



A Child For All

Bringing hope to Malian orphans



2014 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,

It is that time of the year again where we come together and report your accomplishments for the past year. As supporters of ACFA, you should be proud of the many achievements accomplished in 2014:

- ACFA's twelve children had a very good year and they are growing and happy
- Several children have earned silver and gold medals in taekwondo competitions
- 4 of the children play basketball and recently qualified to compete at the district level in Bamako
- 10 of the 12 children were admitted to the next grade level.
- The two children who were not admitted to the next level received special tutoring during the summer, which resulted in significant improvements in their GPA

The Zorokoro Children's Complex project continues to advance, although we downscaled our 2014 goals in order to better determine the best way to proceed in upcoming years. Therefore, the 2014 investment at Zorokoro Children's Complex did not match that of 2013. However, we are currently working on a new strategic plan (to be published in 2015), which reconciles the organization's future initiatives with the realities on the ground.

Foundation and corporate support continues through annual commitments from the Segal Family Foundation, Conseil Ingénierie et Recherche Appliquée (CIRA), and SIPROVET. The individual donor database expands from the American continent (U.S. and Canada), to Africa, and to Europe (Germany, England, Spain). In Mali, ACFA's children were blessed with a visit in April 2014 by Mr. Andy Bryant, the Executive Director of the Segal Family Foundation. ACFA-Mali's Director of Operations, Mr. Zoumana Bagayoko, attended the Segal Family Foundation's annual meeting in Arusha, Tanzania. Our participation in this meeting provided important knowledge and networking opportunities, which have already proven valuable and will continue to benefit ACFA for years to come.

As you read over the next few pages, I invite you to reflect on your accomplishments and, indeed, be proud of what you accomplished this past year. It is thanks to your commitment that we are looking forward to 2015, to its challenges and rewards. Thank you very much for your continued support and for being a major part of this movement.



Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe, CEO - Founder

Message from the Board Chair

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,

The children of ACFA are thriving. That is good – and the ACFA Board spent 2014 reflecting on the best way to ensure that we bring continued security to ACFA's children as well as the best way to move forward with the Zorokoro Children's Complex so that we can bring education, nutrition, health and a stable environment to more of Mali's vulnerable children. Luckily Ebola never fully materialized in Mali, and our children were able to thrive without fear of this deadly disease that was prevalent in other parts of Africa.

ACFA is pleased that two former Board members, Alexis Strader and Rebecca Gelinias, rejoined the Board. We are also fortunate to have new volunteers who have been active with ACFA on several projects, including increasing ACFA's use of social media. This shows how compelling ACFA's mission is to those who get to know ACFA.

We remain very dedicated to the Zorokoro Children's Complex project, and the first dormitory should be completed shortly. We are reaching out to potential partners who can provide support in different aspects of the Zorokoro Children's Complex project such as building the school. We are also so lucky to have the continued support of the Segal Family Foundation and CIRA. Their support helps us to maintain our professionalism and enthusiasm. As our children are getting older, we are making sure that they have the skills and education to continue to succeed. We are constantly amazed and grateful at the level of support we receive in Mali and around the world.

Finally, we owe a special thank you to all of those people who support ACFA with moral support, including our families and friends who allow us to devote precious personal time to ACFA, who provide us with their time in support of ACFA and who reach out to others about ACFA's mission.


Lisa Savitt, Board Chair

2014 Accomplishments

ACFA is continuing to build solid momentum towards the goals and values set for excellence. ACFA's children continue to achieve good results in academic and recreational activities. In addition to their scholarly duties, the children are now endeavoring into motorcycle repair, woodworking, and cooking. In total, 10 of the 12 children passed to the next grade level. We are excited to report that Diakassan has remained ranked first in her class. A tutor was hired to assist with the children who need additional help with accomplishing their academic goals. In sports, our children are excelling in Taekwondo, with three of the children participating in the regional championship, where Koro earned a Gold Medal and Diakassan and Bassan earned Silver Medals in their respective weight and age categories.

