



A Child For All

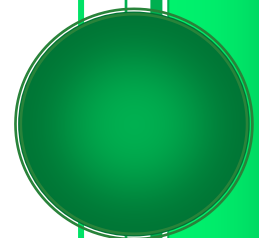
Bringing Hope to Malian Orphans



A CHILD FOR ALL (ACFA)
Annual Report 2012

ACFA Board of Directors

5/31/2013



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,
It is my distinct honor to address you as we close another year in ACFA's journey. As you read this, despite the difficulties in Mali, ACFA's children are thriving because of the hope that you have given them. As troubles unfolded in Mali in March 2012, people often asked me, "How do you do what you do?" The answer is easy. Day in and day out, we do amazing things. We change the lives of these vulnerable children, because of the dedication of our tireless and incredible supporters, like you!



In 2012, multiple crises unfolded in Mali: a military coup, war, food insecurity, preventable illness outbreaks, school disruption, etc. Ten days after the March military coup, the northern two-thirds of the country fell under the control of rebels, and 4 months later militant, radical Islamists took over. As a result, over 400,000 Malians fled their homes for refugee camps in the south of the country and in neighboring countries like Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. Schools were disrupted. Faced with a tough choice, many parents were forced to flee with their youngest children, abandoning older teenagers, many of whom were eventually recruited by extremists as child soldiers. One certainty of this instability is that children who were vulnerable before are even more susceptible now. Thankfully, in the midst of all these challenges, the children of ACFA kept thriving. In June 2012, Koro ranked first in her class of a 100 students and two of the children earned their yellow belt in Taekwondo. ACFA's vision is to achieve "A Mali where all children are protected, safe, healthy, well-nourished, provided a home and an outstanding education that will allow them to be productive and contribute to the social and economic development of the country." The stresses of 2012's socio-political and economic events in Mali have made it even more difficult to turn this vision into a reality. These difficult times have only served to reinforce the importance of ACFA's mission to protect and provide for Mali's vulnerable children.

ACFA's Board of Directors continues to move forward with the strategy to expand operations in order to support more vulnerable children in Mali and be a stable presence in the broader community. Indeed, since we have reached capacity at our current location and the number of vulnerable children continues to increase, we are building a larger complex: the Zorokoro Children's Complex, with dorms, a school house, medical facilities, a library, computer lab, and indoor/outdoor sport facilities. Once completed, this complex will house and support 100 children while also providing services to more than 400 children and 1000 adults from the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who shares my dream of a better tomorrow for the children of Mali. We could not do the work we do without your generous support. Thanks to you, our valuable donors, we were able to commence the construction of the Zorokoro Children Complex ahead of schedule. Building on our past successes, we are positioning ourselves to sustainably, effectively and efficiently support our children and the broader community. The vulnerable children of Mali deserve it and Mali's future depends on it. Thank you for your continued support throughout our journey and for providing us with the ability to build a brighter future for the children of Mali. For that, we can never thank you enough!

Kadiatou Sidibe

Director

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,

2012 has been a wonderful year for ACFA Mali and ACFA USA. We have twelve thriving children living in Bamako, Mali and have broken ground for a complex to eventually house 100 children in Zorokoro. We had a number of successful fundraisers culminating in our most rewarding fundraiser to date at the Washington, D.C. home of the Ambassador from Mali. Ambassador Al Maamoon Keita and his wife graciously opened the doors of their historic home to ACFA. Attended by new and old supporters, the fundraiser featured remarks by Janis Simon, Barry Segal's daughter and a Board member of the Segal Family Foundation (SFF). We were able to meet the SFF challenge in record time, raising even more funds than in previous years. CNN correspondent Erin Burnett graciously made a short video about the needs of vulnerable children, and her reporting on war torn Mali highlights the need for even more stability and hope for Mali's vulnerable children.

