



THE
COMGEST
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2023/2024





A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear friends of The Comgest Foundation,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the close of the 2023-2024 financial year, a year marked by dynamic growth, rich in new projects and renewed confidence in some older initiatives.

First of all, let me salute the vitality of our collective commitment. This year we selected 12 new projects, 10 of which were financed directly by the endowment fund. In addition, two projects were supported by Comgest Group entities, demonstrating the growing involvement of our international network and the solidarity that unites the various stakeholders in our organisation. These projects cover areas as varied as education, health, the economic empowerment of vulnerable people and environmental protection.

We are also pleased to announce the arrival of three new Ambassadors: Clément P., Matthieu P. and Marie G.. Their commitment strengthens the credibility of our mission and illustrates once again the wealth of talent within our Group. The active participation of our Ambassadors is an essential driving force in advancing our projects and supporting initiatives that make a real difference to the lives of our beneficiaries.

The year 2023-2024 was also marked by the continuation of our support for seven multi-year projects, whose tangible results are providing lasting solutions to thousands of people. These include 'Ecoles du Monde', 'Habitat & Humanisme', 'Munafa', 'Fazasoma' and many others, which continue to have a profound impact in their respective communities. New tranches of support have also been granted by Group entities to three previously selected multi-year projects.

These actions support a total of 22 active projects around the world, spread over three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. Together, these projects directly affect almost 21,000 beneficiaries. These figures reflect our determination to take concrete, long-term action on a human scale, while remaining firmly rooted in the values that unite us.

I would also like to highlight the ongoing commitment of the Comgest Group's employees, which manifested in various ways, whether as Ambassadors, donors or members of the Board of Directors and Investment Committee of The Comgest Foundation. In 2023-2024, 40 employees were involved, including current and former employees, a clear sign of the strength and durability of our collective commitment.

Finally, the autonomy of our endowment fund is making great strides. The income generated by our permanent reserves now complements the donations raised, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our work. This ensures that the endowment fund continues to support ambitious projects and has a lasting impact on vulnerable communities.

I would like to thank you warmly for your commitment, your generosity and your passion. These results are the fruit of our collaboration and our collective determination to build a more united and fairer future. Together, we are making a real difference.

I invite you to keep up the momentum and continue to deepen your involvement in this essential mission.

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 Group¹, 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.



¹ 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.

78

PROJECTS SELECTED
SINCE
SEPTEMBER 2017

12

PROJECTS SELECTED
IN 2024

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
- Marie Gauthier, Environmental, Social and Governance Specialist, 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

20500

BENEFICIARIES
IN THE ACTIVE
PROJECTS

FROM 2017 TO 2024
PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE
COMGEST FOUNDATION OR
OTHER COMGEST ENTITIES :