The political climate in Mali has improved with the appointment of a new Prime Minister, and the political parties are now holding meetings in an attempt to reconcile. Despite a few isolated cases late in the year, Mali was spared from the worse of Ebola, as the country successfully controlled the outbreaks and has since been declared Ebola free. The children of ACFA were safe at all times and were not affected by this virus.



Progress of the Zorokoro Children's Complex as of December 2014

Partnerships

This year ACFA has worked on identifying and cultivating relationships with individuals, organizations, and policy makers from all over the world, while strengthening and maintaining existing relationships.

The partnership with CIRA resulted in breaking ground on the construction of the Zoroko Children's Complex in 2013. At Zoroko, there were two major accomplishments in 2014: the grounds are fully enclosed with a full-length perimeter fence and the first dormitory, which will soon house 25 additional children, is nearing completion.

We continued to strengthen our relationship with the Segal Family Foundation, which included the participation of Mr. Zoumana Bagayoko at the foundation's annual meeting in Tanzania. The Segal Family Foundation introduced ACFA to Catchafire, a relationship that has been evolving ever since.

Catchafire is now supporting ACFA with rebranding, which includes redesigning the logo and improving brand messaging.

ACFA also made great strides to create partnerships with colleges. The American International School in Bamako (AISB) provided us with an intern that contributed on various activities. ACFA has also applied for Columbia University's Pangea Project, the pro-bono consulting arm of the International Development Club at Columbia Business School. Our application was initially accepted, but shortly thereafter canceled due to the Ebola outbreak. ACFA has also established a relationship with USAID through an introductory meeting, which we hope will lead to multiple new engagements with the agency.

Partnerships with individuals and organizations in Mali are always a goal. In 2014, UNICEF donated clothes, school kits, and toys to ACFA's children, and Abdoul Karim Berthe provided an in-kind gift of school supplies. This donation better equipped the children to meet their scholastic goals.



Visibility

Throughout ACFA's history, we have welcomed several highly skilled professionals who have donated their time, effort, and services as volunteers. ACFA representatives were present at the CBC Annual "The Saturday Brunch," where multiple U.S. Representatives and U.S. Cabinet Secretaries were in attendance. Additionally, ACFA expanded its visibility at the Navy Supply Corporation Foundation golf tournament and at the George M. Hampton Foundation. Outreach, in both the United States and Mali, is an ongoing task ACFA continues to execute diligently. In Mali, we partnered with DFA-Mali, one of the best marketing and advertising companies in the country. Additionally, we intend to venture more with Mali's corporations in 2015.

Leadership

ACFA welcomed two former board members back this year, Alexis Strader and Rebecca Gelinias.

Alexis Strader is originally from Greensboro, NC and received a BA in Romance Languages in 2005 from UNC-Chapel Hill. After graduation she worked in France and Spain. In 2009, Alexis' passion for international development and women's rights inspired her to return to school to pursue a dual master's degree in Business Administration and International Development at the American University. As part of her graduate coursework she spent two and half months in Bamako, Mali during the summer of 2011. While in Bamako, Alexis had the opportunity to spend time with the children and staff of ACFA and this experience, more than anything, confirmed her decision to dedicate her career to reducing poverty and increasing the well-being for those living in this part of the world. Alexis is currently residing in Washington, DC, and works as a Knowledge Management Program Officer with the public health management consulting and research organization John Snow, Inc. based in Arlington, VA. In her spare time she enjoys practicing yoga, going on bike rides, and honing her French and Spanish language skills.

Rebecca Gelinias is a non-profit professional with 12+ years in the NGO sector. She currently works as a freelance donor database consultant, helping small and mid-sized organizations with the selection, implementation, and successful management of CRM software. Previously, she worked for eight years at Operation Smile where she was part of the mass market fundraising team in addition to overseeing the global database operations for the organization. Her passion for volunteerism and philanthropy has led her to sites in Morocco, Brazil, Haiti and India, and she looks forward to an on-site visit to ACFA-Mali in the near future. She is married to US Navy Commander Robert Gelinias and currently resides in Norfolk, Virginia.

Fundraising & Finance

ACFA is focusing more on different ways to reach donors and organizations each year. In 2014, we organized two fundraisers in the United States. Although fundraising efforts in 2014 were limited, our new strategic plan will provide new fundraising guidelines, focusing on best practices. In total, ACFA raised over \$90,000 in 2014, of which \$6,308 was in-kind.

