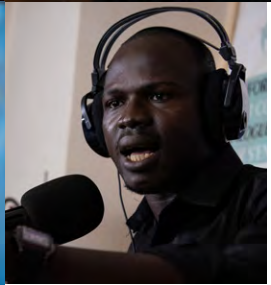




ANNUAL REPORT 2021





From left to right and from top to bottom:

► Studio Sifaka reporting from the Atsinanana region in Madagascar © Iako Randrianarivelo / Fondation Hironnelle

► A Studio Yafa's journalist interviews traders in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle

► Studio Tamani reports from Segou (Mali) on the banks of the Niger © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle

► Talk-show of the Association of Scientific Journalists of Guinea (AJSG), in Conakry, Guinea © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle



Cover : from left to right and from top to bottom:

► Aïssatou Barry, journalist at the Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSG) © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle ► Interview with a gendarme by Radio Ndeke Luka, Bangui, Central African Republic © Gwenn Dubourthoumieu / Fondation Hironnelle ► Studio Kalangou reports from Niamey hospital © Apsatou Bagaya / Fondation Hironnelle ► Studio Hironnelle DRC interviews a fish seller, DR Congo @ Justin Makangara / Fondation Hironnelle ► Arkia Touré interviews a listener of Studio Tamani, on the border with Senegal © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle ► Doh Athan team in the studio in Yangon, Myanmar © Lam Duc Hien / Fondation Hironnelle ► Presentation of the Radio Ndeke Luka news bulletin, Central African Republic © Gwenn Dubourthoumieu / Fondation Hironnelle ► A man listens to the radio in Kayes, Mali © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle ► Martin Kaba, a journalist with Studio Yafa, moderates a debate with representatives of presidential candidates, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 18 November 2020 © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle

CONSTRUCTIVE, PRAGMATIC USEFUL JOURNALISM

Nearly a hundred countries are currently in the grip of profound crises. More than half of humanity is suffering from wars, pandemics or droughts. In most of these countries, people also suffer from a lack of reliable information.

In the countries of the Sahel that I had the opportunity to visit last year, our projects meet a need because their primary vocation is to serve the population. This constructive, pragmatic and useful journalism has a real impact on people's daily lives. Our teams in the Sahel and in the rest of the world are committed, rigorous and consistent. I thank them for that.

Factual and accurate information focused on essential needs has become a tool that offers people not only a glimmer of hope in often desperate situations but also a compass to help regain a little humanity. Based in particular on humanitarian principles, in situations where hatred and violence are rampant, it also has the power to unite and bring people together.

Tony Burgener

Chairman of the Fondation Hironnelle Board

MEDIA AT THE HEART OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

In 2021, Fondation Hironnelle teams braved security, editorial, financial and organizational difficulties to continue fulfilling our mission of providing information in crisis zones. Indeed, despite the hope of "a world after" Covid, crises have remained global. The pandemic and climate change have proven this to anyone who still believes in the impermeability of borders and media spaces. The war in Ukraine is provoking opinions and media reactions in Africa and elsewhere. As UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet reminded us at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in Tallinn in February 2022, the right to know opens access to other rights and frees speech. This gives the media responsibility and a duty to fulfil their missions of information, knowledge sharing and dialogue. In return, citizens and public authorities must recognize and support this role, everywhere.

Fondation Hironnelle has five commitments in its Charter: independence, dialogue, accountability, proximity and pragmatism. It is particularly through the last two that our media are at the heart of global issues. They are close to the populations because of their geographical location, the languages used and the profile of our journalists. They deal with local issues with a global reach: human rights, security, peace, migration, global warming. Through their pragmatism, using the most appropriate formats and media -- from FM radio to podcasts and Facebook Live --, they are accessible to the greatest number of people and at the heart of the lives of the populations they serve.

Convinced by these commitments, in 2021 we launched an ambitious new strategic programme. The beginning of 2022, marked by a new war whose international consequences remain largely unknown, encourages us to work even harder towards our ambition: the existence of free media in fair, democratic and peaceful societies.

Caroline Vuillemin

General Director, Fondation Hironnelle



FONDATION HIRONDELLE'S PROGRAMME

A NEW STRATEGY FOR 2021-2024

In 2021, Fondation Hironnelle started a new four-year strategic programme, whose objective is to contribute to peaceful, inclusive, democratic and just societies, in line with Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our contribution is made through media action: quality journalistic work and the creation of spaces for dialogue within societies. We maintain our mission of providing information to populations facing crises, to enable them to act in their daily life and as citizens. Our action aims to ensure that all people, including the most marginalized such as women and youth, are informed and can participate in civic life through responsible public interest media.

Continuity with the objectives of the 2017-2020 program is assured. We have two operational fields that are the core of what we do: production and broadcast of journalistic content; and capacity building of partner media. A third field aims to strengthen our organization, so we can fulfil our mission and be more financially independent, efficient, agile and sustainable. Finally, two cross-cutting fields focus on the search for complementary partners and on production of studies and research to improve and share our knowledge.

This programme is the framework of our institutional partnership contract with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Key Numbers in 2021

10 media operations in

20 countries on **3** continents

12 522 hours of audio programmes

327 hours of video programmes

10 602 articles on the Web

1 159 470 users of our websites

542 172 followers on Facebook and Twitter

545 media supported

550 people trained

Audience of our 6 media:

7 million regular listeners (Kantar survey 2020)



hironnelle.org   

A journalist from Studio Tamani, Fondation Hironnelle's programme in Mali, interviews patients at the hospital in Kayes. Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle

MEDIA IN A WORLD OF CRISES

Hopes were high in 2021 that the world after Covid would come about. But the world after Covid presented in UNESCO's annual report remains bleak for freedom of expression and the media: the pandemic and geopolitical tensions have increased the economic fragility of media and restrictions on press freedom around the world. Colleagues and partners in Myanmar bore the brunt of this in the wake of the February coup. In the Sahel, the coups in Guinea and Mali, where we have partners and an editorial office - Studio Tamani - respectively, have also forced the media to redefine their space of expression between freedom, self-censorship and arrests.

While pre-Covid health issues, such as the fight against malaria and cholera, were regaining importance in the concerns of populations in the countries where we work, security, economic and social issues were also the subject of our editorial coverage. In the Sahel, Studio Yafa developed a special programme for internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso, more than one and a half million in the country by December 31, 2021, made vulnerable by endemic insecurity in the north of the country and lack of reception facilities. In the Central African Republic, Radio Ndeke Luka has expanded its FM coverage with new transmitters, thus broadening its audience to fill information gaps and bring new sources of information.

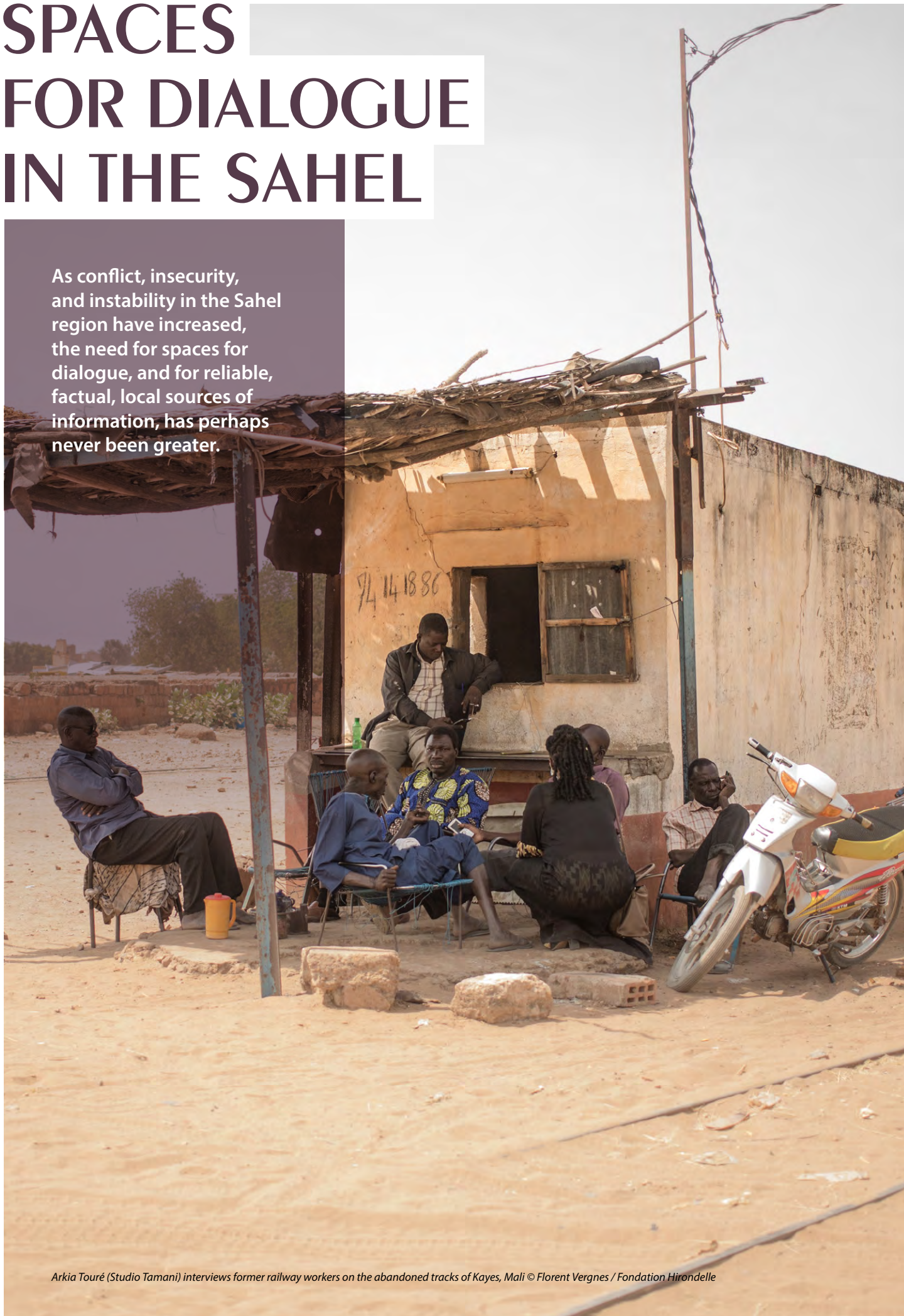
New partnerships with existing media outlets were developed in Madagascar and Burundi, and maintained in Tunisia, DR Congo and Pakistan. Studio Sifaka in Madagascar went from being a Fondation Hironnelle project to a local entity under Malagasy law and a partner of the Fondation. In Burundi, a new project started in May: 10 local media of all types benefit from the training and support of

our experts. We have continued to collect and verify information, to open spaces for dialogue, to give a voice, to make information accessible by choosing local languages and the most appropriate media channels in contexts of violence and poverty. But this was not without obstacles. The issues and challenges posed by disinformation and the possible responses in various places were summed up in a concept note presenting our approach, based on our more than 25 years of experience and taking account of the new actors of disinformation.

