



# Counting on Tomorrow

## Activity Report 2011

Today, Counting on Tomorrow (CSD) exists in the associative French landscape as evidenced by the confidence of many private and institutional donors. Our strategy for development is based on simple rules of good governance with the on-going commitment to professionalize. In this process, CSD in 2011 has pursued to dynamically improve its management tools and development of its projects. Team members and Civil Service volunteers have conducted missions with different partners and have followed training and specific seminars. Particular attention was given to the management of each program to preserve the primary mission of the association: the education of underprivileged children.

We present here the summary of our achievements in 2011 and the proposals for action in 2012.

### **1. LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION IN FRANCE**

#### **Civil Service volunteers : a support to the development of CSD**

The volunteer team of CSD has expanded with the recruitment of several volunteers from the Civil Service for missions in Ecuador, Brazil, and France. This public organization allows associations to engage with young people for missions lasting six months to one year to be prolonged in 2012 and open other programs, particularly in Cameroon. The engagement, the dynamics, and the expertise of these volunteers are a real asset for CSD and its partners.

#### **Growth of fundraising**

Revenue increased 20% from 147,000 euros in 2010 to 176,000 euros in 2011. CSD has continued its work of exploration among foundations, corporations, associations, and school clubs while retaining its private donors. Among the donors in 2011, noted among others are Foundations RAJA, Air France, PPR (Printemps-Pinault-Redoute), Ecocert, Bonduelle...

#### **Financial transparency**

CSD wished, without legal constraints, to renew the audit of its accounts in 2011. The association has commissioned the firm accountant, Mazars, who concluded to its perfect financial management. CSD using the generosity of the public via the internet, accounting for the fiscal 2011 also included the establishment of the first account of use of funds collected from the public (CER). These documents are available upon request.

### **2. COUNTING ON TOMORROW ON THE GROUND**

#### **Close monitoring of programs**

2011 saw the deployment of a number of ground missions of administrators, 9 in total, to which is added those of the Civil Service volunteers. All programs in 5 countries of operation, were able to be evaluated one to several times a year. This close monitoring allowed to point out the successes and failures of certain actions and redefine priorities of the organization : quality projects allied with transparent management.

## **2.1 LAOS**

The action of Counting on Tomorrow in the field of education is today recognized in Laos. Thanks to the excellent understanding of the issues of the country by Jacques DORR, administrator and country director volunteer and to the quality of our partnership with the Committee for Cooperation with Laos (CCL) and the Department of Education of the Province of Oudomsay.

This year has seen the realization of various objectives in 2010 with the consolidation of existing programs and the start of construction of a large boarding school in the northern part of the country.

### **An improvement of living conditions**

CSD as continued its work with isolated populations from the north of the country. It is, however, important to note the development of the increasing standard of living in Laos, notably in the province of Oudomsay. In certain inaccessible villages, there are a few years ahead for becoming small villages with electricity, piped water, and commerce while paved roads gradually replace muddy tracks in many districts. CSD, at its level, is proud to support this development in the education sector while remaining vigilant in its support for the most deprived areas.

### **Three complementary programs to improve education in Northern Laos**

Since 2008, CSD has worked with the Department of Education of the Province of Oudomsay on accessibility of education and improvements on the quality of teaching. For this, three main programs have been implemented :

- Aid to the operation of schools

CSD now supports 9 schools with more than 5000 children in different districts of the Oudomsay province. An operating budget around 130 euros per month and by setting wages to finance the salaries of non-tenured teachers, enrollment and school supplies for the poorest students, the costs rests to the school (vegetable gardening, small furniture, etc.)

- The development of boarding schools

CSD couples this funding with projects of construction of boarding school to promote access to education for children living in remote areas. The association has met its commitments in completing the construction of the boarding school Khok na and is starting those of Namor and Tay Or, in the provinces of Oudomsay and Phongsaly. Now CSD systematically integrates latrines and if necessary, a water supply to power them.

Since its creation, the association has financed 7 boarding schools and all of the work has always gone according to specifications and deadlines, building relationships of trust between CSD and the direction of the province.

- Teacher training scholarships

To overcome the shortage of qualified teachers in these remote rural areas, CSD funded in 2008 and 2009, 31 teaching scholarships for teachers of poor students of the Oudomsay province. Seven are already in use in their home districts and should be joined by a dozen others in 2012.

### **Other actions of Counting on Tomorrow in Laos**

#### Individual mentoring of students

Fifteen students were sponsored in 2011 in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. They continued their success with different courses : medical, dental, engineering, computing...

#### Francophone support

CSD continued funding language courses at the French Alliance of 8 students and their entry to the Diploma of French Language Studies (DELFI). Mastering French in Laos is a real asset as there are many possibilities in teaching as well as in tourism, or in the medical world.

