

# ONE ACTION

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EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

## ANNUAL REPORT

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### 2014







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<u>EDITORIAL</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>ONEACTION AT A GLANCE</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>OUR PROJECTS</u>	<u>6</u>
South America	6
Asia	10
Smart Actions by Kids for Kids	
- Green Action	12
OneAction platform	13
Events	13
<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u>	<u>14</u>
Balance sheet	14
Operating statement	14
Our partners	15

## EDITORIAL

*Dear readers, OneAction has already completed its third year of activity, and we are proud to see how much it has grown since the drafting of the statutes!*

*Over the course of a flourishing year, we have seen our efforts rewarded with a prestigious distinction from the Prix Pictet, recognising our holistic education project in Quito. This key project is progressing rapidly and shows great promise; we have also expanded our work to Cambodia, where we provide sustainable economic alternatives to deforestation. Through this particular project, we were thrilled to establish a partnership with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Our activities in India are gaining momentum, and together with our local partners, we are developing innovative social business ideas geared towards self-sufficiency. In 2014, we also laid out the foundation for our first major project in Switzerland. We aim to provide schools with the tools to transition towards more creative and participatory education, and in addition to help create more environmentally-sound resource management.*

*In summary, it has been an encouraging and rewarding year. We are extremely pleased to see our achievements attract more and more support, including our dedicated interns and volunteers, our vibrant representatives, and the Giving Women network, which has generously established a working group around one of our projects.*

*We are growing, and 2015 is well on its way towards exciting achievements, and important new steps for the continued success of our organisation. We welcome your suggestions to open the way for new opportunities to generate sustainable changes. Long live OneAction!*



Jan Isler, Founder & Director



## ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction was born in December 2011 as an independent, apolitical and non-profit association based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Our mission is to empower individuals and communities to become more autonomous and to adopt sustainable solutions. To do so, we support and develop projects with a strong social and environmental impact, while introducing self-financing mechanisms that guarantee their sustainability. In particular, we work with renewable energies, sustainable agriculture, social entrepreneurship and holistic education, encouraging learning by experience. In our projects outside of Switzerland, we collaborate with local and trustworthy partners.

To this date, we are active in Switzerland, South America and South 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

OneAction has been collaborating for over 2 years with the Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE). This Institute, located in a disadvantaged district of Quito, runs a school with over 600 students aged 0 to 18 years old, most of which lack opportunities for their future. In order to address socioeconomic, environmental and



*INEPE students*



*The agronomy cabin*

cultural challenges, the INEPE has been providing holistic education for over 30 years through a model that was recognised with a distinction award in 2014 by the Inter-American Development Bank. This holistic model is primarily based on dialogue and hands-on exercises, and offers a wide array of activities including music, arts, reforestation and sustainable agriculture. Thanks to its initiatives, the Institute promotes the students' empowerment, creativity, emotional intelligence and solidarity, while providing tools that help them break the cycle of poverty, restore their dignity, engage in environmental protection and become actors of change.

Despite exemplary results of the INEPE's educational system, the school's financial stability is limited. For this reason, OneAction has been partnering with the Institute by supporting projects that not only propagate the school's educational model, but that also generate financial and nutri-



tional resources to help the school work towards the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. To achieve this objective, OneAction launched a project in 2014 in partnership with the Prix Pictet to increase food production in the INEPE's organic garden, in order to provide balanced meals for students and sell surplus on the local market. During this partnership, we also finalised the construction of a cabin used for agricultural activities and the diffusion of sustainable techniques. Moreover, OneAction contributed to the development of environmental education activities, repaired the irrigation system, employed 2 agronomists and launched the production of Andean products (quinoa and amaranth).

In parallel, OneAction is collaborating with the Geneva-based network Giving Women to develop a virtual teacher-training platform in partnership with the Polytechnic School of Quito. To this day, 8 courses are in place and we wish to create approximately 40 additional courses. This initiative will ensure the systematisation of the INEPE's 30 years of experience, the diffusion of its model throughout the country, and the availability of sustainable revenues to cover the school's operational costs. Finally, in order to improve the INEPE's infrastructures, OneAction inaugurated the new refectory in the company of one of its main donors and launched the construction of new classrooms.



*Inauguration of the refectory*



*ALAS-IDB awards*



*Classroom construction*



*Gardening activities*



*Inauguration of the community cabin in Cajabamba II*

### **Ecotourism in the Amazon, Pastaza, Ecuador**

OneAction is pursuing its efforts to promote community empowerment in the Ecuadorian Amazon by offering sustainable economic alternatives. In partnership with Vitalideas, an Ecuadorian organisation that works to conserve natural resources, we are supporting the community of Cajabamba II with ecotourism and reforestation activities to counter the increasing threat of deforestation, which is linked to the pressure of the timber industry. In 2014, OneAction was pleased to inaugurate a community cabin that was funded the previous year, and to sample the local Amazonian cuisine that will be available for visitors. In fact, the cabin serves both as a reception centre for ecotourists and a restaurant offering meals made from local and organic produce.

