Just like the Afghan woman with a solar cooker on the cover of our annual report, Geres concentrates diffuse energy so that it can be used to enhance human well-being.

To bring about shared prosperity and greater Climate Solidarity, that’s our goal every day, acting collectively, reducing our carbon footprint and supporting activities designed to provide better energy services to the most vulnerable. Together, we support the energy transition and help as many people and economic operators as possible to find themselves in a safe and just space, under the sustainable ecological ceiling and above the minimum social floor (see page 5). In this approach resolutely geared towards more justice and solidarity, the management of our common home cannot be solely a matter of flows and stocks, but rather of interactions between human beings. When you read this annual report, you will find that all the activities carried out by Geres teams fit in with these dynamics of collective work and focusing of human energies to do things better. Mindful of environmental considerations, we work alongside local people, in a partnership and capacity-building approach which takes full account of the territorial and economic dimensions. And when emergency needs arise, we adapt to take action alongside these local stakeholders, as can be seen from the efforts made in the context of the pandemic. In Africa, as in Asia and France, our work is done in partnership with civil society organizations, small farmers, artisans or companies and local, national and international administrations. We seek synergy and complementarity with them in response to diverse, evolving issues and to achieve the sustainable development objectives we have set ourselves together. Guaranteeing quality, these alliances mean that we can implement significant programmes and improve the effectiveness and impact of our operations while diversifying resources.

In 2021, despite the difficult circumstances we face – health crisis exacerbating competition in fundraising, return of a military regime in Myanmar, troubles and insecurity in Mali and Afghanistan – we continue to pursue the same ambitions. And we shall continue to take action to maintain the impact of our work in the long term, with for example the establishment of a social enterprise to operate the ZAEs (green business areas) in Mali. At the same time, mobilization of the general public, commitment to an OSR approach and our active participation in groupings of organizations are some of the activities helping to reinforce the impact and soundness of our association. For more than a year, faced with the planetary health crisis, billions of us humans have been able to demonstrate on a day-to-day basis our ability to make living together a priority ahead of our personal interests. It’s not always easy, but we’re getting there because we can see that every one of us is clearly responsible for all, with all of us standing in solidarity. Climate Solidarity is not an inaccessible dream. We’re counting on you to make it tomorrow’s reality.

Marie-Noëlle Reboulet, President, and Laurence Tommasino, Executive Director
Climate Solidarity in action

Set up in 1976, Geres is a development NGO working in France and internationally with a twofold mandate: to combat both poverty and climate change. As a field operator, it puts in place innovative solutions for a fair energy transition in a dynamic process of ambitious societal change.

Geres has made the rational decision to focus its attention on five areas of expertise which, taken together, contribute to its twofold mandate to bring about shared prosperity. To maintain and extend the impact of its work in the long term, Geres works alongside local stakeholders, in a partnership and capacity-building approach taking full account of the territorial and economic dimensions.

Find out more about our manifest

At Geres, our work draws on the donut model developed by Kate Raworth, a professor at Oxford University. By working practically and on a day-to-day basis for the energy transition and climate solidarity, our ambition is to help as many people and economic operators as possible to find a safe and just space, under the ecological ceiling and above the social floor.

Find out more about our expertise

In the donut model, the ecological ceiling and the social floor prevent the society from falling into the hole of ecological destruction or the hole of social destruction. Between both holes, we find the safe and just space for humanity needed for sustainable development.
The women and men of Geres

The organization chart at 31 May 2021

Board of directors
Marie-Noëlle Reboulet
PRESIDENT
Frédéric Bœuf
VICE-PRESIDENT
Jean-Louis Bal
Luc Bonnamour
Violaine Bousquet
Thierry Cabrol
Jean-Claude Chassagnoux
Pierre Ducret
Julie Fardoux-Chassing
Alain Guinebault
Michel Hamelin
Anne-Claude Morin
Silvia Pariente-David
Vincent Priori

General management
Laurence Tommasino
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The board of directors
The Board of Directors of Geres is composed of volunteer members elected in general assembly.

