Solidarity in action

Activity report 2020
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The health crisis has caused poverty to explode. Today and tomorrow, popular, sustainable and global solidarity is essential. © Nathalie Bardou / Hans Lucas / SPF
How did the Secours populaire react to the health crisis?

Henriette Steinberg, General Secretary: Schools, canteens, study and work centres, public services all closed, and the SPF decided to roll out its solidarity in the form of moral and material support to people struggling with lockdown restrictions and invited them to meet local SPF volunteers. With the Médecins du SPF (SPF doctors), 1,300 of the association’s centres went out to provide unconditional support to individuals and families who simply didn’t have what they needed to cope with the situation. Meanwhile, the SPF launched an urgent appeal for funding support so it could respond effectively, without allowing despair or anarchy to take hold. This approach was rolled out all over France; in urban, suburban and rural areas, thousands of people stepped up to lend a hand to SPF teams, showing dedication, volunteerism and outstanding human generosity. Once again, the association rose up to help in a time of crisis.

How did the Secours populaire adapt to this unprecedented situation?

Thierry Robert, National Secretary: Food aid was provided with contactless delivery; parcels were handed out to households rather than being made available using a self-service system, distributions were made outdoors in the manner of click and collects or drives. Before it received free batches of personal protective equipment, the SPF purchased what it needed. For access to holidays, the federations created the Journées bonheurs (happiness days), small group outings within local areas. To provide moral, educational and legal support, volunteer animators-collectors made contact and provided support by telephone, even while lockdown restrictions were in place. Academic tutoring was provided. The same goes for the life of the association; contacts were made with donors by telephone and video to respect the decisions made by the organising bodies.

The association played an important role as a goad to public authorities during the pandemic. What does that really mean?

H.S: The SPF took action on the ground while keeping public authorities up to speed on the situation, so they were fully aware about what was happening all around France, every single day. The precise details transmitted in real time to public authorities and respecting procedure, without precedence, helped to inform the decision-making process. The decisions made and the speed of their implementation were verified on the ground. As information was exchanged between SPF leaders in the field, then sent back to public authorities at all levels, potentially unsuitable actions were avoided or could be corrected.

More than 12 months later, what is the situation today? What challenges are still to be met?

T.R: We are facing a tidal wave of poverty, all over the planet. Access to quality food – because you’re only as healthy as the food you eat – access to digital technology, knowing how to use it properly and being aware of its risks, access to education as well as independence, the right to discover the world, to live without having to leave your country, or be welcomed with dignity when you have had to escape: these are the challenges that require widespread, lasting and global solidarity. Our hope is driven by the mass mobilisation of the civilian population, whether individual or collective, that was seen during this period. Our challenge now is to encourage, support and promote that commitment, 120 years after the 1901 law was passed.
As soon as the first lockdown was announced, Secours populaire volunteers reinvented their way of doing things so that they could continue to help the most disadvantaged. © Nathalie Bardou / Hans Lucas / SPF
An unprecedented health crisis that brings challenges for the future.

Since January 2020, a pandemic has been raging all around the world, unprecedented in both its severity and its magnitude. Beginning in the region of Wuhan, the Covid-19 virus quickly spread to every continent, causing death and forcing governments around the world to take drastic measures in their attempt to stop the spread of the disease. On 16 March, lockdown restrictions were announced in France. It became compulsory to work from home, schools and non-essential businesses were closed down, and travel was strictly regulated. In total, three billion people around the world were given stay-at-home orders. Social distancing, strict preventive healthcare, etc. became the norm. Even now, our daily lives are still hugely affected by the health crisis, with the most vulnerable on the front line. Globally, during 2020, 82 million people were affected by the virus, and 1.8 million died from it. In France, more than 2.6 million people have been infected and more than 64,000 have died.

From a health point of view, the consequences have been devastating, but a serious social crisis is looming. Through its solidarity initiatives, the Secours populaire is the first to witness the tidal wave of poverty and instability that is making its way towards France, Europe and the rest of the world. Even though it acts as a goad to the authorities by warning them of the situation, the association continues to work hard to cope with the impact of Covid-19.
The pandemic and successive lockdowns left nobody and nowhere unscathed.

From the very first days of lockdown, all the Secours populaire's centres had to deal with an unprecedented requirement for aid. This aid was needed because entire segments of the economy simply stopped operating; many support structures slowed down their operations, and some public services had to shut their doors.

Lockdown was brutal and so were its consequences on a huge number of people, many of whom had never before needed to seek our help. Canteens closing meant unexpected food bills for poorer families, including many single mothers. School closures highlighted the digital divide for hundreds of thousands of pupils who did not have the computer tools they needed to keep up with schooling remotely.

With businesses closing down in several sectors, many workers found themselves stranded, including the self-employed, tradespeople and small business owners. Temporary employees and seasonal workers discovered that their contracts weren't going to be renewed.

There is no doubt that students were impacted most severely. They were left with no income overnight when all casual work suddenly stopped, including in restaurants, shops and in the human services sector. As end-of-study work placements (often paid) and summer jobs were cancelled, their situation became even more unstable. With university cafeterias closing down, many students were unable to feed themselves every day. Not to mention that a lot them struggled to keep up with remote learning because they did not have a laptop or an internet subscription and the places they used to get online before lockdown had to close.

In the light of all this, and to meet as many needs as possible while supporting anyone in difficulty, the Secours populaire adapted its tactics from day one and initiated as many forms of solidarity as possible.
Our efforts

This year will go down in our organisation’s history.

In 2020, each of our 80,000 collector-leader-volunteers played a role in helping people most in need by carrying out unparalleled support initiatives. From 17 March 2020, Secours populaire federations and committees came together and tackled the soaring poverty and instability caused by the sudden economic shutdown and thousands of support facilities closing.

In just a few days, volunteers at all our units stepped up and got creative so that they could help those in greatest need. We replaced our self-service food distribution points with food drives, home deliveries and pick-up points on university campuses and in shelters. Spurred on by our long-standing volunteers and 5,000 new ones, we were able to adjust our working hours and make sure that everyone received the very best welcome we could give. We were also able to help people who would not have thought to ask for help, such as the tens of thousands of students, elderly citizens stuck in their flats, and self-employed professionals left in the lurch as a result of the economy grinding to a halt.

Since the start of the pandemic, our volunteers have been driving more and more initiatives, such as providing computer equipment to help families keep up with schooling at home and help students stay on track, organising “Journées bonheur” (Happiness days), and setting up telephone helplines to maintain contact with the most isolated individuals.

From the early days of the pandemic, SPF fostered close working relationships with its partners in 80 countries so they could address difficult situations together, address needs together, motivate each other and get feedback on experiences. The same is true for impact on healthcare, nutrition, education and the digital divide. With support from its partners worldwide, the SPF was able to demonstrate hands-on, welcoming solidarity in many countries and connect the children involved in the “copain du Monde” movement in France with other children abroad.

Today, our centres are still under pressure and we must continue to explain to our partners and the general public that even though the health crisis is slowly being contained, the social crisis has only just begun and our initiatives need support now more than ever. In 2020, we are proud to have written a new chapter in the story of the Secours populaire.
Launch of the Don’actions campaign
On 11 January, the Secours populaire launched Don’actions, its major annual fundraising campaign. Hundreds of volunteers gathered in Rouen, Marseille and many other cities to collect the essential funds that the association needs to carry out its work.

Haiti earthquake: 10 years on
On 12 January 2010, Haiti was devastated by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3, one of the deadliest natural disasters on record, killing more than 250,000 people. The Secours populaire began lending its support in 2010, and continues to work with the most disadvantaged people on the island. Along with its local partners, one of the association’s projects has been to rebuild or refurbish 30 schools.

Boîtes à bonheur (Cans for happiness) project
For the last 15 years, thousands of children have been able to go on holiday every summer thanks to the motivation and commitment of Carrefour teams and canning manufacturers. During the month-long Boîtes à bonheur (Cans for happiness) project, 7% of the sales by participating brands are donated to the Secours populaire to help organise the Journées des oubliés des vacances holiday initiative. This year, the project raised €655,000.
3,000 people invited to Futuroscope

To celebrate the season opening of Futuroscope, 3,000 people from all over the Nouvelle Aquitaine region were able to spend a day at the famous futuristic amusement park. The initiative allowed families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to go to places like Futuroscope, to enjoy something completely different.

BigFlo and Oli, rappers for solidarity

On 12 February, BigFlo and Oli organised an event entitled ‘Nuit Solidaire’ (a night of solidarity) at the Zénith in Toulouse. They gave an exceptional concert, the proceeds of which were donated to the Secours populaire. Nearly 11,000 people cheered the two rappers and the many other artists who joined them on stage. The initiative raised €500,000.

The victims of Teil escape to Disneyland® Paris

On 11 November 2019, an earthquake struck the small town of Teil, in Ardèche, forcing almost 2,000 people to leave their homes. Four months later, the Secours populaire was still working with the victims and organised for 150 children and parents to visit Disneyland® Paris, so they could spend a day away from the worries of their everyday life.

Coronavirus emergency: instant response

On 16 March, a total lockdown was announced in France to stem the Covid-19 epidemic. The Secours populaire and its volunteers immediately put in place the measures required to continue providing emergency solidarity for the millions of people that the association supports. A food bank drive-through, delivery services, psychological support, street campaigns, etc. Lots of initiatives were taken to prevent the most vulnerable from succumbing to poverty.

“Secours Pop’chefs” in Metz

On 8 February, 400 people accompanied by the Secours populaire were invited to Metz for a gala meal organised by the students of a hotel and catering school. The students had been working on the event for six months, to make sure that the families were given an unforgettable experience. A festive meal was prepared with products from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), which is usually distributed as part of our self-service food operations.

“Une Journée pour soi” (A day to yourself) for 400 women

To celebrate the International Day of Women’s Rights, the Secours populaire worked with LVMH to organise a day for 400 women from Ile-de-France at the Château de Versailles. The agenda included a visit, a make-up session and a photo shoot. The experience was designed to benefit women who are not used to having time for themselves.
Coronavirus emergency: an emergency fund for the entire world
Faced with the scale of the Covid-19 epidemic, Secours populaire released an emergency fund of €223,000 for its partners in Europe and around the world to help them cope with the devastating impact of the coronavirus, especially on the most vulnerable populations.

“Je reste à la maison” (Stay at home): a lockdown festival to raise funds for the Secours populaire
From 1 to 7 April, almost 100 artists gave concerts from their homes, broadcast live on Facebook as part of the “Je reste à la maison” Festival. It was a great way of keeping artists in touch with their fans and raise funds for solidarity: €10,577 was collected.

