

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



emmaus

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



# EDITORIAL



2019 seems like it was a long time ago now that we are dealing with the terrible crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is a year which stands out in our memories for several reasons, as it was a time of revival for Emmaus International as an organisation. We reaffirmed the values and objectives that our founders established, with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Manifesto and the publication of the extended edition of Abbé Pierre's thoughts and speeches.

This heritage work was even more relevant as it took place on the eve of a global crisis, which has clearly demonstrated that these values and his strong stance are still very current and should act as our compass during this storm.

The Emmaus movement remains and will always be not only by the side of those who suffer most, but with them. We are united in good times and bad, through solidarity but also because Abbé Pierre reminded us on numerous occasions that "The only source of political intelligence is involvement in the distress of those who are suffering most in the community that you must govern."\*

This specific experience which enables us to say with certainty that assets and essential services, such as health, should be managed collectively and with the sole purpose of safeguarding public welfare. Agriculture should first and foremost be local and independent in its production methods and large international companies should not be free to act without being monitored or regulated. On these issues, along with many others, let us act, communicate, and denounce. Together we can make a difference!

Patrick ATOHOUN,  
Chair of Emmaus International

\*Abbé Pierre, quoted in *Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small*, Paris, Cherche-midi, 2019

# INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1971 by Abbé Pierre, Emmaus International is a solidarity movement which combats poverty and exclusion. It is made up of 410 organisations in 41 countries, spread over 4 continents. They all uphold the same values of welcoming others, solidarity, openness, respect and sharing in their very different social, economic, and political circumstances. They all share the same goal: to act against the causes of extreme poverty and drive social change by enabling the poorest to take charge of their own lives.

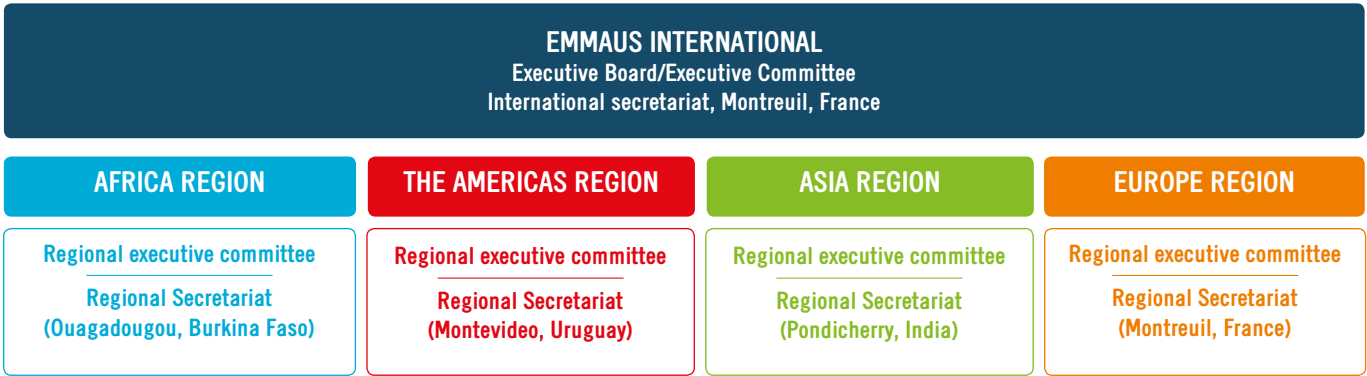
The Emmaus organisations around the world lead actions and political campaigns on three struggles to fight for access to fundamental rights through an ethical and solidarity-based economy, social and environmental justice, peace and freedom of movement and settlement of persons for universal citizenship.

As sole legatee of Abbé Pierre, Emmaus International also has the responsibility to protect and bring life to Abbé Pierre's legacy and the struggles he tirelessly led throughout his life.