FOR MORE
THAN ONE YEAR

33

FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

45

35 PROJETS
IN EUROPE

18 PROJETS
IN ASIA

5 PROJETS IN
CENTRAL
AMERICA/
CARABEAN

20 PROJETS IN
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST



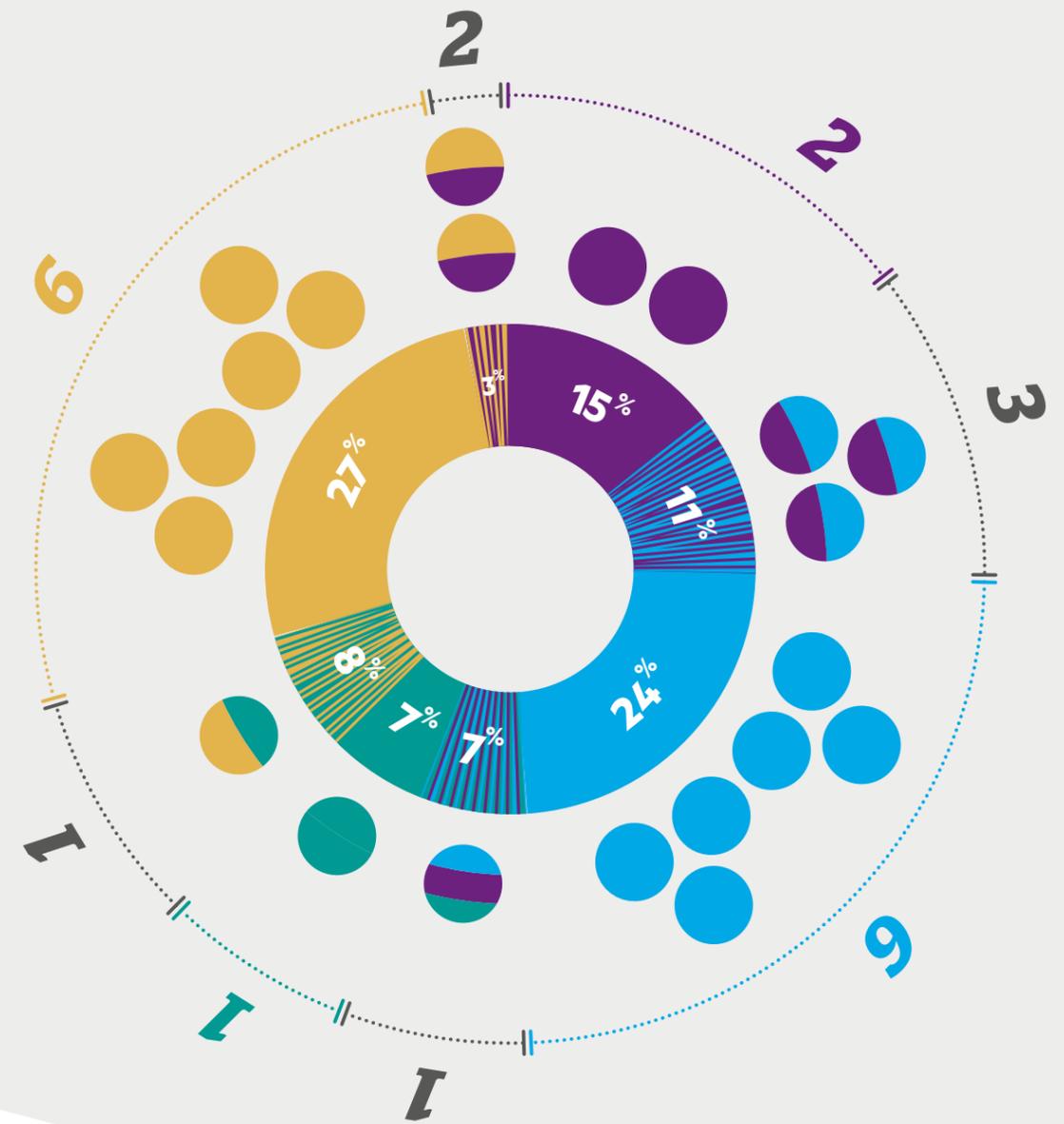
OUR PROGRAMS

Active projects selected by The Comgest Foundation in 2023/2024

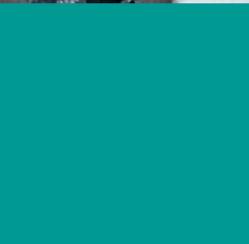
				
Atelier Bosco - France		●		
Baraka Angels - Morocco			●	
Better with Water - The Philippines	●			●
Ecoles du Monde - Madagascar			●	
Fazasoma - Madagascar	●		●	
Habitat & Humanisme - France	●			
Her Turn - Vietnam		●	●	
Hospices of Hope - Moldavia and Romania	●			
Howrah South Point - India	●			
La Maison de Thierry - Madagascar			●	
La Monnaie Sauvage - France				●
Le Rire Médecin - France	●			
Maisons St Joseph - France	●			
Moanoghar - Bangladesh			●	
Munafa - Sierra Leone		●		
Passerelles Numériques - Cambodia		●	●	
Power for Small Heroes - Germany	●			
"Support for Brickyard Workers and their Families - Cambodia"			●	
Terre et Humanisme - Maghreb countries		●	●	●
Third Age Caregivers - Lebanon		●	●	
Ukuwela - South Africa	●		●	
Yes Akademia - France			●	

AS OF 30/09/2024
NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS
FINANCED BY THE COMGEST FOUNDATION
BY DOMAIN

PERCENTAGE OF
THE 2023/2024 DONATION BUDGET



2 | OUR PROJECTS



© Héliène Ramé



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 "trainees" 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 trainees.

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 2024**

Duration: **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Daniel Marroquin

In 2024, the trainees at Atelier Bosco completed more painting projects than the previous year, with 21 projects compared to 18 in 2023. The workshop's overall revenue also increased to €54 000, up from €50 000 in 2023. Throughout the year, the workshop maintained an average of 7 trainees, with 3 departures and 3 new arrivals.

All trainees received social assistance and were professionally trained in painting by Nicolae, the workshop director. In addition to their training, they had the opportunity to take French classes, share meals, and participate in occupational integration activities every Friday.

Notably, the trainees from Atelier Bosco, along with trainees from another vocational training workshop, enjoyed a respite break in Brittany, providing them with a much-needed break from the challenges of street life.



Better with Water

Description

Better with Water 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. Better with Water, 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. Better with Water 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, improvement of economic inclusion as invoices received from Better with Water can be used to gain access to basic resources or bank loans, reduction of the time spent fetching water (by women and children), reduction of the risk of expropriation, 80% reduction of the fire risk.

