



# Sustainability through **SOLIDAR(ity)**

SOLIDAR Network contribution to achieve  
the Sustainable Development Goals in  
Europe and worldwide

**solidar**





**solidar** [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)



This publication has been realized with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of SOLIDAR and can under no circumstances be taken as reflecting the position of the European Union.





# Content summary

Foreword ..... 05-06

Introduction ..... 07-08

## 1. Education and vocational training

1.1. Training for Sustainable Food System  
Development in Belgium, Spain and  
Italy ..... 13-18

1.2. Promoting professional training of  
young women in Haiti ..... 19-24

## 2. Reduce Inequalities

2.1. Volunteering to support structu-  
res involved in welcoming  
migrants in Italy ..... 29-34

2.2. Hosting young undocumen-  
ted refugees in France ..... 35-38



### 3. Gender equality

- 3.1.** Empowering women through community based organisations in Niger ..... 43-46
- 3.2.** Empowering Women Farm Workers in South Africa ..... 47-52
- 3.3.** Promoting local (sustainable) development through women-led community radios in Ecuador ..... 53-56
- 3.4.** Stop violence against women: a joint responsibility ..... 57-60

### 4. Sustainable Consumption & Production

- 4.1.** Exploiting used cooking oils for low carbon public transports in France ..... 65-70
- 4.2.** Green Senegal's actions in promoting food security, agro-ecology and youth employment ..... 71-76
- 4.3.** Matching social and environmental development in El Salvador ..... 77-80

### 5. Decent work

- 5.1.** Outsourcing in the sugar agroindustry in El Salvador ..... 85-92
- 5.2.** The Brazil nut industry in Bolivia ..... 93-98
- 5.3.** Coffee farmers fight for fair trade and social justice in Burundi ..... 99-108
- 5.4.** Labour Rights Brigades against the exploitation of agricultural labour in Italy ..... 109-112
- 5.5.** Fostering genuine social dialogue in Mozambique..... 113-116
- 5.6.** Supporting the informal economy workers in the Dominican Republic ..... 117-120

**Conclusion** ..... 121- 122

# Foreword

SOLIDAR members have a long-standing tradition of empowering people through solidarity initiatives and collective action, with a view to actively promote labour rights, decent work, women empowerment, education and training, peace, and active inclusion and participation in society. Our members are present in many countries within and outside Europe, and are engaged, directly or through their local partners, in actions aiming at contributing to the achievement of different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals).

SOLIDAR considers the fundamental values of solidarity, equality, civic participation and social justice are the drivers of the process of turning societies into equal and sustainable, thus progressive societies.

Such as advocated by SOLIDAR in the Report of the Independent Commission for Sustainable Equality (2019-2024), sustainable development has to be “people-centred and planet-sensitive”, guided by values of equal rights and



social justice, enabled by proactive states and well-functioning institutions, and shaped through the participation of empowered populations in civil society organisations.

Persistent poverty, growing inequalities, and shrinking environmental limits threaten the social and economic gains made since the turn of the millennium. To fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we need to look behind the symptoms to tackle the structural causes or drivers of poverty, inequality, social injustice and environmental degradation in order to create conditions for an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable future.

To be socially sustainable, development must deliver material well-being, including good health, education, and access to the goods and services necessary for decent living; and social, cultural and political achievements, such as a sense of security, dignity, and the ability to be part of a community through recognition and representation. All of these are inseparable from the environmental resources necessary to sustain life, health and well-being.

Looking at sustainable development through a social lens moves beyond a concern with social issues and problems, to an understanding of the social factors that drive or sustain all development outcomes. It focuses attention on the importance of social structures, institutions and agency in determining social, economic, political and environmental outcomes. It also highlights the complex interactions among multiple determinants of development, the interlinkages between the different sustainable development goals and synergies among policies and programmes in different domains, as well as the need for coherence and coordination across sectors, among different actors, and between the local, national and global levels.

# Introduction

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ‘Successor’ of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2030 Agenda represents the ‘new’ global consensus on how to move towards more equal and inclusive societies that “leave no one behind” and a development model that serves people, promotes shared prosperity, puts at the center the respect and the protection of human rights, respects planetary boundaries, fosters peace and it is based on a spirit of global solidarity. It sets a series of 17 goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be reached by 2030.

SOLIDAR believes that the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda offers a great chance to shift away from the current (unsustainable) development model that has put at its center economic growth, has led to growing inequalities, to the destruction of the environment, to a great concentration of power in few hands and that is exacerbating social conflicts and putting into question our model of democracy.

SOLIDAR members - working within Europe and worldwide - are already contributing to this (social, environmental and economic transformation) by promoting:



- a strong human rights-based approach as well as,
- collective empowerment and independent and representative CSOs able to work and contribute to advocate, monitor, and raise awareness on the SDG at local, national and regional levels.

This booklet brings together examples of this ongoing work, by highlighting innovative approaches to bring transformative change in:

- the fight against inequalities; as well as in the promotion of
- decent work;
- gender equality;
- education and training; and
- sustainable consumption and production.

Gathering 17 case studies from SOLIDAR Members and partners, the publication aims to show that through innovative approaches aimed at empowering people, building collective action and promoting rights, real change can be produced.

These solidarity initiatives carried out by SOLIDAR Members and Partners aim at creating awareness and building capacities, and at bringing people's voices and knowledge into collective action, thus ensuring that no one is left behind, including the most marginalized.

# Education & vocational training

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Promoting professional training of young women in Haiti

Training for Sustainable Food System Development in Belgium, Spain and Italy





## INTRODUCTION

---

The opportunity for every person to learn and to make the most of their talents is at the heart of a fairer society. Social mobility needs to be increased through measures at the heart of which sits quality education and training for all. Yet, in country after country, it is wealth, not talent, that dictates a person's educational destiny. Access to good quality, and affordable educational system that takes advantage of the modern technologies and methods, is a necessary base for personal emancipation, and for unlocking personal potential, pulling societies together and close the gap between rich and poor. Schools and training centers where people from different social backgrounds can meet are the backbone of inclusive societies and social cohesion. Inclusive education is a powerful social equalizer that can help to reduce multiple gaps between women and men, for example by increasing women's self-confidence, economic opportunities and decision-making power.

Acquisition of new skills can help support decent work, more equitable and inclusive growth and facilitate the entry to the labor market. Recognising the pivotal role of education and training, for young people and for adults, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set a number of ambitious targets under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education.



SOLIDAR has been very active in supporting education and vocational training projects through its Members and partners in the recent decades in a wide range of countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

SOLIDAR considers that education and training is part of a logic of general interest and public utility: these services must be excluded from market logic and not to obey the rule of competition. Citizenship education, which contributes to education for peace and sustainable development, must be strengthened.

SOLIDAR considers that public services and common goods are guarantors of social justice and solidarity in a democracy. It rejects commodification and a liberal approach to education and promotes instead a global approach, which enables individual and collective emancipation for a better participation of citizens in the democratic, economic and social spaces of society. Throughout the work of its Members and partners, SOLIDAR contributes to the implementation of lifelong learning through work with vulnerable groups and by advocating for better permeability and recognition of all education systems, being formal, non-formal and informal.

#### **SOLIDAR:**



**considers that citizenship education should be included in all educational activities targeting young people as well as in professional training for teachers and educators and social workers;**



**promotes peace education in order to build peaceful ways of life based on harmony and the resolution of any conflict or disagreement on the basis of consensus and non-violence;**

- ✓ considers economic, social, ecological, and political migration as an opportunity for cultural enrichment and acts in solidarity with refugees, reaffirming the importance of access to education as well as validation of prior learning as tool for integration into hosting society;
- ✓ promotes gender equality in education by sensitizing on existing and persisting myths and stereotypes and fighting against these role assignments that are sources of inequalities;
- ✓ proposes a strengthened environmental education throughout life, in all its forms, in order to raise awareness on sustainable consumption and find another way of living on Earth.

By means of the case studies presented in this thematic section, SOLIDAR wishes to demonstrate that access to education for all and employment opportunities represents a lever for action to combat gender inequalities; and that the promotion of green skills in education and vocational training is necessary for a fair transition.



# Training for Sustainable Food System Development in Belgium, Spain and Italy

## INTRODUCTION

It has been shown time and again that the food sector has a significant impact on the environment and that today, the economic system as we know it no longer makes it possible to meet the challenges posed by overconsumption of resources.

Pour la Solidarité, a member of SOLIDAR, has decided to invest in a more sustainable and inclusive society and together with partner organisations (in Belgium, Spain, and Italy), has designed and implemented a training programme for workers in the food sector.

In the current global context of climate emergency and social crisis, promoting green skills in education and vocational training is necessary since it makes it possible, on the one hand, to meet environmental challenges and, on the other hand, to increase the number of jobs related to an ecological, sustainable and inclusive transition.

## TOWARDS INCORPORATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DIMENSIONS IN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

It has been shown time and again that the food sector has a significant impact on the environment and that nowadays, the economic system can no longer meet the challenges posed by the overconsumption of resources. A transition is imperative – at the social, economic, environmental and cultural level.

To respond to these challenges, the partners in the European project Erasmus+ Training 4 Sustainable Food System Development (T4F) are committed to a more sustainable and inclusive society and have developed a new training programme to address the lack of sustainable skills among those working in the food sector. Education and training are essential to dealing with socio-economic changes in the European Union (EU) and throughout the world.

Considering the importance of incorporating environmental and sustainable dimensions in the European imperatives of growth, training and employment, the Training 4 Sustainable Food System

### ORGANIZATION

Pour la Solidarité (PLS)

### SDGs



### COUNTRY / REGION

Belgium, Spain & Italy  
/ Europe

Development (T4F) project partners (Pour la Solidarité (Belgium), DIESIS COOP (Belgium), Koan Consulting (Spain), Università della Cucina Mediterranea (Italy), Fondazione Triulza (Italy), Escola Superior d'Hostaleria de Barcelona (Spain), and FOR.E.T (Belgique), have developed a set of tools for (future) food sector professionals in Europe:

1. European benchmarking of the corpus of European legislation and presentation of best practices for sustainable food training from Belgium, Spain, Italy, France and Sweden.

2. Training framework defining the how and why of the major themes (nutrition, environment, economy and society) to be covered.

3. Innovative, modular training in eight learning modules:

“Healthy and sustainable diets”,  
“Biodiversity, seasonality and organic food”,  
“Water and land management food footprints”,  
“Food loss and food waste”,  
“Circular economy and resilience”,  
“Local economy and alternative systems”,  
“Ethical and inclusive food business models”,  
“Food and cultural heritage”.

4. A methodological guide indicating the keys to delivering and/or following the training programme.

5. An evaluation tool broken down into two pillars:

- self-evaluation to help trainees assess their skills in relation to various topics covered in the training programme. The self-evaluation tool will direct trainees to specific modules according to their interests, needs and/or skills;

- the evaluation will indicate the level of knowledge acquired via the training programme to the trainer and/or trainees.

6. Recommendations to political decision-makers.

This project aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 “Quality education” and 12 “Responsible consumption and production” because it makes education and training a key pillar in raising awareness and reinforcing responsible behaviour in the consumption and production of food.



With the current global context marked by the urgency of climate change and social crisis, green skills need to be promoted in vocational education and training so that we can meet environmental challenges and increase the number of jobs linked to an ecological, sustainable and inclusive transition.

## **TRAINING 4 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

Pour la Solidarité (PLS) is a European think and do tank committed to promoting the social economy and the transition to a more sustainable society, both in terms of social inclusion and environmental and ecological concerns.

Since 2017, the think and do tank has been the coordinator of the European project Erasmus+ Training 4 Sustainable Food System Development (T4F). Pour la Solidarité

is in charge of project management, and also acts as the relay between the Belgian National Agency in charge of the Erasmus+ programme and the project's other partners.

## **INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS**

The training developed in the T4F project is aimed at both (future) workers and students in vocational education and training (VET) who wish to develop expertise in implementing and promoting sustainable values and skills in the food sector, in line with their own career paths and specific professional characteristics. Developing sustainable skills – green skills – means incorporating societal and environmental concerns and challenges in vocational training programmes for the food sector.



“

**[...] The Earth's resources will run out if everyone consumes as much as the Europeans: change must first and foremost take place in our societies where consumerism rules. Consuming less, consuming better: PLS is committed – are you?**

”

“

**It is high time that as many people as possible become aware of the environmental challenges – not to say crises – that the whole world, including Europe, will have to face sooner or later. The situation is urgent, and measures must be taken at all levels of society, from policy-making to civil society. T4F is part of this push to raise awareness and train citizens in the challenges of sustainable development, of which food is a key component.**

**— Marie Schuller, Pour la Solidarité**

”



## Resources

<http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu/en/project/training-sustainable-food-system-development-trainings-green-skills>

<http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu/fr/news/competences-durables-et-alimentation-en-route-vers-la-transition>

<http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu/en/news/sustainable-food-and-citizens-initiatives-transition-now>



# Promoting professional training of young women in Haiti

## INTRODUCTION

In a country where 57% of the population is under 24 years of age, the issue of education and vocational training is a major development concern for the country. Access to education for all and employment opportunities represents a lever for action to combat gender inequalities.

Solidarité Laïque, a member of SOLIDAR, supports the project led by the “educational community” of Gonaïves, which aims to (i) promote access for 40 young women to traditionally male vocational training, such as mechanics, cars, electricity, construction/building and refrigeration; and thus (ii) improve the employability of young people; and (iii) combat gender stereotypes.

## ORGANIZATION

Solidarité Laïque

## SDGs

4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## COUNTRY / REGION

Haiti / Latin America

The multi-stakeholder consultation of the Gonaïves educational community makes it possible to act together on local educational issues, such as the employability of young people and their integration into the economic life of the area, and to contribute to social change by integrating the gender issue and combating stereotypes, as well as by strengthening the place of women in local educational governance.

## THE WORK OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GONAÏVES

In a country where 57% of the population is under 24 years of age, education and vocational training is a major development concern for the country. Young people, and in particular young women, have the highest unemployment rate. The precariousness of employment is one of the factors that has contributed to the feminisation of poverty in Haiti, since women receive lower wages than men, work more in the informal sector, have no right to social security and are less represented in formal jobs.

Access to education for all and employment opportunities represents a lever for action to combat gender inequalities.

The Collective Programme for the Development of Education and Social Dialogue in Haiti (PROCEDH) aims to contribute to the development of quality education and to strengthen the role of civil society in the definition, formulation and evaluation of Haitian educational policies. Its members, French and Haitian civil society organisations (teachers' unions, associations of parents, teachers, formal and non-formal education, and mutual health insurance companies) act together to improve the quality of education by placing civil society organisations at the heart of the challenges faced by the education sector.

The local consultation process around the communities of educational actors has been developed in five Haitian municipalities (Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Jérémie, Roseaux and Dame-Marie). The aim is to set up pilot consultation and multi-stakeholder dialogue centres involving civil society and local authorities.

Solidarité Laïque, a member of SOLIDAR, supports the project led by the “educational community” of Gonaïves and financed by the French Development Agency (AFD). This project focuses on the issue of vocational training and employability of young people, with a gender approach. The project aims to (i) promote the access of young women to traditionally male vocational training; (ii) improve the employability of young people; and (iii) combat gender stereotypes.

