

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

*Women at the heart
of change*



Roncalli
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION

MISSION

Together with disadvantaged populations in developing countries, we build more humane and just communities as we manifest the compassion and the Providence of God. We collaborate in empowering them through partnerships and projects that improve their living conditions and their self-sufficiency

VISION

Become a committed partner whose actions of solidarity have a positive and sustainable impact on marginalized and vulnerable populations in developing countries.

VALUES

COMPASSION

We accompany those who suffer in the world. Listening to their needs, we contribute to their spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing. We act with benevolence to end the causes of poverty.

RESPECT

We recognize the sacred nature of each person, as well as the value and dignity inherent in them. The diversity of our team and its intercultural sensitivity allow us to use our long-standing expertise to find adequate, environmentally conscious and sustainable solutions.

FAIRNESS

We treat all people fairly, especially in the context where inequalities and exclusion of vulnerable populations persist. We work to establish equality between women and men, to fight discrimination and oppression and to promote justice.

SOLIDARITY

We recognize the interconnectedness and interdependence that unites us to others. We stand with the most vulnerable populations, focusing on mutual aid, cooperation and sharing.





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WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

COMMITMENT, COURAGE AND COMPASSION FOR A
BETTER WORLD



As President of the Roncalli International Foundation, I am continually marked by the courage of the women we work with. In my role, I have the privilege of working alongside members of religious congregations, who show boundless energy and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others. For those who

sit on our Board and participate in our committees, these are additional responsibilities on top of their multiple duties within their own congregations.

As an organization founded and supported by religious congregations, these values permeate the Foundation and all those it collaborates with. Both religious members and lay persons alike give generously of their time to contribute to building a world where each person can live in dignity.

Religious congregations also have a strong tradition of supporting women in their courageous efforts to lift communities out of poverty. At the Foundation, we are proud to fund initiatives of religious congregations and other community organizations that provide opportunities for women to gain greater autonomy, which then encourages them to become active agents of change within their own communities.

In 2023, the Foundation continued to collaborate with religious congregations on our regular programming, on large-scale infrastructure projects and for the management of dedicated and endowments funds to support their actions abroad. In addition, for the first time, a congregation created a dedicated fund for the support of its members overseas.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Board members who left their seats in 2023: Esther Savoie, for her invaluable contributions as President of the Projects Committee and as a member of the Philanthropic Development and Communications Committee and the Governance and Human Resources Committee;

Gilbert Héroux, for his leadership as President of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, and later as President of the Projects Committee; and Suzanne Fortin, for her dedication as President of the Governance and Human Resources Committee. I also want to express my gratitude to our current Board members for all the time and energy they give as volunteers to help the mission of the Foundation move forward and to all of our Voting members, who play an essential role in ensuring that the Foundation's mission remains at the heart of its actions.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Foundation's team, as well as each and every one of you, for being at the heart of change! Your generosity, your unwavering support to the Foundation and your immense compassion is touching thousands of individuals who are experiencing concrete and positive changes in their lives. Together, we are building a world of humanity!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lise Casgrain".

Lise Casgrain
President

WORD OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: AT THE HEART OF SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION



At the Roncalli International Foundation, our commitment to the most vulnerable and marginalized in impoverished countries is at the centre of our mission. Unfortunately, in many countries, women continue to be denied equal opportunities, do not have access to resources, and remain excluded from full participation in society. As such, women are at the heart of many of our projects. We firmly believe that every dollar invested in women can have an exponential impact, and as part of our 2020-2024 strategic plan, we added a specific area of action to support the empowerment of women, an area that we continue to see grow. Channeling our efforts into promoting women's equality brings many societal benefits. Here are just a few:

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- Women leaders bring unique perspectives and promote more inclusive decision-making, leading to better representation of community needs in projects.
- Investing in girls' education creates a transformative impact by breaking the cycle of poverty over the long term.
- Women's economic empowerment stimulates local economic growth, as they typically reinvest a significant proportion of their earnings back into their families and communities.
- Women play a central role in strengthening social and community networks, fostering solidarity and resilience in the face of challenges.

I got to witness these benefits firsthand, when I travelled to the Philippines in January 2023 for a field visit. I met Susan Biteng, who was found wandering the streets as a child. She was taken in by the Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation, Inc., one of the Foundation's partner organizations, which offered her shelter, food, clothing and the opportunity to receive an education. She was able to attend college and became involved in community initiatives that developed her leadership skills. Today, she is the director of this dynamic organization

that is continuing to support street children, as well as single mothers and others affected by the tragedy of urban poverty. This uplifting story is just one example of how the Foundation is triggering a cascade of positive changes through the projects it supports.

Our commitment to women was also reflected in our 2023 annual campaign, where we highlighted inspiring stories of women whose efforts have transformed lives and entire communities. And we can say with confidence that this commitment extends to all of our collaborators, who helped us attain our \$1.4 million campaign objective, which allowed us to fund 98 projects, including many where women were the main participants, as you will discover in these pages.

In 2023, we also made significant efforts to strengthen our cybersecurity and protect the personal information of all of our collaborators. In particular, we acquired new IT equipment and provided training for all our staff. In addition, we implemented the best practices and policies required by the *Act to modernize legislative provisions respecting the protection of personal information*, commonly known as Bill 25, to respect individuals' right to privacy.

Although we had many successes to celebrate in 2023, the year was also tinged with sadness as we mourned the passing of our former colleague Nicole Pilon. She will be remembered for her dedication to improving the living conditions of the most impoverished of our world and the profound relationships she built with the Foundation's partners.

