



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Today's challenges make solidarity more essential than ever!

**MARIE-NÖELLE REBOULET,
PRESIDENT AND LAURENCE
TOMMASINO, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

For Geres, solidarity means striving to create fair living conditions, strengthening our shared home and forging bonds that uphold the equal dignity we all deserve as individuals.

This year, as ever, we have worked to do just that with our partners – NGOs, craftspeople, small farmers, residents, businesses, administrations and local authorities – in 10 countries.

As this annual report shows, our work leads to new energy services, such as electricity access for micro-businesses in Mali and Benin, Energy and Climate Info Centres in Morocco and the option to choose green energy in France.

These services create better living conditions through more energy-efficient housing in Marseille, in Ulaanbaatar and on the outskirts of Dushanbe. They improve working conditions for textile industry workers in Cambodia and farmers in Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. They help train young people and create direct employment in Mali, Tajikistan and Benin. They help women to develop their own businesses in Togo, Morocco and Myanmar, and more generally lead them towards greater empowerment. The measures we take, each of which is designed to create a fair energy transition, contribute to

a sustainable development approach built on implementing energy-saving solutions and reducing the carbon emissions of the largest consumers.

Our projects become reality thanks to the determination of our teams, who also strive to include the most vulnerable, better assess the impact of our actions, adapt them to climate change and reduce our own carbon emissions. Our heartfelt thanks go to all the committed people who work to bring about a fair energy transition each and every day.

But in today's challenging economic and geopolitical contexts, storm clouds are gathering: funding for NGOs working with people in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has been cut off and there are efforts to make international aid contingent on migration policies, while budgets for official development assistance and home energy efficiency retrofits are falling.

Because we believe that improving international relations means tackling inequalities by supporting the poorest in society, that obstacles do not stop the most determined from facing the dangers of irregular migration, and that a fair ecological transition is necessary to prepare for the future we all face, we will continue to promote solidarity, a value that is under threat but more essential than ever.

In hard times, we will overcome the challenges we face by standing together as an organisation, alongside our members and staff teams, as part of our networks (including CLER, Coordination SUD, Groupe Initiatives, IRA2E, F3E and CICLE) and on an even footing with

all of our partners in the field in France and all other countries in which Geres operates.

But the actions we are taking today, and those we will take tomorrow, could not and will not exist without the support, commitment and loyalty of our donors – individuals, foundations, small and large businesses and institutional funders from Provence and beyond. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Wherever we still need to go one step further, we're counting on your help!

STAND WITH US IN CLIMATE SOLIDARITY!

MAKE A DONATION

Help us implement solutions to turn the tide on poverty and combat climate change.

JOIN US

Become a Geres member, be part of what we do and share our values and solidarity messages with those around you.

VOLUNTEER

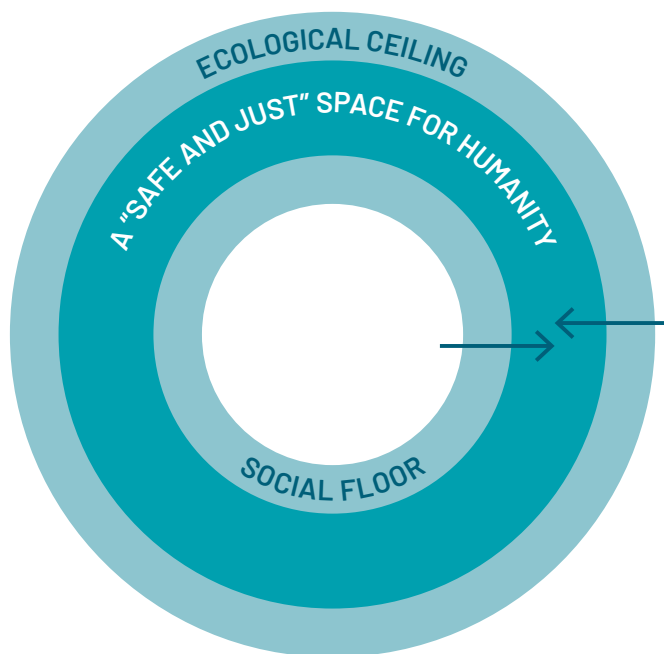
Take practical action alongside our teams, using your time and skills to help accelerate the energy transition.

More information: www.geres.eu

In brief

Acting for climate Solidarity

Since 1976, our NGO – an energy transition specialist – has been combating both poverty and climate change in France and around the world. Our teams, our work, our programmes, our innovations and our solutions support the development of the world's poorest people, improving their living conditions and helping them cope with the consequences of environmental changes while reducing our global greenhouse gas emissions.



Our vision is inspired by the doughnut model developed by Kate Raworth, a professor at the University of Oxford, which sets out a "safe and just" space for humanity, between the social floor and the ecological ceiling.

OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Our teams are specialists in **access to energy, renewable energy, energy demand management, energy and climate change policies and action in support of the energy transition**. We combine these areas of expertise each and every day as we work to achieve our goal: a world where everyone has decent living conditions that respect planetary boundaries. Geres works alongside local stakeholders, using an approach built on partnerships and capacity building, tailored to the specific local and economic situation.

10

PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

56

PROJECTS UNDER WAY

115

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

42

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

176

STAFF MEMBERS

145,000

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



Our people

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MANAGEMENT

Laurence Tommasino, Executive Director

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Laurent Collinet-Brdys

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILISATION

Gilles Martin-Gilis

EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Alexia Hebraud, priority contact,
shared governance

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WEST AFRICA

Laurence Tommasino (interim capacity)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR ASIA

Quentin Moreau

GERES EXPERTISE DIRECTOR

Julien Jacquot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Marie-Noëlle Reboulet
PRESIDENT