Five years after its founding, it is now time for ACFA to expand its efforts to make a difference to a greater number of children impacted by war, by civil unrest and life's unexpected twists and turns. The Board of ACFA held a retreat at the end of 2012, focusing on long term strategy necessary to fulfill its vision. The Board is firmly behind the plans of ACFA's visionary CEO and Founder to move forward with the Zorokoro Children's Complex. To make the plans become a reality, we need much more help. We have a new Board member with extensive international fundraising experience, tremendous support from Board members who were born and raised in Mali, a former Mali Peace Corps volunteer whose fluency in Bambara astounds me, and an incredibly vibrant member of the Board who visited ACFA Mali, fell in love with the children and the mission of ACFA, and luckily for ACFA, joined the Board.

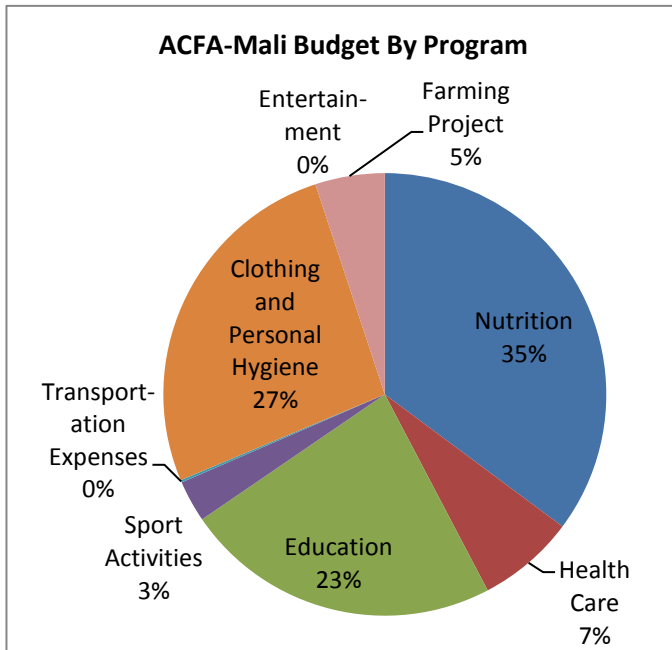
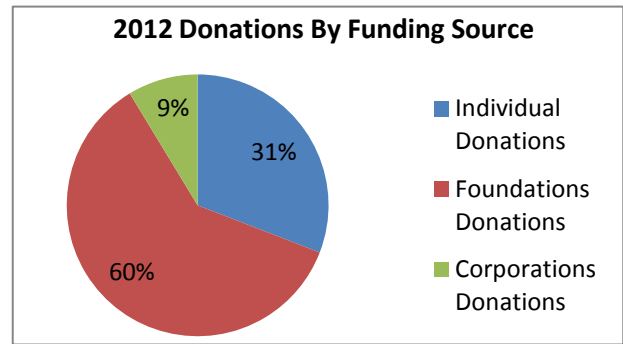
We cannot make the Zorokoro Children's Complex vision a reality alone. We will need the help of Malian communities in Africa, Europe and the U.S. as well as individuals who want to support a brighter future for Mali and its children. We will be looking for grants from foundations and organizations who understand that children are the future, and that children who have a home, education and stability can help bring a generation, and a country, to be contributing members of the global community. We will work hard to make this happen, and look forward to working with our supporters, past and future!

Lisa Savitt
Lisa Savitt
Board Chair



BUDGET:

ACFA continues to grow and diversify its base of support by increasing corporate donations, continuing to build its relationship with foundations and attracting new individual supporters. To that end, sixty percent of our funds were received from foundations, nine percent from corporations, and thirty-one percent from individual supporters.

