



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

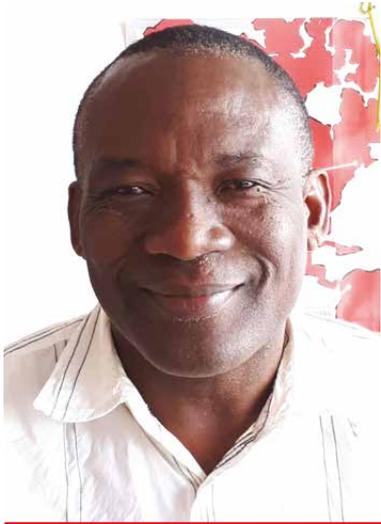


emmaus

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

# EDITORIAL



Following the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, 2021 was yet another challenging year. The Emmaus movement was forced to adapt its work to meet the needs of its groups and the most vulnerable populations, in addition to responding to emergency situations resulting from renewed outbreaks of the epidemic around the world. The movement adapted quickly and worked together to face these challenges, demonstrating solidarity where it was needed, particularly in countries where millions of people were left destitute and deprived of their fundamental rights.

It was against this backdrop that we released our first global report on our fight against poverty on 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This report, entitled “Emmaus: Our Voices”, is firstly an outcry of anger, because indeed this issue affects civilisation as a whole! Whether it concerns respect for human dignity or the environment in which we live, social justice or the future of democracy, protection of our health, our rights, and our freedoms, we need to take action urgently, practically and effectively.

In this report, Emmaus International outlines its requirements, lays out its demands and demonstrates, through its groups’ practical experiences, that another future is possible. To any naysayers who call us dreamers, we would remind them that one thing is certain and very real - the total failure of the current neoliberal system to ensure the well-being of the people. Therefore today, more than ever, we must collectively take our future into our own hands and make the voices of the voiceless heard!

Patrick ATOHOUN,  
Chair of Emmaus International

## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	P. 2
INTRODUCTION	P. 2
ORGANISATION	P. 3
“EMMAUS: OUR VOICES”: GLOBAL REPORT	P. 4
SOLIDARITY EVALUATION	P. 8
2021-2022 WORLD ASSEMBLY	P. 10
FINANCIAL SUMMARY	P. 11

## INTRODUCTION

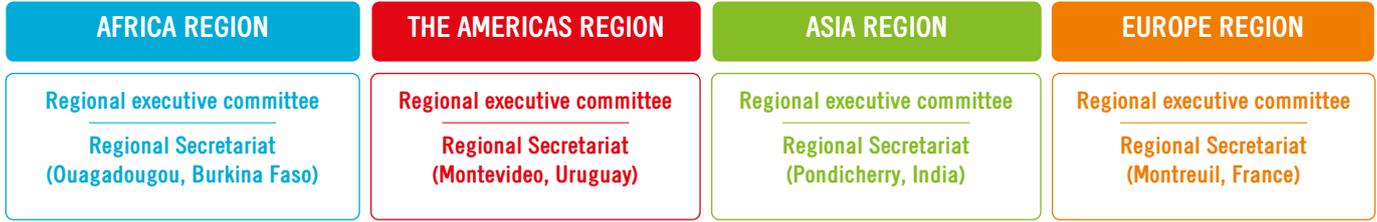
Founded in 1971 by Abbé Pierre, Emmaus International is an active solidarity movement which combats poverty and exclusion. It is made up of 425 organisations in 41 countries, spread across 4 continents. They all uphold the same values of welcoming others, solidarity, openness, respect, and sharing, in their very different social, economic, and political circumstances. They all share the same objective: to tackle the causes of 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: an ethical and solidarity economy, social and environmental justice, and peace and freedom of movement and of residence for universal citizenship.

As Abbé Pierre’s sole legatee, Emmaus International also has the responsibility of protecting and keeping alive Abbé Pierre’s legacy and the struggles he tirelessly led throughout his life.