## **TOWARDS PROMOTING INTEGRATION IN THE LABOUR WORLD AND COMBATING GENDER STEREOTYPES**

First, a territorial diagnosis made it possible to draw up an inventory of the local educational reality and to question the various actors about how they see the development challenges of their territory. It is through this diagnostic process that the members are identified and the educational community has been established.



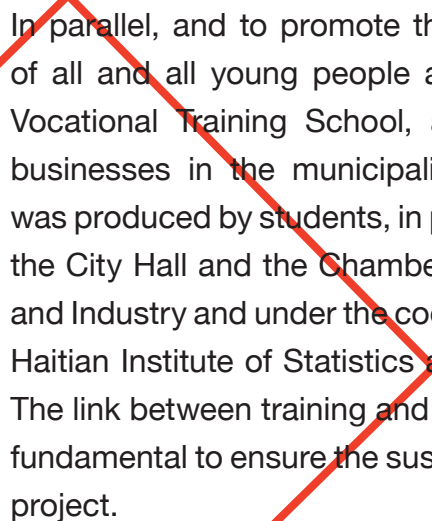
Based on the assessment made by the territorial diagnosis, the Gonaïves Educational Community focused on the question of the employability of young people. A core group of organisations has been formed within the Community by a majority of women leaders. It consists of the Gonaïves Vocational Training School, the Gonaïves Town Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Artibonite and two women's associations (the Women's Collective of Artibonite (COFA) and the Organisation of Women in Solidarity of Artibonite (OFSA). Together, these organisations have defined a project combining vocational training, access to employment and the fight against gender inequalities.

Once the consultation and identification phase was over, Solidarité Laïque provided support to the organisations in the Educational Community. Community mobilisation sessions and a gender awareness campaign were carried out to deconstruct stereotypes associated with traditionally male occupations, such as mechanics or masonry. Forty (40) girls/young women were recruited by the Gonaïves Vocational Training School

to follow vocational training for two years in mechanics, electricity, construction/building and refrigeration. This made it possible to deconstruct an image of the woman in the role of cook, hairdresser, seamstress, secretary or housewife. Until now, no girl had attended this type of training in this vocational school. They were found in the sewing, computer and other fields.

Thanks to the social and academic support provided by the project partners, 39 out of the 40 girls have followed the training, and will leave at the end of the training with a diploma recognised by the Institute of Vocational Training of Haiti (INFP). While waiting for their diploma, they attend an entrepreneurship training workshop so that they can start their own business if they do not opt for a salaried job.

Knowing that they are being observed by the rest of the population, these girls are making a double effort, not only to make a place for themselves and demonstrate that they are capable of doing so, but also to succeed and show other girls what is possible.



In parallel, and to promote the employability of all and all young people at the Gonaïves Vocational Training School, an inventory of businesses in the municipality of Gonaïves was produced by students, in partnership with the City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and under the coordination of the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics. The link between training and employability is fundamental to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Thanks to the project, more than 30 structures and organisations are currently engaged in dialogue and consultation to carry out educational projects. These educational communities in Haiti today represent ad hoc spaces for consultation, and can prefigure future formal consultation spaces. In addition, today, the 40 young girls benefiting from the project are true “gender equality ambassadors” in Gonaïves. The demand for girls to enroll in “traditionally” male courses is increasing steadily in the Gonaïves Vocational Training School.

## **INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS**

- The multi-stakeholder consultation of the Gonaïves educational community makes it possible to act together on local education issues, such as the employability of young people and their integration into the economic life of the area, and to contribute to social change by integrating gender equality and combating stereotypes, as well as by strengthening the place of women in local educational governance.
- The involvement and support of some women from the “Educational Community” who are role models for young women (the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a neighbourhood leader who fought to be elected senator, two women’s rights activists, and the leaders of COFA and OFA) helped to raise awareness of gender equality;



- The support and gender awareness of these 40 young women has opened up the prospect of having a group of “Ambassadors” capable of acting on the ground with girls and bringing the importance of gender equality to the municipality of Gonaïves;

- The development of an inventory of local businesses has made it possible and will make it possible to strengthen links between businesses and vocational training organisations in order to develop internships and other professional opportunities.

“

**First out of the 1st year of the Construction-Building promotion, it rather surprises people who have trouble understanding that a girl is so good at a job reserved for men.**

”

“

**We have realised that we are not only working for our future but also to prepare for the future of our peers. We are opening up new paths... We didn't really realise it, but it makes us very proud, even if it's only the beginning: then, we'll have to fight to get the same salary as men.**

”

— **Luce, Student at the EPG**

## Resources

<http://www.solidarite-laique.org/informe/en-haiti-une-formation-professionnelle-qui-lutte-contre-les-stereotypes/>

<http://www.solidarite-laique.org/informe/video-ces-filles-haitiennes-qui-luttent-contre-les-prejuges/>

<https://youtu.be/IPfMt9VcsTI>



# Reduced inequalities

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Hosting young undocumented refugees in France

Volunteering to support structures involved in welcoming migrants in Italy





## **INTRODUCTION**

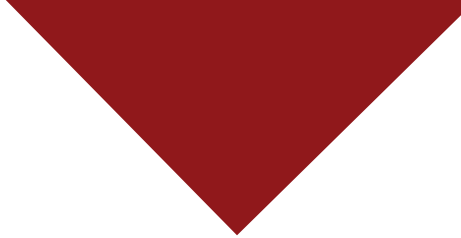
---

The fight against inequality stands prominently among the SDGs. With SDG 10 “Reduce inequality within and among countries”, the international community, including the EU, has acknowledged that inequalities are a global social, political and economic problem for all countries and economies to address and have committed, among others, to:

- progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average (SDG 10.1);
- empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (SDG 10.2);
- ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome (SDG 10.3);
- adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality (SDG 10.4).

Beyond the commitments, since 2015 with the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the pace of progress on SDG 10 has been very slow both globally and at the European level.





SOLIDAR considers that decent work, with its emphasis on an adequate minimum income, health and safety in the workplace and social protection for individuals and families, is a direct means to reduce inequalities in income, wealth and power. Combined with strong public policies aimed at providing affordable and equitable access of education and health care services to all, such initiatives can contribute to reduce inequalities of outcomes and thus lead to more just societies.

By means of the case studies presented in this thematic section, SOLIDAR wishes to convey that solidarity initiatives, including volunteering, helps leave no one behind by reaching out to people, including those marginalized or difficult to reach, to bring people's voices and knowledge into collective actions. The case studies further seek to demonstrate that European civil society has real expertise and potentials in the reception of migrants; and that volunteering is a tool for intercultural and civic education, which makes it possible, for example, to raise people's awareness of the issue of welcoming migrants.







# Volunteering to support structures involved in welcoming migrants in Italy

## INTRODUCTION

The city of Genoa has always attracted migrants, while the historical centre of Genoa is a tough neighbourhood, where marginalisation acts as a barrier to the integration of migrants.

Associazione il Ce.Sto is involved in promoting the integration and social welfare of young migrants. Il Ce.Sto works with international volunteers in close partnership with the educational movement Ceméa, a SOLIDAR member. This case study looks at the experience of one French volunteer to show how volunteering is a tool to foster intercultural and civic education, and makes it possible to raise people's awareness of the issues around receiving migrants.

## ORGANIZATION

**Centres d'Entrainement aux  
Méthodes d'Education Active  
(CEMEA)**

## SDGs

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## COUNTRY / REGION

**Italy / Europe**

## TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL PROMOTION OF MIGRANTS

Genova (Genoa) is the most important port in the Mediterranean and one of the most important ports in Europe; it is the sixth most populated city in Italy and is part of the industrial triangle that also includes Turin and Milan. Its privileged location, as the “door to the Mediterranean” has made Genoa one of the most prosperous financial and commercial centres and one of the most influential of the West. In recent decades the city of Genoa has faced economic and social hardship caused by the de-industrialisation and impoverishment of the economy in general. For this reason, Liguria’s capital city has undergone a significant process of urban renewal in the last 20 years. The work of the Associazione il Ce.sto is strongly rooted in the historical centre of Genoa, which consists of a maze of narrow streets and alleys where it is impossible to enter in any way except on foot. It has always been the destination of migrants arriving in Liguria and for this reason, today more than ever, includes a number of different cultures often in conflict with each other and with the local authorities. It is a tough neighbourhood, where

marginalisation and petty crime hinder the process of integration and where il Ce.Sto has succeeded in spreading the values of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.

Associazione il Ce.Sto has been involved since 1987 in promoting the integration and social welfare of the different ethnic groups living in the city's historical city centre, with a particular focus on minors, second generation migrants and other actors in the neighbourhood (residents, shop keepers, schools and institutions). The association has managed to build a space in which to develop and bring together the educational, recreational and creative goals of minors of different ethnicities and Italian people, stimulating and encouraging positive relations among people, where they can meet and share mutual knowledge and solidarity, providing paths to validate and realise the potential of both individuals and the community's potential.

The association provides the following services: a literacy course for adults, a help-desk for migrants, a social centre for children,

pre-adolescents and adolescents, cultural and training activities and summer camp activities. Associazione il Ce.Sto works with international volunteers to implement their activities, including Vincent, a young French student sent to Genova by the Ceméa from Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

## THE ADDED-VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

The Training Centres for Methods of Active Education (Ceméa) are an educational movement which focuses on the development of the person as a whole. The new education, which the Ceméas promote, is based on the experience and views of people and maintains a close relationship between theory and practice. The permanent and non-permanent members, all of them activists of the association, work to open up spaces for training, experimentation and reflection for all audiences (children, parents, professionals, young people, all audiences) on education,



cultural education, media education, intercultural education, secularity, the fight against all forms of discrimination, holidays, leisure and social issues.

The support of young people in European Voluntary Service is considered as an opportunity to open up a space for non-formal education and intercultural education for all young people in our region. International volunteering promotes learning, knowledge of others, the acquisition of social skills and the exercise of active and collective solidarity. Through our investment in international mobility and by accompanying young people in their experience, we defend volunteering as a lever of civil society, at everyone's disposal, to act with others and transform the way we live together and act for European citizenship and international solidarity.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

Through this project we aim to show that:

- european civil society has real expertise and potential in the reception of migrants;
- volunteering is a tool at the disposal of civil society to transform its living conditions and those of others;
- volunteering is a tool for intercultural and civic education, which makes it possible, for example, to raise people's awareness on the issues surrounding the reception of migrants;
- volunteering allows volunteer support associations to participate in projects that they could not do alone;
- volunteering, supported by structures in the receiving and sending countries, makes it possible to create a local and international network of solidarity associations/institutions that support each other's activities;
- volunteers bring to the associations in which they participate and to the public a real added value in the reception of migrants it is not only

a question of technicality, it is also a matter of personal commitment, of citizenship. Volunteers can respond to this need of people to integrate into local, social and relational life.

## Resources

[https://www.france-volontaires.org/documents/content/Enjeux/ODD/ODD\\_16\\_livret\\_paix\\_justice\\_institutions\\_effi](https://www.france-volontaires.org/documents/content/Enjeux/ODD/ODD_16_livret_paix_justice_institutions_effi)

“

**We try to educate youngsters to seek peaceful cohabitation with people coming from different cultures, countries and social conditions, by giving them the opportunity to confront an inter-cultural environment which stimulates the development of an awareness of the complexity of our society.**

— Il Ce.Sto

”

“

Within the il Ce.Sto association, I have been involved in the integration and daily support of asylum seekers and refugees in Genoa. I have worked with refugee families, unaccompanied foreign minors and adults who arrived alone. In addition to daily monitoring to ensure that the vital needs of asylum seekers are met, through visits to their accommodation and accompanying them to medical appointments, I have also had time to develop recreational, educational and awareness-raising activities for this same target group and sometimes with local residents. With another volunteer, for example, we organised workshops to help empower refugee women in their daily lives (moving around the city, using the Internet to look for work, updating their CVs). Among other examples, I have also supervised football training sessions, co-organised a photography workshop in the city, helped children do their homework, or design purely recreational workshops or workshops aimed at building bridges between different communities, such as during the Refugee Week in June.

Faced with the challenge of welcoming these newcomers, it is in the best interest of structures caring for asylum seekers to benefit from the support of individuals from civil society who wish to participate actively in their integration and in the construction of this new phase of their lives. The commitment of the local population is, in my opinion, key to the success of this peaceful integration and coexistence (as the example of the village of Lucano and other villages shows), otherwise we face the risk of remaining strangers to everyone and becoming locked into a cycle of prejudice and mistrust.

I have given a lot of myself during this volunteer work, but it has also given me a lot. Being able to work, get to know and live, in agreement as well as disagreement, with people of all ages and backgrounds, is a life lesson, which in the face of simplistic or alarmist speeches could be useful to all.

— Vincent

”



# Hosting young undocumented refugees in France

## INTRODUCTION

Young migrants in Nantes are an excluded minority in the city. They find themselves in a legal vacuum and cannot benefit from any financial assistance or educational support.

CEMEA, in partnership with local and community support associations, works to promote the integration and social inclusion of young migrants through the TAMO Project by welcoming them in a day-centre, offering suitable recreational activities, strengthening their relationship with institutions, and enabling young people to network and find for themselves the resources to meet their needs.

## ORGANIZATION

**Centres  
d'Entrainement aux  
Méthodes d'Education  
Active (CEMEA)**

## SDGs

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## COUNTRY / REGION

**France / Europe**

## ABOUT THE TAMO PROJECT

Young migrants in Nantes are an excluded minority in the city. They find themselves in a legal vacuum and cannot benefit from any financial assistance or educational support.

TAMO is a project led by CEMEA that targets undocumented refugees, and works in partnership with local and community support associations, including the food bank, Médecins du Monde, the associative cinema, community centres and human rights associations. They are welcomed three days per week in a day-centre to do different sorts of activities, such as football, dancing, board games, outings. These activities are carried out after a joint lunch. A popular canteen is also organised once a month, with the support of the food bank.

The objectives of the project are to enable young migrants to meet basic needs (washing, eating) in their daily life; as well as end isolation and come into contact with the host society through the members of the association.

The intervention thus seeks to:

- enable young people to rediscover the motivation to be actively involved through cultural and recreational activities that meet their interests, activities within the association to feel busy and useful or to identify training that could trigger their interests;

- enable young people to bear witness to their situation and their migratory path through radio broadcasts or forums, or recreate these through theatre performances; and
- enable young people to network and find themselves the resources to meet their needs.

Over the past 3 years, 150 young people have been received in the day centre and about 10 to 15 are welcomed daily. They are overwhelmingly boys (girls are very often caught up in prostitution networks.)

## HELPING YOUNGSTERS TO TAKE DISTANCE WITH THEIR MIGRATORY PATH

Ceméa, a member of SOLIDAR, is a popular education movement which focuses on educational action with young people. Ceméa takes a pedagogical approach linked with active education. It means that activities to support young people in their learning (discovering the city, making contact with associations for leisure or needs, oral

expression) are based on their interests, experience and capacities. It is a global approach to education where every kind of learning is deemed important (social, vocational, cultural...).

Through this intervention, Ceméa helps youngsters to take their distance from their migratory path, to find new prospects in the city of Nantes, to understand the host society and to regain a certain self-confidence. The pedagogy adopted helps to enhance intercultural encounters and social inclusion.