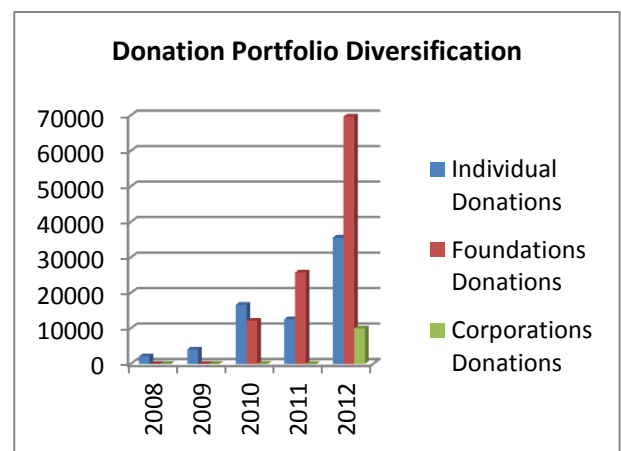


ACFA met the Segal Family Foundation challenge in record time and received a total donation of almost \$50,000 in less than 3 months. We continue to be blessed with individuals who make in-kind donations. This year, we received clothes and blankets from Joyce Carpenter. In Mali, CIRA (an engineering firm) donated a total of \$50,000 (\$10,000 in cash and \$40,000 in construction material), SIPROVET (a local distributor of veterinarian products) and FADIO Apt. (an apartment complex and hotel) donated \$2,000 and numerous other individuals made substantial donations, and in-kind support and expertise support. We strengthened our relationship with the GlobalGiving by taking advantage of its corporate partnership with Google which allowed us to more than triple our annual GlobalGiving grant in 2012. The partnership with Google Hunger Relief Campaign

resulted in ACFA receiving over \$17,000 in November and December. Because of the generous donations of our supporters we were able to raise over \$100,000 this year, making 2012 a record setting year for ACFA. This supported an operating budget of \$37,740 and enabled us to commit \$55,000 in support of the Zorokoro Children Complex project. As we closed 2012, work on the new complex was underway.

In 2012, seventy percent of ACFA's expenses went directly to supporting the children: clothes, food, school fees and extracurricular activities. The remaining thirty percent represent the fundraising, salary, management and administrative costs incurred as indirect cost of operating ACFA's facility in Mali. Currently, all of ACFA's paid staff is in Mali and directly participate in the care of the children.

The largest expense in 2012 was the food and nutrition program for the children accounting for thirty five percent of the total budget, followed by clothing and personal hygiene expenses at twenty seven percent of the budget, and education costs comprising twenty-three percent of the budget. The education budget includes private school fees, school supplies (books, pens, pencils, and notebooks), school uniforms, as well as tutors' salaries for extracurricular classes in Math, French, English, and dramatic art classes.



2012 Accomplishments

ACFA achieved several of the goals it set in 2012, and is well on its way to accomplishing those goals which have not quite been attained yet.

First and foremost, the children of ACFA have had a challenging but resilient 2012. Despite the turmoil of their country's political state, ACFA's children have managed to achieve many noteworthy accomplishments. For example, one of ACFA's students ranked first in her class of over 100 students. All the children passed to their respective higher class. Several other ACFA children received their yellow belt in karate.

ACFA's children were transferred to a private school in order to improve the quality of their education, reduce their class size, and avoid the frequent teacher strikes in the public schools. Additionally, certain emotional and behavioral issues have been reduced amongst the more troubled children of ACFA.



Partnerships

ACFA has formed new partnerships with organizations and individuals both in the U.S. and Mali. This year we established strong ties with His Excellency Al Maamoun Baba Lamine Keita, Malian Ambassador to the United States. The Ambassador and his wife have been very supportive of our efforts by introducing us to potential donors and even hosting an ACFA awareness and fundraising event at their residence, which helped ACFA raise \$8,872 for its Zorokoro Children's Complex. We have also established a partnership with Seydou Coulibaly of CIRA, Boubacar Keita of SIPROVET, and several other individuals in the local Malian community who have an interest in fostering the development of ACFA's Zorokoro Children's Complex through in-kind donations. We intended to establish relations with Malian governmental entities for local support and expertise, but due to the conflict, such relationships are not currently feasible. On the other hand, we are exploring partnership with the Combined Federal Campaign, which will enable ACFA to have greater access to U.S. federal work space fundraising.