Finally, I would like to thank the Foundation's team. It is an honour to lead a group of individuals who believe in a just world and work diligently towards that. And let me extend my deepest gratitude to our Board members and to all of our donors, collaborators and partners, who give us the strength and determination to pursue our work on a daily basis. Let us continue to work for a world where women, and all individuals, can be at the heart of change!

Danielle Valiquette
Executive Director

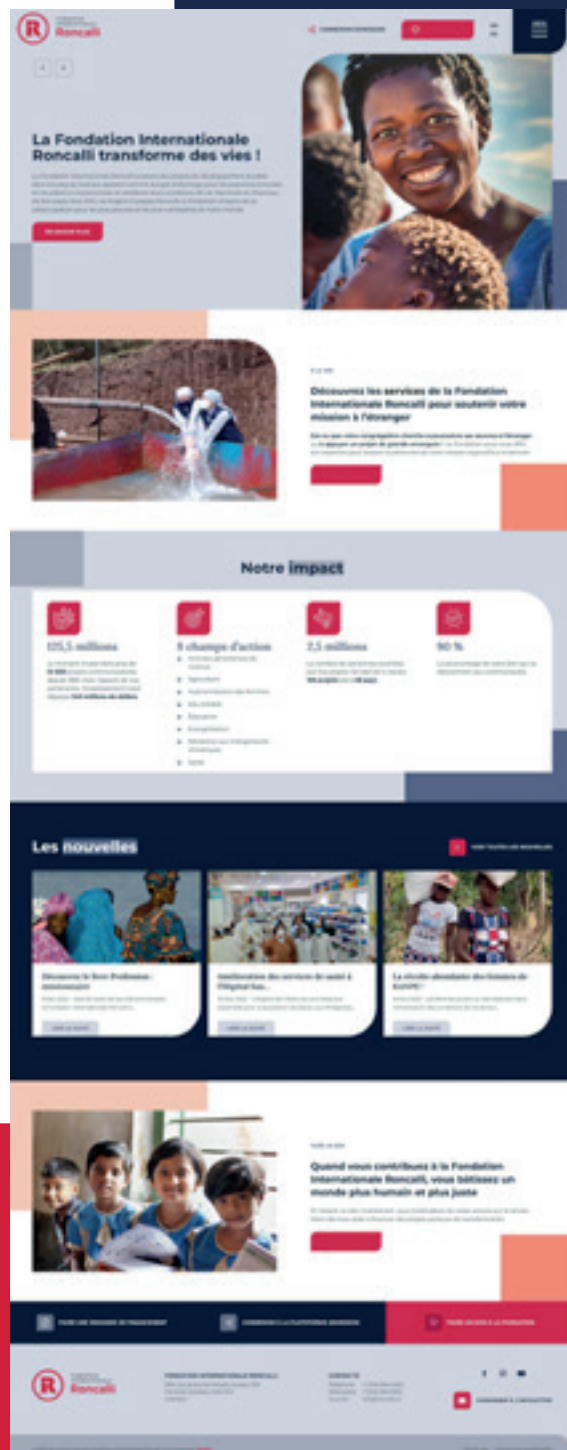
THE YEAR 2023

AT A GLANCE

The year 2023 at the Roncalli International Foundation was marked by events that were about reconnecting with those who make our mission possible and making new connections with all those who want to join us in building a world of humanity. Members of the Foundation’s team made field visits to meet with partners and see the results of projects that were financed. We also gathered with our precious collaborators here in Canada, pursued our efforts to make the Foundation better known and continued to walk side by side with religious congregations as they plan for the future of their missions overseas.

A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE FOUNDATION

In January, the Foundation unveiled its new website at www.roncalli.ca, which offers a visually dynamic space that highlights the impact of its projects and the valuable contribution of all its collaborators. When developing the new site, an emphasis was placed on creating a user-friendly experience for visitors, whether they are navigating on their phone, tablet or laptop. We added information about our dedicated funds and the new services we are offering to religious congregations, as well as sections for our latest news and success stories. On the website, visitors can learn more about the Foundation, the steps for making a grant application and ways to contribute towards the Foundation’s inspiring projects.



THE YEAR 2023

AT A GLANCE



FIELD VISITS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND CAMEROON

In 2023, members of the Foundation's team took to the road again to make field visits after a prolonged pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foundation's Executive Director, Danielle Valiquette, travelled to the Philippines, where she met with several religious congregations and local community organizations that are past and present collaborators of the Foundation. She visited the San Pedro Hospital in Davao City, which has undergone major renovations that have been managed by the Foundation, and stayed with the Daughters of Mary of the Assumption to learn more about their educational work around the region of Davao. She was also exposed to the realities of urban poverty in Manila while meeting with the Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation, Inc. and Minstrels Rhythm of Hope Inc., whose projects are providing opportunities to street children and single mothers to escape the cycle of poverty.

Kelly Di Domenico, the Director of Philanthropic Development and Communications, travelled to Cameroon,

where she visited 21 projects in 21 days. Cameroon is one of the country's where the Foundation has supported the greatest number of projects. Its collaborations with religious congregations and local community organizations have contributed significantly to improving living conditions, especially with regards to access to clean water, health services and opportunities for youth. She met with several longstanding partners of the Foundation, including the *Congrégation Notre-Dame*, the *Soeurs Servantes du Sainte-Coeur de Marie* (Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary) and *Alternatives pour le Développement Durable* (Alternatives for Sustainable Development). She witnessed firsthand how the Foundation's partners work in the remotest areas of the country, allowing them to reach the most isolated and vulnerable.