### Primary schools in the plains of Vientiane

CSD has extended its support to schools in Hua Yen Nam and Khun Mong Say in the plains of Vientiane by providing funds for their operations. Counting on Tomorrow has also cofinanced with several local associations including the CCL, a library and equipment of production of drinking water in the school of Daxang.

### Ophthalmic training

The project Laophthalmo continued in 2011 with a mission of a week of training in the hospital Tong Pong of Vientiane. Fifteen Laotian ophthalmologists have also benefitted from general courses on optics and refraction validated by practical workshops. The trainers also went to the hospital Luang Prabang to initiate a future partnership.

### **Propositions of action for the 2012 year**

- Aid in the operation of 11 schools in the plains of Vientiane and in the province of Oudomsay
- Finalize the construction of schools of Namor and Ou Tay in the provinces of Oudomsay and Phongsaly
- Development of schools in Naxiendy in the province of Oudomsay
- Financing the training of 23 teachers in Luang Prabang
- Sponsorship of fifteen students in Vientiane and Luang Prabang
- Ophthalmologic training in the hospital at Tong Pong in Vientiane and in Luang Prabang

## **2.2 CAMEROON**

*Hand in hand, partner of CSD in Cameroon, has continued its commitment to 80 children and adolescents deprived of Douala through their orphanage, of sponsorship of children in their family and their professional training in sewing.*

The investment of CSD has focused on this last point with the expansion project of sewing. In fact, Hand in Hand has set up the grounds of the orphanage vocational training for underprivileged girls. In parallel, the sewing school is allowed to generate revenue thanks to uniform orders from private companies. The age and size of the current building does not allow the conduct of these activities, and Hand in Hand wanted to add one additional floor to the existing building. CSD has accompanied its partner in the project development and fundraising.

CSD has successfully renewed the sending of volunteers during the summer. Two young French have thus facilitated the annual camp for children in Limbe. Program : Olympic sports, games, tutoring...

To the express demand of its partner, CSD has also participated in the financing of tuition fees in September. Indeed, the price of registration and textbooks have risen sharply in recent years.

## **2.3 FRANCE : The Barbès Club**

Since 2010, CSD has partnered with the Barbès Club, an association of academic support and of cultural opening in the Goutte d'Or in the 18th arrondissement of Paris. Thirty middle school and high school students benefit by means of personalized coaching, school trips, and cultural visits.

The support of CSD in 2011 focused on fundraising for the interior of a new building at 16 rue Ernestine. The mission was accomplished since the association has raised more than 15,000 euros from foundations and corporations that helped finance the equipment of 80 meters squared of new space : corner armchairs, shelves, library computers in the computer room, renovation of furniture in the study room, kitchen appliances...

The result is up to the involvement of the supervising team and beneficiaries: the space is a cozy place that will allow the Club Barbès to strengthen its local presence, expand its accompanying action for adolescents, and open the project for students in the district.

CSD plans to invest in 2012 on the project « Diplomats of Diversity, » which consists of intercultural exchanges between the young Club Barbès and American students in the neighborhood of La Goutte d'Or and within American universities.

## **2.4 BRAZIL- Terr'Ativa**

CSD continue its tripartite partnership between the Brazilian association Terr'Ativa and its French emanation Terr'Active. In this context, Marie-Anne Bedier, member of Terr'Active France, joined the Board of Directors of CSD to coordinate the Brazilian programs.

Located in the favela Morro do Fuba, an hour and a half from downtown Rio de Janeiro, Terr'Ativa conducts educational activities and teaching with children and adolescents to fight against school failure and improve their employability.

One hundred beneficiaries participated enthusiastically in the various workshops throughout the year, confirming a real interest in the project. However, 2011 also revealed 2 weaknesses in the functioning of the program : the lack of integration of Terr'Ativa in the favela and the quasi-exclusive French origin of its finances.

In 2012, CSD wants to be involved in these two priority areas of work. To do this, the association will sustain missions of Civil Service volunteers with the main objective of funding local research while working with Terr'Ativa on how to get closer to the community.

## **2.5. ECUADOR- Essor Ecuador**

The year 2011 was the second year of support from its partner Essor Ecuador. This Ecuadorian association was founded and managed by a Frenchwoman, Simone Houlbert, fighting against child malnutrition by distributing nearly 15 tons of vegetables per year to 600 beneficiaries from daycares and associations in poor neighborhoods in Quito. Small gardening courses were also organized in the garden during the school year.

The involvement of CSD was both financial and humanitarian (missions directors, sending of Civil Service volunteers to support the project on the ground).

Despite this investment and the quality of the project, the Board of Directors wished to interrupt this partnership in early 2012. Indeed tensions have arisen between the end of 2011 between the two structures and it became evident that the demands of CSD on project monitoring, including financial, was too great a burden to bear for Essor Ecuador.

It is a regret for the whole team, but this event recalls the duty of transparency in CSD face-to-face of its donors.

I will conclude this report in extending to you our sincere thanks for your trust and support.

Fanny Turpin  
President