The role of Ceméa in the project is to make the participants feel at ease, feel welcomed and take their mind out of their sometimes difficult daily lives. The Ceméa team cook and eat with them, they play games together during the reception hours, and organise various types of activities, such as handicrafts, sports and cultural events.

### Resources

<https://www.facebook.com/Espace-TAMO-296800490974690/>



## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

The association does not have the capacity to change the economic situation of young migrants, but rather has an impact on their cultural and social capital by giving them reference points in the host society and allowing them to meet people and join a network.

Day-centres provide unconditional hosting without the need to justify one's age, status and without the obligation of continuous presence. They are one of the few places that do not set conditions and thus differ from many institutions.

Thanks to the support provided by Ceméa:

- it was possible to negotiate the unconditional reception of young migrants with local authorities and funders with no need for the migrants to justify themselves;
- the cultural dimension is very important in the hosting of people and the activities offered. It is necessary for the recognition and dignity of young migrants but also for the

understanding of the host society. It has an impact on the physical and mental well-being of youngsters and helps build a network and a social life;

- an unconditional welcome requires building confident and honest relationships;
- working in a network of partners is key to orientate youngsters to other areas according to their needs and situation. The fight against the exclusion of people requires the association and its members to be anchored in a rich and diverse social fabric.

**“Tamo is a place where young people are not obliged to justify their administrative situation. They feel welcomed and free. This place meets their needs, they have to go out and understand the society that welcomes them through activities.”**

**— Bérangère Potel director of “Maison des Confluences” in the Southern Nantes district**

# Gender equality

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Promoting local (sustainable)  
development through women  
-led community radios in  
Ecuador

Stop violence against  
women: a joint responsibility

Empowering Women  
through Community Based  
Organisations in Niger

Empowering Women Farm  
Workers in South Africa






## INTRODUCTION

---

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development fifth goal seeks to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. This includes, among others:

- ending all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation;
- ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
- giving women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws;
- adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

SOLIDAR considers that gender equality is a prerequisite to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and gaps such as access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights, inclusive education, decent work and full participation in society must be addressed.



Through the intensive and fruitful work of its Members and partners in the field, SOLIDAR strives to promote such Goal (SDG5), and in particular considers:

- that adequate public investments in accessible, affordable and quality early childhood, education and care is paramount, and can contribute to the achievement of several gender-related targets of the Agenda 2030 by reducing the time women spend on unpaid care (SDG 5.4) and enabling them to increase their access to employment (SDG 8.5);
- that the inclusion of the decent work agenda in policy-making/programming is critical to the empowerment of women - in accordance with international labour standards and to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work - to help tackle precarious working conditions to which too many women are confronted; ensure equal pay for work of equal value; enable the strengthening of social dialogue; promote a safe and healthy

environment for female workers, and enhance women's access to social security benefits;

- that women's rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will only be possible if we commit to gender responsive public service;
- in providing public infrastructure, public water and sanitation, public energy, public education, and public child care;
- that the strengthening of health systems and health financing that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, is crucial to the enjoyment of women's rights;
- that strengthening women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development is paramount.



The case studies presented in this thematic section highlight the work of civil society organizations in sensitizing women about their rights – including access to essential basic services, participation, violence against women and decent work conditions - can enable women to claim these rights and lead to transformative change.





# Empowering women through community based organisations in Niger

## INTRODUCTION

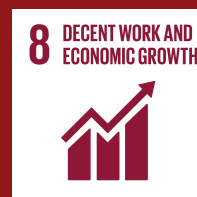
According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Niger ranks second to last (187) in the classification of the group of countries according to their levels of development. Approximately 48.2% of the Niger population lives below the poverty line, that is, with less than 1 dollar a day.

Poverty in Niger is eminently a rural problem: of every 10 people considered poor, 9 live in rural areas. In addition, the levels of inequality between the poorest and the most privileged households are five times higher than in the urban environment. Moreover, women are considerably more affected than men: they have lower level of education and less access to land and resources, accompanied by a lower participation in the labor market and access to credit.

## ORGANIZATION

### Movimiento para la Paz (MPDL)

## SDGs



## COUNTRY / REGION

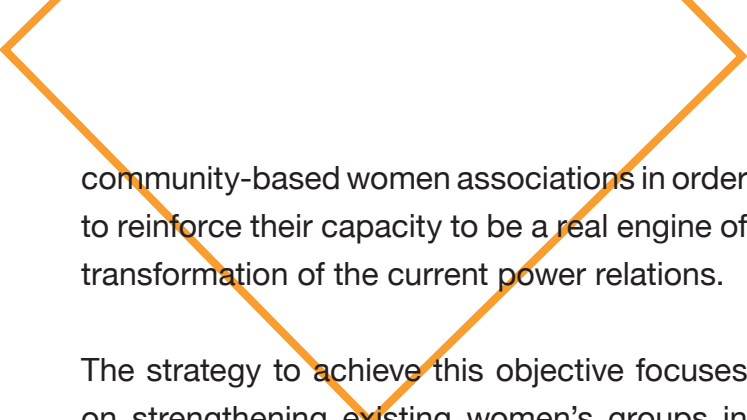
### Niger / West Africa

These features characterise also the Region of Tahoua, where the Movement for Peace - MPDL - operates. Several factors perpetuate women condition of subordination. Among them there is:

1. The lack of education and training. In rural areas, 1 woman over 20 is literate. The net percentage of primary school enrollment is 30.3% for girls compared to 43.4% for boys. In secondary education, the national rate of schooling is 8.6% for adolescents and 13.8% for adolescents.
2. The difficulties in accessing productive resources, such as land, equipment or credit. Even in cases where the family owns assets such as parcels of land, livestock or some type of material, these belong formally to the (male) head of the family.
3. Finally, their precarious health situation (fruit of a poor diet, the poor sexual and reproductive health, and other causes) limits their level of education and of information, as well as their capacity to develop productive activities.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN THOROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

Within the described context, MPDL started working with



community-based women associations in order to reinforce their capacity to be a real engine of transformation of the current power relations.

The strategy to achieve this objective focuses on strengthening existing women's groups in each of the 20 villages involved in the program and has been built on the following axes:

1. Literacy campaigns: 20 literacy centers have been set up for the implementation of literacy courses aligned with national educational strategies and methodologies.
2. Training in associative life and leadership. A program of women's associations capacity development and permanent support has been developed with the aim of building an active, participatory and transparent associative fabric, capable of carrying out different types of activities.

**“ Throughout the program we have seen a huge evolution. Before, women's associations were not functional, they hardly had activity. Now they are aware of the importance of working collectively and**

**having initiatives for their own good, as well as that of their families and communities. ”**

**– Ibrahima Idrissa, MPDL Níger**

3. Training on the promotion and defense of women's rights. Issues such as forced marriages, sexual and reproductive rights, or rights to economic and social participation have been widely addressed and they have been the object of public campaigns led by women themselves and socialized within the community. As a result, in many villages women themselves have created communication and awareness channels with traditional and religious leaders, health agents, young people and the population in general.

4. Planning and development of income generating activities. Once the training itinerary has been completed, the program has contemplated the development of small collective businesses that reinforce the autonomy of women in terms of obtaining their own income and economic participation in the community. For this purpose, a training itinerary has been developed (small business concept, management tools, business plans, etc.) and



accompaniment was given that led to a business project in each of the 20 intervention villages. Today, a good part of the businesses launched to the market are beginning to give their benefits, in a process of continuous learning on the part of women that begins to place them in a better position within their families and communities.

**“ Our mentality has changed. Now we know how to read and write, and together we have started a business, selling soaps and creams that is giving us benefits. We say that we are rich, because we can have some money of our own to reinvest in the business and with which to take care of our families. ”**

**— Kambari Arziki, President of the women association Mun Samu in Doumbou**

## **INNOVATIVE APPROACH AND LESSONS LEARNED**

One of the innovative aspects of the program lies in its comprehensive approach. The strengthening of the social and economic

position of women in rural areas depends on a series of factors -formative, access to resources, capacity for collective action, lack of community awareness, etc.- that are addressed in a global and specific manner by the intervention.

On the other hand, another of the innovative aspects is the fact that it does not only focus on improving the situation of women from a purely economic point of view (their ability to generate income), but also in terms of their global participation (social, economic, political) in the management of their community's affairs. In this sense, the appropriation by women themselves of a conscience in relation to the rights they are entitled to, and the awareness of all the community about it represent two essential tools to reinforce the global position of women in the bosom of each town.

The impact of this approach has been the inclusion of women in spaces of community management (committees of water management, cereal banks, etc.), as well as the institutionalization of practices through which the community consults women's associations on topics of general interest.

# Empowering Women Farm Workers in South Africa

---

## INTRODUCTION

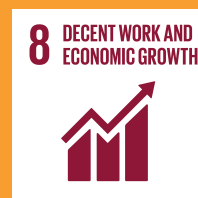
Thanks to the massive growth in exports of South African wine, we can all enjoy a good glass of South African wine from time to time. But, what's the real (social and environmental) cost of the wine we drink? Under which conditions has wine been produced?

On a daily basis, women and men who work and live on commercial farms in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces of South Africa, try to overcome various challenges, such as severe labour rights violations, poor health, violence, evictions and food insecurity. Life in the farms is harsh, with living and working conditions close to inhumane.

## ORGANIZATION

Fonds voor Ontwikkelings-  
samenwerking - Socialistische  
Solidariteit (FOS)

## SDGs



## COUNTRY / REGION

South Africa / Southern Africa

Women farmworkers are particularly disadvantaged: over the last ten years, there has been an increase in casualization of women's labour. They are generally employed as seasonal workers, as opposed to men who are likely to be employed as permanent workers. This means that women only work and have an income for 4 to 6 months a year, exacerbating their financial dependence on their male partners.

Poor health is pervasive among farmworkers: workers report not having access to clean sanitary installations, or even not having access to a toilet at all, in the vineyard where they work. More than two-thirds of seasonal workers are exposed to dangerous pesticides at their workplace and report negative impacts on their health. Most workers are not provided with protective clothing by their employers. Many farmworkers suffer injuries at work, which they often do not report to the employer nor to the Department of Labour fearing to lose their daily wage or even their jobs.

Poor health among farm women is compounded by the nexus of gender-based violence (GBV), alcohol dependence and HIV/AIDS. Attributable to the legacy of the "tot" system, alcohol consumption by farm workers is twice that of the urban poor. Alcohol abuse is one

of the most critical and immediate health issues facing farm women. The psychosocial impacts of alcohol abuse are still pervasive in the farmlands, contributing to risky and unsafe sexual behavior, and thereby contributing to greater HIV infection rates.

## **WOMEN ON FARMS PROJECT: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS ON THE VINEYARDS**

In the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces of South Africa, FOS works with Women on Farms Project (WFP): a feminist organization that works with women who live and work on commercial farms. WFP seeks to empower farm women primarily through rights-based capacity building for women as well as support for their organizations in community-based structures. WFP enables farm women to know and claim their rights. Recent campaigns have included violence against women, access to quality healthcare, and proper sanitation facilities on the farms.

**“ We are 12 families living and working on this farm. There’s no clean running water, we use water from the irrigation canal. My daughter suffered from diarrhea for 3 months, probably because of the water. We don’t have decent toilets in our living area, neither on the field. Toilets come and go. The farmer seems to know when inspectors of WIETA will come, and then he puts some toilet cabins. But when the inspectors leave, the toilets leave... Before joining WFP, I wouldn’t have dared to talk to you. But now I feel strong. I’m not afraid to tell you what’s going on here. ”**

**— Danielle, 30 years old, farm near Robertson**

The Women’s Health and Empowerment Programme (WFP) ensures that farm women’s health needs and rights are accessible and respected, and that these women are empowered to take individual and collective action around abuses of those rights in the home, workplace and community. WFP seeks to build the knowledge, skills and confidence



of farm women to enable them to know, claim and realize their rights to physical and mental health, safety and security.

With an emphasis on the right to health, and an understanding of farm women's contextual circumstances (the social determinants of health), WFP consistently and explicitly highlights the intersectionality between living and working conditions, alcohol (and substance) abuse, gender inequality, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Farm-based health teams, made of farm women, are playing a leading role in health education and mobilization at the farm and community level.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2016, Women on Farms Project celebrated its 20th anniversary. This was the occasion to look at some key achievements through the stories of women farm workers and dwellers.

### Transforming through knowledge!

Farm women have emphasized the importance of learning about their rights through WFP. For all these women, this resulted in strong feelings of empowerment and more control over their lives. Often, such feelings were underpinned by anger at the realization of the extent to which their rights had been violated, because they had previously lacked knowledge of these rights. Such personal transformation, has been accompanied by the commitment to sharing information and knowledge, as well as defending and advancing the rights of other farm women.

“ Since I'm going to the meetings of WFP, I feel stronger. Thanks to them, I'm able of saying no to alcohol and drugs... ”

— Ju-Kaylin, 16 years old, New Rest



## **Transforming through sharing!**

The participatory and transformative methodologies (popular education, drama, free writing, etc.) used by WFP staff in all programmes, created “safe spaces”, where women have found invaluable and unique opportunities to share the most painful aspects of their lives, where they have found support, love and empathy. For most women, such spaces are often their first and only opportunity to talk and share deeply-buried insults, abuse and humiliations.

**“ I was raped at the age of 8 by my stepfather. That is the one thing that made me the person that I was (quiet); until I could talk about it, when we had that workshop around health, and the abuse of women and children. And that day I could talk, because for years, years, years, I did not talk about it, until that day...because see, there were other women in the workshop who also went through the same thing, and**

**who also did not talk about it... Because if you feel that trust, that confidence... when you know someone builds your trust and confidence (to talk), then you can talk about your past, and you can release yourself from it. Then you are free... really.**

**”**

**— Jacoba, 57 years old, Rawsonville**

## **Transforming through the new generations!**

Evidence shows that there is a strong tendency towards the intergenerational transfer of socio-economic conditions. Young farm women are hence highly likely to grow up and lead lives which are very similar to their mothers (and other adult farm women). For this reason, farm adult women started to bring their daughters to the workshops, with the will to break the cycle of poverty and violence.



## Resources

Report: “Understanding the labour conditions of women farm workers in the Western Cape and the Northern Cape, South Africa”:  
<http://www.wfp.org.za/publications/general-reports.html>

Video: “Allemaal samen” (English and Afrikaans spoken, English subtitles): [www.fos.ngo/womenonfarms](http://www.fos.ngo/womenonfarms)

“Celebrating 20 years of Farm women’s Activism”,  
Women on Farms Project, 2016

# Promoting local development through women-led community radios in Ecuador

## INTRODUCTION

Despite being rich in resources, the northern region of Ecuador presents a considerable degree of poverty and the level of people living in extreme poverty is dramatically high. The region faces serious social crisis aggravated by the proximity to the border with Colombia, from which many refugees have fled over years of armed conflict, as well as by organized crime, drug trafficking, kidnapping, and human trafficking.