One unexpected partnership came when ACFA was approached by students from Fox Elementary School in Richmond, VA who held a bake sale for ACFA that raised \$688. We plan to maintain this relationship and expand it from bake sales to cultural exchanges like the partnership we established with Leah Henderson's class at the Truesdale School in Washington, DC, where we facilitated a cultural exchange between the Truesdale students and our ACFA students via Skype.

We strengthened our relationship with the Segal Family Foundation. SFF increased our annual fundraising challenge from \$7,500 of matched funds to \$15,000 of matched funds, in addition to their regular quarterly support of \$3,500. SFF supports ACFA more than simply financially. They put us in touch with a grant writing expert who has offered her expertise at no cost and they have pledged to sponsor some of ACFA's Board Members to participate in fundraising training courses provided by the Foundation Center. Additionally, ACFA began planning a trip to Mali for the executive director of the Segal Family Foundation to visit ACFA in Mali.

Visibility

While our greatest success comes from the growth and development of the children, AFCA has also had tremendous success this past year in galvanizing support through media, which included: an interview on Radio France International (RFI) with Alain Foka; Salif Sanogo's coverage of our awareness campaign in Mali through special reports on Malian national television; and CNN's Erin Burnett's video message of support.

In April ACFA director Kadiatou Sidibe was interviewed by RFI, a well-known French news station with an expansive audience reach. The interview was about how the African diaspora gives back to its home-land. As a result of the RFI interview, ACFA was contacted by numerous individuals and two corporations working in Mali who wanted to include ACFA in either their personal charitable giving or corporate social responsibility efforts by providing in-kind as well as financial support.

The November fundraising event at the Ambassador's house in Washington, D.C. was broadcast in the news in Bamako. A copy of this event, as well as the full report, can be found on video at:

<http://www.acfacorp.org/en/news/english-categories/news/end-of-year-fundraising-in-washington-dc>.

As mentioned above, ACFA received some unexpected, but much welcomed attention from Global Giving's corporate partners' holiday campaign. We also featured in a Global Giving blog posting:

<http://www.acfacorp.org/en/news/english-categories/news/google-hunger-relief-campaign-simple-ways-to-take-a-bite-out-of-hunger>. Opportunities like this enable ACFA to gain greater access to donors through increased exposure to a larger audience.

Our number of supporters on Facebook and Global Giving has nearly doubled in 2012. Additionally, our individual donor base grew from 226 supporters to 721. We're proud we've been able to garner so many ACFA new supporters in just a year's time.

Leadership

ACFA welcomed five extraordinary new Board Members this year!

Beverly Henderson volunteered at the ACFA orphanage in Bamako during its first year of operation. She previously served in various roles at Phillips Academy Andover and lived and taught in the Middle East for nearly a decade. She currently volunteers as a Docent at the Smithsonian Museum of African Art. *Salif Traoré* is an Assistant Professor at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. He served as staff member at the Office of Personal of the Ministry of National Administration in Mali for two years. He served for nearly two years as Socio-cultural Advisor at the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). *Kyle Burgess* was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali and has several years of experience in international development, which she hopes to leverage toward increasing ACFA's grant funding. *Bintou Diallo* was born and raised in Mali. She came to the U.S. as an international student. Bintou is a CPA and works as a tax accountant for one of the "big four" accounting firms in the Philadelphia area and hopes to use her accounting knowledge to assist ACFA. *Ira Hersh* has over 15 years of experience in non-profit management and fundraising and extensive field experience working in Horn and East Africa with international development organizations such as USAID and the U.S. Department of State.

Fundraising & Finance

Early 2012 fundraising was really slow due to the lingering aftermath of the financial crisis as well as the conflict which broke out in Mali; however, our end of the year fundraising really picked up. In total, ACFA raised over \$100,000 in 2012, \$55,000 of which was designated for the Zorokoro Project.

In February, Bailey Dodds of North Stafford High School created a design for ACFA T-shirts. To date we have raised \$200 through the sale of these T-shirts.