THE BOARD

OTHER MEMBERS

Jean-Louis Bal
Luc Bonnamour
Violaine Bousquet
Thierry Cabrol
Jean-Claude Chassagnoux
Pierre Ducret
Julie Fardoux-Chassing
Alain Guinebault
Michel Hamelin
Anne-Claude Morin
Silvia Pariente-David
Vincent Priori

The operational teams

WEST AFRICA
Anne Lancelot
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Geres Mali
Simone Teaggi
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE
ZAE Programme
Grégoire Gailly
PROGRAMME MANAGER

CENTRAL ASIA
Quentin Moreau
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Geres Afghanistan
M-Riaz Ramin
ASSISTANT COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE
Geres Mongolia
Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE
Geres Tajikistan
Viktoria Demidova
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

SOUTH-EAST ASIA
Marco Van Grinsven
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Geres Cambodia
Richard Scoitney
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

GERES EXPERTISE
Julien Jacquot
DIRECTOR
Energy access
Alexis Caujolle
Climate & development
Saverio Ragazzi
Climate & territories
Clémentine Laratte
Economic development
Romain Cres
Inclusion
Marina Dubois

QUALITY & OPERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
Laurence Teissier

In France

and internationally
Combating energy poverty in Marseille

Geres launched a fundraising campaign in association with the participatory funding platform Les Petites Pierres, dedicated to inclusive housing in France. Objective: to facilitate access to financing for the hardest hit households and help them reduce their energy consumption while sustainably improving their level of comfort. As a result of this initiative, funds were collected to pay for improvement work or replacement of defective heating systems in several residential buildings in Cabucelle district.

AFGHANISTAN: raising awareness of energy poverty and climate change

As part of its Kabul Green Homes programme, Geres and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), with support from the European Union and French Development Agency, organized a national conference attended by 170 people. Objective: to pool solutions combating energy poverty, climate change and atmospheric pollution in the country.

COVID-19: an exceptional aid scheme in Tajikistan

With support from the Abbe Pierre Foundation, Geres launched an exceptional operation to reduce energy poverty and improve the living conditions of vulnerable households severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Around one hundred families received assistance.

ZAEs making news in Mali

In response to the health crisis, Koury Green Business Area took up the manufacture of local cotton masks designed for people taking part in field activities. In 2020, two new GBAs were set up, in Diaramana (Bla Cercle, Ségou Region) and Madina (Kita Cercle, Kayes Region). These new facilities, built using the Nubian Vault technique with compressed earth bricks, include more than 620 m² of professional buildings and 4.1 kWc of solar fields. They are intended for the 15 or so rural VSEs identified during 2020 which have received development support.

PROMOTING METHANATION IN THE PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR REGION

As a member of the Métha’Synergie collective, which brings together public, economic and voluntary sector operators in the region’s methanation industry, Geres took part in preparing a practical guide to aid understanding, analysis and action.
Our operations in 2020

The first phase of our project identified and tested appliances for potential distribution and established an initial network of 16 women entrepreneurs to sell domestic electrical or energy appliances. This means that we can now move to set up the Ah Lin Tan social enterprise, which will be the missing link between suppliers and women distributors in the villages.

Creation of a social enterprise in Myanmar

Recently obtained access to electricity provides an opportunity for many households in Myanmar to improve their living conditions. But they still need access to efficient appliances at an affordable price, especially in isolated villages. A challenge Geres is keen to take up by establishing a social enterprise.

Prospects

The military coup that took place in Myanmar in February 2021 justifies even more our intervention in direct support of the population and without any link with the power in place.

The Ah Lin Tan company will gradually build itself up with a view to achieving financial stability in three years’ time. In the longer term, it will be able to rely on a network of 100 women distributors to sell a broader range of low-energy appliances. Appropriate financial mechanisms will also be put in place so that the most vulnerable households can access the appliances.

Our operations in 2020

In 2020, Geres provided its expertise in the selection process for both men and women entrepreneurs and their installation on the site of the Mbiddi platform. Drawing on its experience in capacity-building for local stakeholders, Geres also supported the establishment of an appropriate governance model. Objective: to ensure the long-term viability of the infrastructure. The provision of technical assistance and management training for the platform operator means that the initial results can be accurately monitored.

Prospects

Geres will continue its technical assistance to Le Partenariat until 2023, to ensure monitoring of the pilot platforms and support replication of these models in the regions of Saint-Louis and Matam. As a result, new energy platforms will be developed in Senegal to promote the expansion of local businesses and economic development, as well as improve rural living conditions.