# ORGANISATION

**EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL**  
 Executive Board/Executive Committee  
 International secretariat, Montreuil, France



# GOVERNANCE

Emmaus International is democratically and internationally governed, represented by elected members from 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 of Emmaus International. In each region (Africa, 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 IN 2021
- Nathalie Péré-Marzano

# WORLD MAP



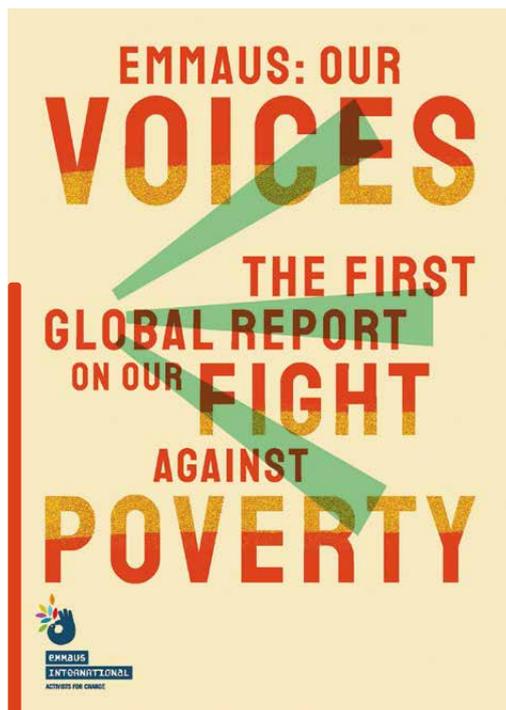
# “EMMAUS: OUR VOICES”: A GLOBAL REPORT TO COMBAT THE STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF POVERTY

On 17 October 2021, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Emmaus International released “Emmaus: Our Voices”, its first global report on its struggles against poverty, based on its grassroots experience with the most excluded around the world. In

addition to speaking out against the structural causes of poverty, this report details practical, tried and tested and inspiring solutions implemented by Emmaus groups around the world.



Taken at the Emmaus Etoile-du-Rhône community for the global report



Front cover of our global report “Emmaus: Our Voices”

In order to put a stop to a profoundly unequal system that is exacerbating inequalities, destroying the planet, rolling back democracy and causing great harm to our world, “Emmaus: Our Voices” recommends collective action based on three requirements which must be respected by any policy aimed at fighting poverty effectively.

Inspired by the work of 425 Emmaus groups around the world, this report shows how feasible these requirements are through twelve tangible experiences that have proven their capacity to sustainably lift people out of poverty and exclusion. These initiatives, in countries as diverse as Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Spain, the United States, France, India, the United Kingdom, Romania, Peru and Benin, were selected as they are credible alternatives to the dominant model that could be rolled out on a large scale – the only prerequisite is the political will to do so.

While this report marks the completion of significant analytical and creative work, it is only the first step in our long-term advocacy plan. These requirements and demands must now be brought to policy makers at all levels through the involvement of all members and organisations of the Emmaus movement.



Taken at the Emmaus Etoile-du-Rhône community for the global report.

## Three requirements to overcome poverty

The Emmaus groups prove it every day: it is possible to overcome poverty and inequality. However, this involves respecting three fundamental requirements, which should inspire all public policies.

### *Involving vulnerable people for them to assume their rightful place in society*

Some population groups are more exposed to the risk of poverty. The most vulnerable human beings are often “invisible”, blamed, marginalised and even criminalised. Our first duty as human beings is to offer a dignified welcome to the most disadvantaged people, along with the educational means to enable them to regain their self-esteem, to make their own choices and become integrated in society. This was the choice made from the start by Abbé Pierre and the first companions who founded the Emmaus movement.

### *Placing the public interest at the heart of public policies*

Through ideology, cronyism or the influence of lobby groups, public institutions pursue policies that are not always in the best interest of the public that they are supposed to protect. It is through public debate that we can put the economy and the management of public affairs back at the service of the people and the protection of their fundamental rights, particularly through the collective management of the commons. Respecting the public interest therefore requires the representation of the most vulnerable and their participation in democratic life.