In August 2013, we solidified project plans and set out to raise funding for our Zorokoro Children's Complex. We presented these plans to the Segal Family Foundation and gained their support. We surpassed our 2012 funding goal by more than double, so we are well on our way to seeing our plan become a reality. Most of this funding came from our year-end push to meet the matching funds challenge set for us by the Segal Family Foundation. This challenge gave us 3 months to raise \$15,000 dollars that would be matched by the Segal Family Foundation; however, thanks to our fundraising drive via Global Giving, our event at the Malian Ambassador's home, and the help of our supporters, we were able to raise over \$15,000 in half the time allotted to us for the challenge.

In November our nutrition project was selected by Global Giving as 1 of 13 projects for a corporate partners' holiday campaign. This generated visibility for ACFA, consequently increasing our prospects for donation. Google registered with Global Giving during this campaign and issued gift cards to their employees to support the campaign, which helped us generate over \$17,000 for our nutrition project in November and December. Although the financial aspect of this campaign was extremely beneficial to ACFA, we are largely grateful for the exposure and recognition.



In December, ACFA hired a certified accountant to ensure that our financial management stays on track as our project funds increase. Additionally, an outside accountant will help us maintain transparency and thus improve our chances of receiving foundation and government funds.

Lastly, with the help of her mother and teacher, a 3rd grader from William Fox Elementary School in Richmond, VA held a bake sale at their school to benefit ACFA. The teacher had been teaching her class about Mali throughout the year, and they wanted to have a bake sale to benefit vulnerable children in Mali. The bake sale raised \$688 for ACFA.

THE CHILDREN OF ACFA

Despite the country's difficulties in 2012, our children thrived throughout the year. Schools were disrupted during the academic year, particularly public schools, which our children attended. Due to school disruptions, in October we enrolled the children in a private school. This change of environment did not come without challenges; however, the children finished the academic year with great success. They are all advancing towards their dreams of becoming a TV reporter, a police officer, a customs officer, a military officer, etc. Though all of the children passed to the next grade special kudos go to Koro who ranked first in her class of 100, and advanced to yellow belt in Taekwondo.



Currently we have 7 children enrolled in Taekwondo and 5 in basketball. During 2012 three of our Taekwondo students advanced to the yellow belt. The children in basketball are also doing extremely well. They are ready to move to the club level. While we are exploring that option, we are considering the logistical challenges, such as transportation, that this will generate.

The children's summer program consisted of drawing, painting, and dramatic arts. As with last year, they had a role play class, and produced a great movie available on our website, which can be viewed at <http://www.acfacorp.org/en/videos/videos>. In addition, we added painting and drawing to this summer program. The results were showcased in the final drawings that the children did at the end of the summer.

The children are growing in a true family environment and the result is showing in all the activities that they are undertaking. This also means that they are in need of a larger environment to be able to play, learn, and thrive. Our expansion project will fulfill this requirement that is regularly becoming more pressing.



ZOUMANA, A GENTLEMAN WITH A BIG HEART

One of the lesser known ACFA members, but perhaps the most crucial person on the ground in Bamako, is Zoumana Bagayoko, affectionately called Tonton (“Uncle”) Zou. Zou is ACFA’s Director of Operations in Mali. When you meet him, the first thing that will strike you is that he takes his responsibilities very seriously. “Managing such an endeavor is an honor that one should preserve,” he says. He is well aware of the impact ACFA has made on the kids and is ready to sacrifice anything to ensure that ACFA meets its goals. As a child from a poor home, Zou knows poverty first hand and would do what he can to prevent others from falling into it. Even in his private life, he connects with people in difficult situations. He uses Zakat¹ and the interest generated by his family’s saving account to support an orphan who is not affiliated with ACFA.

When asked about his motivations, he responds that he receives moral satisfaction in helping children who need it the most. He says, “I know where these kids came from. I saw them before they joined ACFA, and now I see how they have changed for the better. This alone makes me happy.”

