the 300 children who attend the school suffer from malnutrition.

In supporting education in rural areas in Haiti, AOAH also encourages professional training designed to combat intense soil erosion and poor agricultural productivity in the country. Since 2013, AOAH has accompanied vulnerable rural populations in the Miragoane region in Haïti and supported projects to help them.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Improved attendance
- Support to 340 students within the school



**Paillant, Haïti**

*Project sponsors* **Association OEuvres et Accompagnement pour Haïti (AOAH)**

**[www.aoah.org](http://www.aoah.org)**

*Local Partner*  
**The Paillant School and Compassion (US NGO)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2021**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Daniel Carvajal**

Three months after an explosion in gang violence in Port-au-Prince, the signs of a return to calmer days are emerging in the Caribbean country which remains in the grip of a deep political and security crisis.

The Port-au-Prince metropolitan area is still 80% controlled by armed gangs that have been unleashing waves of attacks in the country for several years. The situation is currently unbearable for the Haitians. Famine and disease are spreading, and people are struggling to survive in chaotic daily life where the state can no longer maintain law and order and where most schools remain closed.

In this context it is increasingly difficult to move around the country. Armed gangs terrorize the population and obtaining food has become a daily

challenge in a country where the economy is stretched to breaking point. Thanks to the courage of members and friends of the AOAH and more particularly to the generosity of the Comgest Foundation, we were able to hold an open house event at the school which many children who are part of the Compassion International program were able to attend. This enabled around 30 new students to register for the 2023/2024 school year.

Despite the troubled times and difficulties that Haiti is experiencing, which include inflation and the exorbitant cost of construction materials, we continue to fight for the survival and development of the Paillant school. We will not give up; this project remains a real success and a glimmer of hope for many families.





# Construction of a vocational school in the bush

## Description

Ecoles du Monde was created in 1997 by Charles Gassot, a film producer, following a shoot in Madagascar during which he was confronted with the terrible poverty of this country whose bush inhabitants are totally destitute and abandoned by all.

The objective of Ecoles du Monde is to settle the villagers on their original lands in order to slow down the exodus of the population towards the mirage that is the capital. To do this,

the NGO works in three areas: education, development aid, reforestation and maintenance of biodiversity. Since its creation, Ecoles du Monde has built 15 primary schools in the bush, in the North West of Madagascar in the region of Majunga, dug more than 150 wells and planted more than 300,000 trees.

On the Besely site, the most recent one, Ecoles du Monde is building a vocational school to welcome the children who have completed their education in the primary school.

The Comgest foundation has decided to support the construction of this vocational high school in the bush which will offer interesting professionalization perspectives to the students as well as numerous employment and commercial opportunities in the village of Besely.

## Impact / Main indicators

- A dozen graduates after five years. 100 students at the end of the project (approx 30 students per level)
- Local employment and job creation opportunities (energy, agronomy and agricultural techniques, pharmacology and biochemistry)
- Increased rates of local employment
- Creation of local income generating activities

**Besely - Majunga region - Madagascar**

*Project sponsors* **Ecoles du Monde**

**[www.ecolesdumonde.org](http://www.ecolesdumonde.org)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2021**

*Multi-year project* **4 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador

I am pleased to present a progress report on the construction of the Besely Agricultural and Technical Vocational School. As of May 2024, completed constructions include the Caretaker's House, Sanitary Facilities, and Water Fountains. The Water Tower and Well are currently in the final stages and are expected to be completed by mid- to late-August 2024.

Since EDM's last report in August 2023, the initial architectural project by Jean-Michel Wilmotte was discontinued due to technical and budgetary constraints, unfortunately resulting in a delay. A new project has subsequently been developed in collaboration with a local firm, encompassing various facilities such as classrooms, housing, cafeteria, and agricultural warehouse. Attached are photos of the new main school building designed by the consulting firm based in Mahajanga.



**Wedig von Gaudecker**

Plans to open the high school for the academic year 2024/2025 remain unchanged. However, the construction of the new main building will not start before March 2025, following the rainy season, in anticipation of the response to the AFD/FICOL call for proposals by November 15, 2024. The construction phase for all buildings is estimated to last 18 months, from March 2025 to the end of August 2026. Nonetheless, this adjusted timeline will not impact the scheduled opening date for the 10th-grade class, which remains set for the 2024/2025 academic year for the nine students currently in 9th grade.

The COMGEST Foundation remains fully committed to the successful completion of the Besely Agricultural and Technical Vocational School project. Despite the challenges encountered along the way, we are encouraged by the progress achieved thus far and remain optimistic about the transformative impact this school will have on the local community.

# Munafa - social microfinance to increase resilience of marginalized people



## Description

This project aims to provide microfinance loans and training to beneficiaries in the slums of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. These beneficiaries mainly derive their living from small informal activities in trade or service, such as the sale of shoes and clothing, drinks, oil, provisions, catering and other income generating activities.