A national call for volunteers
With the health crisis, the number of people approaching the Secours populaire for help has spiked. The association launched a major national campaign to call for volunteers, through a television spot produced free of charge by Publicis.

Even in lockdown, the “Copain du Monde” movement is still active
Lockdown measures didn’t stop “Copain du Monde” children from standing up in solidarity. Even though they had to stay at home, they used their imaginations and came up with new ways of supporting the volunteers who went out to help people in difficulty. Drawings, home-baked cakes and video messages flooded into the Secours populaire branches, and everyone was delighted to receive them!
Solidarity tales for children
As well as music, stories were also shared with children by personalities who stepped up to lend a hand alongside the Secours populaire. With its “Contes solidaires” storybook initiative, 50 or so famous people read a selection of tales from their childhood on Instagram. It was a new and fun way to occupy children, after more than a month in lockdown.

A partnership with the MIN in Rungis
The health crisis and lockdown period caused a huge spike in requests for food aid from the Secours populaire. The association knew it had to rise to the occasion, so it formed a partnership with the Marché d’intérêt national in Rungis. The aim was to collect fresh fruits and vegetables that had been produced in France and allow people in difficulty to eat healthy and high quality food.

“Journées bonheur“ (happiness days) all summer long
Lockdown was a major ordeal for everyone, especially the most vulnerable, and volunteers needed to find solutions to allow people in difficulty to take a break from their difficult everyday lives, while ensuring preventive healthcare measures were kept in place. They decided to organise the “Journées bonheur”, a day for families to relax and take a break by the sea, in the mountains or in the countryside.

“Crois au printemps”: a song by M for the Secours populaire
Right from the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the Secours populaire was able to count on the support of many patrons, such as M (Matthieu Chédid), who wrote the song “Crois au Printemps” (Believe in the spring) for the association. All the proceeds from the track were donated to support the work we do.

A Pop Show for the Secours populaire on France 2
To celebrate the return of the Pop Show program on France 2, all the money raised for the event was donated to the Secours populaire. Hosted by Nagui and Valérie Bègue, the guests raised €100,000 for the association! This money went to supporting volunteers in their work with the most disadvantaged populations.

Storm Amanda strikes El Salvador
Hurricane Amanda showed no pity in El Salvador, killing 27 people. Roads were blocked, crops wiped out, houses destroyed: nearly 30,000 people were affected by the disaster. La Canasta Campesina, our local partner, immediately sprung into action to clear the roads and help the victims.
**July**

**Budding artists at the Palais de Tokyo**

Along with the Urban Sketchers Paris association, Secours populaire volunteers invited children from the Ile-de-France to the Palais de Tokyo in Paris to visit Ulla Von Brandenburg's exhibition. But it wasn't just any visit, the children were treated to sketching lesson and given the opportunity to draw the works they had seen.

**Tour de France solidaire**

All summer long, the Secours populaire ran a very special Tour de France for solidarity with Amaury Sport Organisation. All over France and for a period of 20 days, children who weren’t able to go on holiday were invited to learn about BMX biking. To end these days in the best possible way, they left with a voucher worth €200 to purchase a bicycle.

**A happy day for seniors**

As part of the Journées bonheur happiness days which were organised all over France, around 40 senior citizens from the Côtes d'Armor were able to experience life to the manor born. On 27 July, they spent the day at the Domaine de la Roche-Jagu. It was a day of community and laughter for people who had been extremely lonely during the healthcare crisis.

**August**

**“Copain du Monde” children’s holiday villages around France**

In Moselle, Aude and Auvergne, 11 “Copain du Monde” children’s holiday villages were organised during the summer. Following healthcare measures to the letter, and limiting the number of participants, the villages gave children the opportunity to meet, talk about solidarity projects, and above all to get some fresh air during this very tough time in their lives.

**51 “Journées des oubliés des vacances” holiday initiative**

Secours populaire volunteers strive to ensure that nobody is left behind during the summer. After 15 August, 51 Journées des oubliés des vacances holidays were organised across France for children and families who had not had the opportunity to get away during the summer. Either by the sea, in the mountains or in the countryside, it was an opportunity to get away from it all and create some memories before going back to school in September.

**Explosion in Beirut**

While already in the grip of an economic, political and health crisis, the Lebanese people suffered another blow on 4 August 2020: a terrible explosion ripped through part of the city and caused considerable loss of life. Many people lost everything. Working with its partner association, DPNA, the Secours populaire took immediate action to rebuild housing and provide basic necessities to the thousands of disaster victims. The association also released an emergency fund of €100,000.
Release of the 14th Ipsos – Secours populaire barometer
The healthcare crisis left nobody unscathed. Nearly 900,000 people suffered from poverty, and the consequences of Covid-19 were especially difficult for those most in difficulty. These are the findings of the 14th edition of the Ipsos / Secours populaire barometer, which reports the perception of poverty in France every year.

A contemporary art fair for the Secours populaire in Lille
The Solidart fair was held in Lille on 18, 19 and 20 September. The contemporary art event – designed by the Secours populaire – brings together nearly 150 artists for each of its editions, who come to exhibit and sell their works. At the end of the three days of the fair, an astounding €125,000 was collected to fund the Pères Noël verts (Green Father Christmas) campaign.

Deadly floods in Niger
Floods devastated a part of Niger, leaving 45 people dead and 225,000 homeless. The SPF has been working in the country since 2001, providing support to the populations through the work of its partner association, Hed Tamat.

Don’actions draw
It was supposed to take place at the end of March, but lockdown measures meant that the association had to postpone the Don’actions draw, the solidarity game which raises funds to support the association’s work. On 25 September at INSEP, and in the presence of several SPF sponsors, the draw was finally able to take place. The winners were all delighted!
Emergency distributions in Greece

Greece, a country grappling with a serious economic crisis that is affecting all its citizens, is also facing a large-scale migration crisis. The refugees who reach land on its shores are piling up in temporary camps. The SPF is providing some help, through its partner associations.

Storm Alex in the Alpes-Maritimes

Storm Alex caused heavy rains and devastated the Alpes-Maritimes region, especially the Roya and Vésubie valleys, which were cut off from the world for several days. With no water, electricity or even food, local residents were able to count on Secours populaire volunteers to come to their aid.

The Secours populaire doctors are celebrating their 40-year anniversary

From the start of the healthcare crisis, the Secours populaire doctors began working with volunteers and the people receiving help, to increase their awareness of preventive measures or to direct them through the most appropriate channels. These volunteer health professionals celebrated their 40-year anniversary with the association.

Julien Doré supports the victims of storm Alex

Singer Julien Doré wanted to do something to help the victims of storm Alex. He has special ties with the region, so joined volunteers from the Secours populaire as they travelled through the devastated valleys meeting the inhabitants, and organised a solidarity raffle. More than €900,000 was collected, so that the SPF could go on supporting thousands of victims of natural disasters.

Increase in European food aid

The Member States of the European Union announced that the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) would be maintained, and would even see a 48% increase in its budget. This decision was welcomed by the Secours populaire, which had taken steps to ensure that this precious source of aid would go on supporting the most deprived people in France and Europe.

Solidarity streaming for the Secours populaire

On 14 November, GameWard organised a solidarity stream on Twitch to raise money for the Secours populaire. For a 12-hour period, guests took turns playing Fortnite online and collected donations for the association’s Père Noël verts (Green Father Christmas) campaign. Thanks to their efforts, €3,200 was collected.
A day of solidarity for students

The Covid-19 pandemic drove thousands of students into severe poverty. In Clermont-Ferrand, volunteers who had been working with them for several months decided to organise a big day of solidarity specially for them. On the agenda: food distribution and a delivery of new laptops.

“Tous ensemble pour Noël” (All together at Christmas) on France 2

On 24 December, Faustine Bollaert and Olivier Mine hosted the program “Tous ensemble pour Noël” on France 2. The program set out to entertain, while raising awareness about the work of the Secours populaire and four other associations in the field.

Poissy inmates collect for the “Pères Noël verts” (Green Father Christmas) campaign

At the high security prison in Poissy, inmates were able to show that they care. Ninety of them worked together to collect a ton of food products behind the prison walls. By pooling their already low incomes, they were able to purchase essential products so that the community’s poorest families could enjoy the festive season.
“Being a volunteer enriches me, it teaches me mutual aid, empathy, sharing and it allows me to meet new people.” Rodolphe, volunteer in Pantin. © Lisa Miquet / SPF
We are committed to bringing communities together to create a fairer and more united world.

At the Secours populaire, everyone is welcome and no conditions are set, whether you wish to lend your help or receive our help. The Secours populaire makes room for children, young people and adults who want to take action, get involved and work together to alleviate suffering, deprivation and isolation. In France, Europe or around the world, the Secours populaire makes solidarity possible. The Covid-19 crisis has revealed its outstanding energy by supporting initiatives created by our imaginative volunteers, companies and personalities. Everyone involved has brought their own meaning to the wonderful Secours populaire motto, “Human issues are our issues.” Whether it’s on the corner of your street, or on the other side of the world, the Secours populaire can keep providing its assistance thanks to donations, financial and material support and the commitment of more than 80,000 volunteers. Wherever they live, work or study, they collect, unite, lead and develop initiatives to bring solidarity to life. Whether within SPF federations, committees, branches, one-day initiatives, or “solidaribus” projects, this country-wide action makes it possible to multiply and propagate the values of the Secours populaire. The association is voluntarily decentralised, which means that the actions of its teams of “volunteer-facilitator-collectors” are all the more important. They take part in the democratic life of the association, choose the people who will manage it and make key decisions; they pool their ideas and make their talents available for future initiatives. Both at home and further afield, our actions are concrete and direct.

“Both at home and further afield, our actions are concrete and direct.”
Our work in France

Through its network of members, the Secours populaire covers a vast area of the country.

Key:
- Blue: Local committees
- Orange: Departmental federations
In France’s overseas territories, the Secours populaire works with local associations.
© Jean-Marie-Rayapen / SPF

Overseas territories

Overseas territories in the midst of a healthcare storm.