Impact / Main indicators

- 15,250 individuals = 3,985 households in poor urban communities in Cavite now have access to running water at home (with 93 new connections during the project)
- 868 women/girls have increased awareness on menstrual hygiene practices and access to sustainable menstrual kits
- 5,382 inhabitants have increased awareness of general hygiene practices as well as hygiene kits
- 1,267 inhabitants have better understanding of solid waste management practices. 21,700 kilos of waste collected and properly managed by the community
- 1,406 inhabitants have improved protection against fire and emergencies



Cavite, The Philippines

Project sponsors **Better With Water**

www.betterwithwater.org

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2023**

Duration: **3 years**



Comment from the Ambassador



Frédérique Darré

The latest one-year project began in September 2023 and has resulted in the construction of 93 water connections, providing 418 people with drinking water at home. In addition, on the NGO side, several sessions were organised in the community, with the following results:

- 1,783 people benefited from awareness-raising sessions on menstrual health
- 821 children benefited from hand-washing awareness-raising sessions
- 229 children benefited from personal hygiene sessions
- 1,567 people were mobilised and around 21,700 kg of waste was collected during 18 clean-up campaigns
- 1,267 people benefited from environmental awareness sessions
- 23 new volunteer firefighters were provided with firefighting skills and equipment

- 1,427 people took part in emergency management prevention training.
- BWW was also able to distribute 3,097 kits (menstrual kits, hand-washing kits, hygiene kits).

A new 3-year project started in September 2024.

These results and the project's development prospects were presented by Philippe de Roux, BWW's founder, to the Comgest teams during his visit in March 2025, which was a great success.

I am very committed to this important project which, while supporting and training the most disadvantaged populations, is also building sustainable infrastructure to provide them with access to drinking water. It is a long-term initiative, managed with a high level of professional oversight.



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

- After 5 years, a dozen graduates. 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 local employment rate
- Creation of local income generating activities

Besely - Majunga region - Madagascar

Project sponsors **Ecoles du Monde**

www.ecolesdumonde.org

Local Partner **Ecoles du Monde in Besely**

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 update on the construction of the Besely Agricultural and Technical Vocational School as of July 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, resulting in an unfortunate delay. Subsequently, a new project was developed in collaboration with a local firm, encompassing various facilities such as classrooms, housing, a cafeteria, and an agricultural warehouse. Here are photographs of the new main school building project designed by the consulting firm based in Mahajanga.



Wedig von Gaudecker

The planned opening of the high school for the academic year 2024/2025 remains unchanged. However, the construction of the new main building will commence no earlier than March 2025, following the rainy season, and in anticipation of the response to the AFD/FICOL call for proposals by 15 November 2024. The construction phase for all buildings is estimated to span 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

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: 6
- Number of saving accounts: 13 821
- Granted loan portfolio: 17 715 loans for a total amount of 2,772 Meuros in 2024
- Socio-economic training: financial education, social and health awareness
- Training sessions: 8 899 in 2024
- Training of local teams in social microfinance methodology developed by Entrepreneurs du Monde.
- Operational viability as of end of 2024: 70%

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Project sponsors **Entrepreneurs du Monde**

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 2024, MUNAFA took a new step in its development by significantly extending its impact. The opening of a sixth branch in Moyamba, in a rural area, made it possible to reach particularly vulnerable populations, complementing the Waterloo branch inaugurated in 2023. The institution assisted more than 15,000 beneficiaries this year, with almost 9,000 active borrowers and a high-quality portfolio, despite the difficult economic climate.

MUNAFA also strengthened its operational viability, exceeding 70%, and achieved its objectives of expanding and adapting its services to the needs of rural populations.

The outlook for 2025 is promising: further strengthening of the Moyamba branch, opening of a 7th branch in Bo, development of new training and support services for small producers, and application to the Central Bank for a savings licence. A pilot project on clean cooking equipment, in partnership with AVSI, will also be launched in Freetown. MUNAFA is thus continuing its commitment to the financial and social inclusion of the most vulnerable.

I'm very grateful for the support The Comgest Foundation has given Munafa over the last 5 years, as the microfinance institution works towards becoming self-sufficient.



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.

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

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

I am happy to announce that we are planning a trip to Madagascar in December 2025 to visit the various operations supported by FA.ZA.SO.MA.

In particular, the "DEBOUT" centre, a project run by an independent, secular association called Mitsangana, for which Lucienne, our local correspondent, provides a solid and unfailing link. The funding provided by FA.ZA.SO.MA has enabled the purchase of land and the construction of various buildings. Although the centre still needs financial support, we are actively working to improve its self-sufficiency.

We are also working to maintain harmony between the centre and the village of Ambositra by supporting the community as a whole through specific initiatives such as renovating the roof of Ilaka hospital, refurbishing two basketball courts at the village schools and funding the construction of a well to improve irrigation for the rice fields during periods of drought.

