

REPORT

ON OUR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

2016



EMMAUS

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



2016 was a special year due to the gathering of Emmaus groups from across the globe at the World Assembly, come to decide on the strategy guidelines for the Emmaus movement.

Emmaus' elected members, united around the values we inherited from Abbé Pierre, appealed for urgent prioritisation and respect for human beings as well as dignity, respect for the environment, sharing, openness, solidarity and welcome.

The groups wished to bring a **new dimension to our international solidarity initiatives** to tackle the causes of poverty, calling upon all Emmaus members to **live our solidarity as a political commitment**.



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In 2016 the groups continued to mobilise to lead initiatives in a spirit of solidarity and sharing, as part of several of Emmaus International's programmes. The goal of this booklet is to provide a short summary of these initiatives and to put the spotlight on a few examples.

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THE ANNUAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

How does it work? And what are they used for?

To finance our international solidarity the members of Emmaus organise a solidarity sale once per year, this compulsory commitment was added to our internal rules in 1996. It can be a regular kind of sale organised over a full day, or a special kind of sale.

Thus each group participates in international solidarity and does so on a scale that suits them. The solidarity sales are also an opportunity for the groups to **promote and share about their international solidarity efforts and Emmaus' struggles in their local contexts.**

Thanks to these sales **a common fund is created and is redistributed to the groups of the movement** in a transparent, participatory manner and with a focus on boosting collective action.

The solidarity projects are presented to Emmaus International once per year via the regions. The Emmaus groups' projects are aimed at strengthening their activities and developing new initiatives to meet unmet needs in the local area.

The programme uses most of the solidarity sale funds and what remains is then used to support the sending of containers to Africa and the Americas as well as supplying the EC's emergency fund and international solidarity funds to be used in the regions (used, amongst other things, for monitoring the projects financed under the annual programme).

How the solidarity sale profits were divided up in 2016:

The 2015 solidarity sales enabled us to finance **€496,082** worth of international solidarity.

Projects in Africa: €154,862

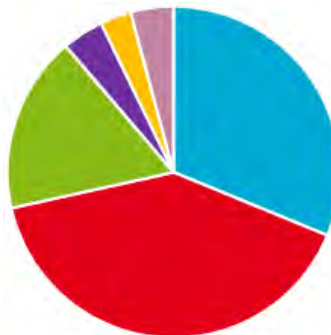
Projects in the Americas: €200,035

Projects in Asia: €85,482

Regional solidarity funds: €20,000

International Container Fund: €15,000

Executive committee emergency fund: €20,703



A reminder that in 2014 the board of Emmaus International decided to change the calendar for the annual international solidarity programme in order to have the funds ready for the groups quicker. Now the sales from one year fund the annual programme for the next year, thus leaving the regions some time to decide which projects they should put forward to Emmaus International. At the first board meeting of the 'next year' the board closes the programme as the final amounts available will then be known and thus the funds can be made available to the groups in the weeks following the meeting.

SOLIDARITY PROJECTS FINANCED IN 2016

Solidarity projects — Africa Region

ALDP (Burundi) Purchasing land to build a health centre in the Kinama area	€27,000
Benebnooma (Burkina Faso) Completion of the construction of a school complex	€36,176
ESO (Burkina Faso) Reinforcing the workshop on septic tank waste disposal	€27,029
Pag-la-Yiri (Burkina Faso) Improving the bakery's production and distribution capacity	€41,789
S.E.M.U.S (Burkina Faso) Installation of solar panels at the welcome centre in Yako	€22,868

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE PROJECT

PAG-LA-YIRI (Burkina Faso) — Improving the bakery's production and distribution capacity

The association based in Boulgou province (in the department of Zabré) created the first bakery in the area in 2008. The opening of the bakery was a good thing for the local people and it was also a good thing for the association in terms of moving towards financial independence. However, certain difficulties prevented the team from reaching an optimal yield: untimely black outs, production shortages due to the ageing of the oven and the lack of a means of distributing the bread to isolated villages. This activity was previously sufficient for Pag-la-Yiri to support their social initiatives and to develop the group.

Thanks to the funds from the 2016 Emmaus International annual solidarity programme Pag-la-Yiri was able to get a power generator to help during black outs. The group was also able to buy a new oven and get two motorbike-carts with this money, which means they can now deliver the bread to the isolated villages.



