

A Child for All Annual Report 2020 ———





OUR MISSION

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 **Executive Summary**

5 **Message from Board Chair**

6 **2020 Accomplishments**

8 **Status Report on Children**

10 **Financial Report**

15 **ACFA Future Plans**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you ACFA's 2020 annual report. At the beginning of 2020, none of us could have imagined the year that would come to be. This has been an unprecedented year for all of us: supporters and supported alike. We hope that you and your loved ones are safe.

Despite COVID 19 challenges, and thanks to your resilience in supporting us, ACFA has had an extremely successful year: from academics to sports, the children have excelled in 2020. We have increased the number of vulnerable children we serve by adding toddlers ages 3-5 years old at our Zorokoro Children's Complex. As an organization, ACFA has hit some major milestones this year, as described below.

We have been astounded by our older children's prowess in the face of COVID 19! In academics, they all passed to the next grade. In the Mali national exam, DEF, ACFA children who sat for the exam had a 100% success rate, much higher than Mali's pass rate of 60%. In sports, Diakassan maintained her Mali Champion rank in fencing, and ACFA children earned numerous medals in taekwondo and fencing. Fousseyni practiced with the Mali national basketball team.

We opened the Zorokoro Children's Complex and are now caring for more vulnerable children, ages 3 to 5 years old and they are living in the dormitory at the Complex. We are providing education to ACFA's children as well as children from surrounding villages at our school which has opened at the Complex. The older children have sewn face masks to protect all the children and the staff and sewed uniforms for children attending the new school. We established new partnerships:



USAID in the U.S., United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) in Austria and Association Dambé and BMS in Mali.

This year took a toll on all of us, and we realize that COVID-19 has impacted our partners. Some donors did not support us financially in 2020 but provided in-kind donations and facilitated new partner engagements. We wish you all flourishing business opportunities and are looking forward to future collaboration.

We remain grateful for the continued support from existing donors like CIRA, BNDA, Ardie Architecture, Addis Consulting, the Perna Rose Foundation for Hope, friends from the U.S., the U.K., Bahrain and Australia, and multiple others across the globe. Our deepest gratitude to you all for helping us make it through this difficult year. Thank you for your generosity and compassion in this critical time. We look forward to next year and remain confident, as long as we have you alongside us in our journey.

Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe,
CEO - Founder

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends and supporters,

In 2020 ACFA advanced its goal of helping more vulnerable children in Mali. We are so grateful that all our children and staff are well and have dealt with the stresses and challenges of COVID-19 in a creative and magnanimous way. Helping one another in these difficult times is so important.

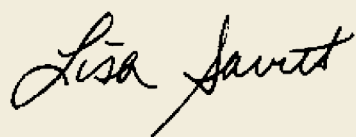
As noted elsewhere in this Annual Report, ACFA officially opened the Zorokoro Children's Complex in May 2020 taking in children ages 3-5 years old, and the ACFA school at the Complex opened in November 2020 with its first kindergarten class. It is wonderful to know that the dormitory I saw when I visited Mali a few years ago now has young children, who were formerly living on the streets, living in the dormitory and attending the school. If you visit our website, www.acfacorp.org, you can see photos of happy children who no longer worry about having a roof over their heads, food in their stomach and many other things that so many of us take for granted.

ACFA has had volunteers in the past to help with social media, grant research and translating. Once the pandemic hit in March, we had a flood of volunteers who wanted to give back and to help ACFA. We are so grateful to all those who gave their time, their experience and skills to get the word out about ACFA's mission.

I want to especially thank Laci Roth and Matt Stokes for revamping our website on a pro bono basis. The new look is terrific, and we are working on having this new look translated into French. We added a few new Board members in 2020, adding a range of experience to the Board in the areas of non-profit management, communications, education and international development.

We also are grateful for our new partnership with USAID ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad), as well as the continued relationships we have with our generous donors around the world. We know there are other worthy non-profits, and we appreciate that ACFA and its mission has resonated with you. Please know that your support is making a difference in the lives of Mali's vulnerable children.