### *Developing an economy that genuinely works for human beings and their environment*

Since the 1980s, neoliberalism has promoted a vision of the economy that sets its own rules. This deregulation allows capital and goods to move freely, as well as pitting countries against each other to compete on social, environmental and tax laws. As such, workers and nature become mere ‘adjustment variables’ in the quest for perpetual growth and profit. We need to develop a plural economy, not just a market economy, which is compatible with the principles of social justice and sustainability.



## The six demands of the Emmaus movement

Based on the drafting of the “Emmaus: Our Voices” report, these six demands and our three requirements were adopted by the Piriápolis World Assembly in 2022 as the «common basis for building and disseminating our political voice».



1. Welcoming the most vulnerable with dignity, no matter their suffering
2. Guaranteeing an education that helps each person to flourish, in all areas, including culturally and politically
3. Protecting fundamental rights by promoting the collective management of the commons
4. Ensuring women’s access to political and economic life, and combatting inequalities and violence against women
5. Developing economic activities that guarantee the respect of social and environmental rights
6. Recognising and prioritising actors of the ethical and solidarity economy



## Our videos: find out more about our demands



### For me, it was Emmaus or the street

Offering a dignified and unconditional welcome has been a core principle of the movement since its origins. For Emmaus, this is a prerequisite for excluded people to regain their rightful place in society. Listen to Laurent, Christophe, Nestani and Ludo share their experiences of being welcomed by the French Emmaus communities of Valence, Périgueux and Saint-Marcel.



### Collective management of public goods gives a voice to poor people

Owning your own home is a key challenge for low-income families on their journey out of poverty. In the United States, H.O.M.E. has set up a collective and participatory organisation to help families achieve this at affordable prices.



### To enable students to develop a critical view of society's problems

Access to education enables the most vulnerable to free themselves from the chains of poverty and become involved in social, cultural and political life as full citizens. In addition to learning a trade, at the Luis Tenderini occupational school in Brazil students can attend a citizenship education course to help clarify their life choices.



### Eliminating barriers to women's access to land

In the majority of countries and cultures, young girls and women still bear the brunt of patriarchal dominant systems. In Burkina Faso, the Pag-la-Yiri organisation helps women to become aware of and defend their land rights. Each title deed issued is a direct challenge to the traditional system.

To mark the release of "Emmaus: Our Voices", a series of six videos were made to illustrate the work carried out locally by the Emmaus groups and how it feeds into our demands. A gateway to the Emmaus world that you can (re)discover right here on our YouTube channel!

 [emmasinternational](https://www.youtube.com/emmasinternational)



### The activities carried out by Emmaus groups enable people to access their fundamental rights

Collection, second-hand sales and recycling activities enable companions to regain their place in society, to reclaim their fundamental rights and help to protect the environment. But that's not all! Thanks to its collective strength and decades of practice, the movement is recognised for its environmental value. Let's head to Italy to find out more about the companions of Emmaus Fiesso and Emmaus Treviso.



### Our experiences show that affordable basic health care is possible

In India, the Tara Project group has set up a mutual health organisation based on the principle of solidarity between the members, making health care accessible to the most vulnerable. These mutual health organisations are also present in Bangladesh, Benin and Burkina Faso and they show how the social and solidarity economy in the context of health responds to the needs of vulnerable people who are excluded from the market economy.

---

## Every voice counts!



### Peppino, companion at Emmaus Fiesso, Italy

*When I was welcomed here I had just arrived from Brazil and I had already been in trouble several times. I always met people willing to help me on my way and I'm grateful for how lucky I've been. Over the last few years, I've tried to live with others as much as possible, as that is important here: living with others. Everyone arrives with their own problems, but the important thing is to be happy here, to work for the common good, the good of us all.*



### Salamatou Bansa, beneficiary of the Emmaus Pag-la-Yiri group's activities, Burkina Faso

*The project has enabled us to start growing vegetables that we sell on the market, and the money raised means we can pay for our children's schooling and health care. In addition, we were able to obtain the demarcation of the land we use. Before, someone could come and say, "this land is mine" then remove the fences and close the wells. Now nobody can challenge our rights. The papers have been drawn up and signed, it's become our property, for women only. This security gives us a lot of courage.*

---

These first-hand experiences are extracts from a number of posts shared on social media as part of the communication campaign to promote the Global Report. Here are some examples of Emmaus voices that the movement would like to make heard.