SOLIDARITY PROJECTS FINANCED IN 2016

Solidarity projects — The Americas Region

Emmaus Recife (Brazil) Purchase of a truck	€28,034
Emmaus Amor e Justiça (Brazil) Purchase of a truck	€26,862
Emmaus Buenaventura (Colombia) Purchase of a minibus for the centre which welcomes children suffering from mental illnesses	€37,496
Emmaus Buga (Colombia) Purchase of a truck	€36,962
Emmaus San Agustín (Peru) Raw materials depot and clothes warehouse	€29,184
Emmaus Villa El Salvador (Peru) Construction of a carpentry workshop	€16,497
Emmaus America Regional events (work camps and meetings of group leaders)	€25,000

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE PROJECT

Emmaus Buenaventura (Colombia) - Purchase of a minibus for the centre which welcomes children suffering from mental illnesses



Since 2009 Emmaus Buenaventura has been welcoming children suffering from mental illnesses during the daytime. The goal of these efforts is to provide relief to these families and to ensure that the children aren't abused and that they don't end up staying inside all day whilst their parents are out working. Emmaus Buenaventura is the only structure of its kind in the local area.

The group currently hosts around 40 children aged 3-12 and who live in poor neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the town. The group is constantly receiving more requests for support from families; to meet this growing demand a second vehicle was required. Thanks to the 2016 Emmaus International annual solidarity programme the group was able to purchase a minibus, allowing the group to include more people in this social initiative.

SOLIDARITY PROJECTS FINANCED IN 2016

Solidarity projects — Asia Region

The region launched four priority programmes for its solidarity projects: Right and access to water, micro-credit, training and eco-tourism. The seven groups proposed a project for each programme depending on the amount made available by the region. Due to the difficulties in communicating with the Yayasan Penghibur group a decision was taken to not grant these funds to Yayasan in 2016.

Programme	Details	Amount
Water programme	6 organisations x €4,878	€29,268
Microcredit programme	6 organisations x €4,878	€29,268
Training programme	6 organisations x €3,069	€18,414
Ecotourism programme	6 organisations x €1,422	€8,532

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE PROJECT

The micro-credit programmes

In Asia the most excluded have difficulties in accessing loans - many people work in the informal sector, few people have bank accounts and the poorest have no possible guarantees for a loan. Money lenders take advantage of this situation by offering loans at outrageously high interest rates.

To tackle this problem the Emmaus groups in Asia have developed micro-credit programmes led by people from rural communities, slums or small-scale entrepreneurs.

This project enables the beneficiaries to meet the basic needs of their families (healthy food, education, health care, etc.) and to take a step towards financial independence.



The groups also offer proper support and training, including on social and political matters, thus going above and beyond offering financial solidarity.

In these very patriarchal societies close attention is paid to projects proposed by women in order to help them take a step towards financial independence and to encourage empowerment and emancipation.

Thanks to the 2016 Emmaus International annual solidarity programme more than 100 people were able to get micro-credit loans. The people who received loans used the funds, amongst other things, to: create small-scale organic farming activities, buy a trailer to sell spices from, buy an electric sewing machine and to offer training to landless peasants.

Once the loans are paid back the money is loaned out to other people and thus this virtuous circle is strengthened.

THE CONTAINER PROGRAMME

One of the Emmaus movement's objectives is to share resources internally. Emmaus organisations in Europe do this by shipping goods by container to Emmaus International member organisations in Africa and South America.

The receiver organisations then either give the goods to people in need, sell them in their second-hand shops to generate income for their social action, or use them for their own activities.

Members of each of the groups then have an opportunity to meet each other when loading and unloading the container. Sending and receiving organisations are encouraged to visit each other so they can see the importance of this form of solidarity for themselves.

In 2016 a 'container' task group was created in order to strengthen and provide fresh momentum for the programme, notably with the idea of including it under our struggle for a truly ethical and solidarity economy. The group's mission is to evaluate the problems faced in recent years, to measure the social change brought about by the programme and to identify how the programme can be strengthened.¹



46

containers sent

33 to Africa and 13 to the Americas

19

senders groups

Spain, France, Finland, Italy, Switzerland

22

receiver groups

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, DRC, Peru, Uruguay

¹The 'container programme' task group includes: 2 representatives of the Africa region, 2 representatives of the Americas and 3 representatives of the Europe region.

PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE ABBÉ PIERRE FOUNDATION

Emmaus Pahou (Benin) Construction of dormitories, sanitation blocks and a health unit at the community	€41,134
Emmaus Tohouè (Benin) Building accommodation for the companions	€22,198
Emmaus Amor e Justiça (Brazil) Building a space for collective living	€21,000
Emmaus Igualdade (Brazil) Renovation and enlarging of the welcome centre	€21,830
FHF (India) Renovating a home for young girls and building rooms for the companions	€12,150
Emmaus Piura (Peru) Renovation and enlarging of the welcome centre	€22,500
Emmaus San Agustín (Peru) Building a space for collective living	€21,000
Emmaus Villa El Salvador (Peru) Construction of a house for the companions	€22,500
CAJED (DRC) Building a welcome centre and accommodation for children and young people	€50,000
Oselya (Ukraine) Modernising and improving the living conditions in the community's buildings	€20,000

Total of financed projects: €254,312

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE PROJECT

Oselya (Ukraine) — Modernising and improving the living conditions in the community's buildings

The Oselya community was created in 2003: 25 companions live, work and lead solidarity action (distributing food to the poorest, welcoming the homeless at the social centre, etc.) in the community today.