Sophie Ibos
VICE-PRESIDENT



Frédéric Bœuf
TREASURER

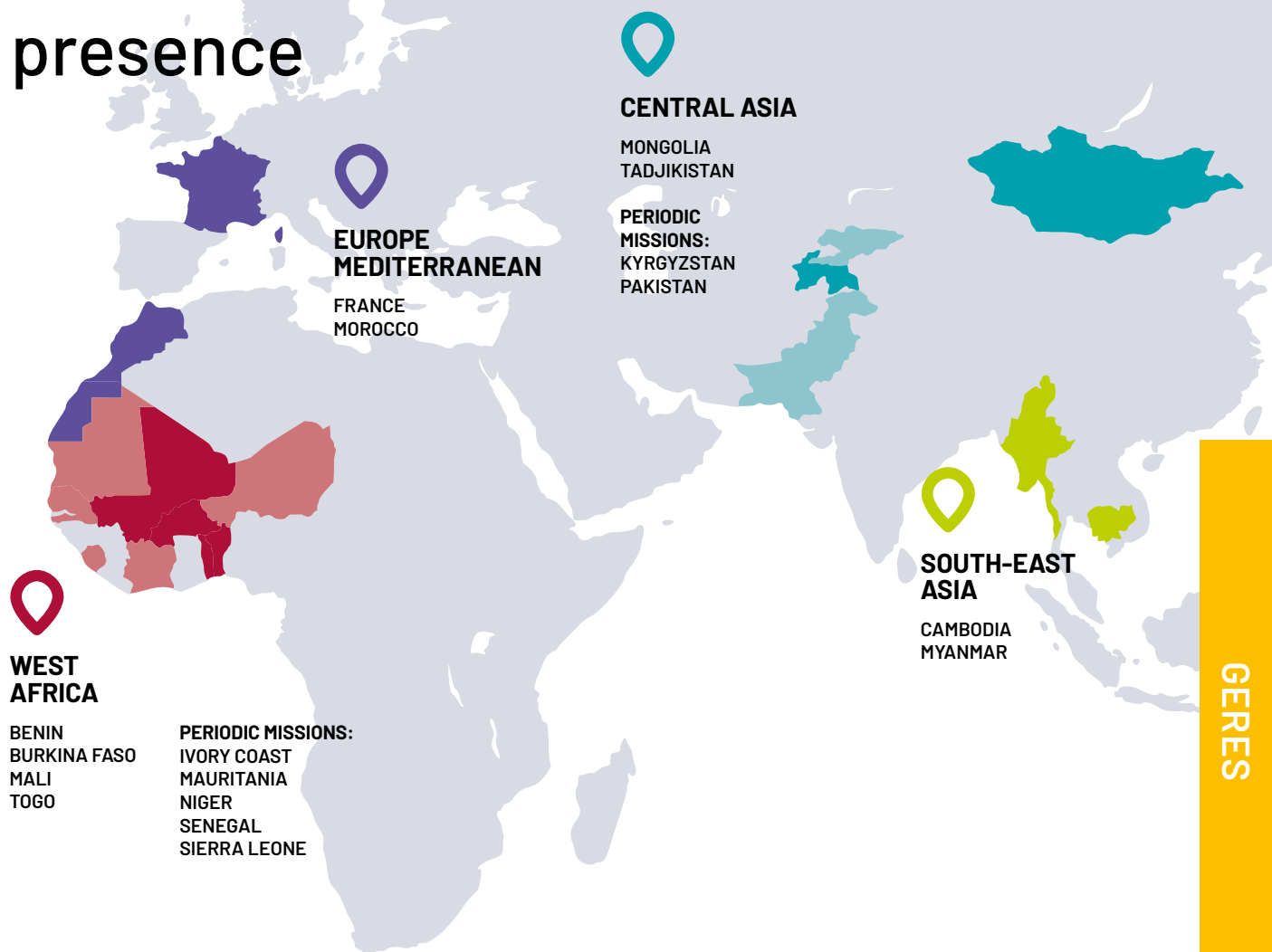


Vincent Priori
SECRETARY

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Jean-Louis Bal / Luc Bonnamour / Éric Buchet / Thierry Cabirol / Jean-Claude Chassagnoux /
Pierre Ducret / Julie Fardoux-Chassing / Alain Guinebault / Vanessa Laubin / Silvia Pariente-David /
Pascale Strubel

Our worldwide presence



GERES

OUR TEAMS

206 people directly support GERES:

176

STAFF MEMBERS

80

WOMEN

96

MEN

134

PEOPLE WORKING OUTSIDE THE EU, OF WHICH:

120

ON LOCAL CONTRACTS

12

ON EXPATRIATE CONTRACTS

2

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERS

30

VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING:

15

BOARD MEMBERS

42

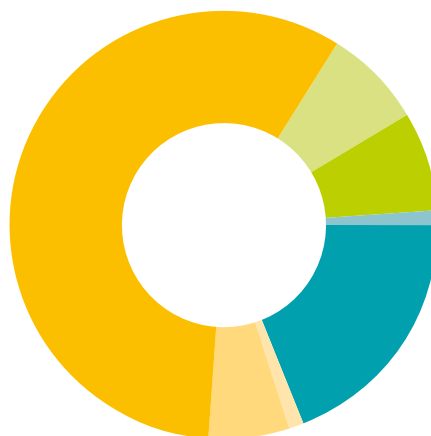
PEOPLE WORKING IN THE EU, OF WHICH:

39

IN FRANCE, INCLUDING 2 WORK-STUDY STUDENTS

3

IN THE REST OF THE EU





ENCOURAGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENERGY TRANSITION: THE ECODEV PROGRAMME, EIGHT YEARS ON

Since its launch in 2016, the EcoDev programme has focused on using energy to support economic development, and has resulted in several highly beneficial projects all over the world while also creating or consolidating over 450 jobs. Led by Geres and primarily funded by AFD, this eight-year programme has made real progress in its main focus areas of rural energy access and energy-efficient homes and cooking.

During the initial phase of the programme, Geres developed and duplicated several pilot projects, including building bioclimatic houses in Tajikistan, developing the first FaranEco-certified efficient gas oven in Morocco and setting up Electrified Business Parks (EBPs) in Mali.

These projects were then replicated and, since 2020, our teams have been focused on scaling up these measures and ensuring their sustainability beyond the programme. They have helped to create innovative social enterprises such as *Green Biz Africa* in Mali and *Ah Lin Tan* in Myanmar, which are now on the path towards becoming independent companies. In Morocco, Mongolia and Tajikistan, the FaranEco quality mark, Dulaan

Shiidel certification and the Low Energy Consumption House quality label are bringing together sector stakeholders – an encouraging sign for their long-term development.

In 2023, our work led to 1,000 new bioclimatic houses in Tajikistan and 30,000 new energy-efficient ovens in Morocco and, more broadly, the programme supported 300 businesses worldwide. **We aim to continue supporting these approaches through new projects that have already received €10 million in funding for the 2024–2027 period – meaning we can go further and achieve more!**

78,394

PEOPLE NOW USE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS THANKS TO THE PROGRAMME



TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY IN MARSEILLE: THE CORNERSTONE OF THE REGION'S TRANSITION

For 20 years, Geres has supported households living in energy poverty in France's Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, helping them improve their quality of life and control their energy consumption. We believe that residents have a crucial role to play, and so to best meet their needs, our team works to create dynamic local partnerships to encourage direct involvement from those who are most affected.

Between 2011 and 2014, we partnered with CLER, the network of energy transition stakeholders, and *LogisCité* to develop a specific programme to identify and support vulnerable households. This approach resulted in the *Slime* programme, which aims to scale up detection of these households, 75,500 of which have now received support from over 70 local authorities in France. In 2023, the City of Marseille chose the group of organisations led by Geres to roll out the programme locally. This local partnership has been greatly facilitated by the results from EmpowerMed: four successful years of Europe-wide partnership to tackle summertime energy poverty and take health-focused action with a focus on women's lived experiences.

In Marseille, since 2022, our teams have been using a support fund to carry out essential works in *Square National*, including repairing broken windows, carrying out plumbing work, improving ventilation, adjusting boilers and installing fans.

€102

THE ANNUAL SAVINGS MADE BY THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD

620

HOUSEHOLDS HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT TO TACKLE FUEL POVERTY IN THEIR HOMES OVER THREE YEARS

AN EVENING IN MARSEILLE: ACCELERATING AGRICULTURE'S ENERGY TRANSITION

"Farming matters!" For more than 45 years, Geres has been working in Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and around the world, and one of its goals is to accelerate the farming sector's energy transition. The transition is a crucial issue, because agriculture is the sector with the second-largest greenhouse gas emissions in France – farming accounts for 18% of the country's GHG emissions and 20% of emissions worldwide, according to the French High Council on Climate.