In preparation for an eventual future of online financial management, in 2014 ACFA transitioned to desktop Quickbooks. This has allowed us to structure our income, budget, and expenditure which has led to a better management and allocation of funds between and within programs. The organization intends to transition to the online Quickbooks in 2015 for more improvements.

Children of ACFA

Due to lack of capacity at the current location, ACFA is not able to take on any more children. Therefore, throughout 2014 ACFA continued to provide services to twelve children, six girls and six boys.

Currently two of the children are attending the sixth grade, three are in 5th grade, five are in 4th grade, and two are in 3rd grade. In 2014, 10 children were accepted to the next grade level, and based on their current performance, we are anticipating to increase this benchmark to 100% in 2015. During summer 2014, we implemented a special tutoring program for the two children who did not advance grades last year. The results are already astounding: Adama and Lassine's grades improved from being extremely below average to ranking in the top five of their classes with grades well above average.

On the sports front, three of our girls were awarded medals in Taekwondo competitions in 2014: 1 gold medal and two silver medals. Currently, Diankassa is a finalist in another competition organized by the League of Bamako. Additionally, our Basketball players qualified for Bamako's regional youth championship, which will take place in 2015.



On the health care front, apart from a few cases of malaria, there were no serious health issues recorded. All of the children's vaccination records are up to date and meet the World Health Organization requirements. Additionally, as preventative measures during the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak, we took stringent steps such as: reducing contact between workers and outside, imposed mandatory hand washing for the children, employees, and all visitors to the center, and educating kids and workers on methods of protection against the disease.

While the kids are enjoying their cozy home in Badala-Sema, we are truly looking forward to moving to Zorokoro, where there is plenty more space for them to play: this is easily noticed during the children's periodic visits to Zorokoro Children's Complex.

As they grow together, the children are more and more aware that they constitute one family. They are very supportive of one another and are grateful to each of you who have contributed to creating and maintaining such a loving environment for them.

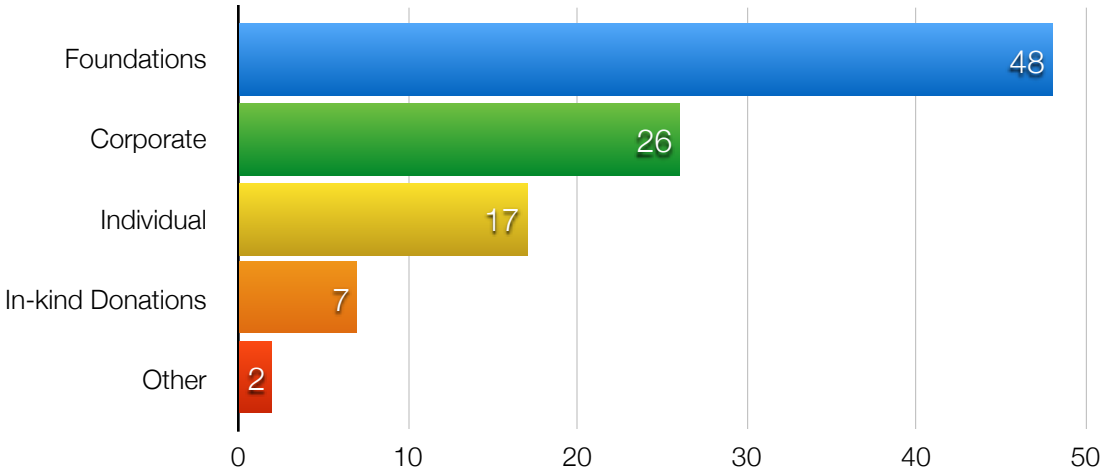
Financial Statement

Revenue

After a comparatively large increase in the 2013 budget due to the addition of the Zorokoro Children’s Complex project, ACFA’s 2014 budget decreased based on the board of directors’ decision to downscale the project’s 2014 goals to determine the best way to proceed forward. In the meantime, we are developing a new strategic plan (to be completed in 2015), which aims to advance ACFA’s future initiatives. Nevertheless, progress continues at the Zorokoro Children’s Complex, and in 2015, we aim to finalize the first phase of the project, which will allow us to triple the number of children we support. Capital investment in Zorokoro Children’s Complex for 2014 was \$13,189. Our fundraising revenue for 2014 decreased compared to 2013. ACFA had two fundraisers at Shaw’s Tavern in Washington, D.C. While the financial donations from individuals were not as high as at past events, we did widen the network of donors and these fundraisers resulted in three new volunteers for ACFA.