I am just so proud of ACFA, its children, staff and all the volunteers. Please continue this journey with us.



Lisa Savitt, Chair of the Board

2020

Accomplishments

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a tumultuous year for most organizations, ACFA included. This did not, however, stop ACFA from making progress on our many goals. In 2020 ACFA opened the Zorokoro Children's Complex in the village of Zorokoro, which is about 45 minutes from Bamako. Spread out over five acres, we now have children ages 3- 5 years old living in the first part of the dormitory which has been built, and these children and children from the surrounding villages attend the ACFA school. The first classroom of the school opened in November and is named after the parents of the generous donor whose funds made the school a reality. As you will read below, the older ACFA children continue to excel in sports and education. All the children are healthy and are taking COVID-19 precautions.

The Children

This academic year ACFA achieved a 100% passing rate to the next grade. With the

latest results of the national DEF exam, which is the exam students are required to pass to attend high school, three more ACFA children have passed this difficult exam. So, in 2021, ACFA will have a total of 5 children in high school, two children doing the Baccalaureate (BAC), and three other children.

The older children are all engaged in sports including fencing, basketball and Taekwondo. Fencing training has moved to the Palais des sport, and our children continue their training there, incurring transportation fees. Diakassan participated in the Mali Championship for fencing from November 27-29, 2020, and won the gold medal for the second year in a row. Some of the other girls have won the gold medal in a national cadet taekwondo competition. Four of the boys play basketball on the Les Elytes de Badalabougou basketball team.



Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this year we were unable to allow the children's annual summer visits to their respective extended families. But the children were all able to be together at the Zorokoro Children's Complex to enjoy a good end of year festivities including a Christmas party accompanied with gifts provided by the Board of Directors, and later a New Year's party at Badalabougou,

Fundraising and Operations

Due to the pandemic we had to adjust our fundraising strategies. We were unable to have our traditional annual fundraiser, but just before the pandemic shut down restaurants, two of our Board members attended a fundraiser for ACFA at a restaurant which was hosted by the Annapolis Rotaract Club, which is affiliated with the Annapolis Rotary Club and is for young service minded professionals.

We were able to continue with our fundraising activities online through various campaigns including our GlobalGiving campaigns, Giving Tuesday, as well as applying for various grant opportunities. In 2020 ACFA submitted proposals to various governments and organizations. ACFA was honored to learn in 2020 that we were approved for a USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad grant to fund commodities at our Zorokoro Children's Complex library and computer lab. We continue to be a beneficiary of an annual grant from Perna Rose Foundation for Hope to support our education program in Mali.

As ACFA expanded in 2020 to two locations, we hired an operations manager to oversee all ACFA program operations in Mali and to direct the day-to-day activities of our staff. In addition to program oversight, the operations manager is leading all of ACFA's



donor development functions in Mali, including overseeing donor visits to the Bamako Children's Home and Zorokoro Children's Complex, and external meetings.

We are proud of the accomplishments of 2020 and the advances we are making in achieving our vision and goal of helping more vulnerable children in Mali. We all know that children are the future and ACFA hopes that in a small way, we can make a difference not only in the lives of the ACFA children, but also in Mali.

Status Report on the Children

In 2020, ACFA's children not only have endured and persevered over a number of challenges outside their control, but they actually thrived. Political unrest saw months of uncertainty and a change in political power. And as with the rest of the world, COVID-19 halted and delayed most plans in 2020. Despite these challenges, the children have adapted and continue to grow, learn, succeed, and ACFA was able to open a second location.

With schooling postponed in the spring due to the pandemic and the unrest, the children in Bamako moved to the newly opened Zorokoro Children's Complex just in time to welcome the first of the new toddlers, aged 3-5 years old, who joined the ACFA family. There, they all undertook a self-initiated project of creating a campus garden and engaging in Zorokoro's livestock project. Because of this, the children have expanded their food options and learned constructive life skills all while during lockdown. ACFA

was pleased to welcome eight new vulnerable children who had been living on the streets and provide them with a roof over their heads, food in their stomach and health care. In November these children started kindergarten at the school that ACFA is building at the Complex. The new children all came with their own stories, backgrounds, strengths, and challenges that ACFA has worked to address so they may prosper.