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# ORGANISATION



# GOVERNANCE

Emmaus International is democratically and internationally governed, with elected members from grassroots' level from all four continents. Every four years, the member organisations meet for their World Assembly. At this key moment in the life of the movement, the Emmaus groups make decisions on the collective guidelines and elect the Chair. In each region (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe) regional assemblies elect 24 board members who, together with the Chair, make up the Emmaus International Board. The elected members in the regions steer the implementation of these guidelines with the support of teams of permanent staff.

## EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair: Patrick Atohoun (Benin)
- 1st Vice-Chair Juan Melquiades (Peru)
- 2nd Vice-Chair Moon Sharma (India)
- Treasurer: Pierre Dubois (France)
- Secretary: Koné Nantegue (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Members: Gloria Zuluaga (Colombia), Maryse Faure (France)
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE
- Nathalie Péré-Marzano

# WORLD MAP



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL MANIFESTO

On 24 May 1969, 70 Emmaus groups from around twenty countries on 4 continents responded to Abbé Pierre's appeal and they met, for the first time, at the Federal Parliament in Bern, Switzerland. This meeting resulted in the adoption of the "Universal Manifesto", the founding text and cornerstone of our international movement. This Manifesto, a milestone in our history, is still very relevant today. It resonates in our struggles at a time when alarming reports

**"Our Universal Manifesto is always alive as we are its incarnation. And it is up to us to work together to bring it to life and to carry the hope of a solidarity society!"**

Patrick Atohoun,  
Chair of Emmaus International



Federal Parliament, Bern, (Switzerland)

## Return to the Federal Parliament in Bern 50 years on

Thanks to all the efforts of the Emmaus Switzerland Federation, the host of this commemorative event, the Emmaus movement gathered in the National Council Chamber at the Swiss Federal Parliament for round table discussions interspersed by musical intervals. At the venue, 180 companions, friends, managers, and staff members from around the world came to revive the unconditional values of welcoming others, exchanging, and sharing in equal dignity, as enshrined in our Universal Manifesto. Together they reclaimed the words in this founding text, which calls on us not solely to fight against the causes of poverty through solidarity actions, but also to denounce injustices and to hold those responsible accountable!

### OUR PROGRAMME OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

- > "Emmaus International back in Bern 50 years on" with contributors to and writers of the Universal Manifesto and participants at the founding General Assembly in 1969:
  - José Aravena, Chair and Founder of Las Urracas Emmaus Chile
  - Georges Chevieux, Chair of Emmaus Geneva
  - Godefroid Bodeus, member of Emmaus Belgium
- > "The Manifesto: a source of inspiration and commitment" with
  - Birgitta Göransson, member of Emmaus Sweden
  - Claude Audi, member of Emmaus Lebanon and the Board of Association d'Entraide Professionnelle (Professional Mutual Assistance Association)
  - Emmanuel Siambo, member of Emmaus Burkina Faso, President of Emmaus Solidarité Ouaga
  - Efrain Olivera Lerena, member of Emmaus Uruguay
  - Renzo Fior, member of Emmaus Italy, retired Community Leader of Emmaus Villafranca

- > "The meaning of the Universal Manifesto today" with
  - Koudbi Koala, Chair of Emmaus Burkina Faso, Founder and Community Leader of Benebnooma
  - Juan Melquiades, Chair of Emmaus Americas, Community Leader of Emmaus Piura (Peru) and Vice-Chair of Emmaus International
  - Moon Sharma, Chair of Emmaus India, Secretary of Tara Projects Association, India and Vice-Chair of Emmaus International
  - Willi Does, Chair of Emmaus Europe, Community Leader of Emmaus Cologne
  - Hubert Trapet, Chair of Emmaus France
- > "The relevance of the Universal Manifesto for the next 50 years" with
  - Joshua Prochaska, member of Emmaus Americas, Manager of the Thrift Department at H.O.M.E
  - Joséphine Martine, member of Emmaus India, Program Manager of VCDS
  - Paul Derouech, member of Emmaus Romania, Chef Supervisor at Emmaus Satu Mare

## Communicating Abbé Pierre's values to the general public

During this busy morning of round table discussions, the Waisenhausplatz, adjacent to the Federal Parliament, was turned into an Emmaus village open to the public. Swiss communities and groups offered a solidarity meal and the locals in Bern had the chance to discover the three struggles led by the international movement throughout the world. This festive afternoon was very successful thanks to all the Swiss communities and their enthusiasm for this event. It was a unique opportunity to strengthen ties and to enable companions, from Switzerland and elsewhere, to meet. Thanks to everyone's involvement in this event, the legacy of historic figures in the movement was passed on, and above all, the identity of the Emmaus International movement was revived.