In late November, we held our third annual "accelerating the transition" event, with agriculture as this year's theme. It was attended by around 100 guests, providing an excellent opportunity for all participants to share their experiences. Using three practical examples (bioclimatic greenhouses from Ladhak to Provence; the creation of IRA2E, a network of innovative stakeholders who are essential to regional agricultural transition; and the challenges of local anaerobic digestion), we showed that when it comes to energy transition, innovation is a matter of social engineering and low-tech solutions.

Many thanks to the City of Marseille, Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, ADEME, Bio de Provence, IRA2E, l'Après M, le Présage, GRDF, local farmer Marie Moyet and, of course, the Geres teams and volunteers.

"Farming is very energy intensive, but it can also be a source of energy savings and can even generate energy through anaerobic digestion of waste. It also offers a host of opportunities to adapt to climate change!"

MARIE-NOËLLE REBOULET

President of Geres



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

ORGANISATIONAL CLIMATE STRATEGY: SUPPORTING OTHER NGOS

International solidarity organisations also support each other, helping other non-profits incorporate climate issues into their work. By coming together, we can bolster our strategies to mitigate human-caused climate change and develop ways to better adapt to its effects.

In 2023, we made significant contributions to collective efforts, launching and developing sustainability measures and in particular, working with Gret to coordinate [Traverses 52](#), a publication from *Groupe Initiatives*, of which we are a member. This issue served as a knowledge capitalisation exercise and

focused on organisations' climate responsibility. Our expertise in carbon assessments and in carbon benchmarking resulted in nine common principles, including cooperating, raising awareness, adapting locally and involving all stakeholders.

We also designed and led innovative workshops to share experiences and help member organisations of the collective Coordination SUD to consider new organisational practices and intervention methods. These interventions took place as part of the Climate and Development Commission, where we lead the "capitalisation" focus.

Creating a space that encourages peers to share their vision and hold discussions to incentivise collective efforts is key to NGO engagement! We look forward to repeating this success.

75%

OF NGOS REPORT THAT THEY LACK IN-HOUSE CARBON ASSESSMENT SKILLS. OVER HALF HAVE ALREADY BEGUN IMPLEMENTING MEASURES TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINT



READ
TRAVERSES 52
(IN FRENCH)



IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VILLAGE-BASED SUPPORT AND TRAINING

In Benin, the agricultural transformation is still dependent on polluting and inefficient methods for cooking and smoking fish, causing health issues among women and significant pressure on wood resources.

In addition, while access to energy for productive purposes is a powerful driver of development, rural electrification programmes using mini-grids are insufficient to supply power to micro-businesses.

In 2023, we started a new project in the south of the country with an assessment of energy use by micro-businesses around Idadjo in the commune of Ouèssè and women's cas-sava processing groups in the communes of Bantè, Ouèssè, Tchaourou and Bassila. We

worked with CoForMO, the Forest Community (*Communauté forestière*) of Moyen-Ouémé, to train 108 groups of women who process cas-sava into garri, distributing improved stoves, which are cleaner and more effective.

In partnership with the Franco-Beninese consortium ARESS/GDS and IDID, we are supporting twenty micro-businesses by providing equipment advice, business consulting and financial intermediation. As a result, they are able to make the most of their new electrical mini-grid connection.



1,620

WOMEN ARE SET TO BENEFIT FROM CLEAN, EFFECTIVE COOKING METHODS BY THE END OF THE PROJECT

20+

MICRO-BUSINESSES ARE RECEIVING SUPPORT WITH THEIR NEW ELECTRICITY ACCESS

MAINTAINING A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION MODEL BY SUPPORTING SMALL ELECTRICITY-USING BUSINESSES

In West Africa, several operators have developed energy infrastructure such as electrical mini-grids. However, they sometimes struggle to become financially sustainable enough to ensure long-term continuity of service, as local electricity demand remains low and consumers face economic difficulties.

Geres has 15 years' experience in the region, with a particular focus on productive energy use and entrepreneurship, and over the last few years, it has partnered with decentralised mini-grid developers in Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal, with Sierra Leone joining the list soon. The aim is to help make these businesses sustainable, taking effective action to stimulate demand by strengthening local businesses that, after gaining electricity access, are able to increase production and become important mini-grid clients.

Replicating a tried-and-tested model from Mali, we have supported around 80 companies through specific training programmes, simplified access to production equipment and loans and improved access to markets.

As a result, mini-grid operators – whose business model is built on electricity consumption – secure their revenue and the entire ecosystem becomes viable, helping to generate positive socio-economic outcomes for rural areas. In turn, local businesses boost the area's economy, create jobs and offer new services to local people.

5
MINI-GRID OPERATORS SUPPORTED



30

FEMALE DISTRIBUTORS SUPPORTED BETWEEN 2019 AND 2023

BOOSTING DISTRIBUTION OF CLEAN COOKSTOVES THROUGH 100% FEMALE LOCAL BUSINESSES

In Myanmar, 90% of the population depends on biomass for their daily domestic energy needs, to the extent that forest degradation is a major concern. As such, ever since we began operating in the country in 2015, our teams have focused on cooking, seeking to develop improved solutions that are more effective and use less wood.

After supporting two local sectors involved in producing improved cookstoves, in 2018 we began focusing on their last-mile delivery.

Five years later, we are proud to have helped to create *Ah Lin Tan*, a 100% female local social enterprise. Founded by Geres, this not-for-profit organisation gives women the

opportunity to sell high-quality products – not only cooking equipment, but also lighting, communications and comfort-related products – and also provides support with managing their businesses sustainably.

Between 2024 and 2027, *Ah Lin Tan* plans to bring together more than 200 women and expand its range further, including work tools for farmers and craftspeople. It offers a glimmer of hope in very challenging times for the people of Myanmar.

TO MARK 8 MARCH, OUR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS

Women all over the world already have to face inequalities and difficulties that show no sign of improving, meaning they suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change. They are less able to recover from natural disasters and their income is more affected by the changing climate, worsening their living conditions and their health.

To mark International Women's Day, we launched a major campaign to help raise awareness of this twin injustice and engage people around our global work for women's empowerment. From 8-23 March, we raised awareness of multiple injustices that

disproportionately affect women, before closing our campaign with an event in Marseille – an opportunity to give practical explanations of these issues through activities based on Planet Gender (*Planète Genre*), a card game about gender and climate, which Geres helped design. The evening continued with a round table discussion on solutions that support women's initiatives, before concluding with a presentation of the results of the European programme Empowered, run by nine organisations with a shared ambition: helping to tackle energy poverty, which disproportionately affects women.



PASSIVE SOLAR AGRICULTURE SUPPORTING FOOD AUTONOMY IN MONGOLIA

For over a decade, Geres has been working alongside its partners to develop Mongolia's agricultural sector. With funding from the Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects (*Fonds de Solidarité pour Projets Innovants*), run by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, we are opening a new programme to support innovation and provide autonomous financing for passive energy solutions for the vegetable farming sector while empowering women, who make up the majority of these farmers.