In addition, OneAction is working to create a community culture around taro, locally called ‘papa china’ (*colocasia esculenta*), to stimulate community cohesion and to continue developing alternative livelihoods that aim to address the issues associated with deforestation.



## Reforestation Northern Ecuador

In its efforts to protect the environment and provide opportunities for local communities, OneAction has been supporting reforestation activities in the mountainous regions of Northern Ecuador. These activities are located within one of the ten most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. Since 2012, OneAction has been collaborating with CanopyCo, an Ecuadorian organisation, to get local communities involved in reforestation and restoring abandoned farmlands in the areas of Morochos, near Otavalo and Pucará, Intag. Through our initiatives, we wish to tackle the effects of deforestation, such as desertification and soil degradation. To do so, we strive to select tree species that help replenish the soil and restore groundwater while creating biological corridors that protect the region's unique wildlife.

Throughout 2014, OneAction organised several sales and awareness campaigns through which individuals and companies have been able to finance the planting of trees in exchange for a certificate. With the goal of making this project self-sufficient, we are seeking to establish partnerships with businesses in Switzerland. These businesses will provide their customers with the opportunity to help finance our reforestation efforts. Over the long term, we also wish to link CanopyCo to establishments that would automatically include carbon offsetting in their transactions.



*The community cabin*



*The cabin's management team*



*The Amazon rainforest*



*The CanopyCo team*

## ASIA

### Alternative sustainable livelihoods in Mondulkiri, Cambodia

This year, OneAction expanded its projects in Cambodia by partnering with the Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT). We are providing sustainable economic alternatives to communities in the Mondulkiri Province to support them confront the risks related to the presence of illegal settlements and intensive forest exploitation.

In order to increase their food security and help them become more independent, we are conducting training programmes in community organisations in three Mondulkiri villages. These workshops provide the tools necessary to develop sustainable economic activities such as environmentally-friendly poultry farming or vegetable growing, and to establish direct market access for produce.



*Training in Mondulkiri*



*Saving group meeting*

This project was designed to become self-sufficient through the implementation of revolving funds. In order to optimise our activities, analyse the needs of the community, measure the impact of our initiatives and replicate the model elsewhere, OneAction collaborated with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies between March and December 2014. Four students conducted a field study within the communities and submitted a report with quantitative and qualitative indicators of the current situation as well as recommendations. At the end of the project, we plan to conduct an impact study in order to concretely measure the effectiveness of our work.



*Rangoli making in Bodh Gaya to celebrate Diwali*

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

In order to improve the well-being of disadvantaged children in Bihar and to provide them with new opportunities, OneAction has been partnering for three years with the Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust. In its school in Bodh Gaya, this Indian organisation provides free education to approximately 300 students from the lowest castes. OneAction is continuing to develop the management and infrastructure of the school, for instance by organising various workshops and activities to develop students' creativity, to encourage them to protect their environment, and to broaden their perspectives. This year, we were again able to offer a daily meal to all the students through our *One Meal a Day* initiative, which aims to counter malnutrition. However, OneAction's ultimate objective is for the school to stand strong on its own. For this reason, we are planning to develop a social entrepreneurship project in parallel to this nutrition initiative that could ultimately provide a steady income for the school and fund its operational costs. In the school's transition period towards self-sufficiency, we have started to build partnerships with various restaurants and shops that give their customers the opportunity to make donations in order to fund meals for students from this school.

### **Solar energy in Buknari, Bihar, India**

The community of Buknari, an isolated village affected by extreme poverty, suffers from alcohol-related violence and lack of access to electricity. Women in particular face harassment when walking outside at night without a light, and children have to burn kerosene in order to do their

homework in the evening. The fuel used to light homes has devastating health and environmental effects, and is not only dangerous but also very costly to these rural families. After meeting with members of the community and discovering there had been several kerosene-related accidents, OneAction decided to support the development of solar energy in Buknari. The objectives are to generate clean, safe and efficient lighting, and to reduce the risk of violence after sundown.

Our goal in 2015 is to provide one solar set per family (200 sets for 1,500 inhabitants), which would include a solar panel, a powerful solar lamp either for the house or to be used as a flashlight by all family members, and cables to recharge the lamp and other electronic devices. Thanks to a fundraising event during the 2014 Escalade Race in Geneva, we have already gathered a part of the funds needed to carry out this initiative.