SENEGAL: electrification as the key to rural economic development

In Senegal, the development of economic activities is held back by the fact that no more than 30% of rural people have access to electricity. In response to this situation, Geres is providing technical support to the NGO Le Partenariat and the Saint-Louis Regional Development Agency, helping them to develop energy platforms for the electrification of local entrepreneurs’ businesses and the irrigation of vegetable crops.
Our operations in 2020

Many different aspects have to be taken into account when setting up a sustainable methanation* project consistent with the needs of the territory. In view of this, Métha'Synergie has created the MéthaZoom mapping tool, with its partner AtmoSud. This tool provides an initial preliminary assessment of a given area and can serve as an aid to decision-making for users, enabling them to visualize the strengths and weaknesses of the territory on the basis of the critical success factors identified by Métha'Synergie. Users can also view already operational methanation units and their main features.

Find out the tool

Prospects

Between now and 2030, 30 exemplary methanation units should have been put in place. At regional level (excluding wastewater treatment plants), this represents 1,000,000 tonnes of usable resources, as well as a potential output of 2 TWh, which could provide some 440,000 households with biogas heating. To optimize the tool, regular updates are also planned to guarantee reliable, accessible data.

A reminder of the objectives

To promote the supply of high-quality local energy services, Geres helped to establish a business maintaining photovoltaic equipment in the regions of Ségou and Sikasso. On the basis of diagnostics and mapping of operators in the six cercles where the programme operates, 24 solar technicians were identified, trained and equipped. Their tasks: to undertake preventive and curative maintenance of photovoltaic equipment and basic maintenance of the IT and pumping equipment of the vegetable production schemes, as well as the solar dryers.

A co-operative of solar maintenance technicians in Mali

In Mali, rural communities have turned to photovoltaic solar systems to meet domestic and professional energy needs. The sector is expanding considerably, with various different players in the market, but competent operators are in short supply and the installations are often poorly maintained.

Our operations in 2020

Together with its partners in Métha'Synergie, Geres is striving to ensure coherent, exemplary development of methanation in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region, taking account of five critical success factors: adequate installation site, outlets for digestate, outlets for biogas, usable organic resource and efficient governance model; and three key cross-cutting factors: good technical command; financial stability; social communication and acceptance.

* Methanation is a natural biological process whereby organic matter is broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of oxygen (anaerobic treatment). This process produces biogas, primarily made up of methane, and digestate which is like a fertilizer or organic soil improver.

**|** methane units in operation in 2020

18

METHAZOOM:
an efficient mapping tool for the Methanation sector

FCFA 23,600,000

The annual turnover of the maintenance co-operative for 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 | 12|13

ANNUAL REPORT 2020
CLOTHING SECTOR: Promoting sustainable energy practices in Cambodia

With more than one million employees, garment and footwear production is the leading industry in Cambodia. Its development does, however, have serious environmental repercussions. Faced with a constrained, demanding market, factories need to adopt more sustainable energy practices.

Our operations in 2020

Begun in May 2020 and funded by the European Union, the programme is expected to end in 2024. Various activities have already been undertaken, including:

- A review of industrial energy efficiency measures appropriate for garment factories in Cambodia.
- A presentation of efficient and/or renewable energy solutions.
- Discussions with three international brands committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their production chains.
- Visits and meetings with the teams at the first eight factories.
- Preparation of energy audits and support for the factories.

Prospects

With the global crisis severely affecting the garment industry in 2020, economic and environmental performance concerns have become ever more pressing. The project plans to carry out audits in 50 factories in 2021, which will then benefit from tailored support in implementing targeted measures to increase energy efficiency and integrate renewable energy sources. Online training and webinars for stakeholders in the sector are also under preparation.

In Mongolia, in the Ulan Bator region where temperatures can fall as low as -30°C in winter, people use poor quality charcoal for heating and cooking. This pollutes the atmosphere and causes respiratory ailments. Launched by Geres in 2018, the Switch Off Air Pollution project offers affordable, certified insulation solutions to vulnerable households in the outlying districts of Ulan Bator already hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. A survey conducted amongst several households benefiting from insulation work highlighted the programme’s positive results: feeling of warmth; healthier indoor air quality; fewer temperature fluctuations; and halving of day-to-day consumption and expenditure relating to the purchase of charcoal.

Producing and managing industrial heat: a key issue for reducing emissions and environmental impacts.