In France’s overseas territories, the Secours populaire relies on a vast network of partner associations to support people living with instability. Often encountered during emergency missions following climate-related disasters of which overseas territories are regular victims, these associations were able to step up during the coronavirus crisis, with the support of the Secours populaire. Because while Covid-19 hit France extremely hard, its overseas territories were not left unscathed. The people living there had to face challenges that mainland residents never encountered. For example, the faulty water sanitation system in Guadeloupe caused the virus to spread extremely quickly. In Mayotte, the number of doctors per inhabitant is 20 times lower than in mainland France, so the population was not sufficiently tested and couldn’t receive suitable treatment. As a result, the Secours populaire and its partner associations got to work on helping the most vulnerable people. Food aid and preventive healthcare initiatives for families in difficulty were the key focus for our work in the overseas territories during 2020. But the health crisis certainly didn’t wipe out the projects we were running before the epidemic hit. Our development programmes are continuing in Saint-Martin and Guadeloupe, underscoring the Secours populaire’s determination to build bridges of solidarity between France and the overseas territories.
Every Saturday, around 20 volunteers meet in Pantin to hand out food to nearly 200 families.

Irène
volunteer at Pantin

“Being a volunteer is so rewarding, the Secours populaire is like my second family. I am happy to come here because I enjoy giving my time.”

Roxanne
volunteer in Lyon

“I am a volunteer at the student centre, which targets disadvantaged students and offers them comprehensive support.”

Omar
volunteer in Saint-Martin-Vésubie

“It is important for me to be a volunteer at Secours populaire, because I too found myself on the street and used to need help.”

The Secours populaire set up a welcome, solidarity and health centre in Saint-Martin-Vésubie after storm Alex struck the town in October, to provide support for its victims.
This year was all about innovation in how to maintain and develop emotional and social connections, and the influx of thousands of new volunteers.

Faced with an unprecedented crisis, we had to rethink how we work. The volunteering organisers and collectors of the Secours populaire demonstrated their ability to adapt and innovate. The association was able to rise up and go on providing emergency assistance. New practices were developed: solidarity drive-throughs, door-to-door services, solidaribus in rural areas, raising awareness about preventive measures, and so on. Several collectors doing voluntary work from home sprang into action so that the Secours populaire could help foster social and emotional connections. Collectors, especially those who had to stay at home, contacted people receiving help, while donors “checked in” and stayed in touch with our partners around the world. Psychologists from the Secours populaire team of doctors also gave their time freely to lend a listening ear. Connections were formed with children to provide help remotely. And that connection is anchored in our values and mission to promote education for all.

The Secours populaire achieved its goals because the entire existing network was fully committed, bolstered by the arrival of more than 5,000 new volunteers who joined the SPF, 25% of whom are under 25 years old. The association was able to count on its training institute to initiate the new volunteers, organising remote welcome meetings to prepare them to take the best possible actions to help people in difficulty. In the future, the Secours populaire will have to ensure that everyone who wants to help is assigned to an action, because our experience is invaluable.

“Copain du Monde” children

“Copain du Monde” is a movement designed for and with children. The initiative gives them a unique opportunity to enjoy learning about solidarity and bringing it to their own communities throughout the year. As volunteers, they are trusted in the same way as adults to share their ideas and put their skills to use. As children, they have the opportunity to enjoy fun learning activities or sports, or to engage with others and pool their ideas unconditionally, without the barriers of culture or background. As always with the Secours populaire, they can show initiative, take part in the Congress, lead workshops, develop their taste for solidarity and help to change the way children are considered and valued. Since 2008, they have also been meeting every year in the “copain du Monde” children’s villages, which host hundreds of young people from many different countries. This unprecedented project has brought French children into contact with children from countries where the SPF drives its solidarity initiatives, so that together they can share memories and take part in solidarity projects.
The life of the association revolves around five key annual campaigns. These campaigns are used to raise public awareness about the work of the Secours populaire throughout the year.

**From January to mid-March**

**Don'actions**

Don'actions is the national fundraising campaign driven by the Secours populaire français. The donations it collects provide the resources that are needed for the association to work with people in difficulty and develop local solidarity independently.

**From mid-March to May**

**Printemps de la solidarité mondiale**

*(Global solidarity spring)*

The aim of this campaign is to publicise the work of the Secours populaire in Europe and around the world and to collect funds to take action beyond our borders.
From May to August

Summer holidays

Because a holiday is a way of escaping everyday problems, making lasting memories and strengthening family ties, the Secours populaire works tirelessly all year round to offer everyone the chance to take a break for a few days. And it works even harder on this during the summer. From 15 August, the “Journées des oubliés des vacances” holiday initiative is organised throughout France for children and families who have not had the chance to get away for a break.

From September to November

Poverty-Instability

For families in difficulty, going back to school is always a challenging time. That’s why in September, the Secours populaire launches its “Poverty-Instability” campaign to raise public awareness about rising poverty and steps up its solidarity initiatives to help the most vulnerable people.

December

Pères Noël verts (Green Father Christmas)

The Père Noël verts (Green Father Christmas) campaign organises many different initiatives to collect financial donations, new toys and festive products for people living in poverty. The initiative gives everyone a chance to celebrate the festive season with dignity. The Secours populaire’s Pères Noël verts provide gifts in the form of toys, books and festive food packages as well as organising parades, shows and sporting events, cinema screenings, restaurant meals and Christmas snacks.
Partners

Naïma Chanhih
AnteSys

"For the past two years, we have been organising the collection of expired meal vouchers within our company, which we send to the Secours populaire. By doing this, we help the association provide meals."

Exceptional support from MAIF

The health crisis drove many companies to lend their support to the Secours populaire. During the lockdown period, MAIF decided to redistribute 100 million euros to its members holding a car contract, who were up to date with their contributions, which worked out at €30 per insured vehicle. Most importantly, MAIF asked its members if they wished to receive the sum themselves, or donate it to one of the three partner associations, including the Secours populaire. As a result of this campaign, €7,877,490 was donated to the SPF to enable it to continue its solidarity work.

Christelle Josselin
Project Officer with the Agence de développement française

"The Secours populaire project helped to respond to the priorities of the "Santé en commun" initiative, which was allocated 10 million euros by the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs. In the short term, medical kits, supplies and food provisions were handed out to the most vulnerable families in Niger. In the longer term, households were able to resume farming, which is a key issue for a country that still requires significant support from France."

ANCV helps people go on holiday

Holidays have never been more important than they were during 2020, especially for the most vulnerable families, for whom lockdown restrictions were particularly trying. Thanks to the support of the Agence Nationale des Chèques Vacances (ANCV – national holiday voucher agency), the Secours populaire enabled thousands of people to escape from their everyday lives and take a real breath of fresh air, in an attempt to put the hardships of the health crisis behind them. Assistance with holiday projects, the Bourse Solidarité Vacances holiday grant, which gives families access to reduced-rate accommodation, or holidays for seniors: a total of 11,134 people were able to discover the joy of holidays with the ANCV in 2020.
A
n exceptional year, with even more solidarity!

The health crisis that struck our planet, along with the ongoing economic crisis is certain to leave millions of people in poverty. No one is yet in a position to measure the long-term consequences, but what we do know is that during catastrophes such as this, we simply cannot stand by and watch. As soon as lockdown measures were put into place, Secours populaire organisers and collectors rose to the extraordinary challenge and were able to put in place something new, some tried and tested solidarity initiatives, while drawing attention to the huge rise in new requests. While public fundraising initiatives were cancelled, the SPF amplified its calls for donations and volunteering. The wave of solidarity provided by the business, charitable and cooperative world enabled the SPF to start moving and take prompt action to support vulnerable people. We were able to provide financial, material and human support to all our centres so they could take action. And that network of solidarity continues to grow and develop. Over 200 partner-companies now work with us on a national level. That support also allows us to provide assistance both at home and abroad, in parts of the world where poverty is increasing, because existing disasters and conflict continue and worsen as a result of the pandemic. Taking action together means showing solidarity to all people.

“That network of solidarity continues to grow and develop.”

Support from public authorities

Through the action taken by its volunteer organisers and collectors in its various committees and federations, the Secours populaire seeks the support of public authorities. In March 2020, choosing not to put solidarity into quarantine, the association was able to take action and ensure that authorities reacted. The government did provide clear responses, but the association itself brought most of the proposals. Drawing on a partnership between the SPF and the Marchés d’intérêts nationaux (MIN – national interest markets), the question of how to fund purchases of fresh produce was raised. As a result of its experience working with and for students, the SPF was able to raise the issue of support in relation to the digital divide, which led to the government calling on digital advisers. Secours populaire federations also called on departmental and regional councils and prefectures to request support in line with the severity of the situation. The association therefore played its role of being a goad to public authorities.
Our partners

Companies and corporate foundations

Partners
Solidarity figures

3,928,000 were supported by the Secours populaire, including:

3,357,000 people in mainland France and overseas territories
571,000 people in Europe and around the world, with the support of our partners.

This solidarity was provided with the help of our 82,000 volunteer collectors-leaders.
Solidarity in France

In 2020, the Secours populaire provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People with food support</td>
<td>2,046,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to medical care and preventive services</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to culture and recreation</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with guidance to employment</td>
<td>2,222,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with access to holidays, including:</td>
<td>193,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with legal support</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with educational and learning support</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with support to learn French</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with help to find housing or ways of staying in their homes</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday days were organised in 2020</td>
<td>281,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193,000 people with access to holidays, including:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>45,000 who took part in the &quot;Journées des Oubliés des Vacances&quot; initiative.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>48,000 people with access to culture and recreation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>34,000 people with legal support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24,000 people with educational and learning support.</td>
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<td>7,000 people with guidance to learn French.</td>
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<tr>
<td>33,000 people with help to find housing or ways of staying in their homes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22,000 people with access to sports.</td>
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© Pascal Montary / SPF
### Solidarity actions and programmes around the world

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>101</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidarity programmes and actions:</td>
<td>Development projects*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
<td><strong>73</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries in Europe and around the world.</td>
<td>Emergency actions*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>108</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners involved.</td>
<td>&quot;Pères Noël verts&quot; (Green Father Christmas) initiatives*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Non-cumulative figures
“Copain du monde” children’s holiday villages in France and around the world

13 villages in France and around the world.
700 children participated.

10 villages were organised in France with:
400 participants.

3 villages were organised in Lebanon with:
300 participants.
Our actions in France

Secours populaire helped 3,357,000 people in France in 2020.
© Pascal Montary / SPF
A n exceptional year for everyone.

