

ONEACTION

EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

In these strange and critical times, OneAction has experienced an unusual year 2020, marked by the temporary halt of almost all of its projects due to the various restrictive measures in place, and by the distress of those it has worked with for years: disadvantaged and often isolated populations who depend heavily on their freedom of movement to survive. Far from being discouraged, our team at headquarters and our partners in the field have demonstrated exceptional resilience, creativity, dynamism and commitment. In the light of the dramatic conditions facing these communities, OneAction momentarily became a humanitarian actor, and many of you have supported our food distribution campaigns in India and Ecuador, bringing relief to these populations and, above all, showing them through concrete actions that they are not forgotten.

At the same time, OneAction has seen important developments, including the creation in January of a sister company to market Banyan Alliance's chocolates, whose intense flavour and innovative business model have led to promising partnerships. In Kenya, the preparation activities to set up the mobile reforestation units were able to follow through despite the challenges and delays also faced by our reforestation teams on the ground. In Bodh Gaya, the new English-speaking school funded by OneAction was inaugurated in March, shortly before lockdown measures prevented it from opening in 2020.

Overall, it has been a challenging context, yet OneAction still continued to grow. In a society faced with so many challenges calling for tangible and viable responses, this is a sign that the solutions we offer are increasingly considered as being relevant.

Jan Isler, Founder and Director





ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction identifies, welcomes and accompanies individuals, communities and organisations with a strong desire to enhance the wellbeing of their community and their environment. To do this, OneAction provides opportunities, tools and expertise for the creation and development of projects aimed at improving living conditions and restoring ecosystems.

We contribute to conceptualizing, monitoring and increasing the impact, the scale and the visibility of these projects, while working alongside our partners in designing self-financing mechanisms. We work in a wide array of areas, such as education, food security, social entrepreneurship and climate resilience, currently developing a pole of expertise on reforestation and carbon sequestration.

To develop comprehensive and participative solutions, we build partnerships with actors from different worlds, encouraging dialogue between civil society and private, public and academic sectors.

OUR PROJECTS

Holistic Education in Quito, Ecuador

8 years of collaboration

700+ students

3,000 persons trained
on an e-learning
platform

Our partner

The Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE) offers an internationally recognized educational and holistic model based on the students' intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative development.

The project at a glance

In order to help the INEPE become more autonomous and to spread its educational model, OneAction supports the Institute in two main areas: the development of the school's infrastructure and the promotion of its pedagogy. Since 2012, OneAction has financed the construction of an agronomy shack, greenhouses, reservoirs, Andean crop terraces, a composter, a new dining hall, a kitchen and additional music rooms. To spread the INEPE's educational model, OneAction has participated in the development of an e-learning platform for teachers in the private and public sectors: a programme that has already trained close to 3,000 people.





The year 2020

The country's economic situation, which was already very worrying, has considerably worsened during the pandemic. Budget cuts have been particularly severe in education programmes, and the consequences have been catastrophic for a large section of the population, including many parents of schoolchildren who rely on the informal economy to sustain themselves. Due to the health situation, the country's schools had to close their doors until the end of the academic year.

In this particularly difficult context, the INEPE was still able to offer its courses online. In order to ensure a successful start to the new academic year, the INEPE implemented a large-scale adaptation plan by strengthening its technical capacity and offering training on the use of virtual platforms to teachers, staff and students, as well as parents to support the students' learning process. The pedagogical programme was adapted to the situation by focusing on the development of empathy, resilience, motivation and learning skills, as well as on the use of new technologies.

In parallel, INEPE helped more than 200 of the most affected school families by providing psychological support, distributing basic necessities, and sharing sustainable agriculture techniques that parents and children could use in their gardens. Finally, despite the ever-changing political and administrative environment, the INEPE's project to create the country's first University of Popular Education has taken off and the pilot phase has been successfully completed.

3 years of collaboration

150,000 trees planted

60,000 participants
trained in agroforestry
techniques

270,000 beneficiaries

A novel reforestation model

India, Kenya & Haiti

Our partner

The NGO Sadhana Forest, based in Tamil Nadu in the South of India, has been working for over 18 years in land restoration and water conservation, offering training in agroforestry techniques.

The project at a glance

The project aims to deploy an innovative reforestation model, based on Sadhana Forest's proven techniques and on the application of the latest biogeochemistry findings of the University of Lausanne. These include the unique properties of oxalogenic tree species, which contribute exceptionally to soil regeneration and carbon sequestration.

