COVER STORY

WORKIE SEWUNET
32 YEARS OLD

Workie Sewunet lives in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. She is married and has 3 children (aged 2 to 10).
Workie is one of the beneficiaries of a programme set up by our partner Facilitator for Change (FC) to help women living in very precarious situations by organising self-help groups to improve their living conditions and those of their families. Workie was then able to benefit from training in matters such as savings, agroecology and diversification of income.
The programme has had many positive effects on Workie’s family, which is now almost self-sufficient. She has diversified her crops and started raising livestock and poultry. This allows her to feed herself better and generate an income.
However, due to limited land ownership, the family is still not able to guarantee its food security at a sufficient level in the long term.
Contrary to our fears, 2020, which was marked throughout by the coronavirus crisis, was not as bad as we thought. Although the pandemic will undoubtedly have left deep traumas and scars, both physical and psychological, as well as economic and social, we have nevertheless been able to continue our work, both in Luxembourg and in the six African countries where we were engaged in 2020. This report provides the details.

I would like to express our gratitude to our partners in the field who have developed an extraordinary resilience, not only to continue the projects they have already started, but also to experiment with other formats and tools of action, adapted to food, health and security crises. Secondly, a big thank you to the whole Schiffkunz team who have managed to cope with difficulties linked to teleworking and the complete absence of missions in the field, which are so important in terms of human contact and the production of shared knowledge. Finally, thanks to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Minister Franz Fayot and the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action) and to Mrs Carole Dieschbourg, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, as well as our donors who have remained faithful to us during these difficult times.

What will 2021 bring?

We are clearly not done with Covid-19 and its mutations. Not only has the pandemic led to health, economic and social crises, but it has also exacerbated the security, environmental and migration crises. Among the many consequences of this situation, we are deeply concerned about two: a dramatic increase in inequality and a weakening of human rights and freedoms and democratic procedures.

Development cooperation, with its long-term, in-depth work, is struggling to find its place between humanitarian, climate and social emergencies. While ‘new’ concepts seem to be gradually gaining ground (global public goods; health, epidemiological, ecological, energy, demographic and democratic transitions; inclusive finance; resilience; human rights approach; ‘global’ approach, rather than South and North, etc.), working methods are also being re-examined (co-construction and increased autonomy for partners in the South), where the ‘digital space’ will obviously play an increasing role.

Political advocacy is not only becoming more important and vital than ever but is also expanding its scope. Thus, an NGDO such as SOS Faim must both deepen its fundamentals (focussed on family farming, food security and sovereignty, inclusive finance, agro-ecology and a resilient and inclusive food system), and deepen its expertise around ‘commitments’ concerning human rights (peasants’ rights, duty of care, defence of ‘rights defenders’), justice (health, social, climate, tax), ‘commons’ of all kinds, a social and solidarity economy, as well as SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

The Covid-19 crisis, the most serious global health crisis in the last century, requires a fundamental rethinking of the concept of international solidarity. As the French economist Thomas Piketty points out in a recent column in ‘Le Monde’ (April 2021): beyond the right to produce vaccines and medical equipment, we need to be asking the whole question of the right of poor countries to develop and to receive part of the tax revenues of the world’s multinationals and billionaires. “We need to move away from the neo-colonial concept of international aid, (distributed according to the) goodwill of rich countries, under their control, and finally move to a logic of rights.”

We are strongly convinced that reducing inequality and poverty must be at the heart of post-Covid reconstruction, which cannot be achieved by following an ideology of absolute free trade. On the one hand, a new fiscal pact, based on tax justice, must guarantee the financing of public health, social protection, employment and decent work. On the other hand, governments must turn their backs on austerity once and for all and instead invest in the ecological and social transition, to turn this crisis into an opportunity to rebuild the global economy on a fairer and more sustainable basis.

Furthermore, multilateral cooperation must be revamped to respond effectively to global challenges, such as pandemics, climate, financial instability or tax evasion, the digital transformation of work, regional and international mobility. In short, we need a ‘Global New Deal’, as called for by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

It is up to us, together with our African friends, to ‘co-construct’ more balanced solidarity relations, encouraging sharing despite distance and delegating new missions to local stakeholders. We need to advantage of what we have learnt during the coronavirus crisis to re-found our policies and develop their coherence around concepts whose importance we have seen during the crisis: recognition and solidarity, diversity and participation, the digital present and future, sustainable development and artificial intelligence, responsibility and empowerment, and, above all, approaches and processes based on human rights and robust protocols of participatory democracy, so that we can free our imaginations and (re)invent together solidarity, social justice and another way of ‘communal living’!

Let me end this brief introduction with a quote from a beautiful text by Felwine Sarr (Traces. Discours aux Nations Africaines), addressed above all to the youth of the African continent.

RAYMOND WEBER
President of SOS Faim Luxembourg

Pushing humanity even further.
Not just rebuild but expand.
Expand the horizon of light.
Deepen the source of life.
Failing to soothe its tumult.
Refining the quality of vibrations.

Felwine Sarr
Since March 2020, Covid-19 has changed our lives in every way. So what impact has it had on an association like SOS Faim? It was significant, but perhaps not as bad as we expected.

From the start of the pandemic, we invited our partners in Africa to inform us of the consequences in the field. Certainly, some activities were postponed or cancelled. Farmers had difficulty getting to the fields and selling their produce. Microfinance institutions had to shut up shop and stop visiting their clients. They sometimes withdrew their meagre savings en masse and had difficulty repaying their loans.