Emmaus Village on Waisenhausplatz, Bern (Switzerland)

## Street interviews

Participants talk about what touched them the most during this commemoration day and what they will take back to their groups.

*"It was a pleasure to see people from different countries and nationalities talking about the same things and seeing that we all understand each other. I will take the energy back with me to continue our work knowing that we are on the right track."*

Sabina Arnaut Jahic, FIS (Bosnia Herzegovina)

*"I will take back the energy from today to my organisation, to work with the most vulnerable people who we act with, to give them a reason to work and fight against poverty and injustice in our society."*

Mynul Haque Santo, Thanapara Swallows (Bangladesh)

*"This is a movement which, through the Universal Manifesto, provides us with guidelines, a road map, to be able to fight against the causes of poverty and reach the most excluded people."*

Yaovi Attiogbe, M.A.R.S. (Togo)

*"What struck me the most in the companions' accounts is that the Universal Manifesto is still relevant [...] What I'll take back to my group and for the Americas groups that I represent is this impression that the Manifesto is even more profound, it is full of answers, as I witnessed this morning."*

Percy Vargas, Emmaus San Augustin (Peru)



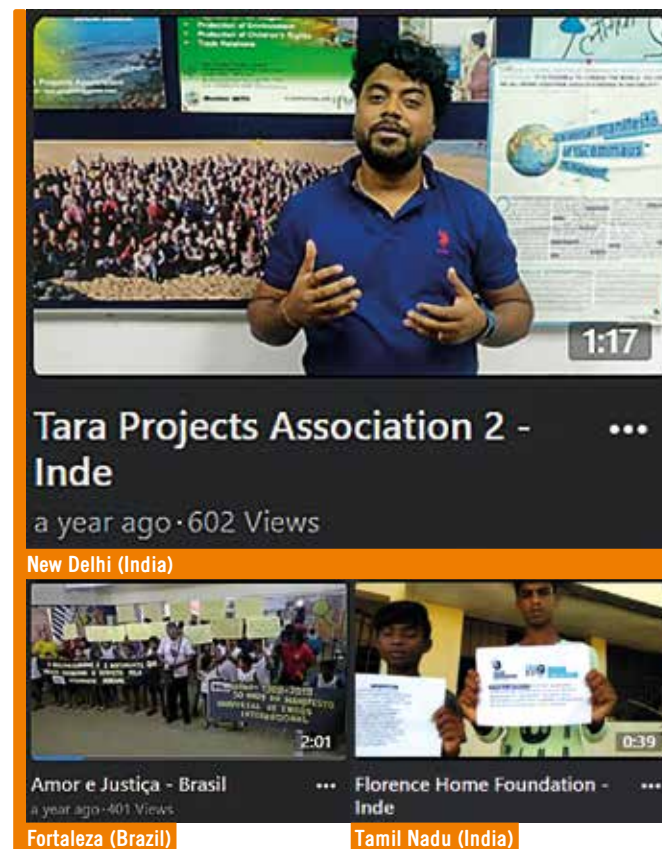
# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL MANIFESTO

## Online actions: operation “Let us protest for justice and dignity!”

To ensure all members of Emmaus International were able to take part in this historic day, sharing the event with their networks and showing the world their vision of international solidarity and the struggles being led by the Emmaus movement, they were invited to take part in our actions live via social media. In the form of short videos shared on the day of the event, they reiterated once again the values and principles which are at the heart of our work today. This event ‘without borders’ meant we were able to translate the universal nature of our commitments and bring meaning to our work throughout the world.