In the history of Secours populaire, 2020 will always be remembered as an exceptional year, first because it brought an economic, social and health crisis, but also because of the huge outpouring of solidarity that was generated. During the year, the Secours populaire showed that it knew how to adapt to the circumstances and reinvent itself in the face of the crisis, bringing solidarity to all. This solidarity has been shared far and wide, through the active and motivated teams working all over the country, and the amazing impact of the initiatives taken by everyone involved. The association was able to continue its missions, even from the very first day of the very first lockdown. While taking all the required preventive healthcare measures, and with the “Médecins du SPF” doctors to protect people, volunteers and citizens striving to show solidarity used their imagination to come up with some wonderful ways to help. This resulted first in vital food and material aid being provided to people in great difficulty. A drive initiative was set up, as well as home deliveries and other forms of assistance. Specific help was provided for struggling young people, and street patrols were organised. Telephone hotlines were set up to support the elderly (who suffered more acutely from loneliness while restrictions were in place) as well as families, young people and children, so they would be able to reach out to someone and express their needs; because the pandemic and lockdown measures caused a huge amount of psychological distress. The digital divide became a key concern for our solidarity initiatives. Due to a lack of computer equipment, gaps in education widened. Administrative procedures were moved online, which meant that the most vulnerable struggled to access information and their social rights. Volunteers took action to provide equipment and training for the most disadvantaged people.

In 2020, a wonderful chain of solidarity was put in place, keeping the victims of poverty and instability at the forefront of our efforts. More than ever, the unconditional welcome and universal solidarity provided by the Secours populaire were absolutely crucial during the pandemic. And it is far from over.

“Volunteers and citizens striving to show solidarity used their imagination to come up with some wonderful ways to help.”
During the first lockdown, the number of Parisians who needed food aid shot up.

© Nathalie Bardou / Hans Lucas / SPF

Food aid

Ever-changing food aid.

For as long as it has existed – in France or any other country – the Secours populaire has always strived to ensure that, from birth, every single person has access to food: a basic need which is essential for human development. Since 1945, the Secours populaire has constantly fought to achieve this goal while safeguarding the dignity of those in need. Across all its federations and committees, the organisation has never stopped improving much-needed food distribution – the cornerstone of any solidarity initiative that aims to bring culture, sports, housing and holidays – to those in need, and provide the essential tools for every individual to grow and thrive. The Secours populaire has delivered results every step of the way.
Looking back to 1985–1990, diary producers at the time were forced to discard their milk into streams. The Secours populaire demanded that European fridges be opened, and we were able to consume products from the European Community.

1990–1995: The Secours populaire introduced solidarity self-service points, which meant that for the first time in history people requiring assistance could choose the products they needed. At the same time, we set up food donation points in supermarkets together with the people we support.

2012: In partnership with Restos du Coeur, Banque Alimentaire and the Red Cross, the Secours populaire temporarily stopped the European Union's plans to end its food aid system.

2020: The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the deep inequalities that already exist in France and the rampant social crisis. More and more French people struggle to enjoy a healthy and balanced diet because they cannot afford it. In the last 15 months, we have supported 11% more people who had never before needed to come to us for help. With France going into low gear, the Secours populaire had no choice but to put its foot on the gas. It organised meetings, came up with solutions and created new initiatives to meet this vital need. Against such an unparalleled background, we launched solidarity drives and home deliveries to keep solidarity alive, all the while following preventive measures. Above all, we met with the President of the Marchés d’Intérêt National (wholesale trading centres), with Chambers of Agriculture and with local producers. With support from our donors and help from committed volunteers, especially young people, the Secours populaire launched an initiative called ‘Marchés pop’ solidaires’ (markets for popular solidarity). The idea was – in addition to our regular distributions – to organise a real-life market where people could get fresh local seasonal produce in exchange for a small contribution to support the SPF’s social missions. The goals were manifold: to meet increasingly widespread food aid needs by going onto the streets and seeking out people who are struggling, but also to buy at prices that are fair to local producers and thereby support local production and businesses.

2,046,000
people received food support.

Our actions
France
Since May 2020, volunteers from the Puy-de-Dôme federation of the Secours populaire have been organising monthly Marchés pop’ markets in Clermont-Ferrand and the surrounding villages. The aim is to provide people with access to fresh fruit and vegetables at reasonable prices, collected from local producers and the Clermont-Ferrand Marché d’intérêt national. A total of 1,500 people have already benefited from this system, some of whom the Secours populaire met for the first time and who had never dared approach the association for help. The initiative aims to encourage the most vulnerable people to start eating more healthily.
Organic vegetables for families in Dinan.

Secours populaire volunteers in Dinan have created a solidarity garden. They grow organic vegetables then share them with the people who receive help from the Dinan committee. Run by a retired market gardener, the garden is tended by volunteers and beneficiaries, and the project has even helped some to secure employment. Most importantly, families have access to fresh, organic, quality produce, which is the cornerstone of the Secours populaire’s food aid programme.

“I have a 5 month old so I need baby food. Coming to the Secours populaire has helped me a lot.”

Edwige
Toulouse
Refugee migrants

Our welcome is unconditional.

Extending our welcome to people fleeing wars, poverty and persecution is inherent to the Secours populaire. It is the story of a chain of solidarity put in place for Spanish refugees in 1936, the care shown to the children of the men and women who were shot or deported at the end of the Second World War, and now the welcome extended to migrants and refugees arriving from Eastern Europe and the African continent. Our welcome centres are havens where these men, women and children, who have often experienced traumatic journeys, can finally settle down and gain access to essential rights, food and clothing, and take their first steps towards dignity. Ever faithful to both the principle of political neutrality and an unconditional welcome, Secours populaire volunteers do not judge the reasons for migration but take action on its consequences: entire families deprived of essential rights such as the right to shelter, education, work and holidays, the list goes on. In 2020, the complexity of this welcome is not so much in the number of people we receive as the administration involved. The issue they have in common is often the fear of being forced to return to regions where their lives and dignity or their children’s future, are threatened. SPF volunteers work hard to ensure that every single person can access the same resources, regardless of their administrative situation. This is even more striking when you consider that because they are not allowed to work, many migrants offer to volunteer alongside the teams to help others in difficulty.
81,669 people applied for asylum in France in 2020.

“We are seeing these young migrant refugees make incredible progress, often from very difficult beginnings, and they make huge strides in their personal journey.”

Constance volunteer in Lyon

French, mathematics and computer courses are provided by volunteers for unaccompanied minors who arrive in Lyon. © Jean-Marie Rayapen / SPF

Unconditional assistance for unaccompanied minors.

Many foreign minors arrive in Lyon every month. Coming mainly from Africa, they are between 14 and 17 years old and have often experienced unthinkable and horrific events on their journey to Europe. They arrive in Lyon penniless and with nowhere to turn. That is why the Rhône federation of the Secours populaire set up a reception centre for these children. They are offered breakfast and packed lunches; French lessons are provided and volunteers support them as begin the process of accessing their rights.
Volunteers on all the front lines.

While the Secours populaire worked on the front lines during the Covid crisis, the association’s volunteers have stepped up to help during other disasters as well. During the summer fires in the Bouches du Rhône or the September floods in the Cévennes, they immediately sprang into action to help the victims, making sure they had access to water, food and personal care products. At the very beginning of October, the valleys of Vésubie, Tinée and Roya in the Alpes-Maritimes, were hit by storm Alex, which claimed the lives of many people and devastated vital infrastructure, destroying many homes, shops and businesses. Within just a few hours, the SPF federation in the Alpes-Maritimes rose to the challenge, along with federations elsewhere in France, and responded with unparalleled financial support: calls for solidarity, collections by “copain du Monde” children and support from our sponsors. Thanks to these outpourings of generosity, the Secours populaire was able to work alongside the inhabitants of these valleys on a daily basis and provide them with material and psychological support. The association also strengthened its roots in the local area through the commitment shown by new volunteers: SPF branches were created in Saint-Martin-Vésubie and Breil-sur-Roya. After every disaster, volunteers continue to work tirelessly with victims, supporting them as they return to normal life. They provide administrative assistance, organise short breaks or festive events during the Père Noël verts Green Father Christmas campaign, to help families overcome their trauma.
57% of French people have at one time or another been on the verge of poverty.

“I became a Secours populaire volunteer because my house was spared, and I saw that other people were in need.”

Loane volunteer in Saint-Martin-de-Vésubie

Volunteers reached out to disaster victims immediately, distributing donations of clothing, furniture and household appliances. © Mathieu Py / SPF

Julien Doré in solidarity with the victims of storm Alex.

In action Alpes-Maritimes / Saint-Martin-Vésubie

In early October, storm Alex devastated several valleys in the Alpes-Maritimes, causing extensive damage. The singer Julien Doré, who comes from the region, wanted to help the Secours populaire in its work with the people who had been affected. He created a solidarity raffle with 20 artists to raise money for the cause. Francis Cabrel, Angèle and many others donated personal items as prizes. As a result of their support, €932,470 was raised. That money went to the Alpes-Maritimes federation of the Secours populaire and was used to hand out clothes, household appliances and food parcels to residents. Most importantly, the volunteers were able to open a new branch in Saint-Martin-Vésubie, so that they could go on providing long-term assistance for the victims. Julien Doré was there to witness this work, as he spent two days with volunteers in the area.
For Secours populaire volunteers, access to rights and housing for all is fundamental.

Every year, thousands of people are unable to access their rights. The main reasons are because people aren’t aware of their rights, and that the paperwork involved is highly complex. And the consequences of this lack of access to rights are very serious for the most vulnerable people. They deprive themselves of monetary assistance, as well as healthcare, nationality rights, etc. Secours populaire volunteers take action to prevent this from happening all around France. They set up legal hotlines run by volunteer lawyers, create partnerships with law schools or law universities to provide legal and administrative access and guidance to anyone who needs it. The Covid-19 pandemic has heavily impacted access to rights for the most vulnerable, in particular by highlighting the discrimination caused by the ever-increasing digitisation of the procedures that are required to exercise them. Likewise, concerns with housing problems have been at the forefront of this pandemic. While temporary measures were taken, such as the provision of shelter for homeless people or the extension of the winter break (protection against eviction during the winter months) the real situation was still tragic: the number of poorly housed people in France is still increasing, and affected 4.1 million in 2020. As a result, volunteers increased the number of street patrols, including during lockdown, to support those who spend their daily lives on the streets, but also to develop partnerships with social landlords or set up workshops to maintain housing, to allow those who approach the Secours populaire for help to find shelter or ways of staying in their current homes.
Maintaining support for the victims of the Rue d’Aubagne.