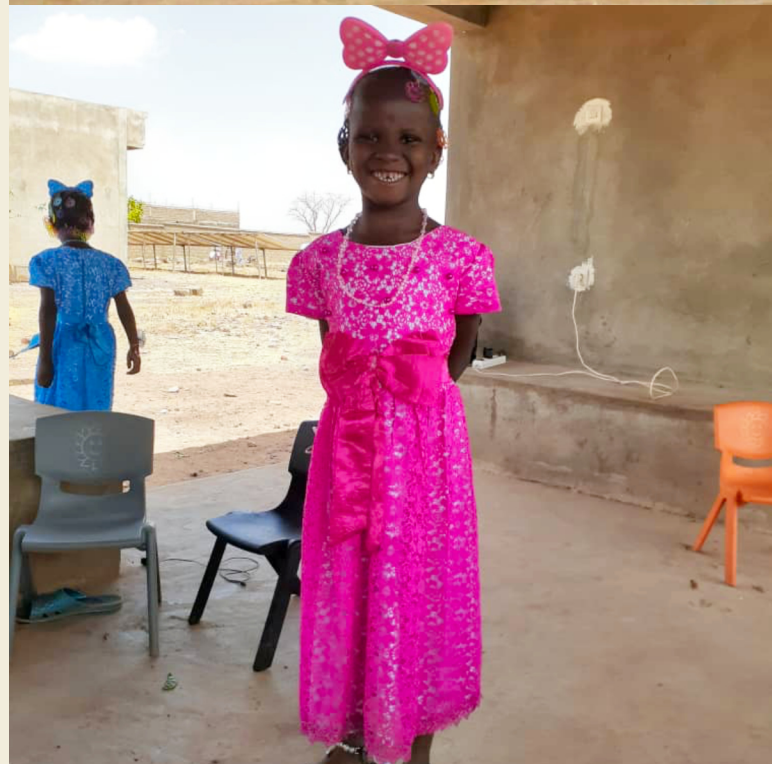
ACFA continues to provide mental health services with the help of a psychologist for any issues the children may have. Additionally, ACFA has partnered with Mary Stop International to instruct and educate all of our children, with emphasis on the girls on female hygiene, STD prevention, family planning, and sex education. The new knowledge has allowed the girls to be better aware of any problems they may have and feel comfortable in sharing concerns with staff members or doctors.



The children have overall been healthy this year, though there have been cases of malaria and some dermatological and women's health issues, all of which have been treated and followed up on. All of the younger children, particularly those newly arrived, have received and are up to date on their vaccinations.

Academically, schooling was somewhat disheveled due to the government's COVID-19 response protocols of closing and reopening classes and delaying the academic year. Despite the turmoil, we are pleased that all the older ACFA students progressed to the next level at school, with three more of our students passing the rigorous national exams to enter high school. The pass rate for national exams countrywide is approximately 60%, and ACFA has achieved 100% pass rate with our children.

This success is owed primarily to the hard work of the children and partly to ACFA staff who have taken steps to make sure the children place their academics at the forefront of their daily lives. For instance, though their classes for the DEF National Exams to attend high school were interrupted, all three ACFA students eligible to take the exams continued their tutoring sessions during the lockdown and eventually passed the test. We are now preparing for the next three students to take their DEF exams in the coming year. Lastly, ACFA has opened the kindergarten in Zorokoro for 8 of our younger children and 4 from the surrounding community providing them with a very important early childhood education.

