

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



ACFA provides Mali's vulnerable children a safe and loving environment which fosters their health, learning, happiness, and success.

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THANK YOU. Because of each of you and all of us working together, we have accomplished much in 2015. Day after day, we are reminded of the importance of our work: protecting the vulnerable children of Mali. In the summer of 2015, my visit to Bamako proved that for the children of ACFA, you really are candles of light in the darkest night.



ACFA's children had a great year: they are growing happy and healthy. All of the children spent time with their extended families over the summer.

Our nutrition program was recognized by Mali as one of the best in the country and was featured on local television.

We had record-breaking harvest results this year, with over a ton of corn for the children's consumption on less than 1 hectare cultivated.

This year we received financial support from the Segal Family Foundation, the Conseil Ingénierie et Recherche Appliquée (CIRA), SIPROVET, and many other individual donors around the world. We also received in-kind donations of both professional services and material from organizations including the law firm Blank Rome, Addis Consulting, Foundation Orange, Mali Djigui, and many others in the U.S. and in Mali. Our continued partnerships with the Embassy of Mali in Washington, DC has proved very beneficial to ACFA's children as you will see later in this report.

These are the main accomplishments of which we are proud. We do not think anything is too complex or unachievable, because we know we can always count on you. When you believe, as we do, that problems worth solving can be solved, interesting things happen. This is why we are confident that with your support, much greater successes are yet to come for ACFA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe, CEO – Founder



**A MESSAGE
FROM THE
BOARD'S CHAIR**



Dear ACFA Friends and Supporters,

The year 2015 has been a good one for ACFA. Most importantly, the children are all doing well. Our CEO, Kadiatou F. Sidibe, was in Mali for over a month. While there, she spent a lot of time with the children and our staff in Bamako, visited the Zorokoro Children's Complex to see progress on the first dormitory, and met with many current and potential donors.

The Board continued to plan strategically to place ACFA in the best possible position going forward. We decided to hire a consultant to assist with administrative and fundraising work. We expect to have that person in place before the end of March. The Columbia Business School Pangea team of students delivered a valuable product to ACFA and we look forward to moving forward on many of their suggestions.

We also hosted our first joint fundraiser. African Sky, a non-profit, which builds schools in Mali, partnered with us for a fundraiser that attracted some new people and a new Board member, Hamallah Sidibe. The Ambassador from Mali to the U.S. graciously attended the event and spoke in support of ACFA.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to our growing organization, ACFA, with your time and donations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Savitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Savitt, Board Chair



2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACFA has allocated a great deal of time to restructuring the organization's internal goals and brand. We created a new logo and updated our vision and mission statements, which better reflect how we are bringing hope to Malian orphans. Many hours were spent in webinars and in conferences to learn how to work smarter while providing our children with the best possible care.

ACFA has expanded its staff and relationships. Staff in Mali was increased with the addition of an intern who is now a paid staffer. The Board is looking forward to an expansion as well. A job description developed for a position to assist in our fundraising efforts will lead to the hiring of

an administrative and fundraising consultant in early 2016. ACFA also continued to strengthen its relationship with the Embassy of Mali and build new ones with the Embassy of Niger, as well as with other organizations such as African Sky, which share similar goals with ACFA.

Our CEO, Kadiatou F. Sidibe, visited Bamako in summer 2015 and led a public relations and marketing campaign while on the ground in Bamako. These efforts were supported by His Excellency Tiena Coulibaly, Ambassador of Mali to Washington DC, and Mr. Seydou Mamadou Coulibaly, President and Executive Director of CIRA.

Mali, as a country is focused on moving in the right direction after the signature of a peace accord; however, implementation of the peace will be slow. Throughout the year, political stability improved slightly as security remained fragile across the country.

There were many attacks across the country including one at a hotel in the capital, Bamako, where ACFA's office and dormitories are located. Our children remain safe and out of harm's way. Mali reported a threat of meningitis and all of the ACFA children were vaccinated.

Our projects in Mali are making good progress. We are excited to report the farming project continues to provide healthy food to the children. There were some new challenges with the construction of the Zorokoro Children's Complex and the Government of Mali; however, these were overcome and

The year was full of work towards building a strong, sustainable organization and making sure our children are safe and happy. We are pleased to report that we have accomplished these goals.

the kitchen and dining room are now completed. The main building will be finished once the painting is done and the electricity is installed.

The children of ACFA are thriving. They all immensely enjoy their Taekwondo and basketball lessons. During the summer break we hired a tutor to give our secondary school students a head start in math and science. In 2015, our CEO, two Board members, and one volunteer's trips to Mali delighted the children.



Status Report on the Children



Since its inception, ACFA has changed lives.

Indeed, together we have had a positive impact on our 12 children. Even though the children come from similar backgrounds, it has been challenging to raise them together, while paying attention to their individual needs. It is rewarding to see that with time they have overcome bad situations from their past and are looking forward to a future that they could not have previously imagined. With the exception of common seasonal health conditions, there were no major medical concerns in 2015.