## ORGANIZATION

### Progetto Sud

## SDGs



## COUNTRY / REGION

### Ecuador / Latin America

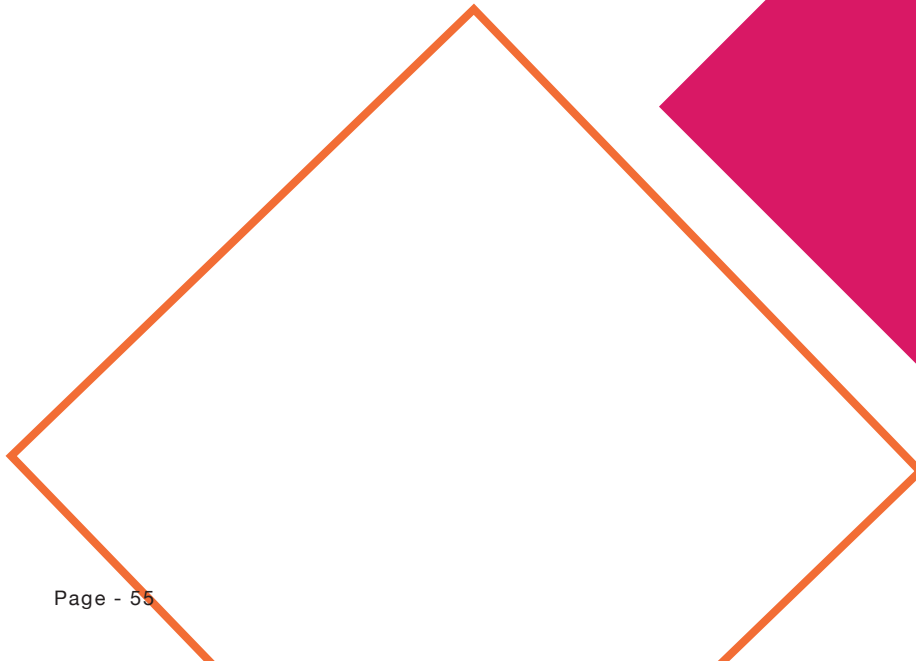
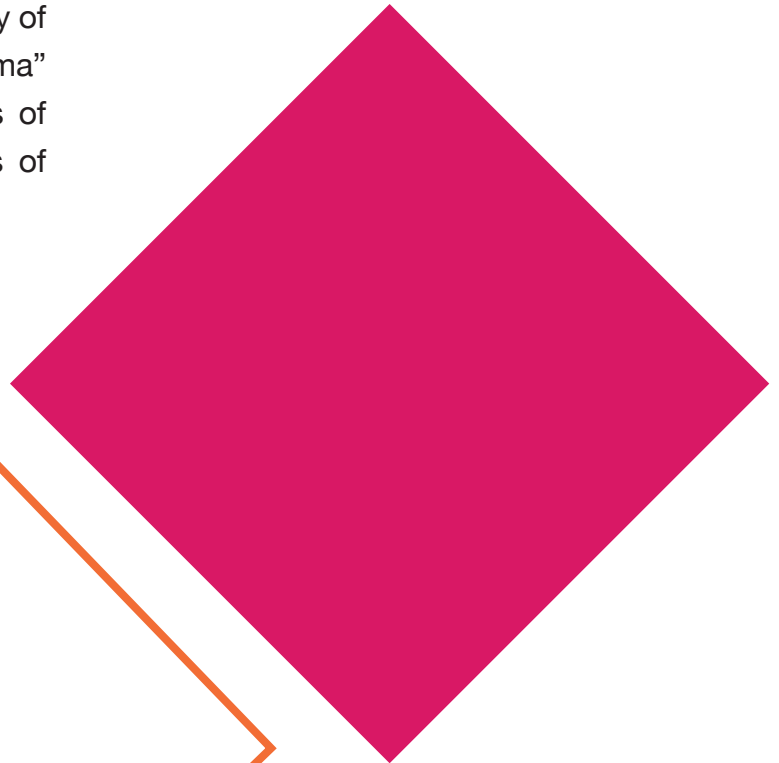
In this context, and as part of the government's strategy to promote peace, security and improve living condition in the area, Progetto Sud supported the creation of a community radio lead by women who has been the engine to promote local sustainable development and the recuperation of ancient, local and traditional cultures.

## TOWARDS EMPOWERING LOCAL WOMEN LEADERS AND SENSITIZING THE COMMUNITY ON ANCESTRAL CULTURES

The main purpose of the proposed action was to train and promote local women leaders through the development of their communication skills and the creation of a community radio equipped with audio booth, transmission, production and field tools. The radio, managed by four local women's associations, played a catalytic role to promote the concept of human security, local development, territorial cohesion for the reduction of social inequality and to rediscover the values of ancestral cultures.

An example of this, is the revalorisation of an old cocoa crop: the “fine aroma” cocoa, which represents only 4.7% of world production and is the oldest type of native cocoa, supplanted, in the last 30 years, by cocoa Forastero (the most common quality in the world and resistant to climatic changes with an astringent and acid-bright taste) or hybrid with 95.3% of world production. The cacao “Forastero” belongs to the category of ordinary commercial type. The “fine aroma” cocoa has a lower productivity in terms of quantity but a clear superiority in terms of quality.

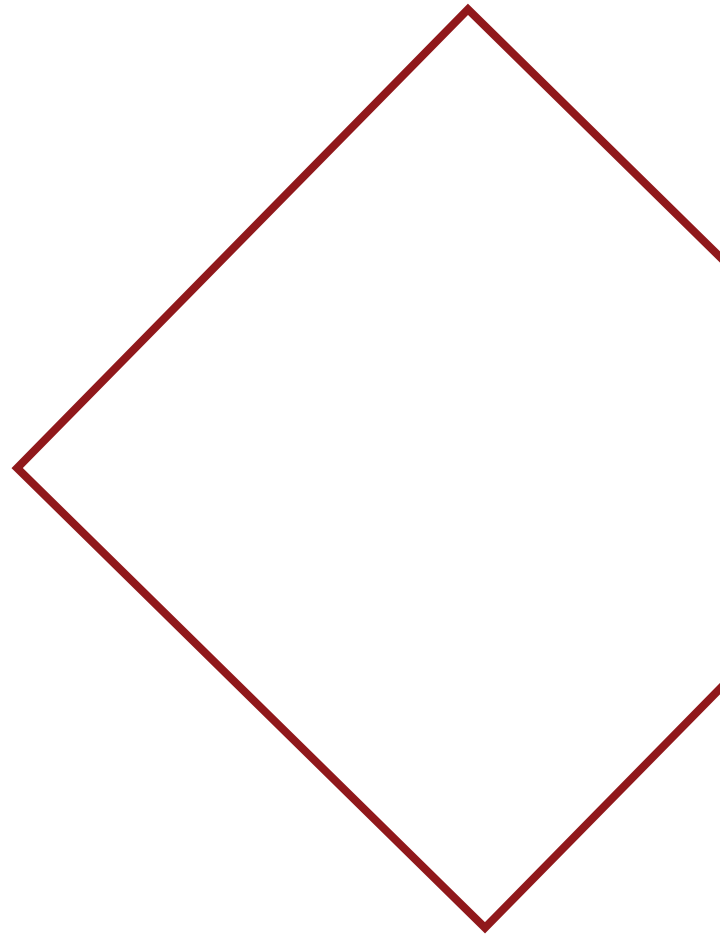
Through radio interviews, the story of this crop was recuperated. As a consequence, small companies that work with cocoa in Ecuador began to search for the autochthonous cocoa variety, in order to recover and spread the crop. This generated a movement in the community that pushed elderly micro-farmers not to abandon the indigenous variety.





## ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The action generated a broad participation of the community and has awakened in the community itself a recognition and a strong appreciation of the typical values of their culture. It has been understood that knowledge about one's identity as a value that must be recognized, disseminated and appreciated, can be the engine to generate resources and support the improvement of the quality of community life. This was crucial to create synergies and consolidate the development processes with local authorities and central government delegations and governmental and non-governmental organizations that see with interest the levels of consolidation of women's organizational processes.





# Stop violence against women: a joint responsibility

## INTRODUCTION

In Italy, Auser (Association of Autonomous Service Providers), a social volunteers' association aiming at creating the cultural, social and legal conditions that allow the elderly and the old to continue to enjoy a high quality of life, to participate, to plan their future and to have access to a thriving network of social relations, has put in place several actions to tackle violence against women. These actions target or involve, in their delivery, old women.

## ORGANIZATION

Association of  
Autonomous Service  
Providers (Auser)

## SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## COUNTRY / REGION

Italy / Europe

# STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: GOOD PRACTICES

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence against old women is a phenomenon that is “too undervalued”. Scams, verbal and physical violence (including sexual), deception, harassment, often remain not denounced. “Older women experience the fragility of the third and fourth ages with income often modest..., moreover they have more difficulty in defending themselves and asking for help and they are less aware of their rights and, if they know them, less ready to claim them”.

To break down the wall of silence on cases of violence and abuse against elderly women, a collaboration between different actors, including Spi Cgil and Auser has been put in place in the Northern Italian city of Piacenza around a simple but effective idea: deliver trainings to provide basic tools to physicians, social and health workers, but also to the police and to volunteers in order for them to be able to recognize abuses on the elderly, in particular against older women over 65, who are the most exposed, and intervene in time. Real “sentinels” to break up the wall of silence and help the victims.

The Veneto Centre for Women, founded in the city of Padova in 1990, provides gender educational-cultural activities, but, above all, services for women who are victims of domestic abuse. The centre offers individual or family counselling; legal advice; therapeutic groups; career guidance; help in finding housing; accompaniment to support services in agreement with local health services, town councils and social services. The centre has two “safe houses” and two “second welcome houses” that can accommodate ten women with children, for a period ranging from six months to a year. In addition, the Auser volunteers and social workers play an important role in raising awareness on the problem of gender violence through research, conferences, seminars, training in schools, training courses (both supplementary and experimental) for police, social and health workers, teachers and volunteers.

With the objectives to protect women who

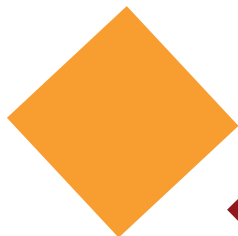
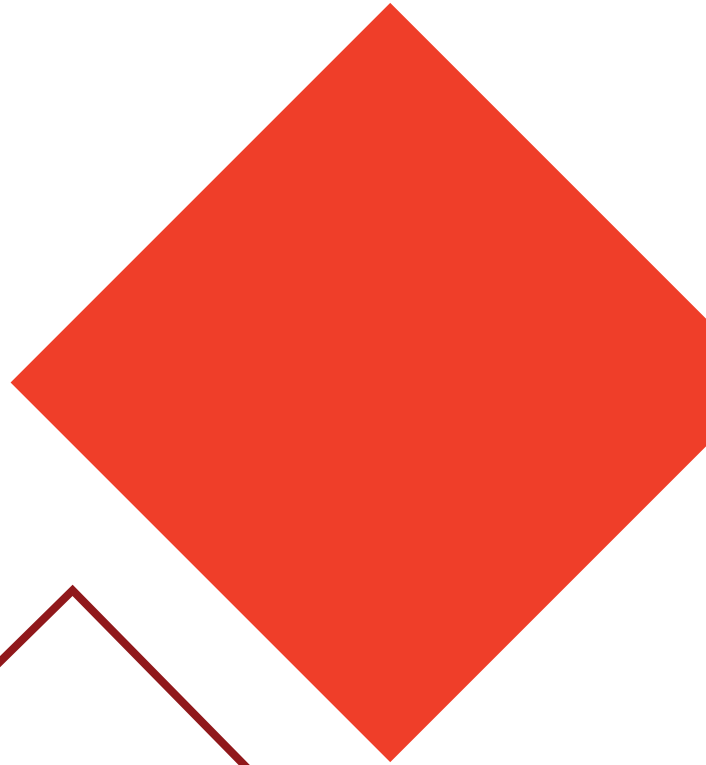
suffer violence and their children; to foster knowledge of the phenomenon of gender violence; to promote cultural change in the vision of gender, the principles of the actions are: the promotion of the rights and dignity of women; the impartiality, free availability, accessibility and confidentiality in welcoming women.

The Anti-violence counter was set up in 2010 by Auser in a site provided by the Frosinone Town Council in collaboration with local institutions, to be one-stop service providing help and psychological and legal support, for women at risk of domestic violence. Available free of charge are a social worker, two psychologists, a lawyer and a doctor, plus a group of Auser volunteers trained to address various needs: help in finding a house, accompaniment to support services. The office is open from Monday to Friday, from 9.30am to 6.30pm. For emergencies, 24 hours a day, there is a hotline connected to an operator’s mobile phone.



The service is also connected to the national number used for cases of violence and stalking. Currently the project is entirely run by the Frosinone Auser.

With the objectives to create better living conditions for women who suffer violence or ill-treatment; to provide answers to the increase in violence against women; and to place women in touch with the network for initially approaching social services, the action is lead by the principle of empowerment and listening to women who have been abused.



# Sustainable consumption & production

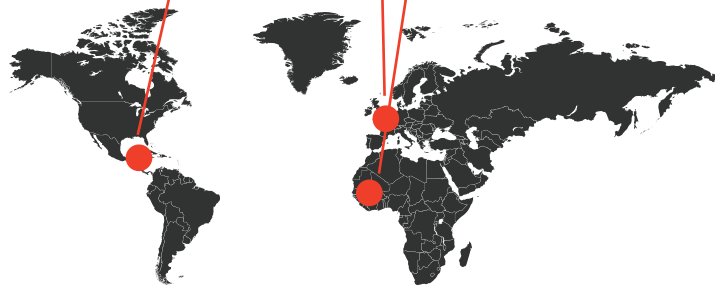
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Matching social & environmental development in El Salvador

Exploiting used cooking oils for low carbon public transports in France

Green Senegal's actions in promoting food security, agro-ecology and youth employment





## INTRODUCTION

---

Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

At the current time, material consumption of natural resources is increasing. Countries are also continuing to address challenges regarding air, water and soil pollution.

Since sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” net welfare gains from economic activities can increase by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole life cycle, while increasing quality of life. There also needs to focus on operating on supply chain, involving everyone from producers to final consumers. This includes educating consumers on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, and adopting measures to promote sustainable public procurement, among others.

SOLIDAR fully endorses Goal 12 of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and considers the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as an important tool to achieve such Goal. The social and solidarity economy (SSE) is a concept that refers to enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises, which specifically produce goods, services and knowledge while pursuing economic and social aims and fostering solidarity. The economy is then no longer at the service of the individual and “selfish” commercial interests, but of people as a whole, with a view to achieving social justice, equality and democracy.

