

# ONE ACTION

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EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



## ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2015





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## EDITORIAL

*Dear readers, after completing its fourth year of operation, OneAction continues to grow and to extend its activities with great enthusiasm! The human adventure that we are pursuing at headquarters, as well as in the field, is becoming ever more thrilling, and provides us with strong impetus to continue sharing the values that we cherish.*

*2015 was marked in particular by the launch of our first extensive project in Switzerland: GreenAction. An international school in Romandy took up the challenge during this pilot year, and we were delighted to see inspired and motivated students setting up ambitious projects aimed at making their institution more sustainable. In Ecuador, our partner school in Quito began spreading its remarkable educational model, and the valiant Amazonian women in Cajabamba started a community plantation of taro, a tuber widely appreciated by the locals. In Bihar, we planned the construction of a vocational training centre that should supply our partner school in Bodh Gaya with its own funds. In Cambodia, the first phase of our project was successfully completed, and saw several households develop alternative economic activities to deforestation. To top off this highly successful year, OneAction received the Mireille Caloghiris Award, which recognizes the best educational project published on a Genevan crowdfunding platform.*

*More and more people are following and supporting us, resulting in powerful momentum. With this wonderful energy, OneAction will continue to instil the motivation required to shift from intention to action. Dreaming, thinking, and undertaking together: a captivating process that contributes to inspiring and bringing people together... We look forward to crossing paths with you along this road!*



Jan Isler, Founder & Director



## ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction identifies, welcomes and supports people, communities and organizations that wish to act towards a more sustainable paradigm. To do this, OneAction shares its expertise in order to stimulate their creativity, strengthen their engagement, empower them to act, enhance their impact and accompany them towards self-sufficiency.

To fulfil its mission, OneAction elaborates projects with a strong social and environmental impact in collaboration with local partners, while introducing self-financing mechanisms that guarantee their sustainability. OneAction works essentially in the fields of education and training, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, renewable energies and social entrepreneurship. To date, we are active in Switzerland, South America and southern Asia, in countries where we dispose of in-depth social, political and environmental knowledge, as well as a solid network.

# OUR PROJECTS

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Holistic Education in Quito, Ecuador

In the soaring heights of the Andes, in Quito, OneAction is collaborating with the Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE), which manages a school with 640 students from 0 to 18 years old, most of whom come from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Institute's internationally recognized holistic education model focuses on the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative development of its students. These students are actively involved in the learning process and they benefit from a wide variety of activities ranging from sustainable agriculture and reforestation, to tai chi, music, meditation and yoga, in addition to conventional subjects. Through its initiatives, the INEPE aims to encourage the personal and collective responsibility of its students, while increasing their self-esteem. In parallel, the Institute also manages the neighbouring urban park, runs an organic garden that provides food for the students, and trains teachers and community leaders.



For the past three years, OneAction has been helping the INEPE spread its holistic education model and generate new sources of income, to move away from its dependency on foreign and local aid. The transition towards increased autonomy has recently become a pressing issue due to Ecuador's current difficult economic situation. Faced with this volatile situation affecting local support, OneAction and the INEPE are counting on the rapid



development of an online teacher-training programme. Hosted by the renowned National Polytechnic School in Quito, this e-learning platform aims to spread the INEPE's holistic model, to provide job stability for teachers, and to become a steady source of income. In 2015, we benefited from the support of Giving Women, a Geneva-based organization that helped us elaborate the long-term project strategy.

In addition to supporting the teacher-training platform, OneAction funded the construction of a second and third floor above the dining hall. The new building will host 10 classes intended for the INEPE's musical programme. Furthermore, we participated in the development of 9 terraces on a surface of 2,900 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to the production of Andean crops (quinoa and amaranth, among others). We also improved the garden's irrigation system in order to adequately cover the needs of the new terraces. We were very pleased with the first harvests, which contributed to enriching the students' diets.

In 2016, OneAction will concentrate on the development of the teacher-training platform and will partner with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva to measure the project's impact.



## Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods in the Amazon, Ecuador

OneAction continues to collaborate with the community of Cajabamba located in the Ecuadorian Amazon, where deforestation is a major issue. In 2012, community leaders voiced their wish to develop sustainable economic alternatives for the locals, which respect natural resources and encourage community participation and solidarity.