For our part, we were very quick to tell all our partners that our contractual financial commitments would be met and that we would be very flexible in carrying over unspent amounts and reallocating budgets, which was greatly appreciated.

Despite this exceedingly difficult situation, let’s be honest: we have not received any catastrophic messages or information related to Covid-19 from our partners. Available data and analysis suggest that so far, Africa has been spared the worst ravages of the pandemic (apart from South Africa and Morocco, for example). Above all, there is no doubt that the other crises - political, economic, security - are much more dramatic than the current health crisis: the latter only serves to fuel the former.

For SOS Faim, from a financial viewpoint, the pandemic has not had a negative impact: the MAEE has guaranteed the payment of its subsidies to NGOs, for which we can be very grateful. As for donations from individuals, they have not diminished, so many thanks to them as well.

But the impact lies elsewhere and just as worrying: SOS Faim is an association where human relations come first: with partners, with other NGOs, between members or between colleagues. The complete shut down of field missions, awareness-raising activities or face-to-face meetings has a much greater impact: it weakens our knowledge of the field and our support, it disrupts the emergence of new synergies, it prevents collective emulation, and it annihilates opportunities for sharing and enjoyment between members of the Board and the team. It saps our morale and demotivates us. Digital communication mitigates this, but only to a limited extent.

The disappearance of almost all social relations is what affects us most at SOS Faim. But we hang on, like everyone else. However, we will find it extremely difficult to carry out real cooperation work if the pandemic drags on. But we still have hope!

The vaccination campaign is underway. To accelerate it on a global scale, shouldn’t the WTO’s intellectual property rules that impede access to vaccines for the poorest countries be waived? In the meantime, we will do our best to meet our solidarity commitments.
**KEY FIGURES 2020**

**ACTIVE IN 6 AFRICAN COUNTRIES**
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo

**ARTICLES IN THE LUXEMBOURG PRESS**
15

**QUESTIONING OF DECISION-MAKERS**

**2,000 CALENDARS DISTRIBUTED**
“LET’S CHANGE THE MENU!”

**45 FARMER ORGANISATIONS TRAINED**

**27 TRAINING SESSIONS**

**134 LEARNERS TRAINED**
Of which 34 were women

**€731,289.74 OF DONATIONS**

**10,212 DONATIONS**

**4,130 DONORS ACTIVE**

**952 NEW DONORS**

**€71.61 AVERAGE DONATION**

**ASBL, MUNICIPALITIES, FOUNDATIONS, HIGH SCHOOLS AND COMPANIES**
20%

**PRIVATE DONORS**
80%

**DONATIONS VIA**

**SOSFAIM.LU**
47,644 VISITS

**145% MORE THAN IN 2019**

**18% OF FANS MORE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

3,215 FACEBOOK SUBSCRIBERS

**+ 62%**

**15 QUESTIONING OF DECISION-MAKERS**

**4,130 DONORS ACTIVE**
In 2020, SOS Faim was present in 6 African countries through the support of 20 partners for which a brief presentation is given in the following pages.

A total amount of EUR 1,589,524 was transferred to SOS Faim’s partner organisations via the Framework Cooperation Agreement (MAEE) and MECDD projects in the year 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had various impacts for our partners but also in our working relationships. Indeed, SOS Faim is used to working as close as possible to its partners by going on site, on mission. This year, discussions continued remotely. From the point of view of the activities of SOS Faim’s partners, 2020 went well overall, although the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and political instability, resulting in violent uprisings, were a reality in all the countries of intervention. It should also be noted that our partners, who are “used” to dealing with material/economic and social adversity as well as managing the unexpected, failed to alert us to the effects of the pandemic with the required seriousness and urgency. And yet:

- More than 100 million Africans faced a crisis, emergency or catastrophic levels of food insecurity in 2020. This represents an increase of over 60% compared to the previous year. Food insecurity levels are expected to worsen further in 2021. ¹
- Levels of violence in Africa (Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Northern Mozambique) continue to rise. Among other factors, this can be seen in their willingness to fight state security forces, as well as in the increased sophistication of these groups when it comes to exploiting revenue streams in what often amounts to organised criminal activity. ²

Year after year, the context in which SOS Faim and its partners operate in Africa is deteriorating: the situation is still tragic in the Sahel with more and more civilian victims of violence, including between farmers and herders; coastal countries in West Africa fear an extension of violent uprisings in their own countries; the situation is still critical in the Great Lakes region. In Ethiopia, a new outbreak of high-intensity violence with massive violations of human rights broke out in late 2020 in Tigray, in addition to serious inter-ethnic tensions in several regions.

This exceedingly difficult context will inevitably affect the collective economic and social action efforts of SOS Faim’s partners. The results obtained, with varying levels of success, are all the more remarkable. One example is the significant capacity of microfinance institutions to adapt to the restrictive measures put in place in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed them to maintain a satisfactory overall viability. Moreover, the context did not prevent producer organisations (POs) from continuing to develop their agricultural finance skills. It is also worth noting the greater consideration of the issue of the environmental sustainability of agricultural practices within POs.