After a first field market study by Entrepreneurs du Monde in April 2018, the programme was registered as a local company, named Munafa, in February 2019 and obtained its credit-only microfinance licence in October 2019. Munafa is engaged in improving in a sustainable manner the resilience and living conditions of marginalized families, by providing financial and socio-economic services tailored to their needs for the development of income generating activities. Munafa uses the individual responsibility group methodology promoted by Entrepreneurs du Monde, which has a strong social component, brings down all the barriers to access loans (no financial or physical guarantees, no joint liability collateral system) and promotes the strengthening of beneficiaries' skills to develop their income-generating activities. In addition to microloans, Munafa provides socio-economic training and social support.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Number of branches: 5. New branch opened in 2023
- Number of saving accounts: 9 956
- Granted loan portfolio: 13 219 loans for a total amount of 1,536 M euros in 2023
- Socio-economic training: financial education, social and health awareness
- Training sessions: 6 654 in 2023
- Training of local teams in social microfinance methodology developed by Entrepreneurs du Monde.
- Operational viability as of end of 2023: 80%

**Freetown, Sierra Leone**

*Project sponsors* **Entrepreneurs du Monde**

[www.entrepreneursdumonde.org](http://www.entrepreneursdumonde.org)

*Local Partner* **Munafa - Sierra Leone**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**

**ENTREPRENEURS**  
*du Monde*

## Comment from the Ambassador



**Monique Erbeia**

In 2023, MUNAFA continued to develop and was able to extend access to its services to a growing number of beneficiaries with the opening of its fifth branch and preparations for the opening of a sixth.

Thanks to activities linked to social performance management and the results of the first SPI4 social audit and internal satisfaction survey, an action plan incorporating an environmental dimension has been put in place over a three-year period.

Let's focus on the SPI4 social audit which was implemented in 2023.

MUNAFA uses a form of social categorization based on the PPI (Progress out of Poverty Index). This questionnaire is administered for all odd-numbered loan cycles, to ensure that the microfinance institution (MFI) is reaching its target population and to monitor changes in beneficiaries' living conditions

from one loan cycle to the next. The questionnaires are then recorded in the BIJLI software via smartphones. In 2023, MUNAFA recorded 8,229 socio-economic profiles of its beneficiaries.

With the support of Entrepreneurs du Monde, MUNAFA compiled an annual social report using the beneficiary socio-economic profile sheets recorded in 2022. The analysis showed a major increase in the household income indicator, which rose by 92% between cycle 1 and 5, demonstrating the significant impact of MUNAFA's financial services on improving beneficiaries' living conditions. This in turn has had a positive impact on other indicators: improved household nutrition (43% more beneficiaries eat three meals a day between cycles 1 and 3), and an increase in the number of households with at least one insecticide-treated mosquito net (up 24% between cycles 1 and 5). A new social report will be produced in the first quarter of 2024, based on data collected in 2023.





# Fazasoma - support of vulnerable populations



## Description

The purpose of the project is to support children's education in the Ambositra region by financing school canteens which improve - and sometimes determine - school attendance

Since its creation in 1999, the mission of Fazasoma France has been to support the most vulnerable people in the province of Fianarantsoa by managing shelters/homes, financing school canteens and providing school supplies, as well as developing income-generating activities.

The current situation in Madagascar is dramatic: 5th poorest country in the world, facing the loss of all tourism resources due to the Covid 19 crisis, and the surge of a dengue epidemic in addition to the spread of Covid 19. The already very vulnerable population is facing a major crisis and needs basic support.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Over 1,000 children in 10 schools served meals in school canteens.

**Ambositra, Fianarantsoa region, Madagascar**

*Project sponsors* **Fazasoma France**

**[www.fazasoma.org](http://www.fazasoma.org)**

*Local partner* **Fazasoma Madagascar**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**

FA.ZA.SO.MA.



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Didier Darré**

The core of our action is still to enable children to go to school by covering canteen costs. But FA.ZA.SO.MA also develops more specific projects (creation of a music class in AMBOSITRA, hospital roof repair project) and other long-term projects.

For example, thanks to funding from FA.ZA.SO.MA and Lucienne's coordination, the MITSANGANA association (which means "Stand Up") has built and developed a reception center called ZARASOA (which means "Good Luck"). The center provides a home with accommodation for the poorest children living around Ilaka (a small village in the highlands 280km south of the capital Antananarivo). The development also includes a house for the janitor, a kitchen, a henhouse and rabbit hutches, a barn with a cow (that has just given birth), a vegetable garden, a guest house (rental of which brings income and enables exchanges with people passing through), a plantation

of fruit trees and a garden for the children, a well providing access to water for the whole village, an underground tank to collect rainwater, a rice field for cultivation and resale, and a rice hulling machine (also used by the villagers) and which has proved immediately self-sufficient by providing two jobs.