Many of the community's buildings needed to be renovated in order to improve the living conditions for the companions. Thanks to financing from the Abbé Pierre Foundation renovation work was done in 2016 to build a cellar for food stuffs, to repair the roof, to put in insulation and to install a new boiler.

Some of the work was carried out by the companions who were heavily involved in this projects and were able to develop new know-how and skills which will be useful for them in the future.



As part of its international solidarity programme the Abbé Pierre Foundation finances projects for housing and for improving living conditions in the Emmaus groups across the globe. In 2016 10 projects received financing and were launched thanks to this programme.

POLITICAL PROGRAMMES

In 2016 our action on the political programmes continued and this booklet identifies the major steps taken on the pilot programmes and collective actions on the topics of right to water, right to healthcare and migrants' rights.

RIGHT TO WATER

The Nokoué programme (or 'The Citizens in Solidarity for Water on Nokoué Project') was the movement's pilot programme on right to water and a citizen-led management of water, allowing the poverty-stricken local population to take control of their own access to water and sanitation as well as be able to **manage this common good themselves**.

2016 was an important year for the programme: the co-financing with the EU expired and the evaluation highlighted that it was a very successful project. 2016 was also marked by the creation of the **3rd episode of the film 'The Water Companions - The Residents at the Heart of the Project'** which highlighted the involvement of local stakeholders in the water management process. A mobilisation was organised when **the Nokoué programme was completed on 13 June** and Emmaus International used social media to encourage the groups and the stakeholders of the programme to celebrate together with the inhabitants of Lake Nokoué over a glass of water!

Of course the work continued on the lake in 2016 and it is still ongoing - the building phase has now been completed and the systems for water distribution and sanitation are now operations but **the movement continues to provide support to the local population**, notably with education about hygiene and encouraging people to change certain habits. The movement also continues to help with the training of the members of the Water Users' Association which is in charge of the sustainability of the programme. 4 steering committee meetings were held in 2016.



RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

The four health programmes led by Emmaus International also changed in 2016 and continued to be strengthened and made more independent. The health programmes in Africa and Asia, as well as enabling access to healthcare, are also aimed at supporting people living in extreme poverty by providing them with training so that they are able to collectively manage the scheme and thus collectively manage their right to healthcare.

In Africa (in Benin and Burkina Faso) around 1,600 people have now been provided with access to quality care. Opening the scheme up to other members continues to be a goal in the region. In 2016 new medical structures made agreements with the Emmaus mutual health schemes. Our awareness-raising work was relaunched to encourage both the medical structures and the beneficiaries of the scheme to use the direct payment system more when it is possible to do so. Pharmacies, notably in Burkina Faso, started to make agreements with the mutual health scheme. Educational work on the topic of healthcare is regularly carried out in the groups with support from medical officers.

In Asia (Thanapara Swallows in Bangladesh and Tara Projects in India) 2,600 people are now members of these local mutual health schemes. In 2016 our work focused on ensuring that the proper practices and operations were in place - to continue moving forward with our healthcare partnerships, to continue coordinating the Emmaus health centres, to improve the processes to get access to healthcare, to regularly launch sessions on awareness-raising/prevention about health in two groups and lastly to look into the possibility of carrying out other activities to help move towards financial autonomy.

MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

A large part of Emmaus International's work on migration is done as part of its role in the **Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC)**. Several steps were taken in 2016 :

- ◆ At the WSF in Sao Paulo the OUC, Espacio Sin Fronteras and the city of Sao Paulo launched an **alliance between local authorities and social movements**. The alliance seeks to achieve an alternative governance of migration policies based on welcome and access to citizenship ;
- ◆ **Creating a network of activist citizens**, a project called 'Citizen's Outburst' was launched in late 2016 and its goal is to identify and promote the citizen-led initiatives to provide dignified welcome and solidarity for migrants in France (other countries may be added later) ;
- ◆ The OUC added new members and it now has a **total of seven members**. Emmaus International, The Danielle Mitterrand-France Libertés Foundation and the Utopia Movement were the founding members and CCFD-Terre solidaire (Europe), Espacio Sin Fronteras (the Americas), the Center for Migrants Advocacy (Asia) and Alternative Espace Citoyens (Africa) joined the OUC in 2016 ;
- ◆ The OUC's **advocacy work in favour of free movement and settlement**, drawn up at the end of 2015, was shared in all of our networks and with French and European elected officials in 2016.



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