Our 2014 total revenue was \$90,000, of which \$6,308 (8%) was in-kind donations from individuals. This share decreased from 27% in 2013, the majority of which was labor donated for the Zorokoro Children’s Complex. For 2014, in-kind donations were either professional expertise, such as human resources management, legal, and financial, or clothes and toys donated to the children. Of our total revenue, 48% was received from foundations, 26% from corporations, and 17% was from individual donors. Other sources of income, representing 2% of our revenue in 2014, consisted of: interest earned from bank accounts, sales of our agricultural project, silent auctions, and other inventory items such as t-shirts etc.

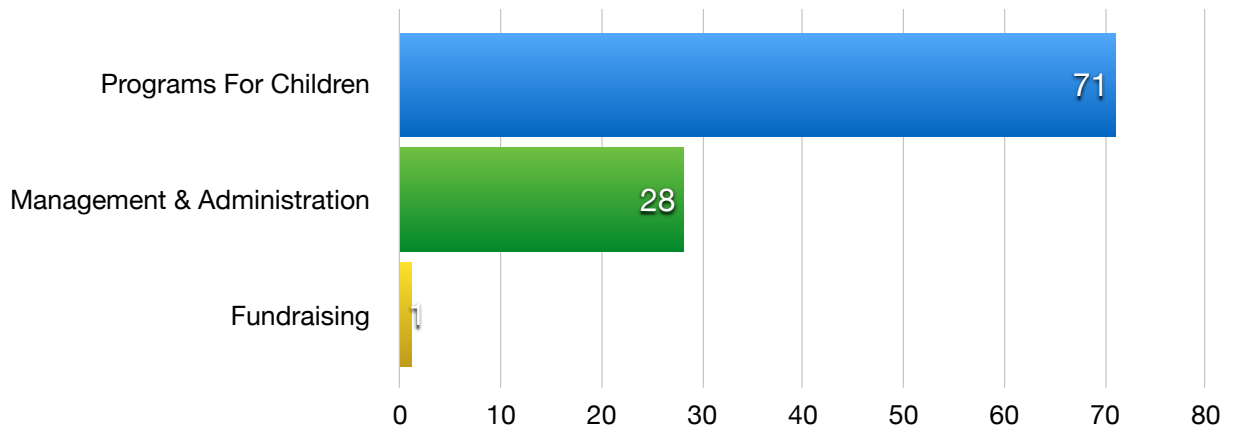
2014 ACFA Revenue Sources



Expenses

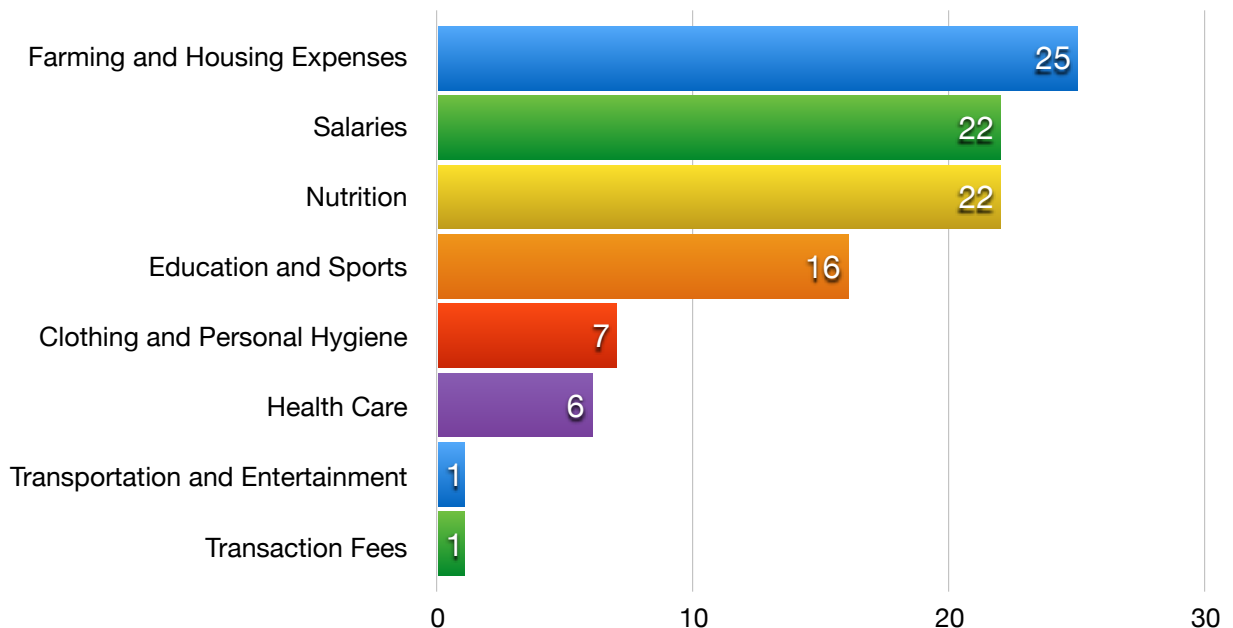
In 2014, 71% of our expenses were on programs directly supporting the children. Management and general administration expenses represented 29% of the 2014 expenses. These consisted of annual registration fees, web maintenance, and the like.

2014 ACFA Expenses



In 2014, 25% of our program expenses were spent on farming and housing, while 22% each was spent on nutrition and the salaries of the care providers. ACFA considers salary as a program expense because all of our personnel are in Mali and their work consists of taking care of the children and ensuring their well being on a daily basis. The next largest share of the expenses was allocated to our education program, 16%, which indeed is an important program for ACFA, as it includes fees of the private schools, extracurricular activities for the children, school uniforms, and school supplies.

2014 ACFA Program Expenses





The Future of ACFA

The year 2014 was exciting for ACFA. The twelve children currently in our care excelled in school and their extracurricular activities, and much progress was made on the first phase of the Zorokoro Children's Complex, which will eventually house up to 100 of Mali's most vulnerable children. This is an ambitious project that will cost approximately \$1.5 million USD in total. Benefiting not only ACFA's