During both these visits, there were many encounters of solidarity that brought the Foundation and its partners closer together.

THE YEAR 2023

AT A GLANCE

COMING TOGETHER WITH RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

Collaborating with religious congregations is at the very heart of the Foundation's work and it was a great pleasure in 2023 to meet with several congregations and participate in gatherings with them. The Foundation had the honour of making a presentation at the 2023 conference of the Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes (ATRI) on ways religious congregations can ensure the legacy of their overseas missions. As part of the presentation, participants were invited to place pins on a large map in the countries where they have missions. We were astounded to count over 50 countries represented, indicating the incredible impact that Canadian religious congregations are making around the world!

In addition to the ATRI conference, the Foundation also participated in several events of the Association des Trésoriers et des Trésorières des Instituts Religieux (ATTIR) and organized meet and greet events in Quebec City and Montreal. All of these encounters provided for enriching exchanges, the opportunity to get to know each other better, to discuss present and future collaborations and to express our deep gratitude for all that religious congregations do to contribute to a world where all can live in dignity.



THE YEAR 2023

AT A GLANCE



WELCOMING PARTNERS

The Foundation had the pleasure of welcoming several of its partners at its offices throughout 2023. These partners provided timely updates on projects supported by the Foundation. The Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale (The Centre of Study and International Cooperation) and the Paul-Gérin Lajoie Foundation brought guests from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who spoke about their participation in a project to support income-generating activities for women so they can send their daughters to school. The Foundation also received Grégoire Ahongbonon, founder of the Saint-Camille-de-Lellis Association, which provides critical mental health care in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, members of the Kilabo Association, which supports women and youth in launching agricultural businesses in Mali and Brother Pranius Olizard of the Haitian congregation Les Petits Frères de Sainte Thérèse de L'Enfant-Jésus (The Little Brothers of Saint-Theresa of the Child-Jesus) amongst others. Staff of the Foundation also had the opportunity to do a virtual visit of the Kalkerer Sangeet Vidyalaya school in Dharwad, India. This school for vulnerable children offers a program in traditional Indian arts, and the virtual visit included a special musical performance by the students. These partner visits transport us to the projects supported by the Foundations and bring us the voices of those whose lives are impacted.

NEW SERVICE: SUPPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS OVERSEAS

As part of its efforts to help religious congregations pursue their ministries overseas, the Foundation launched a new service to help congregations provide for the daily needs of their members abroad. Congregations can establish a dedicated fund with the Foundation to serve this purpose and in 2023, the Foundation saw the creation of this type of fund for the first time by a congregation here in Canada for its members in the Philippines. The launch of this fund marked the beginning of a precious relationship that will help to sustain the congregation so its members can pursue their important community works.

OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING:

PROJECTS THAT PLACE WOMEN AT THE HEART OF CHANGE

As part of the implementation of its 2020-2024 strategic plan, the Roncalli International Foundation launched three new areas of action: the empowerment of women, income generating activities and resilience to climate change. These important updates to our work were based on consultations with our partners, an analysis of the current global context, and the best practices in the international development sector. In this way, we are ensuring that the projects we fund are responding to the essential needs of communities and having the greatest impact possible.

In the span of a year, we have seen projects in the area of the empowerment of women grow from 3 in 2022 to 12 in 2023, revealing the resounding relevance of focusing on projects that provide women with opportunities to become more autonomous, participate fully in society and reach their potential.

Women, however, are at the heart of many of our projects in all of our areas of action. Whether it be in the sector of health to help women access medical care that meets their specific needs; in education to support girls in furthering their studies; in water and sanitation so that women no longer have to travel long and unsafe roads to collect water; or in agriculture to provide women small-scale farmers with the resources they need to thrive, we recognize that when we invest in women, we invest in the wellbeing of all of society.

Thanks to the diligence of our partners and the commitment of our donors, we can support projects that place women at the heart of change and as you will see in the stories presented in the following pages, this contributes fundamentally to building a world of humanity that is more caring and inclusive.



OUR IMPACT

IN 2023:

98
PROJECTS

29
COUNTRIES

3,470,233
PEOPLE IMPACTED

\$2,394,958
ALLOCATED

OUR IMPACT

BY REGION



AFRICA

15 COUNTRIES

56 PROJECTS

3,143,179 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

\$1,240,238 ALLOCATED



ASIA

2 COUNTRIES

4 PROJECTS

30,435 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

\$128,935 ALLOCATED



LATIN AMERICA

9 COUNTRIES

15 PROJECTS

156,926 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

\$320,546 ALLOCATED

THE CARIBBEAN

3 COUNTRIES

23 PROJECTS

139,693 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

\$705,239 ALLOCATED

THE IMPACT

OF OUR PROJECTS BY AREA OF ACTION



AGRICULTURE

7

COUNTRIES

8

PROJECTS

525,021

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$215,139

ALLOCATED



EDUCATION

13

COUNTRIES

30

PROJECTS

209,821

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$733,141

ALLOCATED



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

9

COUNTRIES

12

PROJECTS

87,124

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$321,819

ALLOCATED



HEALTH

9

COUNTRIES

12

PROJECTS

2,335,731

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$338,508

ALLOCATED

THE IMPACT

OF OUR PROJECTS BY AREA OF ACTION



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

5

COUNTRIES

6

PROJECTS

116,456

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$119,692

ALLOCATED



PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

9

COUNTRIES

18

PROJECTS

126,782

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$320,836

ALLOCATED



RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1

COUNTRY

1

PROJECT

2,724

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$29,040

ALLOCATED



WATER AND SANITATION

8

COUNTRIES

11

PROJECTS

66,574

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

\$316,783

ALLOCATED

WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE IN AFRICA

AMOUNT ALLOCATED:

\$18,328

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:

25

COUNTRY:

CAMEROON

LOCAL PARTNER:

Soeurs de St. Paul de Chartres



LIGHTING UP THE FUTURE FOR YOUNG GIRLS IN NKOMETOU: SOLAR POWER FOR EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Located north of Yaoundé, in the heart of Cameroon, the Nkometou Girls’ Home, established by the congregation of the Soeurs de St. Paul de Chartres, is a symbol of hope and transformation. The Home offers free accommodation to young girls from rural areas so that they can attend a nearby high school. Without this home, they would not have the opportunity to pursue their education.

However, the area is often plunged into darkness without warning due to prolonged power cuts that can last for days. The girls were forced to use gas lamps that provided little light and were costly and dangerous, jeopardizing their studies and endangering their lives. It was against this backdrop, and to respond to this challenge, that the project to install solar power at the Home came about.

An essential resource for the wellbeing and the full integral development of each person, electricity unfortunately remains inaccessible for millions of people around the world. This energy insecurity particularly affects women and girls in developing countries and amplifies gender disparities by creating additional obstacles for women. It limits their economic prospects and exposes them to greater health risks, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and inequality.

“Thanks to the solar panels, we have been lucky enough to have a freezer that allows us to preserve food. And we can even study at night!” say the girls. This project joins other initiatives financed by the Foundation in 2020 and 2021,

such as the drilling of a well and the purchase of furniture for the Home. All in all, it provides an environment conducive to learning and development for these young women, some of whom have even gone on to study at university.

This project is brightening lives and reminds every young woman in the community that education and empowerment can shine thanks to the commitment of those who dare to dream of a better world. Investing in this energy transition is crucial to achieving gender equality and combatting energy insecurity, paving the way to a more equitable and sustainable future for all.



WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE



AMOUNT ALLOCATED:

\$10,187

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:

172

COUNTRY:

BOLIVIA

LOCAL PARTNER:

*Fundación para la promoción
e investigación de productos
andinos*

A RIVER OF HOPE: A NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM TRANSFORMS WOMEN'S LIVES IN CHURURI

In the region of Cochabamba, where water is a scarce resource and rainfall irregular, the challenges of water management are numerous and persistent for both consumption and agriculture. This problem, which has been entrenched for decades, is exacerbated by rapid demographic growth and the consequences of climate change. Moreover, wastewater discharged into the nearby Rocha River is sometimes reused for agricultural irrigation, exposing producers and consumers to the risk of contamination and disease.

In the Indigenous community of Chururi, nestled in the Andes Mountains, women are on the frontlines in dealing with these challenges. Responsible for their households, they grapple daily with the consequences of water scarcity, as well as food insecurity due to low crop yields. Against this backdrop, Fundación para la promoción e investigación de productos andinos (Foundation for the Promotion and Research of Andean Produce) has launched the Rivers of Hope in Chururi project, which is committed to installing a sprinkler irrigation system. The aim is to revitalize the land and improve the harvests of the region's 132 inhabitants. The Roncalli International Foundation's contribution to this project allowed for the purchase of essential materials and equipment for the installation of the system.

In an environment where economic instability and massive water seepage compromised agricultural development, this initiative has rapidly become a beacon of hope and renewal. By replacing the old, archaic irrigation system, the project

has opened up new horizons for the community, embodying the power of collective collaboration and environmental responsibility. Developed in conjunction with the Chururi community, it is in keeping with an approach that respects nature, using sustainable practices and technologies.

The results are impressive: water losses, once abysmal at 73%, have been reduced; efficiency of water use now exceeds 90%; and arable land has gone from 13 to 87 hectares, ensuring greater food security and economic autonomy for the community.

Beyond these tangible achievements, the project has had a profoundly human effect. By ending the temporary migration of men in search of a livelihood, it has strengthened family and community ties, freed women and children from the burden of maintaining the old canals, and allowed them to engage in other activities.

The project is a testament to the transformation that becomes possible when compassion is combined with action. It has offered Chururi much more than a water supply for its land; it has given it a source of hope for the future.

WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE IN ASIA

AMOUNT ALLOCATED:
\$33,368

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:
4,608

COUNTRY:
PHILIPPINES

LOCAL PARTNER:
*Kaibigan Ermita Outreach
 Foundation, Inc.*



EMPOWERING MOTHERS IN MANILA: ESSENTIAL TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Manila’s dominant skyscrapers obscure its urban poverty and hide a situation of extreme precariousness for many vulnerable or broken families, who are often relegated to the margins of society. Under the bridges that cross the city, thousands of Filipinos lives in makeshift shelters. They make up around one-third of the population of this city of 15 million inhabitants, many of whom are single mothers struggling to meet their family’s needs.

Approximately one in three citizens is considered a squatter, which represents at least 540,000 families. Of these families, almost 70,000 have taken up residence under bridges, which contributes to impeding the flow of water due to the accumulation of garbage. While these people are not necessarily unemployed, they are nevertheless living below the poverty line. Faced with this reality, Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation, Inc. is actively committed to the empowerment of women and the protection of children.

With financial support from the Roncalli International Foundation, Kaibigan offers tailored trainings designed to support single mothers, while giving them access to microcredits. This support enables them to find a job or start their own small business, which strengthens their autonomy and socio-economic role within the community. In this way, mothers can improve their living conditions, lift themselves and their children out of their perilous situations and reclaim their dignity.