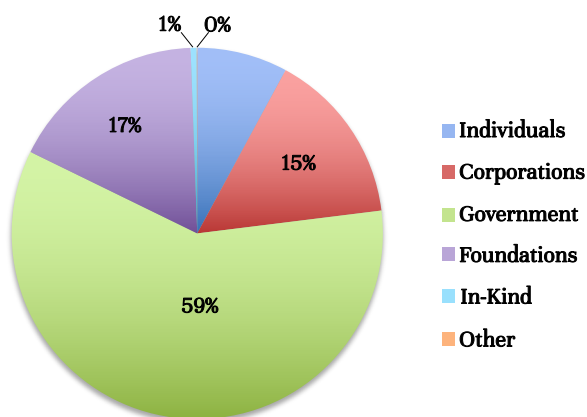


2020 Financial Report: Revenue

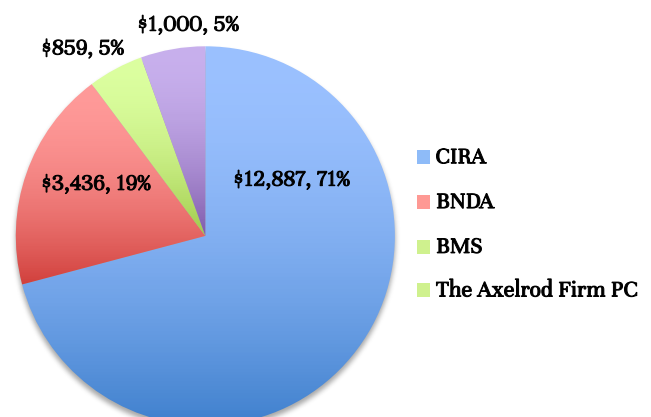
In 2020, ACFA's total revenue equaled \$246,871. This is almost double ACFA's 2019 revenue of \$142,545. The major increase in donations is explained by ACFA's new partnership with USAID which resulted in a pledge for a \$146,252 donation through the USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program to fund commodities for the Zorokoro Children's Complex library and computer lab. Hence, 2020 marks the first year that ACFA has received a government grant. This year's donations are as follows: 59% of pledged donated funds came from the U.S. government (USAID), 17% from foundations, 15% from corporations, and 8% from Individual donors. In 2020 ACFA received 1% of its donations in in-kind donations. These in-kind donations included food, clothes, toys, school supplies, etc. for ACFA children's use, and were made by donors including Foundation Orange, Malitel, Ourydia Association, Care for Kids, Doctors without Borders and other organizations and individuals in Mali.

ACFA's 2020 corporate donations totaled \$37,383. As has been the case for the past 9 years, the major corporate donor was CIRA, which donated 71% of corporate donations, followed by BNDA with 19% of corporate donations. In the U.S. ACFA's partnership with The Axelrod Firm resulted in a donation of 5% of the corporate donations and the new partnership in Mali with BMS resulted in a donation of \$859. Because of COVID-19 impact on corporations, two major donors could not contribute financially to ACFA's operations in 2020, but they continue to support us with in-kind donations and new partnership prospects. Additionally, while the Monaco Consulate did not make a monetary donation to ACFA in 2020, as part of their 2020 funding shifting to increase partners' COVID readiness, ACFA received COVID-19 hand washing stations, soap, masks, etc.