Zou loves this job because solidarity is a virtue he believes in. When he was in elementary school, Zou had to help his mother take care of the family because his father passed away. At this early age Zou was aware of the importance of responsibility, trust, reliability and solidarity.



Like the head of the household, Tonton Zou is welcomed at ACFA by the children as their father, each one trying to hug him, show their love and share their experience of the day. It is common to see Koro or Saleh, the youngest ones on his lap, a common image in Malian families. When asked, what motivates him, he responds, “When I compare the situation in which the kids were living before joining ACFA and their current situation, I feel proud and relieved.”

Since its inception, Zoumana Bagayoko has been managing ACFA’s operations in Mali. In addition to these responsibilities, he has been employed by the “Banque Atlantique” as a cashier and does work as a private consultant. He previously worked as Network Administrator for several enterprises such as Djom Consulting.

Although the above mentioned personal qualities and integrity prevailed in the choice of Zoumana as the Operations Director of ACFA in Mali, he is fully qualified to assume his responsibilities. Indeed, Zoumana Bagayoko holds a Master’s Degree in Information System Management from the University of Bamako and a Professional Certificate in Banking Technology.

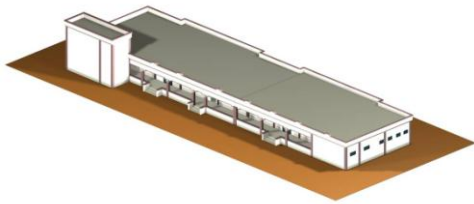
A gifted leader, Zou’s management of his staff of four is impeccable. Thorough and meticulous are staple traits of his work ethic. He cannot be overworked, and never says it cannot be done. This is Zoumana, a gentleman with a big heart, always ready to sacrifice his time and energy to help others. ACFA has learned to count on him because when the chips are down, he always delivers award-winning results.

¹ Obligation that a Muslim has to donate a certain proportion of revenue each year to charitable causes.

2013 - THE WAY AHEAD

Due to the ongoing war against separatists and radical Islamists in its north, Mali is experiencing the most serious crisis in its modern history. The current crisis poses a serious threat to the children of Mali as they are the most vulnerable social strata who suffer the consequences of the war. Children displaced in refugee camps lack access to food, health care and education. It is obvious that the number of children in need will grow in the coming months, and that is why today more than ever, helping vulnerable children in Mali matters.

To all of our supporters and donors of ACFA, we say thank you for another successful year despite Mali's difficulties this year.



In this regard, the Board of Directors has decided to accelerate the start of construction work on ACFA's new site in Zorokoro. The entire project will cost \$1.5 million, presenting ACFA with a great challenge as well as a great opportunity. The complex will be autonomous with a school – from 1st to 9th grade –, dormitories, a library, a health center, a multipurpose room and sports fields. In this new facility, plans have been made to have a dormitory which will accommodate 100 children.

The cornerstone of ACFA's strategy is to invest in the children's future. In this spirit, ACFA is doing everything it can to carry out its vision, which consists of creating a healthy environment and providing thorough education to develop responsible citizens. Now, we are blessed with twelve wonderful children who are nurtured in all aspects of their lives – through education, sports, mentoring, a caring staff and encouragement from Board members and all who have contributed to ACFA. In addition to their general education, we will strive to foster our children's technical skills by providing professional learning. In accordance with this, ACFA aim is to expose its children early on in their studies to different professions, because vocational skills are just as valuable as academic pursuits in a country with Mali's economy, where job opportunities are often limited and skills based. Eventually, professional training centers will be added to the complex.



ACFA strives for good collaboration and is always willing to extend its efforts to give and receive support from the local community. In order to strengthen its links with the community members of the village of Zorokoro and have the accession of the latter to the cause of vulnerable children, ACFA intends to welcome children from the local community into its school and provide health care services to the public at a reasonable cost. Also, free evening classes will be offered to adults by our volunteer teachers. In return, the villagers will be encouraged to do volunteer work for ACFA.