Our team helps pilot cooperatives in the province of Selenge to adopt our bioclimatic greenhouses and cellars, which are suited to the cold local climate. In addition to the technical aspects, the team works with the cooperatives to set out a mixed financing scheme that enables them to make investments in production and storage equipment.

The programme offers an innovative approach **because it supports farmers**

through autonomous financing of sustainable unheated solutions. The project also helps to empower women, who represent 75% of the vegetable production workforce, promoting their access to resources, financial services and property ownership.

Ultimately, the idea is to highlight the important role that small producers play in agriculture, ensure they are economically viable to better meet the dietary requirements of Mongolia's residents and develop their resilience to climate change. The programme results will feed into proposals for a larger-scale project by 2025.

300

PEOPLE IN 30 VEGETABLE FARMING COOPERATIVES WILL BENEFIT FROM A TAILORED BUSINESS PLAN AND RELEVANT TRAINING

"In 1992, estimates suggested that nearly a billion people did not have access to electricity, mostly in Africa. I'm very active in decentralised rural energy, so I've long been aware of Geres, which was already a pioneer even then. I've been on Geres's board of directors since 2019, and it's developed considerable

expertise in energy access through renewables-based mini-grids, with a particular focus on providing socio-economic support to village residents and craftspeople. When it comes to increasing access to energy, you can count on their experience. Thank you for supporting their expertise"



JEAN-LOUIS BAL

President of Agir pour le Climat and Geres board member

ENERGY-EFFICIENT COLD ROOMS MEAN LOWER BILLS, LOWER TEMPERATURES AND FEWER PAINS

Successfully managing an energy, climate and ecological transition in the farming sector is a major challenge, and one that we are taking on in Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur as part of the IRA2E network.

Our contributions in recent years include helping to install several eco-friendly cold rooms for storing fruit and vegetables on the farm and training farmers on how best to use them. The cold rooms are built using bio-based materials, heavily insulated, perfectly sealed and tailored to their users' needs in both sizing and energy consumption.

This year, when our team returned to our partner farms in Avignon and La Saulce to follow up on the project and see how farmers' practices had developed, they found considerable energy savings of up to 60%.

Not only do the cold rooms generate financial savings, but because they are perfectly suited to farmers' needs and are designed with user comfort in mind, they have also helped improve working conditions. Julien Ronzon from La Durette farm agrees: *"The most obvious and immediate benefit is user comfort. We've also seen improvements in terms of surface area, storage volume [and] length of storage thanks to the perfect conditions."*

55-60%

ENERGY SAVINGS
COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL
COLD-STORAGE ROOMS



ANALYSING, TESTING, DEVELOPING AND SHARING OUR EXPERTISE FOR MORE COMFORTABLE WINTERS

In Myanmar in 2021, Geres and Gret – with the support of *Fondation Abbé Pierre* – carried out an unprecedented survey on the housing situation in the remote and mountainous Chin State. Winters are harsh here, and our assessment identified precarious living conditions: little or no thermal efficiency (insulation, construction materials, equipment) and inadequate sanitation systems.

Our teams, along with our civil society partners, have helped to promote a transition towards healthier homes.

Over two years, we have developed and tested construction solutions to improve homes' thermal performance (insulation, limited air infiltration, double-wall construction, false ceilings and building orientation) and their level of comfort with double-pit latrines.

This allows residents to maintain an indoor temperature that is 4–8°C warmer than a standard home, without using any heating.

At the end of the project, we will have worked alongside local communities to renovate 100 homes, and around 30 local craftspeople will have undergone training in introducing these solutions more widely. Cooperation with local partners is under way to create opportunities for additional human and financial resources to increase the number of renovations.

100

HOMES RENOVATED
FOR BETTER ENERGY
PERFORMANCE
AND BETTER HEALTH



THE NEW SITE IS LIVE!

In just a few clicks, access a wide range of useful resources for setting up local Energy and Climate Information Services:
<https://siec-med.org/>



DEMONSTRATING SOLUTIONS' IMPACT AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY WHEN SCALING UP

Between 2018 and 2022, we helped 1,429 Mongolian households access solutions to insulate their homes, reducing energy costs and pollution and eliminating 3,556 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Based on these encouraging results and the positive interactions between all stakeholders, the programme – supported by the European Union and *Fondation Abbé Pierre* – was renewed in 2023, with the aim of scaling up and replicating the project in another province by 2026.

To choose the new beneficiary city, our team set out criteria such as the level of air pollution, the number of individual homes and household poverty levels. The team then worked with local stakeholders to analyse the availability of construction materials, identify people working in the sector and assess the presence of financial institutions through a participatory mapping process.

Five provincial capitals have been preselected ahead of discussions with local representatives of both the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Tourism as well as provincial governors. The selected city will be announced in 2024. Until then, provincial public funds have been used to replicate certain activities in the Ömnögovi region.

Inspired by the results from Mongolia, our team in Tajikistan has been working since 2022 to expand its range of technical solutions to reach more groups and better include



and serve communities. In the Rasht Valley, for example, where we are implementing an EU-funded rural development project in partnership with the NGO Caritas, our team has identified and put forward simple measures that are affordable for low-income households and that residents can take themselves, such as hanging curtains in front of doors and windows and installing foam insulation on the floor. These solutions are also in place in a number of schools to highlight their impact and encourage wider adoption.

In both countries, our approach plays a crucial role in the projects' success. We strive to measure project impacts in both qualitative and quantitative terms before scaling up and taking our work to new levels with evidence to support our approach.

For example, a cost-benefit study on the individual housing renovation programme we have been running in Tajikistan for nine years showed that not only do households experience a quick return on investment, but the social impacts and the impacts on health

and greenhouse gas emissions are also considerable and justify investment in this type of action in their own right.

In Mongolia, a contribution analysis was carried out on the programme to improve energy efficiency in urban homes. Using a change-oriented approach, this method showed how Geres and its partners have helped to create positive momentum in urban home renovation in Ulaanbaatar.

33%

FUEL SAVINGS IN SCHOOLS FOLLOWING THERMAL RENOVATION WORK

OUR ACTIONS IN 2023



Here, the Cerie factory has adopted a lighting system that uses natural light where possible, improving energy efficiency and workers' well-being

ENCOURAGING THE SWITCH TO A LESS POLLUTING TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN CAMBODIA

Geres has been working in Cambodia for 30 years, where it is researching sustainable solutions to increase citizens' and businesses' awareness of environmental limitations and thermal comfort.

This year, as part of our energy efficiency work in the textile sector (SWITCH-Garment/VETHIC), we trained staff at 50 factories and helped 30 of them create action plans to improve both their environmental performance and employee working conditions. Three training modules have been developed to strengthen managers' ability to reduce energy consumption and the temperatures workers must cope with, both protecting the environment and meeting international social expectations.

The programme will take a further step forward in 2024 when our teams explore the potential of artificial intelligence to categorise the

biomass used by factories and guide factory managers to more environmentally friendly choices. This approach will encourage sustainable practices and will be supported through participatory workshops to strengthen awareness of the link between energy management and working conditions.