children, but the local community as well, the complex will consist of an autonomous school (1st through 9th grade), dormitories housing 100 children, a library, a health center, a multipurpose room, and sports fields. It is our vision that the complex will serve as a center for community life, extending services to the surrounding villages.

Such a large project will be completed in phases over the span of several years. In 2015, we look forward to completing the first phase of the Zorokoro Children's Complex project. Under this phased approach, we would welcome 25 children aged 5 in 2015. In their first year at Zorokoro Children's Complex, they will benefit from a safe and loving home, nutritious meals, health care, and extracurricular activities. By the fall of 2016, the goal is to have the children start first grade in newly-completed classrooms as part of Phase 2.

With this exciting and rapid growth comes the reality that ACFA is outgrowing the administrative and fundraising capacity of its current all-volunteer leadership team. In addition to adding new board members who bring a variety of professional expertise, we plan this year to hire our first paid staff position in the U.S., a fundraising director who will be tasked with securing the funds needed to further the Zorokoro Children's Complex project and continue caring for the children already in our care.

In the year ahead, we strive to diversify and grow our donor base. We have increased our social media efforts to reach new donors and volunteers, are planning at least three special events in the Washington, DC area this year, and are investing in a professional donor management system. We continue to seek additional foundation and grant support, and are pursuing partnerships with other NGOs in the U.S. and Mali who can help us achieve a brighter future for Mali's children.

With the support of our donors, volunteers and board members, 2015 looks to be a groundbreaking year for ACFA. We are excited to expand our reach while continuing to focus on delivering the best possible programs for our children.



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