

2022 IN FIGURES

23,535 sponsored children
70,000 supported children
1,044 sponsorship programmes
153 development programmes
(of which one in France)

1,200 volunteers
112 local staff employed in Asia
70 delegations in France and overseas
49 overseas volunteers based in Asia
40 staff (in France and four overseas)
9 trainees

Expenditure of €14.2m, of which:

- 84.5% charitable expenditure
- 10.3% fundraising costs
- 5.2% operating costs

Income of €14.3m



Dear Friends,

In 2022 it was back to normal for Children of the Mekong (COTM) following a long and difficult period. With the Covid pandemic at an end, schools reopened, our office resumed normal operation and we were once again able to send overseas volunteers to most of the countries in which we operate.

For two years we had little direct presence on the ground in Asia. But **our relationship with local managers and partners grew stronger** as they took on more responsibilities, profiting from our 65 years of experience and taking full advantage of advanced communication technology.

In Myanmar there is no end in sight to the civil war. Most NGOs have pulled out but COTM is still there, meeting the needs of local partners by supplying basic essentials and supporting informal schools that are helping to educate 15,000 children.

2022 Headlines :

- **We sponsored 23,535 children** (133 more than in 2021) and ran 1,044 sponsorship programmes.
- There was a 6% reduction to €3.7m in expenditure on development programmes. **Expenditure in 2021 was higher** because we supplied emergency food aid in several countries during the Covid pandemic.
- **We continued to offer more than educational and moral support alone.** In our 10 education centres

and 78 boarding houses, which serve more than 2,500 young people, and via our sponsorship programmes, we provide holistic training which combines educational and leisure activities, sometimes in conjunction with partners, and always with the help of the **Bamboos!**

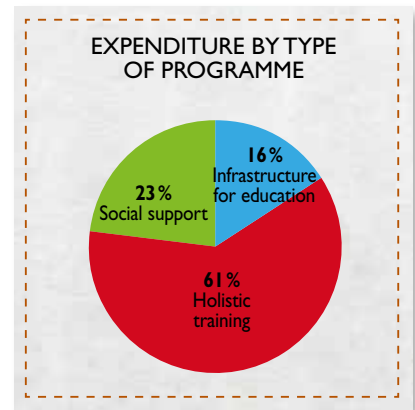
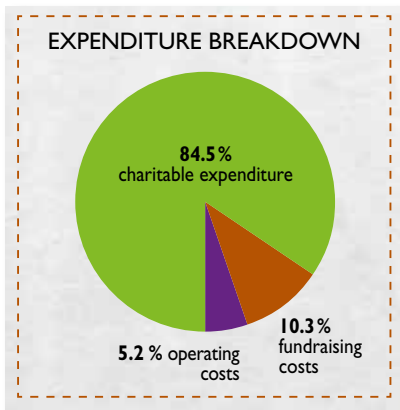
- We continued to innovate, making our website more user-friendly, and using **digital technology** to facilitate communication between sponsors and the children they sponsor.
- **Total expenditure increased** by 1.5% to €14,207,224. Income was steady at €14,349,105.
- At year end there was a **surplus** of €98,906.
- **Financial donations**, donations in kind, and the input of volunteers were together worth €3.4m.

The 2022 accounts were approved by the auditors and adopted unanimously at the Annual General Meeting on 15 June 2023. The full financial report can be downloaded from the Financial Transparency page of our website. **Thanks to you we can continue to pursue our goal** of ensuring that disadvantaged children grow over time to play a leading role in the development of their countries. Thank you for your loyal support. ■

Alain Deblock, Chairman,
Children of the Mekong / Enfants du Mekong



Children of the Mekong



Expenditure this financial year

The accounts split expenditure into three categories:

1. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE (expenditure on programme delivery and management in Asia and in France)

Total charitable expenditure in 2022 increased slightly to €11.998m, compared to €11.94m in the previous year. After a fall in expenditure in 2020 caused by Covid, there were increases in 2021 and 2022 primarily in order to meet needs resulting from the pandemic and from the civil war in Myanmar. **Charitable expenditure accounted for 83.5% of all expenditure by COTM.**

Child sponsorship - 23,535 children were being sponsored at year end, 133 more than at the end of 2021. In the year 1,397 sponsorships started and 1,264 came to an end. Numbers increased most in Myanmar and in Cambodia. Sponsorship rates, last adjusted in 2017, are currently €28 for school pupils and €43 for students in higher education (who represent 8% of the total number of young people being sponsored). 87% of sponsors support a given individual (with whom they correspond), and 13% contribute to the costs of running boarding houses and education centres. The cost of running the child sponsorship programme increased slightly to €1.354m



Development programmes - To complement the child sponsorship programme we undertook 152 development programmes in Asia, at a total cost of €3.65m (inclusive of programme administration and management costs of €0.448m).