Kaibigan’s workshops also enable young people to turn away from delinquency and become agents of change, ready to shape a better future for themselves and their community.

Empowering women is an essential lever for combating child labour, as it improves the wellbeing of children and their access to education. Providing mothers with the financial means to act, notably through access to affordable credit, strengthens their ability to meet family expenses, such as school fees and nutritious food, contributing to an overall improvement in living conditions.

Investing in the empowerment of vulnerable mothers is an investment in the future of an entire generation. Their empowerment is closely linked to the health and educational prospects of their children. In this way, it helps to protect the community as a whole.



WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE IN EDUCATION



AMOUNT ALLOCATED:

\$28,997

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:

100

COUNTRY:

COLOMBIA

LOCAL PARTNER:

*Fundación Casa de la Mujer
Nelly Bernal Mejía*

OPENING THE DOOR TO EMANCIPATION: A NEW DIGITAL HORIZON FOR CRISTO REY

In the heart of the Cristo Rey district in Santa Marta, northern Colombia, there's a shocking reality: 99% of the population - 4,625 people - live in poverty and juggle precarious jobs. This already vulnerable community is also struggling with an influx of migrants from Venezuela, exacerbating the difficulties caused by armed conflict and forced displacement.

In this difficult situation, children roam the streets, exposed to the dangers posed by gangs, drug trafficking, armed groups and prostitution. The fact that school is only available half the day makes the situation even worse: children are left unsupervised for much of the day, as their parents are at work. All of these factors place children at risk of dropping out, delinquency and crime. Girls between the ages of 10 and 16 are particularly vulnerable. They often find themselves in situations of early pregnancy, which constitutes a serious health risk for young mothers and their infant.

In the face of these alarming challenges, education is proving to be a beacon of hope, guiding children towards a better future. In hopes of offering activities that encourage children to leave the streets, a consultation was held with members of the community, which identified the need for information technology (IT) courses. Bearing this in mind, the Fundación Casa de la Mujer Nelly Bernal Mejía (The Nelly Bernal Mejía Women's House Foundation), with financial support from the Roncalli International Foundation, undertook a project to create a computer centre. Its aim: to

reduce digital inequalities and combat dropping out, crime and teenage pregnancy.

The Foundation financed the purchase of computers, other IT equipment and furniture for the centre. Thanks to this facility, children between the ages of 10 and 15 now have the opportunity to acquire technical skills, which will help foster their personal and professional development. It will offer them a positive alternative solution, particularly for young girls, who will be given the chance to be at the heart of their own emancipation.



WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

AMOUNT ALLOCATED:

\$34,955

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:

15,187

COUNTRY:

HAITI

LOCAL PARTNER:

*Association des femmes pour
le développement de Baille
Tourible (ASOFAB)*



THE MULTIPLIER BENEFITS OF WOMEN LEADERS: RAISING THE VOICES OF THE WOMEN OF BAILLE TOURIBLE

In some regions of Haiti, persistent insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic has tested the community's resilience. Although rural women account for 70% of Haiti's agricultural workforce, the farming sector remains dominated by men, who own the majority of the land. However, it is women who bear the brunt of this situation: they often sacrifice their own meals to feed the rest of the family, and girls are frequently forced to drop out of school to contribute to the family income.

Indeed, women and youth experience higher levels of poverty due to a patriarchal social structure. Statistics show that in Haiti, 71% of women own neither land nor a house and that only 9% are property owners. Yet, if Haiti's women farmers had equal access to productive resources, agricultural production could increase by almost 30%.

Faced with these challenges, the women of Baille Tourible found the strength to support each other and pursue their quest for autonomy. They developed an innovative project entirely managed by a committee made up of women: the creation of a goat-breeding social enterprise. At the heart of this initiative is the Association des femmes pour le développement de Baille Tourible (ASOFAB) (the Association of Women for the Development of Baille Tourible), which is composed of 65 determined women.

With the support of the Roncalli International Foundation, ASOFAB has brought this project to fruition, making it a symbol of economic autonomy and emancipation for the

women of Baille Tourible. Thanks to the installation of a solar energy system and the reinforcement of the goat shelter, the women can envision a more secure and prosperous future for their families and community. This project embodies the story of women who are working to transform their own lives, and build a better future for their families and society as a whole. When women control more of the family income, children benefit, as more is spent on food and education. By investing in this project, the Foundation is not only contributing to the economic development of Baille Tourible, but also to the autonomy, dignity and resilience of women who are its key stakeholders.



WOMEN

AT THE HEART OF CHANGE OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



AMOUNT ALLOCATED:

\$30,191

PEOPLE SUPPORTED:

5,150

COUNTRY:

Democratic Republic of the Congo

LOCAL PARTNER:

Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul

THE MPUMBU COMMUNITY BAKERY: FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PROSPERITY FOR THE “MAMANS-VENDEUSES”

Political unrest, armed conflict and massive population displacement have exacerbated food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With almost 27.3 million people facing severe food shortages, and nearly 3.4 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the humanitarian emergency is palpable.

The town of Mpumbu, situated at the crossroads of the province of Kongo Central and the city of Kinshasa, has not been spared from this food crisis. Bread, which is a main dietary staple, is mostly supplied from Kinshasa, whose population surpassed 17 million in 2021. Although there are a few bread-making factories, they are far from meeting the growing demand. This critical situation was contributing to two major problems in Mpumbu. On the one hand, this shortage of bread was forcing the “mamans-vendeuses” (mama-sellers) to make perilous journeys to Kinshasa at dawn to obtain bread to sell at the market, exposing them to various threats to their health and personal safety. Furthermore, the establishment of small-scale bakeries was leading to massive deforestation, threatening the local environmental equilibrium.