We will also ensure the continuity of support for the Zafimaniris, a very isolated tribe of sculptors near Ambositra, by increasing the number of school meals. Max, who is the representative for the Zafimaniris, will also benefit from increased support for his mental health centre, which continues to welcome new patients.

These new initiatives do not call into question our long-standing commitment to education, including the provision of school meals in several establishments for around a thousand children with the support of The Comgest Foundation. The Comgest Foundation's help also supports the Zarasoa centre, which provides a space for village women to improve their social conditions.

Finally, we are delighted with the great success of the sale of works of art organised in France in aid of FA.ZA.SO.MA, whose financial contribution, spread over two years, represents a quarter of the association's budget.



Habitat & Humanisme

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

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2022**

Multi-year project: **3 years**



Comment from the Ambassador



Houda Kilito

After the first phase of the project, characterised by the internal structuring of the Habitat et Humanisme (H&H) Movement around the theme of health and addiction, the project continued with the implementation of several actions coordinated by a multidisciplinary steering committee:

- 7 'Health and Well-Being' steering committees
- 116 support workshops for H&H associations
- 9 training courses for 108 participants (97% satisfaction rate for addiction training)

- 43 prevention and harm reduction workshops in H&H associations
- a network of 12 health project facilitators, representing 12 H&H associations, has been set up to promote communication with the associations about the tools, training and support available.

The deployment of these actions will strengthen the fight against addiction among H&H tenants and residents over the long term.

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.

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

Project Partner **Howrah South Point**

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 role was taken over by a young French woman who left her job as a consultant for a year. Today, it's the fourth generation of contact with a young man who has taken over and become our main and permanent contact on the ground.

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

far away to be treated, in 2025 the team would also like to maintain its medical aid programme with the presence of two physiotherapists as well as practitioners and trainers in simple techniques for the local teams. Among the projects, the team would like to find the former residents in order to bear witness for HSP to their success and perfect integration into the Indian society.

The needs are varied and, of course, great, and the permanent local presence of French-speaking volunteers provides invaluable contacts for carrying out our projects.





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

Funding **Comgest Deutschland GmbH**

Project selected in **September 2023**

Multi-year project **3 years**



know one, teach one



Comment from the Ambassador



Richard Mercado

I first visited KOTO 20 years ago and have seen their programmes 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 been life-changing.

By November, the class had completed their first 12 months of training and had left for an external 6-month internship which was completed in May at Melia Vinpearl Phu Quoc, a renowned 5-star resort.

We have received high satisfaction rates from the internship across a number of different measures for the Herturn class. Feedback on key things learned

included both theoretical and vocational knowledge, but also extended to self-confidence and empowerment. One participant wrote as “someone who didn’t know how to love themselves has now learned to respect and love themselves more.”

Trainee skills have been assessed across Professional Performance, Professional Knowledge, Professional Behavior & Attitude and received high scores.

We thank The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Deutschland for their continued support!

Le Rire Médecin

The healing laughter



Nantes, France

Project sponsors **Le Rire Médecin**

www.leriremedecin.org

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2023**

Multi-year project **3 years**



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 11 months: 672
- Number of children and mothers visited: 420
- Other qualitative indicators (interviews, assessments and observations)



Comment from the Ambassador



Sarah Rochd

Being an Ambassador for Le Rire Médecin is truly inspiring. Their work, bringing laughter and smiles to hospitalised children, is deeply human and essential.

The energy and passion of the team move me deeply. The clown-therapists do more than entertain; they bring comfort and hope, using humor as a true therapeutic tool.

Their commitment is contagious, and it's a privilege to be a small part of a mission that creates joyful moments where they are most needed.

Thank you again to the Comgest Foundation for supporting this wonderful association!



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

Results of the last phase:

- The old and uneven pavement between the different premises in the Versailles' boys house has been replaced by a much more secure and steady one. From a sustainable perspective, the old pavement was not sent to landfill but instead donated to a Comgest staff member, who will give it a second life. This renovation was completed in Q4 2024, ahead of the winter.
- An old shutter in the boys' house in Versailles has been replaced with a more secure and eco-friendly solar model. This improvement prevents the resident of this bedroom from having to potentially and dangerously bend out of the window to close his shutters. The solar system is expected to contribute to reduced electricity consumption.

Versailles, France

Project sponsors **Maisons Saint Joseph**

www.lesmaisonsaintjoseph.fr

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Duration **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Philippe Lebeau

Two Comgest staff members and the Ambassador were delighted to be treated to a dinner prepared by the residents and one house lady on September 2024.

This provided an opportunity to gain firsthand experience of the atmosphere at the boys' house and to inspect the quality of the bathroom renovation (which was a major part of the 2023 donation) as well as to understand the rationale for the 2024 works (the renovation of the pavement and the replacement of a shutter).