The aim is to instil in the children a sense of autonomy, shared responsibility and mutual support. After training in the management of livestock and various crops, the older children are already talking about the prospect of work. This is a source of hope for them and their community and gives us encouragement to continue our work.



Photo credit: Christophe Pouget

# Addiction prevention program

## Description

For more than 36 years, the Habitat et Humanisme Federation has been working to promote integration through housing and to recreate social links in response to the exclusion and isolation of people in precarious situations.

A large majority of the people housed by Habitat et Humanisme are faced with various forms of insecurity (resources, housing, social breakdowns and exclusion, lack of a residence permit, etc.), thus creating difficulties in several areas, particularly health.

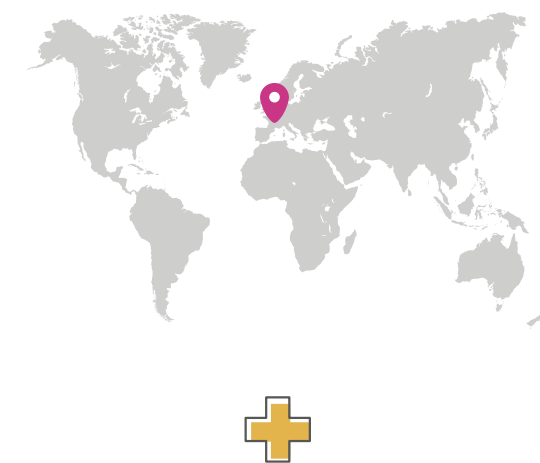
The volunteers and employees of the Movement who accompany the tenants are sometimes powerless in the face of certain situations they may be confronted with: addictions, mental health, poor nutrition, etc.

The objective of the project is to support addicts housed by Habitat et Humanisme by developing a national strategy to combat addiction and providing territorial support to associations. The ultimate goal is for beneficiaries to be "actors" in their own health.

The Comgest Foundation has decided to support the work to establish this strategy and to support its implementation.

## Impact / Main indicators

- The fight against addictions has become part of the accompaniment strategy of the H&H Federation:
- The accompanying teams have strengthened their skills and feel less helpless in the face of addictions
- People who are housed are made aware of addictions and are better supported in their treatment process
- The transversal work between the actors of integration, housing, health prevention and addiction is improved



## France

*Project sponsors* **Habitat et Humanisme**

**[www.habitat-humanisme.org](http://www.habitat-humanisme.org)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2022**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Houda Kilito**

Habitat and Humanism's health program is designed to enhance the health and well-being of those experiencing unstable living conditions and homelessness. The initiative plans to operate beyond its original timeline, focusing on customized social housing solutions while addressing a range of health issues—physical, mental, and social. The program's approach includes increasing ease of access to primary healthcare services, providing individualized social support, conducting health education and prevention initiatives, and ensuring that housing meets safety requirements.

By embracing a comprehensive view of health, Habitat and Humanism seeks to make a lasting positive impact on the well-being of at-risk individuals, acknowledging how housing conditions and social environments affect health outcomes.





# Bakuabari Home - Howrah South Point

## Description

Founded by Father Laborde, the inspiration for the book and movie "The City of Joy", Howrah South Point (HSP) has been working for 45 years for the underprivileged children of West Bengal. HSP promotes human development irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

Spread over 9 different sites and offices, HSP pursues the same objective in each region: to help the youngest children living in the slums of Calcutta who have no chance of accessing education or healthcare.

Bakuabari Home is one of these shelters and welcomes all year round 50 girls from very poor families. More than half of these girls have disabilities (cerebral palsy, physical deformity, mental disabilities).

But Bakuabari is more than a centre for children. This home is a place of life, a haven of peace. There is a large vegetable garden, a farm and tea plantations. The children go to school and participate in the daily tasks of the home: gardening, maintenance of the vegetable garden and the farm animals, cooking, maintenance of the premises. At the medical level, the girls receive physiotherapy and psychotherapy. All the necessary care and medication for their disabilities are provided.

With this centre, HSP wants to give these girls a chance to be integrated into society, where the status of women is complex and disabled children are sometimes rejected.

The Comgest Foundation has decided to support the Bakuabari Home by co-financing its maintenance and operation. The Bakuabari Home is also supported by Terres des Hommes Alsace.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Long term improvement of the girls' quality of life
- Improved health and enlarged building capacity for the girls, to enable them to find their place in their communities as adults.



Jalpaiguri, north of West Bengal - India

*Project sponsors*  
**APC - ACTION et PARTAGE avec CALCUTTA**

**[www.apcalcutta.fr](http://www.apcalcutta.fr)**

*Project Partner* **Howrah South Point**

**[www.howrahsouthpoint.org](http://www.howrahsouthpoint.org)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Frédéric Bustin**

The support of the Comgest Foundation has been made possible and effective thanks to the volunteers of the MEP, Missions Etrangères de Paris. In 2022, I got to know one of them personally, and when he returned to France in 2023, the baton was taken up by a young French woman who left her job as a consultant for a year. Today a young couple has taken over the role and become our main and permanent contacts on the ground.