 [emmausinternational](#)  
> Videos > 50th anniversary of the Universal Manifesto

In addition, as the National Council Chamber of the Federal Parliament could only accommodate 180 people, a live webcast of the plenary session was organised to enable everyone, wherever they were in the world, to follow the morning’s discussions. A first for the Emmaus movement!



Highlights from the plenary



In the words of the participants

## Relive this event!

You can relive this commemoration day and our shared reflections through two videos and numerous photos found on Emmaus International’s YouTube and Flickr accounts.

 [emmausinternational](#)  
 [emmaus\\_international](#)

Moreover, historic factsheets were created to better understand the purpose and origins of the international dimension of the Emmaus movement. They can be found on our website.

 [emmaus-international.org](#)  
> Our Heritage > 50 years of the Universal Manifesto

# INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS

During its last World Assembly in Jesolo, Italy, in 2016, the Emmaus movement reaffirmed its will to continue organising international work camps. These camps gather members of Emmaus International from all the movement’s regions, offering a chance to exchange ideas, reaffirm commitments, meet other

members, hold discussions with local actors and rally round a common struggle. Having already taken place in Asia and Africa, it was now the turn of the Americas region, who organised an international work and training camp in September 2019.



## THE WORK CAMP IN THE AMERICAS

With its many years of experience in running international work camps, in September 2019 the Americas region welcomed 80 people to the Emmaus Pereira community in Colombia. Together, they shared their experiences and their views on Emmaus’ struggles. These types of international meetings enable us to strengthen commitment and the sense of belonging to our movement, and to train younger generations who will take up the challenge of continuing our struggles.

The Americas work camp was an occasion for participants to take part in training workshops on the theme of “social transformation”. Distributed into sub-groups, they were able to discuss their practices on topics such as education, culture, gender equality and even creativity and innovation. The presentation of struggles led by the region, organised with allies of the movement, also led to the link being made between solidarity actions and political campaigning work. Finally, time spent working in the community enabled the participants to lend a helping hand to the companions of Emmaus Pereira (collecting and sorting recyclable materials, awareness campaign with neighbouring communities, planting banana trees and caring for animals, sorting clothes and organising a jumble sale, etc.). During the work camp, participants were also able to meet the local people for a march along the streets of Pereira. Gustavo Cano, National Delegate for Emmaus International in Colombia, talks about organising this demonstration: “It wasn’t as much about protesting, but rather raising awareness of global environmental damage among the local population and the responsibilities that fall to us all as citizens. Together we wanted to make our voices heard and launch a cry for help for mankind and the planet.”





# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND CAMPAIGNING

Solidarity is integral to our Emmaus movement. The Emmaus associations pool their resources to help the most excluded, through solidarity programmes organised around the 3 struggles.

Our international solidarity actions are part of the broader perspective of genuine social transformation and feed into our actions to challenge decision-makers.

## ETHICAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

→ This involves creating and defending economic models which provide a place for all, allowing everyone to live off their work and to take back their fundamental rights.

### EMMAUS ACTIONS

Guaranteeing loans to associations or cooperatives; financing social actions through collecting and recycling work in the communities; reintegration through employment; production of handicrafts and fair trade; sorting and upcycling goods.

### SPOTLIGHT ON...

International trade agreements multiply the number of exclusion clauses of public courts in the event of disputes, in favour of private arbitration tribunals, whose proceedings are obscure and accessible only to the most powerful. Emmaus International is part of the "Stop impunity" campaign calling for these clauses to be revoked, along with the adoption of international legal provisions to ensure stricter control of multinationals.



## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

→ Setting up initiatives that bring about a fair balance across the board: social, environmental, democratic, with regard to gender, accessing fundamental rights, etc., to be able to propose solutions for a sustainable world.

### EMMAUS ACTIONS

Mutual health organisations for disadvantaged persons; school education for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds; Nokoué citizen management and participative programme for access to water and sanitation.