5,944

WORKERS GIVEN ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAINING

For the last 10 years, the Fondation Nexans has worked to assist and support global solidarity initiatives to reduce energy poverty, and in 2023, we celebrated nine years of making a difference in partnership with the foundation. In West and North Africa, Nexans has actively supported our work, including pilot projects that have resulted in the first three electrified business parks being built in Kongséguéla, Koury and Kita in Mali.

"The Fondation is proud to support Geres's initiatives to enhance access to sustainable energy and promote the energy transition. Our partnership is one of the most sustainable and impactful, in particular thanks to the Electrified Business Parks in Mali, where our financial support helped to implement this innovative project that combines

environmental and social impact.” – Maria Lorente Fraguas, Senior Corporate VP CHRO and Fondation Nexans Secretary General.

The foundation has also supported other major energy transition projects via the rollout of Energy and Climate Information Services in Morocco. It is currently supporting our project to assist productive users of energy in Togo and Benin.



DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS?
GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR TEAM

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"VOLUNTEERING MEANS THAT TOGETHER, WE HAVE A MUCH BIGGER AND MORE LASTING IMPACT"

At our last annual event in Marseille, our teams benefited from significant volunteer support, including from Elham Aghakhani, who has volunteered for Geres for two years.

In a joint interview, Clarisse Matta, our new engagement officer, explained how she chose to join Geres “to promote a model that protects the planet and, at the same time, help those who are vulnerable to climate change”. Elham, who shares these values, emphasised “the importance of Geres’s inclusive approach and its impact on the lives of women, who are the first to be affected by climate change”.

Asked about the importance of volunteering, Clarisse said: *"Volunteers give their time but above all, they're part of a community. Developing our volunteer network lets us grow this community and share Geres's values more widely."* Elham added: *"Volunteering has given me access to a range of events and I've been able to talk about topics that matter to me and listen to different points of view. Being a volunteer means being part of something bigger, and together, we have a much bigger and more lasting impact."*



22 APRIL: THE CHANCE TO SHAPE A BETTER WORLD

Once again, our team more than rose to the challenge of **Earth Day 2023**, coordinating the event nationally for the second year running. And we achieved great things, mobilising some 50 organisations and getting our environmental message out to tens of thousands of people!

75
EVENTS
ORGANISED
IN FRANCE



5%

JUST 5% OF PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS
HAVE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

IN SIERRA LEONE, RURAL ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY IS A PRIORITY

Sierra Leone is one of the world's poorest countries. It is ranked 181st out of 189 on the Human Development Index, and three quarters of its people live below the poverty line. Access to reliable infrastructure remains severely limited, and less than 30% of the population has electricity access, falling to 5% in rural areas.

Local electrification operators face multiple obstacles to viable development, including the technical limitations of existing infrastructure, intermittent electricity supply and lack of economic activity.

Our team is currently developing a new electricity access project in Sierra Leone, building on the expertise they have gained across

Africa: developing Electrified Business Parks in Mali, providing technical and methodological support to the Renewable Energy Access Programme in Senegal's Saint-Louis Region, delivering the energy access and energy efficiency project in Benin, and providing technical support to mini-grid developers in Burkina Faso.

The aim is to help build the capacity of rural electrification operators and local entrepreneurs alike to encourage the development of productive energy use. A pre-feasibility study will begin in 2024 ahead of a launch in 2025.

SUPPORTING COMMITMENT TO THE TRANSITION

NINE ASSESSMENTS TO HELP LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE "LOCAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES" PROJECT

As part of their decentralised cooperation measures, the region of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima (TTAH) in Morocco is working with Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in France on the SLEC (Local Energy and Climate Services) project. This project, funded by the European Union, aims to raise all stakeholders' awareness of clean energy, climate action, eco-friendly practices and green jobs.

As part of the project, our teams carried out nine assessments (in the TTAAH region and eight target municipalities) to gain a better understanding of the local area's needs and expectations as well as of existing barriers to action. From carrying out research and

document analysis to collecting information and organising scoping meetings with local authorities and focus groups, almost 300 people will have been involved in the assessment stage.

This has laid the foundations for the upcoming project to establish seven new Local Energy and Climate Services. This project promises to have a significant impact on the region and its residents, not only in environmental terms but also in terms of increasing the region's appeal, including its economic appeal.



285

PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE
ENERGY AND CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

ACCELERATING GREEN ENERGY CONTRACTS IN FRANCE: A CHALLENGE



Despite the fact that renewable energy has a positive image and more and more people are aware of environmental issues, there are still too few households choosing green energy contracts for their domestic consumption.

Is this due to lack of information? Fear of change? To overcome the obstacles to the energy transition, we must first understand and analyse them. Our team, which is already working on increasing acceptance of the anaerobic digestion sector, partnered with Smart Avenir to carry out a survey to understand potential customers' opinions on the technical complexity of these tariffs, as well as the measures that encourage access to renewable energy and the incentives for and obstacles to choosing a green energy supply.

After an initial review of the existing situation, field data collected from households and energy professionals expanded our understanding and identified a number of approaches to overcome these obstacles.

In 2024, after a final survey phase involving a questionnaire of 400 households, we will develop messaging to incentivise people to purchase green energy and make green tariffs more acceptable, increasing demand and – we hope – helping to increase the share of renewables in France's energy mix.



10

REGIONAL AUTHORITIES CAPABLE
OF PREPARING FUNDING PROPOSALS

AFRICA: TRAINING AUTHORITIES TO SET OUT, DEVELOP AND FINANCE THEIR ENERGY ACCESS PROJECTS

In 2024, in partnership with the International Association of Francophone Regions (*Association Internationale des Régions Francophones*), our team will develop a project to strengthen cooperation and support energy access projects by some ten regional authorities. Geres will share its expertise in setting out, developing and financing development assistance projects with regional players in Benin, Ivory Coast, Mauritania and Morocco to build their capacity.

To improve responses to climate, environmental and socio-economic challenges, we will offer individual support to authorities that are proposing projects, including contributing

to international groupings and organising training webinars.

We will focus our support on solar pumping, rural electrification for domestic, production or public use and clean and effective cooking. Along with our partners, we will also work in particular on gender issues as well as capacity building for local human resources to ensure our actions benefit everyone.

CARBON CREDITS: MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

Carbon offsetting, where organisations or individuals attempt to counteract some of their CO2 emissions by financing climate-positive projects, has raised great hopes for funding the transition, but also many criticisms.

The *Info Compensation Carbone* website, supported by ADEME and run by Geres, has provided information, guidance and advice since 2015, promoting best practices in offsetting.

Our aim is to make the carbon economy easier to understand and more accessible through informative content.

Following on from its annual assessment of carbon offsetting as seen from France, in 2024, InfoCC will begin multi-stakeholder work to make project selection criteria more transparent and reduce uncertainties

surrounding the actual carbon savings made, as well as the effects on communities and ecosystems. In addition, because an offsetting policy can only ever exist as a complement to a reduction strategy and there will never be a true physical equivalence between a company's actual emissions and the carbon credits available on the market, we think it is more accurate to describe such schemes as a contribution to collective climate neutrality than as true offsetting. With this in mind, and line with the recommendations we make regarding CSR communications, InfoCC will soon become *Info Contribution Neutralité Carbone*.