While the donation has enabled the Bakuabari centre to function well and receive 50 outpatients during the day, some of whom come from very far

away for treatment, in 2023 we should be able to contribute to the running of the centre and the renovation of its water tank. The region is seismic and the tank has cracked over time. The team also wants to maintain its medical aid programme with the presence of a Physiotherapist, practitioners and trainers in simple gestures for the local teams.

The needs are varied and of course numerous, and our permanent local presence of French-speaking volunteers provides us with invaluable contacts to help us carry out our projects.



# Koto - Her Turn

## Description

Since 1999, KOTO has been giving at-risk and disadvantaged youth the opportunity to break the poverty cycle by forging a better future for themselves, their families and their communities, thanks to hospitality training programs.

KOTO has recently launched the Her Turn programs to empower disadvantaged women aged 16-28, from regional areas, ethnic minority groups or those not currently in education or training, by providing them with a series of 6 and 24-month holistic hospitality training programs.

Participants will develop and obtain hospitality and entrepreneurship skills, employment, and sustainable long-term career development opportunities in the hospitality industry.

KOTO provides a holistic hospitality training program that is highly practical, internationally accredited and free. The 6-month and 24-month programs foster professional and personal development for its trainees by providing a curriculum including Hospitality skills, English

language classes, computer classes, entrepreneurship workshops, a life skills program, welfare services and recreational activities. Trainees also spend 60% of their time at KOTO gaining practical training at KOTO restaurants. All trainees participating in the program will be supported to obtain employment upon completion.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Initial outcome: 95% of trainees graduate with an internationally recognised certificate in Hospitality issued by Box Hill Institute, Australia
- Main long term outcome: 90% of program graduates have stayed in the hospitality or tourism industry for 2 years+ after graduation

**Hanoi , Vietnam**

*Project sponsors* **KOTO Vietnam**

**[www.koto.com.au](http://www.koto.com.au)**

*Funding* **Comgest Deutschland GmbH**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



***Richard Mercado***

I first visited KOTO 20 years ago and have seen their programs grow and their impact spread to more and more people. The opportunities it has provided not only to its participants but also to their families – generations above and generations below have literally been life changing.

It is a great honour to have supported such a wonderful program and KOTO and I are forever grateful for the long support of The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Deutschland.





©Sylvie Biscioni



©Géraldine Aresteanu



©Géraldine Aresteanu

# Le Rire Médecin the healing laughter

## Description

Created in 1991 by Caroline Simonds, Le Rire Médecin uses professional comedian-clowns in paediatric wards and now has 30 years of experience. A pioneer in France and in Europe, Le Rire Médecin's interventions are recognised for the benefits they bring to children, but also to parents and nursing staff.

The project, which is implemented in the University Hospital in Nantes and supported by the Comgest Foundation, is twofold:

**Maternity :** Totally integrated into the care project, the performances of the comedian-clowns in the maternity ward, based mainly on humor, song and music, aim to encourage the activity of the mother towards the baby, to bring comfort and to help create a link in order to avoid rejection or even abuse. It is also sometimes to help to create a link with the nursing teams, a communication (in particular non French speaking families)

**Children at Risk Unit** The clowns work with very vulnerable babies and toddlers placed under judicial protection, without their parents present (abused children hospitalized in a room).

The program may evolve to include the intervention of clowns in the waiting room of children summoned during the day to help free the children's voices. For babies and children who have been victims of violence, the comedians will first come to reassure and create a bubble of comfort.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Number of play days completed over 12 months
- Number of children and mothers visited
- Other qualitative indicators (interviews, assessments and observations)



**Nantes, France**

*Project sponsors* **Le Rire Médecin**

**[www.leriremedecin.org](http://www.leriremedecin.org)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Sarah Rochd**

Several aspects of my life naturally led me to get involved with "Le Rire Médecin" (The Clown Doctors).

My personal experience as a mother of a hospitalized child and the dedication of the Rire Médecin team motivated me to get involved with the organisation.

My child's hospitalization made me witness the dedication of the medical staff and the impact it had on me emotionally. I shared my experience with my colleague Grégoire Moreels, who introduced me to the Rire Médecin association and its leaders. I was deeply moved by their commitment and had the opportunity to meet them in person. I also made personal donations.

I involved my husband, who introduced the association to his company to secure further donations.

It was only natural for me to take over as an ambassador after Grégoire's departure. The Comgest Foundation provided me with the means to make an even more significant impact. Thanks to their support, "Le Rire Médecin" received funds that allowed for innovation in opening workshops to assist struggling mother-child couples, as well as children who have been victims of various forms of violence.