### Krishnaveni, teacher at the informal school run by the Emmaus VCDS group, India

*Education is of vital importance to me. It plays a central role in our family. I grew up in a very liberal family and my upbringing taught me to become independent. As a teacher at an informal school, I show the little girls in my village that education can and should change lives, particularly for girls. Thanks to my education and my knowledge, I support my village and help it develop. Education has given me social, moral and political strength.*



### Késsia Artur dos Santos, IT student at the Emmaus Recife group's school, Brazil

*I feel that the political education classes are very important, as when you become an adult you have to know how to assert your rights. And be aware of what you're entitled to, and also what you're not entitled to. Since taking the political education classes, I've learned to fight for my rights and my place in the world. When you have more information, it's easier to speak out and say, "No. I know this, because I studied it, I have some knowledge about this subject". It's better, you feel more confident. You feel like more of a well-rounded professional when you really know about things.*

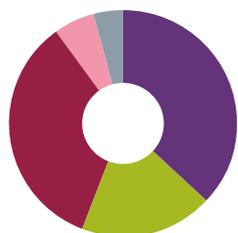
# SOLIDARITY EVALUATION

Solidarity is both a fundamental value and a means of action at Emmaus, as our purpose is to tackle poverty and its causes. In 2021, all of the movement's group acted alongside the most excluded populations during the global health, social and economic crises. They did so primarily through exceptional solidarity efforts

in countries where the vast majority of the population struggled to find health care and food. Then, wherever possible, they worked to restart their economic activities and social initiatives after months of closure.

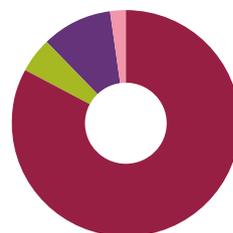
In 2021, €1,614,000 was raised to implement the movement's various International Solidarity and Campaigning programmes. Since 2020, and due to a new accounting regulation, these programmes have been divided into four restricted funds:

- > Support for groups and regions;
- > Access to rights programmes;
- > Advocacy initiatives and campaigning programme;
- > Support for alliances and partnerships.



## BREAKDOWN OF INCOME IN 2021, BY SOURCE

- Annual solidarity sales 591 057 € → 37 %
- Abbé Pierre Foundation funding 305 000 € → 19 %
- Restricted funds 552 543 € → 34 %
- Other 101 000 € → 6 %
- Donations and bequests 64 400 € → 4 %



## USE AND BREAKDOWN OF THE 2021 FUNDS

- Support for groups and regions 1 343 000 € → 83 %
- Access to rights programmes 79 000 € → 5 %
- Advocacy initiatives and campaigning programme 552 543 € → 10 %
- Alliances 32 000 € → 2 %

## SUPPORT FOR GROUPS AND REGIONS

→ Several mechanisms were set up in 2021 to boost our groups' economic and social activities and respond to emergency situations and support the most excluded populations. These include the specific solidarity mechanism (see box), the food aid programme and the emergency fund. In addition, two programmes that had been suspended in 2020 were restarted: the Container Programme and the Housing Programme.

## ACCESS TO RIGHTS PROGRAMMES

→ For over 10 years, Emmaus International has been running collective programmes that enable people in situations of extreme poverty to develop alternatives for access to and citizen-led management of their rights, with the support of many of the movement's groups. In 2021, studies on the groups' educational initiatives and analysis of the mutual health organisation programme were carried out with the stakeholders involved, in order to analyse the progress made, identify the strengths and weaknesses and understand what these programmes mean in terms of political alternatives.