In 2018, the buildings at numbers 63 and 65 on Rue d’Aubagne, in Marseille, collapsed. The surrounding structures were quickly declared to be dangerous, leaving hundreds of families, some already struggling, totally destitute. Volunteers immediately sprang into action to help the victims. Over the next two years, great things were achieved. The Bouches du Rhône federation of the Secours populaire organised trips and outings, holidays and fun things for the victims of the disaster to do so they could escape from their difficult daily lives and overcome the trauma they had experienced.
An unconditional welcome, a listening ear, and preventive healthcare for a brighter future.

In 2020, the health crisis accentuated the medical care issues faced by thousands of families struggling with poverty. Along with its “Médecins du SPF” (SPF doctors), the association immediately provided support to vulnerable people, teaching them about preventive measures, providing them with soap, gel, and masks and explaining how they should access healthcare facilities. Many of the people who come to our welcome centres have had to go through repeated lockdowns alone, with no friends or contacts, never really knowing what will happen next with the virus, and having to cope with isolation and loneliness. The Secours populaire’s doctors provided some outlet in our welcome centres for people to express their concerns, their difficulties in obtaining medical appointments, etc. The individual welcome and confidential listening ear from the SPF took away many obstacles, so that the most vulnerable could gain access to the “100% Santé” free healthcare programme, obtain medical appointments and register for free healthcare check-ups, and access to psychological support ... But above all just get a chance to speak to someone who cares. Finally, and because being in good health also means being able to have fun, getting away from your everyday life, and learning more about yourself, the Secours populaire health centres also helped to broaden the offers of assistance for access to holidays, leisure, sport and culture.
A medical referral call centre.

During a healthcare crisis, our top priority is medical care. In Saint-Martin, the Secours populaire and its partner Saint-Martin Santé have used Facebook to set up a medical referral call centre staffed by specialist doctors. The system allows anyone interested to have a free remote consultation and contact a variety of medical services. Patients are sometimes directed to hospital, especially in the event of Covid-19 symptoms. As well as relieving congestion in hospitals and promoting safe healthcare, the call centre also makes it possible to offer easy access to specialist care for anyone who needs it.
Holidays

A holiday isn’t a luxury!

The Secours populaire has always been determined to organise breaks for everyone. This solidarity extends to anyone who comes to an SPF welcome centre: children, young people, the elderly, families, isolated people, and so on, and is also available for those who haven’t dared come to us for help before but have fallen into poverty. “A holiday isn’t a luxury!” Holidays are opportunities for people to escape, emancipate themselves, form social bonds, do things they’ve never done before and boost self-esteem; they bring opportunities to see old friends and make new ones. They are also important for education.

With the health crisis and the Covid-19 epidemic, 2020 has been an extraordinary and very difficult year for many. Isolation, cramped housing, job losses, social difficulties, a lack of social life and preventive measures were predominant for some of the year. As a result, the association offered the most deprived families – on the front lines of this health crisis – the opportunity to take a day away. The association had to adapt its solidarity so that everyone could benefit, despite the existing health restrictions. Holidays, “Journées bonheurs” happy days and mini “Journées des Oubliés des Vacances” initiatives were set up to give people an opportunity to relax and enjoy a breath of fresh air. The “Copain du Monde” children’s movement was also able to meet for outings or during the “Copain du Monde” children’s villages, which managed to keep in touch with the children who were unable to come to France.
193,000 people received support to go on holiday.

“I think it’s important to go on a family holiday, it helps take my mum’s mind off things. It’s good for her to get out of town and go somewhere different.”

Saba
Caen

En action

A “Copain du Monde” children’s holiday village in Meyras.

This year, a “Copain du Monde” village was organised by the Ardèche federation of the Secours populaire, in Meyras. This fifth edition attracted around 60 children from the area. Their agenda included fundraising for Lebanon, a solidarity Olympics, raising awareness about sustainable development and a film production workshop. Due to the health crisis, the “Copain du Monde” village was unable to accommodate delegations of children from other countries. So the volunteers set up videoconferences with partners from Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Georgia. Despite the distance, the children who had taken part in previous editions were able to meet and share some new experiences.
Access to leisure, culture and sport is one of the keys to integration.

At the Secours populaire, we believe that access to leisure, culture and sport should not be a marginal issue. It must be treated as a complement to our support systems. Leisure, culture and sport bring people together, forge social ties, allow people to integrate society, become independent, develop relationships, and have a strong influence on physical and/or mental health. Reading, playing sports, going to a museum, cinema or theatre are all vital activities to which people in difficulty are entitled. Secours populaire volunteers undertake essential awareness-raising work to show the families who come to our welcome centres that access to culture, leisure and sport is essential, even though it may not be one of their everyday concerns. Despite the healthcare situation, the association has been able to reinvent itself throughout 2020 and offer families a chance to escape from their everyday lives, while respecting health regulations. Outdoor sports days, visits to museums in small groups and so on; many of these initiatives have enabled people to enjoy high quality cultural and sporting activities.
This summer, the Secours populaire organised 27 “Journée bonheur” happy cycling days as part of the Tour de France solidaire, in partnership with the Amaury sport organisation. As a result, 400 children aged 12 to 18 who weren’t able to go on holiday, had the chance to enjoy some cycling activities. They were able to try out BMX bikes and were also made aware of road safety precautions. Most importantly, the children received vouchers worth €200 that they would be able to spend on buying their very own bikes, and put what they learnt into practice. This wonderful project brought back a smile to young and old alike.
Fighting against poverty starts by giving everyone the same opportunity to succeed.

The Secours populaire promotes access to education so that children and adults can learn, thrive and play a significant role in developing the society in which they live. Help with reading, fighting illiteracy, access to basic knowledge for adults, and academic and educational support for children are all made available thanks to the support of volunteers and professionals. The key objective is to enable adults to be independent in their daily lives, to understand their rights better, to seek employment and find a job. For children, the aim is to support them through school while inspiring them to enjoy learning. In 2020, the association came up against an unprecedented health, social and economic crisis. The consequences of that crisis jeopardised our work, especially in terms of access to education (lockdown restrictions, pupils giving up on school, limited or non-existent internet access). Depending on how people were able to organise their personal and working lives, lockdown restrictions affected them in many different ways. We had to adapt, compensate, develop, and invent new ways of doing things, to keep on with what we had started without neglecting anyone. New initiatives have now been put into place, especially using video conferencing tools. New connections with adults, parents and children have been formed to provide better support, taking into account the worsening economic and social situation.
An education centre for people receiving help.

Lockdown measures prevented many people from attending educational and cultural activities, but also made access to rights more complicated. As such, the Ille-et-Vilaine federation of the Secours populaire set up a website listing all the digital resources that might be useful for the people it supports. Colouring websites or games to keep children occupied, recipes and online French lessons were all compiled to allow families to cope better with lockdown.

In action

During lockdown digital access became essential for many.
© Jean-Marie Rayapen / SPF

“When lockdown began, I asked myself: what could I be doing? And what I do best is tutoring!”

Dominique
volunteer in Montpellier

24,000 people received support with education and learning.

7,000 people received support to learn French.

Ille-et-Vilaine / Rennes

53
Our actions
France
Help for young people and students

An explosion in poverty among young people and students.

Young people and students have been hit particularly hard by the health crisis. Many lost their jobs and found themselves with no income while having to manage daily expenses. Universities closed, students had to adapt to online courses, even though some had no internet connection or computer equipment to keep up with their course. Often finding themselves having to spend day after day in very small spaces, many faced severe loneliness and anxiety during this difficult time. Given these struggles, the Secours populaire stepped up to help. Food and personal hygiene products were handed out in universities, computers were donated, and psychological support centres were set up. Volunteers answered the calls of these young people and students. Faced with the consequences of lockdown, the SPF organised day-long breaks for them to get away from it all. For example, throughout the summer, the “Journées bonheur” happiness days allowed students to take a break and get some fresh air for a day. Even though the health crisis has made poverty among young people and students much worse, it has also brought unity. Many of them, despite their difficult situation, joined forces with us. The unfailing dedication of Secours populaire volunteers, donors and partners made it possible to cope with the issues facing young people and students and to provide support in the best possible way during this particularly difficult period. These outstretched hands will remain forever in our hearts, and in the hearts of the people who received their support.
In Saint-Denis, volunteers came to meet students to distribute basic necessities. © Jean-Marie Rayapen / SPF

In Bordeaux, much like everywhere else in France, the pandemic took a tremendous toll on students. Realising this, in between the two lockdown periods, the Gironde federation of the Secours populaire set up a solidarity bookshop on the Bordeaux-Montaigne campus to ensure that students could buy the books they needed for their course at affordable prices. “Journées bonheur” (Happiness days) were also organised for young people so that they could get away for a while during the holidays and enjoy some fresh air in a different environment, away from their student accommodation. Activities included learning about the art of graffiti.

Students are coming to us for food aid more and more regularly, and the pandemic has only made matters worse. Between 70 and 80 students visit us every day. It’s staggering!”

Nicolas
volunteer in Perpignan
Access to digital services

Fighting the digital divide.

On 16 March 2020, a nationwide lockdown was announced in France. Schools closed and teachers went about trying to deliver their lessons online. Families with computers were able to receive these lessons and help their children learn under the best possible conditions. Other children “dropped out” of the system because they simply didn’t have enough support from their families, or the right equipment to participate in online lessons. And it didn’t just affect their schoolwork. Children and young people lose their “connection with the world” when they have no access to digital tools, and that connection became essential for a social life and meeting people. While continuing its food aid initiatives, the SPF took action in the fight against digital exclusion in disadvantaged families. The digital divide will only worsen inequalities for children who don’t have access to equipment (computer, an internet provider), but also for families, because administrative procedures are set to be all-digital by 2022. Our volunteers have warned the authorities about the growing significance of this digital divide, and about the exclusion it causes for the families we work with. That is why the Secours populaire is taking action. It hands out computer equipment and offers training for children and adults to educate families on the advantages and dangers of the internet. This fight against the digital divide can allow us to raise awareness about our work among young people and children, who can start being players for “connected” solidarity right now.
In action

Making computers available to everyone.

In partnership with the local Family Allowance Office (CAF, Caisse d’allocation familiale), the Loiret federation of the Secours populaire gave 8,000 people the opportunity to use computers in several of its venues. Volunteers set up 20 computers in 20 Loiret branches. The people who benefited from the initiative, many of whom were victims of the digital divide, were able to carry out online administrative procedures required by the Pôle Emploi (French job centre), the CAF or the tax authorities. The computers are free to use, and volunteers are available to help anyone who requires assistance. Training will also be offered so that people can develop their skills and work towards a qualification.
Socio-professional integration

Finding a new place in society.