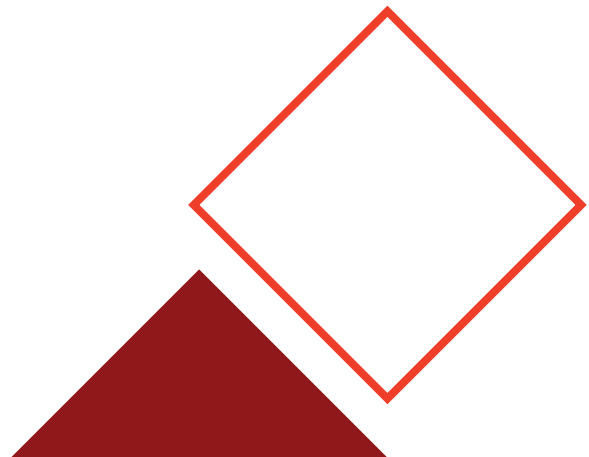


The Social and Solidarity Economy can play an active role in promoting decent work for all:

- social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations (SSEOs), through their social values and participatory operations, can indeed play a role in promoting labour standards and realizing labour rights. In the Southern countries, this is particularly true for the informal workers, who constitute the major part of the labour market. By organizing and providing services to informal economy workers, SSEOs, often in collaboration with employers' and workers' organizations, tackle the lack of respect for informal workers' labour rights and inappropriate measures and address some of the workers' day-to-day individual and collective problems. Cooperatives offer a variety of advantages for counteracting the difficult challenges in the informal sector, which include poor working conditions, poor pay and insufficient time for getting involved in collective organizations. Cooperative structures can unite the economic and commercial concerns of workers in the informal sector and can also

strengthen workers' actions and support their common demands to other economic actors and public authorities;

- as SSEOs pursue both economic and social objectives, they play a major role in creating and securing decent employment and income. Within the SSE, cooperatives have been major employers for years in several Northern and Southern countries. Furthermore, SSEOs can create a large number of "green jobs" (i.e. jobs which aim to attenuate and prevent the countless environmental threats that are hanging over the planet); and SSEOs, such as cooperatives, can play a specific role not only in implementing the cooperative principle of education and training, but also in developing innovative approaches in that field;





- SSEOs are often member-based and their activities often focus on people who do not have access to the goods and services produced by the orthodox economy. As member-based organizations, they are often well-placed to detect emerging economic and social problems, emerging risk groups and new needs.

By means of the case studies presented in this thematic section, SOLIDAR wishes to demonstrate that the social and solidarity economy is a vector of social transformation, and that the SSE is a crucial tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production).



# Exploiting used cooking oils for low carbon public transports in France

## INTRODUCTION

Used cooking oils – waste originating from the food-processing and catering industries- play an important role in the emergence of biofuels.

Pour la Solidarité (PLS), together with the city of Lille and a social and solidarity enterprise, runs a project aimed at collecting used cooking oils from restaurants and waste collection points, and reintroducing this biofuel into some of the Lille city's public transport systems (buses and cleaning vehicles).



## ORGANIZATION

### Pour la Solidarité (PLS)

#### SDGs

**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## COUNTRY / REGION

### France / Europe

The project makes it possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 93%, and for every 100 tonnes collected and produced, the social and solidarity enterprise creates 1.5 local jobs.

## THE ROLE OF USED COOKING OILS IN THE EMERGENCE OF BIOFUELS

Pour la Solidarité (PLS) supports sustainable projects by, among other initiatives, implementing together with three other partners (the social and solidarity enterprise Gecco, Lille University, and Rreuse) the European Commission co-financed project “BIOHEC-LIFE-Advanced Biodiesel in a circular economy for a low carbon public transport” (2016-2020), which aims at exploiting used cooking oils (UCO) for the production of environmentally friendly biofuel while promoting the social economy sector.

Petroleum products still constitute about 95% of the total amount of fuel used for road transport in Europe and represent 21% of European greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Price fluctuations on the petroleum market pose an increasing threat to this sector. All this further justifies the use of renewable energy.

In order to meet its climate and energy target, the European Union aims at a 10% share of renewables in the transport sector for 2020. This decision triggered a boom in the biofuel industry.

Used cooking oils - waste originating from the food-processing and catering industries - play an important role in the emergence of biofuels. Their recycling is encouraged by regulation, but less than 40% of used cooking oils are currently collected and advanced biofuels (made from vegetable waste) still generate negative impacts on the environment and climate.

The current biofuels industries rely heavily on imports and on long-distance transport to high capacity processing units: freight represents up to 20% of the total greenhouse gas emissions produced in the entire product life cycle.

Given these facts, the BIOHEC-LIFE project pursues five strategic objectives:

- releasing an environmentally compatible

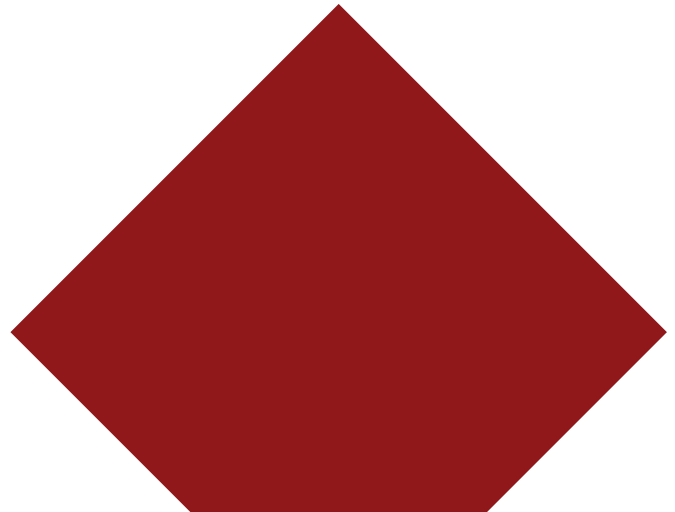
prototype that allows for the generation of biofuel;

- being able to supply transport fleets at local level with biofuel;

- validating the economic, social and environmental model of the sector;

- preparing the replication of this model on European territory;

- developing methods that contribute to an increased rate of recycling of UCO.





## TRANSFORMING WHAT COULD COMMONLY BE CONSIDERED AS WASTE INTO A RESOURCE WITH HIGH-ADDED VALUE

Pour la Solidarité (PLS) is an independent European think & do tank committed to promoting solidarity and sustainability in Europe. Pour la Solidarité takes action to defend and strengthen the European Social Model, which consists of a subtle balance between economic development and social justice.

The BIOHEC-LIFE project aims to implement a circular economy loop by recycling used cooking oils collected in restaurants or supermarkets to transform them into biodiesel. One of our goals is also to replicate this model in other European countries.

In order to prepare the replication of this model on European territory, in 2017 our think and do tank PLS led European market studies aimed at identifying three countries where the BIOHEC-LIFE project could easily

be replicated. PLS is now in the process of finding European partners, particularly social enterprises wishing to replicate the experience in their region.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

The BIOHEC-LIFE project is a unique example of transforming what could commonly be considered as waste into a resource with high added value. It is a project with both a social and environmental scope. Oils are collected from restaurants in the Hauts-de-France region and from certain collection points, such as waste collection centres. The oil is then transformed using a technological process with a very low environmental impact. This process of transforming oils into biofuel makes it possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 93%, compared to the fossil diesel fuel chain. Thanks to a partnership established with the City of Lille, this biofuel is then reintroduced into some of the city's public transport systems (buses and cleaning vehicles). It is a good example of a partnership

between a social enterprise and a municipality for a project that meets several of the objectives of sustainable development, whether in terms of responsible production, renewable energy, sustainable cities and communities, and more generally in the fight against climate change. Several positive impacts are already identifiable:

- social impact: For every 100 tonnes collected and produced, the social and solidarity enterprise Gecco creates 1.5 local jobs. This activity thus creates ten times more work than for the same amount of diesel produced by conventional production companies;

- environmental impact: For every 1kg of used cooking oils collected, 3kg of CO<sub>2</sub> is avoided (93% reduction compared to gasoline). Other environmental benefits compared with gasoline are 86% less consumption of non-renewable energies, 97% less photochemical oxidation, 98% less human toxicity and 46% less eutrophication.



**The implementation of our corporate project contributes to energy transition by supplying several branches of the renewable energy mix and enabling our partners to benefit economically (wealth creation), socially (job creation) and environmentally (reduction of GHG emissions)**



### Resources

LIFE – BIOHEC : [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=5681](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5681)

PLS – BIOHECLIFE: <http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu/en/project/used-cooking-oils-biofuel-production-project-biohec-life>

BIOHEC-LIFE – Gecco: <https://www.gecco.fr/projet-biohec-life/>



“

**Gecco's founding values affirm the primacy of human beings and the environment over financial profit. All partners and staff share these values and recognise themselves in the company's project. We implement participatory governance in decision-making by consulting partners and employees.**

”

“

**BIOHEC-Life will enable us to deploy our economic, social and environmental model in Europe, to multiply our action in favour of energy and social transition and to contribute to the achievement of European objectives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

”

**– Michel Millares, President of Gecco**

# Green Senegal's actions in promoting food security, agro-ecology and youth employment

## INTRODUCTION

The main challenges in Senegal are youth employment, natural resource degradation and food insecurity.

Green Senegal, partner of SOLSOC, seeks to make agriculture a stable and sustainable activity, through a better use of water resources and the control of production factors. Green Senegal first of all defends the training of workers, farmers and young people.



## ORGANIZATION

**Solidarité Socialiste  
(Solsoc)**

### SDGs

**2** ZERO HUNGER



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**15** LIFE ON LAND



## COUNTRY / REGION

**Senegal / West Africa**

By training farmers, and in particular young people, it is possible to improve both agricultural yields and the environment. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a tool for combating poverty and the youth exodus, but it must be accompanied by the protection of natural resources and soil.

## CONTEXT

While Senegal is the most stable state in West Africa, it faces many challenges: high levels of poverty, the predominance of informal work, soaring demographics, high gender inequalities, reduced access to rights for a large part of the population, and food insecurity.

Through its National Development Plan (Plan Sénégal Émergent, PSE), Senegal has chosen a neoliberal path: privatisation, lack of state intervention and of aid to workers and producers, and dependence on the international market. The National Development Plan thus favours the mining and hydrocarbon sector, contributing to the degradation of natural resources. The mining and hydrocarbons sector, although accounting for a large share of exports, only covers 0.3% of total employment. Agriculture, which represents 60% of the total, and whose active support could help solve food insecurity, is neglected.

## LINKING FOOD SECURITY, AGRO-ECOLOGY AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Green Senegal, a partner of SOLSOC (SOLIDAR member), is a non-governmental research and development organisation that supports grassroots community-based farmers' organisations in the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and environmental sector. Its objective is to contribute to food security and poverty alleviation by means of social and solidarity economy (SSE) initiatives. In addition, it carries out awareness-raising activities among young Senegalese people.

Green Senegal fights to improve the rights of workers, especially young people and women, in the informal economy and in the rural world. Green Senegal is active in the training of workers, farmers and young people. The NGO also seeks to make agriculture a stable and sustainable activity, through the better use of water resources and the control of production factors. Green Senegal also promotes local production instrumental for food sovereignty.

To achieve this, Green Senegal supports investment in some promising sectors, such as rice. This would allow Senegal to reduce its dependence on the international market while improving the living conditions of its producers. Another essential aspect of Green Senegal and SOLSOC's work is agroecology, i.e. local, ecological production, while combating desertification of the territory.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

By training farmers, and in particular young people, it is possible to improve both agricultural yields and the environment. The two reinforce each other in a country where water resources are scarce. In addition, it promotes employment. Investments are also needed to develop the different sectors and move closer to food sovereignty.

SSE is a tool to fight poverty and youth out-migration, but it must be accompanied by the protection of natural resources and soils.



# Interview with Director of Green Senegal

**MS VORÉ GANA SECK**

---

**In Senegal, what specific challenges are young people facing?**

Of the 14 million inhabitants, half are under 18 years of age. Every year, 300,000 young people enter the labour market. They are often without qualifications, and do small jobs. Or they prefer to go to Spain, Libya, etc. We realised that, in the villages where we work, it is often women who stay; young people prefer to migrate to the cities, to be street vendors, or to leave the country. How can we retain them?

The first challenge is therefore youth employment. How can we ensure that the State provides more support for education? It has made efforts and set up large-scale programmes; the most recent was the Delegation for Rapid Employment (DER). But we have reservations because it's too politicised; if you're in the party, you're more likely to have access to it... There are also scholarships for families; giving money every three months is good, but it is not a solution.

In Green Senegal, a "youth" programme has been set up. The first step is to train them and build their capacities, with priority given to promising sectors: agriculture, fisheries, livestock, etc. But for us, it's no longer just a question of working in agriculture for three months a year; that's not enough. We need to invest in the hydraulic sector, so that farmers have access to water to grow all year round. We need to control the factors of production - land, energy, inputs and water - and have added value, in order to redirect young people towards employment, so that they can find agricultural professions, and not just agricultural activities.

We could invest in these promising sectors. Rice, for example. This is an imported commodity. We have a programme that provides for self-sufficiency in rice. But do we have the infrastructure to be able to process it, to be able to organise the whole sector? No. We continue to import rice from Thailand or elsewhere, whereas the value of local rice should be appreciated!

### **In this context, what role can the social and solidarity-based economy play?**

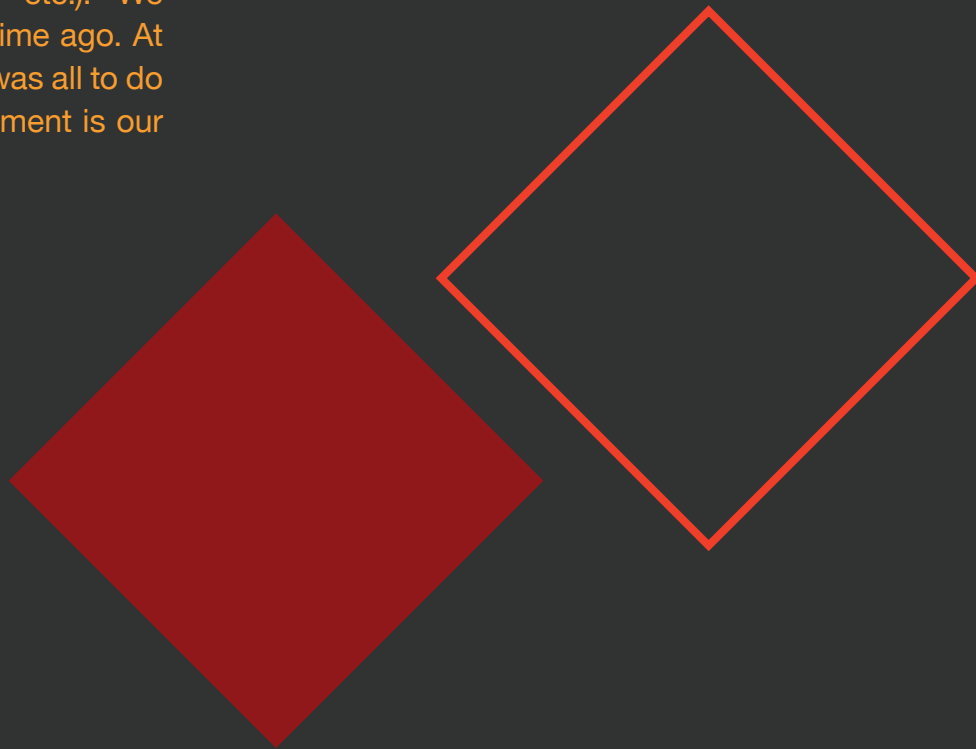
For us, the social and solidarity-based economy (SSE) is of crucial importance because it makes it possible to fight poverty and keep young people here. A country where the young people leave is a country where hope leaves. And we want the young people to stay. If we want to reverse the trend, we need to focus on young people.

But the SSE cannot develop if there is desertification, decreases in rainfall, etc. The SSE can only be based on a healthy environment. We need to produce and, to do this, our soils need to be protected and



fertile. That's why we opted for agro-ecology at the outset. And we want underground resources - for example, oil - to go back to the people.