In Marseille, France, where the mild Mediterranean climate in winter does not encourage landlords to carry out energy improvement work, the homes of low-income families can only be described as thermal sieves. The use of polluting oil-burning stoves to provide heating at an affordable cost exacerbates this situation, with a worrying impact on physical (respiratory diseases, cardiovascular risks and so on) and mental (social isolation) health. In 2020, as part of its efforts to combat energy poverty and via the European EmpowerMed programme, Geres has been involved in creating information media. At the same time, it has begun work with local stakeholders to aid understanding of the problem and offer appropriate solutions: low-energy appliances, carrying out basic repair work and thermal renovation.

37 houses insulated in Mongolia thanks to private investments and green loans
Improving the energy efficiency of school buildings

In Morocco, Mongolia, Tajikistan and France, Geres is working with local authorities managing school buildings to improve thermal comfort for pupils and teaching staff and reduce energy consumption and expenditure, while building the capacity of professionals in the sector.

**IN MOROCCO**

In Midelt province, new classrooms meeting energy efficiency standards and users’ needs will be built in four primary schools identified with the aid of the Provincial Education Department.

**IN MONGOLIA**

Following a study of energy consumption in the 241 public buildings in Arkhangai province, the committee chaired by the assistant governor selected two nursery schools where pilot energy renovation work will be undertaken.

**IN TAJIKISTAN**

In the town of Vahdat, Geres took part in the thermal renovation of six classrooms in a school for blind and visually impaired pupils. Insulation work, replacement of the ceiling and electrical heating installations and the introduction of bioclimatic principles have helped to improve learning conditions for 80 pupils.

**IN FRANCE**

In the Bouches du Rhône département, awareness campaigns and measures relating to electricity consumption were undertaken in three middle schools with the departmental authorities. The resulting methodological guide for the educational teams and local institutions will be published in 2021 to serve as an example for other middle schools.

Through these projects, Geres helps users of public educational services to adopt less energy-hungry behaviour. This is crucial for optimizing building performance on a sustainable basis and forms the core of the energy management strategy promoted by Geres.

### 4°C

The lowest temperature recorded on winter mornings in some school classrooms in Midelt Province

### 15%

The share of the budget of Arkhangai governorate allocated to heating costs

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**AGR’AIR :**

**The best agricultural practices to cultivate high-quality air**

In the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, 47% of the population is exposed to concentrations of PM10 particles exceeding health standards, while 85% of regional ammonia emissions come from agriculture. Apart from their deleterious effects on the environment, these emissions not only contribute to climate change but are harmful to people’s health.

**Operations in 2020**

The Agr’Air IRAEE project, co-ordinated by Geres and developed in partnership with stakeholders in the agricultural sector, has two main priorities. It aims, firstly, to help vine and tree growers develop shredding facilities for the residue from renovating plots and, secondly, to reduce ammonia emissions. Geres has focused in particular on energy recycling in a biomass boiler equipped with smoke filters. Other recycling options such as shredding, mulching and composting have also been explored by stakeholders in the agricultural sector. To this end, synergies have been established between equestrian centres and farmers to encourage organic fertilization in conjunction with optimization of horse manure management.

**Prospects**

After initial efforts to lead by example, the challenge for the coming months is to promote and encourage wider adoption of these changes in practice by mobilizing farmers, equestrian centres, providers of shredding services and operators of industrial biomass boilers.

---

**CLIMATE**

**ENERGY**

5 farms supported

5 demonstration sites organized
General mobilization for Climate Solidarity

In 2020, Geres strengthened its teams and stepped up its efforts to mobilize civil society around the global changes needed for greater climate solidarity. If success is to be achieved, what the planet needs next is more general mobilization and Geres is already there waiting to take part. We look back at a year boasting many commitments with and alongside citizens as well as partner companies in Climate Solidarity, without whom wider-scale involvement would be impossible.

Solidarity or climate? Geres chooses both.

“At Geres, we are convinced that combating climate change is indissociable from solidarity. This is the paradigm we want to see and which represents the common theme of all our operations, with two indissociable, complementary objectives: helping vulnerable groups to escape energy poverty while reducing the ecological footprint of those most responsible for CO2 emissions”, explain Romain Donda, the new citizen mobilization manager. “It’s this message of reconciliation we wanted to get across in our campaign calling for public generosity in December, but also more widely through all the awareness campaigns we have run in 2020”.

Christmas 2020: celebrating without destroying the planet.

On the fringes of its major annual campaign, Geres undertook several awareness initiatives around the theme of Christmas. Objective: to promote original, innovative, concrete ways of combining pleasure with commitment.