To help manage this situation, OneAction benefited from the presence of groups of travellers staying in a nearby eco-lodge to build a community shack intended for ecotourism activities. Today, the cabin serves both as a reception centre for ecotourists and a restaurant offering traditional Amazonian meals made from local organic produce. In addition, visitors are given the opportunity to plant an indigenous tree to contribute to reforesting abandoned farmland.

In parallel, OneAction launched a community plantation of taro (*colocasia esculenta*), a tuber frequently used in Amazonian cuisine, which should prove to be profitable for these remote communities. Through this entrepreneurial initiative, OneAction wishes once again to provide inhabitants with new alternatives to deforestation and to enhance community cohesion.

At the end of the year, a group of eight women participated in the preparation of half a hectare of land with the goal of planting the taro seeds at the beginning of the year 2016. Profits from the sales will be shared among the women of the group in order to ensure an additional source







of revenue for themselves and their families. Productivity is expected to increase after the first harvests, guaranteeing higher yields in the years to come. In 2016, OneAction is planning to look into other initiatives pursuing similar objectives in favour of the Amazonian people.

### **Reforestation Northern Ecuador**

In order to restore natural ecosystems, protect biodiversity and create jobs for local communities, OneAction is supporting reforestation activities in the mountainous and biodiverse regions of Morochos and Pucará in Northern Ecuador.

In partnership with CanopyCo, an Ecuadorian organization founded in 2008, and several community members, we are reforesting abandoned farmlands to prevent desertification and nutrient loss in soils. With the aim of creating a movement of solidarity to fight against deforestation, OneAction provides any interested individual or institution with the opportunity to plant trees in exchange for a certificate. Thanks to sales and awareness campaigns in Switzerland, OneAction was able to pursue its efforts to support reforestation activities in 2015. In the coming years, we intend to find ways to bring the project closer to self-sufficiency, for instance by creating long-term partnerships with various companies.





## ASIA

### **Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods in Mondulhiri, Cambodia**

OneAction and its local partner, the Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT), successfully completed the first phase of their three-year project in the Seima Protected Forest (SPF). The aim of this initiative is to improve food security and living standards for the local communities, essentially from the Bunong minority, while limiting deforestation activities in the region.

During this first year, eight community-based organizations (CBOs) established in three villages were renewed and strengthened to empower their members to carry out their daily administrative tasks, to manage resources and to set up various projects directed towards their community's wellbeing. Moreover, the field team conducted several workshops for



CBO members on vegetable and poultry farming, using environmentally-friendly techniques. This training addressed various topics including the selection of land for their activities, the production of compost and the drafting of business plans. Thanks to these initiatives, as well as personalized coaching for the participants, they were able to increase their production, both for their own consumption and for market sales.

In order to support local communities in the development of micro-enterprises, OneAction also injected rotating funds within the CBOs' savings groups. By borrowing from this fund, several families have already had the opportunity to set up and expand sustainable economic activities.

Furthermore, OneAction contributed to improving existing infrastructure by building rainwater collectors, toilets and a community market with the participation of the families involved.

The project's second phase, launched in autumn 2015, will essentially concentrate on optimizing production and strengthening market links, in order to guarantee the success of these alternative economic activities and the self-sufficiency of CBOs.



## **Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India**

OneAction has partnered with Gyan Niketan, a school in Bihar that offers free education to more than 300 children between 3 and 15 years of age from the lowest castes. Our goal is to broaden their educational perspectives and to ensure their wellbeing. During this fourth year of collaboration, OneAction continued to develop the management and infrastructure of the school, and encouraged the students' creativity and fulfilment. Amongst other things, we carried on fighting against malnutrition through our One Meal a Day project, which offers one nutritious meal a day to all the students.



OneAction's ultimate objective is for the school to stand strong on its own. In order to achieve this, we are developing a vocational training centre close to the school, which will provide employment opportunities for the disadvantaged youth and generate funds for the school to become self-sufficient. Thanks to scholarships for professional training provided by the Indian government to members of disadvantaged castes, the centre will be able to ensure a steady income, which will cover all operational costs linked to both the centre and the school. Our local partner has already acquired the land, and we are hoping to start construction by the end of 2016, with completion planned for September 2017.