FIND OUT MORE: WWW.INFO-COMPENSATION-CARBONE.COM
(IN FRENCH)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: JUMP-STARTING THE INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

Inclusion means understanding vulnerabilities and identifying discrimination that various groups face as a way of better tackling inequalities and allowing everyone to – simply put – live a decent, happy life.

This principle has been at the heart of Geres's efforts to tackle poverty for a decade. It is clear that broadening access to energy, improving living conditions for vulnerable groups and strengthening their resilience to climate change are inextricably linked.

Gradually, we have systematically developed understanding and awareness of exclusion factors in the field so we can adapt our practices and optimise the impact and quality of our operations. Because women have more limited access to energy in both quantity and

quality and have specific energy needs, our programmes are designed to ensure they have access to essential energy services and to mobilise them to become stakeholders in the energy transition.

This year, we are republishing the game *Planète Genre* (Planet Gender), an awareness-raising tool that sparks discussions about the relationships between gender and climate but also about adaptation and mitigation solutions.

“The inclusive approach is gradually becoming a separate strategic technical and organisational capability for Geres and its projects.”

MARINA DUBOIS

Head of the Inclusion
and Energy Programme

ON THE NEXT PAGE, **DISCOVER OUR NEW FAME PROGRAMME WHICH AMPLIFIES FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS' VOICES AND BUILDS THEIR CAPACITY TO TAKE ACTION!**



I'M GONNA LEAD FOREVER!

A CLOSER LOOK AT FAME, THE NEW CONSORTIUM-BASED PROJECT LED BY GERES TO CREATE A FEMINIST ECONOMY

In 2024, working with three France-based organisations and three networks of organisations in southern countries, Geres is launching a major project to support economic activities undertaken by women and sexual and gender minorities from ten countries around the world. This project, funded by the Support Fund for Feminist Organisations (*Fonds de Soutien aux Organisations Féministes*) set up by AFD, will enable us to give beneficiaries effective

and lasting guidance towards economic autonomy by promoting equality in access to and retention in employment, encouraging equal access to economic sectors and helping to transform gender-based relations.

According to the French National Observatory on Poverty and Social Exclusion, 70% of the 3.7 million people in France considered "working poor" are women. All over the world, women and sexual and gender minorities suffer from discrimination, violence and barriers to accessing equal rights, such as patriarchal social norms and inequality in legal frameworks. Such discrimination entrenches vulnerabilities and reinforces their economic insecurity.

Amplifying the voices of feminist organisations from four continents – in Benin, Togo, Guinea, Morocco, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Ecuador, Bolivia and the

Dominican Republic – and further empowering them, FAME (Feminism: Actions and Mobilisation for an inclusive Economy) will strengthen these organisations, enable them to access funding and implement advocacy techniques.

Our one-of-a-kind consortium will identify target organisations, empowering and assisting them by providing them with long-term support and financing their development through an innovative model of intermediated funds designed to better distribute assistance to local organisations that traditionally struggle to access funds.

€10M

€5 MILLION OF WHICH WILL BE DIRECTLY REDISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



SUPPORTING WOMEN WHO ARE MAKING THE TRANSITION HAPPEN

In Myanmar, the social enterprise *Ah Lin Tan* uses a network of female entrepreneurs to sell energy-efficient equipment in isolated rural areas and promote a series of best practices for energy use. With European Union funding and in partnership with Gret, in 2024, we are launching an ambitious four-year project to support the business's development to ensure as many people as possible can access energy equipment and services, which are currently either too remote or of poor quality.

As well as improving living conditions for families in villages, it will also directly reduce pressure on wood resources and electricity consumption, as generation is severely limited.

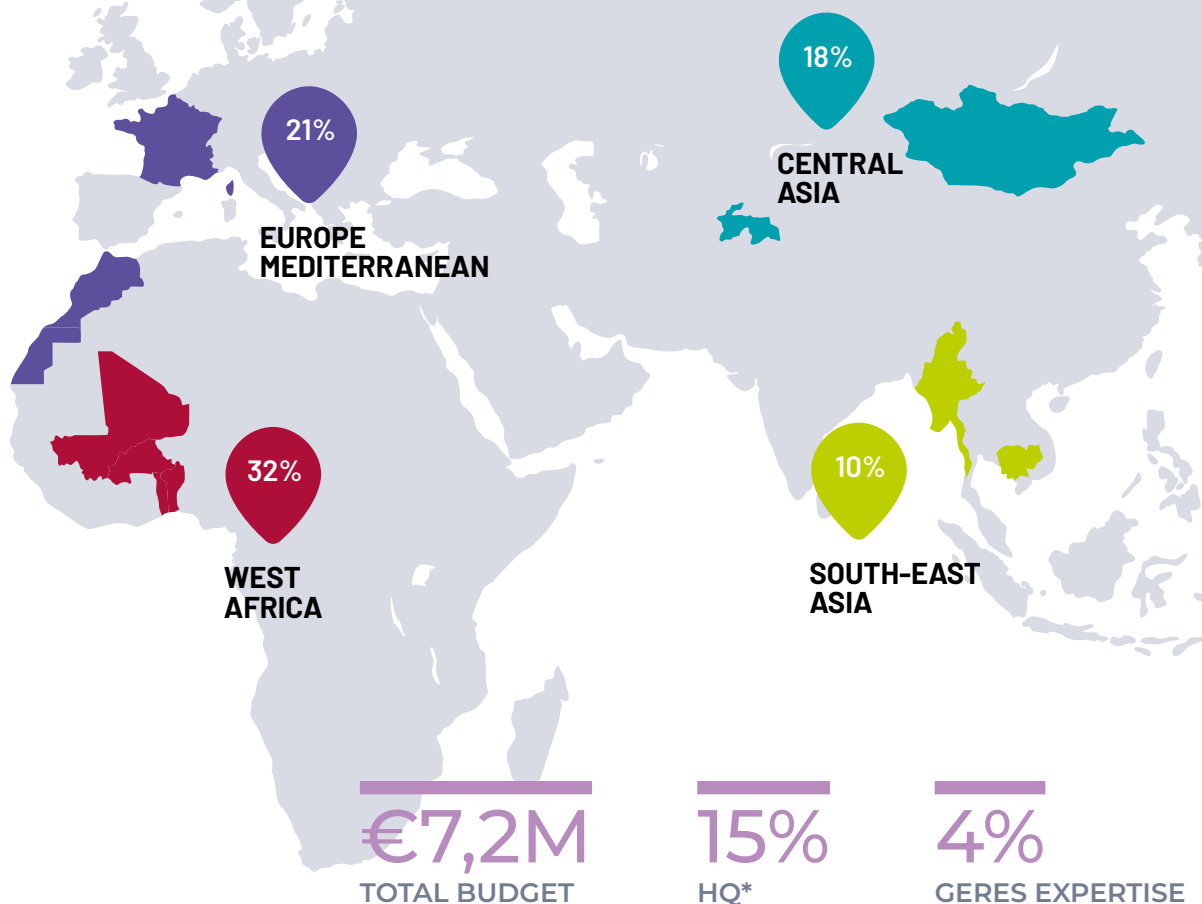
The project will identify, train and support more female entrepreneurs, gradually expanding the distribution network and assisting *Ah Lin Tan* as it develops by giving female distributors an ever-increasing role in its management, preparing the company

to hire employees responsible for testing, choosing and promoting equipment that meets residents' needs and helping it to develop its business model.