They were of three main types:

● **Supply of basic essentials and social support** - Projects designed to ensure that children have a decent standard of living, particularly in Myanmar, but also house-building and renovation projects and the provision of food aid, health services and support for social structures in other countries where we operate.

- HEALTH, HYGIENE, NUTRITION, BASIC ESSENTIALS: 40 PROJECTS
- HOUSE-BUILDING AND RENOVATION: 8
- SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL STRUCTURES: 19
- SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: 1 (SOIERIES DU MEKONG / SILK-WEAVERS OF THE MEKONG)

● **Infrastructure for education** - Building schools, and boarding houses near schools for children

living in remote areas. Provision of educational equipment and materials. Supply of means of transport (bicycles, school buses).

- CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF SCHOOLS: 4 PROJECTS
- CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF BOARDING HOUSES: 15
- EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS: 9
- SCHOOL TRANSPORT: 8

● **Holistic training** - Provided in our centres and boarding houses in Cambodia, in the Philippines and in Myanmar. These facilities gave a vivid demonstration of their worth by remaining open throughout 2021 when so many pupils were dropping out of education elsewhere.

- 6 EDUCATION CENTRES IN CAMBODIA
- 4 EDUCATION CENTRES IN THE PHILIPPINES
- 1 CENTRE IN YANGON IN MYANMAR
- 78 BOARDING HOUSES IN THESE THREE COUNTRIES
- SCHOLARSHIPS, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SUMMER CAMPS, TRAINING, PATRONAGE
- AN ONLINE APPLICATION WHICH FEATURES GAMES DESIGNED TO FOSTER HOLISTIC TRAINING (AS IN SCOUTING), FOR USE BY ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMMES.

In France, our two main social initiatives are "J'ai un rêve" (Act for your dreams) which introduces schoolchildren to COTM and encourages social responsibility, and support for the master's programme in international development and humanitarian aid at IRCOM in Angers. Expenditure on COTM projects in France in 2022 totalled €41,090.

2. FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION COSTS

At €1.466m these costs, representing 10.3% of total expenditure, were 8% up on the previous year. But they remain well under control, at a similar level to those incurred in 2019. Expenditure of this type was lower in 2020 and 2021 because fewer events took place during the Covid pandemic and communication costs were lower.

The main fundraising activities were as follows:

- Events: like the exhibition and sale of contemporary art in June and the evening held at Les Folies Gruss in November
- Sponsorship development: via a programme *Dîners en Vert* of green dinners held in France and elsewhere on 14 May, a yacht race featuring the *Parrains Marins* (the sailing sponsors), and Christmas activities, for the sixth year running
- Gift-matching: whereby donations are matched by a small business or a care home
- Media activities
- Encouraging legacy giving
- More use of IT to facilitate online donations
- More than 200 events organised by local groups: concerts, plays, Christmas markets etc

3. OPERATING COSTS

At €0.743m operating costs (salaries and office costs) were 6% up on 2021, but much the same as in 2019, again due to the reduction in activity in the intervening period attributable to Covid. They accounted for 5.2% of all expenditure.

4. SILK-WEAVERS OF THE MEKONG

At €0.327m sales in France were steady, whilst in Cambodia they took off again following the return of tourism. We increased production capacity to 9,000 units per annum and hired six new weavers with the result that 70 staff and their families are now earning their living from this project. ■

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022 – in euros

EXPENDITURE BY TYPE	Total	Funded by donations
1. Charitable expenditure	11,997,756	11,710,904
1.1. In France	41,090	0
Expenditure on COTM activities	31,090	0
Payments to a central body or other organisation	10,000	0
1.2. In Asia	11,814,290	11,710,904
Expenditure on COTM activities (in total)	11,814,290	11,710,904
Sponsorships and supplements	8,164,468	8,107,943
Sponsorships	6,537,077	6,531,774
Supplements (sponsored children)	227,049	227,049
Supplements (development programmes)	45,577	45,577
Running sponsorship programmes	1,354,764	1,303,543
Development programmes	3,649,822	3,602,960
Construction / educational equipment and materials	510,136	509,944
Holistic personal development	1,939,966	1,938,904
Social support and basic necessities	751,724	748,274
Running development programmes	447,997	405,838
1.3. Purchase of Silk-Weavers of the Mekong products	142,376	0
2. Fundraising costs	1,465,949	1,046,791
2.1. Cost of soliciting donations	1,183,418	981,151
2.2. Cost of seeking other financial aid	0	0
2.3. Silk-Weavers of the Mekong sales costs	214,570	0
2.2. Cost of processing donations and sponsorship monies	67,961	65,640
3. Operating costs	743,520	718,132
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,207,224	13,475,827
4. Allocated to provisions and depreciation	186,368	186,368
5. Tax on benefits	1,980	0
6. Designated funds carried forward	2,268,670	2,268,670
SURPLUS	98,906	338,070
GRAND TOTAL	16,763,148	16,268,934