Our initial goal is to plant 150,000 trees in three regions particularly affected by climate change and the impact of drought and soil degradation: Tamil Nadu in India, the Department of Sud-Est in Haiti, and Samburu and Kajiado counties in Kenya, where Sadhana Forest already has operational bases. In concrete terms, this means creating mobile reforestation units - trucks filled with seedlings - that travel from village to village throughout the three regions to train the most vulnerable communities in accessible reforestation and irrigation techniques, while enabling them to plant native, oxalogenic, drought-resistant species that produce edible fruits, nuts and leaves on their own land. This initiative thus aims to make lands fertile again, to enhance food security and to prevent environmental migration. The project will allow us to expand the research on oxalogenic species and then extend our model to other regions of the world.



The year 2020

In 2020, the preparatory phase for the launch of the mobile reforestation units began in Kenya, including the purchase and conversion of a truck, the training of the reforestation teams and the development of the tree nursery. In 2021, we are planning to start the trainings and plantations in the villages in Kenya and to launch the activities in India. However, the Haitian component of the project has been postponed indefinitely due to the political and sanitary situation.

In addition to these developments, in 2020 the OneAction team started to develop a carbon contribution programme for companies and individuals. Although OneAction is favourable to a carbon reduction approach first and foremost, it does offer the possibility to transparently and effectively offset their CO₂ emissions via its carbon compensation calculator.



Reforestation northern Ecuador in **Morochos** and **Mindo**

8 years of collaboration

5,000 trees planted each year

1,700 beneficiaries

Our partner

The organisation CanopyCo was founded in 2008 with the aim of recreating native tree forests on private and community lands degraded by intensive agriculture, and of raising awareness among local communities.

The project at a glance

In order to counter and prevent the devastating consequences of deforestation and unsustainable agriculture in northern Ecuador, OneAction and CanopyCo are reforesting and restoring abandoned agricultural lands in one of the ten most biodiverse ecosystems in the world: the Alto Chocó. To preserve ecosystems and replenish the region's biodiversity, CanopyCo is creating nurseries with native species.

The nurseries, run by local people, provide a stable source of employment and ensure that native tree seedlings are available for communities. Members of the community are actively involved in reforestation efforts and are trained in agroforestry techniques. On average, about 5,000 trees are planted each year in three sites with different ecosystems: the western Andean forest, the cloud forest and the Chocó rainforest. For each ecosystem, different tree species are planted to suit the different climatic conditions.

The year 2020

During the year, OneAction continued to offer individuals and companies the opportunity to plant trees, helping to protect biodiversity, restore aquifers and create employment for local communities. To enable this project to develop further, we are promoting long-term collaborations with various companies. In 2020, OneAction was able to expand its portfolio of stakeholders and companies, highlighting the project's growing success.





Access to education in Bodh Gaya, India

8 years of collaboration

300+ students from the most disadvantaged castes at the Gyan Niketan school

350+ students expected at the Gyan International school

Our partner

Established in 2004, the Indian NGO **Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust** runs the Gyan Niketan school in Bodh Gaya. The school provides free education to more than 300 students from the most disadvantaged castes aged between 3 and 16, who were previously unable to have access to education.

The project at a glance

Since 2012, OneAction has been supporting the Gyan Niketan school by providing new educational opportunities and improving the wellbeing of its 300 students. In particular, OneAction has contributed to the smooth running of the school, the development of its infrastructure, as well as

efforts to tackle malnutrition with its One Meal a Day programme, which provides a balanced daily meal to all students. To enable the school to become more autonomous, OneAction has also worked to create and fund a second, fee-paying primary school to provide local youth with a quality English-language education at a much more affordable price than the available offer in the region.

This school will provide new opportunities for young people from lower castes and will cover most of the costs of the Gyan Niketan free school. The school will eventually cater for around 350 children who will attend two years of kindergarten and eight years of primary school. In addition to the regular curriculum, the school offers personal development workshops and extracurricular activities such as yoga and meditation. In its third year of operation, the school is expected to generate enough revenue to cover its operating costs and part of the One Meal a Day programme at the Gyan Niketan school.

The year 2020

The new school, which began its construction in 2019, was inaugurated in March 2020, days before the first lockdown measures were adopted. These measures prevented the start of the new school year in 2020, but more importantly, they generated an even bigger problem, as many rural school families were deprived of their freedom of movement and thus their livelihoods. With the support of the Swiss Embassy in India, OneAction was able to quickly set up emergency basket distributions that covered the basic needs of 250 families during 4 months.





5 tonnes of cocoa

+30% of the retail price stays in Ecuador

+40% extra revenues for farmers compared to fair trade premiums

Banyan Alliance, Ecuador & Switzerland

Our partner

Founded in January 2020 as a limited company, **Banyan Alliance** is OneAction's sister company and aims, on the one hand, to promote an innovative business model and, on the other hand, to sustain OneAction's activities.

The project at a glance

Banyan Alliance aims to offer high-end chocolates while addressing the many challenges and imbalances that exist in the cocoa industry, including the lack of transparency, child labour, farmer insecurity and the environmental impact.