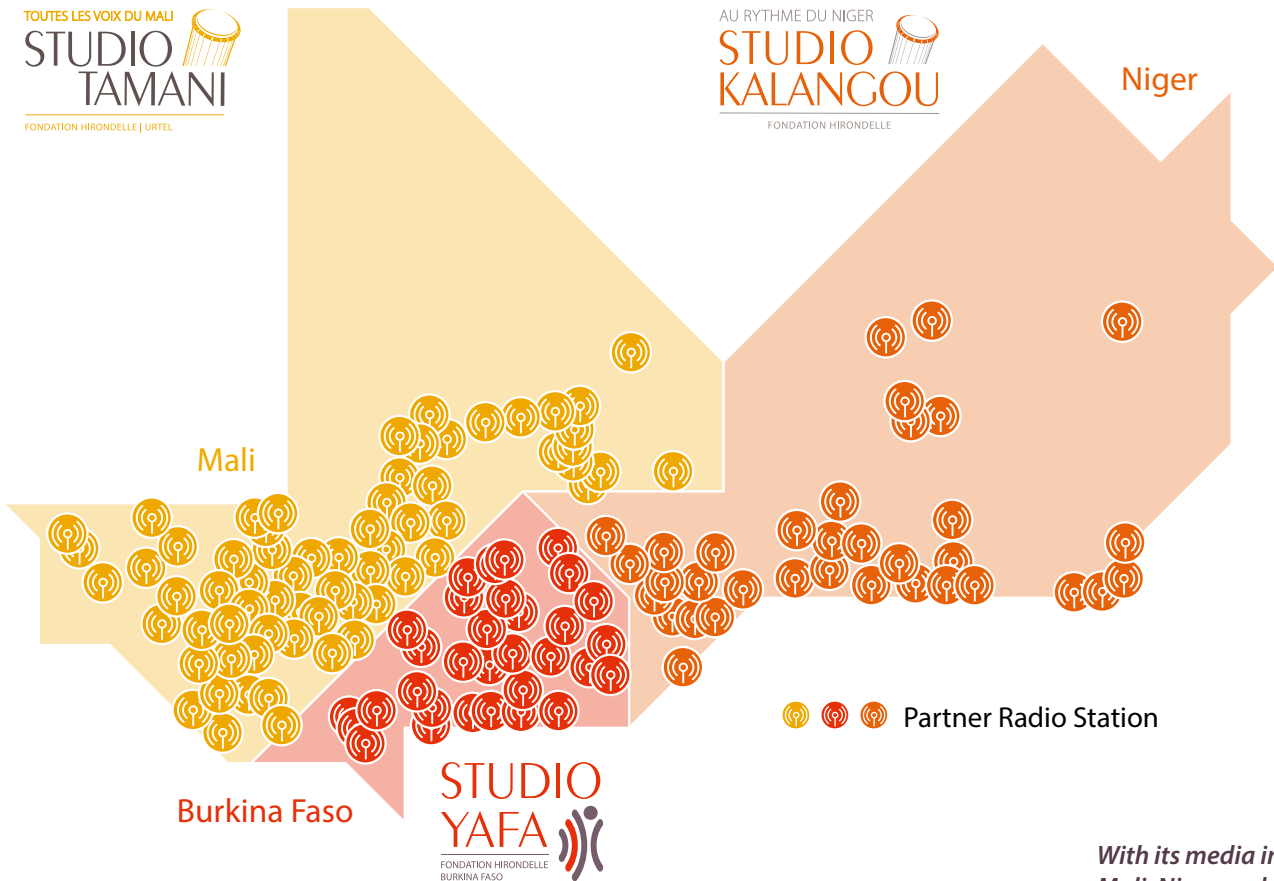
Several internal reorganizations, in line with the new strategic programme, led to creation of a new post of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Capitalization Officer at headquarters, as well as the strengthening of the operations team in the field and in Lausanne. The Fondation continued its involvement in multilateral bodies defending the role of the media, notably by joining the Steering Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development and the Journalism Trust Initiative. Fondation Hironnelle's Board has supported the management throughout all these developments, and has validated a new Security Policy, an essential update given the Fondation's mission and places of operation. Security is as much a concern for small community radio stations in the Sahel as it is for media outlets under attack today in Ukraine.

SPACES FOR DIALOGUE IN THE SAHEL

As conflict, insecurity, and instability in the Sahel region have increased, the need for spaces for dialogue, and for reliable, factual, local sources of information, has perhaps never been greater.



Arkia Touré (Studio Tamani) interviews former railway workers on the abandoned tracks of Kayes, Mali © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle



With its media in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, and their 176 partner televisions and radio stations, Fondation Hironnelle has a unique capacity to produce and broadcast news in the Sahel.

Fragile human and economic development processes, political instability, insecurity, inequality and climate change have plunged the Sahel region into a succession of overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises for several years. The result is low economic growth, unemployment, a population explosion, migration, drought, inter-communal violence and violent extremism. Decades of poor governance, inflexible political systems and institutions have also blocked much-needed reforms, discredited public service institutions, and impoverished populations. The effects can be seen in the multiple coups that took place in 2021 and early 2022 in Mali, Chad, Guinea Conakry and Burkina Faso. The situation of the people in the region is not improving and democratic processes are eroding. Freedom of expression and freedom of the press are at risk.

The first victims of these crises are often young people and women, who are under-represented in institutions and intermediary bodies. In 2021, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad all ranked in the bottom 15 of 162 countries on the UN Gender Inequality Index.

Climate change is also exacerbating instability. It has significantly altered the living conditions of populations in the Sahel, leading to an increase in the proportion of climate refugees, a trend that seems irreversible. This, in addition to the other factors mentioned above, has caused millions of people to migrate within and beyond their countries' borders, resulting in human tragedies with considerable social and economic consequences.

A stark reminder of this instability is the triple border between Niger, Burkina and Mali, where violent extremist groups and inter-communal violence ravage local communities. 650 people died as a result of violent incidents in this region in 2021, according to humanitarian organizations and the UN.* This violence is causing a major humanitarian crisis: 5.2 million people were food insecure at the end of 2021, and 2.4 million people in the central Sahel had been forced to leave their homes and become "internally displaced," including 1.4 million in Burkina Faso.

In this context, the media, whether digital (Internet, social networks) or traditional (radio, television, print), play a key role in informing the population about all these crises, their causes and possible solutions. The media, especially radio stations, are relatively numerous in most Sahel countries. However, they remain fragile and lack resources, especially trained and independent journalists.

Their editorial lines often reflect exclusively the opinions of their owners, whether state or private. Whether voluntarily or due to lack of professionalism, they sometimes relay misinformation that circulates online, on social networks, in WhatsApp groups, in towns and villages, and that spreads during crises.

But professional, independent, accountable media whose journalists are trained and equipped to work can help provide reliable, factual information that calms fears and combats rumours – media that create and maintain dialogue and tolerance by exposing people to diverse viewpoints and questioning leaders to hold them accountable. The media can thus play its full role as an intermediary between populations, civil society actors and governments to amplify the voice of citizens at national and regional levels.

With its media in Mali (Studio Tamani), Niger (Studio Kalangou) and Burkina Faso (Studio Yafa), their editorial offices with some 100 trained and supervised journalists and as many correspondents in the regions, their network of 176 local radio and television partners, Fondation Hironnelle has a unique capacity to produce and broadcast information in the Sahel – a network that maintains spaces for daily dialogue that are more necessary than ever between all components of societies in the Sahel. ■

(*) <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2021/09/1105172>

MALI STUDIO TAMANI

Studio Tamani provides radio programming that has been accompanying the daily lives of Malians since 2013 by giving them a voice and access to reliable information in 5 languages (French, Bambara, Peulh, Tamasheq, Songhai). It was born out of a partnership between Fondation Hirondelle and the Union of Free Radios and Televisions of Mali (URTEL). Studio Tamani broadcasts 4.5 hours of programmes daily, from Monday to Friday: news bulletins, features, the debate program "Le Grand Dialogue" and an educational programme. On weekends, 2 hours of programmes are devoted to youth and their concerns.

Daily broadcasting covers 95% of Malian territory and is regularly followed by 28% of Malians. This coverage is made possible by a network of 85 radio partners and 3 private television stations. Collaboration with the Viamo company has extended the audience to an additional 1,188,050 people, through listening on a telephone platform throughout the country.

In 2021, innovation in the use of ICTs resulted in the "live" audiovisual broadcast of the "Le Grand Dialogue" on the website studiotamani.org, Facebook and Youtube. In this context, 5 journalists of the studio have been trained in management and animation of web communities.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

1 836 763 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Sweden (ASDI)
- Denmark (FAMOC)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- Czech republic
- Swiss Solidarity
- Private donations
- Service contracts
- Fondation Helvétique de Bienfaisance
- Fondation Alfred & Eugénie Baur

studiotamani.org



Arkia Touré (Studio Tamani) interviews a listener on the Senegalese border Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hirondelle



Mariam Maiga (Studio Tamani) discusses with guests during a broadcast about migration, in Kayes, Mali © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION, INCLUSIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT

During the year 2021, in a tense political and socio-economic context, Studio Tamani covered with professionalism and impartiality the successive regime changes and recurrent insecurity, as well as the economic and social consequences of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) sanctions against Mali. Despite the reduction of democratic space and the obstacles to press freedom, Studio Tamani has continued its public service mission, bringing independent, impartial and credible information to its listeners.

In December, Studio Tamani provided live coverage of the Assises Nationales de la Refondation. Its reports, features and debates on all the subjects debated and the deliberations allowed listeners to form an informed opinion.

In partnership with various cooperation and humanitarian aid actors in Mali, Studio Tamani covered throughout the year the situation of vulnerable people affected by conflict: children, youth, women and internally displaced persons. We have thus contributed to ensuring that their fundamental rights are promoted, understood in local languages and made effective: access to civil status, freedom to be informed, fundamental right to education, right to reparations for victims. Despite a tense religious and social context, Studio Tamani has endeavored to give women a voice in each of its productions.

In 2021, in order to reflect the diversity of opinion and the daily life of the population in Bamako as well as in the regions, 35% of the information was collected and processed by our correspondents throughout the country. 20% of the speakers in all Studio Tamani broadcasts were women. In order to support citizen participation and monitoring, 62% of the speakers were from civil society and 12% were independent expert researchers. Finally, in order to ensure a balance of information and accountability to the population, 20% of the people speaking on our programmes were Malian government officials.

To ensure the spread of national and international news of public interest while guaranteeing its accessibility to all listeners in Mali, the contents of Studio Tamani have covered the following areas of the "Nexus" Humanitarian/Development/Peacebuilding:

Peace and human security: debates and information on the evolution of the political, security and human rights situation in Mali;

Development and social protection: access to education, health, access to justice and reparations, governance and aid effectiveness;

Humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians: situation of displaced persons, migrants, and other victims affected by armed conflict, emergency education through radio;

Economic development and public-private partnerships: promotion of women's entrepreneurship, feminization of certain professions, access to employment for young people;

Environment and climate change: local and individual initiatives for the preservation of nature, rural populations affected by the decrease in rainfall, commitment of civil society in this area.

“What caught my attention with Studio Tamani was the way they handle the news. They do it in a professional way and it is understandable for us listeners. To thank the staff, I recorded a song for them: “I thank Studio Tamani. With your information on our education, agriculture and health, your advent has been a great relief for us. Our favourite media, your coming here is a very good thing for us”.”

Kie Sanou, born visually impaired in Yorosso, in the Sikasso region. He is a faithful listener to all the Studio Tamani programmes broadcast on partner radios and testifies here to their usefulness.



Studio Kalangou's report on COVID in Niamey hospital, Niger © Apsatou Bagaya / Fondation Hirondelle

NIGER STUDIO KALANGOU

Studio Kalangou is a project of support to the media sector in Niger. It does this in two ways: the production and broadcast of journalistic content; and strengthening the capacities of the partner media. The Studio Kalangou editorial team is composed of about 50 Nigerien journalists based in Niamey and some 50 correspondents across the country. Since 2016, the studio has been producing 2 hours of daily radio programmes in 5 languages, broadcast by 47 partner radio stations serving 70% of the country's population. These programmes are also available on a free phone number. In addition, the editorial staff produce programmes and video reports for social networks and 6 partner television stations. In parallel, Studio Kalangou provides technical and financial support and capacity building to Nigerien media to help them become autonomous and better equipped for the production and broadcast of quality information programmes.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

1 901 108 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC mandate)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- United Kingdom (FCDO)
- European Union (EIDHR)
- Czech republic
- UNICEF
- GIZ (ProRES)
- Service contracts

studiokalangou.org



PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION AND TRAINING MEDIA IN NIGER

In 2021, Studio Kalangou strengthened both its production and broadcast of quality information, and its support to the media in Niger.

Studio Kalangou has continued its work of producing neutral and factual information, including on the second round of the presidential elections and installation of newly elected officials; the Covid-19 pandemic and start of vaccination; the security and humanitarian situation; and the return of displaced persons in the regions of Tillabéry and Diffa. At the same time, Studio Kalangou continued informing on daily concerns of Niger's populations in the fields of justice, education, economy, culture and health. In order to widen its audience, the editorial staff has developed new formats such as fact-checking programmes and outdoor video forums.

Studio Kalangou has continued to expand its coverage of rural areas through its 47 radio partners and 6 TV stations, but also thanks to the work of its correspondents: 101 forums were produced in the regions in 2021. Broadcast of Studio Kalangou's radio content via Airtel's toll-free number in partnership with the social enterprise Viamo saw very strong growth. Its productions are listened to free of charge by more than 150,000 people each month, triggering 1.5 million calls per month.

In the field of media support, Studio Kalangou trained 159 journalists and 43 technicians in 2021 on managing media structures, professionalism and ethics of journalism, maintenance of equipment and digital audio editing techniques. The media partners' coordinator continued his coaching missions to strengthen their technical capacities. The Monitoring & Quality department expanded its evaluation areas to include qualitative surveys of listeners, internal monitoring of radio productions and geolocation of partner radios as well as their estimated coverage area.