¹ https://africacenter.org/fr/spotlight/aggravation-de-la-crise-alimentaire-sur-le-continent-africain/
² https://africacenter.org/fr/spotlight/la-flambee-de-violence-islamiste-en-africE-souligne-un-changement-du-paysage-securi-
taire/
ANOPER  National Association of Professional Organisations of Ruminant Breeders in Benin

The health crisis and the restrictions on movement related thereto have increased the vulnerability of livestock keepers, who have not been able to sell their animals as usual in livestock markets. In addition, limitations on transhumance from neighbouring countries, as well as between Benin’s departments, has disrupted the commercial habits and opportunities of ANOPER members. As a result, the association has done a lot of advocacy work on this issue. Of course, the provision of economic and social services to livestock farmers is always at the heart of ANOPER’s work (milk production and processing, construction of pastoral infrastructure, literacy, etc.).

RENACA  Réseau National des Caisses Villageoises d’épargne et de Crédit Autogérées

Despite the economic restrictions and difficulties, RENACA has posted a good financial performance as of 31/12/2020. The membership reached 182,657 members, an increase of 9.54%; deposits increased by 17.66%; outstanding loans by almost 16% with a portfolio at risk rate at 30 days of 6.80%. As a result, the network continues to improve its performance and operations, both in terms of human resources and infrastructure. Regarding agricultural financing, RENACA has had fruitful exchanges with several POs, leading to the signing of partnership agreements. Within this framework, credits were granted to 3,332 farmers in 2020. RENACA has also continued to train its teams on agriculture and on the policy and procedures manual specific to agricultural financing.

REPB  Réseau des Producteurs d’Ananas du Bénin

In 2020, RéPAB continued to support pineapple producers to supply its main client, the local processing plant Jus Tillou. Other buyers have been identified, which would diversify opportunities and risks. In addition to providing advice and technical monitoring of producers, obtaining organic and fair-trade certification, supplying inputs and group marketing, RéPAB is seeking to facilitate consultation between producers to encourage the development of common positions within the agricultural profession. 2020 was also marked by the strengthening of the organisation on aspects of financial management, with training for teams and elected representatives, with the aim of better governance. This is an important project which must continue in 2021 to secure the growth of the network’s activities.

SYNPA  Farmers’ Synergy

Synergie Paysanne continued its advocacy activities to best represent agricultural producers and defend their interests. Its main focus is land tenure, GMOs and agroecology. A draft law on farmers’ seeds was drawn up in collaboration with another Beninese NGO and presented to MPs. At the end of the year, a major study on the repositioning of SYNPA in the Beninese trade union and agricultural landscape was undertaken and will be further developed in 2021. SYNPA has also adapted to the health context and is committed to raising awareness among a number of farmers about barrier measures, with the distribution of masks and hand-washing kits.
In the particular context of 2020, the UBTEC mutual savings and credit network, a historical partner of SOS Faim, has taken advantage of its local footing by strengthening its products and services to its members. The number of active borrowers at the end of 2020 was 39,686, up by more than 10% on the previous year, and the outstanding loan portfolio increased by 14% compared to 31.12.2019 (from EUR 4,259,425.54 to EUR 4,869,221.61). The savings collected also increased (from 5,204,718.90 EUR to 7,071,255.88 EUR). Women represent 55% of UBTEC’s final beneficiaries, which above all reflects UBTEC’s involvement in community finance, through the promotion of MUSO.

Two elements to remember in 2020: UBTEC’s dynamism in terms of new partnerships with farmers’ organisations and the promotion of community groups for the management of warrantage (a credit system whose guarantee relates to stocks managed by farmers’ organisations).

The SOS Faim / CEC-WB partnership began in 2020. The two organisations had already successfully collaborated through the AGRI+ programme. CEC-BM is a regional mutual microfinance institution with a strong vision of local development, at the service of its members. The Boucle du Mouhoun, located northwest of the capital Ouagadougou, is an agricultural region, nicknamed the granary of Burkina Faso, mainly in reference to cereal crops.

Today, the fund has 6,240 members with 1,798 loans outstanding at the end of 2020, most of which are focused on agricultural activities. The MFI is involved in the implementation of warrantage and promotes the construction of storage facilities. In 2020, CEC-BM has outstanding savings of EUR 733,132.19 and outstanding loans of just over EUR 1 million, representing an increase of more than 40% in three years on these two indicators.

In 2020, SOS Faim’s support for this new partner took the form of support for the opening of a new rural credit union in a hard-to-reach municipality (Konobougou) in the Office du Niger region of Mali. The CVECA-ON network now has 66 rural credit unions. The support included the construction of the building, training and awareness-raising workshops for new recruits, local officials and the local population. Finally, the new counter has been equipped with computer equipment, logistics and furniture.

The microfinance institution is showing great dynamism; SOS Faim will continue to support this player in its expansion strategy, the main aim of which is to reach a maximum number of agricultural producers to offer them financial services adapted to their needs.

Since the activities currently supported by SOS Faim began, FC has been able to reach a total of 3,278 farmers in the two regions in which it operates (Dimtu and Bure). The NGO has worked mainly on diversifying agricultural practices and sustainable land management to stabilise and even improve the sources of income of small farmers.

The NGO combined two different methods: biological conservation (introduction of legumes, use of natural mineral fertilisers, promotion of cover crops, crop rotation) and physical conservation (agroforestry, reforestation, physical protection). All activities have been and will be managed in a sustainable manner by local communities.
In 2020, HUNDEE continued its work to professionalise some twenty dairy cooperatives located in the “Ethiopian milk belt” on the northern outskirts of the capital, Addis Ababa. The pandemic has had an extremely negative impact on the milk market and the dairy industry. Demand has indeed fallen dramatically. Cooperatives have thus witnessed an extremely complicated year of activities, hence the importance of HUNDEE’s continued presence at their side.