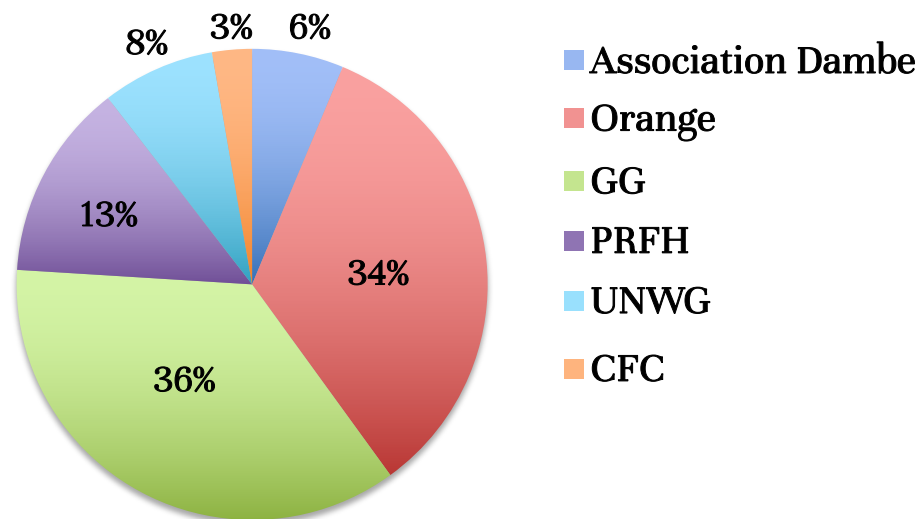
2020 Revenues



2020 Corporate Donations



2020 Foundation Donations



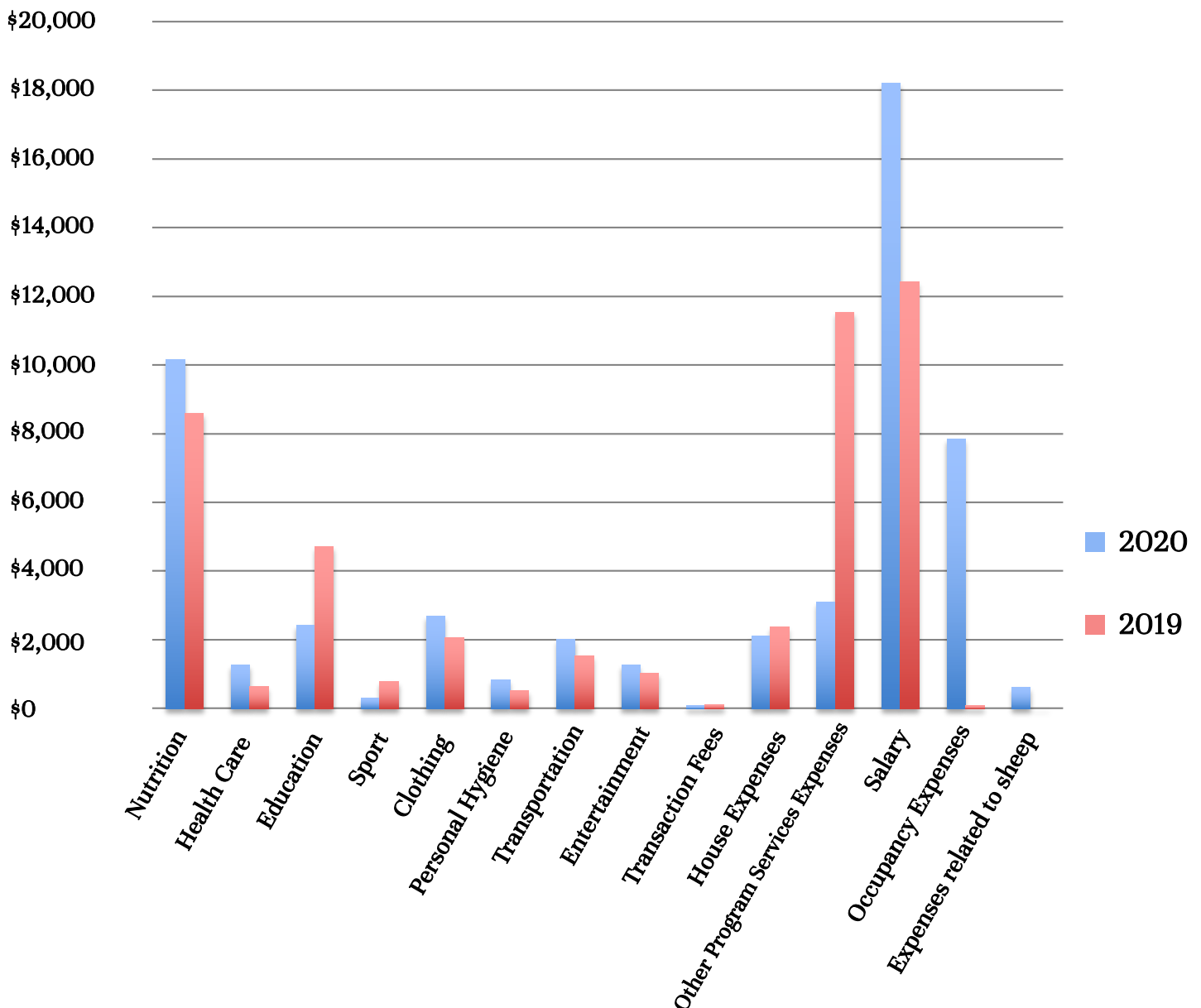
ACFA's foundation donations almost doubled in 2020. Foundation donations were \$42,487 in 2020 and \$26,838 in 2019. GlobalGiving in the U.S. provided 36% of ACFA's 2020 foundation donations and Orange Foundation in Mali provided 34% of the foundation donations. They are followed by the Perna Rose Foundation for Hope which contributed \$7,500 representing 13% of ACFA's 2020 foundation donations. Orange Foundation funds are designated for the construction of 3 classrooms in Zorokoro. The construction has started and will be completed in 2021. ACFA's new foundation partners are the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) in Vienna, Austria and Association Dambe in Mali. They contributed 8% and 6% respectively of ACFA's 2020 foundation donations. The UNWG funds are to support material and equipment purchases for the Zorokoro school, while the Association Dambe funds are to support the building of the Zorokoro library. ACFA continues to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, the only official workplace giving campaign for U.S. federal government employees, and in 2020 ACFA received a total of \$1,513 unrestricted funds to support operations at both Badalabougou and Zorokoro. Finally, in 2020 ACFA received its first U.S. government grant through USAID. This initial grant is for \$146,252 through the ASHA program to fund commodities for the Zorokoro library and computer lab. These commodities will include books, computers, printers, tables, chairs, bookshelves, WiFi connectivity, solar panels, etc. The library will serve not only ACFA's children but also children and adults from 8 villages surrounding the Zorokoro Children's Complex.