To counter hunger and promote food self-sufficiency, the Roncalli International Foundation supported an initiative of the Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul (Religious of Saint-Vincent de Paul) that is as humble as it is essential: the creation of a community mini-bakery in Mpumbu. This venture goes far beyond a simple commercial project; for the women of the region, it embodies hope and autonomy. The long early morning journeys, marked by insecurity, road

accidents, violence and muggings on the roads leading to bakeries far from the neighbourhood, as well as the risks of bread contamination linked to the distances covered, are now a thing of the past. Thanks to the commitment of these determined women, healthy, nutritious bread is now within reach. What's more, this initiative frees up time of the women for other income generating activities. The bakery has also created new local employment prospects, helping to strengthen the region's economy.

The benefits of the project were immediate and far-reaching. This bakery embodies the region's economic and social renewal, offering local women an invaluable opportunity for autonomy and prosperity. Neighbourhood congestion is down, health risks are reduced, and most importantly, family incomes are up. With a 25% profit margin on their bread sales, the “mamans-vendeuses” have become the creators of their own success, helping to reshape the landscape of the local economy.



OUR DEDICATED PROJECTS:

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT AT THE FOREFRONT

Each year, the Roncalli International Foundation manages a certain number of dedicated projects that are funded by specific donors. These projects are financed through endowment funds, dedicated funds and dedicated donations, creating impactful partnerships based on the vision and commitment of the donor, the expertise and accompaniment of the Foundation and the resourcefulness and determination of the partners in the field.

Many of these funds have been established by religious congregations in order to ensure the continuation of their missions overseas and place their sisters at the heart of social change for the better. The projects supported by these funds contribute to providing essential health services, making education accessible, empowering youth and more, often creating the conditions for raising the standards of living of communities, especially for women.

OF THE 19 DEDICATED PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE FOUNDATION IN 2023:

- 15 were funded through endowment funds: Projects included the purchase of furniture for 11 schools in Haiti; financial support to seminaries and dioceses for the studies of future priests; two water and sanitation projects; and the purchase of materials and resources for a program to encourage the education of at-risk children in Ecuador.
- 4 were funded through dedicated funds: Two projects provided support to two youth leadership centres in Peru that were founded by a Canadian religious congregation. The Foundation was also able to fund one project through its Haiti Assistance Fund and another project to support the members of a Canadian religious congregation in the Philippines.
- 1 was a large-scale infrastructure project: The Foundation signed an agreement with a Canadian religious congregation to manage major renovations of the operating block of a hospital in the Philippines. The project began at the end of 2023 and will continue over the next year.

THE IMPACT OF OUR DEDICATED PROJECTS

20

PROJECTS

15

COUNTRIES

133,340

PEOPLE SUPPORTED

\$1,481,486

DISTRIBUTED



HERE WE SHARE WITH YOU THE RESULTS FROM TWO FUNDS THAT ARE MANAGED BY THE FOUNDATION.

HAITI ASSISTANCE FUND **THE BAILLAIRGÉ FUND**

The Roncalli International Foundation's Haiti Assistance Fund is a cornerstone of our commitment to rebuilding and supporting Haitian communities affected by disasters. Created in response to the 2010 earthquake and still active today, this fund recently provided invaluable assistance to the victims of the 2021 earthquake that struck the southern peninsula of the country.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors to this fund, the Foundation was able to support more than 7,000 people in 2023. They benefitted from the refurbishment of a solar energy system at the Vieux Bourg d'Aquin mission of the Petites Sœurs de Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus (Little Sisters of Saint Theresa of the Child-Jesus), in the South department. The members of this congregation, the first locally-founded female congregation in Haiti, play a crucial role in providing essential services to isolated farming communities, in particular to women and children.

After the devastating earthquake of August 14, 2021, the community of Vieux Bourg d'Aquin was plunged into darkness, exacerbating the already precarious situation caused by a combination of economic, political, social and environmental challenges.

The mission's buildings, including a hospital, a school attended by 998 students, and a residence for the sisters, lost their source of solar power. This deprived the inhabitants of essential medical services and the students of their right to an education in appropriate conditions.

The Foundation provided \$29,500 towards the project to replace the energy system destroyed by the earthquake. The new solar panels were installed on the sisters' residence. This repair work has had a considerable impact: it has enabled young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to resume their studies in an optimal environment, and has ensured that the hospital's medical equipment is functioning properly, improving the quality of care provided by the staff.

This initiative by the Foundation marks a step forward in the reconstruction process, transforming tragedy into opportunity.

Thanks to the dedicated women of this congregation, the members of the Vieux Bourg d'Aquin community, particularly vulnerable women and children, have hope for a better future.

This endowment fund was created in 2021 to pursue the activities of the former Baillaigé Foundation, which was started by Dr. Claude Baillaigé in 1986 to support the formation of future priests. Through this fund, the Foundation was able to support the training of 294 seminarians in 12 countries in 2023. Of these seminarians, 32 were ordained priests, achieving these Holy Orders thanks to the generosity and prayers of the donors to the Baillaigé Fund.

The Baillaigé Fund also provides funding for water and sanitation projects, and in 2023, the Foundation was able to support the drilling of a well in the community of Meyomessala in Cameroon, as well as the installation of well and water tower at a school for disadvantaged children in Uganda.