# Maisons Saint Joseph

## Description

The purpose of this project is to improve the support, care and living conditions of adults with mental disabilities, mostly Down's syndrome, welcomed in two homes in Versailles.

Confronted by the lack of facilities dedicated to people with mental disabilities, Maisons St Joseph set up two homes in 2007 with a family atmosphere to welcome adults with mental disabilities in the heart of the city where they can carry out their activities. These homes, which currently host 14 adults, help them to gain autonomy and pursue personal development goals in the long term.

Maisons St Joseph is constantly trying to improve the quality of the support provided to these young adults by adapting the home equipment and providing new facilities in which they can express their creativity.

## Impact / Main indicators

- In Viroflay gravel the alley surrounding the girls' house and leading to the garden shed (ensure safer and easier access to the garden shed)
- Complete renovation of a bathroom in the boy's house in Versailles in order to allow convenient specific daily hair treatment for one resident.

**Versailles, France**

*Project sponsors* **Maisons Saint Joseph**

**[www.lesmaisonssaintjoseph.fr](http://www.lesmaisonssaintjoseph.fr)**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Duration* **1 year**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Philippe Lebeau**

Maisons Saint Joseph transparently liaised with us in order to kindly ask if it would be possible to delay the pre-approved outdoor works and equipment in the boys' house in Versailles in order to switch to a more urgent project. It has been agreed to view as more urgent a complete bathroom renovation in order to allow, amongst other things, more comfortable daily medical hair treatment.

I visited the house and the bathroom before and after the renovation works and have been satisfied with the way the project has been handled.

We are in constant contact with Maisons Saint Joseph to follow the progress of

the different projects and to make sure the donations are wisely used. A dinner will be hosted in Versailles in June 2024 with a couple of Comgest's volunteers.





# Moanoghar

## Description

The purpose of this project is to improve the standard of education provided to the students welcomed in Moanoghar school in Rengamati.

Social and political turmoil combined with the region's chronic underdevelopment and mountainous topography have contributed to making the Chittagong Hill Tracts region one of the poorest regions in Bangladesh with the lowest literacy rate in the country and the highest drop-out rate from primary school.

Moanoghar is the largest children's charity in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts region. At present, there are 1,100 children in the Moanoghar School and they are provided with free or highly subsidized education. The children come from the remote communities where basic education facilities are non-existent and the parents are too poor to afford education for their children. Approximately 48% of the children are girls.

Although the passing rates at the Moanoghar School are between 75% to 80%, many children fail in national level Senior School Certificate examination in some selected subjects: English, Mathematics and Sciences (physics, chemistry, and biology).

To improve academic performance at the school, Moanoghar needs to recruit additional teaching staff and implement specific training/capacity building for all the teachers. That is the objective of this multi-year project which we expect to result in better passing rates and grades. Project co-financed by Luciole Foundation.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Increase in resources via teachers and programmes
- Increase of the pass rates
- Improve grade averages



### Bangladesh

*Project sponsors* **Moanoghar School in Rengamati, Eastern Hilltracts, Bangladesh**

*Funding* **Comgest Deutschland GmbH**

*Project selected in* **September 2020**

*Multi-year project* **5 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Emil Wolter**

Following initial delays caused by the Pandemic and its related lockdowns, our program has been gathering pace over the past two years. Starting with the hiring of seven new teachers, the school hosted its first Maths and Science Fair in 2022. Another followed in June 2023 and again more recently, the third Math Olympiad and Science Fair were organised on 29 March 2024. The Olympiad and Fair have become annual occurrences creating much enthusiasm among the participating students.

During the summer of 2023, another two initiatives were started:

- The TEAM ("teach at Moanoghar") program designed to improve the academic standard of the students and Moanoghar School. The TEAM fellows will provide special coaching on select subjects (Science, Math and English in particular) to the students outside the school classes and also support the school management in properly implementing the academic calendar

of the school. The Team fellows continued their work all through the year. They organised talks and seminars on various topics relevant to Moanoghar and School, such as: Understanding the Behaviour of Children; Classroom Management Techniques; Leadership Development of the Children, etc.

- In addition, an English & Bengali language club was setup in August 2023 with the objective of imparting speaking and writing skills in both languages to the students. Students from class VII onward have been grouped in several teams under the supervision of a teacher Annual Prize Giving Ceremony (10 February) for this purpose.

The annual examinations of the Moanoghar Residential School were held in late November to early December 2023. The results have since been published and overall, are excellent.



# Fighting poverty via professional training and youth employment



## Description

This project finances two years of school for 10 students in Cambodia.

Passerelles Numériques (PN) enables very vulnerable youth to access education and technical/professional training in the digital sector, based on their natural abilities and commitment.

PN aims to build the employability of these young people, which will allow them and their families to get out of poverty in a sustainable manner, and more broadly to help the socio-economic development of Cambodia.