2020

Expenses

With ACFA opening the Zorokoro Children’s Complex in 2020, the children’s welfare remains our top priority. As was the case in 2019, in 2020 approximately 79% of our total expenditures was spent on programs directly supporting the children. The remaining of our expenditures consisted of Management and Administration, which represented 13% and fundraising (online donation fees, CFC applications and listing fees, and grant writing fees) which represented only 8% of our budget. ACFA’s Executive Director and Board of Directors, who are all volunteers, are extremely involved in the fundraising efforts to minimize these funds so that ACFA can have more of its scarce resources dedicated to the children.

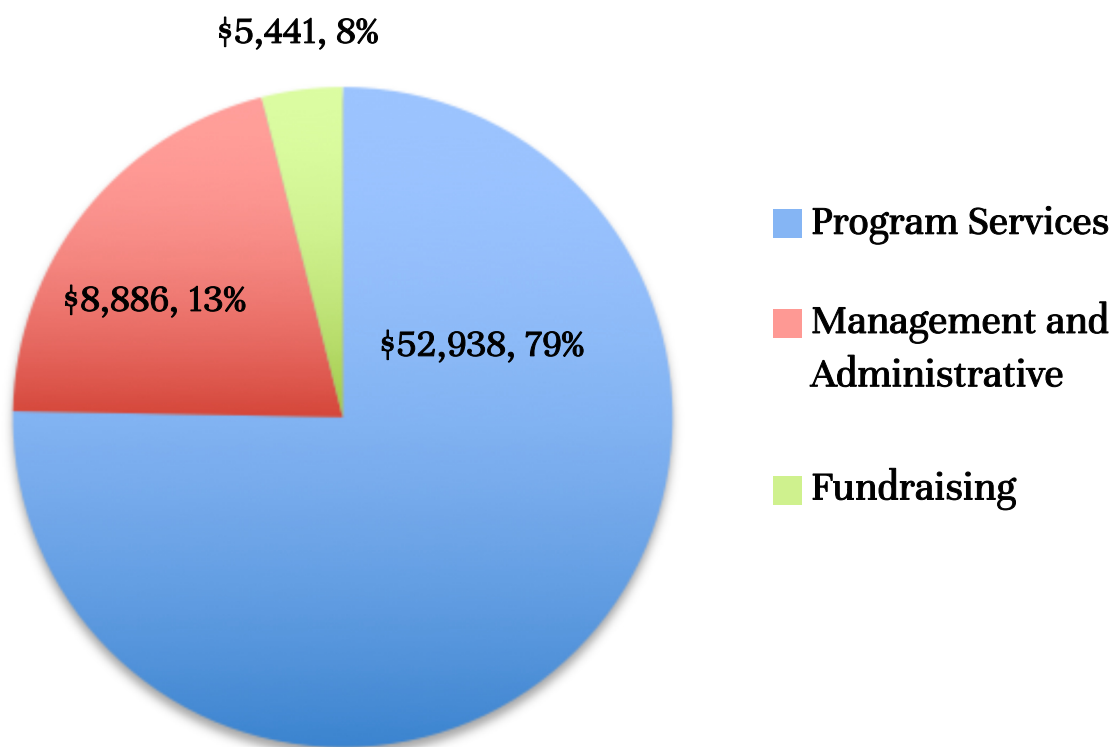
2020 Expenses by Category and Year



The above chart shows ACFA’s program expenses by category and by year, comparing 2020 to 2019. As operations increased due to the opening of the Zorokoro Children’s Complex, we note an increase in some of the expenses. Nutrition, salary, and occupancy expenses are major program expenses that have seen such increases. With more children to feed, we spent more funds on nutrition in 2020 compared to 2019: \$10,158 and \$8,580 respectively. Because of the hiring of a new director of operations to oversee both locations, and new staff in Zorokoro for both the dorm and the school operations, salary expense in 2020 was \$18,214 which was higher than the \$12,427 expense of 2019.

Occupancy expenses increased from \$95 in 2019 to \$7,843 in 2020. The first part of the dorm at the Zorokoro Children’s Complex had already been built, but ACFA did not have the operating budget to open Zorokoro until 2020. In 2020, some repair work was necessary prior to opening the Complex. These fees were for plumbing, solar panels, and fees dedicated to the purchase of move in material and equipment for both the dorm and the school. Additionally, we note a slight increase in fees for clothing, personal hygiene, transportation and entertainment, all related to the increase in number of children supported.

2020 Expenses by Category



LOOKING FORWARD



2020

Future Plans

By the end of 2021, the Board of ACFA will have made progress in multiple areas to aid in our work with the children of ACFA.

1. Meet our goal of ten vulnerable children who will live on-site at the Zorokoro Children's Complex. Funding permitted, ACFA would like to increase this number to 25 as we already have the dorm ready for 25 children.

2. ACFA will complete the next three classrooms before the end of 2021. ACFA plans to secure funding for the remaining six classrooms in 2021 so construction can continue uninterrupted.

3. Break ground on our healthcare clinic and raise funds to build the rest of the healthcare clinic which will be available not only to the ACFA children, but also to the people in the surrounding villages. ACFA will continue to look for partners to staff and run the healthcare clinic.

4. Execute the USAID ASHA grant through purchases of commodities for the library and computer lab at the Zorokoro Children's Complex. The commodities will include books in English, French and Bambara, bookshelves, computers, printers, tables, chairs, solar panels and there will be connectivity through WiFi.

5. Secure potential scholarships for our two high school graduating students so that they can attend University.

6. Enhance our existing partnerships and initiate new ones.

7. Present the ACFA business plan to potential investors to start operations in our farm for both livestock and crops.

8. Complete the French portion of the ACFA website.

9. Continue to plan for and search for funding for sustainable projects that will inject funds in to ACFA on a periodic basis. Improve our communication with our constituents.

10. Open another kindergarten class by October 2021.

11. Update ACFA's By-laws to include expanding the number of the Board of Directors.

12. Update ACFA's Strategic Plan to achieve these goals.

13. Have CEO and Board members visit Mali and the ACFA children.

In closing, ACFA is looking forward to taking the organization to the level needed to scale up its operations going forward.



SUPPORT ACFA

www.acfacorp.org/donate