The winged outstretched hand is not only the logo of the Secours populaire. It symbolises the path towards all people becoming independent. The Secours populaire is simply a bridge. A gateway between a situation of distress and a smile, between depression and self-confidence, between suffering and decisive action.

The aim of all the association’s volunteers is to guide each person who comes through the doors of our solidarity and healthcare centres on the path to becoming an active member of society. This is the whole point of our approach to grassroots education: to consider every single person as a potential source of knowledge, with skills that may be useful to other people. Our professional integration work is part of a global approach, centred on each person and their individual needs. From advice on writing CVs, tips for going on job interviews, help looking for vacant positions, an appointment with a hairdresser or donations of suitable clothing, volunteers are committed to helping people find employment.

People receiving assistance are also asked if they would like to help out and become volunteers themselves, which also improves the chances of a person’s professional integration. Volunteering boosts self-confidence, brings responsibilities, and can be a step forward on the journey to employment.
In action

Support on the path to employment.

Since 2017, the Haute-Garonne federation has been spearheading a vocational training programme. It provides support for people during each step on their journey to working life: writing a CV, looking for a job and preparing for interviews. Volunteers also work in partnerships with recruiters such as La Poste or temporary employment agencies. They also call on specialist employment agencies such as the Local Programme for Inclusion and Employment (PLIE, Plan local pour l’insertion et l’emploi). The French departmental council also provides help for people on low incomes. The Secours populaire can therefore direct people to the organisations that are best suited
Our actions around the world
Let’s create sustainable and worldwide solidarity for all.

Since it was founded in 1945, the Secours populaire and its collector-leader-volunteers have always made every effort to help people who have fallen victim to arbitrary rule, social injustice, natural disasters, poverty, hunger, underdevelopment and armed conflict around the world. Given that poor people are the first to suffer from the consequences of climate change, during our 2017 and 2019 congresses, SPF volunteers reiterated their commitment to keep solidarity alive in France, Europe and worldwide. As a result, in 2020 the SPF helped 571,000 people in 57 countries access food, water, energy, healthcare, education, employment and culture.

Building on its outreach approach, the SPF forges close ties with its 108 partners in Europe and worldwide with a view to creating a sustainable solidarity movement for all by helping people identify needs and use the resources and knowledge available to them, wherever they live. Given the global crisis we are up against, our approach has once again proven to be effective and we are now able to stand by our friends and do something to counter the emergencies caused by the pandemic while pursuing our development projects. 2020 also saw a tragedy occur in Lebanon, namely the Beirut port blast. Once again, we were able to act immediately alongside our long-standing partner in Lebanon, the DNPA. The emergency response helped lay the groundwork for lasting aid. We are continuing our efforts to help the people of Lebanon to get back on their feet. With inward-looking attitudes on the rise and an increasing number of natural disasters with devastating consequences for their victims, it has never been so important to live by our motto: “Human issues are our issues.”

“Building on its outreach approach, the SPF forges close ties with its 108 partners in Europe and worldwide.”
Where we are around the world

The Secours populaire works in 57 countries and has 108 partners

189 programmes and solidarity projects benefit 571,000 people

Africa
- 70 actions and programmes
- 21 countries
- 340,385 people supported

America
- 48 actions and programmes
- 13 countries
- 60,025 people supported

Asia
- 26 actions and programmes
- 9 countries
- 71,020 people supported

Middle East
- 26 actions and programmes
- 4 countries
- 63,595 people supported

Europe (excluding France)
- 19 actions and programmes
- 10 countries
- 26,220 people supported
Rescuing the victims of the Beirut explosions.

On Tuesday 4 August, two explosions hit Beirut and laid waste to several areas of the Lebanese capital. Thousands of injured, more than 300,000 victims and thousands of homes destroyed all added up to a heavy burden for a country already crippled by health, economic and social crises. The Secours populaire immediately sprang into action with its local partner, the Development of People and Nature Association (DPNA). The SPF released an emergency fund of 400,000 euros to provide help for 15,000 people in various ways, including food aid, healthcare and housing renovations. The DPNA provided more than 300 volunteers to meet the population’s most urgent needs: clearing roads, cleaning and refurbishing houses and handing out food parcels and personal hygiene kits.

Our actions

World

Emergencies

Coping with crisis.

In association with its partners around the world, the Secours populaire has remained active even in the face of global emergency, working with vulnerable populations who have been affected by the consequences of the pandemic. It has spearheaded awareness-raising actions, distributed protective equipment, supported medical teams, provided psychological help, food aid, access to digital technology, children’s education, and so much more. For example, in April, we had a video call with our Chinese partners that included health professionals and young people. We shared our experiences, highlighted many examples of volunteer actions to improve how we show solidarity to others and how we deal with emergency situations as effectively as possible. Meanwhile, solidarity was shown to the victims of disasters, crises and conflicts in many different countries. It has restored hope to children and young people in the form of warm and fraternal support, which conveys the importance we place on serving humanity.

Ismaïl Hassouneh
National Secretary

Lebanon
Beirut

In action
In Europe, a group effort to show solidarity.

The European ambition of the Secours populaire was underscored and supported during the reflection sessions held by the “groupe Europe” whose role is to define strategies with the federations, develop a European network of solidarity with our partners and pay careful attention to the development of the European food aid program, which is a vital source of support for those in greatest need. The battle led by the SPF and three of its partner associations in France helped to increase allocations through the European REACT-EU plan. Relationships with all our partners throughout Europe were maintained throughout 2020 during the health crisis. We kept each other informed, shared our experiences, and provided essential support for the children who were victims of poverty and instability. Working with the European Social Action Network (ESAN), in which the Secours populaire is heavily involved, and by participating actively in the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, as well as in the Social Platform in Brussels, we are making sure that European institutions weigh in on issues linked to student poverty in Europe, fair access to European programmes and the effects of poverty on sustainable development. As an awareness-raiser and whistleblower, the Secours populaire can wield its influence everywhere in the world, but first of all in Europe, to make the voices of “forgotten people” heard. It can grow a network of solidarity and increase the number of meetings and actions, especially those carried out by young people, and first and foremost the “Copain du Monde” children.

Response to the humanitarian emergency in Europe.

Just like everywhere else in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has accentuated social inequalities in Europe. Through its many local partners, the Secours populaire has taken action in various European countries to help the most vulnerable people. In the Netherlands, 260 families in difficulty received food packages as well as personal care products. In Greece, 30 tonnes of food and school supplies were distributed to families in the Athens area. In Bosnia, Serbia and many other countries, health and food aid was made available to respond to the European humanitarian emergency.
Greenhouses in Kosovo to promote self-sufficiency

In the Vushtrri region of Kosovo, climate conditions mean that farming is impossible without the right tools. This situation increases the poverty experienced by families in difficulty who struggle to feed themselves. The Centre-Val de Loire region’s federation of the Secours populaire, along with its local partner Handikos, supports family farming initiatives for people with disabilities. A total of 20 greenhouses have been allocated to 20 vulnerable families, each of which includes one person with a disability. These greenhouses can be used to grow vegetables throughout the year, and protect them from the area’s extreme weather. These families have also received farming equipment and training to support them in their move towards self-sufficiency.

"Our partnership with SPF, with whom we share ideas and values of solidarity and humanity, made it possible to support poor families and vulnerable people during the health crisis."

Liydmyla Havryliuk
Founder of the Ukrainian solidarity association “Four-Leaf Clover”

Ukraine

In action

Kosovo

Vushtrri
Helping households in Niger resume production.

In Niger, agriculture and livestock farming account for 80% of the country’s jobs. Niger’s inhabitants, who are already vulnerable because they have limited access to resources, live off agriculture and livestock farming. Their livelihoods took a huge hit in 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted agricultural markets. The Secours populaire sprang into action with its local partner, Hed Tamat, and helped stock breeders and farmers get back on their feet. Together they distributed seeds, cattle feed, equipment and food. The goal was to help the most vulnerable households resume production. The project, co-funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), is intended to help people who live in Agadez, Timia and Tchirozerine.

With 1.3 billion inhabitants living in 54 countries, Africa is the youngest continent on the planet.

Extreme poverty, conflicts, famines, AIDS which is still ravaging the continent, there is a long history connecting Secours populaire with the African continent. In 2020, Secours populaire worked in 23 African countries and led no fewer than 85 initiatives in many areas and with a wide variety of local players. It also stepped up during emergency situations, such as in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Madagascar. Access to water is of course still a vital issue. It is directly linked to the development of quality agriculture which guarantees both economic independence and nutritional quality for local populations. Our large international solidarity network supports actions that prioritise education, and more particularly that of girls, access to healthcare, especially in the current health situation, and aid to develop a local economy that respects the environment. These are the common values and large-scale projects that drive us forward. And that’s also why our “copain du Monde” children’s movement integrates seamlessly into these various partnerships. It wasn’t possible to run “copain du Monde” villages in Africa in 2020, but the project is still in development. We are hopeful that there will be interesting discussions and interactions when discussing the issue of children’s rights.
The women of Réalanga striving to feed their families.

In the Bolivian community of Realanga, women are taking action to provide for their families. The men have had to leave the extremely isolated village and go to work in nearby mines. Back home, the women have joined forces to feed their children. Together they bake homemade bread, which is then sold at markets and by the side of roads. The bread has very successful, and the women have decided to diversify and up their production. The Secours populaire federation in Alpes-de-Haute-Provence supports these women by funding their baking equipment purchases. The equipment allows them to continue baking and safeguards their income.

Working with 14 local partners in solidarity to cope with crises in America.

The Secours populaire has supported its local partners by helping vulnerable families who have had to face serious socioeconomic, health and climate-related crises in Latin America and the Caribbean during 2020. In Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti and Dominica, people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and more particularly women, people with disabilities and children, have benefited from direct support, personal care kits, food packages and academic assistance. Above all, our local partners have been able to find appropriate solutions to meet the unique needs of the local populations. Whether by handing out computers to children, organising preventive measures against Covid-19, or even helping to curb violence against women, all areas were covered.

In addition to the coronavirus epidemic, the Secours populaire and its partners took action to support the victims of tropical hurricanes which hit the region – as they do every year – particularly Central America. All of these actions were made possible because the SPF federations rose up in unity, along with all the committees and volunteers, with whom, once again we were able to respond to calls for solidarity from our partner friends and local populations.
Working hard in a region where extreme wealth coexists with extreme poverty.