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

During my visit to Moanoghar school in December 2024 for its 50th anniversary, I had the opportunity to assess the educational and socio-economic challenges in the region and to highlight potential partnerships for improvement.

The 50th anniversary of Moanoghar highlighted the resilience and success of the institution amidst challenges like civil war and discrimination. The event celebrated the contributions of dedicated individuals and organisations that have supported the school over the years.

Bangladesh is undergoing significant political change, with a caretaker government aiming for reforms amidst challenges from extremist elements. The country faces economic issues, including high inflation and a young population struggling with employment.

The education system in Bangladesh is facing instability due to frequent curriculum changes and governance issues, impacting schools like Moanoghar. The lack of a common language among students and fear of science subjects further complicate learning (Moanoghar's student body speaks 13 different dialects, which complicates language acquisition).

Despite challenges, Moanoghar has seen positive developments in its education project, with increased enthusiasm among teachers and students. Notable achievements include national recognition in debating and science competitions.

To further improve educational outcomes, the introduction of motivation systems for teachers and students has been proposed, along with an extension of project support.





Passerelles Numériques

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

The graduate's average monthly wage is 305 USD (average family income before joining PNC is 50 USD). 50% of our students are female. 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: 50% of the students are female.
- Increase of average salary (post-graduation): The graduate's average monthly wage is 305 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

Project Partner **Passerelles Numériques Cambodge**

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Duration **2 years**



Comment from the Ambassador



Clément Prêcheur

In Cambodia, financial challenges remain a significant barrier preventing high school graduates from pursuing higher education. With 60% of the working poor population living on less than \$3 USD per day, many young Cambodians are compelled to abandon their studies and seek employment in neighbouring countries under challenging conditions, often to support their families back home.

Cambodia's demographic landscape is particularly distinctive, with 77% of the population residing in rural areas and nearly half (49%) under the age of 25. Secondary education typically involves tuition fees, placing it out of reach for disadvantaged youth, particularly those in rural communities.

Passerelles Numériques (PN) addresses these challenges directly by helping to break the cycle of poverty for underserved youth. PN provides targeted digital training, equipping young people with crucial technical and essential soft employability skills needed for careers in the IT industry. Operating in Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam and—since 2021—Madagascar, PN specifically supports young individuals who lack access to education. The Comgest Foundation has played a crucial role in this initiative by providing financial support to help cover education costs for several 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 into 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.
- Due to the donation of 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

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

Funding **Comgest Deutschland GmbH**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Duration **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Maximilian Neupert

The background of the project is the tremendous underfinancing of mobile intensive and palliative care for children. During being stationary in the university hospital, the health insurance pays €1,100 per day, and affected children often have to stay for many weeks there. For the same children with the same severe illness and taken care by the same university hospital specialists plus the time of driving to and from the children's home the health insurance only pays € 66,-(!)/day. Such children and their families do not have any lobby, so the parents of Valentina decided to help closing this funding 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

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 TCF in 2017, 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 of 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 program.

In addition to activities for children, SIPAR has also set up workshops for adults with the participation of CWPD (Cambodian Women for Peace and Development). During our visit in January 2025, we were able to attend one of these, where the topics covered were hygiene and nutrition.

However, the mobile library fleet is ageing. SIPAR is considering modernising the vehicles to meet the needs of the population concerned: more books, games and reading corners.





Terre & Humanisme

Description

Terre & Humanisme was created in 1994 and contributes to the dissemination of the scientific knowledge of agroecology techniques in France as well as abroad.

The purpose of this project is to contribute to the food sovereignty of countries in the Mediterranean basin by promoting sustainable peasant and family farming, which preserves the environment, values the farming profession, contributes to climate-change resilience and responds to the consumption needs of the local population. This is a new phase in a project already supported by the Comgest Foundation for the period 2020-2022.

The two specific objectives of this new phase are:

- Strengthen and consolidate the technical and teaching skills of agroecology facilitators in the Mediterranean network
- Facilitate the structuring of a Mediterranean exchange network and the transmission of knowledge between peers

The direct beneficiaries will be 14 rural trainers, 14 farmers, 7 local partner structures and their members. The indirect beneficiaries are other farmers in the local communities, students, associations, and consumers, as well as various national promoters of agroecology (associations, universities, institutions).

Impact / Main indicators

- Appropriation of agroecology techniques by local farmers
- Sharing agroecology experience among farmers and raising awareness of civil society
- Improvement of the trainers' skills

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt & Palestine

Project sponsors **Terre & Humanisme**

www.terre-humanisme.org

Local partner **Passerelles Numériques Cambodia**

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Multi-year project **3 years**



Comment from the Ambassador



Marie Gauthier

Supporting this project is key for me given I believe agroecology is essential to address some of the most pressing challenges we face today: environmental degradation, food insecurity and climate change. This project represents a powerful model for change across the Mediterranean basin. It's a pleasure to be contributing to the promotion of sustainable agriculture, the empowerment of local communities and the preservation of traditional knowledge. Through the support The Comgest Foundation already provided to Terre & Humanisme, I have already witnessed how knowledge exchange can be an accelerator of change, and I'm looking forward to seeing this project grow.