The NGO provided cooperatives with small equipment and working capital. The situation in Covid-19 precluded the implementation of the other planned activities: marketing support, training, local milk promotion days. These activities have been postponed to 2021.

HARBU MFI

Despite the complicated context, the MFI can once again boast an increase in the volume of loans granted (+12.8%), the volume of savings mobilised (+25%) and the number of loyal clients (+15%).

The institution has increased the number of loans granted in rural and agricultural areas. The agricultural sector remains the most important sector in Ethiopia (75% of GDP) and is characterised by an exemplary repayment rate in microfinance of between 95% and 98%. In 2020, with the support of SOS FAIM, the MFI was able to pursue its decentralisation and expansion strategy with the establishment of 12 new RSFs (Rural Service Facilities) which are, as a reminder, small rural credit unions self-managed by the local communities. These 12 funds are in addition to the 2 pilot funds that were launched in 2019.

WASASA-MFI

Still the largest private MFI in Ethiopia, WASASA currently has 177,000 clients (168,000 clients in 2019), including 49,000 savers. Savings cover about 50% of loans.

During 2020, the institution expanded its credit offer to agricultural producers. WASASA opened six new branches and set up two new rural community funds (RCFs). The MFI also continued the ambitious project of interconnecting all its FRLs to the central management system at headquarters.

BG

Buusaa Gonofaa, a 2020 finalist for the Microfinance Prize and a long-standing partner of SOS FAIM, had approximately 130,000 clients at the end of 2020. The MFI has also strengthened its support to the agricultural sector. The institution has set up innovative collaborations with farmer cooperatives in two regions (Arsi and West Arsi) of the country in with the aim of helping strengthen stakeholders involved in the barley malt and wheat value chain (logistical support: transport and distribution of seeds to BG’s rural clients).

With the support of SOS FAIM, BG was able to restore 5 dilapidated RSF (mostly eaten away by termites). As a reminder, the MFI manages an extensive network of 36 RSF in total. It is a pioneer in this field.

BG has also embarked on the path of digitalisation - a process that is still ongoing.
**FCMN NIYÀ**

The FCMN is laying the groundwork, month after month, for its reconstruction on new foundations: a matter of creating cohesion and confidence within the organisation at all levels. Within the framework of the partnership with SOS Faim, activities to revitalise the collective action of unions now concern 15 unions in the regions of Tillabéri, Niamey, Dosso, Zinder, Diffa, and Tahoua. This outreach work is now seen as a model to be extended to all unions. Finally, SOS Faim has come to the aid of the federation’s market gardeners who were victims of the major floods in 2020.

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**FUCOPRI**

FUCOPRI continued to provide services to its members despite the difficult context in Niger due to climatic hazards and insecurity. The project funded by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development is showing good results. It concerns the controlled use of chemical inputs and the development of floodplains.

The audit carried out in 2020 confirmed certain weaknesses in the management and governance of the federation and the need to strengthen these aspects.

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**RESULTS 2020**

- 45 Farmers’ organisations formed
- 27 Training sessions
- 134 Learners trained, of which 34 are women
- Total amount of credit released to DFS: 1,303,439.10 EUR
- 6 Beneficiary Decentralised Financial Systems

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Two events marked the year 2020 for ACS:

- The series of regional seminars on the theme “Placing the fundamental rights of the rural world at the heart of the 2020-2021 electoral process” in which the ACS team went to meet citizens, elected officials and association leaders to discuss various issues as close as possible to the realities of Nigeriens. The finding of the ACS team were severe: many people are in survival mode, they expect nothing from the authorities and the level of mistrust towards all elites is very high.

- The ACS national seminar, held from 4 to 6 December, addressed issues such as farmer’s rights, climate change and the financing of social services. 2020 was notable for the hearing of a dozen candidates for the presidential and legislative elections of 27 December. This contribution by the ACS to the public and democratic debate, which is unfortunately all too rare in many countries of the sub-region, shows, if there were any need, the credibility of the association in playing its role as a useful and responsible stakeholder in civil society.

While ACS is regularly criticised (and even threatened: its executives are regularly imprisoned) by the Nigerien authorities and donors, in 2020 the association demonstrated its great capacity to promote debate on key societal issues. Useful and healthy work in defence of citizens’ rights and collective action.

Amis du Kivu monitors and supports 46 producer groups (POs or cooperatives), with the aim of strengthening their organisation and their agro-ecological practices. In 2020, Amis du Kivu managed to continue its activities by adapting to the anti-Covid-19 measures and restrictions. Particular emphasis was placed on 14 newly framed groupings. Amis du Kivu is also continuing its activities to raise awareness of environmental issues in the communities, notably by organising reforestation campaigns and encouraging agroforestry, composting, organic manure, etc. A video was produced in early 2020 to present this aspect of Amis du Kivu’s work.

Since 2018, this partner has received financial support from the Naturata shop network: thank you!

FOPAC SK monitors and supports 46 producer groups (POs or cooperatives), with the aim of strengthening their organisation and their agro-ecological practices. In 2020, FOPAC SK managed to continue its activities by adapting to the anti-Covid-19 measures and restrictions. Particular emphasis was placed on 14 newly framed groupings. FOPAC SK is also continuing its activities to raise awareness of environmental issues in the communities, notably by organising reforestation campaigns and encouraging agroforestry, composting, organic manure, etc. A video was produced in early 2020 to present this aspect of FOPAC SK’s work.