## Solar Energy in Buknari, Bihar, India

In Buknari, an isolated rural village in the heart of Bihar, OneAction noted that the community suffered from accidents linked to the lack of electricity and the use of kerosene, as well as violence related to alcohol abuse. An annual average of 40 litres of kerosene was being burnt by each family to light their homes. This practice had damaging health and environmental effects, represented a very high cost for rural families, and generated numerous accidents.

When community members expressed their wish to start using solar energy, OneAction first offered the possibility of organizing solar engineering training for women from the village, in partnership with the Barefoot College, and of creating a local solar training centre. However, both OneAction and the inhabitants assessed that it would be more in line with the people's wishes and with local circumstances if individual solar kits were provided to each household. Consequently, after having identified an Indian manufacturer, OneAction delivered one solar set per family (approximately 200 in total), consisting of a solar panel, and a powerful and practical solar lamp that can be attached in the house or used as a torch, as well as cables to recharge the lamp and other electronic devices. This year, families were thus able to entirely replace the use of kerosene with clean, safe, cheap and stronger lighting. Today, the new lamps have various uses: the people of Buknari can walk outside at night feeling safer, the children can do their homework in the evening, and everyone can use them to charge their mobile phones.





## EUROPE

### GreenAction, Switzerland

In 2015, OneAction launched the GreenAction programme to help schools and the surrounding communities act on key areas of environmental stewardship and sustainability. Through a one-year syllabus, our goal is to empower children and teachers by providing them with concrete tools to reduce the ecological impact of their school in creative ways, while including the surrounding community.

La Côte International School in Aubonne took up the challenge by becoming the first school to adopt GreenAction. Since September 2015, a trained environmental education consultant has regularly gone to the school and interacted with the administration, teaching staff and students. Her objective is to offer a clear and accessible method to engage students, reduce the school's carbon footprint, increase the participants' wellbeing, and promote the values and behaviour that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.

Throughout the year, OneAction trained teachers in ways of imparting tangible sustainable development techniques to their students. We also helped the school create and manage a Green Committee, which acts as an internal body of support for the implementation of GreenAction, and is composed of representatives from the school community (parents, staff, teachers, students and technical staff).





Within the context of the project, the school made a commitment to the shared theme “Let it Grow”, and each class chose specific initiatives reflecting a wide scope of interest, ranging from the promotion of biodiversity to waste reduction and cultivating plants. OneAction and the Green Committee ensured that each idea was converted into concrete and measurable actions. During autumn, one of the students’ achievements was the creation of a sensory garden, which is a pedagogical space where anyone can touch and smell the plants, discover biodiversity, and learn how to cultivate according to the different seasons.

Moreover, both students and teachers suggested various solutions to food waste by organizing awareness-raising campaigns and by searching for alternatives to current custom. Throughout the year, the students will measure their actions by using success indicators that they have established with the idea of guaranteeing a visible and long-term impact. For example, one class chose to weigh the waste from the dining hall several times during the year to observe the progress made thanks to their initiatives. At the final year event in June 2016, each class will present to the rest of the school the actions they implemented, as well as their impact on their surroundings. During the school year 2015-2016, OneAction will continue to run the GreenAction programme in La Côte International School and will evaluate the project’s impact in order to optimize its functioning over the coming years.



## OTHER PROJECTS

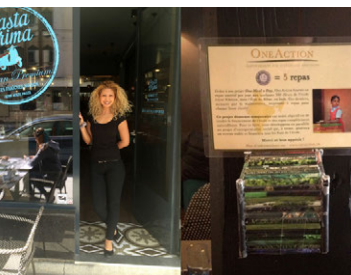
### OneAction Platform

In 2015, OneAction's platform for personal initiatives was successful. We continued to offer our support to Dream Up for Ecuador. Led by a young Swiss teacher, this project aims to manage a community centre in Puerto López on the Pacific coast of Ecuador. The objective is to provide young children and teenagers with free creative, sports and awareness-raising activities, as well as homework assistance and English lessons. This initiative counts on the support of young Swiss volunteers, who fund their trip and participate in leading local pedagogical activities. This year, participants set up a community centre and six volunteers went to Ecuador. Over the long term, the team's goal is for the project to become self-sufficient. To do so, it is currently training members of the community to become educators and to manage volunteers.