All of these achievements would not have been possible were it not for the faith and commitment of Dr. Baillaigé, who sadly passed away on February 17th, 2024 at the age of 89. He leaves behind a great legacy that the Foundation is proud to uphold. Through his works, thousands of seminarians have been able to respond to the call of God and follow their vocation. Today, they are at the service of communities all over the world, providing spiritual guidance and promoting social justice. The time and dedication he placed into building his foundation so that others could have a brighter future is a testament to his faith and firm belief in the power of solidarity.



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OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND VOTING MEMBERS



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Executive Director

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Kelly Di Domenico
Director of Philanthropic Development
and Communications

Catherine Aubry
Communications Officer

Sissi Fourzali
Temporary Communications Officer



PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



AGRICULTURE

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Bolivia	Fundación para la promoción e investigación de productos andinos	Construction of an irrigation system in the community of Chururi
Cameroon	Association Femmes Solidaires de Mbalmayo	Agricultural training for the women of Elat-Meyong in Mbalmayo
Cameroon	Diocese of Bafia	Construction of a diocesan piggery
Cuba	Cooperativa de Crédito y Servicios Luis Rustan Rodríguez	Acquisition of materials and equipment for two agricultural cooperatives in Guantanamo Bay
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Centre d'apprentissage et d'accompagnement professionnel	Drilling of a well and acquisition of equipment for a training centre in Bunia
Dominican Republic	Hermanitos de Santa Teresa del Niño-Jesús	Building a chicken coop in San Pedro de Macoris
Kenya	Brothers of Christian Instruction	Installation of an irrigation system at the Providence residence in Nairobi



PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



EDUCATION

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Brazil	Archdiocese of Vitória	Support for the program "Building peace within oneself and in one's environment"
Brazil	Fé e Alegria do Brasil	Acquisition of computer equipment for an education centre in Manaus
Brazil	Missionário da Consolata	Support for the program "Promoting cultural awareness among Yanomami youth"
Burkina Faso	Actions solidaires et fraternelles pour les pauvres	Acquisition of computer equipment for a youth training centre in the commune of Pissila
Colombia	Fundación Casa de la Mujer Nelly Bernal Mejía	Purchase of materials and equipment for the Centre Solicolque computer room
Cameroon	Frères du Sacré-Cœur	Rehabilitation of sports facilities at Collège Saint-Michel in Douala
Cameroon	Sœurs Servantes du Saint-Cœur de Marie	Acquisition of furniture for the Marie Moisan girls' centre
Côte d'Ivoire	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Acquisition of furniture and equipment for the Abengourou Novitiate
Côte d'Ivoire	Missionnaires de la Consolata	Purchase of school equipment for Notre-Dame de Sago school
Côte d'Ivoire	Missionnaires de la Consolata	Rehabilitation of Arrah Konankro village school
Côte d'Ivoire	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Rehabilitation of the Adjamé nursery school playground
Côte d'Ivoire and Democratic Republic of the Congo	Réseau des anciens étudiants en Côte d'Ivoire et République démocratique du Congo	Support for the program "Building peace within oneself and in one's environment"
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Missionnaires de la Consolata	Acquisition of equipment for a computer centre in the San-Fil district of Kinshasa
Ecuador	Nuevo Cojimies	Refurbishment of the Sucre Mieles elementary school building in Cojimies
Haiti	Congrégation des Sœurs de Sainte-Croix	Installation of a solar energy system at Milot school
Haiti	Notre-Dame d'Altagrâce parish	Renovation of the Savane Longue parish sponsored school

PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION

Haiti	Petites Sœurs de Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus	Installation of a solar energy system at the Barradères mission
Haiti	Union des producteurs apicoles d'Haïti	Rehabilitation of the Frère Exprima César school in Carrefour
Haiti	Sœurs de la Charité de Saint-Louis	Refurbishment of a sanitary block at La Ruche school in Les Cayes
Haiti	Congrégation des Sœurs de Sainte-Croix	Renovation of school premises in Thibeau
Haiti	Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Vallier	Acquisition of computer equipment for the Institution Père Médaille in Cap-Haïtien
Haiti	Sœurs missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception	Installation of a solar energy system and purchase of computers for Hinche school
Haiti	Missionnaires de Notre-Dame de la Salette	Renovation of a school kitchen at the parish sponsored school in Gonaïves
Haiti	Sœurs missionnaires du Christ-Roi	Expansion of Saint-Marc de la Montagne school
Madagascar	Frères maristes	Installation of a solar energy system for Saint-Joseph school in Antsirabé
Madagascar	Sœurs missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception	Acquisition of furniture and equipment for the rehabilitation of a school in Morondava
Nicaragua	Hermanos de la Caridad	Acquisition of training materials and equipment for vulnerable children in Granada
Philippines	Minstrels Rhythm of Hope Inc.	Acquisition of equipment for a multi-purpose learning centre in Manila
Tanzania	Consolata Missionnaires	Installation of an electrical system at the Bikira Maria Consolata nursery school in Gezaulole
Togo	Association Solidarité pour la Vie	Refurbishment of Bafilo secondary school

PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Benin	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Construction of a women's centre in Djougou
Benin	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Creation of a day-care centre to promote women's economic activity in Tanguiéta
Cameroon	Sœurs de Saint-Paul de Chartres	Installation of a solar energy system at the Nkometou Girls' Home
Cameroon	Groupe d'initiative commune des éleveurs au Pied de la Montagne	Support for training in chicken farming for women in the Melong community
Chad	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Refurbishment of the Sarh girls' residence
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Association de défense des droits de la femme et de l'enfant	Setting up socio-economic activities for survivors of sexual violence
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Juka Utante	Support for sewing training for female child mine workers in Mbujimayi
Mali	Association Kilabo	Setting up agricultural activities for women and girls
Philippines	Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation, Inc.	Support for training on the protection and rights of women and children in Manila
Senegal	Association africaine agricole et culturelle	Support for a sustainable and resilient economy in the villages of Niandianki and Faraba
Tanzania	Tanzania Education and Micro-Business Opportunity	Improving safety at the Longido girls' residence



PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



HEALTH

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Benin	Association Saint-Camille-de-Lellis	Refurbishment of the interior walls of the care units at the Tokan centre
Cameroon	Diocese of Kribi	Acquisition of furniture and equipment for rooms at Saint-François hospital in Kribi
Cameroon	Sœurs de l'Enfant Jésus-Nicolas Barré	Medical equipment sent to Nicolas Barré hospital in Yaoundé
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul	Installation of a solar energy system at the Saint-Vincent de Paul hospital in Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Caritas Développement Inongo	Dispatch of biomedical equipment for a laboratory in the diocese of Inongo
Haiti	Salésiennes missionnaires de Marie Immaculée	Expansion of a health clinic in Dessalines
Kenya	Consolata Missionaries	Installation of a solar energy system at the Camisassa nursing home in Nairobi
Tanzania	Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro	Improving visual health services at Huruma Hospital
Togo	Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Apôtres	Acquisition of laboratory equipment for the Kolowaré medical-social centre
Uganda	St. Mary's Hospital Lacor	Acquisition of medical equipment for rapid diagnosis of respiratory and cardiac problems
Uganda	St. Mary's Hospital Lacor	Acquisition of medical equipment to improve the quality of endoscopic examinations

PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Brazil	Missionário da Consolata	Support for the handicrafts of the Macuxi Indigenous people in Camara
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul	Setting up a community bakery in Mpumbu
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul	Outfitting a community store in Matadi-Mayo
Peru	Monasterio De Trinitarias	Purchase of equipment for the embroidery workshop of the Hermanas Trinitarias de Marcará
Tanzania	Consolata Missionnaires	Building a chicken coop at Kimbiji Mission School
Togo	Coopérative des femmes solidaires de Kuma Adamé	Purchase of equipment for a cooperative bakery for women in the village of Kuma Adamé



PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Benin	Diocese of Dassa-Zoumé	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Burkina Faso	Sœurs de l’Immaculée-Conception de Ouagadougou	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Cameroon	Filles de la Sainte Famille de Bafoussam	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Cameroon	Saint André Kaggwa de Mbouassoum parish	Repairing the ceiling of the parish church
Cameroon	Saints Pierre et Paul de Melong parish	Rehabilitation of the Saint-Augustin Catholic cultural centre in Melong
Cameroon	Sœurs Servantes du Saint-Cœur de Marie	Rehabilitation of the Saint Rosaire religious residence in Mbalmayo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sœurs Servantes de Marie de Boma	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Guinea-Conakry	Monastère Saint-Joseph de Séguéya	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Haiti	Maison de formation propédeutique Saint-Paul	Installation of a solar energy system at the Hinche training centre
Haiti	Sainte-Bernadette de Gauvin parish	Purchase of furniture for Sainte-Bernadette church in Gauvin
Haiti	Petits Frères de Sainte Thérèse de l’Enfant-Jésus	Renovation of the brothers’ residence in Cap-Rouge
Haiti	Congrégation de Sainte-Croix	Setting up a mission support office in Port-au-Prince
Peru	Religiosas Hospitalarias de San José	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 3
Philippines	Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception	Renovation of the chapel at their Davao retirement home
Rwanda	Sœurs Abizeramariya	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 2
Rwanda	Sœurs Abizeramariya	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 2
Rwanda	Sœurs Abizeramariya	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 2
Rwanda	Sœurs Abizeramariya	Training in vulnerable communities – Immersion year 2

PROJECTS

BY AREA OF ACTION



RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Haiti	Institut de recherche et d'appui technique en aménagement du milieu (IRATAM)	Agricultural adaptations to climate change in Mombin-Crochu



WATER AND SANITATION

COUNTRY	LOCAL PARTNER	PROJECT
Cameroon	Congrégation du Saint-Esprit	Drilling of a well and installation of a water tower in Yaoundé
Costa Rica	Asociación Administradora del Acueducto San Buenas (ASADA)	Rehabilitation of infrastructure for drinking water in Coronada de Osa
Haiti	Saint Jules parish	Installation of a drinking water system at Le Borgne
Haiti	Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Vallier	Drilling of a well with an electric pump at Saint-Michel-de-l'Attalaye school
Haiti	Sœurs de la Providence	Installation of a drinking water system at Mission de Moron
Honduras	Asociación para el Desarrollo Económico, Científico y Tecnológico	Installation of a drinking water distribution system in La Caña
India	SOPAR-Bala Vikasa	Installation of water purification systems in rural villages in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
Mali	Yiriwa Bulonba – CERFADEL	Drilling of a well and installation of a water tower in Markala
Peru	Asociación Alas de Esperanza	Installation of a drinking water system at Condor Paccha
Peru	Asociación Alas de Esperanza	Installation of a drinking water system in the village of Tahuanti
Uganda	Claretian Missionaries	Installation of a rainwater collection and preservation system at St. Claret School





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CANADA

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