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FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS WILL HAVE DISTRIBUTED MORE EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO AROUND 20,000 FAMILIES BY THE END OF THE PROJECT

Our budget stands at €7.2m. This is a significant decrease compared to 2022 (-21%, -€1.9m) due to France ending its funding to Mali.



FINANCIAL RESULT

Geres is in surplus for its 2023 financial year.

Geres is in surplus for its 2023 financial year. The financial result stands at €70k, down by €33k (-32%) compared to 2022, as a result of decreased activity. Operating and fundraising costs (+€20k, +2%) remain almost stable despite a context of inflation and additional human resources.

To counteract the overall fall in activity, Geres invested in specific human resources in an effort to develop new activities. These stand at €41k, paid for using dedicated funds.

This positive result is due to reversals of some provisions that had become surplus (€98k) and financial and exceptional income (+€4k each).

*expressed as a percentage of actual uses and not total uses

OUTLOOKS

The 2024 budget should remain stable compared to 2023, taking account of the impact of the closure of the AFD project in Mali coupled with the termination of an agreement in Burkina Faso in early 2024.

The new projects for which agreements were signed in the first few weeks of 2024 will not be rolled out fully until the second half of the year. Redeployment of Mali's suspended funding will not be truly operational until 2025, and the same is true of the funding anticipated following 2023's work to identify new sources.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Operating and fundraising costs accounted for 14.1% of the total budget compared to 10.9% in 2022 (+€20k, +2%). This rise remains modest in light of the resources spent on redeployment efforts (€41k).

It is also linked to the increase in fundraising costs in line with our strategy. These costs rose by €43k (+24%) while operating costs fell by €23k (-3%). Note that in 2023, donations increased by €17k (+27%), but remain below the €87k collected in 2021.

Geres's accounts were approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors on 6 June 2024 and certified by the auditors Llinas Audit.



Geres has been IDEAS-certified since 2014, and this year it received certification for the third time, speaking to our organisation's use of best practices in terms of our governance, finances and evaluation. IDEAS certification is awarded on the basis of the requirements set out in the "IDEAS Best Practice Guide", which commits us to a process of continuous improvement to optimise our work and encourage our development.

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2023	2022	2023-2022
NET FIXED ASSETS (€)	365 208	339 803	7%
Stock of services	37 957	14 595	160%
Stock of finished products	123 035	146 638	-16%
Receivables	8 417 813	14 593 041	-42%
Accrued income	102 046	65 897	55%
Prepaid expenses	17 865	17 614	1%
Cash	4 357 207	5 999 130	-27%
NET CURRENT ASSETS (€)	13 055 923	20 836 917	-37%
TOTAL NET ASSETS (€)	13 421 130	21 176 720	-37%

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	2023	2022	2023-2022
Equity	1 504 609	1 401 546	7%
Operating result	69 782	103 062	-32%
ASSOCIATION FUNDS (€)	1 574 391	1 504 609	5%
Provisions for retirement benefits	47 698	45 014	6%
Provisions for risks and charges	816 942	966 865	-16%
Dedicated funds	390 536	368 877	6%
PROVISIONS (€)	1 255 176	1 380 756	-9%
Loans from credit institutions	37 525	56 365	-33%
Accounts payable	325 974	230 753	41%
Tax and social security liabilities	308 037	407 498	-24%
Deferred income	9 920 028	17 596 738	-44%
CURRENT LIABILITIES (€)	10 591 564	18 291 355	-42%
TOTAL NET LIABILITIES (€)	13 421 130	21 176 720	-37%

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet total has fallen sharply (-37%) from €21.2m to €13.4m (-€7.8m). This change is linked to the decrease in receivables under assets and deferred income under liabilities, reflecting a decrease in the “reserve” of activities, primarily for 2024 and 2025. This drop is linked to the termination of our French funding in the Sahel region and to the fact that certain grant agreements were only signed in early 2024.

Available funds are also down (-€1.6m, -27%), but remain high (€4.4m). Thanks to the surplus generated in 2023, own funds continue to increase, reaching €1,574,391. They represent 23% of the 2023 budget, equivalent to 2.8 months of activities.

OUTLOOKS FOR 2024 AND 2025

2023 brought a significant drop in activity, and in 2024 the operating budget is set to increase slightly. Although we were able to sign two significant funding agreements in early 2024, we know that the projects will only truly hit their stride at the end of the first year. One of these agreements was signed with AFD and the other with Gret as a leader in European funding.

The first agreement relates to a project by the Support Fund for Feminist Organisations (FSOF) worth €10m, 100% financed by AFD and for which Geres leads a consortium of 6 INGOs across 10 countries and four continents.

The second agreement covers the scaling up of a previous Geres project in Myanmar, and finances the SENTRUM project (Securing Energy Needs and Transition of RUrual areas in Myanmar; Geres budget: €3.8m, 100% EU-funded). It aims to support the development of a women-led social enterprise that distributes energy equipment in rural areas.

Other new projects for 2024 will only enter full development in 2025. For example, political events delayed the start date of a project financed by the World Bank in Niger and may affect its ambitions. In Sierra Leone, which will host our redeployed “AFD/6ZAE” project (Mali, interrupted in November 2022), it will only be possible to carry out the preliminary steps in 2024 ahead of full redeployment, expected in 2025.

Geres's budget is therefore likely to rise once again in 2025.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS

INCOME BY SOURCE	FY 2023				FY 2022			
	TOTAL	%	Of which public donations	%	TOTAL	%	Of which public donations	%
1- PRODUITS FROM PUBLIC GENEROSITY	84 148	1,17%	84 148	100%	66 483	0,73%	66 483	100%
1.1 Contributions without consideration	4 240		4 240		3 590		3 590	
1.2 Donations, bequests and sponsorship								
- Unrestricted individual donations	79 334		79 334		62 703		62 703	
- Earmarked individual donations	574		574		190		190	
- Bequests and other unrestricted donations								
- Sponsorship								
1.3 Other income from public generosity								
2- INCOME NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC GENEROSITY	1 568 349	21,79%			1 292 567	14,18%		
2.1 Contributions with consideration								
2.2 Business sponsorship	246 192				121 133			
2.3 Financial contributions without consideration	777 538				652 395			
2.4 Other income not related to public generosity	544 619				519 040			
3- GRANTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AID	5 075 607	70,51%			7 452 779	81,79%		
4- REVERSALS OF PROVISIONS AND DEPRECIATION	394 069	5,47%			277 471	3,04%		
5- USES OF PREVIOUS DEDICATED FUNDS	75 898	1,05%			23 148	0,25%		
TOTAL	7 198 071		84 148		9 112 448		66 483	