Since 2018, this partner has received financial support from the Naturata shop network: thank you!
**CRCOPR**

**CADRE RÉGIONAL DE CONCERTATION DES ORGANISATIONS DE PRODUCTEURS DE RIZ**

The CRCOPR, a young network of 15 national platforms, is continuing its development. The network continues its programme to promote the SRI (System of Intensive Rice Cultivation) method at the sub-regional level. A study on the level of adoption of this more environmentally friendly method in West Africa (in 7 countries) is currently being finalised. In 2020, this partner helped some of its members (in Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali) organise their national local rice promotion days.

Given the health context, the network was unable to carry out its advocacy missions with regional institutions or its missions to support the structuring of national rice platforms in the countries.

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**CGLTE-AO**

**CONVERGENCE GLOBALE DES LUTTES POUR LA TERRE ET L’EAU EN AFRIQUE DE L’OUEST (SOCIAL MOVEMENT)**

Throughout 2020, the Convergence has continued its work on raising awareness and promoting the roles and responsibilities of women and youth in land governance. The Convergence has worked to influence - through workshops in five different countries - the decisions of traditional leaders and policy makers to obtain better recognition of the rights of women and young people regarding access to land. The Convergence fights for more inclusive and equitable land governance. SOS Faim supports this very important part of the movement.

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**IR**

**INTER-RÉSEAUX DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL**

Inter-réseaux continued its work on rural development in Africa in 2020. In the context of the health crisis, the structural support of SOS Faim has enabled the implementation of digital tools for remote collaboration.

In addition, the support of SOS Faim has enabled Inter-réseaux to continue its work on the development of a methodological booklet on the promotion of content. The PO mapping project was also continued. In addition to Burkina Faso, it has expanded to include Benin and Niger. These two projects will be continued in 2021.

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**NEW PARTNER 2020**

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**SOS FAIM 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

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THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Social change and solidarity are key values of our association. When we talk about the social and solidarity economy (SSE), we are defending the principle of an economy that serves a world that is socially fairer and more united.

For SOS Faim, the SSE also means giving everyone the keys to make informed decisions, for example, when it comes to taking out a loan. Understanding the issues, taking a critical look at the credit offer, knowing how to analyse the risks and opportunities, these are the objectives of the AGRIC training for producers, which took place in 2020. While most public or private stakeholders in inclusive finance are striving to strengthen the supply of financing from a technical point of view, we are choosing to strengthen the capacities of women and men who are entrepreneurs in the field of a real, socially useful economy in rural areas.

SOS Faim’s SSE strategy is also reflected in an investment of more than EUR 250,000 in SID (France) and ALTERFIN (Belgium), two social investors that support, through credit, participation or even bank guarantees, decentralised financing systems or agricultural cooperatives active in the ecological transition or fair-trade sectors. Thanks to the IDEAL programme (see below), five citizen cooperatives in Luxembourg, active in responsible food consumption, are now financially supported by SOS Faim through equity investments. SOS Faim plans to continue its investments, including beyond our borders (Greater Region).

Finally, SOS Faim’s banking relations in Luxembourg are in line with this logic: the partnership with the cooperative bank Raiffeisen and the opening in BCEE of an “alternative savings” account promoted by the association Etika are the result of a search for coherence between the different aspects of SOS Faim’s interventions.

In concrete terms, this means that wealth must be shared equitably between capital and labour, that the jobs created must be decent, that the environment must be respected. With such regard to financial services, the financial inclusion that can result from such an approach is not an end in itself and is only of interest if it creates wealth that is locally and equitably redistributed.

The SSE movement is gaining ground on the African continent. Less formalised than in Europe, initiatives, some of them long-standing, are developing and consolidating. Several enterprises with a strong social vision, stemming from their origin (often development projects), can claim to be based on SSE principles. In 2020, SOS Faim intensified its support to this type of organisation, in particular decentralised financing systems (DFS) or agricultural cooperatives. For example, two of them, Buusaa Gonofaa MFI (Ethiopia) and RENACA (Benin) were finalists for the European Microfinance Award 2020 for their innovative savings product. Two new partners have also been identified in Mali and Burkina Faso, the SFD CVECA-ON SEGOU and CEC-BM.

THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION, TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER.

Agroecology is a concept that encompasses a set of positions, research, practices and techniques aimed at sustainable production without neglecting economic viability and social justice.

Agroecological practices are opposed to the intensive and resource-intensive “conventional” agriculture that is widely dominant in the world. However, this model clearly shows its limitations: More and more research shows that agroecology is the only way forward to feed the world. In the long term. Faced with the challenge of population growth, and to preserve the natural resources from which we derive our livelihoods, it is urgent and necessary to change our model and to concretely accelerate the “agroecological transition”.

SOS Faim is widely positioned in favour of agroecology and supports its partners engaged in research-action or promotion of agroecological practices: Amis du Kivu in DRC, FUCOPRI in Niger, CRCORP and CMAT in West Africa, RÉPAF in Benin, SYNPA in Benin, FC in Ethiopia, etc.

In Benin, we identified an original initiative entirely devoted to agroecology: the “SAIN school-farm”. Atypical, nestled in the hills of the Ouémé-Plateau department, this farm is a model of integration of numerous productions: rice, market gardening, cereals and tubers alongside aquaculture, poultry and rabbit breeding, and fruit trees. The farm is the perfect example of “Zero Waste”.