Food distribution to the poor and homeless organised by the Emmaus Oselya group (Ukraine)

## ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNING PROGRAMME

→ Within the Emmaus movement, solidarity must be experienced as a political commitment and a vehicle for social change. In 2021, several actions were taken to promote this: participation in initiatives, collectives and other organisations to combat the impunity of multinationals, defending democracy and rights defenders in Brazil, involvement in the Organisation for Universal Citizenship, and lastly the completion and publication of the first Emmaus Global Report on its fight against poverty.

## SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

→ In 2021, Emmaus International supported two collectives, specifically: one working to protect democracy and social movements in Brazil (*Brazil Resists!*) and another promoting the voices of exiled persons so that they can make their demands heard (*International Collective of Undocumented Migrants*). Emmaus International also took part in many discussions, including the Summer University in France on international solidarity organised by CRID, a coalition of solidarity organisations.

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY: CONTINUED

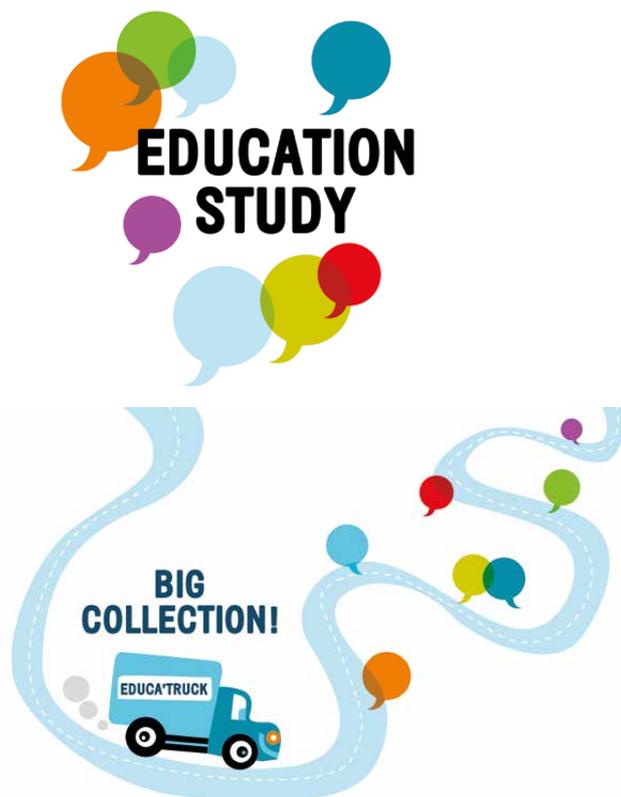
→ In 2021, the movement set up a specific international solidarity mechanism to help groups to cope with the social, political and economic consequences of the pandemic and its uncertainties. This mechanism makes it possible to provide support to groups on a case-by-case basis according to their needs: either to bolster their existing actions to tackle poverty, or to develop new responses which

are better suited to the situation, or because it is impossible for them to maintain their existing activities. A cap of €20,000 was set to provide support to as many groups as possible. Of a total budget of €651,000, €500,000 was used to boost the groups' economic activities and €151,000 to assist with social initiatives.

## COLLECTIVE PROGRAMMES ON ACCESS TO RIGHTS: TIME TO DISCUSS AND BUILD ON OUR EXPERIENCES

→ 20 years after the start of the mutual health organisations in Africa and over 10 years since their launch in Asia, the movement decided to carry out a thorough assessment of these four health access programmes. An in-depth study was conducted throughout 2021 aimed at analysing what the movement has set up through the mutual health programmes and presenting different scenarios for the movement to decide on the next steps for these pilot schemes. The pandemic has made us aware that our health is connected to the functioning of other societies and the health of other people, both near and far. Ensuring that everyone has access to health care is therefore a key issue to which the Emmaus movement can contribute.

During the same year, and in conjunction with the four regions, Emmaus International launched an education study to understand the political meaning of the educational work carried out by the groups over the years and, more specifically, to map out practices, identify the common factors that inspire our work and develop a common political voice for the movement on the right to education. Around 50 groups from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe took part in the «educamion» [education truck], a participatory online survey tool.