### SPOTLIGHT ON...

For over 10 years, Emmaus International has supported the population of Lake Nokoué in Benin (90,000 people) so they can obtain access to water and sanitation facilities. This programme led to the "Lake House" being built in 2019 to accommodate the activities of the users' association and local actions to defend the right to water, and to commission a solar energy power station.



## IN 2019

→ The contributions of Emmaus groups and the funds raised for the Annual Solidarity Programme financed

**14** projects run by Emmaus organisations in Eastern Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia, along with

**3** collective projects, amounting to a total of

**€468,300**

### ANNUAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

Each association of the movement organises a solidarity sale once a year. The takings from this sale feed into a shared fund redistributed to support projects aimed at building the capacities of Emmaus associations, developing their actions, and responding to emerging needs.

### ETHICAL AND SOLIDARITY FUNDS

The Emmaus Ethical Fund (EEF) is a tool which pools resources from the Emmaus groups, created on the initiative of Emmaus International, together with Banca Etica. Funded by Emmaus groups who choose to deposit funds, it has already been used to guarantee loans to Emmaus groups. In 2019, a decision was made to extend its scope, by allowing direct loans to be taken out to develop solidarity economic activities and self-sufficiency, a cash bridge for groups awaiting the payment of subsidies, or to contribute to the financing of micro-credit actions by providing medium-term financial support.

At the end of 2019, the EEF increased to approximately €871,000. This sum allows us to guarantee 4 loans which are still in place.

## PEACE, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND SETTLEMENT FOR UNIVERSAL CITIZENSHIP

→ Giving everyone the right to live in a peaceful world without borders.



### EMMAUS ACTIONS

Protection and reintegration of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo; fighting against human trafficking; helping migrants and asylum seekers to receive a dignified welcome; advocacy for the freedom of movement and settlement of persons for universal citizenship.

### SPOTLIGHT ON...

Recognising the lack of an international alliance between local authorities and civil society on migration issues, in 2019 the OUC (co-founded by Emmaus International) together with Anvita and the "Snapshots from the Borders" network, organised a meeting of local authority and civil society representatives from around the world in Paris for the purpose of creating this alliance.

→ **75** containers were sent, **63** to groups in Africa and **12** to groups in the Americas.

### CONTAINER PROGRAMME

By sending containers and lorries of material goods, the Western European Emmaus groups share with groups in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe to supply items, organise jumble sales and help other local actors. It is also an occasion for members of Emmaus groups to meet.

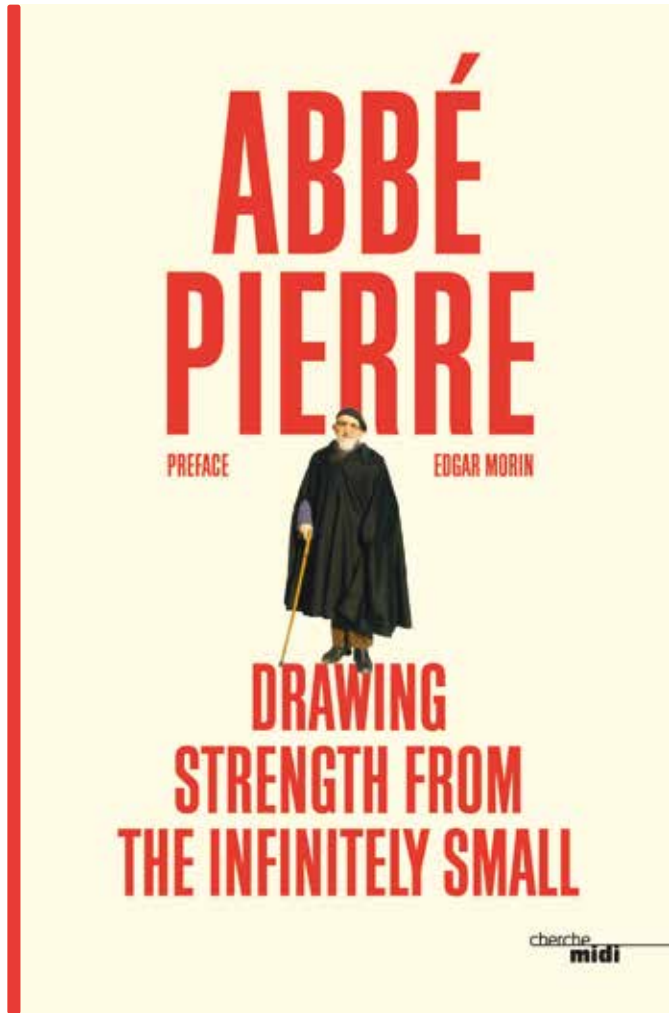
### THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Organised at the community of Emmaus Angoulême in France in December 2019, over sixty participants came to this meeting on the container programme, coordinated by Emmaus International, and the lorry transport programme, coordinated by Emmaus Europe. Participants hailed from groups already involved in these programmes, or those who wished to become involved, from all the regions of the movement. This meeting allowed us to work together on the different challenges of these programmes, such as customs and environmental challenges, and to propose different ideas and new ways of organising the programmes.