“ Studio Kalangou opens our minds. Before we were afraid to speak in public, in decision-making places, but now Studio Kalangou's debates motivate us to give our point of view as a women's association. ”

Salamatou Hassane - listener La Voix de Tapoa FM - 18.09.2021

At the end of 2021, Studio Kalangou became the first media in Africa to be certified by the Journalism Trust Initiative of Reporters Without Borders as a reliable media strengthening public trust.

In 2022, Studio Kalangou will launch a morning show (1 hour of additional information daily). It will also continue its response to disinformation, notably by producing and broadcasting slots to counteract disinformation.



Report from Studio Yafa, Burkina Faso © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle

BURKINA FASO STUDIO Yafa

Since March 2019, Studio Yafa has been producing and broadcasting two-and a-half minute radio features in Dioula, French, Fulfulde, Gulmencema and Mooré, as well as specific content for the web and social networks. It also produces a major weekly debate programme in French called “Ya'Débat,” which allows young people to express their opinions and debate issues that concern them with older generations and decision-makers. Since 2021, a weekly two-hour programme with broad appeal has been added. Studio Yafa has a team of 20 Burkinabe journalists, translators and technicians based in Ougadougou, and a network of 15 correspondents in the regions. Its programmes are broadcast by 35 radio stations across the country, as well as by a telephone platform accessible free of charge, and via the Internet and social networks.

FINANCIAL VOLUME
1 199 458 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Sweden (ASDI)
- Switzerland (SDC Project Contribution)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Czech republic
- IOM
- Service contracts

studioyafa.org



STRENGTHENING TIES WITH DISPLACED LISTENERS

“When you arrive in a place, you are disoriented. On the radio, very important information is given. It is thanks to Studio Yafa that I learned there was a camp in such and such a place and that I could go there. Otherwise I would have just wandered around the town.”

Abdoul Ouedraogo (not his real name), displaced Burkinabe

Burkina Faso's humanitarian situation has deteriorated sharply, with the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) rising from 1,074,993 in 2020 to 1,741,655 in 2021, i.e. 700,000 more. The security situation has also worsened, with massacres such as the one in Solhan causing the death of at least 160 people in June 2021. In total, more than 350 civilians lost their lives in armed attacks in Burkina Faso during the year.

In response to this deteriorating humanitarian situation, Studio Yafa on October 1 launched “Faso Yafa”, the first humanitarian radio programme for internally displaced people. This 30-minute weekly programme is broadcast on 36 partner radio stations and from some 50 sound systems installed in IDP camps.

In 2021, Studio Yafa almost doubled its programming with the arrival of “Grand Rendez-Vous” on March 3. This two-hour weekly slot, composed of reports, live music and debates, has increased interaction with listeners.

In 2021, Studio Yafa produced and broadcast 88 hours of radio programmes. 250 articles were published on Facebook, 55 video reports were produced and broadcast on the web and social networks. Since 2021, these video reports have been broadcast on the first private television channel in Burkina Faso. Some of its reports have exceeded one million views on Facebook, with a record of 2 million views and 4.5 million people reached for a report about a woman working in a funeral home.

In 2022 Studio Yafa starts a new 4-year program supported by the Swedish, Swiss and European Union cooperations. This program aims to strengthen governance and democracy in Burkina Faso, with a particular focus on women, youth and vulnerable populations.

NAVIGATING THE SEA OF MISINFORMATION

Billions of more or less reliable data circulate on the Internet at lightning speed. To try to avoid the pitfalls, Fondation Hironnelle offers some guidelines, especially in the most fragile countries where misinformation aggravates crises.



*Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSG), interviews a fisherman at the port of Coumba in Dubréka, Guinea
© Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle*



In the technical control room of Studio Tamani, Bamako, Mali. © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hirondelle

We are in the era of permanent infodemia. Every social network account is media in the broadest sense, a content transmitter. Facebook has 2.9 billion users,¹ YouTube 2.3 billion and WhatsApp barely less (2 billion), Instagram has 1.4 billion accounts, followed by its competitor TikTok (1 billion) and Telegram (550 million).

Thus, billions of content items are produced, broadcast and relayed every day in a viral way. On Twitter (436 million users), a piece of content is re-sent less than 3 seconds (on average) after being received.

The word information traditionally signals verified and reliable. But the information epidemic by its magnitude blurs and destroys access to the truth. For the public, there is general confusion between the true and the false. Rumour, the “oldest media in the world”, has an unprecedented breeding ground. Disinformation, defined as the malicious fabrication of fake news, is often perceived as the main danger. This ignores the extent of misinformation, which is content produced or reported in an unprofessional, incomplete, misunderstood way and is nevertheless relayed, opening the way to rumours and different interpretations.

The most connected countries are highly impacted by this infodemia. For 20 years, professional news media have been dying in the «North», while the masses are exposed to the “alternative facts” of a “post-truth” world, denying facts and reality. Hence the debate. “Without agreement on the facts themselves, there is no more democracy,” sums up Maria Ressa, Filipino journalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2021.²

If disinformation threatens developed countries, its impact on fragile societies is even more serious. Here, there is lack of health care, food, water, freedom, prospects. Illiteracy combined with war increases the toxicity of rumours. It is in these contexts that Fondation Hirondelle acts. The fight against disinformation is a leitmotiv of its work.

In 2020 and 2021, faced with the crazy rumours that marked the Covid-19 pandemic, Fondation Hirondelle committed significant resources to information, prevention and debunking work in 18 fragile countries. This mission was made all the more difficult by the fact that the virus may have seemed less virulent in the “South”, less dangerous, and its very existence questionable. In the end, the information effort was well founded. Medical journal *The Lancet*³ estimates that excess mortality due to the virus was three times higher than official estimates, reaching 18 million deaths worldwide. The “South” was not spared.

In the Central African Republic, second to last on the Human Development Index,⁴ disinformation and misinformation, fuelled by outside agents, become as dangerous as weapons. Present in Bangui for 22 years with Radio Ndeke Luka (RNL), which has a 70% daily national audience, Fondation Hirondelle embarked on an ambitious programme in 2021 to support journalists and civil society in the fight against misinformation, combined with a vast media education campaign entitled #StopAtènè (Stop the rumours).

The lessons to be learned? It’s impossible to expose every piece of fake news. The fight against misinformation is uneven. On the other hand, it is possible to act against its proliferation by raising awareness on the discernment of each individual, while maintaining a structure that can produce and broadcast reliable, credible information, maintaining links of trust with its audience, a “beacon” that casts a little light in the murky sea of increasingly uninformed content. ■

The flood of information, by its magnitude, blurs and destroys access to the truth

(1) Source : Digital Report 2021 / October Global Statshot (We are social / Hootsuite)
 (2) Masterclasses de la Fondation Hirondelle, 2020
 (3) “Estimating excess mortality due to the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic analysis of COVID-19-related mortality, 2020–21”, *The Lancet*, 10 mars 2022.
 (4) 188^e, source Human Development Report (PNUD, 2020).



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RADIO NDEKE LUKA

Radio Ndeke Luka (RNL) is the only Central African media that produces and broadcasts independent and professional news in French and Sango throughout the country. Created and supported for 22 years by Fondation Hironnelle, it targets the general population across the whole country. It offers 13 daily newscasts, features, debates, entertainment, music and practical information.

RNL broadcasts live 24/7 throughout the country with 13 FM transmitters (in Bangui, Berberati, Bouar, Bambari, Bozoum, Bossangoa, Ndele, Mobaye, Bangassou, Bria, Beloko, Birao and Obo). Twenty community radio partners also rebroadcast Radio Ndeke Luka programmes between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. A one-hour daily shortwave broadcast is also provided through a local partnership. All programmes can be streamed or podcast on the website radiondekeluka.org.

RNL is the radio of Central Africans. An audience survey conducted at the end of 2020 by the Kantar Institute found that Radio Ndeke Luka is listened to daily by 63% of the population aged 15 and over in the areas where it broadcasts, and by nearly 84% of the population every week. Its information is recognized as reliable by 89% of listeners, and 94% consider it "useful" or "indispensable".

FINANCIAL VOLUME

2 719 426 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union (Fonds Bêkou + IcSP)
- Switzerland (SDC Project Contribution)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- UNDP
- Fondation Nicolas Puech
- UNICEF
- Private donations
- Income-generating products

radiondekeluka.org



The political debate organised every Saturday in the studios of Radio Ndekeluka, 20 March 2021, Bangui, Central African Republic © Gwenn Dubourthoumieu / Fondation Hironnelle

JOURNALISM AND MEDIA LITERACY

The Central African Republic remains in a complex political and security crisis despite the February 2019 signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) and the organization of presidential and legislative elections in 2020 and 2021.

The Central African media sector is very fragile and is exposed to misuse, including disinformation, the propagation of false news and hate speech.

An impact study commissioned by Fondation Hironnelle and conducted in Bangui, Beloko, Birao, and Obo under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Conroy Krutz of Michigan University indicates that for 49% of respondents it is difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood, and that disinformation is a real threat to the country (42%). In the Central African Republic, radio is the main channel of information. 70% of the population never has access to the Internet. Among respondents, 62% say they have full confidence in Radio Ndeke Luka (RNL), the leading media outlet, ahead of Radio Centrafrique (34%) and Radio Guira (38%).

The setting up of an investigation unit within RNL and an awareness campaign #StopATènè ("Stop rumours" in Sango), as well as strengthening the professional skills of all actors in the sector has been a priority in 2021 in this context.

Six public broadcasts were produced on media awareness. The one in Bimbo in August 2021 was attended by several thousand people. Forty community awareness sessions were also held, reaching 800 people in six localities across the country. During focus groups conducted to evaluate the effects of these sessions, more than 80% of respondents stated that they had changed their behaviour in the face of rumours and had adopted the right reflexes.

Radio Ndeke Luka's broadcast capacity was increased in 2021 with the installation of three new transmitters in Beloko, Birao and Obo. RNL now reaches all border areas facing population movements. RNL has also increased its network of ipartner radios from 12 to 20 radios.

The entire Radio Ndeke Luka team, journalists, technicians, administrative and support staff, are mobilized every day in a complicated and sometimes risky context to continue to ensure this mission at the service of the public.

“ We like Radio Ndeke Luka very much because it changes our way of seeing things. It opens our eyes on misinformation and how we have to verify information before we act. Awareness must continue. ”

Testimony gathered during a focus group organized in the village of Voudambala, near the town of Mbaiki, with a group of 12 young women aged between 15 and 29 years old.



The Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSG), interviews a young man, Conakry, Guinea
© Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle

SUPPORTING LOCAL MEDIA IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

“ I learned about Kalangou’s Covid messages from my students’ homework papers.

The assignment was entitled: Covid-19 pandemic, myth or reality? Among the students who thought it a reality, several cited the Studio Kalangou spots broadcast by Garkuwa radio. And that’s when I realized how much credibility these students gave to these messages. ”

Issa Laouali, philosophy teacher at a high school in Maradi

a health specialist, provided support to newsrooms by fact-checking, producing content and providing tailored advice. Newsrooms stepped up their activities on social networks and the Internet to counter false information.

The partnership with the social enterprise Viamo made it possible to reach populations via cell phones in 8 countries (Burkina, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Madagascar, Uganda, CAR, DRC), and to collect data on their concerns and perceptions.

The partnership with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) and the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM) created a mapping of misinformation trends on Facebook.

The results of six audience surveys (Burkina, Mali, Niger, Madagascar, CAR and DRC) conducted by the independent polling institute Kantar, focus groups and WhatsApp surveys in several countries were used by journalists to develop local news content that is closer to the needs of listeners.

According to these surveys, the majority of listeners consider that the information produced by Fondation Hironnelle and its media partners is reliable, that it has already led them to change their behaviour, enabled them to better tell information from misinformation, and that it will be useful in the event of another health crisis.

The results of the different projects dedicated to generating information in response to the COVID-19 crisis show that more than 6,500 items of media content (all formats combined) were produced in 5 to 20 languages per country and were broadcast via networks of partner radio stations, on FM, Internet, television, social networks and cell phones. More than 200 journalists have received training. Protection, production and broadcasting equipment has been given to partner media.