We want to invest in agriculture; in the “green economy” (environmental protection, the fight against global warming, local production, etc.) and in the “blue economy” (seas, fisheries, integrated coastal management, etc.). We opted for the environment a long time ago. At the beginning, we were told that it was all to do with “whites”, whereas the environment is our survival!





# Matching social & environmental development in El Salvador

## INTRODUCTION

The Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL) generates one third of the national electricity in El Salvador. Its construction in 1975 involved the relocation of local populations from the agricultural sector to the fishing sector, but without any adequate support for the local population, which should have included diversifying production activities and other forms of support.

Humedal Vivo project carried out by ISCOS and other partners achieved change by mitigating the impact of climate change in the High Valley of the Rio Lempa through sustainable and inclusive land management systems; and by contributing to the sustainable management of the environmental resources of the Cerrón Grande Basin by strengthening local coordination bodies and including the most vulnerable groups with sustainable production initiatives in the fisheries, agriculture and tourism sectors.



## ORGANIZATION

**Istituto Sindacale di  
Cooperazione allo Sviluppo  
(ISCOS)**

## SDGs

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND



## COUNTRY / REGION

**El Salvador / Latin America**

Strong social inequalities and a high rate of violence persist in El Salvador, also linked to drug trafficking that hinder social inclusion processes. Located at the 121th place in the Human Development Index, the country is challenged with social vulnerabilities, with the share of people living in poverty (with less than USD 5.50 a day) amounts to 30.7, and the share of workers in vulnerable employment amounts to 36% of the total employment.

The action, carried out by ISCOS, targets the Departments of Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, Cabañas and San Salvador where the Cerrón Grande Dam is located, administered by the Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL), which generates one third of the national electricity. Its construction in 1975 involved the relocation of local populations from the agricultural sector to the fishing sector, but without any adequate support for the local population, which should have included diversifying production activities and other forms of support. Other deficits include the incompleteness of the instruments for the sustainable management of the area (RAMSAR Convention signed in 2005), the weakness of existing coordination mechanisms, the ineffective participation of social organizations involved, and the inability to cope with consequences of climate change on biodiversity and production systems.

The action is in line with the programmatic tools of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, namely the National Plan for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes, the National Plan of Regulation and Territorial Development, and the National Strategy on the Environment. The indications of the Strategic Plan elaborated in November 2014 by the Interinstitutional Committee of the Cerrón Grande Basin (CIHCG) are important, as it highlights the need to strengthen the instances of coordination between the member organizations.

## **SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF THE CERRÓN GRANDE BASIN**

ISCOS is a non-profit association, born from the trade union experience of the CISL to promote actions and programs of international cooperation in accordance with its founding principles: solidarity, social

justice, human dignity, peace. The defense of labour and human rights, the fight against poverty and discrimination, and the support of communities affected by natural disasters and wars are the priorities that characterize the action of ISCOS.

ISCOS intervention is in partnership with Soleterre (Italian NGO), the Ministry of Environment of El Salvador and the Interinstitutional Committee of Bacino Cerrón Grande (CIHCG). The project objectives are to:

- mitigate the impact of climate change in the High Valley of the Rio Lempa through sustainable and inclusive land management systems;
- contribute to the sustainable management of the environmental resources of the Cerrón Grande Basin by strengthening local coordination bodies and including the most vulnerable groups with sustainable production initiatives in the fisheries, agriculture and tourism sectors.



This joint intervention focuses on rural communities, in particular families with low incomes (monthly average of 180 U\$), women and young people. A total of 7,839 people are estimated to have benefitted from the project, including fish farmers, people working in family agricultural production units, and local officials.

Main project activities included:

- awareness raising, training, systematization of best practices;
- support for productive activities (fish farming, fishing, agriculture, tourism) also through a pilot unit for the production of renewable energy (bio-digester);
- activation and application of the control plan and the management of invasive species;
- application of the monitoring and regulation system of physico-chemical and biological water parameters; and
- application of the management plans of the areas of protection and prohibition in the water surface of the wetland.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

Sustainable and inclusive land management systems can greatly contribute to mitigate the impact caused by climate change in the Upper Rio Lempa Valley.

Strengthening local coordination mechanisms/institutions and including the most vulnerable groups with sustainable production initiatives in the fishing, agriculture and tourism sectors can help contribute to the sustainable management of the environmental resources of the Cerrón Grande basin.

### Resources

<http://www.iscos.eu/it/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/cuadernillo-FIR-2017-19enero2018.pdf>

<https://www.aics.gov.it/2017/17883/>

# Decent work

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Outsourcing in the sugar agroindustry in El Salvador

The Brazil nut industry in Bolivia

Supporting the informal economy workers in the Dominican Republic

Labour Rights Brigades against the exploitation of agricultural labour in Italy

Coffee farmers fight for fair trade and social justice in Burundi

Fostering genuine social dialogue in Mozambique





## INTRODUCTION

---

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is premised on the recognition of a mutual dependence of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Together with the Paris Climate Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, it provides the framework for achieving sustainable, more equal and resilient societies. Furthermore, upholding freedom of association and collective bargaining rights and supporting social dialogue for all workers as a governance instrument not only delivers progress for working people and societies at large, but is also a pillar of functional democracies and sustainable development.

SOLIDAR, through its network of Members and partners active in many countries inside and outside Europe, is committed to work towards the promotion of decent work for all, and thus works on its four core pillars: productive and freely chosen work, guaranteeing workers' rights, extending social protection and encouraging social dialogue. It does so recognizing that freedom of association and collective bargaining as precondition for the realization of economic and social rights.

Through its initiatives on the field, SOLIDAR network thus seeks to enhance the capacities of independent, democratic and representative civil society organizations and workers' organizations to:

- actively contribute to the design and implementation of inclusive labour market policies through social dialogue;
- actively contribute to take concrete actions for the formalization of the informal economy according to the ILO Recommendation 204, and supported by the ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors;
- put in place through social dialogue expansive policies on wages, and enforce robust equal pay and gender-based anti-discrimination legislation;
- extend and uphold social protection systems and floors to ensure universal coverage to all workers in all forms of work, in line with ILO standards (Convention 102 and Recommendation 202).

The case studies presented in this thematic section illustrate the crucial role of independent, democratic and representative civil society organizations and workers' organizations in striving to promote access to social security, better working conditions, and adequate minimum wages for all workers in all sectors; in raising awareness of workers about their rights, including amongst the most exploited; and in strengthening social dialogue institutions to reduce informality and to improve working conditions and the lives of the most vulnerable workers.





# Outsourcing in the sugar agroindustry in El Salvador

---

## INTRODUCTION

Since the privatisation of sugar mills in El Salvador, La Magdalena and La Cabaña sugar mills have resorted to outsourcing to hire personnel, both to “save costs” and to prevent the formation of unions. This approach to employment gave rise to serious violations of workers’ rights and generally precarious working conditions, characterised by low salaries and, above all, employment instability.

Thanks to FOS support to the Confederation of El Salvador sugar unions, and to actions such as stoppages and strikes during the harvest season, two unions were finally established and managed to end subcontracting practices, and to secure the signing of collective agreements that have resulted in substantial improvements in working and living conditions for the workers.



## ORGANIZATION

Fonds voor Ontwikkelings-  
samenwerking - Socialistische  
Solidariteit (FOS)

## SDGs

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



## COUNTRY / REGION

El Salvador / Latin America

# VIOLATIONS OF WORKERS' RIGHTS IN SUGAR MILLS IN EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador there are six sugar mills, which were nationalised in the 1980's, but were reprivated again at the beginning of the 1990's, through processes that were far from transparent. The new owners of the sugar mills set a series of conditions for their acquisition, including the non-existence of unions and the possibility to use new forms of recruitment that were much more flexible and advantageous for the employers.

Since their reprivatisation, La Magdalena and La Cabaña sugar mills have resorted to outsourcing to hire personnel, both to "save costs" and to prevent the formation of unions. With respect to La Magdalena (located in the western part of the country), the company had dealings with up to 29 subcontractors to manage the mill's personnel; in the case of La Cabaña, the staff was hired through five subcontracting companies that were actually owned by the mill owner. These employment modalities gave rise to serious violations of

workers' rights and generally precarious working conditions, characterised by low salaries and, above all, employment instability.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTION TO HELP DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS**

FOS, as part of the Belgian Socialist Labour Movement (HORVAL) and a member of SOLIDAR, actively supports FESINTRAINZUCADES, the Coordination of El Salvador sugar unions (Coordinadora Sindical de Trabajadores/as del sector Azucarera de El Salvador), which brings together several factory unions and a union of sugar cane cutters, including ASITRAINMA and SITRACABAÑA and actively defends workers' conditions in sugar cane plantations.

The new unions, ASITRAINMA (La Magdalena mill union, 2010) and SITRACABAÑA (La Cabaña mill union, 2015) were finally established through actions such as stop pages and strikes during the harvest season, and succeeded in getting employers to accept the unions and employ workers directly, thus ending subcontracting. The unions secured the signing of collective agreements that have resulted in substantial improvements in working and living conditions for the working class, as highlighted in the interviews included in the sections below.



## INNOVATIVE APPROACH AND LESSONS LEARNED

Following the review of these cases, the following lessons were drawn, which might seem obvious to some countries but not so obvious in a country like El Salvador, which has a deep-seated anti-union culture and a very low union density:

- the battle against outsourcing in the sugar mills was won only through the existence of strong, representative unions with the ability to fight;

- in a bid to put an end to outsourcing, ASITRAIMA and SITRACABAÑA used both social dialogue and more “forceful” actions such as stoppages and strikes that could harm the economic interests of employers;

- both unions owe their success to the strategic alliances they were able to forge with other unions in the sector and other solidarity union players.





# Mill workers interview on outsourcing

---

## WORKERS INTERVIEWED

1. Saul Orellana
2. Mauricio Rivera

**Luis:** When did the company start subcontracting?

Saul: Subcontracting began soon after it was privatized. Mr. Pacas, owner of the sugar mill La Cabaña, warned that he would only buy the mill if it was free of unions, collective bargaining and permanent contracts, and if workers who lived near the company were incentivised to live and work elsewhere (workers lived close to the mill). The existing union was dismantled. An attempt was made at organizing workers, but the company managed to nip this organizing campaign in the bud. From that year on, several workers were compensated for dismissal every year.



**Luis:** But, was he (Mr. Pacas, owner of the sugar mill La Cabaña) formally the employer?

Mauricio: The workers were employed by companies whose names were unknown to us.

Saúl: Formally, Mr. Pacas employed 100 workers in agroindustry services; others worked for the Management company and so on. There were some five companies which were in fact one single company. It was a strategy to scatter workers to prevent them from organising.

**Luis:** When did you finally create your union (SITRACABAÑA)?

Saúl: The union was set up in 2015 in an outsourced company at first, but after strong lobbying and several strikes the union became independent, and an agreement was reached to allow the union to operate, and not only in the outsourced firm. As everything passed into the hands of Ingenio La Cabaña, the union became the mill's union. Demands were made to employ people directly and have permanent contracts. It was not until 2016 that this goal was achieved. That same year, the first list of demands for collective bargaining was submitted, which included 64 clauses.

**Luis:** How many workers are there approximately?

Saúl: There are 450 permanent workers and 800 harvesters.

**Luis:** So now you are employed directly?

Saúl: Yes, now we are employed directly by the mill.

**Luis:** Are there many differences between subcontracted workers and workers employed directly by the company and covered by a collective bargaining agreement? What are those differences?

Saúl: There is no longer employment insecurity: in the past, people were hired but had no certainty about being hired again. After the harvest season we went on vacation, and when we were back, we had to wait at the entrance of the mill for the lists of the workers who had been hired again, hoping our name would be on them.



**Luis:** So, there is more job stability.

Mauricio: Yes. When the harvest is over, we know now for sure we are going back to work.

**Johana:** Can you think of any other significant difference between subcontracted and unionized labour?

Saúl: The salary went up from \$252.00 to \$370.00; we managed to secure the \$120.00 increase through the collective bargaining agreement. After the legal tax deductions, each worker ends up with about \$300.00 of net income for personal and family expenses. We did not have that before.

**Luis:** Have you managed to obtain any other benefits through your collective bargaining agreement (CBA)?

Saúl: We secured a 15% salary increase in the first CBA, 5% in the second CBA, and at the last collective bargaining round (last year) we obtained only a 2% increase.

Mauricio: Although at the last bargaining round we did not obtain a higher salary increase, we secured an extra vacation payment of 5%.

Mauricio: Unlike what happens in other mills, when our mill produces raw sugar it must be stored properly. Therefore, the warehouse staff work on a permanent basis, ensuring job security in this sector. In the past, these workers were employed only when the production came out, but now they can keep their jobs throughout the harvest season. When the production phase is over, the company relocates workers (in different areas, including cleaning or other ancillary activities) so they are not left without work.

Saúl: Through collective bargaining the union has also obtained 100% compensation for workers with temporary invalidity (3-4 months, or up to a year): the company pays 25% and the insurance covers the remaining 75%, the goal being that workers with health problems should always get their full salary. The union makes an additional contribution of \$100.00 for other personal expenses.



**Luis: How did you manage to eliminate outsourcing?**

Mauricio: It was the result of all the efforts made by our fellow union members and colleagues to form the union and their courage to fight to obtain it.

**Luis: Do you think you would have managed to end outsourcing without the union?**

Saúl: No. It was the union which eradicated outsourcing definitively. The union was set up in March 2015, and already in August-September the first strikes broke out. When the mill boss became aware of the situation and the strength of the union, he met privately with the former board of directors to discuss three main demands: outsourcing, permanent contracts and a collective bargaining agreement. These were the most significant achievements then. The strike had been supported by 100% of the workers, even those who were not unionized. When the management realised the support we had, it decided to negotiate. The strike was very effective. The problems at plant-level (working conditions) were so severe that workers could no longer stand the situation and supported the strike.

**Luis: What lessons have you learnt from this organizing experience?**

Saúl: If the workers had not organized and had not had the courage to fight to form a union, nothing would have happened. Organizing was carried out as an underground activity, and when the company realized that the union had been set up it was already too late to dismantle it. Ours is one of the newest unions and one which has faced the most challenges: dismissal of union leaders, management changes, threats. Although it is one of the youngest unions it has a long history of union struggles. It is also the industry union that has called the most strikes.

# The Brazil nut industry in Bolivia

---

## INTRODUCTION

About 17,000 families are involved in the harvest of the Brazil nut, a sector characterised by deplorable working conditions, debt bondage, and lacking any legal protection for the workers.

FOS supports the national confederation of rural workers in Bolivia by providing training courses on labour rights, union strategies, and economic issues.

While enormous profits were made, the waged workers were unaware of the wealth created within the sector, and suffered the same abuses as before. The economic training courses increased their awareness and lead to a much firmer position being taken by the unions during negotiations.

## ORGANIZATION

Fonds voor Ontwikkelings-  
samenwerking - Socialistische  
Solidariteit (FOS)

## SDGs

8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



## COUNTRY / REGION

Bolivia / Latin America

# WORKING CONDITIONS OF WAGE LABOURERS IN THE NUT INDUSTRY

The Brazil nut, locally called the castaña, is the economic motor of Bolivia's Northern Amazon region (723.000 Km2). Economically the sector represents about 70% of the region's income. Bolivia is the main producer and exporter of Brazil nuts in the world.