# DRAWING STRENGTH FROM THE INFINITELY SMALL

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Emmaus movement, and following the initial release of “Pensées inédites pour un monde plus juste” in 2015, the publishing house Cherche midi renewed their partnership with Emmaus International and published *Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small*, an extended edition of the 2015 book, with many texts from Abbé Pierre’s personal

archives, his numerous conferences and articles, and thousands of hours of sounds recordings, transcribed for the first time. For the first time, and to bring our heritage to life throughout the world, Emmaus International published this book in the movement’s three languages (French, English, and Spanish).



## Order your copy!

Emmaus groups and communities can contact Emmanuelle Larcher, Heritage Manager at Emmaus International, if they wish to order copies. All the funds raised from book sales will be allocated to the Heritage Fund at Emmaus International, as the sole legatee of Abbé Pierre, to share his thoughts, protect and enhance the value of his archives and to bring his struggles to life.

## A joint project

Jean Rousseau, who compiled the first edition, once again took up the challenge of exploring the unpublished archives held at ANMT. He was supported in this task by Brigitte Mary, along with longstanding figures in the movement who listened to hours of recordings of conferences and other speeches by Abbé Pierre.

Officially released in France on 7th November 2019, the book was made available to French Emmaus groups initially to mark the ‘48 hours of Emmaus’ event organised to commemorate the setting up of the first Emmaus community in Neuilly-Plaisance. To accompany this release, a promotion kit was created and Jean Rousseau was invited to numerous public readings and signing sessions.



The release of *Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small* in bookshops was an opportunity for Emmaus International to set up an Instagram account. Every week, since the end of 2019, Abbé Pierre quotes mainly from this book have been posted on Emmaus International’s account. Follow us!

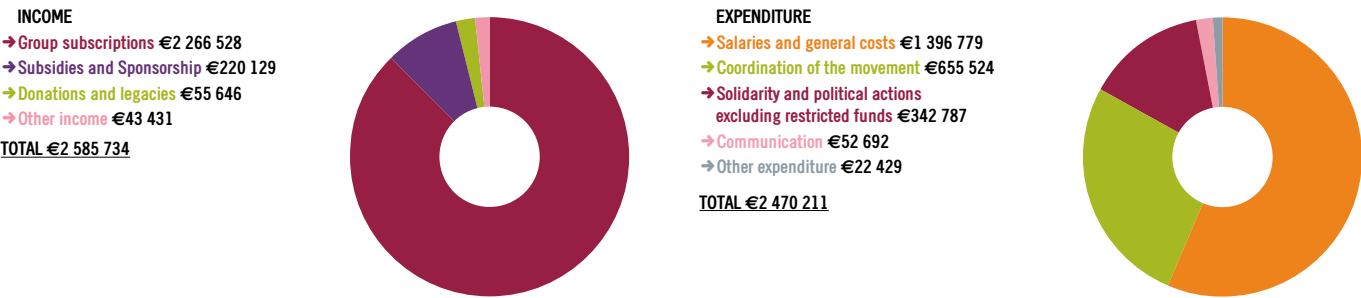
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# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019