In collaboration with the Swiss master chocolate-maker Marc-André Cartier, Banyan Alliance offers high quality products and an innovative business model. They exclusively select beans from *Nacional* cocoa trees, with low yields but exceptional tasting properties. The beans come

from agroforestry crops, and the chocolate and all of its ingredients are certified organic. In addition, the bars are made entirely in the country where the cocoa is produced to maintain a large part of the added value in that country, and the CO₂ emissions generated by the production and transport of the chocolate are offset through our reforestation projects.

The innovative aspect is linked to the Equal Profit label, which guarantees that each actor along the supply chain receives a margin that is proportional to his or her production costs. As a result, the distribution of income significantly changes and benefits the actors at the beginning of the chain: farmers, for example, receive almost 40% more than with usual fair trade programmes.

The year 2020

The year 2020 marked an important evolution for this project that had been in the pipeline for several years. Indeed, a legally independent entity was created, and our prototype recipe was transferred to Ecuador and developed into 6 other varieties, resulting in the first import of about 5 tonnes of chocolate. The process was delayed for several months because of the health crisis, which also reduced Banyan Alliance's ability to reach out to retailers in Switzerland. Nevertheless, the chocolate was successful and the first major partnerships were concluded in the Geneva area.



A sustainable solution to plastic waste, Colombia & Switzerland



Our partner

OneAction is working in partnership with the Colombian NGO **Llena una botella de amor** and its sister company **Econciencia**, which has developed a successful model in Medellin to turn plastic waste into a sustainable building material: "plastic wood".

The project at a glance

OneAction aims to provide a solution to the accumulation of plastic waste around houses and in open dumps, or to open air incinerations in areas where waste management remains very limited. To this end, we are investigating the possibility of building a non-profit, solar-powered plant in a target area that would turn plastic waste into "plastic wood", a sustainable building material.

Plastic wood is a building material with many advantages: it is structurally stronger and more resistant to rot and pests than wood, and is often more affordable. In humid areas, for example, it could be used to build low-cost housing and greatly improve the living conditions of a whole section of the population. It could also be used to build public buildings such as pavements, benches or bus shelters.

Such a plant is an effective way of preserving local ecosystems by preventing the toxic contamination of plastic waste. It also provides the target region with a cheap, resilient and sustainable alternative to substandard housing, and offers economic stability and social recognition to recyclers, a community that is often marginalized.

"Plastic wood" is a strong and durable building material, composed of 98% plastic waste and 2% minerals. It allows the recycling of plastic waste such as polystyrene or polypropylene which is generally incinerated or landfilled.

The year 2020

Initially planned in the Colombian Amazon, the pilot project had to be suspended due to the COVID-19 health crisis, which was particularly virulent in this region, and which redefined certain priorities. Our local partner, the NGO Hábitat Sur, focused on various initiatives to best respond to the health emergency in Leticia.

Having acquired expertise on the "plastic wood" technology and the requirements to implement such a project, and benefiting from a strong relationship with the founders of the model, OneAction is now exploring the project's potential for replication in other regions of the world. OneAction has initiated discussions with possible partners in various countries, including India, and is exploring opportunities for synergies.





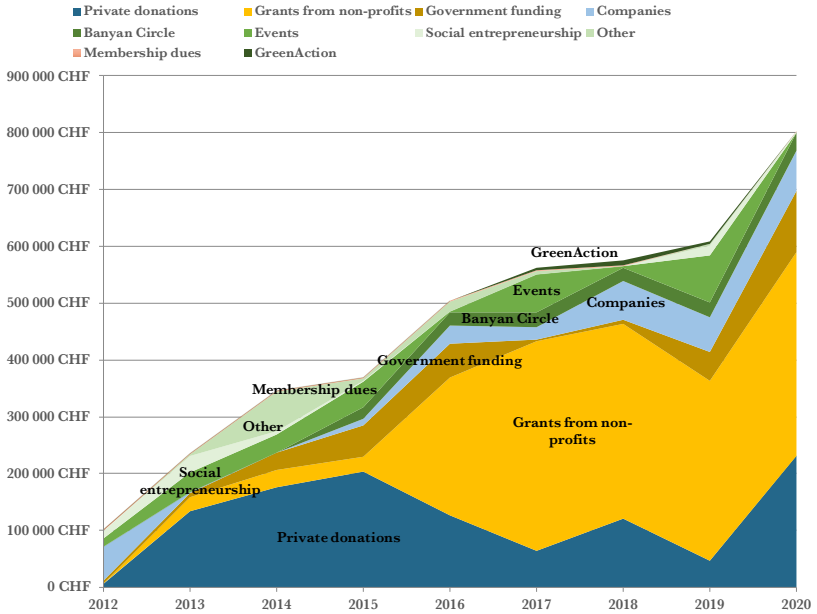
EVENTS

In 2020, we had the pleasure of collaborating with the organisation *Votre Cercle de Vie*, committed to sustainable development, particularly in the areas of agriculture, health and food. We participated in their Wonder Live event on the 20th of December, which included a concert by local artists broadcasted live on the Internet, accompanied by drawings of children from all over the world, including those from our partner schools in India and Ecuador. The aim was to share a positive vision of the world in these troubled times and to gather different initiatives around a unifying event, while giving the opportunity to the audience to be inspired by the children's art.