EXPENSES BY USE OF FUNDS	FY 2023				FY 2022			
	TOTAL	%	Of which public donations	%	TOTAL	%	Of which public donations	%
1- ASSOCIATION'S PURPOSE	5 726 042	80,33%	49 364	58,66%	7 490 697	83,14%	62 703	94,31%
1.1 In France	1 136 635		9 664		914 556			
- Work carried out by the association	901 222				782 150		9 143	
- Payments to a central body or other bodies operating in France	235 413				132 406			
1.2 Abroad	4 589 407		39 700		6 576 141		53 560	
- Work carried out by the association	4 047 494				5 553 711			
- Payments to a central body or other bodies operating abroad	540 913				1 022 430			
2- FUNDRAISING COSTS	223 090	3,13%	574	0,68%	180 391	2,00%	190	0,29%
2.1 Public fundraising costs	71 072				50 616			
2.2 Other fundraising costs	152 018				129 775			
3- OPERATING COSTS	790 103	11,08%	4 335	5,15%	812 989	9,02%	3 590	5,40%
4- ALLOCATIONS TO PROVISIONS AND DEPRECIATION	290 962	4,08%			518 866	5,76%		
5- INCOME TAX	533	0,01%			533	0,01%		
6- RESTRICTED FUND CARRY-OVERS FOR THE YEAR	97 558	1,37%	29 876	35,50%	5 910	0,07%		0,00%
TOTAL	7 128 289		84 148		9 009 386		66 483	
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	69 782				103 062			

Actual operating funds totalled €6.7m in 2023, a reduction of €2m (-23%) compared to 2022.

Grants accounted for 87% of actual operating funds compared to 92% in the previous year. The proportion of private grants has risen to 23%, compared to 15% in 2022.

Sales of carbon credits rose significantly to €269k, and all carbon credits created as a result of Wassa improved stoves in Mali and certified as at 31/12/23 have been sold.

Turnover from service provision fell markedly (-€218k, -56%) after the significant increase in 2022. This change is because two studies run by our Expertise team in Niger and the Horn of Africa – on cooking solutions and household involvement in the energy transition – have concluded.

Action research into the latter topic began in 2022 and continued in 2023. This research is carried out by GEM in collaboration with a doctoral student and is part-funded by GRDF.

Individual donations from the public rose compared to 2022 (+€17k, +27%).

Other income (€822k) rose (+€320k, +64%) due to the increase in reversals of provisions (+€117k) and other operating income (+€180k), driven by an increase in income relating to corporate mobilisation (up by €125k to €246k) and financial income (+36K€) due to interest earnings from various investments.

Actual expenditure fell by 21% between 2022 and 2023 to €6.74m.

Activities in West Africa, Geres's primary region of operation (€2.14m), have fallen significantly (by 33%) following the suspension of French funding for Mali.

The Europe-Mediterranean region returns to being Geres's second most active region as a result of increased activity in France (+€222k, +24%). This counteracts the reduction in our activities in Morocco (-€206k, -40%), which is due to the completion of the SIEC project (see p.13) and the ECODEV project (see p.6) on 31/12/23. In France, the Anaerobic Digestion and IRAEE projects (see p.7) financed by ADEME and the Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur account for over 40% of activities.

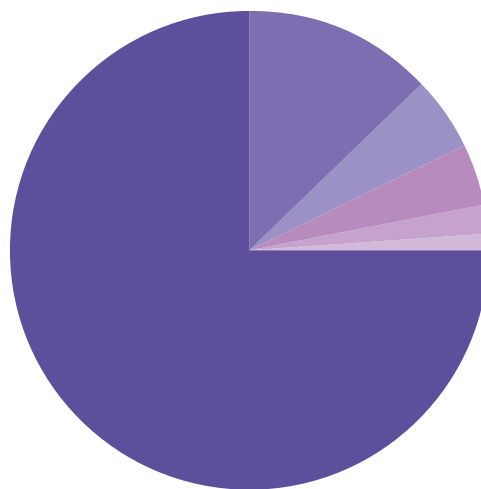
Central Asia (-32%) becomes Geres' third most active region, with – as in 2022 – projects funded by the EU, AFD, Fondation Abbé Pierre and the French Embassy in Mongolia. In both Mongolia and Tajikistan, projects involved structuring the housing construction and energy renovation sectors and implementing energy solutions for agriculture.

South-East Asia is the only region to have experienced a clear increase (+€143k, +26%). In Cambodia, the project financed by the EU and AFD aims to make textile factories more energy-efficient and reduce their wood consumption; in Myanmar, the AFD-funded project helped to develop a female-run last-mile distribution network for energy-efficient equipment, while another pilot project to improve rural homes in cold areas also took place (see p.10).

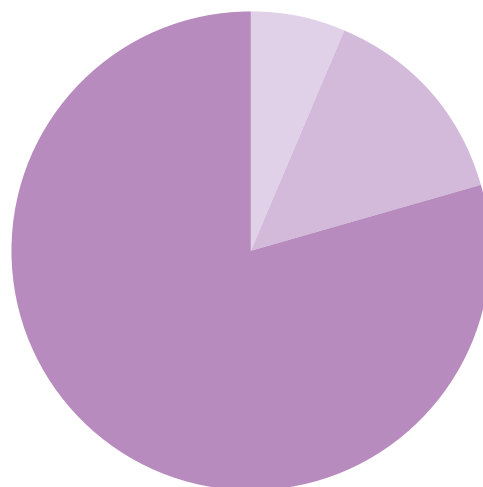
The Expertise unit saw a significant drop in activity (-€295k, -56%). In 2023, there was only one programme agreement in place with AFD (the ECODEV agreement), with GEX coordinating the cross-cutting components. The service provision activities, which were financed by the World Bank and which resulted in an increase in activities in 2022, concluded in early 2023.

Origin of actual operating funds in 2023 (excluding recovery of provisions, dedicated funds and stock variation)

Public funds: 77% | Private funds: 23%



Distribution of expenditure in 2023



OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Thank you ! Geres would like to acknowledge the commitment, trust and loyalty of its financial partners, without whom its own work and that of its technical partners would not be possible.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Aix-Marseille-Provence Métropole
- Région Sud-Provence- Alpes-Côte-d'Azur
- City of Paris
- City of Marseille

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCIES

- AFD – French Development Agency
- European Union
- The French Embassy in Mongolia
- French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

FRENCH PUBLIC BODIES

- ADEME – Environment and Energy Management Agency
- ADEME Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur

PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND BUSINESSES

- Air Liquide Foundation
- Appui au Développement autonome (ADA)
- Artelia Foundation
- Castorama Foundation
- CMA CGM
- Colis Privé, a subsidiary of CMA-CGM
- Energie Partagée (Les Amis d'Enercoop fund)
- Enerlis Solidarité endowment fund
- Engie Foundation
- Erilia
- Eurofins Foundation
- Fondation Abbé Pierre
- Fondation Lord Michelham of Hellingly
- Fondation Nexans
- Fondation Ponts-Neufs
- GRDF
- Itancia endowment fund
- Legallais Foundation
- Les amis du Festival de Cannes Foundation
- Mirova Foundation
- Muskhane
- Novespace
- Olga – Vrai
- Raja-Danièle Marcovici Foundation
- Rexel Foundation
- SEPIA Conseils
- Solagro
- Solinergy endowment fund
- Synergie Renouvelable endowment fund
- Valorem – Watt for Change endowment fund
- Wattsgood

OUR PARTNER NETWORKS



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