“I joined Geres with the aim of motivating citizens to commit alongside us in the Climate Solidarity movement, to help them launch projects and enhance impact still further. My credo: striving to restore hope for a more desirable world tomorrow”

Romain Donda,
Citizen Mobilization Manager, Geres
A community committed to Climate Solidarity

Members of the Climate Solidarity Community, developed and facilitated by Geres, include local authorities, associations and companies committed, along with us, to taking concrete steps to limit climate change through a socially just, ambitious energy transition.

Tools for use by companies

To assist its partners in implementing the approach, Geres provides tools and its expertise.

16 ANALYSES OF CO2 EMISSIONS CARRIED OUT

The first step in reducing one’s impact on the climate is to measure it! To this end, we help our VSE or SME partners to gauge their carbon footprint so that they can understand the impacts, identify the most important elements and come up with a plan of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020, 16 enterprises took part in the exercise.

8 GOOD PRACTICES CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE SOLIDARITY

As the go-to for energy and climate expertise, Geres publishes analytical briefings on these issues for the benefit of its partners, to raise awareness of the issues, mobilize and establish virtuous approaches at company level. Two articles came out in French this year.

8 bonnes pratiques pour contribuer à la Solidarité climatique.

> Read the article

La Sobriété numérique en entreprise : éclairages et bonnes pratiques.

> Read the article

Mobilizing colleagues and stakeholders through advocacy campaigns and mobilization mechanisms.

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Mobilizing colleagues and stakeholders through advocacy campaigns and mobilization mechanisms.
Two new studies to combat energy poverty

**IN MYANMAR**, Geres is presently conducting a study in partnership with GRET, on living conditions in the mountainous region of Chin State. People face problems in accessing energy and have to cope with harsh winters in homes which are difficult to heat. The feasibility study will help develop a body of knowledge and a plan of action for the launch of a project designed to combat energy poverty by improving housing and access to domestic energy.

**IN VIETNAM**, in six provinces, Geres and a team of local consultants are looking at the availability of biomass residues as a possible substitute for fossil fuels to power the industrial boilers of the main suppliers of the H&M group. The study is designed to identify the technical options and appropriate locations for more sustainable production, reducing the environmental impacts and especially the emission of greenhouse gases.

**DISTRIBUTION OF IMPROVED STOVES IN BENIN**

As part of a Climate/Energy programme, Geres and the Groupement Intercommunal des Collines (GIC) are supporting the distribution of cooking stoves for the food processing sector, through a self-build training scheme. Objective: to promote the use of local materials, mastery of construction and repair techniques by women processors and the implementation of appropriate technologies.

**Supporting the emergence of a market for sustainable cooking appliances in Morocco**

Since 2016, Geres has been helping to develop a local supply chain for high energy performance (HEP) ovens with low gas consumption. Our partnership with three industrialists in the sector has led to the creation of the Faraneeco label (Faran = oven in Arabic). To ensure the continuity of this supply chain, which has already equipped 28,000 Moroccan households, and stimulate demand for sustainable cooking appliances at national level, Geres has set itself three major targets for 2023:

- Developing the production and distribution chain for professionals with a view to equipping 300 bread production units.
- Strengthening the marketing network, by establishing a network of women sellers, to promote and distribute products under the FaranEco label with the creation of 20 «green» jobs for women.
- Consolidating the institutional environment to encourage the scaling up and sustainable transformation of the market for gas-fired cooking appliances in Morocco.
At Geres, partnership is the core of development projects and takes multiple forms, with issues specific to each type of co-operation and stakeholders, whether voluntary sector, institutional, university or corporate.

“In implementing its projects, Geres seeks synergy and complementarity with all its partners in taking up the various challenges involved in local development. These alliances make it possible to manage large-scale programmes, improve the development. These alliances make it possible to taking up the various challenges involved in local development. These alliances make it possible to,” comments Laurence Teis-sier, the association’s Quality and Partnerships manager. Partnership is based on a dynamic process, a relationship which evolves over time and needs to be cultivated. At the mid-term of projects, a cross-cutting evaluation provides an opportunity to take stock of co-operation and suggest avenues for improvement with a view to strengthening links and enhancing the quality of relations with our partners.