To find out more about our international solidarity work, read the full 2021 report on the Emmaus International website

 [www.emmaus-international.org](http://www.emmaus-international.org)

# 2021-2022 WORLD ASSEMBLY



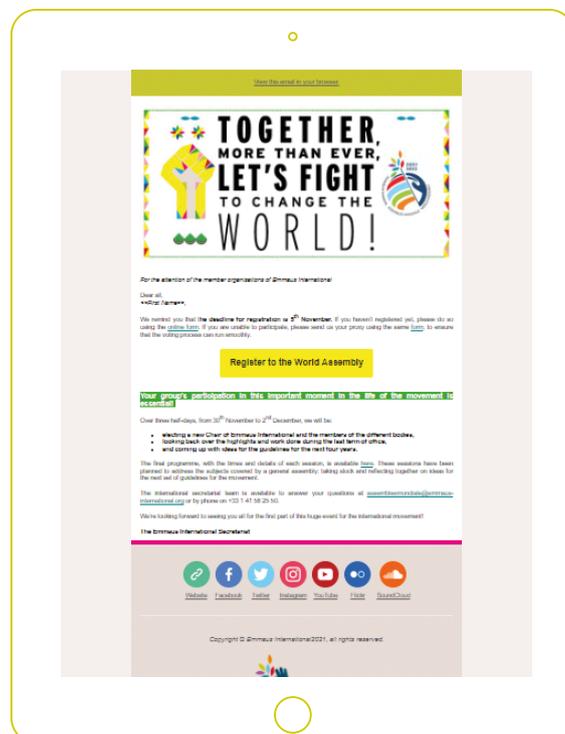
Some of the movement's moderators on the stage of the virtual World Assembly

## World Assembly: The highlight of the movement's democratic life

From 30 November to 2 December 2021, over 400 members of the movement joined the first part of the 2021-2022 World Assembly via video conference. Initially planned in 2020, the World Assembly had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Emmaus International had hoped to hold it in person, but given that the health situation was incompatible with organising an international event, the Board decided to organise it in two parts. The first part was held remotely on a digital platform at the end of 2021.

Moderated from Saint-Malo (France) by numerous elected members and the International Secretariat team, this first meeting followed a long group consultation process, which began in 2019 with preparatory work and continued in 2021 with workshop-debates.

Over three half-days, participants reviewed the previous five years, revisited the highlights, and voted on a revision of Emmaus International's statutes to improve its organisation and its ability to work together. It was also an opportunity to discuss the democratic aspects of the movement's governance, and hold the election of the Chair, with Patrick Atohoun being re-elected for a second term. Lastly, they were able to draw up some initial ideas for the movement's guidelines over the next four years, in anticipation of the second part of the World Assembly in May 2022 in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Creation of a special World Assembly newsletter as part of the internal mobilisation campaign

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2021

## DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE

The operating budget was closed with a surplus of €250,923, which is partly explained by the fact that the travel budget was halved between 2019 and 2021 (-56%) and the regions' budgets decreased by more than a quarter between 2020 and 2021 (-28%). Furthermore, Emmaus International's income, particularly subscription payments which constitute the lion's share, remained stable (-1% compared to 2020). This surplus has been allocated to:

- > the association's reserves for holding World Assemblies - €100,000;
- > the association's operating reserves - €50,923;
- > the association's solidarity reserves - €100,000.

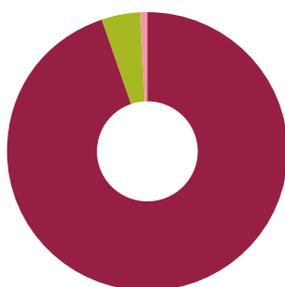
With regard to our solidarity and political commitments (restricted funds), in 2021 we distributed more money than we received (-€121,582). Nevertheless, our restricted funds retained a positive result of over 2 million euros, which will make it possible to pursue programmes voted on and/or which have already been initiated. This balance is equivalent to 1.5 years of activities, making it possible to guarantee the sustainability of our solidarity commitments.