## Impact / Main indicators

A total of 148 students are currently enrolled at PNC.

Objectives:

- Strong employment rate: of the graduates, 100% of them found employment in the IT sector just after graduation
- Promotion of both boys and girls : 51% of the students are female.
- Increase of average salary (post-graduation): The graduate's average monthly wage is 388 USD (average family income before joining PNC is 50 USD).
- Economic support to their community
- Mentoring of other students



**Phnom-Penh, Cambodia**

*Project sponsors* **Passerelles Numériques**

**[www.passerellesnumeriques.org](http://www.passerellesnumeriques.org)**

*Local partner* **Passerelles Numériques Cambodia**

*Funding* **The Comgest Foundation**

*Project selected in* **September 2022**

*Multi-year project* **2 years**



**Passerelles Numériques**  
*Un passeport pour la vie*

## Comment from the Ambassador

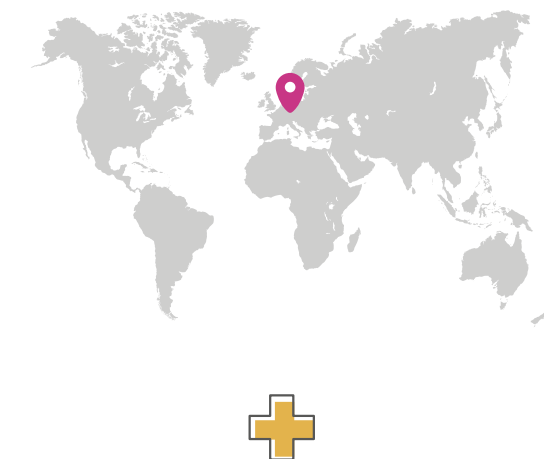


**Sébastien Thévoux-Chabuel**

In Cambodia, financial difficulties continue to be a barrier for high school graduates to pursue their higher education in Cambodia. Indeed, 60% of the working poor population survives with less than \$3 USD a day. Consequently, many young Cambodians must drop their studies, move to neighbouring countries, and end up working in very difficult conditions to send some money home.

The demographic situation is very peculiar with 77% of the population living in rural areas and 49% under the age of 25. Most secondary education is provided on a fee-paying basis, and is therefore inaccessible to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially in rural areas.

Passerelles Numériques (PN) directly addresses these issues to break this cycle of poverty for the underserved, providing a relevantly skilled, trained and adaptable workforce for IT markets. Located in Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam and Madagascar (the most recent program was launched in 2021), PN targets the most disadvantaged youth who have no access to education and empowers them with digital training on key technical and soft employability skills. The Comgest Foundation has been a key supporter of the work of PN by contributing to the funding of the costs of some of its Cambodian students.



# Power for small heroes

## Description

In April 2016, the Peter family was faced with the tragic loss of their youngest daughter, Valentina, aged 13. She was unable to live her final moments at home with her family, as no mobile pediatric palliative care was available. Unfortunately, outpatient palliative care for seriously ill children and adolescents is extremely poorly funded in Germany.

After Valentina's death, her family set up a German foundation, Stiftung Valentina, with the aim of closing the funding gap for palliative and intensive outpatient care for terminally ill children. Their partner is PalliKJUR, a highly qualified medical team from Ulm University Hospital in southern Germany. 50 children a year affected by this tragedy currently benefit from this mobile pediatric palliative care, but a total of 250 children could be cared for.

The ultimate goal of their foundation is to offer seriously ill children the best possible quality of life until the end of their lives.

The Comgest Foundation supports the Stiftung Valentina and the activities of the PalliKJUR mobile pediatric palliative care team.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Quality of life for terminally ill children and their families is maintained, improved and enhanced.
- Hospital stays are shortened or avoided.
- The child stays integrated in his or her family environment.
- Individual adaptation to illness is encouraged ("self-help").
- A dignified life until death is made possible in the familiar environment.
- Mobile palliative and intensive outpatient care for terminally ill children needs additional specialists, whose financing is not covered by the health system.
- Thanks to the donation of The Comgest Foundation, Stiftung Valentina could finance an additional specialized part time doctor (Nicole Strugala), for whom € 60 000 had to be granted to the University hospital

## Ulm and South Germany

*Project sponsors* **Stiftung Valentina**

**[www.stiftung-valentina.de](http://www.stiftung-valentina.de)**

*Project Partner* **In collaboration with PalliKJUR, a mobile pediatric ambulance team for terminally ill children**

*Funding* **Comgest Deutschland GmbH**

*Project selected in* **September 2023**

*Duration* **1 year**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Maximilian Neupert**

Background to the project is the tremendous underfinancing of mobile intensive and palliative care for children. For patients admitted to the university hospital, German health insurance pays €1,100 per day, and patients often have to stay for many weeks. For children who suffer from the same severe illness, receive the same care from university hospital specialists but who are instead driven backwards and forwards between their home and the hospital, health insurance pays just €66 per day! Such children and their families do not have any power to change their situation, so the parents of Valentina decided to help close the financing gap and started Stiftung

Valentina. At present they pay €150,000 per year for additional mobile specialists, so that all children in South Germany (between Munich and Freiburg) can be covered by this mobile service.