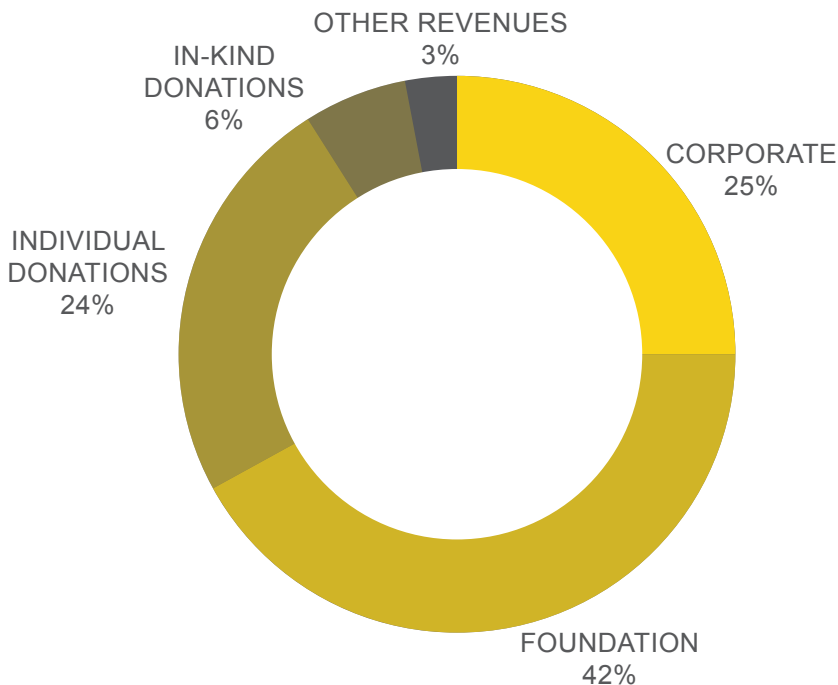
On the academic front, we have really encouraging results: 75% of the children moved to the next grade level and 25% participated in the INERD summer camp for one month in Bamako. This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program gathers good students for both theoretical and practical tutoring in science and technology. The camp ended with each child receiving an INERD certificate.

For the school year 2015-2016 the children are attending 4th through 7th grades. They all continue to take advantage of their tutors. While some students rank among the top fifth in their class, others are struggling. Because of this, we have expanded our tutoring program to support those who are experiencing difficulties.

Some of our children have competed in local and national competition in Taekwondo. As a result, two placed first and one placed second in competition. Currently six of our children have blue belts, and one has a yellow belt. In addition, three boys played basketball with The Elites of Badalabougou club in Bamako in championship games for the minor and junior leagues.

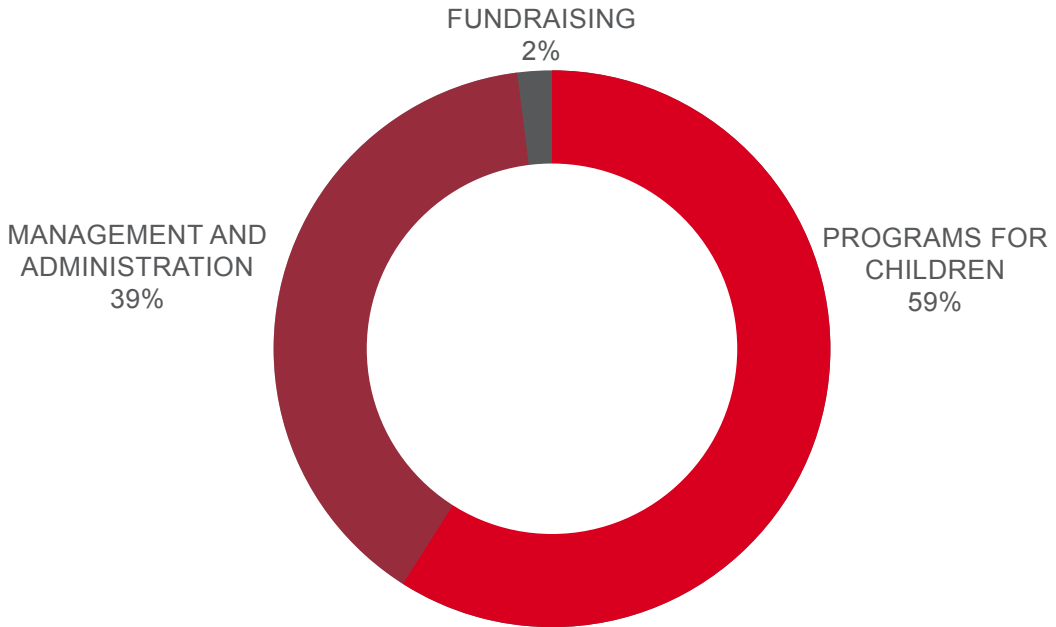
Today the children's greatest wish is to move as soon as possible to Zorokoro, because they know they will then welcome new brothers and sisters.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