Third Age Caregivers

Description

The purpose of the project is to train 80 self-employed caregivers to support elderly people in their daily activities across 3 different Lebanese regions. The direct beneficiaries of this project will be not only the 80 women who will receive the one-month training course, enabling them to develop income generating activities but also the hundreds of elderly people who will be indirect beneficiaries. Training sessions included medical and first aid training, communication with elderly, emotional behaviour, physical care, special food techniques.

Moubadarat Wa Kararat Association organized and implemented these training sessions. Created in 2016, the association aims to improve development, advocacy, and leadership in Lebanese society and especially the empowerment of women.

This project has already been selected and financed by Comgest Asset Management International Ltd in 2020 and 2022.

Impact / Main indicators

The same project was financed also by Comgest in 2021. 66 participants were trained in those sessions.

In 2023, 65 participants were trained in 3 villages in Lebanon.

Results of 2023 sessions:

- 24 ladies were able to find suitable jobs for, and they started working in hospitals, dispensaries, and local elderly shelters.
- 10 ladies bought the needed equipment, and are giving the service on demand, in their respective regions.
- 22 ladies followed the sessions because they have elderly relatives in their families, and they are now supporting them and providing the requested medical and emotional care.
- As an indirect positive result, six trainees are now members in the association.

Lebanon

Project sponsors
Association Chaîne d'Union Humanitaire

Project sponsors
Moubadarat Wa Kararat Association - Lebanon

www.mwklb.org

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Duration **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Walif El-Hitti

November 2024: Current difficulties in Lebanon make it difficult to proceed with the launch of the project at this time. We hope that the situation will improve soon, enabling the association to move ahead with implementation. Until then, the association stands ready to act when conditions allow, maintaining its commitment to making a meaningful impact.



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

Main objectives:

- 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

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 pleased to share the progress and key achievements from our program over the past year.

Skills training

4 skills training courses were presented by the following accredited training providers : NQtac Hospitality, Michelangelo Hair Academy and Agriskills. These courses include : 'Housekeeping' ; 'Basic veggie garden' ; 'Room Attendant' ; 'Scalp- and Leg Massages and Pedicures'. A total of 74 attendances were recorded.

Work exposure

114 Attendances were recorded of learners who attended work exposure at 9 different work sites representing 6 different industries including

retail, hospitality, fast food industry, agriculture, hair and beauty as well as manufacturing.

Employment

6 Ukuwela candidates accessed employment in the open labour market with Ukuwela supporting both the candidate as well as the employer. Twelve new nominations of learners were received for possible employment during 2025. These twelve learners were assessed and will be placed during the new cycle starting in 2025.

Collaborations

Local collaborations include working with the Garden Route District Municipality on the Garden Route Skills Mecca project.



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:** 24 French youth participated in a 30 day solidarity trip to Aga Ndimack, Senegal (11), and to Guhir, India (13); completed a solidarity project; organized 5 educational forums in Aga Ndimack, Dakar, Soussane (Senegal), and in Guhir and Mumbai (India), with over 350 locals attending.
- **Press Start:** social entrepreneurship program for 8 French/ 6 Tunisians/6 Moroccan youth with one-week in Tunis (Tunisia) and one week in Rabat (Morocco).
- **YAMA:** A 2-week intercultural partnership at a French ecovillage for 24 youth including refugees and asylum seekers from France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Venezuela, Mali, Turquie, Yemen 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

www.instagram.com/yesakademia_yaka/

www.instagram.com/presstart_yaka/

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

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.



La Monnaie Sauvage

Description

Sauvage Méditerranée is a unique association in France, created in 2019 and specialising in the recycling of waste collected on the beaches of the Mediterranean coastline, such as plastics, polished glass, fishing nets, boat sails etc. It collaborates with a network of some 30 partner associations specialised in beach clean-ups between Nice and Montpellier. Profits from the sale of Sauvage products (jewelry, trophies and paintings) are then donated to these associations.

To take its approach a step further, Sauvage has chosen to encourage not only its partner associations but also the general public to carry out spontaneous waste collection during their walks in nature and along the Mediterranean coast. Since 2020, the association has been offering the general public in the Marseille region the opportunity to pay for all or part of creations made from waste collected directly from nature.

Given the success of the operation, and noting that some people would be interested in obtaining benefits on other types of products (food, zero waste or handicrafts, for example), the idea emerged of creating La Monnaie Sauvage (The Wild Currency). Since September 2023, this waste can be exchanged at partner associations for Monnaie Sauvage (recycled plastic coins), which can then be used in local shops in Marseille that support sustainable practices (including zero-waste, local and artisanal businesses). The ultimate aim is for this currency to be used in towns where Sauvage Méditerranée's partner associations are based, that is, along the entire Mediterranean coast.