INCOME BY TYPE	Total	Funded by donations
1. 1 Income from donors	13,859,141	13,859,141
1.1. Subscriptions without counterparty	660	660
1.2. Donations, legacies and patronage	13,838,118	13,838,118
Donations	13,067,650	13,067,650
Sponsorships	8,005,991	8,005,991
Supplements (sponsored children)	226,213	226,213
Supplements (development programmes)	30,587	30,587
Donations: Bamboos	262,853	262,853
Donations: programmes in Asia	3,679,498	3,679,498
Donations: activities in France	0	0
Donations: services	320,616	320,616
Donations: unallocated	541,893	541,893
Legacies and other unallocated donations	770,468	770,468
Patronage	0	0
1.3 Other	Other	20,363
Financial income	20,363	20,363
2. 2 Other income (not from donors)	414,715	0
2.1. Subscriptions with counterparty	0	0
2.2. Financial contributions without counterparty	0	0
2.3. Other	414,715	0
Sales: miscellaneous	326,943	0
Sales: Silk-Weavers of the Mekong	87,772	0
3. Income from public funds	75,249	0
Grants: sponsorships	336	0
Grants: Bamboos	73,630	0
Grants: programmes in Asia	1,283	0
Donations: services	0	0
Donations: unallocated	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	14,349,105	13,859,141
4. Reversal of provisions and depreciation	0	0
5. Designated funds brought forward	2,414,043	2,409,793
DEFICIT	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	16,763,148	16,268,934


CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND 2022 - in euros
EXPENDITURE

Charitable expenditure	1,143,643
Fundraising costs	2,185,756
Operating costs	66,683
TOTAL	3,396,081

INCOME

Volunteering	3,265,447
Benefits in kind	126,458
Donations in kind	4,177
TOTAL	3,396,081

Income this financial year

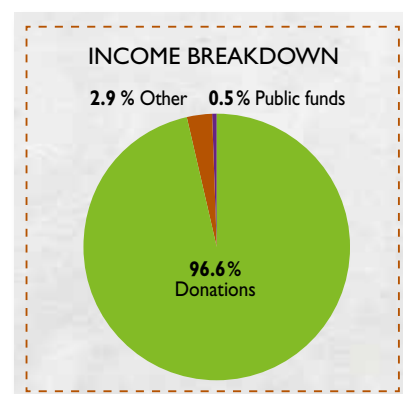
Income in 2022 totalled €14.349m, little changed from 2021.

Income from donors was €13.859m, or 96.6% of total income. It took the form of sponsorship (including supplements), donations of various kinds, and legacies. Sponsorship generated €8.231m, or 57% of the total. Sponsorship supplements, allocated in their entirety to activities in the field, were steady at €0.257m. Donations made to support development programmes were up 7% at €3.679m. They came from private companies, charitable foundations and from individuals.

Donations made without restriction (which totalled €0.541m) and legacy donations (of which there were eight in 2022, worth €0.77m in all) both fell slightly.

Income from public funds amounted to 0.5% of total income. It took the form, in the main, of a grant of €73,000 from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to train and support Bamboos, in the field and upon their return, under the auspices of le *Volontariat de Solidarité Internationale* (International Solidarity Volunteering).

Other income came mainly from



sales - of handicraft products by local groups and of Silk-Weavers of the Mekong products (which generated €0.327m). It accounted for 2.9% of total income. ■

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET 2022 - in euros

ASSETS	31/12/2022	LIABILITIES	31/12/2022
Intangible fixed assets	4,009	Associative funds without repossession rights	936,320
Tangible fixed assets	636,829	Revaluation surplus	
Financial fixed assets	296,549	Reserves	3,276,828
FIXED ASSETS	937,387	Financial year surplus	98,906
Stocks	149,574	Other associative funds	
Prepayments and payments on account	0	EQUITY	4,312,055
Receivables	78,393	DESIGNATED FUNDS	4,923,967
Liquid assets	8,444,612	PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	0
Accruals	70,423	Loans and financial liabilities	0
CURRENT ASSETS	8,743,001	Other liabilities	441,348
Exchange rate loss	0	LIABILITIES	441,348
TOTAL ASSETS	9,680,388	Exchange rate gain	3,018
		TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,680,388