In terms of learning, the project confirmed that a broad approach to the media, i.e. the media ecosystem, was effective, especially in terms of combating misinformation. Our COVID-19 Editorial Hub, composed of senior journalists and

PROGRAMME COVID-19 OUR RESPONSE TO DISINFORMATION

Fondation Hironnelle continued to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in 2021 by supporting media in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, DR Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda) and Asia (Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan) to provide reliable information that responds to the concerns of their populations. Multimedia content, sketches, features, questions and answers and infographics were produced and disseminated via radio, video, social networks, the web and telephony. The objective was to strengthen the resilience of the populations dealing with this crisis and to limit attempts to exploit information, which are frequent during epidemics, especially in countries where tensions and conflicts are permanent. These programmes have been supported by Switzerland and the European Union through Devco and IcSP funding until the end of 2021. The programme funded by the United Kingdom (through the H2H Network fund) ended in early January 2021. The various projects have been subject to internal and external evaluations. The project with Chaîne du Bonheur (Swiss Solidarity) continues until July 2022.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

3 089 816 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union - Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)
- Free Press Unlimited (European Union – Devco/INTPA)
- Chaîne du Bonheur
- United Kingdom (H2H Network fund)

SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN FRAGILE COUNTRIES



Caroline Vuillemin,
General Director of
Fondation Hirondelle,
explains the importance
of supporting local media
in fragile contexts, and
the various aspects of
Fondation Hirondelle's
approach.



Aïssatou Barry, journalist at the Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSJ), Conakry, Guinea
© Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hirondelle

What are the current issues and challenges of supporting the media, particularly in fragile contexts?

Caroline Vuillemin: The media landscape has changed a lot in the last 20 years. Media have diversified, the actors have multiplied. At the same time, the desire in international aid in recent years is to work more directly through local actors. This is what we call the localization of aid. These two trends are now coming together to push international media aid actors to work more at the local level, with more partners on the ground.

As for the needs of these local media, at Fondation Hironnelle we focus on the production and broadcast of information. Being able to produce and broadcast factual, non-partisan, independent, reliable information remains a daily challenge for many media in many countries, especially in the most fragile regions facing multiple crises, conflicts and coups d'état.

There are obviously other needs inherent to the media sector today, such as digitalization, the development of new multi-channel formats, and the creation of podcasts. There is also the major challenge of media governance: how to protect the independence of editorial offices from media owners. We also have to consider the needs in terms of security. We work in fragile contexts where the security of people, goods and sources is a big concern.

Finally, we shouldn't forget the challenge of financing. The economic model of the media is in crisis. How can media that used to work through subscription and advertising open up to a hybrid model of support, of subsidy? The reverse is also interesting: how can media that used to work exclusively through subsidies open up to revenue generation and certain economic partners?

In the crisis contexts where Fondation Hironnelle works, what were the main media issues in 2021-2022?

Starting in 2020, the pandemic brought to the forefront problems that were already present in the media. Advertisers, as well as the entire economy, were at half-mast, and this led to difficulties in operating. In some contexts, there was also a tightening of the public space, with an impact on the freedom to inform, but also on the freedom of access to information, with ministries and authorities refusing journalists access to figures on the number of infected, the number of deaths or the health measures. Some journalists took great risks to investigate major corruption in the Covid funds. Unfortunately, we are not out of this situation. It may be difficult for the media to recover lost ground, especially in terms of access to public information and freedom of information.

Another element is that distrust of the media has been exacerbated with disinformation, the production of lies or contradictory messages about the disease or the vaccine, but also on other subjects. We have seen that wherever there have been elections or societal issues, misinformation has become more prevalent. In this context, the media realize that they have an increasingly important social role to play, because there are multiple crises – health, security, humanitarian, political – that they must cover, despite mistrust towards the media. They are faced with players who are not media actors and who deliberately propagate false information, preventing the population from regaining trust and knowing where to turn when they need information.



A man listens to the radio in Kayes, Mali © Florent Vergnes / Fondation Hironnelle

What approach has Fondation Hironnelle taken to meet these challenges?

We have defined three models. The first, which comes after identifying partners and needs, is to find the media that we will be able to support directly so that they can fulfil their mission. This is what we have done in Myanmar with Frontier Myanmar, but also in Pakistan, Burundi and Tunisia. This requires that the context allows these media to exist. We see that this is very fluctuating, as in Myanmar, where it has become practically impossible for independent journalists to work.

Our second approach, a hybrid one, is to work with local media that are integrated into a Fondation Hironnelle media project. This is the model implemented in our studios in the Sahel. These studios have their editorial offices in the capital and correspondents in the regions working within a network of partner radio stations that broadcast the programmes produced. Information is thus collected from the field. Correspondents and journalists are regularly trained. The partner radio stations are part of the network for collection and broadcast of information.

There remains a third approach, which was the one favoured in the early days of the Fondation but which has become exceptional: Fondation Hironnelle as the sole media operator, integrated into the local media landscape. This is what can happen in very fragile contexts. It is what we are still experiencing today in the Central African Republic, where through Radio Ndeke Luka, a leading radio station that we created 22 years ago, we can observe a kind of ice-breaker effect. It serves as a model, but also a training centre, which means that this media benefits partners, even if we are not directly associated with their activity.

What has been striking for Fondation Hironnelle over the last two years and again in 2021 has been the opportunity to work with many more partners than in the past, through our programme responding to misinformation about Covid in 18 countries in Africa and Asia. Every time we have the opportunity to work with a partner, even if the project stops, the funding stops, or the mission we gave ourselves is over, we want to keep in touch, to keep that partner in a network where we can continue to exchange and so be able to start working together again when the opportunity arises, in the service of information for local populations. ■

We have defined three models, depending on contexts: supporting a local media, working with local media integrated into a Fondation Hironnelle's media project, act directly as a media operator.

MADAGASCAR STUDIO SIFAKA

Studio Sifaka is a radio programme for and by young people, created in 2019 by the United Nations in Madagascar, in partnership with Fondation Hirondelle. Its implementation was made possible by funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund under the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI). As of summer 2021, Studio Sifaka is an independent NGO under Malagasy law. Fondation Hirondelle remains a partner in many ways, contractually and also in human terms through a relationship of trust and mutual support that has been built over the past two years.

Studio Sifaka aims to improve young women's and men's access to reliable, quality information while making their voices heard, thus contributing to peace building in Madagascar. Since its inception, Studio Sifaka has produced "Feon'ny tanora maroloko," a two-hour daily radio programme in Malagasy and French for the youth of Madagascar. Content includes a national and regional news bulletin as well as programmes dedicated to advice (health, employment, etc.), dialogue, music and Malagasy culture. It also produces articles and videos for the Web.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

478 417 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC Project Contribution)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- FEDEVACO (Fédération vaudoise de coopération)
- UNDP
- Fondation Temperatio
- Private donations

studiosifaka.org



Studio Sifaka - Cap 3000 Andraharo - Antananarivo, Madagascar © Iako Randrianarivelo / Fondation Hirondelle

MOVING TOWARDS AUTONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The NGO Studio Sifaka became independent in mid-2021. This transition marked a real change for the teams at the managerial, editorial and administrative levels. The new team was able to learn from almost two years of existence as a project, and become a solid and functional NGO.

Despite this major change, Studio Sifaka has never stopped producing two hours of daily programmes, as well as articles and videos relayed on the Internet. This content includes information on development, human rights and peacebuilding.

Its productions are broadcast via a network of radio partners, on social networks and the website. They are also accessible via a free number, provided by the social enterprise VIAMO, specialized in the broadcasting of general interest content by cell phone. By the end of 2021, Studio Sifaka had 28 partner radios, spread throughout the territory of Madagascar.

Studio Sifaka has become a platform for young people and vulnerable populations who need a space to express themselves but are often excluded from the media landscape. Thus, Studio Sifaka has given priority to producing information on youth initiatives, so as to promote young people's empowerment and participation in development, health, environment and pluralism, as well as debates focused on their concerns.

Studio Sifaka's productions are now a reference for several local news media: TV Plus Madagascar, MBS, the 24h Mada Facebook page, as well as various public discussion groups on social networks.

In future, the goal is for the NGO Studio Sifaka to become a benchmark media in Madagascar, and for it to become an autonomous and perennial organization. To this end, Fondation Hirondelle will support the studio in building its capacities and establishing a stable institutional and editorial structure.

“ I realized that some of my friends didn't listen to the radio before, but now they are always there, at the same time, to listen to the programmes of Studio Sifaka. It's a kind of meeting place for us, and we get together to listen and comment on what they say on the radio. Sometimes the discussions go on afterwards. There is so much content and new things that we learn every day that open our eyes. ”

A young listener, in Vohipeno, Vatovavy Region, during a focus group.



Studio Hironnelle DRC interviews a fish seller in the port market of Kinkole, DR Congo © Justin Makangara / Fondation Hironnelle

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO STUDIO HIRONDELLE DRC

Active in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 2002, Fondation Hironnelle consolidated in 2020, under the name "Studio Hironnelle DRC", its support for informing the population through production and broadcast of local content, in partnership with more than 100 radio and TV stations throughout the country.

In 2021, Studio Hironnelle DRC refined its strategy in order to "contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the DRC through better involvement of the Congolese population - especially women and youth - in public life through professional and committed media". It aims to strengthen the quality of public interest information and the way it is produced in the DRC, by supporting the media that produce it and the professional organizations that structure them, particularly in view of the next presidential election scheduled for December 2023.

Studio Hironnelle DRC also provides content through "Ngoma Ya Kongo", a radio programme produced from the central newsroom in Kinshasa.

FINANCIAL VOLUME
604 836 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- Switzerland (SDC Project Contribution)
- UNDP
- Fondation Helvétique de Bienfaisance
- Income-generating products

studiohirondellerdc.org



ADAPTING TO CRISES TO MEET THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF CONGOLESE PEOPLE

In 2021, Studio Hironnelle DRC consolidated its question-and-answer programme on Covid-19, which has been acclaimed by listeners and radio partners. It followed the evolution of the pandemic by adapting to the topics, responding to rumours and scepticism about the disease, its treatment and vaccines. By also addressing other health crises in the country, the programme has become a key health event for radio partners' listeners. In addition, the economic and social effects of the pandemic on the DRC continued into 2021. They were covered by Studio Hironnelle DRC, in particular through a series of reports made by mixed teams of correspondents and journalists from the central editorial office, following the daily life of affected citizens (students, fisherwomen, etc.) from Goma to Kinshasa via Lubumbashi.

In 2021, the 120 hours of "Ngoma Ya Kongo" programmes were relayed by 108 radio partners covering the 26 provinces of DRC. In the second half of the year, "Ngoma Ya Kongo" inaugurated a monthly debate, bringing the Congolese people into dialogue. Several highlights of current events in the DRC were discussed, such as the results of free primary education and the DRC's participation in COP26. Long reports, analysis and in-depth programmes completed this new content as the country faced challenges: security challenges, such as the state of siege in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu; and natural disasters such as the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, which the editorial staff covered in depth, providing service information to populations in distress.

In South Kivu, Studio Hironnelle DRC launched a two-year project (2021-2022) to support citizen participation through strengthened media: training in Swahili for a group of 20 radio stations and some 40 media agents. In North Kivu, 2021 ended with support for the creation of a radio station for youth and women in Kitschanga, a particularly isolated area prone to insecurity.

“ *The interaction between listeners and the radio has become a sudden marriage. With each production, new listeners call in to ask us questions or inform us of a change in their village, thanks to Studio Hironnelle DRC productions.* ”

The director of the Nyunzu radio, Tanganyika province



MYANMAR DOH ATHAN

Since 2017, Fondation Hironnelle has been producing a human rights podcast in partnership with Frontier Myanmar, a Burmese online news magazine. Doh Athan, "Our Voice," is a weekly 10-minute podcast with videos and articles for the Web and social networks, covering human rights. It is produced by Frontier's own staff and through partnerships with local reporters and media from different states, regions and ethnicities in Myanmar. The programme is broadcast online via social media, as well as on Voice of America radio in Myanmar. Journalistic training and technical support is also provided to Frontier and partner media. At the end of 2021, Frontier had to relocate to Chiang Mai, Thailand, due to the aftermath of the February 1 coup and to protect its staff.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

284 876 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- UNDP
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- Netherlands

Doh Athan team in the studio in Yangon, Myanmar © Lam Duc Hien

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM, DESPITE THE CLAMPDOWN ON PRESS FREEDOM

The effects of the coup and Covid-19 were the main challenges for the project during 2021.

The political situation remained very tense following the February 1 coup. The coup increased violence in the country and led to a significant decline in press freedom and freedom of expression.

Many journalists have been arrested and imprisoned, and others are hiding in the country. Dozens of media outlets have been forced to close. Other media have fled to Thailand and are now working across the border.