The Comgest Foundation supports Sauvage Méditerranée to expand the initiative in the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA) region.

Impact / Main indicators

- 1 600 Monnaie Sauvage coins distributed in exchange for waste collected by the general public
- 33 partner shops from Marseille to Toulon

Mediterranean coast, France

Project sponsors **Sauvage Méditerranée**

www.sauvage-med.fr

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Multi-year project **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Matthieu Poulet

I am pleased to introduce you to the Sauvage Méditerranée Association. Of course, this region is far from Normandy, where I'm from, but it sadly faces similar environmental concerns, particularly the increase in waste found in the sea and on beaches.

Sauvage Méditerranée is a passionately managed project, successfully led by Emmanuel Laurin, among others. I find it remarkable how they manage to simultaneously raise public awareness about ecology and personal responsibility whilst also encouraging concrete action in waste collection.

This is done through a virtuous cycle created by an alternative currency that promotes thoughtful consumption - a true feat.

The Comgest Foundation's participation in this project will help finance the equipment and personnel needed to strengthen the initiative in the Mediterranean region and, looking ahead, expand it to other French or international coastlines... perhaps even Normandy!



La Maison de Thierry

Description

The Déchaîne ton Coeur association was created in 2006 by a French family following the death in 2004, at the age of 27, of their son Thierry, an international volunteer (V.I.E.) who supported the schooling of Antananarivo street children.

Thierry's family and friends decided to mobilise and continue his commitment. La Maison de Thierry, a sports and educational support centre, was created in 2011 and became a school in 2017, from kindergarten to secondary school. It now welcomes 327 students and employs 23 staff members, 17 of whom are teachers. Success and well-being are the school's top priorities.

The aim of this project is to transform La Maison de Thierry, which is already proving its worth, into a pilot school of excellence. The main objective is to consolidate the traditional "all-oral" teaching system, which is showing its limitations, by strengthening the teaching culture and increasing the range of equipment, particularly audiovisual equipment, which remains very limited. Another aim is to help children with additional learning needs to find suitable courses.

The Comgest Foundation supports the transformation of La Maison de Thierry based in Manandriana, near Antananarivo.

Impact / Main indicators

An impact assessment is not yet possible. Main indicators:

- Number of children attending the school courses
- Success rate at the Certificate of Primary Studies and at the Certificate of General Education (Brevet)

Manandriana, Madagascar

Project sponsors **Déchaîne ton cœur**

www.facebook.com/DechaineTonCoeur/?locale=fr-FR

Project sponsors

Tolory Ny Fo association, Madagascar

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**

Multi-year project **2 years**



Comment from the Ambassador



Marie Gauthier

Supporting the transformation of La Maison de Thierry is a powerful way to contribute to the future of children in need, and I'm proud to be part of this journey. La Maison de Thierry is more than a school—it's a beacon of hope for over 300 children who might otherwise not have access to quality education.

By supporting this project through the Comgest Foundation, I aim to help improve the well-being and future success of these students, giving them the tools they need to break the cycle of poverty. Working alongside the dedicated volunteers of Déchaîne ton Coeur is a great pleasure. It is both humbling and

inspiring to see how much can be achieved with limited resources. This school has already made a difference, and I'm excited to see it grow even further.



Hospices of Hope

Description

“Everyone deserves to live and die with dignity and without pain”

Hospices of Hope is a British charity dedicated to supporting the development of palliative and end of life care in South and Eastern Europe. Their vision is for all patients suffering from terminal or life-limiting illnesses to have access to specialist hospice care services, free of charge.

The Hospices of Hope Network includes Hospice Casa Sperantei and Hospice Emanuel in Romania, BELhospice in Serbia, Hospices of Hope Moldova, Ryder Albania in Albania, Merimna and Nosilia in Greece and charity fund St. Panteleimon for the Regional Palliative Care Centre Ivano-Frankivsk in Ukraine.

The Comgest Foundation has decided to support two palliative care centers for adults and children in Romania and Moldova respectively.

- Romania: construction of a palliative care center for children. It will offer 8 children's beds and 2 neonatal beds, as well as various support services for parents and siblings, and training services for healthcare professionals. It will complete the Centre for children and families affected by life-limiting conditions, in Adunatii Copaceni, near Bucharest, which started operating in 2019 and became fully functional in 2021.
- Moldova: capacity-building for a new homecare team in the capital Chisinau (to provide pain relief, medical and psychological care as well as social assistance at home).