SOS Faim has chosen to support and accompany, from 2021 onwards, the educational activities of the SAIN school-farm, hosted by the Association Agroécologique et Action Communautaire (AAGAC). The financing and support of this new Beninese partner will enable us to combine the promotion of a sustainable agricultural model and the integration of young people into agriculture.

△ See “Agroecology and the right to food”, by Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the right to food on his mission at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and member of SOS Faim Luxembourg
Despite a difficult health context, the 5th edition of the “Alternativen Liewensmittel Maart” was held on 18 October at the CarréRotondes, within the framework of the Transition Days organised by CELL.

The commitment of the thirty or so exhibitors was rewarded by the participation of over 500 people who came to meet promoters of responsible food in Luxembourg. The Fantastic Food and Le monde des gourmets coordination workshops, which are now a must, were a great success.

At the SOS Faim stand, the public shared their questions on how to reduce their food footprint and to learn more about the positive effects of responsible consumption in favour of a better distribution of resources between the people of the North and the South.

The campaign also focuses the debate on the role of public authorities in the necessary transformation of the agro-industrial food system and adopts a new slogan: Let’s change the menu, it’s worth the cost!

THE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR WAS AN EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION ON: “THE RIGHT PRICE AND THE "TRUE COST"; WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR FOOD ?”

The exhibition is the result of a collaboration with Co-Labor and the SEED association (for the preservation of farmers’ seeds). It allows the public to question their perception of food prices and to understand that the search for the lowest prices causes serious negative externalities, whether environmental, social or health-related.

WHY DO WE PAY MORE FOR A LOCAL / FAIR TRADE / ORGANIC PRODUCT ? HOW DO PRODUCTION CONDITIONS AFFECT THE PRICE ?

The “Change the Menu!” campaign is taking a new turn. The current messages are being reinforced with new content to understand the systemic dimension of the problem.
A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO AWARENESS RAISING

"THIS HAS TO STOP! THE RIGHT TO QUALITY FOOD FOR ALL!" :

The unequal distribution of food availability between rich and developing countries is not a coincidence. This situation is experienced daily by millions of people. SOS Faim wanted to listen to the reactions of the West African street to this injustice and gave carte blanche to an action-theatre group from Burkina Faso. The ARCAN troupe thus embarked on writing and then performing filmed scenes illustrating the changing perceptions of North-South relations. Produced during the summer of 2020, this four-part series aims to convey the complexity of the issues by inviting viewers in the North to stand in the shoes of a farmer or consumer in the South. These situations take place in "natural settings": in a market, in front of a kiosk, in a hairdresser’s and in a tailor’s shop. The authenticity of the settings contributes to the "truthful language" of the exchanges between the protagonists of the different scenes, which all end with this common message: "This has to stop! The right to quality food for all!" The scripts are intended to be used for discussion with the public, particularly with school classes or during the evenings that will be scheduled in 2021.

VOLUME 1: RIGHTS FOR FARMERS
VOLUME 2: EATING LIKE A EUROPEAN
VOLUME 3: RESTORING FOOD CROPS
VOLUME 4: THE LOSERS OF GLOBALISATION

SUPPORT FOR CITIZENS’ INITIATIVES

IDEAL Initiatives for the Development of Alternatives in Luxembourg

- TERRA Agro-ecological cooperative
  www.terra-coop.lu
- Alter’OOP cooperative and citizen-grocery store
  www.altercoop.lu
- OUNI Packaging-free grocery store
  www.ouni.lu
- MESA : cooperative of la Maison de la Transition in Esch including a restaurant and a grocery shop
  www.transition-minett.lu
- Els Epicerie Bagage grocery and restaurant based on organic, local, seasonal products at reasonable prices
  www.elsepicerie.lu

75,000 INVESTMENT
AS AT 31.12.2020

- INVESTMENT (SHAREHOLDING) IN LOCAL INITIATIVES OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY.
- MAXIMUM EUR 15,000 PER INITIATIVE
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND/OR RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
- PRIORITY TO COLLECTIVE INITIATIVES (COOPERATIVES)
- PERSPECTIVES: CHANGE OF SCALE AND EXTENSION TO THE GREATER REGION

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POLICY ADVOCACY IS A LONG-TERM PROCESS

While in December 2018, before the United Nations General Assembly, Luxembourg voted in favour of the Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other Rural People (DDP), this text has not yet been implemented in terms of dedicated policies. Under the impetus of SOS FAIM, a collective was formed to promote these rights, which represent a huge success and hope for the peasant world.

Michèle Perrin-Taillat explains what motivated her to join this working group

The seminar was the trigger. The DDP, a remarkable UN human rights instrument, covers the de facto violations of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the suffering of peasants has not stopped: too often, peasants are deprived of their land, which the DDP denounces in the strongest terms. Similarly, industrial seeds will only ensure high yields at the cost of adding more and more chemical fertilisers and products that destroy biodiversity and human health, whereas seeds developed over thousands of years by farmers are well suited to agro-ecological agriculture. Why create barriers to their free exchange? Here again, the DDP stands out, insisting on the right to seeds. Finally, the DDP presents farmers as subjects of rights, not as recipients of subsidies. It defends these rights while respecting nature.

What are the successes of this working group?

The group is small but dynamic, with good coordination. It has already been able to produce a summary document of the seminar, Rights for Peasants and Rural People: Time for Action! It has also contacted national political bodies to initiate a reflection on the DDP. In addition, cooperation with the University of Luxembourg is taking shape. At the international level, several organisations cooperate to promote the implementation of the DDP.