Even though 2020 was hard on all of us, it showed yet again that the weakest and poorest are always those who pay the highest price, both in terms of health and economics. This year also brought an opportunity to show once again just how strong our association is, through the diversity of its work and especially of its partners, by responding to the populations who struggle the most.

In Asia, 2020 demonstrated the darker side of human behaviour, with poor countries like Nepal suffering in silence, and help only coming from our partners and ourselves. The global pandemic has shown that, without solidarity among human beings, there is no way out of this health and economic catastrophe. That was the challenge facing all our initiatives in Asia during 2020.

Solidarity initiatives in Asia with the Père Noël verts (Green Father Christmases).

After 2020, a year heavily impacted by the pandemic, the Secours populaire supported several of its partners in Asia with its Pères Noëls verts (Green Father Christmas) initiatives. In the Philippines, a festive meal was organised for 500 children from families in need. They all received a toy and a personal care kit to help fight the spread of Covid-19. At an Indonesian orphanage for girls in Jakarta, children were given the chance to enjoy Christmas Eve, and even received gifts. Festive events were organised in Nepal and Bangladesh, during which personal care kits were handed out. The relaxed time together helped the people supported by our local partners to escape their worries, if only for an evening, all the while fighting against the pandemic.
A scientific laboratory for pupils in Palestine.

In the Jordan valley in Palestine, the Al Kaabneh Beduin school is attended by 80 children aged 6 to 14 years old. This mixed school with few resources is supported by the MA’AN Development Center association. The Palestinian NGO covers a large part of the school’s expenses, from buying school supplies to building classrooms. With support from the Isère federation of Secours populaire, MAAN built a scientific laboratory within the school. The laboratory has thirteen computers that the children can use to take their education further and learn more about the world.

Continuing our efforts in a region affected by serious crises.

The year 2020 shook the Middle East yet again, with humanitarian crises in certain countries, not to mention the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which of course has not left this part of the world unscathed. As such, the Secours populaire français continued its solidarity work, supporting its local partners and helping them provide solutions for people suffering in difficult circumstances. The response was immediate in Lebanon following the explosions at the port of Beirut, the consequences of which were aggravated by the drawn-out financial and social crisis that the country is experiencing. 300 children gathered at the “copain du Monde” village in the Lebanese town of Jezzine, which helped to provide a haven of psychosocial support, intercultural exchanges and solidarity initiatives. Its support also extended to Palestine, Syria and Turkey, which was hit hard by the earthquake that ripped through the west of the country. The Secours populaire français continued lending its support to its partners in 2020 and maintained strong relationships with them, which went some way to keeping hope alive in many countries in the region.

Hiba Antoun
Programme Manager at the Development for People and Nature Association

“Allen when the country was reeling after the explosions in the port of Beirut, the SPF was the first to support us and start meeting the needs of those affected by this disaster.”

Alexandre Engelhorn
Member of the National Committee

“Even when the country was reeling after the explosions in the port of Beirut, the SPF was the first to support us and start meeting the needs of those affected by this disaster.”
Secours populaire was able to count on the generosity of the public to continue its actions in 2020.
© Christophe Da Silva / SPF
The Secours populaire was able to count on its donors in its fight against the challenges of 2020.

There is no doubt that in 2020, all the players for solidarity in the Secours populaire, throughout France and in 57 countries of the world, showed determination and responsibility in their fight against the consequences of this virus which, in addition to physical suffering and death, triggered a tidal wave of poverty. SPF employees and volunteers decided that the SPF would not be forced into lockdown, but would continue its efforts and step up the welcome and support provided to anyone in need, and increasing numbers of people indeed came to us for help. Thanks to the support of the Médecins du Secours populaire (SPF doctors), our solidarity efforts were able to continue safely. Our constant presence on the ground put us in a position to be able to raise the awareness of public authorities, throughout the country, about the considerable increase in the number of people and families who have been in great difficulty since the start of the pandemic, and who are in urgent need of increased public subsidies from all public funders in Europe, the government, regions, departments and local councils. Our awareness work resulted in a 20.6 million-euro increase in public subsidies between 2019 and 2020. The calls for solidarity that we made to our private partners resulted in a spectacular increase in patronage: 23.4 million euros in 2020 compared to 3.8 million euros in 2019. Our list of private donors increased by 33% (+70,000 new) between 2019 and 2020. As a result of this magnificent outpouring of generosity, the SPF has the financial and material resources it needs to effectively support the victims of this health crisis: food aid, actions to prevent the isolation of the elderly and young people, the fight against the consequences of the digital divide, organisation of “Journées de bonheur” happiness days, and so on. I will conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to everyone who has generously given us the means to provide unconditional support to those who are suffering in France, Europe and around the world.

“Our list of private donors increased by 33%.”

Mario Papi
National Treasurer

€394m
in financial and material resources

€70m
collected from the public

23%
of resources are volunteer hours
Income

In 2020, 87% of the funds we raised as a result of public donations were used during the year. These financial resources from public generosity represent 49% of the financial resources for the 2020 tax year, as recorded in the company’s income statement. These figures do not include voluntary contributions of material and equipment.

Income from public generosity
€70 million
As in previous years, these are donations from individuals, bequests, general donations, life insurance and corporate donations (patronage). This income is recorded and monitored so it can be used for whatever specific purpose the donor intended. If the donations are not earmarked for specific uses, then the SPF is free to assign the funds as it requires them. It should be noted that in 2020, 27% of income from public generosity was allocated to cope with the health crisis.

Income not from public generosity
€33.3 million
This income is generated by initiatives or collections led by volunteers, funds obtained from foundations or associations, contributions from people benefiting from our solidarity initiatives and other day-to-day, financial and exceptional investments.

Subsidies
€37.7 million
Subsidies come from various sources: municipalities, departments, regions, the French government and certain social organisations. Please note that in 2020, 44% of subsidies were allocated to Covid-19.

Use of past dedicated funds
€2.9 million
These are dedicated funds received in previous years and used to finance solidarity initiatives in 2020, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the donor at the time of the donation.
63.4% of the total resources are voluntary contributions in kind, including 23.4% for volunteering.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net income by origin</th>
<th>Total 2020 (in euros)</th>
<th>Of which public generosity in 2020 (in euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public generosity — I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public donations</td>
<td>39,060,233</td>
<td>39,060,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests, donations and life insurance policies</td>
<td>7,450,251</td>
<td>7,450,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patronage</td>
<td>23,411,480</td>
<td>23,411,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income from public generosity</td>
<td>42,492</td>
<td>42,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-public income — II</td>
<td>33,286,964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants — III</td>
<td>37,652,848</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns on provisions and depreciations — IV</td>
<td>206,599</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses of previously dedicated funds — V</td>
<td>2,850,604</td>
<td>1,138,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (I+II+III+IV+V)</td>
<td>143,961,471</td>
<td>71,102,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voluntary contributions in kind

| Voluntary contributions from public generosity — I |                       |                                             |
| Volunteer work                                    | 92,070,923            | 92,070,923                                  |
| Services rendered in kind                         | 14,042,571            | 14,042,571                                  |
| Donations in kind                                 | 108,413,687           | 108,413,687                                  |
| Voluntary contributions not from public generosity — II | 3,464,291 | |
| In-kind funding — III                            | 31,512,043            |                                             |
| Total (I+II+III)                                  | 249,503,496           | 214,527,162                                  |
During the health crisis, donations enabled us to cope with the increase in requests for help at our welcome centres.

In 2020, 84.4% of the financial resources from public generosity was allocated to social missions, 0.2% to operating costs and 15.4% was transferred to dedicated funds for use in 2021 or later years, in accordance with the donors’ wishes. These figures do not include voluntary contributions of material and equipment.

**Expenses**

In 2020, 84.4% of the financial resources from public generosity was allocated to social missions, 0.2% to operating costs and 15.4% was transferred to dedicated funds for use in 2021 or later years, in accordance with the donors’ wishes. These figures do not include voluntary contributions of material and equipment.

**Social missions €72.4 million**

Social missions are the activities carried out by the various branches of the Secours populaire français, in France and around the world, in accordance with its statutes. The Secours populaire tasks its volunteers and partners – of all ages – with inviting as many people as possible to get involved with sharing solidarity, day after day. In each department, some of the 80,000 volunteers welcome and support people in difficulty, whether they need help organising holidays, receiving food packages, accessing healthcare, taking part in cultural and sporting activities, etc. The association also works hard during emergencies in France and abroad to provide assistance to people in need during a solidarity project, whether temporarily or in the longer term. Out of a total of 72.4 million euros in social projects, 53 million was financed by public generosity.

**Fundraising expenses €6.9 million**

Fundraising expenses include the costs involved in appealing to public generosity, such as requests during key SPF campaigns and calls during emergency responses. It also includes appealing to individuals and companies and searching for legatees; and the cost of finding other resources such as grants or the cost of organising grassroots fundraising initiatives. In 2020, 6.9 million euros in fundraising costs was entirely covered by funds other than those raised as a result of public generosity.

**Operating costs €13.2 million**

These are mainly the running costs for welcome centres and solidarity and healthcare centres where 80,000 SPF volunteers work throughout France. The include the cost of legal formalities (administrative, financial, legal), general management, IT and communication. Out of a total of 13.2 million euros in operating costs, only 105 thousand euros was financed by public generosity.
This surplus income is a direct result of the health crisis that has hit our country and the rest of the world, and has brought about a tremendous outpouring of generosity, from both individuals and companies. Solidarity initiatives were organised as a result of this incredible momentum in 2020 and funds set aside for this cause will continue to be used in 2021 and 2022 in response to the ongoing consequences of the health crisis. Of these surplus 25.6 million euros, 8.3 million was raised as a result of public generosity.

### Spending by destination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 2020 (in euros)</th>
<th>Of which public generosity in 2020 (in euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social missions — I</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In France</td>
<td>66,430,090</td>
<td>49,865,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In other countries</td>
<td>5,944,048</td>
<td>3,166,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising costs — II</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,898,605</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating costs — III</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13,174,700</td>
<td>105,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocations for provisions and depreciations — IV</strong></td>
<td>163,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income Tax — V</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carry forward in dedicated funds — VI</strong></td>
<td>25,701,376</td>
<td>9,701,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (I+II+III+IV+V+VI)</strong></td>
<td>118,312,077</td>
<td>62,838,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus</strong></td>
<td>25,649,394</td>
<td>8,263,745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Voluntary contributions in kind

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 2020 (in euros)</th>
<th>Of which public generosity in 2020 (in euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary contributions to social missions — I</td>
<td>218,868,368</td>
<td>191,486,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary contributions to fundraising — II</td>
<td>10,528,393</td>
<td>7,918,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary contributions to operating costs — III</td>
<td>20,106,735</td>
<td>15,122,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (I+II+III)</strong></td>
<td>249,503,496</td>
<td>214,527,162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Simplified balance sheet

The balance sheet is a photograph taken on 31 December of the assets and financial situation of the SPF.