About 17,000 families are involved in the harvest of the nut, including 10,000 who live in small communities near or in the forest, and 5,000 families who come from the city of Riberalta and migrate for a few months to the working camps in the forest. Another 12,000 workers, working in local factories, are involved in the processing of the nut to make it an exportable product.

The sector is internationally notorious for several specific challenges that it faces. After the rubber sector collapsed in the 1940's, the old infrastructure and in some degree labour relations were maintained. According to historian Arnoldo Moreno the economic model in place could be

referred to as the “Síndrome de la Barraca”, a model based on private ownership of large pieces of land, a capitalist model with enormous political influence but in which the state is completely absent. Workers, often from an indigenous background, were practically slaves without any rights, and without the possibility to claim what was theirs. The economic and political elite in the region were one and the same.

However, there have been changes in recent years. Land rights were reduced to 5,000 ha per person (1996), and the presence of the state, namely the regional offices of the Ministry of Labour, grew. But, in some ways the Barraca-model is still present. A study conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) confirmed that large parts of the Brazil nut sector in Bolivia are still characterised by deplorable working conditions, debt bondage (regarded as a new form of slavery), and the lack of any legal protection for the workers. Child labour is common, and considered essential to the harvesting families. According to the ILO

“this favours a system of debts that often means workers keep on working in the same deplorable working conditions.” While an estimated 50% of the harvest is done by local, indigenous communities, 40% is still collected by wage labourers who still suffer from the same Barraca-style labour relations. And according to a 2017 investigation (Quiroz Claros et al), 43% of the workers were recruited by illegal subcontractors.

On 20 March 2019, a 42 year-old waged worker (Pascual I.Y.) was murdered by his employer over a misunderstanding about outstanding pay. Death threats, violence, physical and verbal abuse against workers are common, a consequence of the notorious Barraca-model and the absence of state authorities especially in the remote areas of the forest. The reign of irresponsibility and impunity must be brought to an end.

## RAISING AWARENESS AND ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR BETTER WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

A large part of the waged labourers in the sector are unionised and form the Trade Union Federation of Rubber and Brazil Nut Workers of Bolivia (Federación Sindical Única de Trabajadores de Goma y Castaña de Bolivia, FSUTGCB), which is part of the National Confederation of Waged Rural Workers (Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores Asalariados del Campo de Bolivia, CNTACB). FOS, as part of the Belgian Socialist Labour Movement (HORVAL) and a member of SOLIDAR, supports the national CNTACB and its member federations, including the FSUTGCB, by providing training courses on labour rights, union strategies, and economic issues, and by supporting them to prepare collective negotiations, which had significant results at the end of 2018.

The above mentioned characteristics of the sector hamper honest and constructive collective negotiations. Thanks to the economic training provided to the federation,

which unveiled the very unequal distribution of wealth within the production chain, workers no longer accepted the extremely low wages, the horrendous working conditions, the practice of debt bondage, and the horrible living conditions in the working camps (migrating families). Employers did not accept the demands of the unions and walked away. A general strike was organised, with the support of unions of other sectors in Riberalta (transport, local business, ... ), and within no time the Minister of Rural Development Cocarico organised mediation talks. The results of the mediation were very positive for the workers: a favourable price/wage was set; a new interdisciplinary commission was established to control the working and living conditions in the sector; an agreement on a jointly paid health care insurance for workers was signed; and other social protection measures were adopted.

The project with the Confederation of Wage Field Workers (CNTACB) and the Trade Union Federation of Rubber and Brazil Nut Workers of Bolivia (FSUTGCB) will continue in 2019, focussing on enhanced training courses and unionisation strategies. The project is also

financing an international investigation into the Brazil nut production chain, which will show how the wealth created in the sector is distributed nationally and internationally, from the harvest in Bolivia until the retailer in Europe. This should help local and European unions to raise awareness of the fair distribution of wealth, and the need to improve working and living conditions in the sector.

## **INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS**

An important lesson learned is the need to use economic data during training courses for local unions. Often, local unions are unaware of the economic importance of their sector. The Brazil nut sector constitutes a very good example, as in recent years the export of the Brazil nut became one of the most important economic sectors in Bolivia, after the export of gas and minerals. Whilst enormous profits were made, the waged workers were unaware of the wealth created within the sector, they did not enjoy the profits made therein and

suffered the same abuses as before. The economics training courses changed that. This awareness has led to a much firmer position being taken by the unions during negotiations.

Moreover, while most trade unions are struggling at national level and ignore the importance of international organisation, it is possible to strive for better working conditions and wages in the Brazil nut sector in Bolivia from Europe. European unions within the food industry could expose and denounce the horrendous working conditions, and the unequal distribution of wealth in the sector. They can demand that retailers only import nuts from Bolivian companies and brokers that respect labour rights and pay fair wages. For this to happen, FOS intends to act as intermediary, by facilitating contact with European and Belgian unions such as HORVAL, and by bringing researchers to participate in international studies on the distribution of wealth within the sector, among other contributions.



“

Once you go into the forest to harvest the Brazil nut for a few months, you never know if you will return.

”

– anonymous waged worker (woman). A very common quote in Riberalta

“

In Riberalta a few families live in great wealth thanks to the work of the poor majority.

”

– a young anonymous waged worker (man)

# Coffee farmers fight for fair trade & social justice in Burundi

## INTRODUCTION

The National Confederation of Coffee Growers' Associations of Burundi (CNAC-MURIMA W'ISANGI) is a Burundian non-profit organisation, whose members are small producers operating plantations ranging from 100 to 5,000 coffee trees.

The CNAC represents, advocates and defends the interests of coffee farmers. The work of the CNAC in partnership with SOLSOC in Burundi has led to the implementation of concrete action in favour of decent work and the social and solidarity economy.

By bringing together all producers, and organising a large part of the coffee sector around producer-controlled cooperatives, coffee yields have been shared more equitably.

## ORGANIZATION

### SOLSOC

### SDGs

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



## COUNTRY / REGION

### Burundi / East Africa

## HOW THE ORGANISATION OF PRODUCERS AND THEIR PRESSURE ON MULTINATIONALS LED TO MORE EQUITABLE COFFEE YIELDS

Before the 1990s, the activities of the coffee sector were supervised by the State. The coffee farmers brought the raw materials to the coffee washing stations for payment. The State provided protection to producers against market fluctuations (through the Burundi Coffee Office, OSIBU).

However, and in response to the structural adjustment policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), Burundi was forced to liberalise the sector in 1995, and to comply with the directives of the international financial institutions.

The first coffee farmers' organisations were created in 1997 and organised against the takeover of the sector by multinationals. This control is organised first of all around ABEC

(the Burundian Association of Coffee Exporters), but also through coffee washing stations and peeling factories (an operation consisting of releasing the coffee bean from its parchment, a thin film that surrounds the bean). By privatising the stations and factories, they were acquired by foreign private companies, which ensured that they reserved a maximum margin in the distribution of coffee sales, to the detriment of the share of small farmers. However, an agreement had been reached with the government, limiting their margin, but this was not respected. Thanks to their common organisation, producers have been able to organise themselves to refuse to deliver raw coffee to multinationals, forcing them to resell their coffee washing stations.

The CNAC-MURIMA W'ISANGI (National Confederation of Coffee Growers' Associations of Burundi), a partner of Solsoc, has taken steps to discourage other potential buyers and encourage the purchase of coffee washing stations by coffee growers'

cooperatives. These cooperatives created the Consortium of Coffee Growers' Cooperatives (COCOCA), which bought out the peeling plants, giving producers control over the entire sector and a fairer sharing of surpluses. However, many coffee washing stations and skinning plants remain privatised.

## **ABOUT THE MAJOR ROLE PLAYED BY THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF COFFEE GROWERS' ASSOCIATIONS OF BURUNDI**

CNAC-MURIMA W'ISANGI (National Confederation of Coffee Growers' Associations of Burundi) is a Burundian non-profit organisation, whose members are small producers operating plantations ranging from 100 to 5,000 coffee trees.



The CNAC represents, advocates and defends the interests of coffee farmers. It also develops relations of solidarity, exchange and technology transfer between coffee growers' associations.

The CNAC is a partner of Solsoc, and the two maintain a direct relationship. The CNAC acts as a relay to set up programmes to promote decent work and sustainable development among target groups, in particular through the mobilisation of local actors and advocacy with public authorities and international bodies.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

The work of the CNAC in partnership with SOLSOC in Burundi has led to the implementation of concrete actions in favour of decent work and the social and solidarity economy. By bringing together all producers,

and organising a large part of the coffee sector around producer-controlled cooperatives, coffee yields have been shared more equitably. Rather than returning to foreign multinationals, the surplus value is distributed among producers, which contributes both to reducing inequalities and to the country's development.

In addition, the organisation of the entire sector around the CNAC has made it possible to recalibrate the balance of power against foreign multinationals and to better regulate the sector. As a result, they were not able to take advantage of the competition from the multitude of local producers in their favour. By organising themselves collectively, producers were able to block the delivery of coffee, and refuse a distribution of its selling price that was to their disadvantage.

# Coffee farmers interview on trade & social justice

---

## INTERVIEW WITH

Macaire Ntirandekura,  
Advocacy Officer at the National  
Confederation of Coffee Growers'  
Associations of Burundi (CNAC)

**Luis:** What is the role of the social and solidarity-based economy (SSE) in Burundi? Does it contribute to changing people's situations?

**Macaire Ntirandekura:** Burundi has a capitalist economy that ensures that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. This context does not help the poorest populations to get ahead. The 'écisol' [solidarity-based economy] has been well received by the 90% of the population that lives from agriculture.

If what we do is positive, there are immediate spill-over effects, since the country is very small. We are already seeing the impact at the population level: creating a



cooperative allows people to “help each other”. At the level of our organisations, the principles of the solidarity-based economy are well established. The added value is not yet significant, but people feel that there may be a slight improvement for the members of cooperatives.

Some of the principles of the solidarity-based economy were already implemented in the country, solidarity itself in particular. ADISCO and the CNAC [National Confederation of Coffee Growers' Associations of Burundi] have identified an opportunity in the solidarity-based economy for the rural movement to have power and have its own voice. **Coffee growers should not be poor, because it is coffee that brings foreign exchange into our country!**

**You mentioned the CNAC. Can you tell us a bit about its history and the privatisation of the coffee sector?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: Before privatisation, all activities related to the coffee sector were carried out and supervised by the State. Coffee growers would harvest their cherries (a red or purple fruit

produced by the coffee tree, which has coffee beans at its core), take them to the washing station and wait to be paid, knowing that the State needed to maintain price levels. The State then handled the processing and marketing through OSIBU, which was a State entity.

Everything changed with the neo-liberal structural adjustment policies of the 1990s. The government was obliged to withdraw from the coffee sector and adopt the privatisation strategy to obtain debt relief. Many government funds went into the sector while, according to the World Bank and the IMF [International Monetary Fund], the sector could be self-sufficient.

In 1995, a decree of the President of the Republic enshrined the privatisation of the coffee sector. “Anyone can work in the coffee sector, from production to marketing”. Privatisation was therefore imposed. The state’s hands were tied. From that moment on, we saw that coffee growers (who previously considered that the State owned the coffee) needed to organise themselves to have their place and a framework to



express themselves within privatisation. It was during this period, in 1997, that the first associations for coffee growers were set up. The CNAC was set up in 2004.

The vision of the growers' associations was that producers needed to step in where the government was backing away and disengaging. As such, in the decision-making bodies of the coffee sector, coffee growers needed to have a place to defend their interests. Finally, they had to organise themselves to control the sector, from production to export.

### **Do coffee growers control the sector?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: Lobbying was carried out in this respect and the CNAC was successful in 2007, when the President publicly declared that coffee now belonged to producers, from production to export. And all the other actors in the sector were service providers. The CNAC took the bull by the horns and shook things up. People who bought coffee in Burundi were not happy, but the exporters, in reality, were agents for the multinationals! The CNAC dismantled the system for marketing coffee.

SOGESTAL, a mixed company (the State is a shareholder), was not the owner of the coffee. All coffee had to be collected and marketed at the level of the OSIBU, and no one could buy coffee without going through the “exporters” association, the ABEC. Since coffee growers now owned their own coffee, we set up a marketing commission. These multinationals, which work closely with the World Bank, were surprised, because nowhere else do coffee growers enter the market!

### **In this struggle, the challenge of the washing stations was key, wasn't it?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: Yes. Privatisation meant the sale of the washing stations and curing factories [a process to remove the coffee bean from its parchment, a thin film that surrounds the bean]. And coffee growers started to try to buy washing stations. However, in order to buy one, one of the conditions of the specifications was to contribute 1 million dollars. None of the coffee growers had that kind of money!



The CNAC, supported by ADISCO, INADES [INADES-formation, pan-African network of associations], Solsoc, IRED [Innovations and Networks for Development], etc. lobbied the government and the World Bank aggressively to remove this condition. And it set up coffee growers' cooperatives, which could have an economic activity and buy washing stations.

One of the first private companies to purchase washing stations was Webcor (Switzerland). A study was carried out by OSIBU into setting up a distribution grid that was effective and profitable for all stakeholders in the sector. This study argued that 72% of the price of coffee should go to growers after marketing, and the remaining 28% should be distributed among other actors/service providers.

Webcor did not respect this distribution. In the first year, there was a problem because in the other regions (not yet privatised), coffee growers had received a higher price for coffee than those who had sold their production to Webcor. So they decided to stop delivering the cherries to Webcor, which was forced to close and resell the washing stations it had purchased.

At the time, the CNAC wrote to the parties interested in buying the washing stations, explaining that if they bought the stations without the consent of the CNAC, the same thing would happen to them: they would buy the building, but they would not buy coffee from the growers. This put them off and allowed coffee growers' cooperatives to purchase their own washing stations.

### **And what is the situation of the coffee sector and coffee growers today?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: At the moment, 50 cooperatives own a washing station, and these cooperatives have created the Consortium of coffee growers' cooperatives (COCOCA), which bought the curing factory at Horamama. COCOCA is also responsible for marketing the coffee. We therefore control the entire sector these days [for the share of the coffee that belongs to CNAC member growers].

With regard to price setting for producers: the coffee remains the property of the growers, meaning that after marketing, if there are surpluses, the members of the

cooperatives share in these profits. This is one of the principles of the solidarity-based economy. We also hope to set up a quality centre for coffee growers. We have always worked on the quality of the coffee since, to get good prices, you need quality coffee.

But at the cooperative level, not everything is perfect. There are problems of governance and management, but also the search for quality. Some people think that having large volumes is more beneficial. But the COCOCA has quality standards and certifications (organic, fair trade), which allows us to obtain attractive prices.

### **What is the situation with the privatisation policy? And what challenges still remain?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: We were successful in obtaining a review of the privatisation strategy. The national coffee advocacy platform has been created to incorporate all stakeholders in the coffee sector, and provincial platforms are also being set up. If something needs to be improved within the sector, we work together to draw up proposals and solutions. For example, at the moment there is the question of how to change legislation that has become obsolete.

But some challenges remain. Even though the privatisation strategy has been reviewed, it has not yet been implemented. At the sector level, there is a lack of clarity regarding government policy for the coffee sector. The privatisation was carried out on a part of the State's assets, but there is still another part: 77 washing stations that have not yet been sold, and in which the State is a shareholder. This is a problem because the State cannot control the sector and at the same time be part of it!