# Sipar - Support for brickyard workers and their families

## Description

The Comgest Foundation has been supporting SIPAR's activities in Cambodia since 2017 (Bibliobus). This project targets the families of brickyard workers in the suburbs of Phnom Penh. Its main objective is to break the cycle of poverty for workers and their children in 32 brickyards by promoting their socio-educational development (2,400 to 3,000 direct beneficiaries; 50% girls and women).

The project's activities take place at three levels:

- Development of reading, tutoring and educational activities for children
- Design and implementation of an adapted system of education and personal and social development for out-of-school adolescents.
- Support for social development and improved living conditions for families working in the brickyards.

Project cofinanced by the Luciole Foundation.

## Impact / Main indicators

Expected results

- Children strengthen their learning in Khmer and mathematics, their self-confidence, their openness to the world and their social skills.
- Increased school enrolment
- Better family and social management for adults thanks to thematic social training (family planning, hygiene, nutrition, health, budget management, safety, parenting, maternal and child health, drug and alcohol prevention, domestic violence, etc.).
- Raising awareness among brickworks managers of the importance of education and the well-being of workers' families.

Suburbs of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Project sponsors **SIPAR**

[www.sipar.org](http://www.sipar.org)

Local partner **SIPAR Phnom Penh**

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2023**

Multi-year project **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Isabelle d'Imperio**

Since the beginning of the collaboration with The Comgest Foundation in 2027, the project has grown significantly. The number of brickyards visited by the mobile libraries increased from 12 to 32. Primary school children are now well taken care of by village school teachers. Particular attention is now necessary for teenagers who have dropped out of school.

Another area of development for the project concerns support for the social development of families, while initiating efforts to influence sector players to improve living and working conditions.

SIPAR's action was recognized by the AFD (French Development Agency) which decided to participate in the project by financing 60% of the programme.

Our next trip in Cambodia is scheduled for January 2025. Along with Fondation Luciole, we will spend a few days with SIPAR's teams visiting schools and brickyards.



# Ukuwela

## Description

Carpe Diem School is a government school for learners with disabilities in George, South Africa. During 2017, Carpe Diem launched 'Ukuwela', a skills training and employment program for learners with disabilities. Ukuwela is an isiXhosa (the African language of this region) word which means 'to cross over'. The program was initiated to address the unacceptably high unemployment rate amongst school leavers.

Ukuwela aims to develop the potential of each learner to enable access in employment opportunities which contributes to the economic empowerment and the restoration of dignity of learners and their families. It is the only school-based employment program in South Africa which seeks, finds work placements and supports learners with disabilities in employment after school.

To date, 46 learners with disabilities have accessed employment opportunities in the open labour market in various industries including retail, hospitality, agriculture, healthcare and manufacturing. The program also supports the vocational and skills training needs of 120 school-going learners.

One of the main priorities is to advocate and raise awareness to businesses / companies that people with disabilities can and want to work.

## Impact / Main indicators

- Improved skills sets of learners with disabilities (75 school-going learners with disabilities per year)
- Improved employability and rate of employment (10 school leavers with disabilities per year)



**George, South Africa**

*Project sponsors*  
**Carpe Diem School in George, South Africa**

**[www.carpediemskool.co.za](http://www.carpediemskool.co.za)**

*Funding*  
**Comgest Asset Management International Ltd**

*Project selected in* **September 2022**

*Multi-year project* **3 years**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Slabbert Van Zyl**

Ukuwela is proud to report that nine of our candidates have successfully reached the one year mark at their respective places of work. In addition, we have enabled access to employment for three new candidates who we continue to support. Two candidates participated in three month internships to gain work experience and build their skills. As part of our efforts to develop the vocational abilities of our school-going learners, a total of 153 attendances were recorded of learners who participated in work exposure opportunities hosted at eight different places of work across various industries. Ukuwela facilitated two brand new skills training courses to build specific skills for the

hospitality industry. These courses, 'Housekeeping' and 'Basic Food Hygiene' were presented by NQtac (accredited skills training provider) to our senior learners. 18 learners also completed their computer course in basic computer skills with another 14 learners completing a course in basic public speaking. Local collaborations include working with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and local authorities such as the Garden Route District Municipality.