In your opinion, what was the role of SOS FAIM?

In all the group’s endeavours, SOS FAIM has played a key role in fostering cooperation within the NGO Circle, showing how we become stronger when we work together. SOS FAIM is working in the right direction, both in its support for local initiatives in Africa and in its awareness-raising and advocacy work for the DDP.

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Michèle Perrin-Taillat and Colin D. Robertson, both volunteer members of the “Friends of the Declaration of Peasants’ Rights” working group explain the reasons for their involvement.

Our aim is to promote the implementation of the DDP. The group formed naturally around the organisers of the 15 November 2019 seminar (SOS FAIM, ASTM, Frères des Hommes, and the Cercle des ONGD). As experts in the UN Harmony with Nature programme, members of the ALNU and members of SEED, we could not but join the group.
FUNDRAISING

A GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE THE CRISIS

In 2020, we raised the sum of 731,289.74 EUR through 10,212 donations. These two amounts are a record for SOS Faim. In 2019, we raised just under EUR 700,000, but this amount included a one-off inheritance of EUR 115,000. We are of course very grateful for the generosity of our loyal donors.

In fact, we expected to see a decrease in fundraising in 2020 due to the health crisis, as did many Luxembourg associations. What were the reasons for the success in 2020, when we carried out no particular canvassing operation and received no inheritance? There are probably many reasons for this.

First, we noted an increase in donations made in memory of a deceased person, following an appeal from the family. Therefore, we would like to warmly thank the families of those who died in 2020, listed below, who invited their relatives to donate to SOS Faim: Mr François Ortolani, Mr Guy Steichen, Mr Lucien Thill, Mrs Fremme-Diderich, Mrs Elisabeth Gompelmann-Eippers, Mrs Julie Schuler-Lentz, Mrs Patricia Field, Mrs Sophie Mallot-Walting and Mrs Monique Kiether-Kinsch, Honorary President of SOS Faim.

In addition, a substantial municipal grant from the City of Differdange also contributed to the success of fundraising activities (see below).

Beyond these events, we believe that our traditional approach to fundraising from the public, mainly through printed newsletters, has not resulted in a significant drop in fundraising, unlike NGOs that are more active in organising events (sports, cultural, charitable, etc.) and/or using street fundraising, for example.

Above all, we think that SOS Faim’s approach to the subject, the agricultural, food or solidarity finance themes, the appropriateness of the tone used, the ‘closeness’ we try to maintain with donors, the dedication of the Board of Directors and the team for many years, etc., must surely appeal to a growing number of people in the country. All these parameters must surely appeal to a growing number of people in the country.

As a reminder, SOS Faim is a member of the Don en Confiance Luxembourg association and makes it a point of honour to scrupulously respect its Code of Good Conduct.

In any case, a big thank you to all of you!

80% of donors are individuals, while 20% are legal entities (companies, municipalities, foundations, etc.): an increasing percentage.

Moreover, although 98% of donors live in Luxembourg, 2% of them are cross-border commuters, an amount that is also on the rise, although no action is carried out beyond national borders.

TESTIMONY OF A DONOR

Solidarity crochet by Mrs Cruciani

Since 2019, Mrs Cruciani has been selling various handmade crochet works for the benefit of SOS Faim.

Mara Cruciani lives in Fentange and has been retired for three years. In 2018, after going on sick leave, she set up her solidarity crochet project. Every day, she crochets original plush toys and dolls and sells them for the benefit of SOS Faim and another association. One thing has led to another, thanks to social networks and word of mouth, but above all thanks to her high quality work, and Mara Cruciani is becoming well known: orders are increasing massively, to the point where she can hardly keep up with them!

This has not discouraged her; quite the contrary: a great stylist, she is starting to come up with new figures, new models and new costumes, always unique. Africa should be a massive inspiration in the future.

In total, Mara Cruciani has already donated EUR 4,463.70 to SOS Faim! Many thanks for her commitment to us.
**PARTNERSHIPS**

Among the legal entities that donate, alongside companies and foundations, Luxembourg municipalities are an important player for SOS Faim.

In 2020, 19 of them (out of 102 in the country) granted a municipal subsidy to SOS Faim for a total amount of EUR 79,739, representing almost 11% of total fundraising. We wanted to honour them by highlighting four of them:

**BECKERICH**

For many years, the municipality of Beckerich has dedicated 0.7% of its ordinary expenditure to international solidarity, by allocating various subsidies to numerous development NGOs. For 22 years, following an extremely fruitful meeting between the late Camille Gira, a young mayor at the time, and Mamadou Ouedraogo and Bernard Njongta (directors of our first two African partners, Prodia in Burkina Faso and Saida in Cameroon), both of whom are now deceased, Beckerich has been supporting SOS Faim with an annual subsidy which today amounts to 3,000 EUR. This loyalty is much more than a charitable donation: it illustrates a progressive shared vision of the world.

**DUDELANGE**

Through the Diddeléng Hëlleft association, chaired by its mayor, the City of Dudelange has for many years expressed its solidarity with the countries of the South. Throughout the year, the association organises various fundraising activities throughout the city, the amounts of which are then increased by a grant from the city. The highlight of the year for Diddeléng Hëlleft is its traditional Third World Market, which is usually held on the first weekend in July. This is a unique opportunity for the public to discover the NGOs that benefit from Diddeléng Hëlleft's subsidies, to taste dishes from all over the world and to celebrate in a festive atmosphere. For 25 years, SOS Faim has been a regular beneficiary of the generosity of Diddeléng Hëlleft.