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td>€64.4 million</td>
<td>€58.398,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-going inventory</strong></td>
<td>€512,200</td>
<td>€299,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debt</strong></td>
<td>€14,458,000</td>
<td>€8,468,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>€123,536,718</td>
<td>€76,854,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accruals and prepaid expenses</strong></td>
<td>€1,033,505</td>
<td>€792,189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total assets**: €203,973,804

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td>€132,966,257</td>
<td>€107,883,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combined difference</strong></td>
<td>-10,965</td>
<td>-44,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dedicated and deferred contributions</strong></td>
<td>€43,015,611</td>
<td>€12,328,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisions for risks and liabilities</strong></td>
<td>€1,022,008</td>
<td>€562,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debts</strong></td>
<td>€26,980,893</td>
<td>€24,082,968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities**: €203,973,804

---

**Fixed assets** include long-term assets such as premises, vehicles, office and handling equipment, etc. These investments ensure that assistance and solidarity efforts can be carried out and that the SPF’s structures can be serviced and maintained, while guaranteeing the association’s independence.

**Cash and cash equivalents** include marketable securities and other liquid assets. This column has increased by 61% this year, mainly due to the record level of funds donated as a result of the health crisis. These funds will be spent according to the action plans presented by each department.

**Equity** includes statutory funds of 107.3 million euros and helps to keep the association financially stable. Net income for the year amounted to 25.6 million euros.

**Dedicated and deferred funds** are resources that have not been fully consumed during 2020 and which the association undertakes to use in accordance with the donors’ wishes. At the end of 2020, they stand at an unprecedented level of 37.7 million euros (compared with 12.3 in 2019). As mentioned above, these funds are mainly earmarked for the actions that will be taken during 2021 and 2022 to respond to the poverty which has been accentuated as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Deferred funds is a new category created as a result of the accounting reform, it corresponds to inheritances that were not closed at the end of the financial year. These funds will decrease when payments are received by the association. They amounted to 5.3 million euros at the end of 2020.
Use of financial and material resources in 2020
€368 million

- Social projects in France, 75.10%
  €276,315,615
- Social projects abroad, 4.08%
  €15,016,095
- Fundraising expenses, 4.74%
  €17,427,535
- Operating costs, 9.05%
  €33,282,460
- Carry forward in dedicated funds, 6.99%
  €25,701,376
- Allocations to provisions, 0.04%
  €163,258

Social projects represent 79.2% of material and financial resource allocations in 2020.

Distribution of financial and material resources in 2020
€394 million

- Volunteer work, 23%
  €92,095,041
- Food, 26%
  €103,440,320
- Services rendered in kind, 6%
  €24,090,090
- Donations in kind (excluding food), 8%
  €29,968,711
- Financial resources from public generosity, 18%
  €71,059,392
- Financial resources excluding public generosity, 19%
  €72,901,479

Solidarity in France
Breakdown of budgets by activity (€68.4 million)

- Poverty-Instability, 42%
  €27,926,111
- Food, 24%
  €15,803,912
- Coordinating the solidarity network in France, 16%
  €10,289,707
- Holiday initiative and Journées bonheur (happiness days), 9%
  €6,170,086
- Père Noël Vert (Green Father Christmas), 5%
  €3,318,381
- Healthcare, 4%
  €2,921,892

Solidarity in the world
Breakdown of budgets by activity (€5.9 million)

- Europe, 4%
  €270,307
- Asia, 21%
  €1,227,589
- Middle East, 29%
  €1,738,603
- Africa, 20%
  €1,172,087
- America, 26%
  €1,535,483

Boost effect: For every €100 it received, the Secours populaire was able to create the equivalent value of €246 in material and financial solidarity.
Let's take solidarity even further.
Follow us by subscribing to our newsletter on secourspopulaire.fr
or find us on social media.
Pas d'action sans dûn.

Tout ce qui est humain est nôtre.
Supporting us means investing in the future.

We need you! Please send us your donations.

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Thank you for your support. Your donation entitles you to a tax reduction equal to 75% of the amount of your payment, up to a ceiling of €1,000 until 31 December 2021. Above this ceiling, the reduction is 66% up to a limit of 20% of your taxable income.
Solidarity in action
The younger generations are the first to suffer in the face of ever-increasing poverty. The situation is dire: almost half of the world’s children are poor. In addition, there is rising violence and we regularly see how the families we support have to cope with that strain. The Secours populaire’s response is to show solidarity. Since 1992, Secours populaire has encouraged children to join its “Copain du Monde” children’s volunteering movement.

Encouraging solidarity
As part of the “Copain du Monde” initiative, the younger generations are made aware of the plight of people living in difficult conditions: those who cannot afford to eat, dress, play sports, or go on holiday. The children involved are encouraged to take action to help them: they collect money, school supplies or food products, and express their sympathy to isolated people by writing to them or sending them drawings, etc.

Raising awareness about children’s rights
“Copain du Monde” children are also made aware of their rights. They learn that these rights are not always respected around the world. They are encouraged to work together and get involved in solidarity projects.

Children – the future of solidarity
A cross-border movement
Today, thousands of children in France but also in Houston, Morocco, Benin, El Salvador and the Philippines are getting involved in this solidarity drive. They meet regularly to learn about the values of sharing and caring, and to show solidarity to those in need.

Building friendships
Copain du Monde is also about creating friendships among children around the world. The children keep in touch with each other, and in doing so discover different cultures, habits, and experiences. And sometimes they actually meet them face-to-face. For example, a “Copain du Monde” group from Seine-Saint-Denis took a trip to Greece; others from the Dordogne went to Bosnia.

Cultivating peace
The “Copain du Monde” movement aims to bring people together. Children learn to overcome their differences. This is how Palestinian and Israeli children, or North Korean and South Korean children have come to spend their holidays together at “Copain du Monde” villages.
Everyone can do something to help people in difficulty. Here are some of things that have been achieved by the “Copain du Monde”

Egg hunts for global solidarity
Each year, the “Copain du Monde” organise egg hunts over Easter weekend. Their aim is to raise funds for international solidarity projects. The idea is simple: the children and their parents buy a “hunting licence”, then set off to look for the eggs that have been decorated and hidden in local parks or forests. They can then exchange them for treats.

A solidarity race for disaster victims
Since 2014, the “Copain du Monde” have organised an annual solidarity race in Hem (Nord department of France). The 200 participants make a small donation to support solidarity projects around the world. The funds raised have helped rebuild a school in Nepal or provided relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Irma in the West Indies.

Making lamps for Malagasy children
Fifty students from a primary school in Clermont-Ferrand met every week to make lamps, which were then sent to students at a school in northern Madagascar. In Madagascar, access to electricity is a luxury, and many of the children there can’t study during the hours of darkness because they have no lights. These lamp kits contain dynamos, and are easy to use.

Meeting the homeless in Paris
A class of 9 and 10-year olds from a school in the 15th district of Paris worked on a project to collect personal care products. They then went out on the streets to meet the homeless in Paris, accompanied by a Secours populaire street team. They gave out the personal care products and chatted with the recipients to provide a little reassurance and comfort.

Getting involved at home or on the other side of the world
Every summer, “Copain du Monde” villages are organised in France and dozens of other countries. They allow thousands of children from over 50 countries to meet. For a period of one to three weeks, they get to know one another by playing games together, and they design projects to help each other. These villages encourage multicultural encounters and help children learn how to live together better. They learn about the values of tolerance and openness to others. It is also a starting point to drive them forward. At the end of the experience, each group of children leaves with ideas and plans that they can implement locally, in their department, country or on the other side of the world.
If you’re a parent
“Children, young people, and adults! Why not get involved and give some of your time to help others as part of the Secours populaire’s “Copain du Monde” movement?”

Are the values of tolerance and helping others important to you? Would you like to share them with your child? Why not suggest that they join “Copain du Monde”? If your child wants to be part of this rewarding adventure, just contact your nearest branch of the Secours populaire. They will be able to provide you with all the information you need: the dates of forthcoming meetings, what projects your child can get involved with, and how they can join a “Copain du Monde” village during the school holidays.

“Since being part of Copain du Monde, my daughter makes commitments and sticks to them. Through these experiences and the diversity within the movement, she is more open to the world, and understands it better.” Valérie, mum
If you work with children
“Secours populaire is recognised as an official association to complement state education.”

Do you play a role in children’s education as a teacher, facilitator or educator? Are you looking for ways to raise children’s awareness about solidarity and helping others? Secours populaire is recognised as an official association to complement state education, and has education populaire approval. Secours populaire volunteers can come to speak to your class, or visit you elsewhere, to explain the work of the association, give a small workshop on children’s rights, and encourage the pupils to organise a collection or carry out other solidarity projects. Contact your local Secours populaire.

“The children chose to organise a collection of personal care products and to make cards for the homeless. The collection was a great success in the school and reading all the cards was a very moving experience.”

Brigitte, teacher
If you’re volunteer or facilitator
“Copain du Monde is an opportunity to open up to the world and to be a driver and player for solidarity.”

As a Secours populaire volunteer, you are already in contact with families. You meet children who are keen to change things, as well as those who are facing the difficulties of everyday life. These children can easily feel excluded and forgotten. They need a chance to get out, to meet other children from other backgrounds, other cultures. For all these children, Copain du Monde is an opportunity to open up to the world and to be a driver and player for solidarity. Why not suggest that the families register their children to be part of the movement?

“It is important that children make pledges to help others, because they are our future. They want to change things; they want to exercise their rights everywhere in the world.”

Rofiyat, volunteer
Are you a company or an association that admires the values of the “Copain du Monde” movement? You can help the children involved to carry out their solidarity projects. Whether you have a room to lend us, or can provide financial and material aid, or even help to organise “Copain du Monde” villages, any form of support is welcome. Depending on your area of business and your resources, you can make the ideas created by the “Copain du Monde” children come to life, and help to build a better tomorrow. Contact your local Secours populaire.
We need you! Please send us your donations.

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Thank you for your support. 75% of the amount of your donation (capped at €1,000) can be deducted from your income tax. After that, the reduction is 66%, and limited to 20% of your net taxable income.

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