This is the case of Frontier Myanmar, an independent media partner of Fondation Hironnelle. The military arrested two of its reporters at different times in the year, causing Frontier to temporarily shut down. Fondation Hironnelle, in agreement with its two financial partners for this project, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UNDP, helped Frontier to set up in Chiang Mai (Thailand), and to support its material and editorial transition.

Despite these events and some downturns in operations, Frontier continued to produce and distribute the Doh Athan podcast, articles and videos, with particular attention to the safety of journalists.

As a result, Doh Athan provided quality coverage of ongoing issues that went beyond simple news reporting to include coverage from the regions of broader issues, including impacts on access to justice, IDPs, women, LGBTQI people, labour rights, and access to health and education.

In addition, a practical guide for journalists on covering land rights was developed and distributed to journalists and media partners. It will be followed by a series of distance learning courses in 2022.

PAKISTAN SUPPORT TO TRIBAL NEWS NETWORK

Based on a first collaboration in 2020, Fondation Hironnelle renewed its support in 2021 to Tribal News Network (TNN), a Pakistani multimedia agency that works with eight local media in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Together we have developed a project to inform people about the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects.

The project works with local media and journalists to develop programmes in local languages to educate, inform, entertain and engage with listeners. A network of eight radio partners ensure their broadcast.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

56 940 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Chaîne du Bonheur
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)

In Pakistan, information is largely provided by urban centres and ignores the information needs and aspirations of a significant portion of the population living on the periphery and in rural areas.

Since September 2021, Fondation Hironnelle and Tribal News Network (TNN) have been supporting journalists from the regions and local media through mentoring and training activities. The objective is to provide these professionals with a framework and tools to reflect in their work the concerns of local populations and to give them a voice, especially marginalized groups such as women, transsexuals, religious minorities, displaced persons and Afghan refugees who live in this region.

Our work is complemented by support to production of a weekly 50-minute radio programme. The programme is broadcast via eight partner radio stations located in different cities, in order to reach as many people as possible in a region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that has a population of about 35 million. The same programme is then adapted for the web and social networks.

The programmes aim to improve understanding of issues around the Covid-19 pandemic, the rollout of vaccination and the impacts of the crisis. The goal is to help vulnerable communities in the region protect themselves and their families, contain the spread of the virus, and cope with daily life.

The health crisis is not over, along with issues surrounding the acceptance of vaccination and the rumours that circulate about it. In 2022, it will be a matter of continuing to inform the population.

Fondation Hironnelle's support in Burundi is focused on three areas: strengthening editorial, managerial and technical skills.

In 2021, Fondation Hironnelle developed activities to strengthen editorial capacities. Within this framework, approximately 50 journalists, including 15 women, have been trained. The training sessions are mainly aimed at novice journalists or those with little experience, and at editors of partner media.

A module was developed with the technicians of our 10 partner media that led to a technical evaluation of all these media. This will allow Fondation Hironnelle to better equip them. A module on media governance was also conducted with the managers of our partner media. One partner media was able to use tools developed during the training to respond to a call for projects from a local NGO and obtain funding.

Fondation Hironnelle's experience shows that it is very important to regularly remind journalists of the basic rules of journalism, and that practical training must be repeated to have a lasting effect. This is why in 2022, three more training sessions will be organized for junior journalists and editors-in-chief.

Along with its partners La Benevolencija, the European Union in Burundi and the Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), Fondation Hironnelle is co-organizing a "Gender and Media" award on the theme of the fight against gender-based violence. In May 2022, a jury will reward the best production in each category.

BURUNDI TRAINING JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

In partnership with the NGO Radio La Benevolencija, Fondation Hironnelle has since January 2021 been implementing a 24-month project, funded by the European Union, to strengthen the capacities of journalists and media professionals in Burundi.

The direct beneficiaries of this project are 10 Burundian media and their employees (journalists, technicians, managers, etc.) as well as two local associations and their employees: the Burundian Association of Women Journalists (AFJO) and the Burundian Association of Radio Broadcasters (ABR).

FINANCIAL VOLUME

107 310 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- European Union (EIDHR)



TUNISIA TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Within the framework of a partnership with the Danish organization NIRAS, Fondation Hirondelle is implementing the media component of the PACT program: Active Participation of Tunisian Citizens. This three-year pilot project initiated and financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will end in March 2023. Its objective is to contribute to the Tunisian democratic transition through increased accountability of local public actors, the improvement of citizen participation in the development of local public policies, and the strengthening of human rights. Seven communities, spread from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Sahara, have committed themselves. Fondation Hirondelle supports their local and regional media in order to strengthen professional capacities and improve the population's access to reliable and independent information on local governance.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

50 329 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

• NIRAS Switzerland (SDC mandate)

*During a «media training» session of the "PACT" programme (Active Participation of Tunisian Citizens).
© Asma Ben Garga / Fondation Hirondelle*

MEDIA COMMITTED TO AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO DECENTRALIZATION

After conducting an assessment of the media environment in the five governorates covered by the PACT program (Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid, Siliana, Le Kef and Kasserine), Fondation Hirondelle noted the need to improve access to quality information outside the capital. In regions facing structural challenges, the population has hardly felt the effects of the democratic transition for the moment. Women and young people have so far hardly been able to make use of their political and civic rights. Efficient and citizen-friendly municipalities and constructive, trusting relations between the administration and citizens are therefore of crucial importance. The media have a role to play in this as a sounding board, to explain and to demand accountability.

To help them in this mission, Fondation Hirondelle selected 13 media partners - from the local associative web radio to the regional offices of the Tunis Afrique Presse agency - to train 17 journalists (60% of whom are women) on local governance coverage. In addition to the initial training, using local references and creating a space for exchange between professionals, Fondation Hirondelle has favoured a mentoring approach, providing these media actors with constant support through an experienced Tunisian journalist. This is to produce and disseminate local information, improve interaction and participation of citizens in municipal work and monitoring of local public policies for more dialogue, accountability and mutual trust. In 2022, training will be conducted in different production formats, with a ramp-up of dissemination via an online platform, and media training sessions for elected officials.

JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



SHEDDING LIGHT ON JUSTICE PROCESSES

International justice has traditionally been concerned with war and dictatorship, but is now expanding to cover other types of mass violence. **Thierry Cruvellier, editor of Justice Info**, explains Fondation Hironnelle's approach in this field.



In Lviv, during a bomb threat on 30 March 2022, the inhabitants hid in the catacombs of a church. @Lam Duc Hien / Agence VU' for Fondation Hironnelle

What is the state of international justice in 2021-2022?

Thierry Cruvellier: The traditional field of international justice deals with serious violations of human rights, which occur most often in contexts of dictatorship or war. At the beginning of 2022, the war in Ukraine thus took a central place in international justice concerns. This is all the more so since Ukraine and its allies have made the law, along with armed resistance and economic sanctions, the third pillar of their resistance to Russian aggression. A whole panoply of international courts (International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, European Court of Human Rights) and national jurisdictions (in Ukraine and other European countries) have begun investigating crimes committed in this war at an unprecedented speed. At the heart of this judicial offensive is the crime of aggression, formerly known as the “crime against peace”, from which other international crimes such as war crimes or crimes against humanity would follow.

In recent years, we have also seen international justice expanding outside its traditional field to varied domains: environmental issues, land theft, defence of indigenous peoples, reparations for colonial violence, human trafficking, systemic sexual abuse, police or social violence in Western democracies. All these mass violence issues affecting many countries call with great creativity upon the mechanisms developed by transitional justice over the past 30 years. National courts are much more active than international courts. Two striking examples of this are the recent jurisprudence of military tribunals on the “destruction of nature” in eastern DR Congo; or the truth commissions set up in Scandinavian countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden) on the Sami people to address violence linked to the colonial past, the relationship with nature and minority rights.

What are the information needs on these issues? What is the role of the media?

International or transitional justice issues and decisions are often very technical and full of jargon, so a journalist’s first mission is to vulgarize them, to better convey them to the communities affected by violence and the public at large. The media also need to get closer to the victim communities to help get their voices heard by courts that are often far away. But the media that deal with international justice must also exercise their traditional journalistic role of counter-power, especially in the face of international or national jurisdictions that are themselves powers and are therefore susceptible to abuse. In my opinion, media also have a proactive role to play in raising awareness on certain subjects like reparations for colonial violence, which, paradoxically, is often debated less in the South than in the North.

Informative journalism that is also sensitive to the experience of human suffering

So what is the approach of Fondation Hironnelle through the Justice Info project?

Justice Info is the only journalistic website that covers, explains and analyses all the issues in the international justice field, which tends to be monopolized by the jurists and institutions running it. Our approach consists of working with local correspondents who live in the countries concerned and are in touch with the violence that takes place there. This allows a particular sensitivity to the issues addressed. All our correspondents deserve to be mentioned, but the work carried out by Andrés Bermúdez Liévano on the vast transitional justice process of Colombia seems to me exemplary. His rigorous factual follow-up of an immensely complex process is nourished by his personal experience of all the issues dealt with: land reform, kidnappings, executions, and so on. All this experience of the complexity of Colombian violence transpires in his texts. This combination is the mark of rigorous journalism that does not miss its appointment with the human experience of the sufferings reported. In this sense, we intend to be both experts and accessible to people. This is especially so since Justice Info’s audience is made up of both specialists and anyone concerned or interested in these subjects. ■



© Jean-Luc-Marcais

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE SEEKS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

“ In my editorial for *JusticeInfo.net*, I quoted Consuelo, who was kidnapped by the FARC. Her testimony is heart breaking but powerful. It is incredible to see how victims, despite their suffering, are still willing to work to achieve peace. By chance, she read the editorial and sent me a message to say that she felt understood, heard. She was very happy to discover that there is a space to open a conversation, which is what *Justice Info* does. ”

Mary Diaz Marquez, National Justice Programme Officer, Justice Rapid Response (Geneva) May 2021

With 387 articles published in French and English, as well as a new version in Spanish dedicated to the peace process in Colombia, *JusticeInfo.net* continues to establish its position as a benchmark media on transitional justice. This ongoing challenge is taken up with rigour and dedication by a small central editorial team and about 30 correspondents. Since its creation in 2015, our website has met with growing success: some 1.4 million readers have consulted more than 2 million pages, and there is a constant increase in our audience, with 900 daily visitors at present.

Our credo is to allow our readers to delve deeply into the understanding of current issues. This is why the year 2021 was marked by the publication of several special reports: on sexual crimes in the Church (with the first interactive map of judicial initiatives across the world); on the question of colonial crimes and requests for reparation, which is gaining momentum (particularly in the United States); and on how the Finnish national justice system has shaken the traditional exercise of universal jurisdiction.

The current context of transitional justice particularly reflects the state of the world. Its international forms, dynamic until the 2000s, appear to have run out of steam. However, its actors are redoubling their creativity, with stronger local and national anchoring. There is also a shift to using transitional justice within rich and democratic countries, whereas until now it tended to be confined to the “Global

South”. It is at this intersection that the *Justice Info* project continues to position itself, as a bridge between different experiences and points of view.

In early 2022, *JusticeInfo.net* has mobilized to cover international justice efforts on the war in Ukraine, which are unprecedented in their speed and magnitude. More than ever, our work of explanation and analysis finds all its purpose in this major crisis, in which justice will play a key role.

JUSTICEINFO. NET

JusticeInfo.net is an independent, bilingual, free website created by Fondation Hironnelle in 2015. *JusticeInfo.net* covers justice news related to mass violence. Courts, truth commissions, reparation programmes, reconciliation processes and remembrance are at the heart of the transitional justice around the world covered by *JusticeInfo.net* whenever a judicial or paralegal procedure with a collective dimension is initiated or envisaged. *JusticeInfo.net* is also at the forefront of contemporary debates on mass violence, including environmental crimes, corporate responsibility, violence against migrants, the fate of indigenous peoples, and colonial crimes. Thanks to a solid network of correspondents and contributions from experts, *JusticeInfo.net* has become the benchmark media in its field.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

411 094 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- Fondation Nicolas Puech
- Private donations

justiceinfo.net



PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMMES FOR COMMUNITIES FACING HUMANITARIAN CRISES

At a time when the level of humanitarian need around the world has never been higher, with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic adding to those of conflict and climate change, the media can be a powerful tool to help communities cope with humanitarian crises.



*A young man listens to the radio in the village of Dofi li Koperin, Guinea
© Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle*



Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSG), interviews a woman in the village of Dofli Koperin © Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hironnelle

In 2021 the world saw the highest level of humanitarian need for decades. Conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll, and in the countries where Fondation Hironnelle operates there were significant rises in food insecurity, extreme poverty and forced displacement.