Impact / Main indicators

An impact assessment is not yet possible. Main indicators:

- Improvement of the quality of life of terminally ill patients
- Progression of the construction of the Hospice Casa Sperantei in Romania
- Number of terminally ill patients visited by the palliative care team in Moldova



Moldavia - Romania

Project sponsors **Hospices of Hope**

www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/locations/romania/

www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/locations/moldova/

Funding **The Comgest Foundation**

Project selected in **September 2024**



Comment from the Ambassador



Lavinia Borcia

Romania, my home country, can be a challenging place to obtain appropriate medical assistance. Poverty and corruption are still prevalent, and you'd better not get sick if you don't know any doctor personally. Curable illnesses are already difficult to address; most of the time, there is nothing left for terminal diseases: no time, no money, no dignity.

I was particularly touched by the actions of Hospices of Hope in Romania, leading the way for palliative care. Thinking about my loved ones at home, who could be facing one day fatal illnesses, and whom I would like to see accompanied on their “final road” to eternity, I proposed the funding of 2

projects to The Comgest Foundation:

- The construction of a new wing of the Copaceni palliative care centre next to Bucharest, Romania
- The recruitment and training of a new homecare team in Chisinau, Moldova

I thank The Comgest Foundation for their help in supporting access to care and dignity for all in my beloved home country, Romania.



El Baraka Angels

Description

The El Baraka Angels association aims to improve living conditions for the inhabitants of Morocco's remote mountain areas.

On September 8, 2023, a devastating magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Morocco, causing over 2,600 deaths, 5,600 injuries and considerable damage, mainly in the Marrakech-Safi region. Already isolated and difficult to access, the region's villages were almost totally destroyed, leaving entire families homeless.

Many of the villages affected are located at high altitude, sometimes more than 1,500 metres above sea level. In these regions, winter temperatures are freezing and villages often have to cope with snow during this season.

El Baraka Angels has been heavily involved in aid and reconstruction operations and has launched a program to renovate classrooms in village schools in these mountainous areas, so that classes can resume as soon as possible.

Comgest Belgium contributed to the renovation of 3 schools

Impact / Main indicators

- Number of renovated classrooms: 7 in 3 schools
- Number of children in these classrooms in September 2024: 16

Morocco

Project sponsors **Baraka Angels**

www.elbarakaangels.org

Local partner **Passerelles Numériques Cambodia**

Funding **Comgest Belgium**

Project selected in **March 2024**

Multi-year project **1 year**



Comment from the Ambassador



Abla Bellakhdar

It is with great gratitude that I have been able to contribute, thanks to the extraordinary support of The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Belgium, to improving the learning conditions for 166 pupils in Morocco through the renovation project led by the El Baraka Angels association. On a more personal note, as a Moroccan, supporting my country on a larger scale, through The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Belgium, following the devastating earthquake, was deeply meaningful.

Thanks to this project led by El Baraka Angels association, The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Belgium supported the rehabilitation of 7 classrooms

in three schools located in the affected areas. More than a simple rehabilitation, this project embodies The Comgest Foundation's deep commitment to education and equal opportunities. It is particularly moving to see these spaces transformed into safe, comfortable and welcoming learning environments, where children can pursue their education with dignity. The collaboration with El Baraka Angels, a local association recognised for its expertise in school renovation since 2013, has enabled The Comgest Foundation and Comgest Belgium to have a direct and lasting impact on these communities in the process of reconstruction.



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

Statement of Financial Position (EUR)

Assets	2023/2024	2022/2023
Financial assets	1 868 454	1 954 580
Cash and cash equivalents	3 088 942	3 316 097
Total Assets	4 957 396	5 270 677
Liabilities		
Permanently restricted endowment funds	4 782 600	4 632 600
Excess of revenues over expenses	-453 908	212 194
Retained excess of revenues over expenses	576 572	364 378
Non restricted endowment funds	15 000	15 000
Total Endowment funds	4 920 264	5 224 172
Suppliers and taxes	37132	46 505
Total Liabilities	4 957 396	5 270 677

Statement of Activity (EUR)

Operating Revenues	2023/2024	2022/2023
Donations received		
Comgest S.A.	155 520	220 500
Private donors	60 398	120 293
Total Revenues	215 918	340 793
Operating Expenses		
Donations granted to selected programs	445 500	345 000
Operating expenses	15 282	3 428
Taxes	343	882
Total Expenses	461 125	349 310
Operating Result	-245 207	-8 517
Financial Revenues	254 273	292 787
Financial Charges	429 213	
Taxes	33 761	72 076
Result	-453 908	212 194

DONATIONS GRANTED BY COMGEST ENTITIES INCLUDING DONATIONS TO THE PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUNDS
(2016 to 2024 in EUR)

Comgest S.A.	4 866 625
Comgest Asset Management International Ltd	128 644
Comgest Deutschland GmbH	261 401
Comgest Singapore Pte. Ltd.	16 000
Comgest Benelux	13 588
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	2 801 236
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