## **SMART ACTIONS BY KIDS FOR KIDS - GREENACTION**

In 2014, OneAction continued its partnership with the International School of Geneva to educate students about environmental challenges and sustainable solutions. Through interactive presentations, letter exchanges with students from Ecuador, and student engagement in fundraising initiatives, OneAction has been sowing grains of solidarity. Furthermore, we led eight workshops about fruits and vegetables to primary school children in Geneva and participated in the Eaux-Vives Green Day celebration.

Having observed the wonderful potential of these various educational activities, OneAction is proceeding with a more ambitious project for 2015: GreenAction. The concept of this project is to no longer lead individual activities in schools, but rather provide training and practical activities for students and teachers alike. This project aims at generating sustainable changes in teaching methods and regulating schools' ecological footprints.

## ONEACTION PLATFORM

Our platform for personal initiatives grew further in 2014. In Peru, Mariana Montes Andrade expanded our *Smart Actions by Kids for Kids* project in Lima, by leading various cultural exchanges between a private school and a school of Shipibo migrants. This included an auction of photographs taken by students, the proceeds of which were used for the Shipibo school. Moreover, two young dynamic women from Switzerland, Cécile Benjemia and Valérie Andrey, were also able to start their own charitable project on the Pacific Coast of Ecuador. *Dream Up for Ecuador* consists of creating a community centre in Puerto López in which various training programs and extracurricular activities will be offered to local youth.

## EVENTS

In 2014, as in previous years, OneAction actively participated in many events. These included the Global Impact Forum in Zurich, the Music Festival and Escalade Race in Geneva, the Associations Fair at the Geneva Welcome Centre, and the ALAS-IDB awards ceremony in Quito where the INEPE obtained a honourable mention. In August, we also organised a big evening of concerts and cocktails to celebrate OneAction's 1,000th day of existence: a great step taken with merriment and optimism.



*Green Day in Eaux-Vives*



*In a Shipibo school in Lima*



*OneAction's 1,000 days*



*Escalade Race 2014*



*Global Impact Forum 2014*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

<b>BALANCE SHEET (CHF)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	8'453	2'969
<i>Current account</i>	6'285	1'041
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	2'169	1'928
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8'453</b>	<b>2'969</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term liabilities	2'111	3'364
<i>Other creditors</i>	2'051	2'827
<i>Deferred income</i>	60	300
<i>Accrued liabilities</i>	0	237
Equity	6'343	(395)
<i>Retained earnings</i>	(395)	20'957
<i>Profit</i>	6'737	(21'352)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8'453</b>	<b>2'969</b>
 <b>OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)</b>	 <b>2014</b>	 <b>2013</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Totally or partially earmarked revenues	287'100	151'271
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	93'322	15'228
<i>Projects in South America</i>	191'478	120'043
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	2'300	16'000
Non-earmarked revenues	57'061	81'975
<i>Membership fees</i>	1'177	1'970
<i>Donations</i>	39'674	34'570
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	16'211	45'435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>344'161</b>	<b>233'246</b>

## EXPENSES

Expenses related to projects (68%)	(229'967)	(167'730)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(61'433)	(22'488)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(141'691)	(93'986)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(820)	(7'289)
<i>Fundraising projects</i>	(13'335)	(18'468)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(12'688)	(25'500)
Expenses related to the headquarters (32%)	(107'457)	(86'867)
<i>Wages</i>	(92'467)	(78'914)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(14'863)	(7'822)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(127)	(131)
TOTAL	<b>(337'424)</b>	<b>(254'597)</b>
PROFIT	<b>6'737</b>	<b>(21'352)</b>

## OUR PARTNERS

We would like to warmly thank our partners who supported us during 2014. These include the International Solidarity Service of the Geneva Canton, the Covalence and Pro Victimis foundations, the Pictet group, and the Baker Tilly Spiess and 2GIK companies. For the second consecutive year, we have been able to count on the tremendous support of Dr. Peter Forstmoser, who has allowed OneAction to grow by leaps and bounds. Among those faithful individuals supporting us, we would also like to give special thanks to our donor and advisor Valentine Collombin. We are extremely grateful to our loyal field partners: the INEPE, CanopyCo, and Vitalideas in Ecuador; Gyan Niketan Trust and Samarpan Foundation in India; and CRDT and the Graduate Institute in Cambodia. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the Eaux-Vives community centre, Giving Women, and the International School of Geneva for their assistance in Switzerland.

# ONE ACTION

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## ONEACTION ASSOCIATION

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## DONATE

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Quai de l'Île 17 - CP 2251  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

IBAN : CH3600788000050302242  
BIC/SWIFT : BCGECHGGXXX

## 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/>