Globally, the United Nations estimated that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection was 235 million in 2021. Projections for the coming year are worse: as of April 2022, that figure has jumped to 295 million* – that is 1 in 27 people, compared to 1 in 45 in 2019.

Media can be a powerful tool in assisting communities to cope in humanitarian crises. The provision of practical information - such as how to make water safe to drink or where to access food and shelter - can mean the difference between life and death. Media can counter dangerous rumours ("black people cannot catch Covid"... "aid workers are coming here to kill us"), it can highlight community-led solutions and draw attention to areas of need.

In many regions, insecurity means humanitarian access is becoming increasingly difficult. And while the physical supply of aid such as medicine and food cannot always be substituted, the right kind of information is, in itself, a form of aid, and can go a long way towards helping people manage their situation and make the right decisions. Media is able to reach hundreds of thousands of people instantly, including in areas which are remote or inaccessible to aid agencies.

Fondation Hironnelle has been operating in humanitarian crisis contexts since 1995, and as well as seeking to provide impartial, reliable news in such environments, it is now adding a stronger emphasis on programming designed specifically to meet the humanitarian information needs of people directly affected by crises. For example, in October 2021 our team in Burkina Faso launched Faso Yafa, a 30-minute weekly radio programme to support the 1.7 million displaced people in the country. As well as sharing practical information, such as helpline numbers for humanitarian assistance and advice from a psychologist on dealing with stress and trauma, the programme seeks to entertain, including storytelling and musicians, in recognition that many audiences also need respite from their difficult situation and will be more likely to engage with programmes that make for enjoyable listening.

Mass displacement of people can often lead to tensions with those communities that end up hosting them, in particular if the latter already face precarious living conditions. A major influx of vulnerable people can result in anger, stigmatisation, disputes over resources and sometimes violence. This has been the case in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where some 900 000 Rohingya people remain in camps, having fled a wave of persecution which began in Myanmar in 2017. The following year Fondation Hironnelle began a programme whose objectives included increasing social cohesion between refugees and host communities, using radio as a space for dialogue to increase mutual understanding and acceptance. In 2021 we were able to assess the impact of the work, findings showed that 60% of respondents said the programmes increased their tolerance towards the refugee community.

Programme-makers require specific skills and knowledge – beyond conventional journalism - in order to develop effective content for crisis-affected populations. As such, Fondation Hironnelle is training its own staff and partners on how to communicate effectively with audiences facing humanitarian emergencies. This includes how to navigate and engage with the humanitarian system, what kinds of information are most relevant and how to ensure affected communities have a voice. So far, training has been done in Burkina Faso, focusing on the needs of displaced people, and in Niger, where conflict and food insecurity mean that about 15% of the population is expected to need aid in 2022.

Unfortunately, the discouraging forecasts and recent events – not least the Russian invasion of Ukraine - make it clear that the need for such skills will be even greater in the months and years to come, and Fondation Hironnelle will continue to broaden and deepen its efforts to ensure media are truly at the service of populations affected by crises. ■

*Source: <https://hum-insight.info/>

The provision of practical information - such as how to make water safe to drink or where to access food and shelter - can mean the difference between life and death.



BANGLADESH INFORMATION & SOCIAL COHESION

Camp Information Line and *Aror Hota* were two audio programmes produced by Fondation Hironnelle from 2018 to 2021 near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, for the Rohingya refugee population and surrounding communities. *Camp Information Line* was produced by a team of refugees under the supervision of Fondation Hironnelle editors. The programme offered information on camp life and awareness messages. *Aror Hota* was produced by members of the surrounding Bangladeshi community and offered information to improve their food security, livelihoods, knowledge of health and rights. Podcasts and programmes on social cohesion between host communities and refugees, as well as on health and the environment, were also produced. These programmes were broadcast via a network of loudspeakers in the refugee camps and in the host community, as well as shared online and broadcast on local radio stations.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

216 411 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC mandate)
- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- Chaîne du Bonheur

Rohingya refugee children carry water a few days after a fire in a camp in Ukhtia, Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh Cox's Bazar district. © Munir Uzzaman / AFP

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF REFUGEES THROUGH INFORMATION

In 2021, Fondation Hironnelle and our partner HEKS/EPER continued their work with refugee and Bangladeshi producers to produce *Camp Information Line* and *Aror Hota*. The project concluded mid-year after more than four years of activity. In situ production and broadcasting continued to be affected by the Covid-19 crisis, but our programmes reached between 8,000 and 13,000 people each week in the camps. In the host community, programmes reached 2,200 to 3,000 people per week through listening groups. We also continued to broadcast via Bangladesh Betar FM, which helped expand the audience in the host community. In 2021, our teams were able to produce 10 programmes on social cohesion. While not all were broadcast in the camps due to Covid restrictions, they were shared online for wider listening.

An independent impact study was conducted in 2021. It found that the share of refugees surveyed who felt they had enough information to improve their lives in the camp increased from 21.6% to 65%. 88% of the refugees surveyed also felt that their voice was heard by service providers, compared with 58.8% at the beginning of the project. In the host community, 44.5% of respondents said they have the information they need to improve their lives and livelihoods, compared with 28.4% before the project. In terms of social cohesion, 60% of host community members surveyed said that our programmes had improved their tolerance of the refugee community, and 55% of refugees indicated that the programmes helped improve relations with the host community.

An independent audit also found that the project had achieved its objectives, playing a significant role in a complex situation where refugees lacked access to vital information. The audit also showed that the capacity of local staff and volunteers had been strengthened. Our partner in Bangladesh, HEKS/EPER, intends to continue producing and disseminating content, since its teams, including a group of well-trained refugee producers, now have the experience and capacity to do so.

RESEARCH & POLICY ON MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

MISINFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF THE DEBATE

In the world of media research, the year 2021 was marked by issues of misinformation, media sustainability, inclusion of marginalized populations, and the effectiveness of media support.

*The talk-show "Let's talk about the coronavirus" recorded on an IDP site in Kaya, Burkina Faso
© Olympia de Maismont / Fondation Hirondelle*



Audience survey organised by Radio Ndeke Luka in Bangui, Central African Republic © Gwenn Dubourthoumieu / Fondation Hironnelle

With the growth of digital spaces, misinformation is finding ever greater resonance. States and non-state actors exploit digital platforms to amplify polarizing content and divisions in the societies they seek to destabilize.

This problem is not limited to social networks and is reinforced by the crisis of confidence in so-called traditional media and journalists. With the Covid pandemic, the economic crisis has led to a drop in advertising investments, which has been combined with the capture of these revenues by the Internet giants. As a study by BBC Media Action has pointed out, the result is a global threat of extinction for public service media.¹

This comes as pressure mounts on the media to be more inclusive of their audiences, including more marginalized populations, and to make their journalism more participatory.²

Through its research and development activities, Fondation Hironnelle aims to make its modest contribution to understanding these issues.

On the issue of misinformation, we are collaborating with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, based in London, in the development of a tool to monitor (dis)information trends on Facebook. With the ICT for Peace Foundation (Geneva), we have also proposed to Switzerland that it seize the opportunity of its application to the United Nations Security Council to develop the standards of governance of digital spaces.

Concerning media sustainability, we are working with Michel Leroy who is doing a PhD on the subject within the framework of the Medas 21 programme of the Alliance Ruhr University in Germany.³ He is analysing the efforts undertaken by Fondation Hironnelle to ensure the sustainability of its projects and promote this subject in the media support sector.

On the issue of inclusion, we are working with Dr. Emma Heywood, from the University of Sheffield, to better understand the expectations of women and youth regarding our productions in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.⁴ We have also collaborated with Dr. Heywood and Dr. Lassané Yaméogo of the Thomas Sankara University in Ouagadougou on a project to better understand and address the information needs of internally displaced populations in Burkina Faso.⁵

This study showed that radio plays a protective role, providing a citizen's watch to assess the security situation; and that it promotes resilience and peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities.⁶

We are breaking new ground in our research methodologies with our first randomized controlled trial (RCT) study conducted in Madagascar with over 7,000 participants randomly assigned to a treatment group to measure the effects of our dialogue programs compared to a control group that was encouraged to listen to a "placebo" program. This study, conducted with Dr. Jeff Conroy Krutz of the University of Michigan in 2021, won the Impact Award 2020 for its innovative design.⁷ ■

Disinformation, economic viability, inclusion: Fondation Hironnelle aims to contribute to understanding of these major issues of the media sector.

(1) <https://ifpim.org/resources/feasibility-study/>

(2) Cf. Médiation#8, "Listening to the voices of the public", <https://www.hironnelle.org/pdfviewer/?lang=en&id=502>

(3) This programme funds seven doctorates in media development, including three in partnership with Fondation Hironnelle, <https://www.medas21.net/>

(4) <https://www.femmpowermentafrique.com/about>

(5) <https://www.elrha.org/project/internally-displaced-persons-radio-and-covid-related-misinformation-in-burkina-faso/>

(6) Heywood & Yameogo (2022) La radio et le défi de la mobilisation contre la COVID-19: exemple des Personnes déplacées internes à Kaya, Pissila et Kongoussi au Burkina Faso, *Revue RadioMorphoses*; <https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/182731/>

(7) Awarded by the Center for Development and Cooperation at ETH Zurich with funding from the Swiss Development Cooperation.

ONGOING RESEARCH IN 2021

- Research in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, with Dr. Emma Heywood, University of Sheffield, on Studio Tamani, women and youth empowerment.
- Research in Burkina Faso on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), radio and COVID-related misinformation, with Dr. Emma Heywood, University of Sheffield and Dr. Lassané Yaméogo, University Thomas Sankara.
- Evaluation of Studio Sifaka on engaging Malagasy youth through radio dialogue with Dr. Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Michigan State University.
- Evaluation of Radio Ndeke Luka on countering disinformation and promoting democratic and peace process in CAR, with Dr. Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Michigan State University.
- Result chain-oriented impact evaluation : How a radio programme in Niger achieved changes in knowledge, attitudes and practice of listeners about gender, with Christoph Spurk, Guido Keel and Dominique Barth, Institute of Applied Media Studies, Zürich.
- PhDs of the programme Media Development in the 21st Century (MEDAS 21):
 - with Michel Leroy on sustainability and professionalization of community radios.
 - with Fabiola Ortiz on radio projects and peacebuilding in CAR.
 - with Roja Zaitoonie on the UNs' efforts on media in Peacekeeping operations.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CAPITALIZATION

In 2021, in accordance with its 2021-2024 strategic objectives, Fondation Hironnelle created a new unit dedicated to improving the quality of its monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and capitalization (MEAC) activities. The objectives of this unit are to develop and maintain our MEAC tools for each of our projects, and to provide technical support to their teams in this regard, from planning to evaluation. Accountability processes to external partners and donors and to our public will be strengthened. Our projects will have systematic access to the information and learning spaces generated by our monitoring and evaluation systems. This new unit will also support the Fondation Hironnelle-wide MEAC system, with regular reports on our 2021-2024 four-year strategy to senior management, and team moments dedicated to learning and reflecting on our results and achievements.