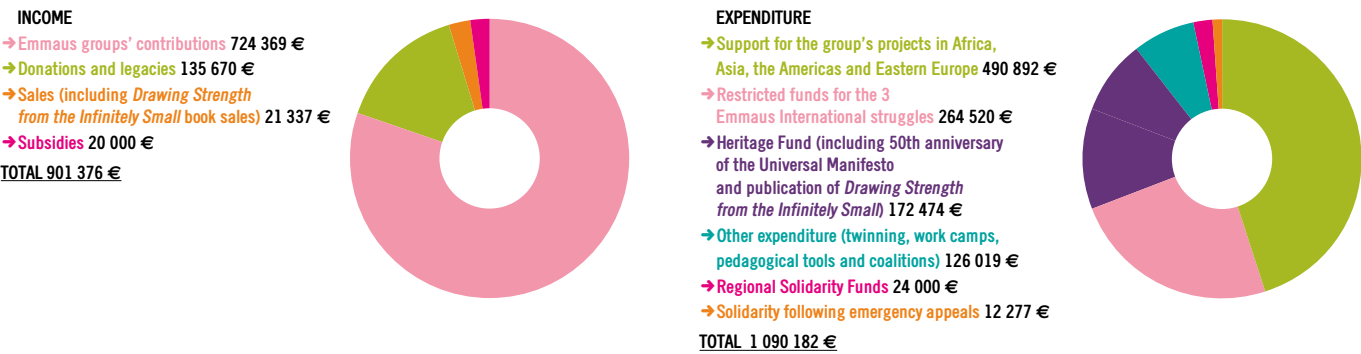
## ALLOCATION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the operations and life of the movement, the 2019 financial year closed with a positive result of €115,523, which was allocated to the association’s reserves to ensure we are able to face a potential financial loss in 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Concerning our solidarity and political commitments, we have spent more than we have received throughout the year, and the difference was taken from our dedicated funds.

### 1 - OPERATIONS AND LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT: SURPLUS €115 523



### 2 - SOLIDARITY AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS: BALANCE OF TRANSACTIONS €-188 806



## BALANCE SHEET EXTRACT (IN EUROS)

| 1 - STATEMENT OF ASSETS | ON 31/12/2019 |              | ON 31/12/2018 |            |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|                         | GROSS         | DEPRECIATION | NET           | NET        |
| TOTAL FIXED ASSETS      | €1 411 190    | €330 405     | €1 080 785    | €1 733 399 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS    | €3 924 262    | €24 512      | €3 899 749    | €3 519 149 |
| OVERALL TOTAL           | €5 335 451    | €354 917     | €4 980 534    | €5 252 549 |

| 1 - STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES      | ON 31/12/2019 |  | ON 31/12/2018 |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|--|
|                                   | NET           |  | NET           |  |
| ASSOCIATION’S FUNDS               | €1 718 046    |  | €1 602 523    |  |
| RISK AND CONTINGENCY PROVISIONS   | €31 181       |  | €29 354       |  |
| RESTRICTED FUNDS                  | €1 935 237    |  | €2 124 043    |  |
| DEBTS                             | €1 296 070    |  | €1 496 629    |  |
| LIABILITY CONVERSION DIFFERENTIAL | -             |  | -             |  |
| OVERALL TOTAL                     | €4 980 534    |  | €5 252 549    |  |



**“You must make yourselves aware – failing which you shall perish, in spite of all your material powers – that the demand that stands before you from now on is a demand for solidarity, and for a solidarity that comes first from the heart, and from human presence. In the same way that we fight against tyranny, we are capable of creating union, and fraternity. It is our responsibility to set the example!”**


**Abbé Pierre**

(Closing remarks at the 9th general assembly of Emmaus International to mark 50 years of Emmaus, 25 September 1999, Chamerolles, in Emmaus International Information Letter 113, October-November 1999)



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