On the other hand, there are private companies that have bought washing stations, but they are not sure where to position themselves in the privatisation policy. We don't know yet whether the government will re-nationalise the sector or complete the privatisation. Finally, not everyone works on an equal footing because in companies where the state has shares, if a problem arises, it can intervene to rectify the situation, while other companies have to manage without state support.

The distribution grid, which specified that 77% of export revenues had to go to coffee growers, has been scrapped. There is now



a framework for setting the producer price, but the figures used in this table are not transparent. The price is set in February, when the coffee is still growing, while the marketing is done in August-September-October. We are therefore paid at the February price while the price fluctuates; prices may increase or decrease. It is not really possible to calculate a fair and equitable price for all stakeholders.

In addition, many traders have not followed the emergence of new private companies in the coffee sector, and do not know how the associative movement was set up. They joined the cooperative movement to look after their personal interests first and foremost. They do not have a feeling for the movement and do not serve the general interest. We need to revitalise and reconsolidate the associative movement at the grassroots level.

### **What place do women have in this sector?**

Macaire Ntirandekura: In Burundi, the culture is still fairly traditional. A woman cannot represent the household if her husband is present. And yet, coffee is a family crop. Of course women are growers too, but they are rarely seen outside the orchards. On the other

hand, women generally do not get elected to decision-making bodies. We also need to raise awareness among men to make progress.

Today, the association movement for coffee growers encourages men to give part of the coffee trees to their wives so that they have access to the market and a certain representativeness in the associations. We're starting to see that, but it's just the start. An association of women who produce their own coffee, the "women's" coffee, has been set up. This is processed separately in the washing stations, and is marketed separately, to promote their initiative. This coffee gets a good price internationally. As such, the CNAC is trying to promote women's leadership and democracy.

# Labour Rights Brigades against the exploitation of agricultural labour in Italy

## INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that 430,000 undeclared workers (both Italians and foreigners, including EU citizens) work in agriculture, out of which about 100,000 are exposed to slave-like working conditions. Migrants in particular face very bad working conditions.



## ORGANIZATION

**CGIL & FLAI (Agro-food  
Workers Federation)**

## SDGs

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



## COUNTRY / REGION

**Italy / Europe**

Through the “Labour Rights Brigades” (sindacato di strada) initiative and the “Labour Rights Motorhomes”, the Agri-food Workers Federation (FLAI) local offices operate vans and motorhomes to directly contact workers where they live and meet, and on the farms where they work. They distribute multi-lingual flyers with basic information on fair working conditions and occupational safety and health.

Years of FLAI “Labour Rights Brigades” have made it possible for thousands of workers in exploitative labour conditions to be aware of their rights, to overcome the fear of confronting their employers for better conditions, or of reporting their conditions to the authorities.

## UNDECLARED WORK IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Migrants employed in undeclared work in Italian agriculture come from a broad range of backgrounds and their status varies widely. Workers active in the agricultural sector include political asylum seekers, European Union citizens (mainly from Eastern European countries),

and former industry workers. Agriculture remains the main employment opportunity for many.

There are about 1.2 million legally hired workers employed in Italy's agricultural sector. Based on Agri-food Workers Federation (FLAI) estimates, there are a further 430,000 undeclared workers (both Italians and foreigners, including EU citizens) in agriculture, out of which about 100,000 are exposed to slave-like working conditions. Migrants in particular face very bad working conditions.

## **THE ROLE OF THE “LABOUR RIGHTS BRIGADES” (SINDACATO DI STRADA)**

The Agri-food Workers Federation (FLAI), a member of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), organises workers in agriculture, in the food and drinks industry, in

fishing and in forestry.

In order to effectively tackle the exploitation of labour in agriculture, FLAI local offices all over the country operate motorhomes duly equipped with computers and other tools for a frontline action called “Labour Rights Brigades” (sindacato di strada). Instead of expecting workers, especially migrants, to walk into our offices that might be far away from their shelters, and given their possible unavailability to come and seek assistance at FLAI offices, local Agri-food Workers Federation (FLAI) staff go out to the workers wherever they live and meet and go to the farms where they work. FLAI staff distribute multi-lingual flyers with basic information on fair working conditions, and occupational safety and health. FLAI “Labour Rights Brigades” teams verify whether workers are legally hired by doing a fast check on their positions at the National Labour Insurance Institute. In cases of exploitation, workers are informed of the possible ways out and their rights guaranteed under the law.





## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

Years of FLAI “Labour Rights Brigades” have made it possible for thousands of workers in exploitative labour conditions to break their chains (due the loneliness) and know their labour rights. This enables them to overcome the fear of confronting their employers for better conditions or reporting their conditions to the authorities for protection.

One the greatest results of the FLAI’s work was the strike which took place in Latina County, on the outskirts of Rome on 18 April 2016, which publicly brought together 5,000 agricultural workers from Punjab (India) in a protest against their exploitative labour conditions and their indecent living conditions.

Furthermore, our permanent mobilisation and awareness raising campaigns on the

exploitation of labour in the agricultural sector led to the adoption of a very strong punitive law against exploitative employment in general, with a strong prevention component.

Above all, FLAI’s “Labour Rights Brigades” experience means that, as a labour union, we can make a change, stand up against the exploitation of labour, get closer to vulnerable categories of workers, enable silent victims of abuse speak their mind, and offer alternatives and ways out of abuse.

### Resources

<https://www.flai.it/campagne/sindacato-di-strada/>

# Fostering genuine social dialogue in Mozambique

## INTRODUCTION

One of the major challenges faced by social dialogue institutions such as the Consultative Labour Commission (CCT) of Mozambique is the lack of negotiating skills, leading to imbalanced and generally negative discussions, as well as the lack of appropriate coordination mechanisms between the CCT and provincial social dialogue institutions.

ISCOS has actively contributed to enhancing the organisational capacities of the Consultative Labour Commission (CCT) in several areas, including its decentralisation process, by strengthening the provincial forums through training and equipment; reinforcing the role of women by protecting rights at the workplace; and by improving health and safety conditions at the workplace, especially in companies where these are most at risk.

## ORGANIZATION

Istituto Sindacale di  
Cooperazione allo  
Sviluppo (ISCOS)

## SDGs

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



## COUNTRY / REGION

Mozambique / Africa

# SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The economy of Mozambique, which has been independent from Portugal since 1975 and was embroiled in a civil war until 1992, has experienced steady growth, among the highest in Africa. This growth has been driven by the exploitation of mineral resources and by investment in tourism, transport and buildings. The discovery of natural resources attracted large investments in the extractive sector and the revenues helped expansionary budgets. However, Mozambique ranked 180th out of 189 countries in the 2018 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index. Inequality has worsened in the past six years and the spending power of the top 20% of income earners is 14 times higher than the poorest 20%. There are rising disparities between regions. It is estimated that more than 50% of the population still live on less than USD 1 a day.

Since 2007, ISCOS has been collaborating with the Consultative Labour Commission (CCT) to support the implementation, including at provincial level, of constructive social dialogue between the government, trade unions and employers on economic development and employment issues.

One of the major challenges faced by social dialogue institutions such as the CCT is the lack of negotiating skills, leading to imbalanced and generally negative deliberations. Furthermore, there is a lack of appropriate coordination mechanisms between the CCT and provincial social dialogue institutions. The third challenge relates to the concern that the establishment of a CCT could exclude other social groups (NGOs, associations, etc.), whose involvement could have a positive impact on the development of social and economic policies.

## **TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE CONSULTATIVE LABOUR COMMISSION (CCT)**

ISCOS is a non-profit association, built upon the trade union experience of the Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Unions (CISL) to promote international cooperation action and programmes in accordance with its founding principles: solidarity, social justice,

human dignity and peace. The defence of labour and human rights, the fight against poverty and discrimination, and the support of communities affected by natural disasters and wars are the priorities that shape the action of ISCOS.

ISCOS, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour of Mozambique, the trade unions OTM and COSNLIMO and the Association of Employers CTA, has carried out the Saber para Participar project (2013-2017), co-financed by the European Union.

ISCOS has supported the Consultative Labour Commission (CCT) in:

- its decentralisation process, by strengthening the provincial forums through training and equipment;
- strengthening the role of women by protecting rights at the workplace;



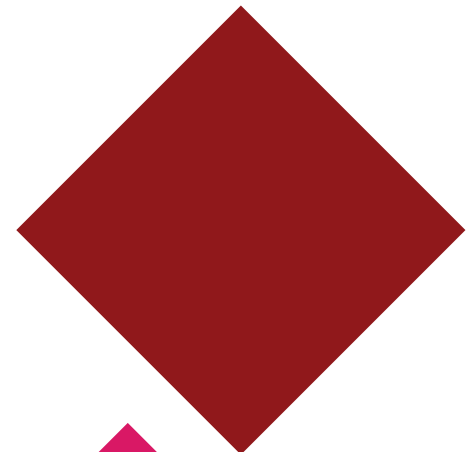
- improving health and safety conditions at the workplace, especially in companies where these are most at risk.

This has been achieved through various types of activities, including peer-to-peer seminars on social dialogue among provinces in Mozambique, sharing resources and experiences; training sessions on conflict prevention and social dialogue at national, provincial and district levels; training sessions on labour law, on the role of women in the workplace, and on health and safety conditions at the work; and research on social dialogue and the social responsibility of and in local and foreign companies in the province of Tete.

In total, in the course of the capacity building activities at the CCT, 396 people participated to the tripartite forum, while 36 members from the CCT, 128 district administrators and 262 district directors and labour personnel were actively engaged in the project.

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

- Social dialogue constitutes a powerful tool for mediation and conflict prevention;
- Social dialogue can actively contribute to improving working conditions by promoting workers' rights and the relationship with businesses and the state;
- Trade unions must not only have financial resources, but also organising capacities to effectively participate in social dialogue processes, acquiring the necessary skills aimed at improving negotiating abilities and inclusion.



# Supporting the informal economy workers in the Dominican Republic

---

## INTRODUCTION

The steady growth of the informal economy in the Dominican Republic has led to increased inequality and poverty and poses a challenge for democratic governance.

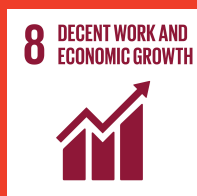
The project *Màs sindicato* carried out by ISCOS and local partners aims to reduce informality, and to improve working conditions and the lives of thousands of vulnerable workers.



## ORGANIZATION

**Istituto Sindacale di  
Cooperazione allo Sviluppo  
(ISCOS)**

## SDGs



## COUNTRY / REGION

**The Dominican Republic /  
Latin America**

The project has helped raise awareness of the existing social security benefits among concerned target groups; enhanced the capacity of trade unions to participate in social dialogue and to protect and defend workers' rights in the informal economy, with special attention to the most vulnerable. Moreover, key social protection demands have been defined by beneficiaries and voiced by trade unions as representatives of the workers in the sector thanks to this project.

## CONTEXT

Informal employment accounted for 55.50 % of total non-agricultural employment in the Dominican Republic as of 2015. The high rate of informality in the Dominican economy has led to greater inequality and poverty and poses a challenge for democratic governance by limiting tax revenues, increasing the cost of public social policies and preventing the active participation of citizens at the local level. The project Màs sindicato carried out by ISCOS aims to reduce informality, and to improve working conditions



and the lives of thousands of people, as shown by the equation: - informality = + decent work, + productivity + participatory democracy, + sustainable economic growth.

Although there is a regulatory framework conducive to participation (Law 176-07, Law 87-01, Law 200-04), both decision-makers and informal workers, especially young people and women employed in the informal economy, lack knowledge of their rights and duties.

## **TOWARDS INTEGRATING INFORMAL ECONOMY WORKERS AND BETTER ADVOCATING FOR THEIR RIGHTS**

ISCOS is a non-profit association, built on the trade union experience of the Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Unions (CISL) to promote actions and programmes of international cooperation in accordance

with its founding principles: solidarity, social justice, human dignity, peace. The defence of labour and human rights, the fight against poverty and discrimination, and the support of communities affected by natural disasters and wars are the priorities that shape the action of ISCOS.

ISCOS and its local partners in the field, namely CASC, CNUS, CNTD (Trade Unions Confederation of Dominican Republic), jointly carry out the *Màs sindicato* project with the aim of:

- contributing to the strengthening of democratic, sustainable and inclusive governance at local level, aimed at the integration of workers from the informal economy;
- strengthening the capacity for representation, advocacy and trade union impact on social dialogue and participation under Laws 87-01, 49806 and 176-07 by supporting workers' interests in the informal economy, with a particular focus on equal opportunities;



- strengthening the role of women by protecting rights at the workplace;

## INNOVATION AND SHAREABLE LESSONS

Thanks to the project it was possible to effectively identify key players in the informal economy, and help raising awareness of the existing social security benefits among concerned target groups.

Positive change is being made by enhancing the capacity of trade unions to better participate in social dialogue and better protect and defend workers' rights in the informal economy, with special attention to the most vulnerable.

Moreover to the work carried out under the project, key demands have been defined by beneficiaries and voiced by trade unions:

- a real family health insurance focused on prevention and free from discrimination;
- a pension system that guarantees a decent

pension income, able to meet basic family needs, using a method based on sharing as a mandatory pillar and on individual capitalisation as a voluntary pillar;

- an insurance against accidents at work that indiscriminately covers all those who perform productive activities;

- the inclusion in social security of all social groups that have been excluded.

### Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkEx1sntfNc>

<http://www.iscos.eu/it/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Yo-cuento-tambien.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/iscosdominicana/videos?app=desktop>

# Conclusion

## **CIVIC SPACE: ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

As stated in the 2012 European Commission Communication, ‘an empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and an asset in itself’, contributing ‘to more effective policies, equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth’ and participatory democracy by ‘representing and fostering pluralism’ and ‘articulating citizens’ concerns and growing demand for transparent and accountable governance’.

While the role of civil society organizations in the designing of policies, and in the implementation and monitoring the 2030 Agenda is more and more recognised by the international community, infringements on freedom of association and shrinking space for civil society organizations (CSOs) and trade unions are a worrying trend. Shrinking political spaces for CSOs to engage in public policy making can be observed in many countries (including within the EU). The last CIVICUS Monitor shows that civil society is under serious attack in 111 out of 196 countries. In partner countries this takes the form, among others, of restrictions on CSOs that receive funding from foreign



donors. Moreover, there is a tendency to try to reduce CSOs role to become mere service providers rather than power's watch dogs or full actors in the policy-making process.

This undermines the efforts to promote domestic accountability and to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.

As the case studies collected in this booklet show, civil society organizations are greatly contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in bringing positive change.

The promotion of civil space and an enabling environment for civil society is a key issue for sustainable development, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 16 targets include development of inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and the protection of fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and national human rights laws.

SOLIDAR will keep working with its members, partners and allies to ensure the respect of freedom of association, the promotion of an enabling space for CSO and to reiterate the importance of strengthening partnerships and alliances with civil society organizations to fully achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Solidarité  
Laïque



SOLSOC



ISCOS  
promosso dalla CISL



POUR LA  
SOLIDARITÉ  
European think & do tank





**solidar** [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)



This publication has been realized with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of SOLIDAR and can under no circumstances be taken as reflecting the position of the European Union.