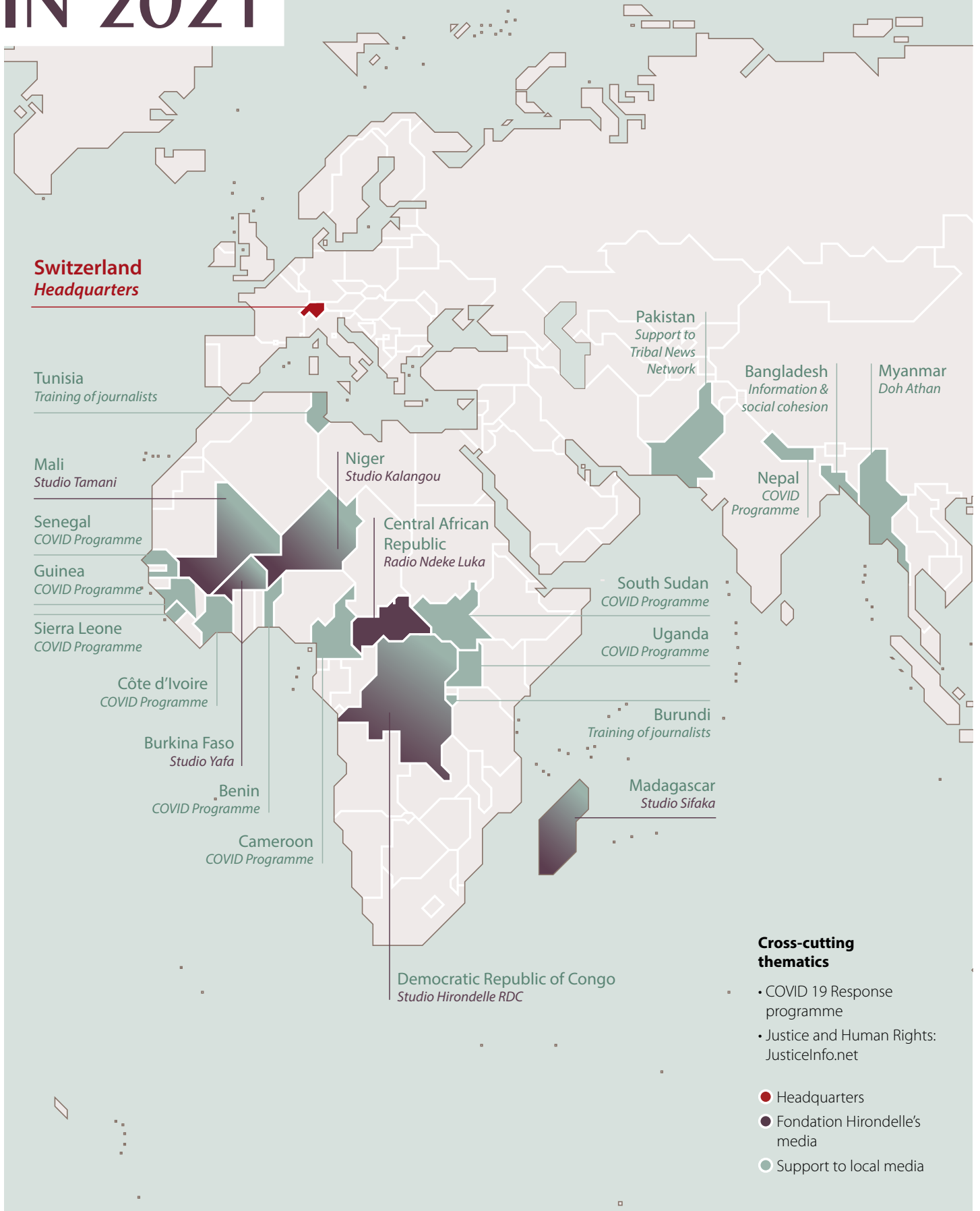
Audience survey organised by Radio Ndeke Luka in Bangui, Central African Republic
© Gwenn Dubourthoumie / Fondation Hironnelle

CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS: OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL MEDIA CONVERSATION

Monitoring and responding to misinformation, media and governance, migration and peacebuilding, combating gender stereotypes, information warfare in Africa, media as a catalyst for dialogue: these are just some of the topics we addressed, along with our partners, other media organizations, journalists and researchers, during the conferences, webinars, and workshops in which we participated in 2021. In total, we organized or actively participated in 26 face-to-face and online events during the year.

Our contribution to the global conversation about the role of media and journalism was also reflected in our publications: our biannual *Mediation*, which gives voice to researchers, journalists, and media practitioners from all walks of life, and whose issues in 2021 were devoted to "Media for Education" and "Media and Violence"; as well as more targeted publications such as our policy paper "Sticking to the Facts, Building Trust: Our Response to Misinformation". We have promoted this approach even more actively within the media and NGO networks to which we belong, such as the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), of which our General Director is a member of the Steering Committee.

FONDATION HIRONDELLE OPERATIONS IN 2021



ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

Fondation Hironnelle saw its volume increase by 7% compared with 2020, with an overall realized volume of CHF14.5 million. As in 2020, Fondation Hironnelle posted a positive result, of approximately CHF491,000. The increase in volume is due largely to a higher volume of activities in the CAR and Niger.

90% of the Fondation's expenses are devoted to our field projects and special operations (media education masterclasses, research projects etc.).

Management expenses (Finance, HR, IT etc.) represent 8% of expenses, while communication and fundraising represent 2%. It should be noted that Fondation Hironnelle obtained a Zewo certification in 2019; all the 2021 accounts and indicators below therefore follow the presentation requested by Zewo.

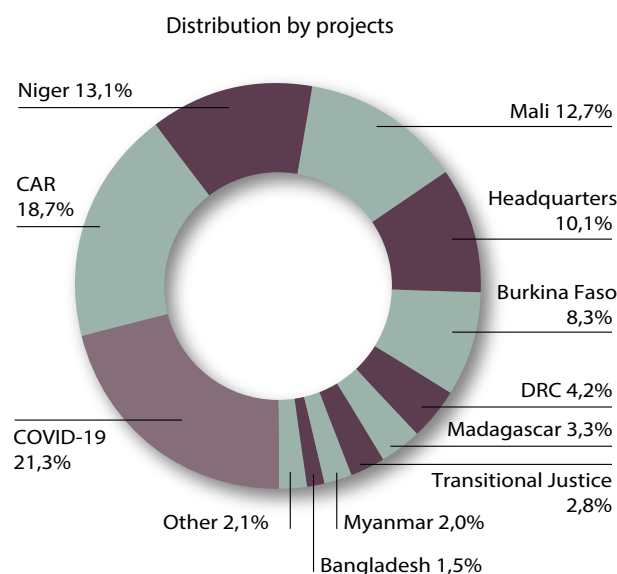
An independent auditor has certified that the financial statements summarized below give a true and fair view of Fondation Hironnelle's financial position. The complete report on the 2021 annual accounts is available on our website www.hironnelle.org.

HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of 2021, Fondation Hironnelle employed 246 professionals worldwide (283 in 2020). The number of national staff working for the Fondation decreased to 208 (245 in 2020), and the number of expatriates on long-term or fixed-term contracts was 10 at the end of 2021 (13 expatriates in 2020). In addition to these employees there are 199 interns and correspondents (227 in 2020), supported by 23 expert missions to the field (9 missions in 2020). The size of the headquarters office has remained relatively stable. As of December 31, it had 10 staff occupying the equivalent of 8.3 full-time positions for direct project monitoring, and 18 staff members (FTE 15) engaged in management, transversal support and support functions. Fondation Hironnelle is also training an apprentice and was able to benefit throughout 2021 from the help of civilists/interns (FTE 0.5).

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

2021 projects	in CHF
COVID- 19	3 089 816
CAR	2 719 426
Niger	1 901 108
Mali	1 836 763
Headquarters	1 464 083
Burkina Faso	1 199 458
DRC	604 836
Madagascar	478 417
Transitional Justice	411 094
Myanmar	284 876
Bangladesh	216 411
Burundi	107 310
New projects	74 228
Research	64 083
Tunisia	50 329
Media education	4 245
TOTAL	14 506 483



FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Sources of revenue	in CHF	in %
Public funding		
Switzerland		
Mandates/Projects Contributions (SDC)	1 832 038	12,1%
Programme Contribution SDC (IP)	2 996 896	19,7%
FEDEVACO	68 709	0,5%
Other		
United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNPD, ...)	688 752	4,5%
Denmark (FAMOC)	139 621	0,9%
Netherlands	47 250	0,3%
United Kingdom (FCDO, UKCSS)	243 364	1,6%
Sweden	1 581 830	10,4%
Czech republic	168 587	1,1%
Germany (GIZ)	6 572	0,0%
European Union	4 549 345	29,9%
	12 322 964	81,1%
Private funding		
Switzerland		
Chaîne du Bonheur	408 351	2,7%
Loterie Romande	51 100	0,3%
RTS Partnership	75 000	0,5%
Private Foundations	253 882	1,7%
Private Donors	168 460	1,1%
Other		
Other donors	1 086 445	7,2%
	2 043 238	13,4%
Other products		
Products from services provided	828 310	5,5%
	828 310	5,5%
TOTAL INCOME	15 194 512	

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE DONORS

We wish to thank the following for their support in 2021: Fondation E. Balzan, Fondation Alfred & Eugénie Baur, Fondation Helvétique de Bienfaisance, Fondation Pierre et Claude Chessex, Genassurances SA, Loterie Romande, Fondation Karl Popper, Migros Vaud, Fondation Nicolas Puech, Stiftung Temperatio.

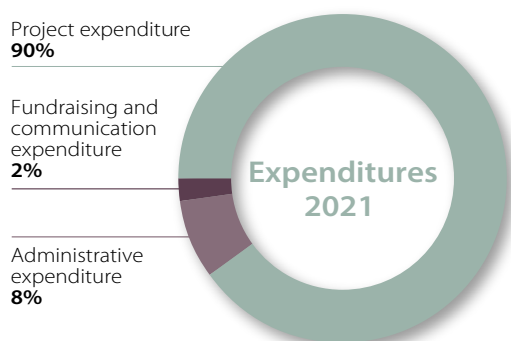
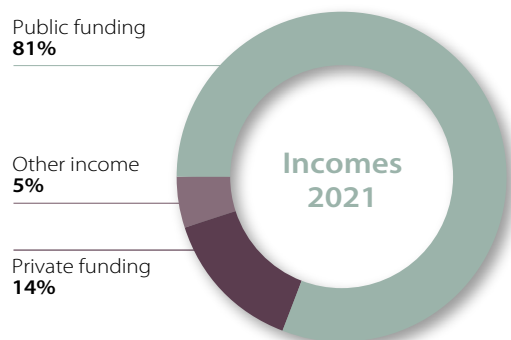
SUMMARY OF FONDATION HIRONDELLE ACCOUNTS

The overall presentation of Fondation Hironnelle accounts meets the requirements of the Swiss norms GAAP RPC and GAAP RPC 21. This presentation gives a true and fair view of the financial situation and in-come of the organization. The accounts comply with Swiss law and the Fondation's statutes. The summary of accounts is based on the annual accounts as of December 31, 2021, which have been prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned principles.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31 (in Swiss francs)

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Liquid assets	3 884 079	5 306 906
Credits	169 417	109 180
Funding to be received	1 245 358	1 148 105
Other receivables	217 672	627 585
Accruals and deferred income	226 265	84 295
	5 742 791	7 276 071
Intangible assets		
Financial assets	354 250	91 705
Fixed assets	25 534	51 025
TOTAL ASSETS	6 122 575	7 418 801
LIABILITIES		
Short-term liabilities		
Short-term debts	631 163	760 302
Funding received in advance	2 377 137	4 123 752
Accrual and deferred income	207 043	208 501
Various loans	387	374
	3 215 730	5 092 929
Long-term liabilities		
Provision for legal contingencies	132 308	69 447
Provision for termination of staff contracts	56 589	52 518
	188 897	121 965
Allocated funds		
Initiative Fund	216 468	216 468
Solidarity Fund	39 218	14 155
Project Social Fund	-	18 162
Support Fund	568 957	552 387
	824 643	801 172
Equity capital		
Foundation capital	50 000	50 000
Capital FNL	12 315	12 315
Operating capital	1 340 420	823 625
Final result	490 570	516 795
	1 893 305	1 402 735
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6 122 575	7 418 801

OPERATING ACCOUNT OF FONDATION HIRONDELLE (in Swiss francs)



	2021	2020
INCOME		
Public funding	12 322 964	12 089 166
Private funding	2 043 238	1 420 153
Other income	828 310	743 837
TOTAL INCOME	15 194 512	14 253 156
Income allocated by the Fondation	1 071 770	900 210
Tied funds	-	-
Allocated funds	14 122 742	13 352 947

	2021	2020
EXPENDITURE		
Direct project expenditure		
Staff	6 905 149	6 940 431
Operations	5 672 498	4 804 555
Equipment	464 752	446 061
	13 042 399	12 191 047
Administrative expenditure		
Staff	638 466	732 241
Operations	478 480	329 482
Equipment	31 472	37 391
	1 148 418	1 099 114
Fundraising and communication expenditure		
Staff	246 538	201 192
Operations	68 989	116 678
Equipment	139	-
	315 666	317 870
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14 506 483	13 608 030
Operating result	688 029	645 125
Financial results		
Financial income	121	456
Loss on foreign exchange	-184 212	-127 475
	-184 091	-127 019
Exceptional result		
Exceptional Expenditures and Incomes	-13 368	-1 311
	-13 368	-1 311
Annual result before allocations	490 570	516 795
Allocations / deductions		
Allocations to equity capital	-490 570	-516 795
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-

TABLE OF CAPITAL VARIATION (in Swiss francs)