**SCHIFFLANGE**

Schifflange is first and foremost the municipality where SOS Faim has its headquarters: our offices are located 100 metres from the municipal administration. It is logical and natural for us to develop an intense relationship with “our” municipality. This is reflected in financial support for our African partners, mainly through the Schifflange Hëlleft association chaired by the mayor. But the partnership goes further: in 2019, the Collège échevinal offered to rent and run a house it owns subject to the condition that it has a civic and solidarity dimension. We therefore submitted an original project for a third place for sustainable agriculture and responsible food. The house will be co-managed by eight young European students or volunteers who will stay in the house and be supervised by SOS Faim. The brand-new house should be ready in 2023. Quite a challenge for SOS Faim!

**DIERFANGE**

For many years, the City of Differdange has also supported projects in developing countries through its initiative “Déifferdeng, eng Stad hëlleft”. However, it is only since 2019 that the City has decided to dedicate a budget of 0.25% of its ordinary expenditure to such development projects. In 2020 this represented a significant budget of 320,000, which was granted to nine approved NGOs, including SOS Faim. A subsidy of 60,000 EUR was granted by the Collège échevinal for two of our partners: Facilitator for Change in Ethiopia and the Cadre de Concertation des Producteurs de Riz d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Never before has a municipality gifted us such an amount. Many thanks to the Cité du Fer for its immense generosity!

**FOCUS ON MUNICIPALITIES**

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As we have already said, alliances are absolutely vital for a relatively small association like SOS Faim. Not with a view to more resources, but rather to greater impact.

SOS Faim is a member of more than ten networks and other associations: our involvement and their added value vary greatly. Alongside these institutional memberships, associative groups are formed as and when opportunities arise. We have noticed that the exchanges and dynamics of these groups sharing the same values and pursuing the same objective were often far better than formal memberships. Two examples:

The floods that hit the Sahel in 2020 greatly affected agricultural producers. As mentioned above, in Niger, our partner FCMN was particularly badly affected. A pragmatic consultation was swiftly arranged between three of the strategic partners of the market gardeners’ federation: the NGO CCFD-Terre Solidaire, the social investor SIDI (both from France) and SOS Faim. The partner submitted a single application to us, and with great efficiency, the three financial partners shared the partner’s needs, to its great satisfaction.

The organisation in Luxembourg in November 2019 of the seminar on the Declaration of the Rights of Farmers and its follow-up were the occasion to set in motion a double dynamic of alliances: at the national level, it intensified relations – already strong and regular – with ASTM and Frères des Hommes, two NGOs very close to us, but also with our federation the Cercle des ONG. What was new for us, however, was the emergence of an extremely fruitful collective at a European level, with the NGOs CETIM (Switzerland), FIAN (Belgium) and CFSI (France). This dynamic is very rewarding because of the proven expertise of these NGOs and their long experience in policy advocacy. Without question, this is a very educational process for us and one that should continue in the years to come.

The association’s 2020 financial statements were thus:

- Audited by an independent auditor (GSL Audit)
- Approved by the Ordinary General Meeting held online in June 2021
- Available online in full on our website: www.sosfaim.lu
- Filed with the Luxembourg Trade and Companies Register and can be consulted on LBR.lu with the RCS number: F554
BODIES

SOS Faim currently has 45 members, all of whom are volunteers and pay no membership fees. The Board of Directors (BD) is elected by the General Meeting (GM) for a two-year renewable term. The current Board has been in place since 25 May 2019 and will remain in place until 2021 when an election is scheduled for June.

Currently, the members of the GM and the BD (in green) of SOS Faim are the following:

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Mali

Sofiatou MALET-COULIBALY, Representative of SOS Faim in Mali
Silamakan TOUNKARA, Agri+ Financial Tools Officer
Adama MALE, Agri+ Training Officer
Yacouba SANOGO, Accountant
Boubacar SOUMARE, Administrative and Financial Officer
Hawa TRAORE-SOW, Administrative and Financial Assistant
Mamadou KOUYATE, DRIVER

Niger

Idaïsou Hassane, Agri+ Training Officer
Yahaya Moussa Abdou Naser, Agri+ Training Officer

Burkina Faso

Alimata SAWADOGO, Representative of SOS Faim in Burkina Faso

Boubaacar TEGUERA, Agri+ Financial Tools Officer
Arsène KONATE, Agri+ Training Officer
Yves SOMDA, Accounting and Administrative Assistant
Amnick KABORE, Executive Secretary
Lacina BASSANE, Driver
Issaka OUTRAOGO, Driver

Ethiopia

Sorsa Debela, Technical Assistant

Luxembourg

Nedjma Bennegouch, Coordinator of the Partnerships and Agri+ Unit, Head of Partnerships Niger

Cécile Hayard, Fundraising Manager (partially on parental leave)
Marine LEFEBVRE, Information and Advocacy Coordinator
François Legac, Coordinator of the Finance Department, Head of Agri+ financial tools, Head of Burkina Faso Partnerships
Fanélie Meyer, Partnership Manager Bénin – DRC/Kivu – Senegal
Alexandre Morletette, Information Assistant
Stéphanie Raphel, Administrative and Human Resources Manager
Dalila Rehamnia, Information and Fundraising Assistant
Laurence Thill, Awareness Manager
Laetitia Vautier Corredor Perez, Head of Accounts

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