### 1 - OPERATIONS AND LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT – SURPLUS: €250 922

#### INCOME

- Group subscriptions €2 351 752
- Subsidies and sponsorship €114 281
- Other income €13 522

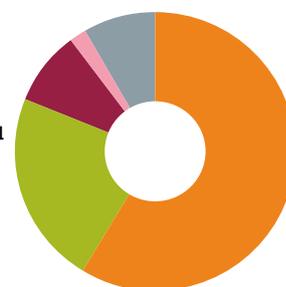
**TOTAL €2 479 555**



#### EXPENDITURE

- Salaries €1 309 631
- Coordination of the movement (including preparation of the World Assembly) €497 640
- Social initiatives excluding restricted funds (including support for Abbé Pierre Centre) €194 521
- Communication €43 802
- Other expenditure €183 039

**TOTAL €2 228 632**

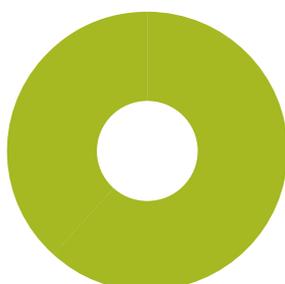


### 2 - SOLIDARITY AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS – DEFICIT: €-121 582

#### INCOME

- Other contributions from Emmaus groups to restricted funds €1 100 676

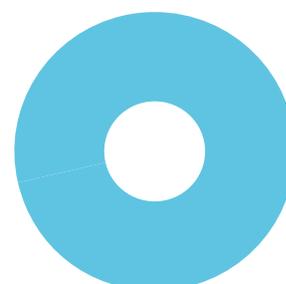
**TOTAL €1 100 676**



#### EXPENDITURE

- Use of the restricted funds €1 222 258

**TOTAL €1 222 258**



## BALANCE SHEET EXTRACT (IN EUROS)

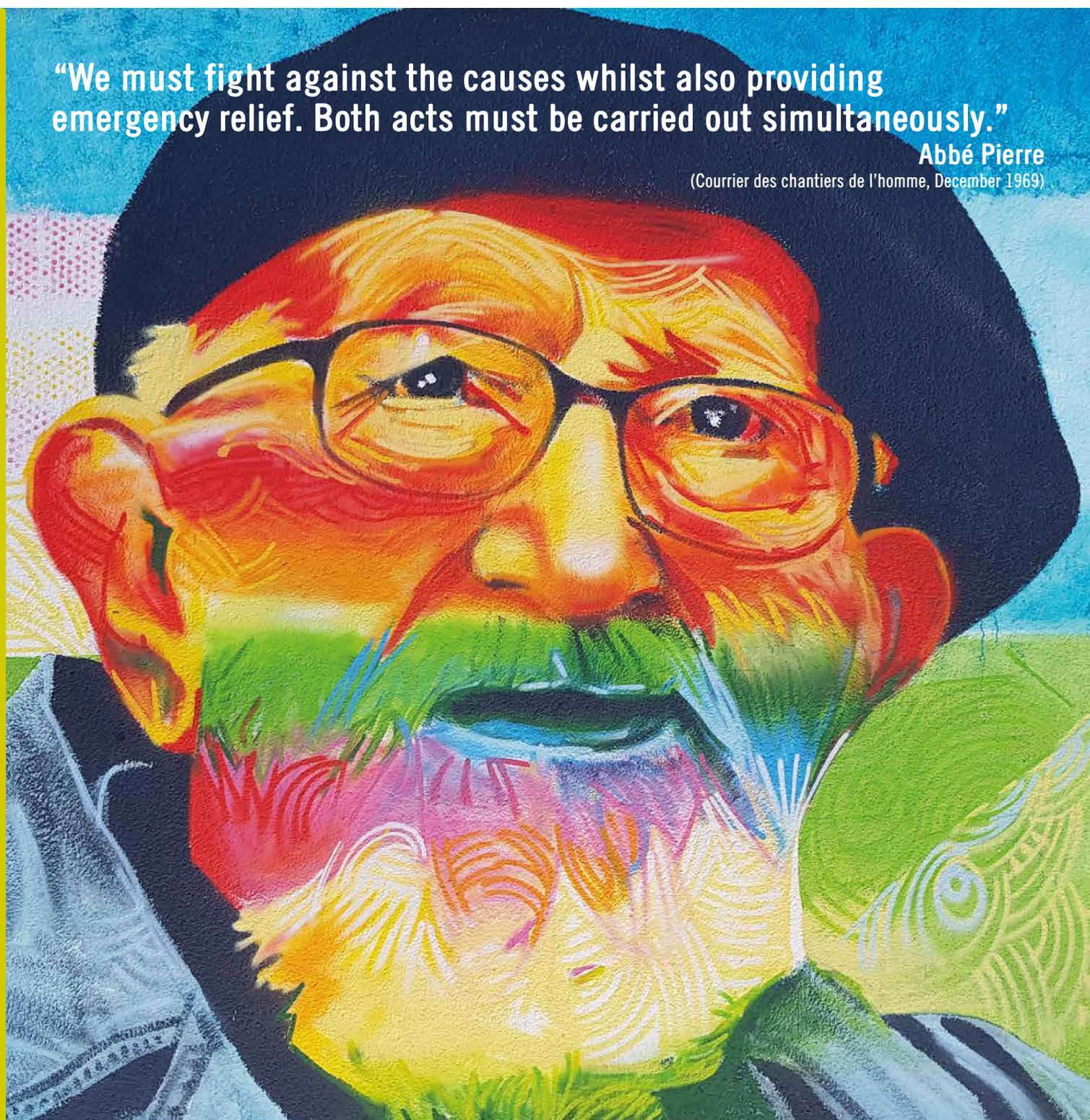
1 - STATEMENT OF ASSETS		AT 31/12/2021		AT 31/12/2020
	GROSS	DEPRECIATION	NET	NET
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	€1 763 998	€353 066	€1 410 932	€1 249 930
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	€5 015 828	€24 512	€4 991 316	€4 554 532
OVERALL TOTAL	€6 779 826	€377 578	€6 402 248	€5 804 461

1 - STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES	AT 31/12/2021	AT 31/12/2020