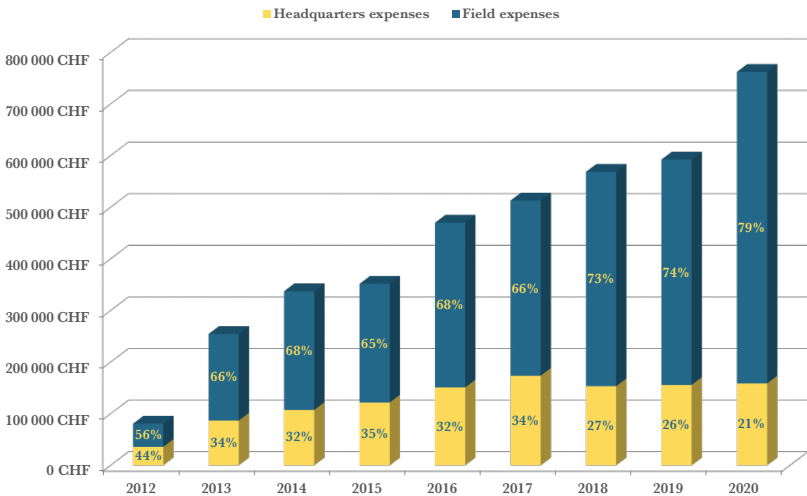


ONEACTION'S GROWTH

Sources of funding 2012 - 2020



Field vs. headquarters expenses 2012 - 2020



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Our accounts are graciously audited by the company Grant Thornton Spiess SA.)

OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Earmarked revenues	514,459.29	372,301.97
<i>Projects in Africa</i>	63,443.25	89,242.30
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	278,835.39	169,665.52
<i>Projects in South America</i>	81,818.65	32,277.70
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	90,362.00	81,116.45
Non-earmarked revenues	287,407.14	235,986.36
<i>Membership fees</i>	240.00	180.00
<i>Donations</i>	254,809.32	170,337.60
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	32,357.82	65,468.76
TOTAL	801,866.43	608,288.33
EXPENSES		
Expenses related to projects	(603,551.91)	(436,633.36)
<i>Projects in Africa</i>	(152,685.55)	(1,053.85)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(268,267.60)	(163,415.35)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(49,863.90)	(80,015.00)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(5,686.86)	(74,080.16)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(127,048.00)	(118,069.00)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(158,851.00)	(155,829.65)
<i>Wages</i>	(146,314.20)	(137,287.60)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(12,378.95)	(18,380.35)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(157.85)	(161.70)
TOTAL	(762,402.91)	(592,463.01)
PROFIT	39,463.52	15,825.32

BALANCE SHEET (CHF) **2020** **2019**

ASSETS

Current assets	166,799.51	128,143.74
<i>Current account</i>	163,010.51	68,524.79
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	789.00	3,956.45
<i>Other receivables</i>	3,000.00	55,662.50
TOTAL	166,799.51	128,143.74

LIABILITIES

Short-term liabilities	1,743.75	2,551.50
<i>Other creditors</i>	1,176.80	2,339.15
<i>Deferred income</i>	120.00	60.00
<i>Accrued liabilities</i>	446.95	152.35
Equity	165,055.76	125,592.24
<i>Retained earnings</i>	125,592.24	109,766.92
<i>Profit</i>	39,463.52	15,825.32
TOTAL	166,799.51	128,143.74

OUR PARTNERS

For their precious support throughout the year 2020, we would like to thank the foundations Albatros, Covalence, Drittes Millenium, Green Leaves Education and MASTEPE; the association SER; the Embassy of Switzerland in India, the International Solidarity Service of the Geneva Canton, the City of Geneva; and the companies Comptoir Immobilier, DigiDNA, l'Effet Papillon, Expedismart and Grant Thornton Spiess. We would also like to thank our loyal partners in the field: CanopyCo et INEPE in Ecuador; Sadhana Forest in India and Kenya; Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust in India, and Hábitat Sur in Colombia. Finally, we express our gratitude to our loyal private donors as well as to our members.

ONE ACTION



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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: www.oneaction.ch