Monitoring effects and impacts: a shared ambition

As regards monitoring impacts, Geres has established a monitoring & evaluation system for the biomass-energy resource management project in the Cardamom mountains in Cambodia. Objective: to help associations to organize and creating a leverage effect on projects. At the end of the partnership, a joint balance sheet is drawn up to assess the results and impacts of the project since its inception. In this regard, we have co-built a measuring tool based on a proposal grid with 48 indicators or “impact map” structured around 6 classes of impacts: preservation of forest ecosystems, combating climate change, preservation of biodiversity, involvement of local communities, creation of economic activities, social and societal change. This grid should not only apply to all projects and all associations but also bring out the specific features of the operational strategies of each association and the quantitative and qualitative impacts, whether expected or unexpected, whether positive or negative.

How do you see the results of this first implementation phase with the partner NGOs?

The Maisons du Monde Foundation offers medium-term partnerships with a view to helping associations to organize and creating a leverage effect on projects. At the end of the partnership, a joint balance sheet is drawn up to assess the results and impacts of the project since its inception. In this regard, we have co-built a measuring tool based on a proposal grid with 48 indicators or “impact map” structured around 6 classes of impacts: preservation of forest ecosystems, combating climate change, preservation of biodiversity, involvement of local communities, creation of economic activities, social and societal change. This grid should not only apply to all projects and all associations but also bring out the specific features of the operational strategies of each association and the quantitative and qualitative impacts, whether expected or unexpected, whether positive or negative.

How do you see the results of this first implementation phase with the partner NGOs?

For us, measuring impact is a tool for dialogue with partners and thinking about the prospects for renewing partnerships. It also gives us a better grasp of whether our endowment fund is actually achieving its social purpose. For project developers, it’s a useful way of reflecting, helping them to stand back and take stock, as well as an aid to decision-making and project management. It’s also a strategic tool for highlighting the association’s operational strategy.

2 questions for Lisa Mimoun, project co-ordinator at the Maisons du Monde Foundation

Can you tell us some more about the system of monitoring and measuring impact you have set up within your Foundation?

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Inclusion means combating discrimination and inequalities so that everyone can take part

Making women’s contribution to development activities more visible helps to combat stereotypes and trigger women’s societal commitment. Portraits of four women involved in the biomass-energy sector and committed to a sustainable approach alongside Geres.

Eang Oeun, deputy leader of the O’baktra forest community since 2015:

« The more we enrich our knowledge and know-how so that we can protect and get the most out of our forest area, the better our chances of preserving that resource ». 

Hem Kean is leader of Chiep commune. She battled for years to recover ownership and use of the forest in order to protect it and has been successful: the forest has now become a protected community area which she is endeavours to develop with support from the authorities and Geres teams.

Sokha Khiev has been working for Geres for 3½ years. Born into a low-income family, she was able to continue her studies with the aid of Geres and was surprised to learn that men and women have the same rights, particularly in terms of access to professional opportunities. So now I encourage women to play a bigger part in the biomass-energy sector because it’s an income source for them! ».

Say Samen wanted to stop her husband taking risks by driving his cultivator in the rain. So she took the initiative and got involved with Geres: she now processes the wood delivered by the communities committed to sustainable management of their forest resources and uses an improved technique to transform this wood into charcoal. Her husband plays a part in the tasks and also helps her to look after their two children.

Geres commitment to inclusion

» I encourage women to play a bigger part in the biomass-energy sector because it’s an income source for them! ».
The budget stands at €7.3M. Owing to the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, it has fallen by 9% compared with 2019 (~€748,000). West Africa and Central Asia, Geres main operational areas in 2019, recorded falls of ~€294,000 and ~€137,000. They accounted for 38% and 17% respectively of Geres actual uses of funds in 2020. The Europe-Mediterranean region recorded a strong increase (~€263,000, +28%) and becomes our second most important operational area. South-East Asia’s share continued to fall (~€218,000, -33%) and the cross-cutting expertise unit, which has focused more on our country projects, recorded a 40% drop, accounting for 5% of actual uses of funds.