Description of funding	Position of funds 01.01.2021	Internally generated income	Attributions to funds	Internal transfers	Use for projects	Position of funds 31.12.21	Funding received in advance	Funding to be received
Allocated funds (Funding to be received /received in advance)								
Funds Bangladesh	110 287		131 628		-241 915	-	-	-
Funds Burkina Faso	-146 485		1 544 164		-1 287 045	110 634	145 144	-34 510
Funds Burundi	-		273 017		-113 835	159 182	159 182	-
Funds Covid	1 884 088		633 157		-3 273 977	-756 732	67 367	-824 099
Fonds Media Education	-		9 535		-4 245	5 290	5 290	-
Funds Environment & Research	-		64 083		-64 083	-	-	-
Funds Transitional Justice	150 000		281 160		-431 160	-	-	-
Funds Madagascar	-138 814		833 327		-503 990	190 523	218 300	-27 777
Funds Mali	237 854		2 374 063		-1 985 035	626 882	639 426	-12 544
Funds Myanmar	25 227		349 020		-291 207	83 040	83 040	-
Funds Niger	11 633		1 649 247		-1 712 105	-51 225	11 919	-63 144
Funds New projects/ Miscellaneous projects	8 540		74 620		-83 160	-	-	-
Funds Central African Republic	697 891		2 593 782		-2 890 121	401 552	680 734	-279 182
Funds Democratic Republic of Congo	60 413		570 790		-544 144	87 059	87 059	-
Funds Tunisia	-6 088		45 400		-43 414	-4 102	-	-4 102
Funds Headquarters	81 100		1 020 359		-821 783	279 676	279 676	-
Total allocated funds	2 975 646		12 447 352		-14 291 219	1 131 779	2 377 137	-1 245 358
Tied funds								
Initiative Fund a)	216 468		-		-	216 468		
Solidarity Fund b)	14 155	6 901	-	18 162	-	39 218		
Project Social Fund c)	18 162		-	-18 162	-	-		
Support Fund d)	552 387		16 570		-	568 957		
Total tied funds	801 172		16 570		-	824 643		
Foundation capital								
Initial capital	50 000		-		-	50 000		
Capital FNL	12 315		-		-	12 315		
Sales and services/ non-tied subsidies	-		903 310		-903 310	-		
Operating capital	1 340 420		490 570		-	1 830 990		
Operating result	-		-		-	-		
Total Foundation capital	1 402 735		1 393 880		-903 310	1 893 305		
TOTAL	5 179 553		13 857 802		-15 194 528	3 849 727		

ANNEXE TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE EXERCISE ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (EXTRACTS)*

* The annexe and full report can be downloaded from our website www.hirondelle.org

1/ ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

a) General

The accounts are based on the annual accounts as at December 31, 2021, which have been prepared in accordance with uniform principles. Amounts in the accounts are rounded, which may result in minor discrepancies in the totals.

Fondation Hironnelle adopts the Zewo method for calculating project, administrative and fundraising expenses.

b) Scope of integration

The accounts contain the annual accounts of all Fondation Hironnelle offices in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar.

It should be noted that on 30.06.2021 we closed our project in Madagascar, which became an independent entity we continue to support as an external partner.

Since 2019, Fondation Hironnelle has also integrated the activities of Fondation Ndeke Luka, of which it has control. The capital of FNL has been integrated into the capital of FH.

c) Conversion of foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are converted at the average rates of the month N-1 in which they are recorded.

Foreign currency assets and liabilities in the balance sheet as at December 31 are converted into Swiss francs at the rates prevailing on December 31. The results of these conversions are recorded in the financial result.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand, in postal accounts and in banks at headquarters and abroad are shown in the balance sheet at their nominal value.

e) Receivables and accruals

Receivables and accruals are stated at their nominal value less any necessary value adjustments.

f) Property, plant and equipment

Fondation Hironnelle uses the straight-line method of depreciation as follows:

IT equipment: 3 years from 1,000 CHF per unit

Other equipment: 3 years from 2,000 CHF per unit

Fixed assets abroad* Direct depreciation

* Fondation Hironnelle uses equipment and vehicles for its projects abroad; these are fully depreciated when they are put into service. This situation is justified by the instability of the contexts and difficult conditions in which Fondation Hironnelle operates, which make it difficult to determine their generally short useful life and residual value.

g) Financial assets

Financial fixed assets are recorded in the balance sheet at acquisition cost, taking into account the necessary value adjustments.

h) Provisions

Provisions represent the value of future cash outflows resulting from past events, occurring without compensation. A reliable estimate of the amount of the provision can be made. These provisions are separated into short-term if the use is estimated to be less than twelve months, or beyond that if the provisions are allocated to long-term.

i) Product recognition

Funding contracts

Revenue from funding contracts with donors (governments, foundations, cantons, companies and others) is recognized as revenue in the year in which the funded expenditure is incurred.

Amounts received for a specific project, which have not been used at the balance sheet date and will be used in future years, and where there are contractual stipulations specifying the possibility of returning the asset to the funder, are recorded under the balance sheet liability item "Deferred financing". Amounts not received for a specific project for which the financed expenses have been incurred at the balance sheet date are recorded under the balance sheet heading "Financing receivable". The portion of financing receivable for signed funding contracts covering future periods is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Budgetary commitments related to funding contracts are considered as contingent liabilities.

Income from services and donations

Income from services provided (management contracts, expert services, etc.) is recognized when it is definitively acquired by Fondation Hironnelle. It is considered as unrestricted income, unless otherwise specified by the donor.

All other income received without specific earmarking is recorded as unrestricted income. If not used, the balance is allocated to free capital (generated).

Funds from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Summary of funding development (according to the capital variation chart)	State of funds on 1.1.2021	Attributions to funds	Utilisation for projects	Payments not spent as of 31.12.2021	Payments to be received as of 31.12.2021	State of funds on 31.12.2021
SDC programme contribution (IP)	-56 632	3 384 632	-2 996 897	331 103		331 103
SDC mandates and contributions from the Cooperation Bureaux (Buco)	65 514	2 384 494	-1 832 039	617 968		617 968

j) Taxes

Fondation Hironnelle is exempt from direct income tax according to a decision of June 12, 1995. This decision is not subject to any conditions.

Fondation Hironnelle has been subject to VAT since 01.01.2019.

k) Fundraising and communication

Fundraising and communication expenses amounted to CHF 315,666, or 2% of the Fondation's total expenses.

2/ COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**a) Funds governed by rules of usage****New project initiative fund (a)**

There was no change in this fund in 2021.

Solidarity fund (b) / Social fund for Fondation projects (c)

In order to ensure a certain fairness to all our projects, it was decided by the Fondation Board that the various funds aimed at supporting Fondation Hironnelle employees in need in case of extreme situations would all be put into a single fund.

This fund is called the Solidarity Fund and totals CHF 39,218 as of 31.12.21.

Support fund (d)

The Support Fund, which is intended exclusively to consolidate the financial base of Fondation Hironnelle and to help provide it with the liquidity it needs, was replenished in 2021 by CHF 16,570 to reach a total of CHF 568,957. The funds come from free donations and from the Association of Friends of Fondation Hironnelle.

b) Compensation paid to members of governing bodies

The Select Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees work on a voluntary basis.

The remuneration of the executive management team for 2021 amounts to CHF 409,881.60 (2020: CHF 409,113.60).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN 2021*

Tony BURGNER

Chairman of the Board.
Former Managing Director of Swiss Solidarity.
Former Head of Media at the ICRC.

Mario FETZ

General Secretary of the Foundation Apprentis d'Auteuil International
Former fundraising and marketing director of WWF.

Dick MARTY

Former member of the Swiss Council of States.
Former General Prosecutor of the Canton of Ticino.

Serge MICHEL

Journalist, co-founder of Heidi News.
Former Editor in Chief of the website Le Monde Afrique.

Doris PFISTER

Adviser in organizational and strategic communication management.
Former journalist.

Nathalie PIGNARD-CHEYNEL

Director of the Academy of Journalism and Media – University of Neuchâtel.
Professor of digital journalism.

Prof. Randeria SHALINI

Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute, Geneva.
Director of the Albert Hirschman Center on Democracy.

Isabelle WERENFELS

Former journalist. Senior Fellow at the Middle East and Africa research division
of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

Martin WOKER

Former international editor of *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ).

** The updated list of members for 2022 is available on Fondation Hironnelle's website.*

Executive team

Caroline VUILLEMIN

General Director

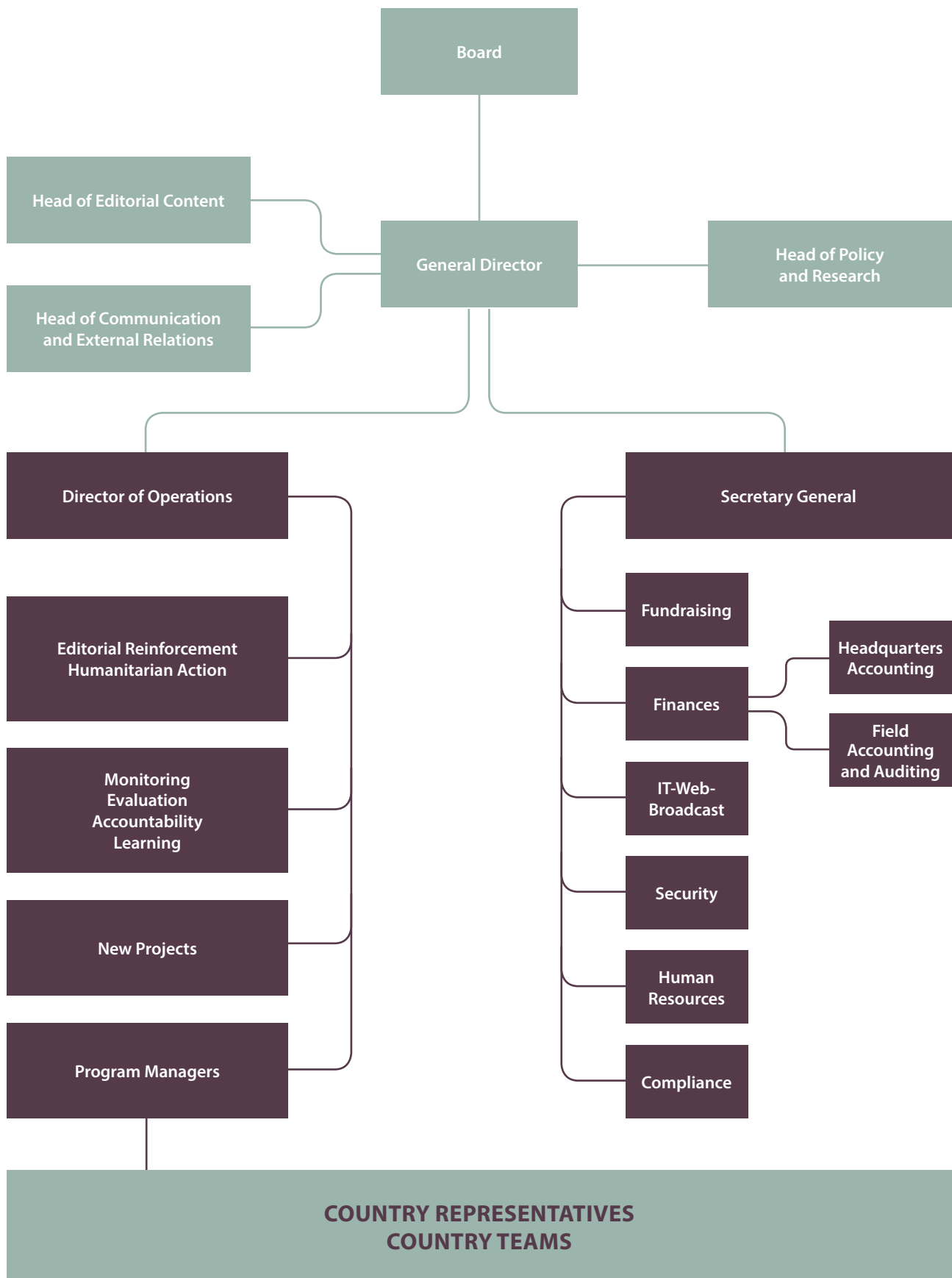
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Chief of Operations

Philippe BOVEY

Secretary General, Head of Services

ORGANISATION CHART



Director of publication

Caroline Vuillemin

Conception, edition

Nicolas Boissez

Benjamin Bibas / la fabrique documentaire

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media for peace & human dignity

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Fondation Hirondelle is a Swiss non-profit organization which provides information to populations faced with crisis, empowering them in their daily lives and as citizens. Through our work, millions of people in war-affected countries, post-conflict areas, humanitarian crisis and societies in democratic transition have access to media that speak to them and give them a voice.

Fondation Hironnelle

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