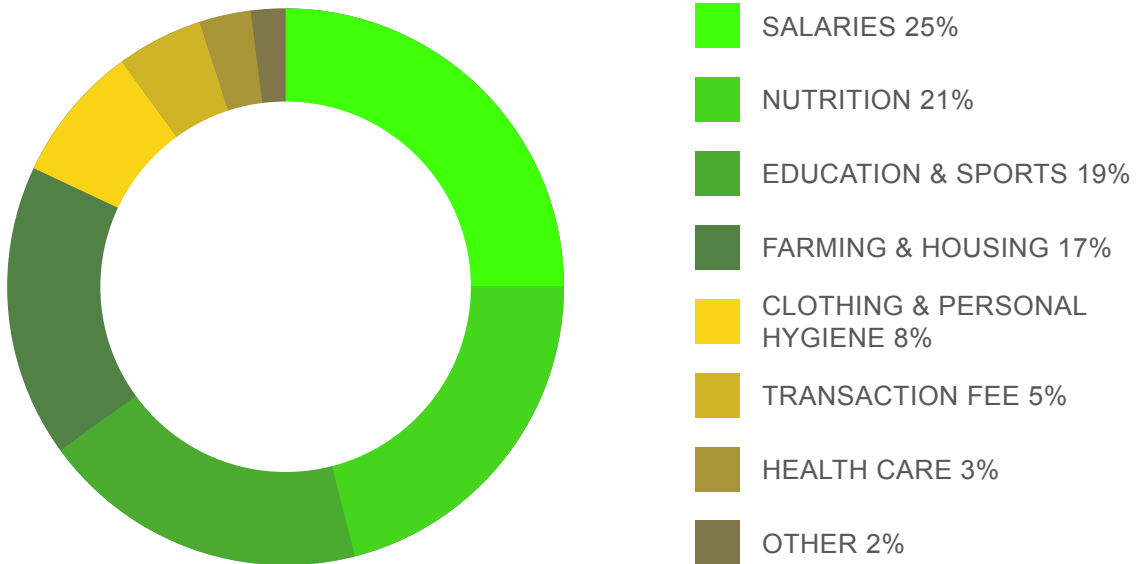
2015 REVENUE

In 2015 ACFA received a total of \$88,255 in donations. This includes in-kind donations of \$5,071 (6% of revenue) in clothes, shoes, toys, and food as well as services in accounting and legal advice for trademarking. 42% of our revenue was received from three foundations: the Segal Family Foundation, the Global Giving Foundation and the Combined Federal Campaign. CIRA and SIPROVET provided 25% in corporate revenue, while 24% of donations were received from individual donors around the world. Other sources of income include \$2,801 (3% of total revenue) representing interest earned from bank accounts, sales of agricultural harvest, and a refund from CatchAFire Corporation.



2015 EXPENSES

In 2015, ACFA invested \$1,738 of capital expenses in the Zorokoro Children's Complex. 59% of ACFA's expenses were spent on programs directly supporting the children; while 39% were spent on management and administration, including annual registration of the organization, web maintenance, etc. This year's administrative fees were relatively high due to ACFA's hiring a consultant to facilitate our annual retreat in support of ACFA's strategic alignment for the future. It also includes marketing fees spent in Bamako during the CEO's visit in summer 2015. Fundraising fees consisted of 2% of total expenses.



2015 PROGRAM EXPENSES

In 2015, ACFA's biggest category of program services was spent on salaries. This 25% of total program expenses was spent on employees who care for the children on a daily basis. Additionally, one intern was hired in Bamako in 2015. 21% of program expenses were spent on food and other nutrition expenses for the children while 19% was spent on their education and sports. The education fees include the children's tuition at a private school, their school supplies and uniforms, as well as fees for extracurricular classes that they attend year-round. 17% of the total program funds were spent on the farming project and housing. This includes fees for farm labor as well as repairs to the house where they live. 8% was spent on clothing and personal hygiene for the children. The 5% transaction fees include Western Union transfer fees, as well as gains and losses due to fluctuation of the exchange rate imposed by the U.S. Treasury, which affects funds sent to Bamako for operations.



Future Plans for 2016



The year 2015 was productive and edifying for ACFA as the organization faced challenges and opportunities. Despite improvements in the political and security situation, children in Mali remain vulnerable to lack of access to education. ACFA has made it a priority for our children to have access to education and a better livelihood.

One of the challenges of ACFA over the years has been raising funds to support our different projects. As we move forward, only financial resources limit us. ACFA, like most nonprofit organizations, relies on community support and fundraising to create awareness and receive resources. Fundraising can take up a significant portion of an organization's time, so we plan to employ the services of a consultant in fundraising operations to help us accomplish our financial and organizational goals. In 2016, we will continue to boost our social media presence, which will enable us to reach a broader pool of donors and sensitize them to the needs of children in Mali.

Currently ACFA is accommodating 12 children (6 boys and 6 girls). As we move forward, our main goal in 2016 is to secure sufficient funding to complete phase 1 of the Zorokoro Children's Complex, which would provide coverage of both physical and emotional needs of the children. This is a significant project which will take a number of years to finalize. When completed, the Zorokoro Children's Complex phase 1 will allow ACFA to expand its current capacity from 12 to 37 children.