Prospects

The crisis caused by COVID-19 has impacted our activities in 2020 (cf. the clarification on page 27) and will do so in undoubtedly beyond 2021. At the end of 2020, in accordance with our strategy plan, we recruited a Citizen Mobilization manager to help us move forward on Climate Solidarity issues and we hope to be able to put our strategy into full operation in 2021. As 2019, this is primarily due to the reduction in receivables under assets and deferred income under liabilities. This is reflected in a decrease in the «reserve» of activities, mostly for 2021 but also 2022. Despite this, deferred income remains at a high level. Furthermore, the fact that deferred income still exceeds receivables, as in previous years, means that Geres can incur expenses while receiving the necessary cash advances from donors, optimizing its cash flow. The latter continues to increase, rising from €3.8M to €4.2M in 2020 (+€305,000, +8%). Annual instalments amounting to €670,000 were paid on the loans contracted in 2016. Amounts due to credit institutions now stand at only €7,000. Following the deferral of one instalment, the final balances will be paid in 2021 rather than 2020.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Although it is difficult to get a very precise measure of the impact, the pandemic and the restrictions it engendered (lockdown measures, impossible or difficult travel, home working) led to a reduction in Geres activities. The budget achieved in 2020 is therefore lower than 2019, whereas it had been growing since 2017. In October 2019, we had planned to achieve a 2020 budget which would be €500,000 higher than actual uses in 2019. In the end, there was a €747,000 decrease. Some new activities such as citizen mobilization had to be delayed, others such as mobilizing companies around Climate Solidarity slowed down. Budgeted prospective costs could not be spent, delaying some portfolio developments. Even though restrictions may remain in force in 2021, positive dynamics can be seen and should lead to new projects to complement those already agreed at the end of 2020 (GIZ in Afghanistan, EU-funded project in Tajikistan).
Uses of funds

Activities in West Africa, Geres foremost region (€2,583,000), went down by 10%. The project funded by Luxembourg Co-operation has come to an end; the one funded by Swedish Co-operation to develop «Green Business Zones» and establish the «Green Biz Africa» social enterprise is continuing in 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new project was launched in Mali with support from AFIDMAE. The aim is to improve the treatment capacities of the community healthcare centres by providing them with energy and water supply infrastructure.

The Europe-Mediterranean region saw an increase in activity: +29% to €1,313,349, making it the second most important region for Geres. The countries concerned are France (+€180,000, +25%) and «Morocco – Tunisia» (+€252,000, +31%). This change is due to the start of the SIEC programme to develop Local Energy and Climate Information Services in Morocco and Tunisia. In France, projects carried out in the south of the country are funded by ADEME and the Regional Council, which stepped up their input in 2020. Funded by the EU, the «Empowermed» project, which aims to strengthen women’s role in the fight against energy poverty, is making a contribution to the region’s development.

Central Asia (-10%) is the third most important region for Geres, with 2020 funding from €119,000 to €56,000. The region’s primary focus is on the Sahel. Individual donations generously given by the public continued to account for only a small proportion of total funds (€68,000, 1% of actual uses). The Sahel is primarily due to the variation in the stock of carbon credits in Mali and the Sahel. Individual donations generously given by the public continued to account for only a small proportion of total funds (€68,000, 1% of actual uses).

Southeast Asia (-33%) now accounts for only 7% of actual uses, with three years of mobilization of companies for Climate Solidarity has decreased, going from €50,000 in 2019 to €62,000 in 2020. Other income (€356,000) has fallen significantly (-€196,000). This trend is primarily due to the variation in the stock of carbon credits in Mali at the end of 2019, with an almost identical proportion of public grants: 84% of actual operating funds as against 83% a year earlier.

Sales of carbon credits rose significantly, from €386,000 in 2019 to €750,000 in 2020, with the sale of some of the Carbon Credits generated by the «Wassam» improved cooking stoves in Mali which gained the Gold Standard label in 2020.

Turnover from service provision decreased (-€42,000, -17%). As in 2019, it came essentially from three regions and services: Southeast Asia, Europe-Mediterranean and the Expertise unit. The latter was able to provide more services in 2020 despite the circumstances: +€22,000 (+29%). Two studies began, in Niger (funded by the World Bank) and the Sahel (funded by AFD) respectively. They relate to access to efficient, «clean» cooking fuels and establish the «Green Biz Africa» social enterprise is continuing in 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new project was launched in Mali with support from AFIDMAE. The aim is to improve the treatment capacities of the community healthcare centres by providing them with energy and water supply infrastructure.

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Partners

Our financial partners
Geres is keen to pay tribute to the commitment, trust and loyalty of all its financial partners, without whom its activities and those of its technical partners could not proceed.

Our partner networks
Our presence in over 20 associative networks contributes to the sharing of experiences. It also shows our willingness to look for synergies that will help us conduct our actions with more efficiency.