# Yaka

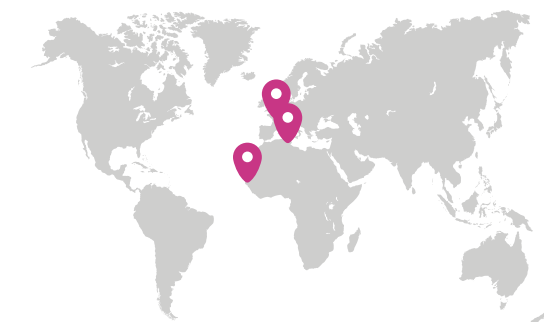
## Description

YES Akademia (“YAKA”) combines cross-cultural, community development with empowerment programs for youth aged 15-35 years old, largely from marginalized or rural areas. YAKA offers programs for approximately 500 youth annually in Paris, its suburbs, other regions of France and with partners abroad, helping them develop ideas and personal projects in civic engagement and social entrepreneurship. YAKA's keystone programs are IMPOWER and Press Start: 100-500 hours of workshops and field trips for 2 weeks to 18 months with mentoring and travel wherein youth build practical competencies and soft skills (i.e., leadership, critical thinking, public speaking, non-violent communication) and are motivated to pursue entrepreneurial actions, higher education or personal projects with self-confidence, courage, and awareness of their environment. YAKA also engages in community work: building and managing 3 intergenerational centers in public residences in the suburbs of Paris.

The Comgest Foundation supported YAKA's 2022-2023 programs in Paris, rural France, Tunisia and Senegal.

## Impact / Main indicators

- **IMPOWER:** 14 French youth participated in a 21-day solidarity trip to Aga Biram, Senegal; completed a solidarity project; organized an educational forum in Aga Biram and Dakar with over 150 locals attending.
- **Press Start:** social entrepreneurship program for 8 Tunisians/8 French youth with one-week in Tunis (Tunisia) and one week in Paris.
- **YAMA:** A 2-week intercultural partnership at a French ecovillage for 15 youth including refugees and asylum seekers from France, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain and Afghanistan.
- **InterAction:** Multiple workshops and community-building activities at 3 intergenerational centers in social residences in Ivry-sur-Seine, Valenton and Montesson.



France – Senegal – Tunisia

Project sponsors **YES Akademia – France**

[www.yesakademia.org](http://www.yesakademia.org)

[www.instagram.com/yesakademia\\_yaka/](https://www.instagram.com/yesakademia_yaka/)

[www.instagram.com/presstart\\_yaka/](https://www.instagram.com/presstart_yaka/)

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2023**

Duration **1 year**



## Comment from the Ambassador



**Dawn Turek**

The Comgest Foundation supported YAKA actions for youth in cross-cultural exchange, community development, formal and non-formal learning and skills development. YAKA's steady growth has continued and includes:

- Sending French youth to Senegal with its IMPOWER program to complete a year-long solidarity project with the villagers of Aga Biram.
- Working with partners in Tunisia to implement a social entrepreneurship program, Press Start with youth from France and Tunisia.
- Opening its 3rd intergenerational center with funding for a staff member.

- Organizing 10 French youth to attend the European G1000 Summit in Brussels with international youth speaking to elected European officials.
- Implementing its multi-cultural, ecological program, YAMA, with youth from 6 different countries.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE COMGEST FOUNDATION  
*Excluding donations granted by other Comgest entities*

Statement of Financial Position (EUR)		
Assets	2022/2023	2021/2022
Financial assets	1 954 580	1 072 760
Cash	3 316 097	3 692 374
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5 270 677</b>	<b>4 765 134</b>
Liabilities		
Permanently restricted endowment funds	4 632 600	4 382 600
Excess of revenues over expenses	212 194	46 284
Retained excess of revenues over expenses	364 378	318 094
Non restricted endowment funds	15 000	15 000
Total Endowment funds	5 224 172	4 761 978
Suppliers	46 505	3 156
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5 270 677</b>	<b>4 765 134</b>

Statement of Activity (EUR)		
Operating Revenues	2022/2023	2021/2022
Donations received		
Comgest S.A.	220 500	150 000
Private donors	120 293	130 850
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>340 793</b>	<b>280 850</b>
Operating Expenses		
Donations granted to selected programs	345 000	422 427
Operating expenses	3 428	3 229
Taxes	882	660
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>349 310</b>	<b>426 316</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>-8 517</b>	<b>-145 466</b>
Financial Revenues		
	292 787	191 750
<b>Result</b>	<b>284 270</b>	<b>46 284</b>

DONATIONS GRANTED BY COMGEST ENTITIES INCLUDING DONATIONS TO THE PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUNDS  
*(2016 to 2023 in EUR))*

Comgest S.A.	4 711 105
Comgest Asset Management International Ltd	118 367
Comgest Deutschland GmbH	183 401
Comgest Singapore Pte. Ltd.	16 000
Comgest Far East Ltd	40 000

DONATIONS GRANTED BY COMGEST ENTITIES AND THE COMGEST FOUNDATION TO PROJECTS  
*(Since 2016)*

Comgest entities and The Comgest Foundation	2 298 873
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