### Partnerships

OneAction launched an initiative revolving around partnerships with restaurants and shops in Geneva in order to support some of its projects in their transition phase towards self-sufficiency. A first idea was born with the purpose of raising funds for our One Meal a Day project in India: partner restaurants provide the possibility to their clients of contributing to this project with a tailor-made suggestion. For example, a restaurant can propose to charge for a jug of water, to add CHF 1 to a designated plate, or merely to make a donation box available on its premises.



Each Swiss franc collected equals 5 meals for the students in our partner school in India. In 2015, the Sunset, Pasta Prima and Olé Olé restaurants generously participated in this initiative and covered a total of almost 2,800 meals.

## EVENTS

In 2015, OneAction participated in numerous events. The social network Horyou generously invited us to hold a stall at the Cannes Film Festival in May. It was a great opportunity for us to establish valuable contacts with individuals and other NGOs that participated in the event. The same month, OneAction also organized a very successful salsa evening in collaboration with the Fengarion association. Moreover, during the summer, we took part for the third time in the Fête de la Musique. Thanks to the help of more than thirty volunteers on our stall, we managed to raise a significant amount of money for our One Meal a Day project. Before the onset of winter, OneAction created a wonderful team of runners, who represented our organization during the traditional Escalade race in Geneva. 2015 ended on a high note with the Mireille Caloghris Award. Organized every year by the NGO Fengarion, this prize rewards the best educational project published on its crowdfunding platform, and this year we won, thanks to our holistic education project in Quito!



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Our accounts are graciously audited by the company Baker Tilly Spiess SA.)

<b>BALANCE SHEET (CHF)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	23'963	8'453
<i>Current account</i>	23'054	6'285
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	909	2'169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23'963</b>	<b>8'453</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term liabilities	2'921	2'111
<i>Other creditors</i>	2'861	2'051
<i>Deferred income</i>	60	60
<i>Accrued liabilities</i>	0	0
Equity	21'041	6'343
<i>Retained earnings</i>	6'343	(395)
<i>Profit</i>	14'699	6'737
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23'963</b>	<b>8'453</b>
 <b>OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)</b>	 <b>2015</b>	 <b>2014</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Totally or partially earmarked revenues	266'250	287'100
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	117'337	93'322
<i>Projects in South America</i>	133'912	191'478
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	15'000	2'300
Non-earmarked revenues	100'218	57'061
<i>Membership fees</i>	960	1'177
<i>Donations</i>	59'464	39'674
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	39'795	16'211
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>366'468</b>	<b>344'161</b>



## EXPENSES

Expenses related to projects	(229'996)	(229'967)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(89'508)	(61'433)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(104'953)	(141'691)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(10'091)	(820)
<i>Fundraising projects</i>	(14'193)	(13'335)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(11'250)	(12'688)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(121'774)	(107'457)
<i>Wages</i>	(109'722)	(92'467)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(11'975)	(14'863)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(77)	(127)
TOTAL	<b>(351'769)</b>	<b>(337'424)</b>
PROFIT	<b>14'699</b>	<b>6'737</b>

## OUR PARTNERS

Amongst the numerous partners that supported OneAction in 2015, we would like to thank the City of Geneva, the Covalence and Leopold Bachmann foundations, the companies Baker Tilly Spiess, Banque du Léman and 2GIK, as well as the communes of Vandœuvres, Collonge-Bellerive, Bernex and Plan-les-Ouates. Once again, we have been able to count on the tremendous support of Dr Peter Forstmoser, who has continued to help us grow. Moreover, we would particularly like to thank Delphine Oltramare for her enthusiasm and her precious contribution to OneAction's evolution. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Cyril Pictet and to our volunteers at headquarters, as well as to our dedicated partners in the field: INEPE, CanopyCo and Vitalideas in Ecuador; Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust and Samarpan Foundation in India; and CRDT in Cambodia. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Fengarion, Banque du Léman and all of our volunteers for their precious involvement in OneAction's various events.

# ONE ACTION

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## ONEACTION ASSOCIATION

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## DONATE

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## BECOME A MEMBER

If you wish to become a member of OneAction, please address a letter to the Association's headquarters or send us an email in which you express your desire to join us. Make sure to include your postal address.

## PARTICIPATE

You can help OneAction in Switzerland or abroad as a volunteer or by submitting your own project. More information is available on our website: <http://oneaction.ch/participate/>