	NET	NET
ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS	€2 547 153	€2 296 230
RISK AND CONTINGENCY PROVISIONS	€17 883	€37 638
RESTRICTED FUNDS AND FUNDS CARRIED OVER	€2 260 754	€2 271 627
DEBTS	€1 576 458	€1 198 966
LIABILITY CONVERSION DIFFERENTIAL	–	–
OVERALL TOTAL	€6 402 248	€5 804 461

**“We must fight against the causes whilst also providing emergency relief. Both acts must be carried out simultaneously.”**

**Abbé Pierre**

(Courrier des chantiers de l'homme, December 1969)



Portrait of Abbé Pierre by the street artist Ernesto Novo on a wall of a new intergenerational space in Esteville, September 2021.

· Publishing director: Patrick Atohoun  
· Creative/words: Adrien Chaboche, Raphaëlle Monnet  
· Graphic design: Et d'eau fraîche  
· Photo credits: Jean-Mathieu Albertini, Artigiani Digitali, Yurko Dyachyshyn, Digital Rangrez, Emmaüs International, Charly Hopp and Olympia de Maismont

· Contact:  
Emmaüs International  
47 avenue de la Résistance  
93104 Montreuil Cedex – France  
Tel. +33 (0)1 41 58 25 50  
Fax +33 (0)1 48 18 79 88  
contact@emmaus-international.org  
[www.emmaus-international.org](http://www.emmaus-international.org)  
[www.actemmaus.org](http://www.actemmaus.org)

·  Emmaüs International  
·  EmmausInter\_fr  
·  emmausinternational  
·  Emmaüs International  
·  emmausinternational



emmaüs

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE